

Rampage – January 20, 2023: The Side Show

Rampage

Date: January 20, 2023

Location: Save Mart Center, Fresno, California

Commentators: Jim Ross, Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Chris Jericho

We're still in California and this week's Dynamite is going to be a bit tough to follow. There is a good chance that we are going to get some solid matches though, as tends to be the case around here. Rampage can be rather fun when it comes to focusing on some of the lower level stuff and that might be what happens again this week. Let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence. This is in fact Rampage.

Jungle Boy vs. Ethan Page

Isaiah Kassidy, Stokely Hathaway and Matt Hardy are here with Page. Chris Jericho rants about the fans singing along with Jungle Boy's theme song as Page tries an Ego's Edge out of the corner to start. That's broken up and Page is sent to the floor, where he pulls Kassidy in the way of a dive. Back in and Page catches Jungle Boy on top but a dropkick puts him right back down.

Hold on though as Hathaway interferes but blames Hardy, allowing Page to whip Jungle Boy into the barricade. That works so well that Page does it again, though he does mix it up by going to a different side of the ring. Jungle Boy gets posted hard and a gorilla press drop back inside makes it worse as we take a break. Back with Jungle Boy firing off some chops but his back gives out to leave them both staggered.

Page slams him down again and mocks Hardy a bit, only to have the Twist Of Fate countered into a failed Killswitch attempt. Jungle Boy hammers away in the corner but a Hathaway distraction lets Page hit a Twist Of Fate for two. The frustrated Page sends Jungle Boy outside in front of Hardy but cue Hook to even things up a bit. Page uses the distraction to grab a rollup, along with Hardy's hair for leverage. Hardy shoves him off though and a sunset flip gives Jungle Boy the pin at 10:11.

Rating: C+. Jungle Boy continues to pick up wins and move up the ladder a bit, though at some point he needs to actually win something that matters. Beating Page is good, but that is only going to take you so far. For now though, this was perfectly acceptable, though I could go without seeing this Page/Hathaway own Private Party/Hardy's contract deals ever again.

Post match Hathaway and Page yell at Hardy, who says he didn't cost him a match. Page says Hardy can make this up to him in a tag match on Dynamite. Hathaway: "Until then, Matt Hardy, YOU'RE ON TIME OUT!"

Here is Ortiz to find out what is going on with Eddie Kingston. After blaming the House Of Black for having Kingston to the point of hitting a woman with a chair, Ortiz calls Kingston out. Cue Kingston, chair in hand, so this could get violent fast. Ortiz wants to know why Kingston has not been talking to him, but now he wants to hit a woman with a chair. Kingston was raised better than that and their mentor Homicide taught them better than that. Something in there was too far for Kingston, who cuts Ortiz off with a chair shot. Another shot leaves Ortiz laying and Kingston leaves. They kept this fast and that is a good idea.

Darby Allin wants Buddy Matthews for the TNT Title on Dynamite.

Brian Cage vs. Willie Mack

They fight over wrist control to start as commentary talks about PWG. Some flips don't get either of them anywhere so Mack hits the Samoan drop into the missed standing moonsault. Cage is back up with a running kick to the face, followed by the enziguri in the corner. There's the German suplex into the corner and a running boot in the corner rocks Mack again. A Rock Bottom onto the apron lets Cage pose as we take a break. Back with Mack kicking him in the face and grabbing a Sky High for two. Cage is fine enough to come back with an F5 for two of his own and a powerbomb into the Drill Claw finishes Mack at 9:07.

Rating: C. It was fun, but the video game criticisms of Cage make all the more sense every time you see him in the ring. He hits one finisher after another, often on the apron to make it worse. I get the appeal of having him around, but watching his matches are only going to be so interesting. Mack basically got squashed here and that doesn't bode well for his future, though he'll probably get signed anyway.

Jim Ross wishes the Jacksonville Jaguars good luck tomorrow. Well ok then.

Jade Cargill/Leila Grey vs. Vanity Twins

Leila shoulders Jaida down to start and it's off to off to Jordyn, who gets caught in the corner for the running dropkick. Jade comes in to throw Jordyn around, setting up Leila's neckbreaker. An X Factor hits Jaida but Jade wants back in. Jaded finishes Jaida at 3:17.

Rating: D+. Yeah remember how I complain about how Jade's matches are the same over and over every time? This was a squash with no doubt about who is winning, but how much different is that compared to most of Jade's matches? Every time he is in the ring it isn't about wondering if Jade is winning, but rather how long before Jaded retains the title.

Video on Action Andretti vs. the Jericho Appreciation Society. Daniel Garcia promises to take him out.

Here's what's coming on various shows.

Action Andretti vs. Daniel Garcia

Sammy Guevara is on commentary and if Garcia wins, he replaces Guevara in a tag match on Dynamite. Garcia jumps him to start but gets chopped in the corner for his efforts. A hurricanrana takes Garcia down and Andretti kicks him off the apron. There's the big running suicide dive but Garcia blasts him with a clothesline.

We take a break and come back with Andretti fighting back and hitting a neckbreaker. Andretti goes up so Garcia bails outside, only to have Andretti jump to the apron and hit a moonsault from the apron. Back in and a split legged moonsault gives Andretti two and they trade kicks to the face.

A torture rack neckbreaker gives Andretti two more but Garcia is back with a pumphandle slam for the same. Andretti catches him with an elbow in the corner though and a top rope corkscrew crossbody drops Garcia again. The running shooting star press finishes for Andretti at 10:37.

Rating: C+. Andretti is a perfectly fine plucky young good guy but it still feels like we are waiting on Jericho to beat him. There still isn't anything that makes Andretti feel that much better than a lot of people around here, but he does work well in this role, at least for the short term. Garcia losing doesn't change much at the moment, but maybe he gets annoyed at Guevara and something spins off from there.

Overall Rating: C+. The fact that the show is an hour is still the best thing it has going, as there isn't enough on a show like this to make it go two hours. The wrestling is good enough and it does advance a few stories, but the show still feels like it is just a big side trip away from everything

that matters on Dynamite. For now though, a perfectly fine use of an hour, even though nothing particularly stood out.

Results

Jungle Boy b. Ethan Page – Sunset flip

Brian Cage b. Willie Mack – Drill Claw

Jade Cargill/Leila Grey b. Vanity Twins – Jaded to Jaida

Action Andretti b. Daniel Garcia – Running shooting star press

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Rampage – October 14, 2022: They're Still Doing It

Rampage

Date: October 14, 2022

Location: Coca-Cola Coliseum, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Commentators: Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Taz

We're still north of the border and that should make for a rather energized show. AEW has never gone international (at least on land) before and the crowds are often enough to carry the night. Hopefully they like Ring Of Honor stuff though, because that's the main event this week. Let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Jon Moxley/Claudio Castagnoli vs. Butcher and the Blade

Bunny is here with Butcher and the Blade. It's a brawl to start with the fight starting at the bell. They're quickly on the floor with Blade being sent over a table and then chopped up against the barricade. We settle down to Moxley chopping Blade into the corner before it's off to Castagnoli as we see Hangman Page watching in the back. A poke to the eye gets Blade out of trouble, meaning Butcher can come in to fight over a suplex with Castagnoli. Butcher gets muscled over and the running uppercuts make it even worse.

Bunny finally rolls inside to cut off the uppercut to Blade, meaning Butcher can get in a cheap shot. We take a break and come back with Castagnoli fighting out of a chinlock but Moxley has been knocked to the floor, meaning there is no one to tag. The second attempt at the tag works just fine though and Moxley comes in to clean house.

A back rake on the top sets up a piledriver for two on Blade and frustration seems to be setting in. Butcher breaks up a series of stomps to the head (JR: "Crossbody from a big tattooed hairy man.") but Castagnoli breaks up a powerbomb/neckbreaker combination. The big showdown is on with Moxley and Castagnoli dropping them with stereo clotheslines. Blade gets Death Ridered and the Riccola Bomb finishes Butcher at 8:38.

Rating: B-. Butcher and Blade are a rather decent power team

and it felt like Moxley and Castagnoli had to break a sweat to win here. This was a match where the ending wasn't exactly in doubt but it was a hard hitting fight to get there. I could go for more of Castagnoli on his own but teaming with Moxley works too.

Post match Moxley says it doesn't matter who they face, because it's time to take out Hangman Page next week.

Swerve Strickland laughs about beating Billy Gunn but what's even better is Acclaimed losing the scissoring stuff. Keith Lee doesn't like Swerve's attitude, or his cheating to beat Gunn on Dynamite. Maybe Swerve is swerving into the wrong lane. Swerve needs to think about that.

The Dark Order is disappointed with their loss but Jose the Assistant interrupts. 10 gets recruited again but he's tired of this. Next week on Rampage, 10 will face Rush and when 10 wins, LEAVE HIM ALONE. That gets rid of Jose and here is the returning Stu Grayson to join in on the team huddle. Jubilation occurs.

Here is the Jericho Appreciation Society for a chat. Matt Menard: "DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT MAKES DADDY MAGIC'S NIPPLES HARD?" Tony: "NO!" The team is rather pleased with Daniel Garcia making his loyalties known and Anna Jay gives him an official welcome. Garcia thanks Chris Jericho for helping him see the way and even though Bryan Danielson is his hero, he will never be a pro wrestler.

Jericho taught him how to win by hitting him in the head with a title belt, and that is how he learned sports entertainers win every time. Garcia is a sports entertainer and Jericho promises to beat every former Ring Of Honor World Champion. Cue Dalton Castle to say that as a former World Champion, he is sick to see that title around Jericho's waist.

Castle broke his back for that title and now he'll break Jericho's to give the fans what they deserve. You can feel the

Peacock Power in this building and his heart beating keeps the lights on. So give him a title shot next week on Dynamite! Jericho says it's on and promises to pluck Castle's feathers. All Honor The Ocho. Castle was a nice surprise and keeps the Jericho vs. Honor run going for another week.

Toni Storm and Hikaru Shida are ready to fight for Storm's Interim Women's Title on Dynamite.

Nyla Rose vs. Anna Jay

The rest of the Vicious Vixens are here with Rose, who has the TBS Title but isn't the champion. Rose takes her down to start before grabbing some rather easy looking slams. A legdrop gets two on Jay but she avoids the Cannonball in the corner. We take a break and come back with Nyla missing a top rope knee to the back of the head and getting her throat snapped across the top. Anna grabs a chinlock but Rose fights up and hits the Beast Bomb for the pin at 6:28.

Rating: C. Pretty to the point match here as Rose beat her up, didn't exactly stay in trouble for any significant amount of time, and then won clean with the Beast Bomb. Rose seems to have shifted face, or at least close to it, and with the sense of humor she has, that has some serious potential. Just don't have her lose clean to Jade Cargill and preserve the bit of momentum she has here.

Post match Vickie Guerrero holds up a 1-0 sign. Cue Jade Cargill with the Baddies, with Jade clearing out security without much effort. The distraction lets the Vixens run off with the title.

Ariya Daivari is sick of Hook turning down the \$50,000 offer for the FTW World Title. Next week, he'll take it himself.

Isaiah Kassidy vs. Ethan Page

Matt Hardy and Marq Quen are here with Kassidy, who gets

suplexed to start. A kick to the face lets Page do the Jeff Hardy dance but Kassidy is back with a tornado DDT. Page bails to the floor so there's the running spinning dive. Stokely Hathaway offers a distraction though, meaning Kassidy misses the Swanton. A Twist of Fate and the Ego's Edge gives Page the pin at 2:15.

The Best Friends want the Trios Titles.

FTR and Shawn Spears are ready for the Embassy, whose feelings are mutual.

Here's what's coming on various shows.

FTR/Shawn Spears vs. Embassy

Prince Nana is here with the Embassy and it's almost weird to see Spears doing the 10 thing again. Spears and Kaun grapple away to start with Spears grabbing something like an abdominal stretch. That's broken up and Spears is taken to the floor, where the Gates put him down as we take a break.

Back with Cage hitting the apron superplex for two on Spears but the F5 is countered into a DDT. Kaun breaks up a tag attempt but of course the diving tag goes through a few seconds later. It's Harwood coming in to clean house and the fans are behind FTR again. There's the spinebuster to Kaun but Cage is back up to drop FTR. A top rope elbow gets two on Harwood and there's the F5 to Spears. FTR is back up though and stereo Sharpshooters go on, with Spears grabbing one on Nana for a bonus. Loa breaks that up but gets cleared out. The hart Attack hits Kaun and the C4 finishes for Spears at 10:31.

Rating: B-. The Embassy continue to be little more than warm bodies for other people to beat up but they're Ring Of Honor so they have a place on this show. Other than that, FTR was FTR and Spears got to do his stuff as Tye Dillinger rather than himself. While Spears doesn't feel like a top star, he is better this way than as the chair swinging villain so it was a

nice comeback.

Post match the Kingdom (Maria Kanellis and Mike Bennett/Matt Taven) debut to interrupt and ask how FTR can be the Top Guys without ever facing them. That's enough of a distraction for the Embassy to jump FTR and Spears, with the Kingdom joining in. Samoa Joe and Wardlow make the save to end the show. I like the Kingdom, but AEW bringing in more people right now is almost hard to fathom.

Overall Rating: B-. As has been the case for a good while now with AEW, the wrestling and in-ring work bail out some pretty weak stories. This was another show with a heavy focus on Ring Of Honor and it's still hard to find a way to care. There are only a handful of interesting stories and Chris Jericho and company trying to make Ring Of Honor into a sports entertainment company isn't exactly great stuff. The wrestling here was good, as it almost always is, but they need to find something to draw in some interesting on the story side. Otherwise, they'll be more like Ring Of Honor than they probably planned.

Results

Jon Moxley/Claudio Castagnoli b. Butcher and the Blade – Riccola Bomb to Butcher

Nyla Rose b. Anna Jay – Beat Bomb

Ethan Page b. Isaiah Kassidy – Ego's Edge

FTR/Shawn Spears b. Embassy – C4 to Kaun

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Rampage – December 25, 2021: That's What Makes It Merry

Rampage

Date: December 25, 2021

Location: Greensboro Coliseum, Greensboro, North Carolina

Commentators: Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Ricky Starks

It's a Christmas special and this week will be headlined by a pretty big title match. The show's main event will feature TNT Champion Sammy Guevara defending against Cody Rhodes, who is looking to become the first three time TNT Champion. Other than that, Hook has his second televised match, which should be interesting. Let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Jungle Boy vs. Isaiah Kassidy

Luchasaurus, Christian Cage, Marq Quen and Matt Hardy are all here too. Jungle shoulders him down to start but Kassidy sends him into the corner for some kicks to the face. Back up and Jungle starts sliding around, only to get caught with a springboard Stunner to send him outside. The big running corkscrew dive takes Jungle down again and it's a slingshot

hilo for one back inside. Hardy sneaks in a right hand from the floor, allowing Kassidy to hit a basement dropkick for two more.

We take a break and come back with Jungle hitting a hard lariat, followed by a fisherman's falcon arrow for two. An enziguri rocks Jungle for another near fall though and they're both down. Back up and Jungle snaps off an overhead belly to belly into the corner, followed by a German suplex for two more. Kassidy gets bumped outside so the suicide dive can take him down again. The seconds get in a fight on the floor and the Snare Trap makes Kassidy tap at 9:57.

Rating: C+. They didn't give this a ton of time and that's how it should have gone. Jungle Boy isn't going to be threatened by Isaiah Kassidy despite how much interference he would have to deal with here (which granted was rather minimal). This was a way to give Jungle Boy a nice and relatively easy win and that's all it came off as being.

We look at MJF winning the Dynamite Diamond Ring for the third year in a row, albeit with an assist from Ricky Starks.

Miro is angry about his loss and calls it unacceptable. He is returning with no flaws because no one can stop him. Redemption comes with a smile instead of a price so everyone will look at him and ask what has been done. This is the word of the redeemer.

Hook vs. Bear Bronson

Hook gets a huge reaction (as expected) and gets taken into the corner to start. That earns Bronson an STO to take him down, allowing Hook to grab something like a seated abdominal stretch. Bronson makes the ropes and hits an over the shoulder piledriver, which Hook no sells by popping back up. A hard clothesline sets up a northern lights suplex to drop Bronson again, setting up another suplex. Some crossface shots set up Redrum to finish Bronson at 3:09.

Rating: C+. The no sold piledriver was a little weird (maybe the hair protected him) but this was another good performance from Hook. It doesn't have quite the shock value as the debut, but Hook looks like he knows how to look a lot more polished in the ring than you might have guessed. This was just a step above a squash, and that's how someone like Hook should be presented at this point: get in, look good, get out before you get exposed at all.

Video on Daniel Garcia vs. Eddie Kingston.

Leyla Hirsch vs. Kris Stadtlander

Hirsch grabs a headlock to start to take Stadtlander down and Hirsch gets to hammer away. Stadtlander gets taken into the corner for some running knees, setting up the slingshot dropkick for two. A powerslam gives Stadtlander two and she hits a delayed vertical suplex for the same.

We hit the seated cobra clutch but Hirsch fights up in a hurry to grab a cross armbreaker. Stadtlander powers up and takes her to the corner, where Hirsch grabs a cross armbreaker over the ropes. A middle rope moonsault press (which is left a bit short) gives Hirsch two and a running knee is good for the same. Hirsch slaps her in the face to make things more serious, earning her a Blue Thunder Bomb to give Stadtlander two of her own. Stadtlander hits a reverse slam of all things, setting up a Spider Crab to finish Hirsch at 6:37.

Rating: C. Hirsch is rather good at making others look good and that's what she did for Stadtlander here. This was about letting both of them get in a nice appearance before Stadtlander won in the end, so well enough done on making something out of their time. I don't see either of them being a breakout star anytime soon, but at least they got some time here.

Hirsch won't show respect post match.

We get the face to face interview between Sammy Guevara and Cody Rhodes. Arn Anderson says you don't go after someone who has been yelled at as much as Cody. Sammy thanks Cody for starting the company but says he'll be the one to carry it.

TNT Title: Cody Rhodes vs. Sammy Guevara

Guevara is defending and David Crockett is here to present the winner with the title. An early dropkick puts Cody into the corner and another dropkick lets Guevara nip up. Guevara hits a Dusty Rhodes drop down uppercut to send Cody outside, leaving Sammy to dance into his pose. Back in and Cody grabs a headlock takeover to slow things down a bit, though the fans aren't exactly pleased with him.

Guevara is right back up with a Dustin Rhodes snap powerslam but the Cody Cutter takes him down in a hurry. Cody gets dumped outside again and this time he is sent face first into the steps. The dive off the apron is loaded up but Sammy has to bail out and stick the landing, allowing Cody to get in a shot from behind to take over. The short arm scissors has Guevara in trouble and we take a break.

Back with Cody planting Guevara again and going up, where he completely misses a moonsault. Another enziguri sets up a springboard cutter to drop Cody for two and Guevara hits his own Cross Rhodes. Cody bails to the floor so Guevara hits a big double springboard flip dive (well, kind of hits at least) to drop him again.

A hurricanrana is countered into a powerbomb into the fans to rock Guevara for a change. Back in and the Disaster Kick has Guevara in more trouble so Arn Anderson says finish him off. Cross Rhodes plants Guevara hard for two and he can barely stand up. Somehow Guevara reverses a reverse superplex into the GTH for two but the 630 hits knees. Cody hits two more Cross Rhodes into a Tiger Driver 98 for the pin and the title at 15:12.

Rating: B. It was a heck of a fight, but I continue to have no idea where they're going with Cody. There was no major cheating here as Cody just kicked out of Guevara's finisher, hit his own big moves and won the title. It's good and Cody looks like a big deal, but there was nothing to suggest that there is some big turn coming or anything really close. The match was good and felt like a showdown between two stars, but I'm not sure I get what they're trying with Cody here.

Post match Cody gets the title presentation and celebrates with his friends and family to end the show.

Overall Rating: B+. When AEW gets the Rampage formula down, they can have some awesome hours of TV and that was what they did here. It was nice to have more of a focus with far fewer people in the ring compared to last week, making this an easier show to watch. The main event felt big and they got some stars on the show. This was an efficiently done hour with the wrestling being pretty good throughout. Nice job and a lot of fun makes for a good Christmas night.

Results

Jungle Boy b. Isaiah Kassidy – Snare Trap

Hook b. Bear Bronson – Redrum

Kris Stadlander b. Leyla Hirsch – Spider Crab

Cody Rhodes b. Sammy Guevara – Tiger Driver 98

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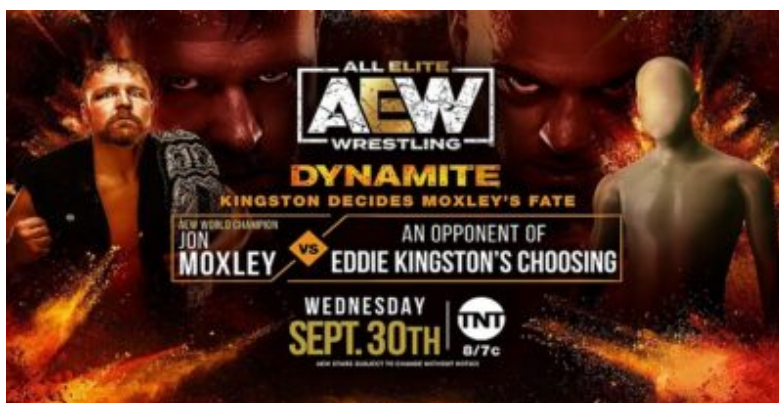
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Dynamite – September 30, 2020: The Baseline



IMG Credit: All Elite Wrestling

Dynamite

Date: September 30, 2020

Location: Daily's Place, Jacksonville, Florida

Commentators: Excalibur, Jim Ross, Taz

Things were shaken up in a pretty big way last week so things should be back to normal this time around. The roster had to deal with a Coronavirus outbreak last time around but all roads are leading towards the anniversary show in two weeks anyway. That includes World Champion Jon Moxley defending against Lance Archer and the champ is in action tonight. Let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Darby Allin vs. Ricky Starks

The long awaited showdown. Before his entrance, we get the latest Allin stunt video. Allin pulls him into a choke to start and they're quickly on the apron, with Starks being suplexed down and out to the floor. There's a dive to the floor but here's Brian Cage to offer a distraction. Will Hobbs comes out to break it up and fight Cage to the back so Starks gets in a shot to the back to take over.

Starks pounds him down and even hits a reverse curb stomp for two. The Roshambo is countered into a Code Red for two and they're both down again. They slap it out with Allin getting the better of things, sending Taz into hysterics. The flipping Stunner connects but Starks spears him out of the air for two more. Starks takes it up top and tries a super Roshambo but Allin knocks him off the top. The Coffin Drop gives Allin the pin at 9:53.

Rating: C+. These two have been built up for a showdown for a few weeks now and what we finally got was mostly worth the wait. They are both stars in the making and it's great to see the two of them out there doing their thing. It was also nice to have a definitive winner, and hopefully that doesn't lead straight into a rematch for no reason other than they need to have a rematch.

Here's what's coming for the rest of the show.

Here's Cody for his first (wrestling) comments since losing to Brodie Lee. Cody talks about his trainer, Al Snow, saying you'll always wrestle hurt but you should never wrestle injured. All these years later, Cody would offer this retort: what if the injury went beyond your body and was inside your soul? Cody talks about the tradition of shaking hands in the back (at least pre-pandemic) because the wrestlers need each other. The marquee has two names on it: you vs. someone else.

Now imagine if you lose your title and then you get that 323

phone call from Hollywood. Then he found himself sitting on the set of a show near Rosario Dawson and Snoop Dogg but he's the guy who got beat in three minutes. Cody is back now but while he was gone he has heard people talking about being the future or the ace. He would love to say that he has the honor of being the ace, but that can only be the people who are holding the singles titles around here: Hikaru Shida, Jon Moxley or the man carrying the ace belt himself, Brodie Lee.

As for the dog collar match against Lee, the answer...is no, and Cody walks away. Actually hang on as he comes back to say that means NO regrets because he's in for the dog collar match for the TNT Title next week. Cue the Dark Order for the brawl but a bunch of wrestlers come out to break it up. Brandi hits a dive onto the Dark Order because Brandi is a star and you will accept it. Anna Jay comes out to brawl with her and Nyla Rose jumps the barricade to stomp KiLynn King. Lee breaks through security and comes after Cody again to little avail. They're finally broken up for good.

FTR and Tully Blanchard don't think much of the Best Friends wanting a title shot but SCU is a different story. As for the Young Bucks, why should they get a title shot when they keep losing their big matches? Is it because Dave Meltzer loves them? Cue Matt Jackson to superkick Tony Schiavone and leave when FTR asks why they didn't kick them.

SCU is ready to win the Tag Team Titles back. Shawn Spears comes in to sarcastically wish Scorpio Sky good luck, because they're still trying with Spears for reasons I don't want to try and fathom.

Tag Team Titles: SCU vs. FTR

FTR, with Tully Blanchard, is defending and SCU has Christopher Daniels in their corner. Hangman Page is on commentary for a bonus. Sky dropkicks Harwood for an early two but gets taken into the champs' corner. That goes nowhere as

Sky escapes and it's a headlock takeover to put Wheeler down for a change. Back up and they trade leapfrogs until Wheeler throws himself down and blames Daniels.

That's worthy of an ejection and FTR is knocked outside as JR talks about Schiavone being superkicked not being "part of the show." FTR takes Sky down on the floor and we take a break. Back with Sky hitting a Russian legsweep and bringing Kazarian in to clean house. Kazarian cradles Harwood and suplexes Wheeler for two at the same time, followed by a fisherman's suplex for two on Wheeler alone. Harwood takes Kazarian down but an elbow to the face allows the tag back to Sky.

Everything breaks down and a high crossbody/sunset flip gets a double near fall on the champs. Stereo slingshot cutters get the same but SCU collides, allowing Wheeler to dragon suplex Kazarian for two. Kazarian gets crotched on top but the powerbomb/top rope clothesline is powerslammed out of the air for a rather near fall. Sky grabs some quick rollups for two each on Wheeler, even with Tully grabbing Wheeler's hand to try and block one. Sky tries a suplex but Tully sweeps the leg and holds it down so Wheeler can get the pin at 15:44.

Rating: B. They surprised me by not going to the time limit here and it makes FTR look like a bigger deal by beating former champs rather than having to settle for a draw. FTR feels like a dominant team and that's a great thing to have around. SCU is very valuable as well as they can take a loss like this and not really blink an eye. Good match too, but were you expecting something else with these teams?

Excalibur announces a #1 contenders tournament with the finals at Full Gear. We know three of the eight participants so far: Jungle Boy, Rey Fenix and Kenny Omega, with the final announcement making Page rather emotional.

Isaiah Kassidy vs. Chris Jericho

Matt Hardy, Marq Quen and the rest of the Inner Circle is here

too. Jericho gets in Cassidy's face to start and Cassidy looks a little shaken. That's playing possum though as Cassidy takes him down and hammers away but Jericho comes right back with shots of his own. They head outside with Jericho being sent over the barricade, where Luther punches Jericho back and clotheslines him back to ringside.

Kassidy hits the big dive and a Swanton gets two back inside. Jericho gets in another good shot though and we take a break. Back with Jericho's running bulldog being countered into a crotching in the corner. Kassidy hits a springboard flipping Stunner for a near fall and a springboard non-flipping Stunner gets two more. The Lionsault misses so Kassidy hits his own Codebreaker for another two. Jericho has finally had enough of this and hits the Judas Effect for the pin at 11:03.

Rating: C. Jericho continues to try and get people over, which only works so well when he keeps doing it over and over. It was far from a bad match, though I'm not exactly interested in seeing the Inner Circle vs. the Chaos Project (Luther and Serpentico, because they needed a team name too). The match was fine with Cassidy doing his high flying but not being good enough, but it wasn't exactly a thrilling setup to get here.

Post match the Inner Circle jumps Quen, along with getting in a brawl with Luther and Serpentico.

Kip Sabian and Miro discuss the bachelor party, which needs to be epic. Miro makes phone calls while Sabian throws axes. Now it's off to an arcade where they play Pac-Man...with Billy Mitchell, a famous video gamer. He has an idea if Miro is interested.

The Best Friends and Orange Cassidy are asked about what happened to them last week but FTR comes in to say the three of them are comedic backyard wrestlers. They can get in the van, half milk and cookies and be midcard relief. Top guys out. Cassidy grabs a mic and calls them weenies. I'm sure

there will be a shirt by Friday.

10 vs. Orange Cassidy

A good chunk of the Dark Order is here, along with the Best Friends. 10 takes Cassidy's sunglasses and gives them to Silver, who dances in celebration...I think. Cassidy gets caught in a swinging Downward Spiral for one, followed by a delayed vertical suplex for two. Back up and Cassidy grabs a rollup for his own two, only to walk into a spinebuster.

10 kicks him out to the floor, where Dark Order mocks the Big Hug. The distraction lets Cassidy hit a dive off the top to take the team out, only to have his high crossbody pulled out of the air. Cassidy hits a tornado DDT and the Orange Punch is good for...well not even enough to put 10 down. The Beach Break ends 10 at 3:30.

Rating: C-. Not much in the way of a match but Cassidy getting a win after last week's loss was a good idea. This was more of the serious version of Cassidy, which often helps a good bit. The goofy shtick is going to get old in a hurry if he does it all the time, so going with something else from time to time is a good idea. It wasn't a great match or anything, but it went as it should have.

MJF and Wardlow come in to see the Inner Circle, complete with customized jackets for the team. Well not for Sammy Guevara actually, as there is nothing left in the box. MJF says this wasn't on purpose but Sammy and Jericho (using the same words back to back) want to know why MJF is here. Jericho thanks him for the jackets but wants to know what MJF wants.

MJF says he asked Jericho a long time ago if he wanted MJF on the team. This turns into a "do you want me in/do you want in" argument until Hager and Wardlow get into a staredown. Jericho says they appreciate the jackets, which were a very MJF move. MJF says it's a very Jericho move to notice. He and Wardlow leave in peace, prompting Sammy to dub MJF a loser. Jericho

says maybe not as this is starting to get interesting.

Britt Baker vs. Red Velvet

Baker takes her down into a rollup to start as Taz brags about the dental plan that Team Taz has. It's off to a hammerlock on the mat with Baker driving a forearm into the side of the head. Velvet is back up with a leg lariat and a Rey Mysterio sitout bulldog gets two. Baker is right back with a hammerlock lariat and there's a kick into the ropes. Another into the bottom rope has Velvet in even more trouble but she gets in a rollup. The superkick sets up a fisherman's neckbreaker to give Baker...the chance to trash talk instead of cover. A Stomp is enough to finish Velvet at 4:39.

Rating: C-. They kept this short as Baker was in her first real match in about four months. Velvet is someone who has been around for a good while on Dark and has gotten to showcase herself multiple times. The match wasn't anything great but all that mattered was getting Baker back out there and showcasing some more. Well done on that count, which is what mattered.

Post match Baker puts on the Lockjaw for a bonus.

Here's what's coming next week.

Eddie Kingston is in the ring with the Lucha Bros and referee Bryce Remsburg. Eddie talks about getting choked out last week but he never tapped or said he gave up. So why did Remsburg call the match like that? Remsburg says Eddie was unresponsive last week. They've known each other for years and last week they were in their professional lives so Remsburg did his job. The beatdown is teased but here's Jon Moxley to break it up. Eddie says cut the music and here's the Butcher from behind Moxley to start their match.

AEW World Title: Jon Moxley vs. The Butcher

Moxley is defending and chops out of the corner to start. A running knee misses though and Butcher counters a chop into a slam to take over. Butcher runs him over with a clothesline and we take a break. Back with Butcher working on the leg but Moxley pulls him into a cross armbreaker. Butcher reverses that into a half crab to stay on the leg but lets it go to hit a running powerslam.

The half crab goes on again, followed by a failed attempt at a Brock Lock. They head outside with Moxley avoiding a charge to send Butcher into the barricade. Eddie and the Bros try to fire Butcher up again and it's time to head back inside for the slugout. Butcher hits a crossbody and a Rock Bottom for two, followed by a big leg for the same.

For some reason Butcher goes up but gets caught by Moxley, who brings him back down into a superplex. Butcher is right back with another leglock but Moxley gets away again. This time it's a jumping piledriver for one on Butcher, who is able to block another superplex attempt. A middle rope crossbody gets two on Moxley but he pops back up with the Paradigm Shift into the bulldog choke to retain at 14:34.

Rating: C+. This got some time and they worked a classic formula, but Butcher might not be the kind of guy you want working a nearly fifteen minute main event singles match. He's a good brawler and worked well enough here, but it felt like he was trying to figure out what to do next at times. Moxley knows how to work this style rather well though and they wound up being pretty good.

Moxley and Kingston stare each other down to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. Another show that might not have been great but it was certainly good enough to do its job. They didn't focus as much on the anniversary show this week, but given Archer's status that is pretty excusable. What we got was good enough, as usual, as AEW continues to not really have

bad shows. I can certainly live with a company whose low end is one of the better shows of the week and that's what this show usually is.

Results

Darby Allin b. Ricky Starks – Coffin Drop

FTR b. SCU – Wheeler reversed a suplex from Sky

Chris Jericho b. Isaiah Kassidy – Judas Effect

Orange Cassidy b. 10 – Beach Breaker

Britt Baker b. Red Velvet – Fisherman's neckbreaker

Jon Moxley b. Butcher – Bulldog choke

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