

Davey Richards Suffers Broken Leg

At a house show tonight. No word on how long he'll be out or what's going to happen to the titles, but having so many shows taped in advance give them a chance to set up something new.

Smackdown Possibly Moving Back To Thursdays

Yeah according to a photo from tonight's tapings.



Photo Credit: wrestlingrumors.net

This one could change a lot of things as NXT would have to move and Impact's negotiations would take a BIG hit as they would be going head to head with the first hour of Smackdown. However, keep in mind that nothing official has been said and this could be doctored.

Impact Wrestling – July 31, 2014 (Destination X 2014): Same Time This Year

Impact Wrestling

Date: July 31, 2014

Location: Manhattan Center, New York City, New York

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Taz

It's Destination X, meaning for one night a year, the X Division actually matters. In this case we have another Option C, as Austin Aries has cashed in his X-Division Title for a World Title shot. Also, we have the reunited Hardy Boys challenging the Wolves for the World Tag Team Titles which should be awesome. Let's get to it.

We open with a video of Aries in an empty arena and talking about how he's willing to give it all up for one chance tonight.

The opening video talks about the two title matches.

Here are Dixie and company to get things going. Dixie brags about changing the rules on everyone and giving them the real EC Dub (not ECW of course). She's given them a star in Ethan and he'll lead TNA into the future. Ethan talks about how the two men who debuted last week are the real ECW men. First up is the man formerly known as Big Z, but now he'll go by his real name of Rycklon. The other guy is just known as Gene Snitsky.

This brings Ethan to Team 3D and Dreamer. The fans want tables but Ethan says this is going to become the house that the

Carters built. A challenge is issued for one final challenge to end this war once and for all. Also, Dixie is NEVER going to be put through a table, no matter what.

Tag Team Titles: Hardys vs. Wolves

Wolves are defending. Eddie and Matt crank arm work to start as the fans are split. The champions take over but Matt sends Richards into the corner to take over. Off to Jeff as the Hardys start working over Davey's arm. A double suplex gets two and it's back to a wristlock from Matt. Richards finally gets in a shot to the head and makes a tag off to Edwards to clean house.

A double hurricanrana puts both Hardys on the floor, setting up a double suicide dive to keep the champions in control. Back in and Eddie enziguris Jeff into a German suplex from Davey for two. Matt saves his brother from a double suplex before the Wolves are thrown outside. Poetry In Motion over the top puts everyone down before a regular one hits Eddie in the corner.

The Side Effect sets up the Swanton but Richards sends Jeff outside before a cover. Matt gets two off a moonsault to Edwards before both Hardys put on Ice Picks (double underhook guillotine chokes). Davey breaks Jeff's hold and makes the save before sending him crashing to the floor.

The kick to Matt's chest sets up the double double stomp for two on Matt. Back up and a Twist of Fate gets two on Davey and a backslide gets the same for Richards. Jeff is still down, allowing the Wolves to hit their powerbomb/top robe Backstabber for the pin on Matt at 10:08.

Rating: B. This was good but not great. The tagging part went away a few minutes into the match but that's probably the best thing all around. I didn't know who was going to win here and that's a very good thing considering how this could have gone. The Hardys still looked good and Matt hasn't looked like this

in years.

Video on Low Ki, an X-Division pioneer.

Low Ki and Joe stare at each other in the back.

X-Division Title Qualifying Match: DJZ vs. Manik vs. Low Ki

It's the usual series of triple threats to set up another triple threat for the vacant title. DJZ heads outside to start, allowing Manik and Low Ki to dive around a lot. Back in and DJZ dropkicks both guys down before sending Manik outside. Low Ki counters a tornado DDT and sends DJZ into the corner, only to have Manik come back in to break it up.

Low Ki gets sent to the floor and Manik puts a Black Widow on DJZ. He changes it over to an Indian Deathlock but Ki kicks him down to crank on DJZ's leg even worse. Ki gets knocked off the top and DJZ gets two off a rollup to Manik. DJZ gets kicked off the top and out to the floor and the Ki Crusher ends Manik at 5:10.

Rating: C. The match was fine but I really have a problem getting into these qualifying matches. They're so similar every single year with people being brought back, wrestling maybe a match or two after it's over, and then usually leaving again. That really isn't all that interesting and gets tiresome quick. Still though, not a bad match.

We look back at Sanada turning on Great Muta and joining forces with James Storm last week.

Here's Storm with something to say. What we saw last week was a student rising up instead of being held down by his mentor. Now Storm is Sanada's new mentor and will see that he gets everything done.

X-Division Title Qualifying Match: Sanada vs. Brian Cage vs. Crazy Steve

The muscular Cage (he once appeared on Gut Check) cleans house to start and gets two off a backbreaker to Sanada. Steve gets in Cage's face and offers a test of strength before stomping on Cage's foot. That's fine with Cage as he picks up Sanada in a Samoan drop and Sanada in a slam at the same time. Both guys get thrown down before Cage can't hit a delayed vertical superplex on Steve. The Crazy one hits a sunset bomb for two but Sanada makes the save. Sanada gets hammered down in the corner but Cage misses a Lionsault, allowing Sanada to hit a tiger suplex on Steve for the pin at 3:55.

Rating: D+. Cage looked really impressive but there was no question who was going to win here. Sanada is a guy that we have a reason to care about which puts him far ahead of a lot of the international talent brought in for something like this. There isn't much to say here though, as is the case most of the time on this special.

Team 3D and Dreamer accept.

Bobby Roode gives Aries a pep talk.

Here are Team 3D and Tommy Dreamer with something to say. D-Von talks about being gone for awhile but now he's back with his best friend Dreamer and his Brother Ray. They know how to finish a war and that's what they're going to do. Dreamer says he's been in wars against and with these men along with others that will die for all of us. Being hardcore is a work ethic and he would go to war with anyone in TNA because that's what this business is all about.

This brings out Dixie's cronies with Ethan saying this is war, but the war is next week. Ray isn't pleased and asks if Ethan knows who he is and where they are. Ray may not know how to do a lot of things, but he knows how to start a riot in New York City. If Ethan gets to name the time, Ray gets to make it a weapons match.

Angle and Joe shake hands in the back and Angle is pleased.

Team Dixie is ready for next week.

The Beautiful People don't think much of Terryn and Gail Kim.

Someone whose name begins with an H is coming.

X-Division Qualifying Match: Samoa Joe vs. Tigre Uno vs. Homicide

Before the match, Joe talks about how awesome he is and how he'll bring the focus back to the X-Division. Tigre is quickly thrown down but Homicide sends Joe out to the floor for a big running flip dive as we take a break. Back with Tigre dropkicking both guys down but he gets double teamed with a High/Low.

Joe and Homicide have their big showdown with Joe taking over and hammering away. Some knees to Homicide's head have him in trouble but Tigre comes back and takes over with kicks of his own. Homicide takes Tigre down with a tornado DDT but Uno is in the corner. Joe takes over again but Homicide breaks up the MuscleBuster. That only lasts for a few seconds though as Joe busts up Homicide's muscles to advance at 9:50.

Rating: C+. It's the best of the three matches but that really doesn't cover a lot of ground. Joe advancing is the logical move and I really hope Homicide isn't going to be around full time. I've never cared for him and he doesn't seem to do much other than wrestle a strong style which doesn't do anything for me.

Video on Abyss vs. Bram. Abyss sings My Girl and brings out Janice.

Video on Aries cashing in the X Title last week.

We recap the X-Division stuff.

TNA World Title: Austin Aries vs. Bobby Lashley

Bobby is defending and it's a staredown to start. Aries goes to the leg to start but it's a very slow opening. More kicks have Lashley in trouble and Austin wraps his leg around the ropes for even more kicks. A dropkick to the back sends Lashley to the floor but his dive is caught in midair for a belly to belly suplex as we take a break. Back with Lashley taking over and putting on a reverse bearhug.

Aries fights up but gets caught in a regular bearhug. Austin escapes again but gets caught in a nice gorilla press drop. The Dominator is countered with a discus forearm and a series of regular forearms in the corner. Lashley is sent to the floor and Aries hits the top rope ax handle, setting up a missile dropkick back inside. The corner dropkick is caught in the Dominator though (sweet counter) but the spear is countered into the Last Chancery.

Lashley fights out and lifts Aries for a suplex but just throws Aries forward. Another spear attempt misses and there's the discus forearm to send Lashley back into the corner. The running dropkick sets up the brainbuster but Lashley is up at two. Lashley rolls away to avoid the 450 but Aries misses the suicide dive. Back in and the spear retains Lashley's title at 16:28.

Rating: B-. Good match here as Lashley piles up another hero. This is basic wrestling booking as we're waiting on the hero to rise up and take the title back to the good side. Lashley is little more than a dragon, but that doesn't mean it's not a good story. Nice match here too with Aries playing the hero really well.

The final video shows Dixie being lifted up for a powerbomb next week with a Twitter hashtag of ITHAPPENS.

Overall Rating: B-. I didn't hate the show but this really didn't feel special. The opener was entertaining and the main event was good as well, but there was nothing on here that I'm

going to think about soon after this show. I really don't know what's coming for Bound For Glory but we should be getting to its build in the next few weeks.

I can't imagine this is going to help the X-Division either as it looks to be exactly what happened before: the division will mean something for a few weeks and then go away because it doesn't mean anything until next year's Destination X. At least it was entertaining while it lasted this year. Good but definitely not great show here.

Results

Wolves b. Hardys – Powerbomb/Backstabber combination to Matt

Low Ki b. DJZ and Manik – Ki Crusher to Manik

Sanada b. Brian Cage and Crazy Steve – Tiger suplex to Steve

Samoa Joe b. Tigre Uno and Homicide – MuscleBuster to Homicide

Bobby Lashley b. Austin Aries – Spear

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And check out my Amazon author page with wrestling books for under \$4 at:

Three Thoughts of the Day

Maybe I should watch Raw while I'm barely awake more often.

1. Boy That's Convenient!

Last night on Raw, Brad Maddox made the Usos vs. Daniel Bryan and Bray Wyatt have a rematch inside of a cage. Wasn't it lucky that there just happened to be a cage above the ring? Could you at least try to make it seem like this show isn't

completely scripted?

2. Nice and Easy.

With Shield's breakup being imminent for the last three months or so, I'm very relieved to see that they're not being jobbed out every single match. That idea is so overused and it takes away any kind of shock you might see coming. Thankfully Shield has only lost a handful of times and is still a powerful force. Hopefully this means they change some of their played out ideas up a little bit.

3. Watch How It's Done Junior.

If you've watched WWE in the last three weeks or so, you know that Batista is coming back next week and that he'll be in the Rumble. WWE has hyped up the return like they always do and I'm betting WWE will draw a crowd as a result. Batista is a big star and people are likely going to be interested in watching him return.

Compare this to the return of AJ Styles. Styles returned at the end of an episode of Impact and the next week he was in a world title unification match. No additional hype, no time to make the fans feel like they had to see it and nowhere near as many additional fans watching the show as they could have had. The rating was higher due to having a big match. Imagine how much higher it could have been if more people had known they could have seen AJ return to the ring for a world title unification match.

Thought of the Day: TNA Needs Some Usos

More on my comment last night of TNA has no soul. If you've been watching Impact lately, it's pretty clear that there's not a lot of life in TNA. A big part of that is there's very little that's supposed to be fun. Other than Bad Influence, no one seems like they're having fun out there. You have Aces and 8's vs. Anderson in a feud about trying to injure someone's neck, you have a world title tournament which is always serious, Angle's feud involves him nearly being paralyzed twice. Nothing comes off as lighthearted or fun.

This is where the Usos come in. Now before you ask, no I'm not suggesting they jump because that's not the point. However, let's look at the Usos for a bit. They have good matches, the fans are into them, and they're definitely not a serious act. They do their Siva Tao thing to fire up the crowd, fly around the ring, then dance when they win. It's a fun act that always fires the crowd up and just lets them have fun enjoying wrestling for a change. TNA needs something like that. Just let some guys go out there and have fun without some serious story behind them. It would be a very nice breath of air on Impact.

Impact – June 4, 2004: Impact

Debuts And Blows Away Today's Product

Impact

Date: June 4, 2004

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Don West

I found this online and had always wanted to do it so here you go. This is the debut episode of Impact, still coming from Orlando and on Fox Sports Net at I believe 3pm EST on Friday afternoons. TNA still hadn't even had a three hour PPV yet and I doubt Victory Road had even been announced yet, meaning we're still in the days of the weekly two hour PPVs. Jeff Jarrett is currently champion, having won the title just two days earlier. Let's get to it.

They still have the six sided ring here.

Team Canada vs. Amazing Red/Sonjay Dutt/Hector Garza

Team Canada is Petey Williams, Eric Young and Bobby Roode. Another very different idea from this point is the time limit on screen. Non-title matches only have ten minute time limits and title matches get thirty minutes. If the match goes to a time limit draw, a judge will decide the winner. The Canadians all bail to the floor to start and there's the triple dive. We start in the ring with Eric Young (with BIG bushy hair) getting beaten up by Amazing Red until the Canadians take Eric out.

Roode pounds away on Red as the power member of the Canadians, getting two off an elbow. There's also an ESPN style bottom line, running down results of recent TNA PPVs. Petey gets two off a middle rope bulldog and Coach Scott D'Amore gets in a cheap shot of his own. Back to Roode for a nice suplex before knocking Dutt and Garza out to the floor.

Red comes back with a simultaneous headscissors to Roode and DDT to Young, allowing for the hot tag to Garza. Roode takes him down with a tilt-a-whirl powerbomb as everything breaks down. Red gets two on Roode off a springboard hurricanrana but Petey snaps off the Canadian Destroyer to take Red out. Roode's Razor's Edge is countered into a hurricanrana by Dutt, setting up a corkscrew moonsault from Dutt for the pin.

Rating: C. This was fine for an opener with most of the guys busting out all of their dives. It's the standard formula of throwing some fast paced guys out there to open up a show and it still works as well as anything else. It's always fun to see how big starts like Roode got their starts as he looked good here.

We recap Jarrett winning the title in the first King of the Mountain match.

Tenay and West talk about how awesome TNA is and introduce a highlight package from their first two years. This includes Toby Keith in TNA...and that's it. Apparently more highlights are coming next week.

We run down the card for Wednesday's show.

Shark Boy vs. Abyss

Sharky goes after Abyss and bites his way out of a chokeslam. A high cross body is caught in an easy slam before the Black Hole Slam ends this quick. Total squash for Abyss.

Popeye hugs Shark Boy. Yes the same Popeye you're thinking of.

Tag Titles: America's Most Wanted vs. Kid Kash/Dallas

AMW is challenging. The idea is Kash and Dallas have been ducking the only team they know can take the titles but tonight they're out of places

to run. The winners here have to defend against the winners of a fan poll next Wednesday night. Kash and Storm get us going with the Cowboy taking him down by the arm. Off to Harris for a clothesline and bulldog for two but Dallas makes the save.

Back to Storm who gets caught in a hot shot, allowing for the tag off to the big man Dallas. We take a break and come back with Storm superkicking Kash down, only to have Dallas make the save at two. Kash goes to the corner and climbs onto Kash's shoulders but misses the moonsault, allowing for the hot tag off to Harris. A cross body and clothesline get two each on Dallas as everything breaks down. Dallas loads up Storm in a reverse Razor's Edge before flipping him down onto his back for a frog splash from Kid but Harris spears Kash down. Dallas kicks Harris in the face but Storm rolls him up for the pin and the titles.

Rating: C+. Basic tag formula here with a title change to give the show some historical significance. AMW continues to be the best team ever in TNA as they have that chemistry that you only see in great teams. Kash and Dallas were just placeholder champions until AMW stopped their singles stuff over the last month or so.

Video on the World X Cup.

Here's Dusty Rhodes who is acting as the judge in case matches go to the time limit. Dusty talks about tradition and drops names like Thesz, the Funks, the Briscos, AJ Styles and Ron Killings. Not quite the same level but nice idea. Now on to Jeff Jarrett, who slapped tradition in the face when he won the title back earlier this week. Cue Jarrett (West: "The thirty time NWA Champion!") who says he used to look up to Dusty but that was twenty years ago when Dusty was in the twilight of his career.

If Dusty needs the \$200, there are better ways to get it than standing here in Jarrett's ring. Jeff speaks in cowboy terms, talking about how Dusty is John Wayne and Jeff will give him five paces to get out of Dodge. Dusty slaps him with the cowboy hat and beats on the champion,

only to have Jeff come back and load up the guitar until Ron Killings makes the save. Jeff cracks the guitar over Killings' head but BG James and Konnan make the real save with James swearing vengeance.

Video on the X-Division.

There's a fourway match for a shot at Kazarian's X Title. Vince Russo, director of authority, won't say who the fourth man is.

Chris Sabin vs. Michael Shane vs. Elix Skipper vs. AJ Styles

Styles is a mystery man, revealed about twenty seconds after Russo wouldn't reveal him. This is his first of about 85 returns to the X-Division. It's a wild brawl to start as thankfully we don't have tags in this. Shane and Styles are the only ones left in the ring and AJ does that sweet drop down into a dropkick spot, only to be taken down by a springboard missile dropkick from Sabin.

Skipper kicks Sabin down for two but Shane is back up with forearms. A wheelbarrow suplex puts Skipper down again as the fans are all over Shane. AJ pulls Michael out to the floor but gets suplexed down for his troubles. Skipper slams Sabin for two but gets caught in an Edgecution for two for Sabin. Chris escapes a rollup from AJ and gets two of his own off a springboard tornado DDT.

Shane is back in with a belly to belly on Sabin but gets crotched by AJ, allowing Elix to walk the ropes into a hurricanrana to send Michael to the floor. AJ sends Sabin to the floor and hits a big flip dive to take Skipper down as well. Shane loads up a superkick to Sabin, only to have AJ springboard in with a sunset flip, only to roll through into the Styles Clash for the pin and the title shot.

Rating: C+. Nice insane X-Division match to show off what the X-Division was all about. Styles winning was pretty obvious but that doesn't make it

a bad thing. He's one of those guys you have to showcase on the first TV show and they did a great job at it here. It's also still weird to see Sabin as just another guy.

Kazarian comes out for the staredown to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. This was a solid show actually. They covered a wide variety of stories and parts of the company as well as building up for future shows. That's a really good job for a debut show, but the fact that they had two years of material already helped them out a lot. Good stuff here though and much better than I was expecting.

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Aces and 8's vs. Main Event Mafia Hardcore Justice Match Postpines

It's off until the 22nd, which means it'll be taped the same night. Therefore, the Angle situation isn't an issue, but let's postpone it due to "circumstances beyond our control" and only let people know on Dixie's Twitter account. As of this writing (about 2:45 pm EST) there's no mention of it on TNA's website that I can find.

And people wonder why this company earns eye rolls from fans.

Thought of the Day: TNA Is Not Competition For WWE

This is one of those ideas that makes no sense when you actually think about it. The common statement you hear is TNA needs to stay around to be competition to WWE. TNA has been around for over eleven years and has never, not once, come close to competing with them. Someone that thinks they have been, please tell me how they've competed. Simply being in the same business and producing the same kind of material isn't competing. By that logic a seven year old writing a story in school is competition for Stephen King. TNA's highest rating ever for Impact is a long distance from Smackdown's lowest number in years. About three times as many people watch Raw as watch Impact. The PPV buys are so lopsided it's unreal.

TNA doesn't compete with WWE. They don't come close and they won't for a very long time. If TNA goes out of business (and no I don't think they are anytime soon), WWE isn't going to be breathing a sigh of relief. TNA is a promotion which has done better than most companies, but to even think they're a serious competitor to WWE at this point or any point in their history is laughable.

On This Day: July 19, 2012 – Impact Wrestling: Dig Those Young Aces and 8's!

Impact Wrestling

Date: July 19, 2012

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Tazz

It's Open Fight Night again and Roode is calling out Aries tonight. Why he would do this when he has a world title match at the next PPV is a bit of a mystery but that's wrestling for you. We also might get an update on the Aces and 8's faction which is a pretty cool idea. We haven't had masked me in awhile so that's kind of a cool thing. Let's get to it.

After the standard opening recap, we have another recap of the Aces and 8's beatdown last week.

Hogan is shown in the hospital, which is due to a legit back surgery.

Theme song hits. Get your reinforcements.

Bound For Glory Series standings:

James Storm 43

Samoa Joe 37

Kurt Angle 27

Jeff Hardy 21

Mr. Anderson 16

Rob Van Dam 14

Magnus 14

Christopher Daniels 12

AJ Styles 7

D'Angelo Dinero 7

Bully Ray 0

Robbie E 0

Tonight the high scorers get to do the callouts.

Here's Storm to talk about Aries being the new champion and wanting the title shot no matter who it's against. He hasn't forgotten about Roode either, because the title is just business while Roode is personal. As for Aces and 8's, if this was the wild west, he'd be the sheriff because he's the Cowboy. While he doesn't have a star on his chest, he has a set of balls. Hogan gets a shoutout but Storm wants Angle tonight.

Bound For Glory Series: James Storm vs. Kurt Angle

And there's no Kurt. The music plays again and it's Aces and 8's in the back destroying Angle. We go to a break with Angle out cold and Tenay wondering if the guy in an American flag t-shirt with no hair that looks exactly like Angle is in fact Angle.

Bound For Glory Series: Samoa Joe vs. D'Angelo Dinero

I'm not going to bother listing the quick callouts that happen unless anything significant is said in them. Dinero tries to knock Joe into the corner but Joe pounds him with elbows and an enziguri to take over. Joe pops him in the face but gets sent into the corner and out to the floor. Back in and Pope hits a powerslam for two and it's off to the Rings of Saturn. Pope starts pounding away and gets caught in a cross armbreaker for the tap at 3:20.

Rating: C. See how easy it is to push Joe as a submissions master? It goes this fast and Joe continues to dominate the Series. Pope is still floundering and it's still pretty dull to see him out there as he's nothing more than a jobber at this point. Still though, they need people like that in the Series to keep things interesting. This wasn't bad though and Pope looked good.

Roode denies having any connection to Aces and 8's despite being the last guy seen with Hogan before the attack. He'll prove Destination X was a fluke later too.

Bound For Glory Series; Jeff Hardy vs. Robbie E

Jeff says he has someone in mind to call out but Robbie E interrupts. T jumps Hardy to take over but Hardy realizes he's Jeff Hardy and takes over with his usual stuff. T interferes again to send Jeff out to the floor. That gets two for E but Jeff comes back again and hits the Whisper in the Wind for two. A plancha to the floor misses as T shoved E out of the way. Jeff fights T up the aisle and E wins by countout at 2:49.

ODB and Eric Young are in the back and Eric is back. It turns into a plug for his fish show.

We recap Clair/Daniels/Kaz with Clair saying that AJ is her baby's papa.

Daniels rants a lot as does Kaz, saying that AJ is a coward.

Smoe guy named Sam Shaw comes out for Gut Check and while he's talking, here are Aces and 8's. There are six of them this time. The beating continues as they go to a break.

Post break Shaw is helped up.

Bound For Glory Series: Mr. Anderson vs. AJ Styles

Anderson works over the arm and hits a hiptoss to take over. He hooks an armbar but AJ counters into a headscissors. They stay on the mat for a bit until a stalemate takes us to a break. Back with Anderson holding a headlock but AJ comes back with the drop down/kick sequence. AJ grabs the arm but gets elbowed in the face and a neckbreaker puts Styles down for two. Anderson hooks a cravate for a submission attempt but Styles rams him into the buckle to escape. Springboard forearm gets two for AJ.

Mic Check and Clash are countered as we're getting close to fifteen minutes here. Regal Roll gets two for Anderson but the Mic Check is countered again. AJ goes up but Mr. snaps off a superplex with AJ landing on his arm. That only gets two for both guys as we have less than two

minutes left. Pele out of nowhere (missed by the announcers) sets up the Clash but Anderson counters and they hit the mat with Anderson getting a pin out of nowhere at 13:38.

Rating: C+. This wasn't really hitting on all cylinders but it worked well enough all things considered. Anderson needs some points and having him get a clean pin over Styles isn't going to hurt anything at all. Besides AJ has bigger things to worry about right now, and here she comes to continue the soap opera portion of your show.

Clair comes over the rail and yells about the night that AJ came to the hotel but AJ doesn't remember it. She says Styles was drinking that night too but Styles says this was all in her head. Clair has pictures of them in bed together with AJ looking very drugged/drunk.

Back and we look at the pictures again with AJ looking stunned in the back.

Bound For Glory Series: Rob Van Dam vs. Christopher Daniels

Some MMA guy is on commentary here because when you watch wrestling, you think MMA. Van Dam fires off some kicks but Daniels comes back with an elbow to the face. Daniels gets caught in an abdominal stretch, only for Daniels to fall backwards into the ropes. Back in after a quick run to the floor and Daniels hits the slingshot elbow for two. The MMA guy at least is interested here and sounds like a wrestling fan.

Daniels drops a knee to the back and puts on a chinlock with a knee in the back. Van Dam escapes and superkicks Daniels down, followed by a monkey flip. Five Star misses so RVD hits the walk over kick to take Daniels down. Rolling Thunder misses and Daniels rolls Van Dam up with feet on the ropes for the pin at 4:13.

Rating: C. Not bad again here and the announcer wasn't that annoying for the most part. Daniels is doing a great job at being completely evil and that's the right thing for him to do. RVD is fine for a warm body in the Series, which means that he'll wind up in the middle of the standings and will get some wins here and there. This was fine.

Austin Aries says he can trump anything Roode can do. He finds playing cards on the floor and says he can trump Aces and 8's too.

It's Brooke Hogan time! She does a phone interview to talk about her dad's injuries and how her dad doesn't know what he's in for. Nothing of note is said here.

Joseph Park offers his legal services to Garrett Bischoff as a way to talk about what happened last week when Park snapped. Park says that was all him.

Bound For Glory Series: Magnus vs. Bully Ray

Ray jumps Magnus in the aisle but Magnus fights back. Magnus sends him into the barricade and heads into the ring for the bell. Ray kicks him in the chest to take over but I think he was aiming for the face. Ray chops him in the corner and slams him down, but the splash misses. Magnus makes his comeback and throws on a Texas Cloverleaf but Ray makes the rope. Falcon's Arrow gets two for Magnus. He misses a middle rope elbow though and it's the Bully Cutter for the pin at 4:45.

Rating: D+. Nothing to see here but Ray finally gets some points. Magnus has everything you need to be something good but for some reason he's never risen above the level of a jobber. Unfortunately we didn't get any Joseph Park stuff here but this got the job done well enough I guess.

Chavo Guerrero Jr. debuts next week.

Here's Roode to call out Aries. That'll be after a break though.

Austin Aries vs. Bobby Roode

Non-title of course, because why would you think of asking for a title match in a match where you have to accept said challenge? Aries snaps off an armdrag followed by Roode getting sent into the corner. The fans sound like they say they want t-shirts. Roode sends him to the apron but Aries counters and hits a slingshot hilo for two. Roode goes face first into the apron so Aries dives on him on the outside as we take a break.

Back with Aries in trouble as Roode hits a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker for

two. A spinebuster gets the same and it's time for a chinlock. Aries fights up but walks into an elbow to the face to put him right back down. Aries gets up again and they slug it out but the spinning forearm gets caught in an armbar. Last Chancery goes on but Roode breaks out and hits the spear for two.

Roode loads up a superplex but Aries knees him in the head to escape. A missile dropkick puts Roode down but the brainbuster is countered into the Crossface. Aries hits the discus forearm and clotheslines Roode to the floor, followed by the suicide dive. And here are Aces and 8's for the DQ at 13:42.

Rating: C+. This was pretty good and I guess this is supposed to prove that Roode is behind this, but that would make no sense as they appeared before he lost the title. Aries getting beaten down is a nice touch as it shows that it's a company wide problem, but it doesn't answer any questions. This was the only ending they could go with though, as if Roode won then Aries is a fluke but if Aries won, why watch the PPV match?

Roode gets beaten up too and it's a big beatdown to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. This show has really slowed down a lot in the last few weeks, but there was still some good stuff tonight. Aces and 8's is still an interesting idea but with these random attacks, they're not really going anywhere yet. That'll change when Hogan and Sting get back or when someone mounts an attack against them. As usual though, the problem with Open Fight Night is that nothing of note happens from it. These matches could happen on any show and the calling out means nothing at all. Not a horrible show but it was nothing great at all.

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Thought of the Day: How The Kayfabe Has Fallen

On Impact this last week, Hogan came out with TJ Perkins and said Perkins had always been Suicide. Why is this such a topic of discussion? It's well documented that Perkins hasn't always been the guy playing the character. TJ joined the roster earlier this year and Suicide was around like four or five years ago. However, nearly every post I've seen about this has said how stupid it is for Hogan to lie about it. This is where smarks crack me up. They claim to be so smart and knowledgeable that they miss the entire point of wrestling at times: it's all one big lie.

So often these are the same people that whine and complain about how bored they are with modern wrestling, yet when a character on a wrestling show does something different or old school like this, the "fans" freak out about how stupid it is. Is Hogan telling the truth? No, but then again neither is almost anyone on the show when they say anything at all.

Here's a little something for you all to chew on: isn't it interesting that the two peaks of wrestling, the Golden Era of the 80s and the Attitude Era, were all about being as unrealistic as possible? It's almost like the formula that made wrestling work in the first place (this is all fake and the fans are just along for the ride) never needed to be tweaked at all and when it does, the results are nowhere near as successful.

Then again that would mean that internet fans and smarks are mostly schnooks that have no idea what they're talking about and are nowhere near as smart as they think they are and are actually bad for the business. That just couldn't be true,

could it?