

# Impact Wrestling – November 3, 2016: On the Outside Looking in

## Impact Wrestling

Date: November 3, 2016

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: D'Angelo Dinero, Josh Matthews

It's a big show this week as we've got three title matches, including the TNA World Title being defended as Lashley challenges Eddie Edwards to get his title back. Lashley has another problem though as he attacked Cody to end last week's show, which might come back to haunt him tonight. Let's get to it.

We recap Lashley vs. Edwards, including Eddie winning the title and Lashley's path to becoming #1 contender again.

Here's Brandi Rhodes to open the show and talk about some of the decisions she and Cody have had to make in three years of marriage. Cody was attacked last week but Lashley can rest assured that he'll be back. Cue Maria and Sienna to interrupt and ask if Brandi is going to stick around or run home and take care of her husband.

Maria says she gives people opportunities but sometimes she slams doors in their faces, like she did with Allie. She sees something in Brandi though and that's why she wants to help. Brandi says the Rhodes name means something and she doesn't need help from anyone. Sienna gets in her face and a fight breaks out with Sienna taking over without much effort. The AK-47 leaves Brandi laying.

Video on Eddie Edwards' childhood and family.

## Grand Championship: Aron Rex vs. Jesse Godderz

Rex is defending. Josh wonders if there are big rings under the tape on Rex's fingers. I'm sure there's no way to, I don't know, CHECK THEM BEFORE THE MATCH but wrestling referees are stupid by

definition. Jesse takes over to start and goes for the Adonis Lock but gets spun away.

Josh goes into analyst mode to ask Pope who he has for the first two minutes. A crossbody gets two on Aron and it's off to an armbar (a beautiful one according to Josh). Godderz's Fujiwara armbar takes us to the end of round one, which goes to Jesse. Rex snapmares him down and grabs a chinlock to start round two.

Back up and Rex gets rolled up for two before headbutting Jesse into the corner. A slow motion powerslam gets two on Rex but the round ends as the Adonis Lock goes on. Round two goes to Godderz and we take a break before round three. Back with Rex getting punched in the face as Jesse would be smart to waste time. The champ rakes the eyes though and a big right hand retains the title at 12:24.

**Rating:** D. I still can't stand this concept and this didn't do anything to help the problem. The first round is usually both guys going slowly, then a second round of only a step faster and then they do the finish in the third round. Let it be a ten minute time limit or whatever but this was tiresome when they were already in the tournament. Rex as the cheating heel is a slight upgrade but it's not enough to fix things.

Video on Team X Gold, another unnecessary concept. Team Go For Broke respects each other.

Marshe Rockett/Trevor Lee/Andrew Everett vs. Rockstar Spud/Decay vs. Go For Broke

This is probably 75% of the division (if not more) in one match. There are three men in the ring at a time and Josh confirms that yes, the flag is the bragging rights trophy. Lee, DJZ and Steve start things off but instead of explaining the match, let's hear about a sale at TNA's website.

Double teaming DJZ doesn't do much good as he takes the other two down with a dropkick and flip dive to the floor. Mandrews comes in for a double stomp to Steve but gets buckle bombed by Lee. Spud and Rockett get the tag and the big Marshe intimidates him into a tag

off to Abyss. Clotheslines and shoulders don't put anyone down but Mandrews springboards in with a dropkick to both guys.

Sutter comes in to clean house but Abyss starts chokeslamming people. One such chokeslam puts Steve onto Sutter...and that's an ejection for Decay, leaving Spud on his own. Wait so there are elimination rules? Shouldn't that be a DQ for the whole team? Not that it matters as Sutter gives Spud a Flatliner for the pin at 5:19.

**Rating:** D. There's no story to the matches, the prize is a flag, Go For Broke has cleaned out the entire division in about a month and the rules aren't clear but the announcers have to plug everything else instead of explaining anything. This comes off as the latest waste of time that TNA has come up with and gets to call brilliant despite it being nothing but flips and chaos for five minutes.

Video on Eddie winning the X-Division Title.

Tag Team Titles: Hardys vs. DCC

The Hardys are defending and the DCC now appear in the ring after their freaky video. The Hardys get beaten down but the DCC walk away without the bell ever ringing. Jeff says it's not time to punch the clock because the Hardys still want to fight. That means we get a bell and a referee (Shouldn't he have been down there for the scheduled match?) and it's a big wild brawl. Josh says this is the strangest thing he's ever seen and actually says he's seen Delete or Decay and the Great War. I repeat my often stated opinion: Josh Matthews is a stupid, stupid man.

Things settle down with Matt getting double teamed by the two masked men, who I'll call Porkchop and Cash for lack of anything better. Porkchop gets his mask bitten and something like a headlock neckbreaker allows the tag off to Jeff. Cash has to break up the Twist of Fate but a double clothesline allows Jeff to Twist Porkchop. The third one (Toaster Oven) comes in for the DQ at 2:40. The five head to the back with a score playing over their fight. They actually interrupt a Grado interview and Grado stops to ask

Jeff for a picture...which Jeff actually grants in a funny moment. Jeff is in trouble so Matt throws the magic water on him and it's Immortal Jeff, who burns a cigarette on Porkchop.

Matt commandeers a forklift to chase Cash as Porkchop puts Jeff in a case, along with the water bucket. That makes the regular Jeff (as regular as he gets) come out with a Twisting Stunner. Matt takes Cash's mask off to reveal another mask, only to have Matt get kicked off the forklift for a huge crash. Jeff goes to check on his brother...and Matt has amnesia.

Ethan Carter III (because transitions mean NOTHING in TNA) is going to call out Eli Drake.

Here's Ethan in the ring and Drake comes out shortly thereafter. After turning down Ethan's challenge, Drake says he earned everything he's gotten around here and Ethan has been handed everything instead. That sends Ethan onto one of his traditionally great rants about how he's earned the right to be called the man around here. Eli brings up Bound For Gold so Ethan suggests the title shot against Ethan's right to ever challenge for a shot again. Drake says next week...is his title shot because he's cashing in, which leaves Ethan "Midcarder" III right where he's always been.

Lashley says he's ready and Eddie has no idea what's coming.

Video on Eddie losing the X-Division Title to Lashley and losing his mentor right around the same time. Then he won the World Title and now believes anything is possible.

#### TNA World Title: Eddie Edwards vs. Lashley

Lashley is challenging. We get the Big Match Intros with JB calling this the super fight. I'll give TNA this: they do a solid job of making the big matches feel important. Or maybe it's that JB is really good at his job(s). The bell rings after the break (thank goodness) and Lashley throws the champ around before elbowing him in the face.

They head outside with Eddie chopping him up against the barricade but getting dropped throat first across the steel. Some choking with

a wristband takes us to the last break. Back with Lashley in full control with a chinlock and a knee to the face. The champ fights back and sends Lashley outside for a suicide dive.

A Shining Wizard gets two on Lashley, who comes right back with a Dominator for the same. They head outside for a few moments before Eddie misses a top rope double stomp. Lashley pulls the referee in the way and then hits the spear for two, earning the second referee a right hand to the face. The first referee goes to call for the DQ but the Boston Knee Party gives Eddie the fast counted pin at 18:53.

**Rating:** B. This was more long than good and really illustrated the problem with a lot of TNA: I like Eddie but he's really just a person who happens to be champion. Lashley is a big dragon for Eddie to slay and that's what he's done twice now. I don't feel any connection to either of them and it's much more like I'm just on the outside watching something happen.

**Overall Rating:** C-. The main event almost bails this out but there's just so much bad stuff earlier on. The new divisions (if you can call them that) need to be cut off almost immediately as they're going nowhere and have a very limited direction (though they do have a flag). Other than that it was the usual Hardy insanity, Maria being all evil and a good Carter vs. Drake segment. The problem boils down to how little there is to care about on most of this show as too much of the material ranges from boring to nonsensical. There's some good on here but it's few and far between more often than not.

### Results

Aron Rex b. Jesse Godderz – Right hand

Go For Broke b. Marshe Rockett/Trevor Lee/Andrew Everett and Rockstar Spud/Decay – Flatliner to Spud

Hardys b. DCC via DQ when the third DCC member interfered

Eddie Edwards b. Lashley – Boston Knee Party

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## TNA Loses UK TV Deal

And the spin is AMAZING.

<http://wrestlingrumors.net/tna-loses-uk-tv-deal/>

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## Impact Wrestling – October 27, 2016: The Slow Before the Show

### Impact Wrestling

Date: October 27, 2016

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Josh Matthews, D'Angelo Dinero

It's an interesting time in Impact Wrestling and that's excluding all of the court shenanigans going on at the moment. The big story at the moment is Lashley vs. Eddie Edwards over the TNA World Title but in addition to that we have the mixed feud between Cody and Brandi Rhodes vs. Mike Bennett and Maria Kanellis-Bennett. Let's get

to it.

We open at the Hardy Compound where Senor Benjamin and Vanguard I have prepared a corn maze. The humans go their separate ways and Jeff, wearing sunglasses, says he has lost his family and stops to eat corn, seemingly starving. Matt suddenly has a pre-mo-NEE-tion saying that an outsider will appear tonight and give them a bad message. As for now though, it's Trick or Delete.

### Ethan Carter III/Jesse Godderz vs. Aron Rex/Eli Drake

This was set up during a brawl on Fact of Life last week. Aron works on Jesse's arm to start as it's the simple white and pink gear still looks pretty horrible. Jesse and Ethan alternate dropkicks for two on Rex but it's off to Drake for a breather. That lasts all of five seconds before it's back to Aron, who has to be saved from the Adonis Lock. A double flapjack plants Drake and we go to a commercial.

Back with Jesse fighting out of a chinlock but getting kneed in the ribs to put him right back down. The beating doesn't last long though as Jesse dives over for the hot tag to Carter but Rex takes him right down into the corner for some knees to the face. Drake adds in some shoulders and we're off to the second face in peril segment.

The Russian legsweep and wind-up elbow get two on Carter, who then has to fight out of Drake's chinlock. They trade sleepers and Carter falls into the corner for the tag to Jesse. An Angle Slam of all things sends Drake flying as everything breaks down again. Rex has something on his hand to rake over Jesse's face, followed by the Revelator for the pin at 15:18.

**Rating:** C-. This was more long than good and I'm still not sure why they feel the need to turn Rex heel so quickly. It's almost like a guy who has been a generic character for years and only made a splash on the main WWE roster with an over the top gimmick isn't all that interesting as Aron Rex: Guy In Trunks.

We look back at Maria attacking Brandi last week.

Maria is running her mouth when Brandi comes in, sending Maria scampering.

Grado has something planned for Halloween but won't say it on camera.

Some kids come up to House Hardy so Jeff sings the Obsolete Song and Matt tells them that they're soldiers in the Great War.

Rockstar Spud teases who he has for his Team X Gold teammates.

Here's Grado to say he's been having a great time in Impact Wrestling but wants more. That's why tonight he wants to bring out one of his inspirations: Robbie E! See, for Halloween, Grado wants to be a BroMan. He heads to the back and comes out in yellow trunks and covered in oil, which gives us the always awesome shocked Robbie face. A lot of dancing ensues but the TNA Wyatts appear and beat them down. Josh says they're called the DCC as two of them give Grado a spike piledriver.

Earlier today, Aiden O'Shea called Allie over to talk to Billy Corgan. Allie thinks she needs to stand up for herself so Corgan grants her a match with Laurel Van Ness for tonight.

#### DJZ/Braxton Sutter/Mandrews vs. Rockstar Spud/Decay

This is Team X Gold and Decay are mystery partners. Sutter and company are now called Team Go For Broke and carry a Team X Gold flag, which seems to be the division's title. Sutter drops Abyss with a flying shoulder and catches Steve in a scoop powerslam. Mandrews comes in and his high levels of suck allows Steve to take over with some ripping at the face. Steve charges into a boot in the corner but Mandrews still can't dive over for the tag. The second attempt works and it's off to DJZ as everything breaks down. The ZDT takes care of Spud for the pin at 4:03.

**Rating:** D+. And they want two divisions going at the same time out of these guys? There's barely enough time to have DJZ defend his title regularly (When is the last time there was even a real story over that title that doesn't involve a heavyweight laughing at how worthless it is?) but hey: THEY HAVE A FLAG!



Cody and Brandi call this personal.

Here are Lashley and Eddie Edwards for their contract signing. All contact has been banned and I'm sure that's going to hold up.

Lashley thinks it's amusing that Eddie got to face Cody last week instead of the inevitable title loss right off the bat while he's been jumping through hoops.

Lashley gives Eddie a chance to get out without signing but Eddie talks about Lashley ducking him and how the rematch is next week. Lashley did take Eddie lightly and he got lucky. This isn't a movie though and now the lucky guy has to pay. The champ says he's not backing down and signs but asks Lashley what happens if he loses next week. That's enough for Lashley and the table is turned over, only to have him sign in peace.

We recap Allie getting beaten down last week.

Laurel Van Ness hits on Sutter, who doesn't know what to think.

Back to House Hardy where we have the opening of the first Halloween movie (nice touch). The doorbell rings and it's....the Hurricane, who has the door slammed in his face. Jeff leaves to put on his costume and comes back as that fast talking insane guy from the Great War, who I don't believe has a name.

Back from a break with Jeff, in costume, mowing the lawn into his logo.

#### Laurel Van Ness vs. Allie

Madison Rayne is on commentary again. Laurel drives her into the corner to start and shrugs off a clothesline. They head outside where Laurel misses a charge into the steps to give Allie a chance. Back in and Allie scores off a double leg takedown and some right hands, setting up a rollup for two. Not that it matters as a curb stomp ends Allie at 4:33.

**Rating:** D. There wasn't anything to this match but it's part of a bigger story. I'm sure Allie will get better (she's a long tenured indy wrestler) and get the win back later so this is fine at the moment. What isn't fine is Madison, who has a pretty grating voice

and is playing this totally straight, meaning it doesn't really add anything to the match and is more distracting than anything else.

Hilary Clinton and Donald Trump come up to House Hardy. Senor Benjamin tazes Trump and Jeff asks what happened to the e-mails.

Matt: "DELETE! DELETE! DELETE!" Ok I chuckled on that one. Jeff shouts about Boo Radley and Vanguard I chases Hilary away.

Godderz comes up to Rex and demands a title shot, which Rex actually grants.

A kid comes up to House Hardy and gives Reby a tape, which is from the DCC. They're coming for the Hardys and their titles next week.

Mike Bennett and Maria say they have what Cody and Brandi want.

Video on Lashley vs. Edwards.

#### Mike Bennett/Maria Kanellis-Bennett vs. Cody/Brandi Rhodes

Maria starts and tags out in less than three seconds, meaning the men will really get this going. Cody sends Mike into the corner and Maria slaps him in the face, almost drawing Brandi over for the fight. A cutter gives Mike two and we take a break. Back with Cody fighting out of trouble and slamming Mike down.

Maria is smart enough to sneak around the ring and pull Brandi off the apron though, meaning Mike can get in a running corner clothesline. Mike allows Maria to get in a few cheap shots but she kicks her husband low by mistake. The tag brings in Brandi and it's time for the catfighting because neither of them are full time wrestlers.

The bad looking offense results in Maria being sent into another low blow on Mike, followed by some kind of choke/half nelson from Brandi (the camera keeps moving around so we never get a clear shot of it). Cody adds a modified reverse Figure Four (I believe Jamie Noble used to call it the Trailer Hitch) for a double submission at 11:20.

**Rating:** C. This was basically the definitive welcome to the company for Cody and Brandi as the women were really just there as window dressing for the match. There's nothing wrong with that as they're not trained wrestlers and can only do so much. In other words, it

was smart to let the guys do most of the work here and just give the fans something to cheer for at the end.

Cody and Brandi go to the back but Lashley jumps Cody, leaving Brandi to flail at his back. Lashley, in a weird camera shot where he's supposed to be looking at Cody but is looking at the camera, says no one comes into his house without his permission to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** D+. As is so often the case with TNA, this was much more about setting up stuff later on instead of doing anything at the moment. The main event felt somewhat important but the big show is next week. It's pretty much TNA's version of Backlash and the card looks big, though it's still nothing all that exciting. This wasn't much of a show but I've seen far worse.

### Results

Aron Rex/Eli Drake b. Jesse Godderz/Ethan Carter III – Revelator to Godderz

DJZ/Braxton Sutter/Mandrews b. Rockstar Spud/Decay – ZDT to Spud

Laurel Van Ness b. Allie – Curb stomp

Cody/Brandi Rhodes b. Maria Kanellis-Bennett/Mike Bennett – Double submission

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# Cody Rhodes on Arrow

Playing a supervillain in an episode where there's a new drug called Stardust. The episode is fine but the wrestling connection...doesn't exist. Unless I missed it, and I'm pretty sure I didn't, TNA didn't mention this once on the recent episodes of Impact. Yeah one of their stars is appearing on a network TV show in a cool role and they don't have time to mention it. They can plug Dixie's Twitter and give us 19 mentions of whatever Pop TV show is airing but they can't say this once?

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## Impact Wrestling – October 20, 2016: I Think We Have A Bad Connection

### Impact Wrestling

Date: October 20, 2016

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Josh Matthews, D'Angelo Dinero

The main event scene has picked up in the last week as we have what seems to be a four way feud between Lashley, Cody, Moose and World Champion Eddie Edwards. Other than that there's the start of the Hardys vs. the Tribunal and more of Maria Kanellis-Bennett and company vs. Gail Kim over the Knockouts Title. Let's get to it.

We look at the end of last week's show with Moose beating Carter to earn a shot against Lashley for a future title shot and Maria losing her rematch against Kim, meaning she's out of power in the Knockouts division. As for tonight, Cody is ready to take the World Title from

Eddie Edwards.

Here's Cody to open things up. He's a fan of country music and a song has been making him think about why he left his former employer. It wasn't because of the money but because of the moments. Tonight he gets one of those moments when he has a chance to win the World Title. When he was fifteen he told his dad he wanted to be a wrestler. Dusty wasn't sure but he gave his blessing, but only if Cody was the best. That means becoming World Champion so here's Eddie to interrupt.

Eddie praises Cody for his career and says Cody has reinvented himself over and over. When Eddie is in the ring taking beating after beating, he knows who he is because of the Wolves Nation. The question is does Cody know who he is. Cody lists off parts of various characters he's had over the years before getting in Eddie's face. This brings out Lashley, who says the future is him hurting one of the two people in the ring. Cue Moose and our first match is after the break.

#### Moose vs. Lashley

The winner gets a title shot at some point in the future. They immediately start slugging away but Lashley's suplex is no sold. The Moose punches send Lashley outside, only to have him send Moose into the post. Back in and Moose gets thrown around again but he dropkicks Lashley off the top. A very big running dive is nearly left short but is still good enough to take Lashley out.

They trade spinebusters for two each (Moose's looked way off) before Moose no sells a superplex (that's Lashley's third vertical suplex in about five minutes). A spear each gives both guys another near fall. Moose's discus lariat gets two more but the chokebomb is broken up, allowing Lashley to hit the middle rope spear for the pin at 7:35.

**Rating:** C+. I really wouldn't go out of my way to point out how similar Lashley and Moose's offenses are like they did here. On top of that, they're really going to have Moose lose clean this soon? I mean, it's fairly clear that he and Lashley have very similar styles

(give the whole trading moves here) so they're going to stick with the same guy that has been in the main event for well over a year now and not exactly set the world on fire? Oh yeah: this is TNA.

The Tribunal talks about wanting respect but the feed cuts out to hear from the three masked men. Chaos arrives tonight.

Tyrus ad.

Here's Fact of Life with Eli Drake. Eli is Bound For Gold and rips on the crowd a bit, which responds with a laugh track. The guest this week is Aron Rex and the "audience" isn't thrilled. Rex loves the title and what it means so he calls it sweetheart. Drake talks his usual trash so Rex goes through various champions who don't talk trash.

Since Rex beat Edwards for the Grand Championship, that makes him the man around here. Rex says none of them have anything on the man who is Bound For Gold. This brings Rex around to Ethan Carter III, who Drake says is bound for the dumpster. Cue Carter but Drake sends it to a break, complete with a TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES DUMMIES graphic. This segment gets better and better every week.

Back with Carter in the ring and calling Eli out for a fight. He wants to destroy that set but wants Eli to press the button so he can punch Drake (YEAH!), kick Drake (YEAH!) or choke Drake (YEAH!). Eli pushes the button over and over so Carter dives on the security and the fight is on. Rex tries to break it up but Jesse Godderz (who Rex insulted during his interview) comes out to go after Aron. Security breaks it up.

Here are the Hardys to do their catchphrases and accuse the Tribunal of trying to take food off King Maxel's plate. Thankfully the Tribunal cuts off the DELETE chants.

Tag Team Titles: Hardys vs. Tribunal

Hardys are defending and it's another brawl to start with the champs taking over early on. The announcers talk about the Best of Sting DVD being back in stock, which is one of the first merchandise plugs I've heard in a LONG time. Dax gets in a few shots on Matt but it's

quickly off to Jeff for some forearms to the head. Jeff is quickly taken down into the challengers' corner but WAIT! We have to pause the match because Josh has an update on a new Pop television event! I could live with those a lot better if Josh knew anything about making a transition.

A legsweep gets Jeff out of trouble and it's off to Matt for a bunch of biting. Did the Hardys ever have a face turn moment and I missed it? Or am I just supposed to cheer for them because the schmucks in the Impact Zone do? Not that it matters as we're getting the Hardys whether we like them or not because they're stars or something. Matt hits a quick Side Effect but gets caught in a double spinebuster for two. Back to back Twists of Fate end Baraka at 7:49.

**Rating:** B-. This was every bit of the tag team formula and it actually worked well. The Hardys can still do a basic match very well but that doesn't mean I want two Hardy themed specials airing at Christmastime. That's one of TNA's major issues: they have no idea when to slow down on something.

Post match the three masked men appear and lay out the Tribunal. So we have masked men who appear after a series of weird visuals and attack people. And the response from the TNA fans who got annoyed at Final Deletion being copied will be.....?

Allie is getting ready to stand up to Maria when Braxton Sutter comes up. That goes nowhere as Laurel Van Ness comes in to say Maria has something to say to Allie. Laurel hits on Braxton a bit too.

The masked men say no one is safe because they're here to stay.

Lashley talks to Cody about destroying various saviors. Cody doesn't think the good luck wishes are genuine and says it's not bragging if you can back it up. Lashley says their paths will cross sooner or later.

We look back at the end of Gail vs. Maria from last week.

Here are Maria, Allie and Laurel with something to say but their entrance is drowned out by Josh going on and on about the reign of terror being over. Maria may not be in charge anymore but she's

still the greatest Knockout of all time. Of all the people she can blame though, it's all Allie's fault. Maria demands an apology but Allie finally stands up to her and says Maria is the one to blame. The beatdown is on and Allie is left laying with Maria saying it's Allie vs. Laurel next week.

Lashley tries to play mind games with Eddie but the champ isn't buying it.

Tyrus tells Mahabali Shera to not dance because he's going to fight tonight.

Ethan Carter III and Jesse Godderz want to face Aron Rex and Eli Drake next week.

#### Mahabali Shera vs. Mike Bennett

Bennett's music is restored this week. Shera poses to start so Mike knocks him into the corner, only to have his chops no sold. Bennett sends him into the corner and beats on Shera for a bit, only to get caught with slams and a bearhug. Since this isn't 1984, none of that has any effect and Bennett rakes the eyes to set up the MIP for the pin at 2:57.

Video on Eddie vs. Cody.

DJZ says himself, Mandrews and Braxton Sutter are the beat Team X Gold team around. Cue Rockstar Spud (who gets a TATER TOT chant) to ask why he hasn't been asked to participate. DJZ: "Nobody likes you." Spud says he has his own team who will be here next week and they're better than X, Y and Z. Do they really think they have room for Trios Titles around here? That's what they think is the best use of their time?

#### TNA World Title: Eddie Edwards vs. Cody

Cody is challenging and has Brandi Rhodes in his corner. Feeling out process to start and a double dropkick gives us a standoff. Back from a break with Cody getting kicked down to the mat, only to have him chop Eddie into an armbar. Eddie fights up again but eats the Beautiful Disaster, followed by a springboard dive to the floor.

A slam on the ramp sets up a modified Muscle Buster on the champ for



another near fall and Cody is getting frustrated. The champ is loaded up for a superplex but reverses into a small package (looked horrible as Cody was laying on the mat and then raised up to get to the pin) to retain at 13:05.

**Rating:** C+. This was fine but it's just another title match being handed to an ex-WWE guy who hasn't proven a thing in this company yet. At least Rex had to win a tournament to get his title. Cody on the other hand was literally handed a World Title match the day he arrived and that's not a good look for TNA.

They shake hands and Eddie lets Cody pose (Why? He hasn't actually done anything yet.), allowing Maria to come out and attack Brandi as the show ends.

**Overall Rating:** C. Horribly choreographed ending aside, this was a mostly watchable show. However, there's a big problem that TNA has had for a very long time now and this week showcased it more than they've done in a long time: there's no one to connect with for most fans. Here are some of the characters on this show:

A MMA/professional wrestler

A former NFL player

The freakshow with magical powers

A loudmouth with a model wife who was treated like a huge deal on arrival

A guy who likes to dance and hired a fixer to do his fighting for him

The son of a legend who was literally given a World Title shot without winning a single match

There are a few relatable characters (Allie, maybe Eddie) but they're very few and far between. They might do cool stuff every now and then and the wrestling can be good but the characters aren't people I'm going to have a connection with. Look at Daniel Bryan: the everyman held down by the system who kept fighting until he won. It's something people can connect to, which isn't the case in TNA the majority of the time. Give us someone we care about instead of

someone fun to watch. It can make a world of difference.

### Results

Lashley b. Moose – Middle rope spear

Hardys b. Tribunal – Twist of Fate to Baraka

Mike Bennett b. Mahabali Shera – MIP

Eddie Edwards b. Cody – Small package

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## **TNA's Latest Woes – October 14 Version**

Oh sweet goodness where do I even begin?

So in the last twenty four hours or so, the following news has come out (believe at your own risk in some cases):

1. Billy Corgan is suing Dixie Carter for various reasons. This includes a RESTRAINING ORDER against her and can you really blame him?

<http://www.pwinsider.com/ViewArticle.php?id=105347>

2. Dixie Carter seems to owe half of the world money for selling off pieces of TNA to keep the thing going.

<http://411mania.com/wrestling/tna-news-dixie-carter-personally-owes->

[billy-corgan-money-funder-for-last-impact-taping/](http://billy-corgan-money-funder-for-last-impact-taping/)

3. Some TNA talent might walk if they don't get paid this weekend.

<http://411mania.com/wrestling/some-tna-talent-will-reportedly-declare-themselves-as-free-agents-of-not-paid-this-weekend/>

I'm sure I missed something in there but we've reached the point where the court system is trying to keep Dixie Carter away from TNA. They're out of money and they have bills. I don't know who Dixie can fleece this time but it looks even worse than usual.

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# Impact Wrestling – October 13, 2016: Suddenly, A Change

## Impact Wrestling

Date: October 18, 2016

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: D'Angelo Dinero, Josh Matthews

A lot happened last week with the biggest change of events seeing Eddie Edwards becoming the new TNA World Champion by defeating Lashley. Tonight we have Maria Kanellis' rematch for the Knockouts Title as she challenges Gail Kim in a No DQ match, though there's always the chance that Maria's cronies could screw things up again. Let's get to it.

We open with a long recap of last week's show, primarily focusing on Lashley losing the World Title.

Here's Edwards for his first address as champion. Edwards says he's worked to get here and the fans tell him he deserves it. He's fought Lashley a few times now but something was different this time around. Edwards promises to be a fighting champion who will defend

this title anywhere anytime and that includes facing Lashley again. Cue Lashley who quickly beats Edwards down and demands a referee out here for a rematch. Instead it's Moose and Ethan Carter III for the save as Lashley leaves. That's not exactly the best way to showcase the new champion but at least he didn't lose the title yet.

The Tribunal wants to see Billy Corgan but get Aiden O'Shea instead. The boss hasn't been impressed with them lately and they're on the bubble. O'Shea advises them to do something to impress Corgan and soon.

Corgan says Lashley has just lost his automatic title rematch. Now that's actually interesting. I'm glad we don't immediately have to sit through Lashley getting yet another shot just because he was champion a week ago.

#### Grand Championship: Aron Rex vs. Jesse Godderz

Rex is defending and Godderz is coming in with a hamstring injury. They hit the mat to start and exchange some early headlocks as Josh and Pope argue over who is closer to Corgan. Jesse's rollup gets two but he grabs at his hamstring on the kickout. The round wraps up with Godderz working on the arm and that's enough to win the round.

A frustrated Rex rolls Jesse up a few times to start the second round, only to get caught in the Adonis Lock. Rex grabs the ropes but Jesse works on the arm some more as the round ends. Godderz wins round two and we take a break before the final round. Back with Rex being a bit less aggressive than you would expect and forearming Godderz outside. Jesse is smart enough to sit on the floor and eat up some time, only to have Rex kick him in the hamstring on the way back inside. The Revelator retains Rex's title at 13:15 (including commercial and time between rounds).

**Rating:** D+. So they seem to already be teasing a Rex heel turn. To be fair he's been a champion for a whole eleven days and that's WAY too long for a face to be a good guy around here. I really don't need yet another heel around here but it's not like Rex is interesting as a guy in trunks so maybe it's for the best.

Lashley tells O'Shea he has a surprise later tonight.

The Hardys talk about getting things back to where they were a year ago, which Jeff thinks means they're even again. Matt says no because he can only indulge his addiction for one night only. Jeff seems a bit more like his old self here.

Allie gets an e-mail from someone (presumably Corgan) saying everyone is banned from ringside for Maria's title defense. Maria freaks out and yells at Allie for not telling her.

Lashley interrupts Moose and Ethan Carter III and tells them that they're in the main event tonight.

Here are the Hardys for a chat. Matt says he set his brother on an odyssey to regain the Tag Team Championships of the World and that debt was repaid at Bound For Glory. They're the best team in the world, including the Bucks of Youth and the Day of the New. Jeff sings the theme song and Matt makes noises because he's having a pre-mo-nition: there will be new #1 contenders crowned tonight in the Zone of Impact. Cue the Tribunal to jump the Hardys from behind.

Video on Mike Bennett vs. Cody. Bennett isn't pleased with Cody showing up and trying to make an impact. Tonight they'll settle things in the ring.

#### Cody vs. Mike Bennett

Feeling out process to start with Cody grabbing a sunset flip for two but missing the Beautiful Disaster. With Bennett on the floor, Cody hits a springboard dive to take him out in a big crash. Maria offers a distraction though and Mike gets in an elevated DDT off the barricade. Since it's 2016, that's not even enough for a close call though as Cody is back in by eight.

A dropkick gets two for Mike but Cody starts his comeback with some forearms and an Alabama Slam. The Beautiful Disaster connects but Bennett ducks the moonsault press. Instead it's a Pedigree from Bennett for another near fall, only to have Cody take him down and try what looks like a Figure Four. Maria offers another distraction but Cody comes right back with Cross Rhodes for the pin at 8:45.

**Rating:** C+. Cody looked like his usual self so that's all well and good, though I'm not wild on having Bennett lose again. He's just fallen through the floor lately and while he's still good, there's no fire to him anymore. I'm also not sure why they had this match so early, other than giving Cody his title match way too soon.

Moose is ready for Ethan.

#### X-Division Title: Marshe Rockett vs. DJZ

Rockett is challenging and we get a quick video package on him before the match. Marshe is 6'4 and 250lbs so he's not your normal member of the division. DJZ goes after him in the corner but gets shoved away by the much bigger Rockett. The champ is launched out to the floor and Rockett hits a good looking dropkick back inside. DJZ speeds things up and sends Marshe outside for a flip dive. The ZDT retains the title at 4:48.

**Rating:** C. Standard X-Division match here, meaning they bring in someone who could be a big deal and take the division by storm and then he loses in his first singles match because there's no time to build up a story or interest in a match. DJZ is a good champion but he's running through the division way too fast.

Bennett says he'll have Maria's back tonight but Allie says he's banned as well.

#### Knockouts Title: Maria Kanellis-Bennett vs. Gail Kim

Kim is defending, there are no disqualifications and Madison Rayne is on commentary. If Maria loses, she's out of power in the Knockouts division. Maria tries to bring in some weapons but is quickly thrown to the floor. Gail puts her in a dumpster and sends her flying down the ramp into the post. Back in and Maria uses some trashcan lids to take over, followed by a spinebuster for two. A kendo stick shot puts Maria down but Gail lets her up at two. Instead Gail goes with Eat Defeat into a trashcan lid to retain at 4:57.

**Rating:** D. I'm really hoping that's it as there's no reason for this to keep going otherwise. Maria is out of power and Gail can be our

glorious champion because that's how the world is supposed to work. I'm not sure who is left to challenge Gail unless they can somehow get us to her vs. Allie, who was the biggest deal in the division for a bit.

Eli Drake tells Ethan not to choke tonight.

Cody comes up to see Eddie Edwards in the back and asks if he'll be ok for their title match next week. Eddie says he'll be fine and they're cool.

We get a vignette with a clock spinning. Three men in masks are sitting behind a table covered in masks. They're bringing clarity and order to Impact and they're not afraid to take a stand.

### Moose vs. Ethan Carter III

The winner of this faces Lashley in a #1 contenders match. They start fast with both guys going for their finishers early on. An exchange of dropkicks goes better for Moose and they head outside with Carter taking over off some forearms to the chest. Moose is right back with a bicycle kick to the face and an AA onto the apron for good measure. Back in and Carter missile dropkicks Moose down and it's time to chop it out. A pop up powerbomb and senton give Moose two but Carter is right back up with a Stinger Splash. The chokebomb sets up a discus lariat to the back of Carter's head for the pin at 7:43.

**Rating:** C+. This was a bit better than I was expecting and it makes sense to have Moose go forward like this. We've seen Carter fighting for the title for well over a year now and it's time for someone else to get a shot in that spot instead. Moose vs. Lashley should be fun, though I would wait a bit longer than a week for that showdown. Lashley comes out to stare down Moose as the show ends.

**Overall Rating:** C. That's one of their better shows in a while as TNA actually did a few things. Unfortunately though they did a lot of things in one week that could have been stretched out for several weeks, which has always been a problem for them. The World Title scene feels hotter than it has in months and there's some

interesting stuff going on elsewhere. This felt a lot more energetic than most of their shows and that's a good thing.

### Results

Aron Rex b. Jesse Godderz – Revelator

Cody b. Mike Bennett – Cross Rhodes

DJZ b. Marshe Rockett – ZDT

Gail Kim b. Maria Kanellis-Bennett – Eat Defeat into a trashcan lid

Moose b. Ethan Carter III – Discus lariat to the back of the head

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# **Impact Wrestling – October 6, 2016: Howl With Me**

## **Impact Wrestling**

Date: October 6, 2016

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: D'Angelo Dinero, Josh Matthews

It's the start of a new era for TNA as we're straight off Bound For Glory with the big story being Lashley holding onto the TNA World Title. Other than that we have new Tag Team Champions with the Hardys defeating Decay in the Great War and the first ever Grand



Champion in Aron Rex. Everything starts fresh tonight so let's get to it.

We open with a montage from Bound For Glory.

Here's Lashley to open the show with a smirk on his face. Lashley brags about how he beats everyone in the company and is the man around here because of this belt on his shoulder. No one can beat him but here's Aron Rex to interrupt. Rex used to be smart so he's going to try to do the math. Grand Champion sounds a lot better than World Champion so Rex sees himself as the man around here.

A fight is teased but here's Gail Kim to interrupt. TNA would make her World Champion in a heartbeat so I shouldn't be surprised by this one. Gail says it's 2016 and the women are changing the game around here so she's the face of the company. This brings out Matt Hardy with Reby and Maxill (no Jeff and Matt has both belts) to say TNA is now a broken company. Preach it brother.

Matt is always ready to delete (repeat five times) but here's DJZ to give us all the titles in one ring. DJZ mentions something called Team X Gold but Lashley cuts him off and says he's got a fight coming up and doesn't have time to waste with second rate title holders. Now it's Billy Corgan coming out with Aiden O'Shea (Remember him?) to congratulate all the champions.

All of the champions will be in competition tonight (Matt: "WONDERFUL!") and Lashley doesn't care who he's facing tonight. All the titles will be on the line tonight, except for DJZ because he helped to introduce Team X Gold. Wait are they having X-Division Tag Team Titles? For the love of all things good and holy, WHY??? Anyway Lashley is given three options to face tonight but first up it's Team X Gold.

Trevor Lee/Andrew Everett/Marshe Rocket vs. DJZ/Mandrews/Braxton Sutter

Everett and Mandrews start things off with Mandrews hitting a moonsault into a basement dropkick. Rocket, a good sized guy, comes in and kicks Mandrews in the face to take over. It's off to Lee vs.

Sutter with Braxton getting in a kick to the face until Rocket comes back in with a powerslam. DJZ comes in for some clotheslines on Rocket but the champ gets kicked in the face. It's quickly off to Everett, who moonsaults into raised boots. A quick tag off to Mandrews sets up a shooting star press to pin Everett at 5:27.

**Rating:** C. Oh sweet goodness TNA what are you doing? I get the idea here (capitalizing on the success of the Cruiserweight Classic) but my goodness could they come up with something a little better than throwing six guys out there with little to no connection and having a match?

Normally I would ask if they had learned anything from WWE's mistakes in the cruiserweight division but of course they haven't because they think it's a good idea to have a full six man tag division when they can barely do a singles division. Rocket looked impressive here and has star power but this is just more stuff that doesn't solve the problems the X-Division already has (no stories, no characters etc.)

One of Lashley's potential opponents is Moose, who says Lashley is scared of him.

It's time for Fact of Life with Eli Drake and now he's got a set outside the ring. Drake brings out Ethan Carter III, who had a rocket shoved so far inside him you would think he'd spit out rocket fuel. Eli won't let Ethan talk as he comes up with ways to call Ethan a loser. Ethan says he lost at Bound For Glory and says his passion has been replaced by anger. If Drake pushes the button one more time, Ethan is going to eviscerate him and he even gets on his knees to beg Drake to hit it again.

Drake shoves the button away and talks about getting into TNA because of something called the Rising. He's been hearing about how he's not in Ethan Carter's league because Carter has been handed every opportunity. That's it for the interview, which means we don't get an explanation for how Drake grew a full head of hair and a beard in four days.

Maria Kanellis yells at Allie over screwing up on Sunday. Sienna and

Laurel Van Ness talk Maria out of firing her because they need someone to carry their bags. Sienna will get the title back tonight and Allie better not mess it up.

Eddie Edwards says Lashley sees him as the easy match so please pick him to give Lashley the easy title defense.

Video on Gail Kim's Hall of Fame induction.

#### Knockouts Title: Sienna vs. Gail Kim

Gail is defending and Madison Rayne is on commentary (with her husband Josh Matthews). Sienna knocks Allie into Gail to knock her off the apron before driving the champ back first into the apron. They head inside with Gail escaping the AK-47 but getting caught in a reverse powerbomb for two. Gail ducks the Pounce and rolls Sienna up to retain at 3:04.

**Rating:** D+. This match sums up so many of the problems in TNA in one match: a lack of emotion. There's no reason to care about Gail other than she's been here for a long time. There's no reason to care about Sienna because she had the title and then lost it after doing a total of nothing as champion. Combine that with a nothing match that gets no time and what is there here to get excited over? The problem is that's the case with the majority of what TNA does and it gets really tiresome.

Maria and company come out to beat on Gail. With Sienna holding Gail, Maria says her rematch will take place next week in a No DQ match. Madison is downright annoyed over this. I mean, she's not going to do anything about it but it's certainly ruffled her feathers.

Ethan Carter III is the third option and doesn't think Lashley will pick him. If Lashley wants a real fight though, pick him.

#### Tag Team Titles: Hardys vs. Decay

This is a Wolf Creek Cage Match, meaning a weapons cage match with a win by escape only and a name tied into one of Pop's shows. It's a brawl to start with Jeff stapling Abyss in various places. Steve climbs the cage and gets a grappling hook of all things to pull at

Matt's mouth. A kendo stick shot to the back puts Matt down but the Hardys come back with shots of their own.

Matt grabs a CHAINSAW to knock Steve down but Abyss cleans house again. Rosemary stops Jeff from escaping and we get another catfight on the floor. The video freezes for a few moments and comes back on a commercial. We come back from a break with the next segment and no mention of who won. According to TNA's Twitter, the Hardys won at we'll say about 9:00.

**Rating:** D. Lack of an ending aside, this was a really boring cage match with Josh talking about Wolf Creek every few seconds. The problem is when you take away the Final Deletion stuff, Matt and Jeff are two middle aged wrestlers who don't have anywhere near the spark they used to have, leaving us with really dull matches.

Here are Cody and Brandi Rhodes for their big formal introduction. Cody talks about how the game is changing and lists off some things from Bound For Glory. He talks about the list (a list of things he wanted to do in wrestling) being his guiding light with names like Mike Bennett making him want to keep going.

After a quick Brandi chant, Cody says maybe he should have put the TNA World Title on the list because that's the Queen's jewels and the Master Sword. This brings out Mike Bennett and Maria with Bennett not being pleased with Cody being handed a title shot. When Mike got here, he was told that people aren't just handed title shots so he was ready to earn it. Mike mentions the idea of fighting Cody and that's enough for the man without a last name. The brawl is on the Bennett bails in a hurry.

Post break Cody says he wants Mike Bennett next week.

O'Shea stops Maria from going into Corgan's office and calls her toots. Corgan has a message for her though: if she loses her title rematch next week, she's out of power in the Knockouts division.

Grand Championship: Aron Rex vs. Baron Dax

Rex is defending and we're back to three minute rounds. The champ gets a headlock to start but walks into a pair of neckbreakers. Josh

calls this controlling the action because TNA likes to brand the simplest of things because WWE does it and that means it's a good idea. We hit the chinlock on Rex before Dax hammers away to end the first round. Baron wins the first round and he's in early control of the second as well. Rex elbows him down and grabs the Royal Arch (Edgecator, though it sounds like a big McDonald's sandwich) for the submission at 4:18.

**Rating:** D. So the five minute rounds were just for Bound For Glory and not for the rest of the title matches? But hey, at least we get TEAM X GOLD, which is supposed to be entertaining for whatever reason. This isn't an interesting concept and I was hoping they would drop it soon enough but let's just keep it going no matter what because TNA needs to evolve the business by having Rex beat a tag team jobber in four minutes.

Rex says this is changing the business.

Lashley and the three potential opponents come out for the main event. Lashley takes his time and goes over each opponent before picking.....Eddie.

#### TNA World Title: Lashley vs. Eddie Edwards

Lashley is defending but misses a spear at the bell. A release German suplex flips Eddie over though and a delayed vertical suplex makes it even worse. Eddie's hurricanrana is countered with a powerbomb but he gets in a few kicks to the face. Now the hurricanrana brings Lashley off the middle rope and the champ is in trouble. The Boston Knee Party misses but Eddie sends him outside for the suicide dives, only to miss the third one and crash into the barricade. Back in and the Boston Knee Party out of nowhere gives Eddie the title at 7:50.

**Rating:** C+. This didn't have time to go anywhere but it's a really entertaining moment and that's more important. Eddie getting the belt is a good idea, though couldn't they have done this at Bound For Glory where it would have felt more important? Or, you know, not have had Eddie lose on Sunday? At least it felt important and big though while giving us something fresh. As long as they don't change

the title right back, this should be find.

Next up on Pop: Wolf Creek. Why do I have a feeling the choice for the title isn't a coincidence?

**Overall Rating:** C-. Main event aside, this show did very little to fix TNA's major issues. I still have very few people to care about around here and it's not really getting much better. Between the new Grand Championship division and apparently an X-Division trios division (because reasons), it feels like they're just throwing stuff out there. There's really no main event story and there hasn't been anything personal around the World Title in a long time. You need something people can connect to because average wrestling isn't going to cut it these days. It's not a bad show but very little I can connect to.

### Results

DJZ/Mandrews/Braxton Sutter b. Trevor Lee/Andrew Everett/Marshe Rocket – Shooting star press to Everett

Gail Kim b. Sienna – Rollup

Hardys b. Decay – Hardys escaped the cage

Aron Rex b. Baron Dax – Royal Arch

Eddie Edwards b. Lashley – Boston Knee Party

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# Impact Wrestling – September 29, 2016: So Close Now

## Impact Wrestling

Date: September 29, 2016

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: D'Angelo Dinero, Josh Matthews

It's an interesting show this week for very different reasons. Above all else (at least in theory) this is the go home show for Bound For Glory. However, if the rumors are true, there's also a strong chance that this is one of the, if not the very, last episodes of the show in general. Let's get to it.

Jeremy Borash is in the ring to introduce Ethan Carter III and Lashley as the captains for tonight's Lethal Lockdown. We're going to get something like a live draft with the following teams announced:

Lashley, Drew Galloway, Mike Bennett, Maria Kanellis

Carter, Aron Rex, Moose, Gail Kim

The captains talk a lot of trash and say this is all that matters to them at the pay per view. Lashley isn't like the people Carter has beaten because he can end Ethan's career. Carter has a challenge: the two of them starting Lethal Lockdown one on one. Lashley agrees.

X-Division Title: Eddie Edwards vs. DJZ

DJZ is defending after accepting Edwards' challenge last week. They chop it out to start until DJZ gets in a hurricanrana to send Eddie outside. DJZ's flip dive doesn't work though and it's Eddie sending the champ into the barricade for a suicide dive. A sitout powerbomb gets two for Eddie but he takes too long going for the Boston Knee Party, allowing DJZ to hit a ZDT to retain at 5:34.

**Rating:** C. Well that happened. This was yet another match that probably should have been at Bound For Glory but instead let's throw it on here for five minutes with no time to develop. As usual there's nothing significant going on in the X-Division and there's

no title match announced three days before the biggest show of the year. I'm sure some multi-man match will be added on because that's how this division works.

Post match the Helms Dynasty comes out and beats up both guys.

Maria yells at Allie some more when Laura comes in. Allie looks like she's about to cry as Maria says this is what a woman should look like.

Mike Bennett and Moose had a sitdown interview earlier with Moose talking about how he's dealt with people like Bennett for his entire football career. Bennett says this isn't football and promises to teach Moose a lesson on Sunday. Moose says after he beats Bennett all around the ring, the fans will be chanting one name.

#### Madison Rayne vs. Laurel Van Ness

Laurel offers Madison a chance to kiss her hand before the match but Madison forearm her in the face. That means it's time for a trip to the floor so Allie can check Laurel's makeup. Back in and Laurel gets in a few slaps as even Josh is sounding bored with this match. Laurel hits a curb stomp for the pin at 3:56.

**Rating:** D. We're three days away from the biggest show of the year and TNA is showcasing a newcomer instead of building up the matches they've got coming up. It says a lot when Josh Matthews, who can get hyped over whatever latest stupid sitcom he's shilling for Pop, sounds like he'd rather be anywhere else. Laurel was watchable and the gimmick works but not the right time to debut it.

Allie announces Laurel as the winner, as per Maria's orders.

Lashley offers a title shot to anyone who takes Ethan out.

Drew Galloway is in the ring and calls out Aron Rex for a chat. Galloway talks about how he made this the place to be (for unemployment checks) so you're welcome. Rex: "First of all, get your own catchphrase." Aron promises to beat Drew up like a greasy haired loser so Drew brings up the stuntman. This Sunday there can only be one and that's going to be Drew Galloway. Security comes out to break up the brawl but both guys get in cheap shots.

Decay promises to destroy the Hardys.

Long recap of Decay vs. House Hardy.

#### Reby Hardy vs. Rosemary



Reby throws her around to start but gets choked down. Some forearms to the back have Reby in trouble but she grabs a Twist of Fate, only to have Steve get on the apron for a distraction. Reby goes after Steve and it's the mist to Reby's eyes for the DQ at 3:10.

**Rating:** D-. Yeah this was all you could have expected. Neither of them are regular wrestlers and the "match" was your old school Divas catfight instead of anything resembling wrestling. This feud can't end quickly enough for me as I'm tired of hearing them say the same things for months on end.

Post match the big brawl breaks out and Rosemary gives Reby a Side Effect through a table.

Lashley wins the coin toss for his team.

Back from a break, Decay beats on Matt and Jeff even more. They fight to the back where Matt is electrocuted by a cable and we go to three camera shots at once with Steve shouting DECAY.

Cody Rhodes vignette.

Maria and Gail have another sitdown interview with Maria insisting on being introduced properly. They insult each other a few times and argue over whether the title or the Hall of Fame is more important.

Tyrus is talking about the Bound For Gold match when Eli Drake interrupts. A business partnership is offered but Tyrus isn't interested. Then what's the point of his character?

We run down the Bound For Glory card. The X-Division Title isn't mentioned.

Ethan gives his team a pep talk.

#### Team Carter vs. Team Lashley

This is Lethal Lockdown, meaning there's a cage with weapons around the ring. Two men will start for five minutes and then Lashley's team sends in a man for a 2-1 advantage for two minutes. After those two minutes are up, Team Carter sends in a second man to even things up. The teams alternate every two minutes until all eight are in. At that point the cage roof lowers and it's one fall to a finish.

Carter is in the ring to start but Lashley sends Bennett out to start instead. They slug it out to start with Carter getting the better of it, only to walk into a spinebuster. A clothesline gets Carter out of trouble and both guys are down until it's Galloway

giving Lashley's team their advantage. The beating is on and we take a break.

Back with Rex coming in to even things up and the good guys take over, as is always the case in these things. Lashley gives his team another advantage as the clock is all over the place here. There's nothing to talk about here as they're just hitting each other over and over during these periods. Moose even things up and hits a spinning crossbody but everything evens out until it's Maria coming down the ramp.

Bennett tells her not to get in though so the brawling continue until Gail Kim comes out and throws Maria inside. That lasts all of ten seconds as Maria runs out with Gail chasing her up the ramp. I'm SO glad they were added here and not, say, whoever is in the X-Division Title match. Ah right, WE DON'T HAVE ONE OF THOSE FOR THE PAY PER VIEW.

Back from another break with Lashley's team in full control until Lashley has them stop for a meeting, allowing Rex to come back with a chair shot. Moose and Rex take turns beating Lashley down with various weapons. Bennett gets in a pipe shot on Rex and superkicks a chair into Moose's face.

Moose does the same thing with a dropkick but walks into the Futureshock. It's down to Carter vs. Lashley with Ethan winning a slugout and sending him head first into the cage. The TK3 is no sold so Lashley spears him down and grabs the head and arms choke. Carter goes for the ropes but it doesn't matter inside the cage. Ethan passes out at 29:03.

**Rating:** C+. The women being a big waste of time aside, this was a standard Lethal Lockdown with an odd ending as Carter probably shouldn't lose to end the go home show. Lashley continues to look dominant and he probably should drop the title on Sunday. The other people were really just background noise here, which is why this was such a waste of a gimmick. Just do an eight person tag or something. Lashley's choice for the main event: no holds barred.

**Overall Rating:** D+. Bound For Glory, assuming it happens, really isn't looking that hot on paper and this show didn't do it many favors. The matches have all been built up well enough but they're still not interesting. The main event being no holds barred doesn't do much for me and the X-Division still not having a match isn't

much better. The company certainly isn't heading in on a high note but that's pretty standard anymore.

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# Impact Wrestling – September 22, 2016: Is It Too Late To Turn Around?

## Impact Wrestling

Date: September 22, 2016

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: D'Angelo Dinero, Josh Matthews

There are two weeks left before Bound For Glory and a lot of the card has been filled in. Tonight we have the two semifinal matches in the Grand Championship tournament and more of the build towards Ethan Carter III vs. Lashley for the TNA World Title. We're to the point where everything is about setting up the pay per view so let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Lashley and Moose brawling to end last week's show until Ethan Carter III came out for the save.

Grand Championship Title Tournament Semifinals: Drew Galloway vs.

## Eddie Edwards

Josh tries to get "Scottish Dragon" over as Drew's latest nickname. It's better than the Leonidas of TNA. Drew chops away to start but Eddie backflips out of a suplex and kicks Drew out to the floor. The suicide dive connects, only to have Drew pop back up with a tilt-a-whirl slam onto the apron. Drew rolls some suplexes for two before getting in some right hands to "break down the guard" to end the first round.

Drew wins the first round so Eddie scores with a running clothesline to start the second round. A super hurricanrana gets two on Galloway and Eddie ties him in the Tree of Woe, only to have Drew sit up into a belly to belly superplex. The Boston Knee Party sends Drew outside and back to back suicide dives has Eddie in full control to end the second round.

Eddie wins the second round to tie it up and starts fast by going after the knee. That's reversed into the Iron Maiden but Eddie reverses into one of his own. Eddie shifts over into some leg holds so Drew kicks him in the face. That's one way to do it. They chop it out with Drew getting the better of it and hitting a Razor's Edge buckle bomb. Eddie gets an enziguri but walks into the Futureshock for two as time expires at 10:17.

**Rating:** B-. And that's why I don't like this tournament structure. This was one of the better matches TNA had put on in a few weeks if not months but the stupid rounds and time limit made sure that they couldn't keep going because we need to end this match at nine minutes. To be fair though, how else are we going to get in more vignettes of Vanguard I and Senor Benjamin playing chess?

The judges give it to Drew on a split decision. Again, the points aren't actually mentioned and they would have the same result if they just had the judges vote on a winner instead of giving numbers. But hey, why do what makes sense when you can make it more complicated?

Post match Drew says his match will be the real main event of Bound For Glory because nothing can follow him. This brings out Ethan

Carter III, who doesn't like Drew suggesting that he's the better man. Drew thinks it's interesting how Ethan comes out on his feet all the time and offers him a Grand Championship shot. As Drew leaves, Ethan says he can beat Drew anywhere anytime but here's Lashley to interrupt. Mike Bennett runs in from behind to beat on Drew and it's a double beatdown. Cue Moose but the good guys are left laying.

Allie is trying to find people to help with Maria Kanellis' public workout but Maria comes up to yell at her again.

Aron Rex and Eli Drake are ready for their semifinal match.

Bennett asks Lashley if they're friends but Lashley says he has no friends. Mike thinks he can get a title shot by beating Moose but Lashley stares him down.

#### Grand Championship Title Tournament Semifinals: Aron Rex vs. Eli Drake

Before the bell, Drake tells Rex to stay off the mic because he can't hang at this level. Rex laughs off the insults and says he's going to tell the tale of Eli Drake. Eli is the offspring of an out of work Chippendale dancer and a Muppet and has bad taste in knee pads. That's a little rude but not exactly Drake was probably more insulting. Rex needs to stick with being smart and not trying to be a Rock knockoff.

They trade headlocks to start as it's a very simple first minute. Rex's Russian legsweep looks to set up the Wind-Up Elbow but Drew bails to the floor. A sideslam looks to set up the Edgecator on Drake but the first round wraps up. Round one goes to Rex but he still can't get the Edgecator to start the second.

Drake pops him in the jaw a few times and grabs a chinlock, which really isn't the best idea in a match this short. A jumping neckbreaker gets two on Aron and Drake pounds him down to end the second round. Drake wins the second and Rex is in trouble to start the final round. Not that it matters as Rex hits his discus punch (the Revelator) for the pin at 8:43.

**Rating:** C. This wasn't too bad and yet again the time limit really hurt things. We've spent the better part of a month setting up a final that's going to have a nine minute time limit for a big fight between people who want to hurt each other. Drake deserves a bit better than this but at least they're giving a rub to someone with potential.

Decay promises to destroy the Hardys in the Great War but they catch Vanguard I spying on them. A Senor Benjamin hologram pops up to laugh at them as Vanguard I flies away.

Rex is talking about his win when Galloway pops up to say he'll win, though Aron disagrees.

We see a man walking to his car and talking about his past being behind. He gets in his car and the reveal is Cody Rhodes (just Cody here), who will debut at Bound For Glory.

Here's Decay with a message for the Hardys. Rosemary says the Great War will be the end of every last Hardy. More destruction is promised until Matt Hardy appears in the crowd to say this is a world of magic. The battlefield for the Great War will be the entire world so Matt can delete the title reign. Jeff shows up to say they'll twist Decay's fate and Abyss will no longer be beautiful, Steve won't be crazy and Rosemary won't be rosy anymore. The lights go out and come back up to reveal Steve and Abyss tied to the ropes. Reby shows up to spear Rosemary but she can't get a Twist of Fate. Reby promises to take care of her soon.

Ethan Carter III and Moose fire each other up.

X-Division Champion DJZ comes out and issues an open challenge for a title match.

#### X-Division Title: DJZ vs. Trevor Lee

Lee is challenging and starts fast with a slam to work on DJZ's back. The champ fights back and sends Lee outside for a big flip dive to take out Lee and Andrew Everett. Back in and a middle rope back elbow to the jaw rocks Lee, followed by a springboard hurricanrana. The ZDT retains the title at 3:45.

**Rating:** C-. So much for the X-Division being revitalized. This was just like most X-Division matches you've seen in the last few years: no reason for it to happen other than "let's have a match", nothing special for wrestling, almost no time and the same people fighting for the title that have been fighting for it since I can remember. It's not a bad match or anything but it's really lazy storytelling. Post match Everett and Lee (they're still the Helms Dynasty despite Helms not being around in months) beat on DJZ until Eddie Edwards makes the save. Edwards asks for a title match next week and DJZ says it's on.

Maria yells at Allie for being stupid like Gail Kim. Allie is crushed, again.

Here are Maria, Allie and Sienna for Maria's public workout. Maria yells at Allie and tells her to get out of the camera shot because no one wants to see her. Sienna deserves a title shot but isn't going to get one tonight. An unnamed opponent comes out and gets beaten up by Sienna, allowing Maria to get the first pin in about thirty seconds. Allie doesn't have a second opponent because she already found the easiest opponent she could. Maria berates her again so here's a woman in all black, including a mask. Yeah I think you know where this one is going.

The masked woman easily takes Maria to the mat and reveals herself as Gail Kim. Sienna comes in for the save but Gail beats her down too and sends the other heels running. There's an interesting story here, assuming you completely remove Gail from the match. Every part of this looks to be setting up Allie taking the title from Maria but no, let's have Gail Kim get the title shot instead. Maybe Maria retains anyway and loses to Allie down the road but that should be at the pay per view, not some TV match later on.

Same Cody vignette from earlier. They really couldn't film two of these?

We run down the Bound For Glory card.

Ethan Carter III/Moose vs. Lashley/Mike Bennett

Bennett drops to the floor at the opening bell so Lashley gets beaten down by both opponents. We take a break about a minute in and come back with Bennett hitting a cutter for two on Carter. Bennett sends Carter into the corner but punches Lashley by mistake. The hot tag brings in Moose and everything breaks down. Carter grabs a quick rollup to pin Bennett at 8:35.

**Rating:** D. What the heck was that? Most of this was in the commercial and the ending felt like it was out of nowhere. Carter vs. Lashley and Bennett vs. Moose don't feel like big matches and that's a really bad sign for two of the top three matches at the biggest show of the year. Not good here and not a good way to set things up.

Post match Lashley and Carter brawl with wrestlers and referees barely able to hold them back. Cue Billy Corgan to say that's not how this is going down. Next week we're starting Bound For Glory early with Team Lashley vs. Team Carter with the winning team getting to pick the stipulations for the title match. Oh and let's just make it Lethal Lockdown. You know, because THE BIGGEST GIMMICK MATCH TNA HAS SHOULD BE USED TO SET UP ANOTHER MATCH.

**Overall Rating:** C. This show did its job of helping to build a lot of stuff at Bound For Glory but it's still not the most interesting stuff in the world. Nothing on the card feels like a must see match and that's not how you want the biggest show of the year to go. Lashley vs. Carter has been done before and I'm really not excited about seeing them fight again. It's better than what they've done in recent years but this is really not doing much for me right now.

### Results

Drew Galloway b. Eddie Edwards via judges' decision

Aron Rex b. Eli Drake – Revelator

DJZ b. Trevor Lee – ZDT

Ethan Carter III/Moose b. Lashley/Mike Bennett – Rollup to Bennett

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