

Survivor Series 2025: With Sponsored Trash

Survivor Series 2025

Date: November 29, 2025

Location: Petco Park, San Diego, California

Commentators: Michael Cole, Wade Barrett

It's back to the stadium for this show as we're in for one of the bigger nights of the year. As usual, the show is built around the two WarGames matches, which should be more than enough to carry the show. Those matches are going to take up nearly two hours combined when you add in entrances, meaning the other two matches can only have so much impact. Let's get to it.

The opening video actually looks at all four matches on the card. Naturally WarGames gets the most attention, but it's nice to see something else getting even a bit of attention.

Since we're going to have two of them, here are the WarGames rules:

Two wrestlers start and fight for five minutes.

After five minutes, the team with the advantage (as determined before the match) gets a three minute advantage.

The teams alternate until all ten are in and then it's first pin/submission to win.

Team Ripley vs. Team Lynch

Rhea Ripley, Charlotte, Alexa Bliss, AJ Lee, Iyo Sky
Becky Lynch, Lash Legend, Nia Jax, Asuka, Nia Jax

Charlotte (in gear inspired by a girl battling cancer) and Asuka start things off, which should be a nice way to go. Of

note, there are no shark cages near the entrances and the other wrestlers are staying in the back until their turn comes. They lock up to start with Charlotte getting the better of things and grabbing the figure four neck rolls. Back up and Asuka gets her into the ropes to fire off the kicks but Charlotte knocks her back down. They slug it out in another ring until Asuka knocks her off the top.

Sky is in to give Charlotte and company the advantage (the timing isn't quite on but I've seen worse), bringing in a trashcan lid. And yes, there is an advertisement on the trashcan lid, because WWE managed to find a company to pay them to be associated with trash. Sky takes over on Asuka, despite slipping on a springboard attempt. The Bullet Train with the trashcan lid hits Asuka in the corner and Sky crushes her head against the metal plate.

Becky Lynch is in to even things up and thankfully she brings her kendo stick with her rather than looking underneath the ring over and over. Sky is taken down but Charlotte wants no part of Lynch's offer of peace. Charlotte and Lynch both hit exploders before slugging it out again as we actually hear about FCW for a bit. Lynch takes over on Charlotte and yells about being the best ever until Bliss is in to get the advantage back.

Some dragon screw legwhips have the villains down, setting up the double Natural Selections. Sky is back up as well so she can help Charlotte and Bliss with the beatings. Charlotte gets to step on Lynch's face and brag about her own greatness in a nice moment. Sane is here to even things up, though she takes her sweet time and shows off the chain she's bringing with her.

Charlotte and company get tied together with the chain for a triple dropkick, which frees them so the villains can pose. Heaven forbid that when the other three were tied together, Asuka or Lynch or Sane, I don't know, beat on them with a

chair or something. Anyway, Lee is in to make the save and go after Lynch, including the Shining Wizard. The rest of the team gets up to continue the fight but Jax is in to even things up again.

Naturally that means a bunch of running hip attacks against the cage but Sky climbs the cage. That earns her a hard powerbomb and a lot of choking ensues until Ripley is in, again carrying a bunch of weapons but also doing her full entrance. Ripley cleans house with the kendo sticks and uses Sky to crush Sane in a trashcan.

Jax runs them over so Bliss makes a save until Legend is in to complete the fields, meaning first fall wins. Legend gets to wreck people, including a chokeslam to Charlotte. Ripley gets up for the monster showdown and kicks Legend in the head for a staggering. Legend's pump kick gets two on Ripley but a headbutt looks to set up Riptide. Jax breaks that up so she and Legend can powerbomb Bliss and Charlotte into the cage for two. Lynch's Manhandle Slam gets two on Lee with Sky making the save.

Sky is tossed into the rest of her team and the Kabuki Special with a chain drops her again. Ripley has to make a save this time but she's left alone. Charlotte saves Ripley from the mist, which hits Legend by mistake though and Sky goes up top. Ripley lifts Lee up so she can hand Sky the (sponsored) trashcan to hit the big dive. Lynch is alone this time and tries to escape, only to get pulled into the Black Widow for the tap at 40:52.

Rating: C+. It was definitely better than last year, though that's only so much of an accomplishment. The match is still too long, though they toned the weapons WAY down this year, including the time spent searching for them, and it helped a good bit. I still don't know why this needed to be a WarGames match when a Survivor Series match would have fit better, but at least they took some steps in the right direction.

We recap John Cena defending the Intercontinental Title against Dominik Mysterio. Cena, who has this and one more match left, took the title from Mysterio, who wants a rematch on his home turf. Naturally Cena is in.

Intercontinental Title: John Cena vs. Dominik Mysterio

Cena is defending in his last PPV match and Raquel Rodriguez/Roxanne Perez are here with Mysterio. The first music stops playing and the fans are already going nuts, with WWE being smart to wait and let the buzz build before hitting Cena's music. Cena's entrance takes a bit longer than usual, as you can tell this means a lot to him. After the Big Match Intros, Cena takes him down with a headlock takeover but Perez gets in some interference.

Mysterio takes over with a good shot to the head and gets in some taunting to the crowd. Rodriguez's cheap shot lets Mysterio get two and Three Amigos connect for the same. Cena knocks him outside but the women's distraction lets Mysterio get in another knockdown. A hurricanrana off the barricade doesn't work as it almost turns into a powerbomb, with Mysterio holding his shoulder.

The medics come out to check on him but the women use the distraction to hit a Tejana Bomb into Pop Rox. Mysterio pops back up for a 619 and the referee is living, ejecting Rodriguez and Perez. Cena makes the comeback and initiates the finishing sequence but Mysterio escapes the AA. That's fine with Cena, who pulls him into the STF, with Mysterio having to make the rope.

Mysterio unzips his boot so Cena pulls it off, setting up another 619. The frog splash gets two, as does a quick AA from Cena. A slugout goes to Cena, who accidentally shoulders the referee to the floor. Cue Finn Balor and JD McDonagh to break up the STF but Cena gives them a double AA (because he can do that). Mysterio misses a belt shot and walks into another

AA...but Liv Morgan is back. She hits Mysterio in the face and jumps on Cena, only to kick him low. The 619 and frog splash give Mysterio the title back at 16:48.

Rating: B-. Yeah this was fun, and they made the right call. Cena had to drop the title at some point and, assuming Gunther is winning the tournament, it makes a lot more sense to let Mysterio get this kind of a win. They were flying through this despite having some time, but I can go for some insanity here as it's hard to fathom Mysterio being able to beat Cena one on one (or even close to it). Mysterio can brag about this for the better part of ever and that's the right idea in this situation.

Post match Mysterio and Morgan celebrate together. With the two of them gone, Cena gets the big sendoff and thanks the camera.

Raw Women's Title: Nikki Bella vs. Stephanie Vaquer

Vaquer is defending. Bella jumps her from behind to start fast but Vaquer is right back with a ram into the buckle. They head outside with Bella being sent into the announcers' table but misses a kneedrop onto the apron. Bella fires off some forearms as commentary tries to hype up Bella's career from the Divas era.

A facebuster and running faceplant give Bella two before she grabs a spinebuster. Vaquer belly to back suplexes her way out of trouble but Bella slips away from the Devil's Kiss. Instead it's a Russian legsweep into quite the rollup for two on Bella. The dragon screw legwhip out of the corner sets up the SVB for two but Bella breaks up the corkscrew moonsault.

The Rack Attack 2.0 gives Bella two as Vaquer gets a foot on the rope. They go back outside and this time the kneedrop on the apron connects for Vaquer. Bella is sent onto the announcers' table for the Devil's Kiss, with commentary having to be careful about commentating on the visuals. Back in and

the regular Devil's Kiss keeps Bella in trouble, setting up the corkscrew moonsault to retain at 12:23.

Rating: C+. It might not have been a classic, but at least there were no terrible moments in there. Bella might not be on the level of the modern stars, but she's better than the mess that took place last time. Vaquer winning is nice to see as well, as she's still the kind of star who could become a big deal if she's given the chance, which she's starting to get.

New Day and Grayson Waller talk about WWE Supercard in a completely natural way.

We look at Dominik Mysterio beating John Cena.

We look at the Last Time Is Now Tournament.

Tonight's attendance: 46,016.

We recap the men's WarGames match, which is basically Paul Heyman's Vision and some hired guns vs. everyone who hates Heyman. It's certainly star studded and that's making this feel like a major showdown.

Team Reigns vs. Team Vision

Roman Reigns, CM Punk, Cody Rhodes, Jey Uso, Jimmy Uso
Bron Breaker, Bronson Reed, Logan Paul, Drew McIntyre, Brock Lesnar

Punk (going over the top of the cage, as a hero should) and Breaker start things off with Breaker powering him around. Back up and Punk gets in a leg lariat, followed by some kicks to the leg. The top rope ax handle doesn't exactly work for Punk though as Breaker snaps off a suplex. Punk's middle rope clothesline connects but here is McIntyre for the first advantage.

Punk tries to fight both of them off but walks into a Claymore. A double ram into the cage has Punk down even more

and the slow beating continues. Rhodes is in to even things up and dives off the cage to take McIntyre down. The Cody Cutter connects but Rhodes accidentally elbows Punk (bleeding) in the face. Things are smoothed over as Punk plays Hart in a Hart Attack to McIntyre.

That's not it as Breakker gets caught with a Doomsday Device, with Breakker taking a TERRIFYING landing on the back of his head (you can hear the fear in Barrett's voice as he wants Breakker checked on immediately). Breakker disappears for a bit as medics make sure he can still move and it's a Bionic Elbow from Punk to McIntyre.

Paul is in with a chair (first weapon) as Breakker is somehow walking again. Rhodes and Paul go to the top of the cage and slug it out, with Paul getting the better of things. A double suplex drops Rhodes again and it's Jimmy Uso in to even things up. Jimmy even gets smart by ramming the door onto Breakker's head and grabbing a table. The Whisper In The Wind connects on Paul and Breakker but McIntyre breaks it up.

The super Frankensteiner drops Rhodes as the fans want someone to use the table. Reed is in for another advantage and it's time for the Tsunamis. Rhodes is crushed against the cage and Punk is slammed into it as well. Jey Uso is in to tie it up again and thankfully he at least jogs down the aisle rather than doing his full entrance. The 1D connects and let's run that entrance theme back. Naturally this lets Jey sit on top of the cage for a bit because that's what you do in WARGAMES. Barrett: "People shouldn't be having this much fun inside WarGames."

And here is Lesnar, with Heyman, to complete the team. German suplexes and F5's abound and Lesnar goes to wait on the steps because here comes Reigns. Lesnar starts the fight and counters a Superman Punch into an F5 through the announcers' table. Lesnar throws Reigns inside and the bell officially rings. Another F5 gets two on Reigns with Rhodes making the

save.

Cross Rhodes hits Lesnar but Paul makes the save this time. Paul loads up the brass knuckles and knocks Rhodes silly but Reigns is there to spear him down. Reigns gets the knuckles and fires off the Superman Punch, followed by a spear to Breaker. Another spear sends Lesnar (holding Jey) through a table in the corner and Breaker spears Jimmy.

McIntyre hits Rhodes low, leaving Breaker to spear Rhodes (Breaker: "YOU WILL NEVER BE AS GREAT AS A STEINER!"). Punk makes the save...and we've got a masked man, who kicks Punk down and hits a Stomp. Breaker puts the straps back up and then takes them down again (that will always work), setting up the Super Spear to pin Punk at 39:25.

Rating: B. This felt much more like a war and notice that they did it with far fewer weapons than usual. The masked man is certainly an interesting way to go, but what matters the most is that Breaker got the pin. It feels like we're in a countdown before Breaker wins his first World Title, which thankfully can happen because he didn't break his neck. I liked this well enough, and it sets up some stuff going forward. Nice job.

Post match everyone else leaves so Punk, Rhodes and Reigns can look at each other. Reigns goes to leave and says he and Rhodes are never teaming again to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. Despite having all the star power in the main event (with the women's match not being far behind), I kept thinking "this is it?" There wasn't much to the show with four matches, including two which only felt so important. It's definitely not a bad show and the main event was good, but it didn't have that big bang to it that these shows need to have. That being said, I do like that it clocked in at around three hours, so it definitely didn't overstay its welcome. Not a bad show, but they've done a lot better before.

Results

Team Ripley b. Team Lynch – Black Widow to Lynch
Dominik Mysterio b. John Cena – Frog splash
Stephanie Vaquer b. Nikki Bella – Corkscrew moonsault
Team Vision b. Team Reigns – Super Spear to Punk

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Monday Night Raw – November 24, 2025: Live TV People

Monday Night Raw

Date: November 24, 2025

Location: Paycom Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Commentators: Joe Tessitore, Wade Barrett

It's the last Raw before Survivor Series and that means we're going to be seeing the final push towards WarGames. The main matches are pretty much entirely set but there is always room for one last build. We might even focus on some of the non-WarGames matches this week, which isn't a bad idea. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of the setup of the men's WarGames match,

with Drew McIntyre, Roman Reigns and Brock Lesnar being added in the last week and a half.

Here is Roman Reigns to get things going. He says his catchphrase but here is Cody Rhodes for a staredown, complete with his own catchphrase. Rhodes says Reigns is a man of his word and the last time it was for a match. This time though, it's for war. Rhodes wants to know what's in this for Reigns, who says it's Rhodes who is brand new to this fight. They don't like each other or know each other very well, but Reigns knows they both care about family.

A lot of this team is his family and before they were on his team, they were in his Bloodline. He's been invested in them for a long time and he's here to see that investment through. Rhodes: "Understood." He welcomes Reigns to his team, which doesn't sit well with Reigns. Cue CM Punk, who hits his own catchphrase and tells the crowd to acknowledge them. Punk remembers teaming with Reigns before and Reigns remembers Punk ruining his life. That's kind of true, but Punk says if Reigns stabs Punk in his back this Saturday, he'd stab his family in the back.

Rhodes tries to cool it down but Punk doesn't like Rhodes saying it's his show, because this is Monday Night Raw on Netflix. Cody can be the quarter back on Friday but on Monday, he's the champ. Reigns finds this ridiculous and says that he hates Paul Heyman and the Vision more than he hates the two of them. If we're being honest, that title (he doesn't specify which) would look better on his shoulder. Reigns goes to leave and Punk asks who Reigns was talking to. Reigns says that's for them to figure out and leaves. That last exchange was rather good, though this felt like some forced drama.

Paul Heyman is in the back with the Vision and tries to get Drew McIntyre to take tonight's tag match for the WarGames advantage seriously. Logan Paul mocks the idea that the partner is going to be Brock Lesnar but Heyman warns Paul

about what happens if Lesnar's name comes out of the wrong mouth. Instead, Paul will be McIntyre's partner, which Paul calls a wise choice.

Last Time Is Now Tournament Quarterfinals: Gunther vs. Carmelo Hayes

Hayes pounds him into the corner to start, which is broken up with raw power. A running shoulder drops Hayes and Gunther actually gets on the buckle to mock the crowd. That earns him a powerbomb out of the corner and a springboard DDT gives Hayes two. One heck of a chop cuts Hayes off though and we take a break.

We come back with Hayes managing a quick sleeper, which Gunther reverses into one of his own. That's escaped with a backflip and Hayes is right back with the sleeper. Gunther powers out again and they trade chops until Hayes knocks him down. A butterfly suplex sends Hayes flying but he's right back with a DDT to counter the powerbomb (that was nice) as we take another break.

We come back again with Hayes grabbing a quick First 48 but Nothing But Net is cut off. Gunther chops the post by mistake so Hayes tries a springboard DDT, which pretty much completely misses (which commentary acknowledges). Instead, Hayes hits a running flip dive onto Gunther's back for a big crash.

Gunther tries the powerbomb but gets reversed into a heck of a tornado DDT off the barricade. Back in and Hayes grabs La Mistica but misses Nothing But Net. The big clothesline into the powerbomb gives Gunther two and the fans are losing it on these near falls. Gunther elbows him in the head over and over, setting up the powerbomb for the pin at 17:25.

Rating: B+. There was no reason to believe that Hayes was going to win here but they had me believing that it was possible. That's a sign that something is going right and I was pulled into everything they were doing here. Hayes has

found something as a good guy and a definitive win over Miz in their feud should help. On the other hand though, this seems to be Gunther's tournament to lose at the moment, which shouldn't be surprising.

Cody Rhodes/CM Punk/Roman Reigns are still arguing when the Usos come up to say tonight's advantage match is a tag match. They happen to be the best tag team ever so.....we seem to have a solution! They leave and Reigns tells Punk and Rhodes to fix this.

Here is Dominik Mysterio for a chat. He promises to end John Cena's retirement tour in his hometown this weekend, continuing to prove that he is the greatest Mysterio of all time. Mysterio brings up that Cena isn't here tonight but cue Cena's music...and it's a mini Santa, complete with a mini Stu the Cameraman.

Mini Cena (or John Weena according to Barrett) can't do the slide underneath the bottom rope so he has to go for the ropes. Mysterio insults Cena, who calls him the worst Mysterio of all time. Mysterio seems to say that's not what Cena is supposed to say but Cena challenges him for a fight...and then gets kicked in the chest. That means it's time for a Shuffle, a 619 and a frog splash, only for Rey Mysterio to interrupt and chase him off.

Rey Mysterio vs. JD McDonagh

Finn Balor is here with McDonagh. We're joined in progress with Mysterio backdropping him down and hammering away in the corner. That's broken up and McDonagh drops him face first onto the buckle to take over. McDonagh stomps him down and grabs a chinlock, with the fans being rather behind Mysterio. McDonagh lets go and poses on the ropes, allowing Mysterio to send him outside.

That's fine with McDonagh, who drops him onto the announcers' table as we take a break. We come back with Mysterio in

trouble but managing to send McDonagh into the post for a big crash. The top rope seated senton connects for Mysterio and he kicks McDonagh in the head for two. The 619 is countered into a Spanish Fly for two and they both need a breather. Balor tries to get up for a distraction so Mysterio sends McDonagh into him. The 619 and springboard splash give Mysterio the pin at 10:24.

Rating: B-. Mysterio continues to be able to look good against just about anyone in the ring and that was the case again here. It helps that McDonagh has been rapidly improving in recent weeks and it made for a pretty nice match here. The ending was a bit flat, but at least Mysterio gets a win before what should be a major showdown with Dominik in the near future.

Post match Balor goes after Mysterio, who manages to slip away.

Adam Pearce tells Raquel Rodriguez that she's in the title mix. New Day comes in to complain about what's going on with the Tag Team Titles but Pearce snaps. Apparently Dragon Lee and AJ Styles want to give them a title shot next week. Grayson Waller is so happy that he gives Pearce a wig.

Brock Lesnar arrives.

Here is a ticked off Becky Lynch for a chat. After a break, her WarGames team joins her before she goes on a rant about how the decision of last week's title match will be overturned and she will be champion again. While that was a mistake, AJ Lee made a bigger mistake last week and now she's making an even bigger mistake by locking herself in a cage.

Lynch has assembled the greatest team in the history of WarGames. She brags about how she's put together all of these people, including Asuka, who she has beaten nine out of ten times, and Jax, who has great bones. Lynch doesn't have to wear a mask like Rotten Rhea Ripley, which brings out the

other team. AJ Lee talks about how the old her would jump Lynch and break her apart, but unlike Lynch, she bites instead of barking.

Ripley gets the mic and starts swinging rather than talking and the brawl is on. Ripley and company clear the ring, with Sky hitting a hue moonsault to the ring, sending Lynch running off. Pretty standard brawling segment, but Lynch was basically doing a straight up Trump impression without the voice and it was hilarious.

Last Time Is Now Tournament Quarterfinals: Penta vs. Solo Sikoa

Penta kicks away to start but they're quickly on the floor. Sikoa manages to send him over the barricade, with Penta popping back up for a hurricanrana from said barricade. We take an early break and come back with...the match having been stopped as Penta was injured on the hurricanrana. Sikoa wins at around 4:50, with nowhere near enough shown to rate.

We see a woman's finger circling a glass and a graphic says FOUR DAYS. It looks to be in the same font as Wrestlemania's logo.

Maxxine Dupri can't believe she won the title and calls Natalya. Before that happens, various women come up for some threatening glares. Adam Pearce has to come get her out of trouble.

Stephanie Vaquer is mad at Nikki Bella for betraying her and swears vengeance. See you at Survivor Series.

Survivor Series rundown.

Usos vs. Logan Paul/Drew McIntyre

For the WarGames advantage. Jimmy knocks Paul into the corner to start and sends him to the floor as we take an early break. We come back with Paul still in trouble, with Jey stomping

away and sending him into the corner. A running splash connects but Paul fights out of trouble. McIntyre comes in for a slugout with Jey, who manages a needed suplex.

Paul cuts Jimmy off before the tag though, as he continues to be wise beyond his years. McIntyre takes Jey outside for a toss over the announcers' table and we take another break. We come back again with Jey getting double suplexed, with both McIntyre and Paul doing nip ups. McIntyre charges into some boots in the corner though and the needed tag brings in Jimmy for the parade of superkicks.

Paul manages a Blockbuster for two, only for Jimmy to drop him with a spear. Everything breaks down and here's the Vision, but cue Cody Rhodes and CM Punk to even it up. The brawl ensues on the floor but Jey hits a big dive to take them down. That's enough for Paul to roll Jimmy up for the pin at 17:02.

Rating: C+. This felt long (might have been stretched to help after the injury finished the previous match early) and it didn't have much of a doubt about the eventual result. At the end of the day, WarGames is almost always going to have the villains in control and given the lineups, it would be insanity to go in a different direction here. Not a bad match, but dropping five minutes would have been nice.

Post match the brawl is on with Roman Reigns coming in to clean house. The staredown is on and the credits roll, but cue Brock Lesnar, who actually falls down during his entrance and flips backwards (live TV people). The villains get on the apron and the big brawl ensues to end the show.

Overall Rating: B- This show started off strong and then hit a wall around halfway through. The big problem with a show like this is a hard one to get around: the main event, and big story, was about getting the advantage in a match on Saturday. It makes for little more than a big preview, with little actually being changed for Survivor Series. It's good enough,

but outside of the really good Gunther vs. Hayes match and maybe the opener, it's not worth a look.

Results

Gunther b. Carmelo Hayes – Powerbomb

Rey Mysterio b. JD McDonagh – Springboard splash

Solo Sikoa b. Penta via doctor stoppage

Drew McIntyre/Logan Paul b. Usos – Rollup to Jimmy

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Monday Night Raw – September 22, 2025: Not This Again

Monday Night Raw

Date: September 22, 2025

Location: Ford Center, Evansville, Indiana

Commentators: Joe Tessitore, Wade Barrett

We are done with Wrestlepalooza and it was certainly a big time event. The big story on the Raw side saw CM Punk and AJ Lee defeat Seth Rollins and Becky Lynch, plus Stephanie Vaquer becoming the new Raw Women's Champion. We're on our way to Crown Jewel, meaning it's time to do the champion vs. champion deal again. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a long Wrestlepalooza recap.

Here is Cody Rhodes to get things going. He holds up the Crown Jewel ring and says he'd love to win another one but here is Seth Rollins to interrupt. Rollins has been looking forward to Crown Jewel so they can go face to face. Rollins knows a lot of people don't like him but he wants to know what Rhodes thinks of him. Rhodes says it's complicated but it shouldn't be. He knows that Rollins has been making some questionable decisions as of late but he respects Rollins.

Rhodes is ready to win another ring, but Rollins holds up his watch, which was a present from Rhodes after Wrestlemania XL. This is the first time he's worn it since then and now he wants to know if it was a real gift or a token gesture. Rhodes has talked about being the quarterback around here but what does that make Rollins? Does Rhodes think he's just better?

The Vision is about the future of the industry and what it means, with Rollins as the tip of the spear. Rhodes can be the quarterback, but he's Rollins' quarterback. If Rhodes doesn't accept that, things will go badly. Rhodes brings up that Rollins has never beaten him and leaves, with Rollins not looking happy. The Vision is there to cut Rhodes off, but they step aside. I always forget how boring this period is and this was no exception, as it's for a prize that means nothing and which will not be mentioned for most of the year.

Jimmy Uso comes up to Jey Uso in the back and is looking for a rematch with the Vision, but Jey has already got a match tonight with LA Knight. Jimmy isn't sure if that's a good idea and thinks Jey and Knight should cool off, but Jey blames their loss at Wrestlepalooza on Knight. And the Vision would have taken Knight out if Jimmy hadn't tagged with him last week. Jey says he isn't blaming Jimmy and they'll deal with the Vision after Knight.

New Day/Grayson Waller vs. War Raiders/Penta

No DQ. New Day and Waller are sent to the floor to start but they move before the dive. Back in and Kingston takes over on Erik, with Waller coming in with a kendo stick shot. Erik drops Waller on the floor so Woods slaps him in the back of the head. Erik: "ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?" Penta is back up with the big flip dive and we take a break.

We come back with Penta clearing the ring but being put on a table. Kingston goes up and drops down onto Penta (which the camera misses so we have to see it on the replay), leaving them both down. Back in and Erik powerbombs New Day at the same time, leaving Ivar to miss the Doomsault. Ivar is fine enough to hit a sitout powerbomb onto the apron but Woods is there with a kendo stick. Penta is back up and Kingston goes through the table but Waller catches Penta on top. That's fine with Penta, who hits a super Canadian Destroyer for the pin at 10:17.

Rating: B-. I liked it well enough, though this story continues to feel ice cold. They're still doing things, but it feels like something that has been going on for a long time now with nothing really happening. That is probably going to be the case for a few more weeks and I'm not sure where it goes from there. At least Penta gets another win, which is a nice thing to see.

Dominik Mysterio is panicking over Rusev but Finn Balor asks about the Mysterio who was all confident. Balor suggests asking El Grande Americano, but he's not here this week. Balor and JD McDonagh are both busy, though Roxanne Perez talks McDonagh into helping him. It's for the team though, not for Mysterio. Apparently Mysterio has already gotten McDonagh vs. Rusev set for later.

Bayley (in a jacket that CM Punk wore at Wrestlepalooza) comes up to Lyra Valkyria and thanks her for last week. Valkyria brings up Bayley screaming at her last week but Bayley thinks she's joking. She wants Valkyria in her corner tonight and a

confused Valkyria eventually agrees. Bayley: "NO TAKEBACKS!"

Adam Pearce brings out Stephanie Vaquer for her first comments as Women's Champion. Vaquer thanks the people who helped her get here, including her father, who is in the crowd. She talks about what the title means and all the sacrifices she has made to get here. Pearce explains the Crown Jewel match coming up, with Vaquer saying she'll be there. Well, that certainly was an appearance by the new champion.

Video on Brock Lesnar destroying John Cena.

Nikki Bella and Rhea Ripley congratulate Stephanie Vaquer on her win, but the Kabuki Warriors interrupt. Asuka isn't impressed with Vaquer and seems to get a match with Ripley. Of note: there are three people in the back working on something and not acknowledging this whatsoever. They don't mean anything, but it's still a funny visual.

Roxanne Perez vs. Bayley

Raquel Rodriguez and Lyra Valkyria are here too. Perez hammers away in the corner to start but Bayley is right back with her own knockdown. The basement clothesline gives Bayley two but Perez starts in on the leg. Bayley gets tied in the Tree Of Woe for a stomp to said leg and we take a break.

We come back with Bayley dropping a middle rope elbow but getting caught on top. They head outside with Perez hitting Pop Rox to lay Bayley out, which is good for a nine count. Rodriguez pulls Bayley outside for a big boot, which draws Valkyria (with her massive blue shoes) over for the brawl. Valkyria posts Rodriguez but gets dropped with a suicide dive from Perez. Back in and Bayley starts to snap, and it's the Bayley To Belly into the Roseplant for the pin at 10:46.

Rating: B-. This was another good one as Bayley continues to be a bit loony but the good thing is I'm curious to see where it goes. They aren't exactly hiding what she's doing and it

isn't some mystery deal, so now we get to see what happens as Valkyria tries to make sense of the thing. Perez is still a valuable asset to have around, as she can work well with anyone in the ring and that's very good to have around.

Post match Valkyria goes in to celebrate with Bayley, who shoves her down and yells a lot as the split personalities are all over the place.

Cody Rhodes runs into Jimmy Uso, who wants him to talk to Jey. Rhodes will see what he can do.

Post break Rhodes goes to see Jey, who insists that he's good. Rhodes says he knows what it can be like to fall off the top and says Jey's family and friends are there for him. Jey thanks him for that but glares a bit as Rhodes leaves. That's intriguing, as Jey continues to tease going to the dark side.

JD McDonagh vs. Rusev

McDonagh throws some chops in the start and gets knocked back as a result. Rusev chases him outside and then hits a big backdrop before they go to the floor again. This time McDonagh manages to send him into the steps and post, followed by the Asai moonsault. We take a break and come back with McDonagh hitting a jawbreaker into a slingshot corkscrew dive. A running knee drops Rusev and a nice moonsault gives McDonagh two. Rusev pops up and shrugs off the offense, setting up the Machka Kick. The Accolade makes McDonagh tap at 10:34.

Rating: C+. McDonagh wrestling as the straight up good guy is a weird thing to see but what matters is that this should set up Rusev for the title match. Rusev needs something to do and now we get to see how Mysterio gets to escape, assuming he can. That's in addition to the big Finn Balor factor, as he's hardly happy with everything Mysterio is doing.

Post match Mysterio stands there while Rusev keeps the hold on so Finn Balor makes the save.

Iyo Sky tries to talk Asuka out of the match with Rhea Ripley but Asuka is doing it anyway. Sky wants Kairi Sane to talk to her about it but Sane says Asuka is why they're here so they must listen to her.

LA Knight talks about trying to keep order on Saturday and if Jey Uso needs help with that, it can be a BFT tonight.

Jey Uso vs. LA Knight

Uso slugs away to start and elbows him in the face to put Knight down. A charge misses in the corner though and Knight hits the jumping neckbreaker. Knight low bridges him to the floor but misses a dropkick through the ropes, allowing Uso to hit a clothesline as we take a break. We come back with Knight hitting a superplex but Uso fights back.

Uso avoids a Burning Hammer and blocking a jumping neckbreaker to send Knight outside. The suicide dive connects and a superkick gives Uso two. Knight knocks him back down and hits the top rope elbow but cue the Vision, with Knight having to take them out. The distraction lets Uso hit a spear into the Superfly Splash for the pin at 8:40.

Rating: C+. They didn't have much time to make this work but the ending is likely going to keep things going in a few ways. Jey vs. Knight is already a story and you have the Usos vs. the Vision at the same time. There is a good chance that those stories are going to cross soon enough and then we get to see where it goes in Australia.

Post match Jey leaves but gets cut off by Jimmy Uso, who wants to go after the Vision. Jimmy goes to the ring by himself with a chair, with Paul Heyman calling the team off.

Becky Lynch is venting about Cody Rhodes but Seth Rollins doesn't really listen. She doesn't like what Rhodes has been saying about her, including calling her lovely. Rollins keeps looking at the watch as Lynch keeps going, eventually

promising to make an example out of Rhodes.

Iyo Sky comes up to Rhea Ripley, who is sorry for the loss at Wrestlepalooza. Sky wants her to be careful around Asuka, with Sky saying Asuka is family.

We look at Stephanie McMahon being announced for the Hall Of Fame. Yeah fair enough.

Video on Los Grande Americanos, who are back after being believed to be gone. They will take over WWE.

Maxxine Dupri asks Adam Pearce for a match. Pearce says he'll think about it, but AJ Styles and Dragon Lee come in to say they want to deal with the Americanos. Pearce is in on this one.

Asuka vs. Rhea Ripley

Kairi Sane is here too. Asuka kicks at the leg to start but gets dropped with a nasty German suplex. We take an early break and come back with Asuka sending her to the apron and hitting a dragon screw legwhip. Ripley fires off some clotheslines and a belly to back faceplant, followed by a running dropkick. A northern lights suplex gives Ripley two but Asuka goes back to the knee. Ripley boots her out to the floor though and hits a running flip dive as we take another break.

We come back with Ripley fighting out of an ankle lock. Ripley puts her on top for a superplex and the big crash leaves them both down. Back up and Ripley kicks her in the face and hits a Razor's Edge toss, followed by a hard knee for two. Asuka gets back up and strikes her out to the floor with a big kick to the head. Sane teases getting involved and Asuka tells her to do it, where Sane teases some cheating but doesn't do it.

Instead Asuka sends Ripley into the announcers' table and counters a kick to the head with a kneebar back inside. Asuka

lets that go and grabs a German suplex before heading up top. Ripley dropkicks her out of the air (that looked great) heads up top, only to jump into a dropkick (that looked great). Sane teases interfering but gets knocked down, leaving Ripley to roll Asuka up for the pin at 17:14.

Rating: B+. This was a hard hitting, back and forth match between two women who can work very well together. It was turning into a question of how they were going to have one of them lose. The idea here seems to be Asuka using her authority over Iyo Sky and Kairi Sane and now we'll get to see where that goes. What matters here though is that it's a rather awesome main event and Ripley gets a big win, which she has been needing.

Post match Asuka blows blue mist into Ripley's face. Sane eventually helps with the beatdown but Iyo Sky runs in to try and calm things down. Asuka kicks Sane down and orders Sane to attack, which she does. The Empress Impact drops Ripley and Sane gives Sky an Insane Elbow (against her will) to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. I liked a lot of the wrestling here, with the main event being a highlight, but at the same time egads the Crown Jewel stuff is already dragging the show down. It feels so unimportant and there is almost no way around the whole issue. Hopefully the rest of the card carries the slack, as otherwise we could be in for a very long few weeks on the way to the pay per view.

Results

Penta/War Raiders b. New Day/Grayson Waller – Super Canadian Destroyer to Waller

Bayley b. Roxanne Perez – Roseplant

Rusev b. JD McDonagh – Accolade

Jey Uso b. LA Knight – Superfly Splash

Rhea Ripley b. Asuka – Small package

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WWE X AAA Worlds Collide: Las Vegas: On Our Side

Worlds Collide: Las Vegas

Date: September 12, 2025

Location: Cox Pavilion At The Thomas & Mack Center, Paradise, Nevada

Commentators: Corey Graves, Konnan, John Bradshaw Layfield

We're doing another WWE/AAA crossover show and in this case, Dominik Mysterio is getting another World Title shot, this time on his own. That's quite the drawing card, though the rest of the show looks good enough. The previous edition was a lot of fun in Mexico so now we get to see what happens in the United States. Let's get to it.

The opening video looks at AAA's success since being purchased by WWE, including TripleMania. Now they're in Las Vegas so of course there's a bit of a gambling theme.

HHH, Shawn Michaels and Undertaker are here.

Various wrestlers arrive. These clips were shown on Smackdown.

The dignitaries are in the ring for the Mexican national anthem. Lilian Garcia does the American version.

Here is Penta for a chat. Penta, in Spanish, seems to fire up the crowd and talk about the importance of Mexican wrestling in the United States. After more enthusiastic shouting, Penta hits his catchphrase and holds up a Mexican flag.

Laredo Kid/La Parka/Mascarita Sagrada/Octagon Jr. vs. LWO/Mini Abismo Negro/Lince Dorado

Dorado and Octagon start things off as they trade some missed kicks to start. An exchange of headscissors take both of them down and we get a standoff/handshake. Del Toro and Kid come in with Kid hitting him in the face, followed by a running clothesline in the corner. Del Toro is taken up top but sticks the landing on a super hurricanrana. A standing Spanish Fly gives del Toro and Wilde comes in for a standing moonsault and a near fall.

Kid gives him kind of a reverse sitout powerbomb to take over and it's off to Parka for a dance off. Parka avoids a charge in the corner and dances some more, setting up something like a spinning AA. Sagrada and Negro come in, with Sagrada snapping off a springboard armdrag. Dorado comes back in and gets sent into the corner, allowing Octagon and Kid to hit back to back middle rope twisting moonsaults for two. A kick to the head puts Kid down though and del Toro is back in with a slingshot splash.

An electric chair splash to the back gets two on Kid as Konnan lists off Kid's resume. Negro (barely taller than the top rope) comes in for a pop up powerslam and Kid can't get a springboard hurricanrana, instead crashing down. Back up and a running hurricanrana works a bit better, as Kid is able to bring in Sagrada for a very spinning headscissors to the floor. Sagrada clears the ring and snaps off a top rope hurricanrana to put Negro down. Back in and Octagon comes in

but del Toro comes in as well to strike it out.

Octagon gets caught in the Tree of Woe for a Coast To Coast from del Toro. Dorado's shooting star press gets two and Sagrada grabs an octopus on Negro, with everyone else making a save. Everything breaks down and Dorada gives Parka the Golden Rewind, leaving Octagon to dive onto both of them. Del Toro dives on all of them and then Kid does the same thing. Wilde hits his huge slingshot dive, leaving Sagrada to grab a spinning rollup for the pin on Negro at 18:05.

Rating: B. Yeah this was a blast with everyone getting to go nuts and show off for a long time. They weren't trying to do anything other than let the people go nuts and that worked well. It's the kind of match that is always going to work as it was designed to be a sample platter of what AAA can do. Fun stuff here, as it should have been.

Rey Mysterio is interrupted by Dominik Mysterio, who says he's going to become the Mega Champion. Rey even agrees to put the title around his waist if he wins, with a big emphasis on IF. Finn Balor comes in to say Dominik needs to prove himself tonight, alone. Balor even leaves with the interviewer (who happens to be his wife). This aired on Smackdown as well.

We recap Natalya vs. Faby Apache. They were in a triple threat match at TripleMania and didn't get along so now it's time to fight for a future title shot.

Natalya vs. Faby Apache

For a future Reina de Reinas title shot. They go to the grappling to start until Apache drops her with an elbow. Natalya's discus lariat gets two and she fires off the shoulders in the corner. Natalya plants her down and starts in on the leg, including the surfboard. With that broken up, Apache shrugs off some clotheslines and hits a hurricanrana.

A high crossbody and knee to the face give Apache two and she

tries a cross armbreaker. Apache's bodyscissors turns into a slugout and she even adds a front facelock. With that not working, Apache switches to an ankle lock, followed by a hard forearm to the face for two. Apache teases a Sharpshooter but gets reversed into a rollup for the pin at 9:12.

Rating: B-. This was a bit different from Natalya and that is one of the best things that she can do. The biggest problem with Natalya is that she does a lot of the same stuff and that gets dull in a hurry. That wasn't so much the case here and it made for a much more entertaining match. Apache did her part too as they were beating the heck out of each other here. Nice match and better than I was expecting.

We get the Saudi Arabia Wrestlemania announcement and the booing is audible.

New Day was ready to win the Tag Team Titles but Woods was injured by Penta. He had to have surgery on his head but risked DEATH by being here anyway, where Grayson Waller will be taking his place. Waller insists that interviewer Chuey Martinez sign the petition to ban the Canadian Destroyer.

AAA Tag Team Titles: Kofi Kingston/Grayson Waller vs. Pagano/Psycho Clown

Pagano/Clown are defending and Clown chases Waller to the floor to start. Back in and Waller tries to pick up the pace, which is fine with Clown, who actually gets pulled into a forearm. Kingston and Pagano come in with Pagano snapping off a belly to belly. Clown comes in to help with the stomping but gets sent into the corner. Waller forearms away on Clown in the corner and we get something like the old Unicorn Stampede.

Pagano gets knocked off the apron so Clown has no one to tag when he fights out (as tends to be the case). A jumping knee to the face gets two on Clown before Kingston and Waller go up...and then hop down to pummel away. Kingston grabs a choke and Clown taps, but it doesn't seem to have been intentional

so Kingston sends him into the corner instead.

Clown fights out of the corner and hits a crossbody, followed by an enziguri to bring in Pagano. Everything breaks down and the champs hit some running dives before Clown...rips part of his own mask off, which freaks Woods out and sends him running. Stereo Canadian Destroyers drop Waller and Kingston, followed by la majistral to give Clown the pin to retain at 16:53.

Rating: B-. This was a good enough match, but the problem boils down to it's only so good when you have Kingston and a filler partner rather than his usual partner. New Day challenging for the titles would have been a much bigger deal, but as it was, there wasn't exactly much doubt about the winners. What we got was good, but Woods being in there would have been a lot better.

Post match Pagano and Clown are interviewed by the Wyatt Sicks interfere and lay them out. The huge beatdown ensues, with Pagano and Clown being put through tables. The Wyatts hold up the AAA titles and the fans seem to like it.

We recap Lola Vice/Mr. Iguana vs. Judgment Day. They were in a six person tag at TripleMania (with a slightly adjusted lineup) and got into a brawl so now it's time to do it with one less person each.

Lola Vice/Mr. Iguana vs. Judgment Day

Raquel Rodriguez is here with Judgment Day. Balor takes Iguana down by the arm to start but Iguana flips around and sits down, which has the fans approving. Balor goes to grab a bag but Iguana takes it away and throws it underneath the ring. Back in and a hurricanrana drops Balor so it's off to Vice, who scares Balor into the corner. Perez comes in and gets chased outside, allowing Vice to run her over back inside.

The cross armbreaker is blocked so Vice switches to the

strikes into the corner. Vice's running hip attack is broken up by Balor so Vice hits a dive onto both of them. Back in and Iguana's high crossbody gets two on Balor, only for Rodriguez to drop Iguana onto the apron to cut him off. Balor slows the pace down and chokes on the ropes...but the Balor puppet pops out from underneath the ring. Even Balor freaks out and Iguana gets in a shot, allowing the tag back to Vice to pick up the pace.

Now the hip attack can hit Perez, followed by a Saito suplex for two. Perez is right back up and hits a Lionsault for two before taking Vice up. Iguana throws Yesca at Perez though and Balor brings in his own bag. Balor gets up with his own puppet and it's time for...well actually a Sling Blade to Iguana. Balor ties his puppet around his neck and teases the Coup de Grace but Vice breaks it up. Yesca is thrown at the puppet, leaving Iguana to hit a dive. Vice spinning backfists Perez for the pin at 12:00.

Rating: C+. The point here was to showcase Vice and Iguana and that worked rather well. Vice is quite possibly on her way to being the NXT Women's Champion and Iguana is going to sell a ton of merchandise. Balor played right into the whole thing with the puppet deal and it was a fun match with everything going about as it should have.

We recap the Latin American Title four way. El Hijo de Dr. Wagner Jr. won the title at TripleMania and now a bunch of people are coming for the title. That's about it.

Latin American Title: El Hijo de Dr. Wagner Jr. vs. Ethan Page vs. JD McDonagh vs. Dragon Lee

Wagner is defending (Page's NXT North American Title isn't on the line). Lee and McDonagh fight to the floor to start, leaving Wagner to hammer on Page in the corner. Back in and Lee sends Page into the corner and drop toeholds McDonagh into page. A running dropkick hits both villains and Wagner is back

in, only to get taken down by McDonagh. The big Asai moonsault drops Page and Lee on the floor before McDonagh kicks away at Wagner.

Page is back in to throw McDonagh at Wagner (that worked) before hitting a running Codebreaker for two on Lee. The chinlock doesn't last long as the other two come back in, with a series of strikes to the face knocking everyone silly. McDonagh headbutts Page...who falls onto McDonagh for two.

Lee is back up with a running hurricanrana to Wagner and a big sitout powerbomb for two on McDonagh. Wagner pulls Page to the floor so Lee flip dives onto both of them. Back in and a super Spanish Fly gives McDonagh two but Page is back with the Twisted Grin. Wagner cuts that off with a Swanton and Wagner Drivers McDonagh to retain at 9:56.

Rating: B. This was a sprint match as you had all four of them going nuts and throwing out everything they could in the time they had. That made for quite the entertaining spectacle and I had a good time with everything they were doing. This felt like a match where anyone could have picked up the title and the drama made things a lot more entertaining.

We recap the main event. Dominik Mysterio came close to winning the title in a four way at TripleMania and now it's time for him to get a one on one shot as he wants to prove he's the best Mysterio ever.

AAA Mega Title: Dominik Mysterio vs. El Hijo del Vikingo

Vikingo is defending (Mysterio's Intercontinental Title isn't on the line) and the fans really do not like him despite him being the good guy coming in. After the Big Match Intros, the trade some kicks to start before Vikingo takes him down and ties up an arm and a leg. Vikingo stands up while still holding on, only for Mysterio to reverse into a rollup for two. Mysterio is sent outside and taken down with a dive but he cuts Vikingo off with a hot shot back inside.

Vikingo gets whipped into the steps and we settle down a bit back inside. Mysterio stomps away and hits the slingshot hilo for two. Back up and the champion hits a basement superkick but gets crotched on top. Hold on though as Mysterio needs to go and pose with the belt before grabbing the chinlock. Vikingo fights up and hits a missile dropkick, followed by the running knees in the corner.

Another missile dropkick is powerbombed out of the air for a big crash but the 619 is blocked. Vikingo's spinning faceplant sets up a 450 for two so here is the Judgment Day to uneven things a bit. Mysterio puts on the mask and Balor offers him the foreign object, but here is Dragon Lee to help things out a bit.

Rey Mysterio comes out with a chair to help chase Judgment Day off, leaving Vikingo to hit the 630. Cue El Grande Americano to break up the cover and now the 619 connects. Dominik hits the frog splash but another referee runs in to count two. Vikingo goes for Americano's mask, allowing Americano to slip Dominik the foreign object. The mask is loaded up for the running headbutt, followed by a frog splash to make Dominik champion at 18:23.

Rating: B. I had fun with this and the result is the right choice. The fans have pretty obviously rejected Vikingo so go with someone who can get some heat as champion without having the fans turn on him. Yeah it's more of the WWE takeover, but it's hard to argue with someone getting the kind of reception Vikingo has been receiving. Just go with what needs to be done, as Dominik is more than capable of hanging at this level.

Post match Rey comes back out and hands Dominik the title but Dominik insists that Rey put it around his waist. Rey begrudgingly does it and Dominik kicks him out as the Judgment Day comes in to celebrate. El Grand Americano gets in for a hug as well and Judgment Day doesn't seem overly pleased to

end the show.

Overall Rating: B+. This was another good time, with the action working, nothing being bad, a hot crowd and just about everything working. Dominik Mysterio is going to get all kinds of mileage out of winning the title and there were enough things set up to have another show like this down the line. WWE has figured out the formula for these shows and this was another very fun offering.

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Monday Night Raw – September 1, 2025: A Standing Ovation, Uncertain Hand Gestures And The Mullet-0-Matic

Monday Night Raw

Date: September 1, 2025

Location: La Defense Arena, Paris, France

Commentators: Wade Barrett, Michael Cole

We're still in Paris after yesterday's Clash and that means it's time to start the build towards Wrestlepalooza. While you

can pretty much pencil in the John Cena vs. Brock Lesnar showdown, they're going to need something else to fill in the gaps. With less than three weeks before the show, those gaps can be filled starting this week so let's get to it.

[Here is Clash In Paris if you need a recap.](#)

We still have the awesome Eiffel Tower set.

Long Clash In Paris recap.

CM Punk is waiting for Seth Rollins to arrive after getting screwed out of the title. Adam Pearce is fine with it.

Here is Jey Uso to get things going. Uso isn't happy and says he isn't going to run it back tonight. He has some medical tape around his waist but he is running last night back. The Vision attacked both he and Roman Reigns and you never put your hands on his family. Uso wants the Vision out here right now but gets LA Knight instead. Knight says he should be the World Heavyweight Champion but instead he stands here a loser, just like Uso.

Some people claim that Uso lives in his cousin's shadow. Knight doesn't know anything about that, but Seth Rollins lives in his wife's shadow. They could have taken Rollins out last night and the three challengers could have fought it out, but Uso screwed that up because he doesn't understand. Knight is sick and tired of being left laying and not being World Heavyweight Champion. If Uso doesn't get that, Knight can get him up to speed real quick.

Cue Bronson Reed and Bron Breaker to interrupt with Knight being ready to go. Breaker says that the only thing we should be concerned about is Paul Heyman's health after Roman Reigns choked him out. The fans chant for Reigns but Breaker says it means that Heyman isn't here to tell them what to do. Reed brags about the beating they gave Reigns because the vision didn't include him. It doesn't include Knight and Uso either,

so they're next. Knight says he and Uso can do this later so the tag match seems set for tonight.

We recap the issues between Iyo Sky and the Kabuki Warriors.

Sky tries to make peace with the Warriors and...it seems to work.

Judgment Day vs. Kabuki Warriors

Asuka and Perez start things off with Asuka knocking her to the floor. It's already off to Rodriguez, who gets pulled into a quick choke. The Octopus hold is quickly escaped so it's off to Sane for some double kicks. The choke over the ropes has Rodriguez in more trouble and it's back to Perez, who gets taken down with a headscissors. That's broken up though and Perez takes Sane outside for a whip into the barricade.

We take a break and come back with Perez splashing Sane in the corner. That's broken up and it's back to Asuka to strike away until Rodriguez hits a clothesline. Perez adds a spinning knee to the back of the head before Sane and Rodriguez fight to the floor. The Asuka Lock is countered into a rollup for two before Asuka hip attacks Rodriguez back outside. Perez can't hit Pop Rox and they seem to get a bit lost, with Asuka's spinwheel kick barely making contact. The Asuka Lock finishes Perez at 10:40.

Rating: B-. I'm wondering if something went wrong in the end there because the match was sharp for the first ten minutes and then absolutely fell apart at the end. It wouldn't surprise me if Perez was hurt as she was stumbling a bit before the weird spinwheel kick. Either way, good match otherwise and if someone was hurt at the end, the last few moments are more than excusable.

Adam Pearce announces that it's Stephanie Vaquer vs. Iyo Sky for the title in three weeks at Wrestlepalooza.

Finn Balor vs. Dragon Lee

JD McDonagh is here with Balor. The fans are rather into this as Balor takes him down by the arm to start. Balor drops him with an elbow to the face but Lee is back with a springboard wristdrag out of the corner. The slingshot dropkick gets two and Balor is sent to the floor for the running flip dive as we take a break. We come back with Lee fighting out of a headlock and kicking Balor in the face. The sitout powerbomb gives Lee two but Balor pulls him off the top. The Coup de Grace finishes Lee at 9:48.

Rating: B-. Pretty simple and to the point here with Balor getting a nice reception. I'm not sure what he is going to be doing anytime soon, save for maybe feuding with Dominik Mysterio, but at least he's still that smooth in the ring. On the other hand you have Lee, who has sunk incredibly far at a remarkable rate. I'm not sure if it was the unrealistic expectations or the pressure on him, but it hasn't worked to say the least.

Nikki Bella meets Iyo Sky but the Kabuki Warriors interrupt. Bella isn't pleased and leaves, with the Warriors saying they helped Sky win at Summerslam so they'll see her at Wrestlepalooza. Sky doesn't seem happy.

Dominik Mysterio wants Judgment Day to help him against AJ Styles but Adam Pearce bans them from ringside.

New Day/Grayson Waller vs. War Raiders/Penta

Penta sends Waller and Kingston to the apron to start but it's too early to Canadian Destroy Woods. The Raiders take the villains down on the floor and Penta adds a dive as we take a break. We come back with Erik in trouble and Woods getting to strut a bit. Erik fights his way out of trouble and brings Ivar in to fire off the seated splashes in the corner. Waller avoids one of said splashes though and everything breaks down. Waller tries his rolling Stunner and gets knocked silly. A

belly to back suplex/splash combination crushes Woods and the Canadian Destroyer finishes at 8:48.

Rating: C+. New Day and the Raiders just feel like they're nothing at this point, even with New Day's rather funny heel antics. There is no heat for either team and they come and go (when the Raiders are actually around that is) without much changing. It's nice to see Penta win, but this was a pretty cold match for some prominent names.

Rhea Ripley wants the Women's Title back but the Kabuki Warriors interrupt. They don't want her around Iyo Sky but Ripley doesn't get what's so bad about it. Asuka says stay away from Sky and repeats her name before pushing Ripley. That doesn't work for Ripley but Asuka leaves, even as Kairi Sane isn't sure what to do.

Roxanne Perez asks Adam Pearce why she's not in the Wrestlepalooza title match. Pearce points out that she and Raquel Rodriguez just lost but he'll think about it after Wrestlepalooza. Lyra Valkyria comes in and gets into an argument with Rodriguez and Perez. Judgment Day leaves and Pearce tells Valkyria that Bayley will be back soon. Valkyria: "That's it? That's all you've got?" She wants a match with Judgment Day so Pearce makes it for next week. Uncertain hand gestures ensue.

Intercontinental Title: AJ Styles vs. Dominik Mysterio

Styles is challenging and gets a crazy strong reception. Strong enough that it's STILL GOING after a break, with Styles just soaking it in. Mysterio jumps him to start and the bell rings, with Styles fighting back to send Mysterio outside. The big dive connects and we take an early break.

We come back with Styles striking away, including the sliding forearm to set up the fireman's carry backbreaker for two. A headscissors out of the corner sends Styles to the floor and Mysterio drops him with a baseball slide. Mysterio's

hurricanrana is countered into a powerbomb onto the announcers' table though and we take another break. We come back again with an exchange of forearms until Styles grabs a neckbreaker for two.

The Styles Clash is countered into the Mullet O Matic (oh that's amazing) for two and Styles is sent into the post. The Michinoku Driver gives Mysterio two more and the Three Amigos into the frog splash gets the same. Back up and a quick Styles Clash connects but Mysterio gets a boot on the rope. The Phenomenal Forearm is loaded up but cue El Grande Americano with the loaded headbutt to the ribs. Mysterio drops the frog splash to retain at 16:05.

Rating: B. Odds are this moves us into Styles vs. Americano, which is an interesting change of pace. At the same time, Mysterio is going to need a fresh challenger and there are more than a few names available. For now though, Mysterio outsmarts the veteran again, which is a pretty nice accomplishment. Not as nice as that ovation Styles received, but still good.

We look back at Roman Reigns beating Bronson Reed last night but getting laid out by the Vision after the match.

LA Knight is ready to do whatever it takes to get the World Heavyweight Title. If that means going through Jey Uso, so be it. Cue Uso, who says they'll make this work and loads up the catchphrase, but Knight says the four letters, one word is YEAH.

Rhea Ripley is with CM Punk in the back but Adam Pearce comes in to say Seth Rollins is in the building. Pearce doesn't know how, but Punk is going to go handle him. Pearce: "And what does that mean?"

Video on Rusev, who is happy with his win with his win over Sheamus.

Here is CM Punk for a chat. He wants Seth Rollins out here right now and gets Rollins.....' wife. Becky Lynch says she might not be the man Punk was looking for but she's the man he's dealing with her. Punk says he's not doing this and wants Rollins out here but Lynch isn't going to let him leave. Lynch has heard Punk berate Rollins, who is the greatest man she has ever known.

Punk calls Rollins a coward, but Lynch says that Rollins is everything Punk isn't. Lynch: "He's hot, he's jacked." Punk: "You're delusional." Lynch: "He doesn't interrupt me." Punk isn't the voice of the voiceless but the poster child of apathy. These people didn't get her to the main event of Wrestlemania because she did it herself. She goes on about how she and her husband are in the middle of a revolution.

Rollins is a visionary, a revolutionary (Punk covers his ears) and she's the greatest ever so Punk needs to get out of the ring. The fans chant for AJ Lee and Lynch has to remind them that AJ doesn't work here. Punk doesn't think much of that but reminds her that 30,000 people think he's the best in the world. They chant his name no matter where he is or what he does but he didn't see Lynch and Rollins on all of the recent live events. Rollins hides behind everyone, including his wife, who may be the Man but she married a bum.

Cue Rollins on the stage so Punk goes around Lynch, with Rollins leaving. Lynch gets in a heck of a slap and then slaps him in the shoulders a bunch before calling Punk pathetic. Punk promises to make her regret that and leaves, with Lynch says she already does because of all the grease on her hands. Lynch mocks Punk as he leaves but Punk can't bring himself to do anything about it and storms off. This was very good as Lynch can hang with Punk on the mic, but dang they better deliver AJ Lee after all this, as no one, even Rhea Ripley, would feel as important.

Post break Punk is leaving but gets cut off by Adam Pearce.

Rollins has left but Punk asks where Smackdown is this week. That would be...Chicago, and Punk is very pleased. Pearce, not so much.

Jey Uso/LA Knight vs. Bronson Reed/Bron Breaker

It's a brawl to start with Reed dropping Knight with a headbutt. Breaker works on Uso's bad ribs and we take an early break. We come back with the ribs still in trouble but Uso gets over for the tag to Knight. House is cleaned until Breaker offers a distraction, with Knight being sent outside for a whip into the steps. The fans chant for Reigns as Knight is taken back inside for an overhead belly to belly.

Knight fights up but Breaker pulls him down into the chinlock. Back up and Reed charges into an elbow in the corner, allowing Knight to knock him down. Uso comes back in to clean house, including the running Umaga Attack to Breaker. The spear drops Breaker again but the Superfly Splash is broken up. Reed takes Knight down on the floor and Uso comes back in, where Breaker gives him the Super Spear for the pin at 14:01.

Rating: B-. There is something fun about watching monsters like Breaker and Reed run through people like Uso and Knight. Breaker and Uso have put together a nice rivalry and it fits to see Breaker pin him again. The vision is getting to be more dominant and I'm not sure who is next to come after them, though Roman Reigns will be back in a few months, likely for WarGames.

Post match the beatdown is on again, with Knight's save being cut off by a Super Spear. Another one drops Uso and the Tsunami connects but Jimmy Uso runs in with a chair for the save. Usos vs. Breaker/Reed works for me.

Overall Rating: B. The crowd helped carry this one and the talking segments were just as good to back up some solid enough wrestling. There are different directions possible for

the bigger stories, but Punk vs. Rollins (hopefully only one more time) and Usos vs. Reed/Breakker should be great. Throw in the possibility of AJ Lee coming back to a massive reaction to face Lynch and it's all the more interesting. Good show here, with the crowd being their usual awesome selves.

Results

Kabuki Warriors b. Judgment Day – Asuka Lock to Perez

Finn Balor b. Dragon Lee – Coup de Grace

Penta/War Raiders b. New Day/Grayson Waller – Canadian Destroyer to Woods

Dominik Mysterio b. AJ Styles – Frog splash

Bron Breaker/Bronson Reed b. Jey Uso/LA Knight – Super Spear to Uso

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Monday Night Raw – August 25, 2025: That's A Great Line. I Think.

Monday Night Raw

Date: August 25, 2025

Location: BP Pulse Live, Birmingham, England

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves

We're in England as the company is getting ready for Sunday's Clash In Paris, meaning this is a rare afternoon show in the United States. The big appeal of this week is Roman Reigns starting the show after challenging Bronson Reed last week. If nothing else, he might want to get his shoes back so let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of last week's extreme rules match between Jey Uso and Bron Breaker, which included a huge brawl and a bunch of interference.

Here is Roman Reigns to get things going, with the fans being VERY impressed and giving him a variety of cheers, including IF YOU LOVE ROMAN STAND UP. After an ACKNOWLEDGE ME, Reigns says that he has big plans for this year and next year, but he has to be realistic. It might feel like old times with the fans being so loud for him, but it isn't the same anymore. He isn't the same anymore. Fans: "YES YOU ARE!" Reigns says Cody Rhodes predicted it a year or so ago, which has the fans booing. Reigns: "Interesting."

The Vision (the fans boo, which Reigns understands) is trying to take everything from him, which earns a F*** SETH ROLLINS chant (which Reigns takes a second to understand). He doesn't have a Bloodline, which means a YEET chant. Reigns is extremely proud of Jey Uso, who has earned everything he has, including his title shot in Paris. Reigns' time will come...and here is Paul Heyman to interrupt, along with Bronson Reed.

Heyman introduces Reed and talks about how he became Reigns' Wise Man five years ago this week. The fans do their singing Roman Reigns chant, which Heyman turns into a Bronson Reed version. Heyman says Reed is going to beat some respect into Reigns, who doesn't seem to agree. Reed talks about how Reigns may be college educated, but he needs a history lesson. Reigns' tribe is civilized but Reed's isn't. Reigns paid for

his tattoos while Reed earned his. Reed is the Samoan that Reigns' family warned him about. Reigns: "This guy's Samoan???"

That means Reed belongs to him, so he can have one more chance to return the shoes, apologize for wasting our time, and acknowledge him. That won't happen, so Reigns is ready to fight. Security and agents come in and Reed gets in a splash but can't take more shoes. Reigns gets back up and they brawl to the back as we take a break. Heck of an opening segment here, with the crowd being way into the whole thing and boosting it up.

Judgment Day is looking for Dominik Mysterio (ignore him being in the background of the start of the shot), who is talking to El Grande Americano. Mysterio says he'll catch up with them later and things seem ok enough.

Dragon Lee vs. JD McDonagh

Finn Balor is here with McDonagh. Lee takes over to start so Balor gets up on the apron, which is enough for an ejection before he can do anything. Well that sounds like an overly aggressive referee. That's enough for Lee to go up, only to get dropkicked out of the air as we take a break.

We come back with Lee fighting up after a superplex (during the break) and hitting a REALLY scary sit out powerbomb (McDonagh landed on his head and Graves popped up to his feet on commentary) for two. The top rope (actually from the post this time) tree of woe double stomp connects but here is Dominik Mysterio. Cue AJ Styles to jump Mysterio and Operation Dragon finishes McDonagh at 8:45.

Rating: C+. That powerbomb was terrifying for a second and thankfully McDonagh's massive head is ok. Other than that, the Judgment Day's issues continue, which has been the case for a good while now. I'm curious to see where that goes, while on the other hand, Lee is not exactly interesting whatsoever as

he's just kind of there most weeks.

LA Knight likes the idea of working with CM Punk to take out Seth Rollins, but it's all about Punk getting the title back. It's feast or famine and the rations are limited. Only Knight is going to be well fed and tonight, he's facing Bron Breaker, who will be knocked back to factory settings (that's a great line...I think).

Rusev is ready to hurt Sheamus in Paris.

Judgment Day isn't happy with Dominik Mysterio, so he tells Finn Balor to deal with AJ Styles tonight. Raquel Rodriguez tells Roxanne Perez to get ready for later.

Penta vs. Kofi Kingston

Grayson Waller is peddling a petition to ban the Canadian Destroyer as Penta hammers away to start. Kingston catches him the corner and hits the middle rope splash to the standing Penta's back for two. The middle of the ropes Vader bomb is broken up and Kingston heads outside as we take a break.

We come back with Penta in trouble and Kingston dropping him for two, leaving Xavier Woods annoyed at ringside. Penta misses a running enziguri in the corner but settles for a flat foot suplex to bring him down. The Penta Driver gets two so Penta flip dives onto the New Day. Back in and Woods offers a distraction, allowing Kingston to hit Trouble In Paradise for the pin at 10:15.

Rating: C+. I have no idea what to make of New Day at this point. They've been doing the in mourning thing for a long time now but there isn't much of anything for them to do. If they aren't going to go after the titles and there is no one for them to feud with otherwise, what are they supposed to do next? It's entertaining stuff, but the Big E. split feels like it was a lifetime ago at this point.

Video on Iyo Sky's issues with Rhea Ripley and the Kabuki Warriors.

Sky thanks Ripley for helping her last week but explains that the Warriors aren't happy with her. She thinks the two of them should keep their distance. Ripley understands and says it's ok. Sky appreciates the understanding and they hug, with the Warriors in the background, not looking happy.

Video on Naomi's pregnancy announcement.

Stephanie Vaquer is told she is the #1 contender but the title match can't happen in Paris as the title is technically vacant. She'll still get the title match and Adam Pearce has an opponent in mind, but he needs a week to set everything up. Vaquer isn't happy but she understands.

Here is Becky Lynch for a chat. The fans don't like her, but she talks about how important this place was to her career. Her WWE tryout was right here in Birmingham...and it was a dump then and it's a dump now. Speaking of dumps, Nikki Bella thinks she can just call her out like she's some loser like Birmingham soccer teams. She's not some dog who responds to a whistle.

Cue Bella to interrupt, saying Lynch might not be a dog but she's acting like a little b****. Lynch says she isn't going to listen to Broken Neck Barbie, but Bella says she paved the way for people like her. Bella brings up that Lynch was Charlotte's sidekick and that seems to touch a nerve, as she says a lot of people say she's the greatest of all time. Bella calls Lynch out for disrespecting the people, sending Lynch into a rant about how the British have been oppressing the Irish for hundreds of years.

Lynch doesn't like Bella insulting her or suggesting that she has no testicles but agrees to give her the title shot. It's going to be in Paris though, because Lynch isn't wrestling in a city like Birmingham. Bella says that no matter how great

Lynch is, the Bella name will always be more famous. As I try to digest how dumb that statement is, a brawl is teased with Lynch bailing out to the floor. The feud is fine, but this was a good illustration of why Bella shouldn't be talking for long stretches. It felt like a heel promo from the heroine and that's a weird way to go.

CM Punk talks about LA Knight calling him hungry. He's beyond hungry because he's obsessed with getting his title back. If he has to cripple all of them and use their blood to paint his masterpiece, so be it.

Sheamus talks about Rusev being the superstar comeback no one was asking for because Rusev has lost his passion. Things started to change though, because Rusev has been acting like his old self. Now we're getting the old Rusev and that's what Sheamus wants, but Sheamus is the one who brought it out.

Roxanne Perez vs. Rhea Ripley

Raquel Rodriguez is here too. Perez rolls away to start but Ripley hammers away in the corner. That's enough for Perez to roll outside, where she rams Ripley into the apron a few times. Back in and Ripley picks her up, with Perez bailing right back to the floor. This time Perez goes after the knee to take over and chop blocks Ripley back inside. A DDT on the knee and a Lionsault get two on Ripley and we take a break.

We came back with Rodriguez breaking up a Razor's Edge, allowing Perez to snap off a super hurricanrana. A cartwheel knee to the back of the head but Ripley is fine enough to hit the Razor's Edge. Ripley's big boot gets two but Perez goes back to the knee. Pop Rox is countered and Ripley headbutts her into Riptide for the pin at 10:40.

Rating: B. It's weird to say it but Ripley needed the win. She's been in a weird place for a long time now, as she's one of the biggest stars around but there is only so much she can do these days. Ripley was already Women's Champion for over a

year so getting the belt back only means so much. They need to find something for her to accomplish, but at least she got a win here.

Post match Perez and Rodriguez go after Ripley, with Iyo Sky running in for the save. Ripley approves.

Seth Rollins wants to see Bronson Reed crush Roman Reigns in Paris. As for tonight, Bron Breaker is making sure LA Knight doesn't make it to Paris. This is everything the Vision has dreamed of and so much more.

Iyo Sky checks on Rhea Ripley's knee and says she owed her for last week. Ripley is appreciative and leaves, with the Kabuki Warriors coming in to yell at Sky. Kairi Sane tries to calm Asuka down and Sky pleads her case but Asuka doesn't want to hear it. Asuka leaves and Sky asks Sane to trust her, but Sane says she's sorry and leaves.

AJ Styles vs. Finn Balor

Balor starts fast by kicking him out to the floor before losing a chop off in the corner. The Phenomenal Forearm is broken up and Styles crashes out to the floor and we take a break. We come back with Styles in trouble but hitting a swinging backbreaker to get a breather. The Pele Kick drops Balor and the sliding forearm connects. The backbreaker onto the knee connects but Balor is back up with a Sling Blade. Balor misses the Coup de Grace though and the Styles Clash finishes for Styles at 8:05.

Rating: B-. These two work well together as they've done this so many times over the years. The good thing is that Styles gets some momentum before what is likely going to be another Intercontinental Title shot. The Judgment Day's issues continue and that is likely going to come to a head sooner than later.

Jey Uso isn't sure who he should trust going into Clash In

Paris but Roman Reigns doesn't get why he's so unsure after all these years. Reigns says Uso has helped enough people over the years so it's time for him to smash everyone for himself. That's just Reigns' perspective though, and Uso has to go do what he thinks is right.

Bayley still has the voices in her head and now she's getting annoyed at them. The voice says "we are successful because we believe in ourselves." Then another voice complains about how the first voice is an idiot and insecure. The real Bayley tells them to both stop and gets annoyed.

Lyra Valkyria talks to Adam Pearce, saying she's worried about Bayley. Valkyria wants someone to check in on her and Pearce says he'll handle it. Judgment Day comes in, with Dominik Mysterio wanting Pearce to deal with AJ Styles. Pearce begrudgingly agrees and gives Styles an Intercontinental Title match with Mysterio next week. Finn Balor is rather pleased and Mysterio calls Pearce "Charles Xavier."

Clash In Paris rundown.

Roman Reigns jumps the Vision in the back and Superman Punches Bronson Reed. Security quickly breaks it up. LA Knight runs in to jump Bron Breaker and they brawl into the arena

LA Knight vs. Bron Breaker

We're joined in progress with Breaker in trouble in the corner as Knight stomps away. Breaker fights up and hits the rather fast running clothesline. That's enough for Breaker to finally get his shirt off and he snaps off a suplex, only to get punched in the face. Knight hits a clothesline into a Russian legsweep, followed by another clothesline to the floor. Knight's dropkick through the ropes connects but Breaker sends him into the announcers' table.

We take a break and come back with Knight fighting out of a chinlock but missing his jumping neckbreaker out of the

corner. The super Frankensteiner gets two but the spear is cut off with a kick to the face. Breaker tries what looks to be a fireman's carry but they slip a bit (Graves sounds really nervous about what that could mean), with Knight landing on his feet for a reverse DDT. Knight's superplex sets up a top rope elbow but here is Seth Rollins for a distraction. The Super Spear gives Breaker the pin at 13:40.

Rating: B-. As usual with anything involving the Vision, this was about waiting for the interference. Knight is pretty much a full fledged main eventer these days and that's nice to see, but this was another loss when he needed to get a win. Yeah he beat Rollins at Saturday Night's Main Event, but it's ok to give him another win.

Post match the beatdown is on, with Jey Uso coming in for the save. The Vision beats Uso down but CM Punk comes in for the real save. That's enough for the Vision to bail, with Rollins having to hold Breaker back. Punk, Knight and Uso get in a fight (Rollins: "They're doing it for us.") with Uso standing tall to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. I liked the overall nature of the show, which was all about getting everything ready for Paris, though there were pieces I didn't care for as much. Between Knight losing again, Bella's promo and whatever New Day is doing, there were some significant rough parts to the show. At the same time, the fans were more than enough to carry things up a notch, as they always are when the fans are overseas. Good show here, but it needed some tweaks.

Results

Dragon Lee b. JD McDonagh – Operation Dragon

Kofi Kingston b. Penta – Trouble In Paradise

Rhea Ripley b. Roxanne Perez – Riptide

AJ Styles b. Finn Balor – Styles Clash

Bron Breaker b. LA Knight – Super Spear

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Monday Night Raw – June 16, 2025: That Should Play In Green Bay

Monday Night Raw

Date: June 16, 2025

Location: Resch Center, Green Bay, Wisconsin

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves

We're coming up on Night Of Champions and tonight is about finalizing the semifinals of the King and Queen Of The Ring tournaments. The big story coming out of last week is Gunther winning the World Title back from Jey Uso, which might be for the sake of a title match against Goldberg. Let's get to it.

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

Here are Liv Morgan and Dominik Mysterio to get things going. Morgan introduces Mysterio, who says tonight is all about her. Morgan reminds us that this is her division and if you talk about it, you talk about her. Last week she heard Nikki Bella getting all of that attention, but no one paved the way for her.

Morgan became a legend on her own, but not she is demanding respect. She's getting her title back, so here is Iyo Sky to interrupt. Sky wants Morgan to shut up with her disrespect, so Morgan can have a fight right now. That's fine with Morgan, or Sky can just hand her the title right now. Sky tells her to earn it rather than stealing it like she did with Mysterio. Sky throws her the title and then hits a dropkick, followed by a kick to the back of Mysterio's head. So we're definitely getting the Bellas vs. Morgan/Raquel Rodriguez at Evolution aren't we?

Queen Of The Ring First Round: Asuka vs. Stephanie Vaquer vs. Ivy Nile vs. Raquel Rodriguez

In the back, Liv Morgan tells Rodriguez to win. This is Asuka's first match in over thirteen months. Asuka runs Nile over to start and helps Vaquer with a double superkick to drop Rodriguez. Back up and Rodriguez takes over with the raw power and we take a break. We come back with Vaquer rolling Nile up for two and hitting a snap suplex. Vaquer dragon screw legwhips Asuka down and then plants Nile, setting up the Devil's Kiss.

Rodriguez breaks that up and then breaks up the same thing to her. That's not good enough for Vaquer though, who finally gets Rodriguez down for the Devil's Kiss on the apron. Nile is back up to roll Asuka up for two, followed by a German suplex for the same. We take a break and come back with Asuka hitting a double Doomsday dropkick to put Vaquer and Asuka down. Everyone is down until it's a Vaquer vs. Asuka showdown, which has quite the aura.

Vaquer fires off the headbutts but gets caught with a running shot. A running knee to the ribs slows Asuka back down and Vaquer snaps off a suplex. Vaquer hits a double underhook facebuster for two on Asuka but Nile is in to steal a near fall. The SVB is blocked so Rodriguez boots Vaquer in the face. The Tejana Bomb connects but here is Rhea Ripley to hit

the Riptide on the floor. Asuka hits a running hip attack (the Empress Impact) to pin Rodriguez at 15:49.

Rating: B-. Asuka getting the win is a good thing to see, mainly because she has been out of action for such a long time with that injury. The great thing about someone like Asuka is she can be slotted right back into the title picture and that might be what we're seeing. If nothing else, her being able to go toe to toe with Vaquer was quite the sight, as was Ripley coming in to cost Rodriguez the match.

Post match Asuka says the fire didn't die and she's going to be the Queen Of The Ring.

We look back at Gunther defeating Jey Uso last week to regain the World Title.

Liv Morgan wants Raquel Rodriguez to come with her but Rodriguez is still banged up. Mysterio isn't happy. JD McDonagh wants Dominik Mysterio to have his back tonight, but Finn Balor says he has it. Mysterio says Balor didn't get rid of AJ Styles so Mysterio will do it. They leave and Balor gives Rodriguez a bit of a pep talk before wanting to talk to Roxanne Perez.

Here is Gunther for his big celebration after winning the World Title back last week. He is man enough to admit that Jey Uso was the better man at Wrestlemania. The fans chant for Goldberg but Gunther isn't here to talk about rumors. The reality is that Seth Rollins has the Money In The Bank briefcase so Gunther will make it easy for him: he is right here, so come get him.

And here is Goldberg, because this is something we have to do. He limps to the ring and says he's here to celebrate Gunther. The thing is though, Gunther started something with Goldberg's family in Atlanta, Georgia. Goldberg is going to finish it in Atlanta, Georgia on July 12 at Saturday Night's Main Event. Sweet goodness I cannot even pretend to care about Goldberg.

Get him in so he can get out and be gone for good already.

JD McDonagh vs. AJ Styles

Dominik Mysterio is here with McDonagh. Feeling out process to start with McDonagh taking him into the corner for a knockdown and some posing. Styles is right back with a calf Crusher attempt, sending McDonagh straight over to the ropes. Mysterio offers a distraction so Styles gives chase and we take a break.

Back with McDonagh standing on Styles' hair but getting hit in the face. The basement forearm sets up the fireman's carry onto the knee for tow. McDonagh's brainbuster gets the same but Styles fights up again. Mysterio tries a distraction but McDonagh walks into the Styles Clash for the pin at 10:45.

Rating: B-. This seems to be setting up Styles getting a title shot in the near future and that is one of those things that will work every time. Styles still has it and is getting back to his usual self now that he is in a program. The Judgment Day seems like it is about to implode as well, which should make for quite the moment.

Post match Styles goes after Mysterio but Finn Balor runs in for the save. Styles steals the Intercontinental Title.

Natalya and the Alpha Academy give Sheamus a pep talk before he faces Rusev.

Bayley is on the way to the ring as A-Town Down Under argues in the back. New Day is there too.

Here is Bayley for a chat. She is glad to be back and lets the fans give her a chant. Bayley isn't happy with Becky Lynch for costing her a Wrestlemania match. She's going to climb the ladder to get back to face Lynch so get out here right now. Cue Lynch, in a Chicago Bears jacket and shirt, saying they beat the Green Bay Packers last time. Lynch talks about how

she's always about her legacy while Bayley is always about her friends.

That's why she has surpassed Bayley, but Bayley talks about how she's willing to help some people along. Lynch took a year off and was so scared that people wouldn't care about her. That's why she attacked Bayley and stole the spot at Wrestlemania. Does Lynch remember what it's like to have to work to get something. Lynch: "Do you remember what it's like to have gold?" Bayley is ready to fight so Lynch agrees...but not here. She says see you in Columbus, and slaps Bayley in the face. Bayley drops her and Lynch leaves. Bayley is a good upgrade over Valkyria and this does feel like a high level showdown.

Jey Uso is ready to face Gunther again because they're 1-1 against each other. If that means winning the King Of The Ring tournament so be it.

AJ Styles gives the Intercontinental Title back to Nick Aldis, who says Styles has a title shot at Night Of Champions. With Styles gone, Bayley comes in and says that next week it's Bayley vs. Becky Lynch for the Women's Intercontinental Title. Aldis leaves and Bayley goes up to see Lyra Valkyria. Bayley apologizes for not getting back to her but says she was just doing what was best for the title. Valkyria doesn't seem happy but says she's coming for the title no matter what. Oh dear.

Kairi Sane vs. Liv Morgan

Sane takes Morgan down...and Morgan seems to have hurt her shoulder. The referee gets Sane off of her and the camera avoids Morgan as we take an early break. Back with the match stopped and Morgan having been helped out.

We look at CM Punk challenging John Cena last week.

Liv Morgan officially has a dislocated shoulder as commentary stalls for time.

Sami Zayn is excited about the King Of The Ring but Karrion Kross comes in for his usual taunting. Zayn thinks Kross is back here all the time because he can't back it up in the ring. That sounds like a challenge.

King Of The Ring First Round: Sheamus vs. Rusev vs. Jey Uso vs. Bronson Reed

Sheamus hammers on Reed in the corner to start but gets knocked out to the floor. Rusev stomps on Uso and goes after the tape on his ribs before going to the floor. Reed is sent into the steps but Uso is back up with a suicide dive to take Rusev out as we take a break. Back with Uso slugging away at Rusev but getting dropped by a clothesline. Reed fights back against Sheamus on the floor but Sheamus is there with the ten forearms to the chest.

Rusev runs Uso over on the floor before going back inside to slug it out with Sheamus. Reed breaks that up and we take another break. Back again with Reed knocking Uso down but Sheamus muscles Reed up for White Noise. The Accolade has Uso in trouble but Sheamus makes the save, setting up the parade of shots to the face. Reed backsplashes Sheamus for a save and hits the Tsunami, with Uso making the save.

Uso goes up but here is Bron Breakker to cut him off. Sami Zayn runs in to take Breakker out but Zayn gets thrown over the announcers' table. Penta runs out to give Breakker a flip dive and it's LA Knight breaking up Reed's Tsunami. The spear into the Superfly Splash gives Uso the pin at 16:28.

Rating: B. This got going near the end, even with a ll kinds of interference. Uso going forward to face Cody Rhodes next week should make for a major showdown, while Paul Heyman and company are going to have some scores to settle. Solid main event here, with Uso getting a needed win after last week's loss.

Post match Uso is banged up so here is Seth Rollins....and Cody

Rhodes runs in for the save. Rollins has a big staredown but leaves without anything happening. Uso and Rhodes, who are facing each other in the semifinals, stare at each other before shaking hands to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. I'm really not a big fan of having back to back pay per views with qualifying matches as the idea has been run into the ground in recent weeks. At the same time, what we got here did work well and the ending felt like an important enough staredown. Other than the Goldberg return, there was nothing overly bad here, though dang they are going to have to come up with a nifty solution to get around Morgan's injury.

Results

Asuka b. Raquel Rodriguez, Ivy Nile and Stephanie Vaquer – Empress Impact to Rodriguez

AJ Styles b. JD McDonagh – Styles Clash

Kairi Sane b. Liv Morgan via referee stoppage

Jey Uso b. Bronson Reed, Sheamus and Rusev – Superfly Splash to Reed

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Monday Night Raw – June 9, 2025: Wow Indeed

Monday Night Raw

Date: June 9, 2025

Location: PHX Arena, Phoenix, Arizona

Commentators: Michael Cole, Wade Barrett

We're done with Money In The Bank and Seth Rollins and Naomi have the briefcases. That means we could be having some cash-ins teased soon, with Gunther challenging Jey Uso for the World Title tonight being a legitimate possibility. We're also ready to start up on the King and Queen Of The Ring qualifying matches so let's get to it.

[Here is Money In The Bank if you need a recap.](#)

Various people came to work today, including Becky Lynch in a Ms. Rachel shirt (if you have young kids, that probably either makes you smile or glare).

We get a long Worlds Collide and Money In The Bank recap.

Here is John Cena, who insists on his special entrance. Cena says that the fans teach him something every time they open their mouths. At Money In The Bank, Cena learned that the truth is a lie. The fans wanted a sideshow comedian whose greatest achievement is pretending to be him. These people are all spineless keyboard warriors and armchair activists with no real power to change anything.

R-Truth is a gimmick that the fans will spit out in a year and not care about at all. This is his farewell tour and he has limited time left. We run down the number of dates he has left, which leaves him at 19. If you want to accomplish something, send him competition instead of the class clown. Every time someone has come to him, he has shut their mouth

and beaten his best...and here is CM Punk to interrupt.

Punk asks if Cena is comfortable because he has a lot to say. He's comfortable with having this conversation with his fists but one way or another, he'll get through this. Punk thinks it's ironic that Cena wants to ruin wrestling and Punk is the one defending the establishment. That's not what he's doing, because he isn't standing for TKO or defending the billionaires. Instead, he's here to defend the people. Is Cena mad because he was picked by the establishment but not the people?

Cena has said that he hasn't had real competition, but he's stolen the title from the best WWE has. Punk is here because the people are his boss and if they want the truth, they're going to get Ron Killings. They are all just spokes on the wheel and it's time Cena learned that too. That starts by Punk taking the title from Cena's shoulders. Remember when they locked up at Elimination Chamber?

Punk felt it then, just like when Seth Rollins gave him a Stomp. Cena said I'M SORRY because he knows what he's doing is wrong. That title is corrupting him and even though Punk didn't want to get it when he came here. Now though, Punk is going to have to become the monster to stop the monster. Punk counts 18 dates left after tonight and he'll let Cena pick the date he takes the title from him.

If Cena is more Boston Red Sox than New York Yankees, he'll do it tonight. Cena says Punk is on but not here, because Punk is going to have to follow him to Saudi Arabia at Night Of Champions (Punk has been VERY vocal about not wanting to do those shows). Punk seems in but here are Seth Rollins and company to hold up the briefcase.

There was a lot going on here but anything involving Cena and Punk together is a great way to go. At the same time, Punk feels like someone who could take the title from Cena given

their history together. I do like the idea of tying it in with Punk's known issues about Saudi Arabia, so the whole thing has a few different angles at the same time.

AJ Styles vs. Chad Gable

The Creeds are here with Gable. Feeling out process to start until Styles hits the drop down into the dropkick to send Gable outside. Gable is ready for a dive though and takes out the legs as we take a break. Back with Styles getting in a shot of his own but a nasty German suplex puts him back down. The top rope headbutt gives Gable two but Styles catches him on the top. That's fine with Gable who gets the ankle lock, which is reversed into a quick Styles Clash for the pin at 7:57.

Rating: C+. It's good to see Styles getting a win and for once, there is something reassuring about what is next for Gable. It made for a nice opener, even though they didn't have much time to set things up. Styles could be getting ready to go after the Intercontinental Title and that means he needs some wins like this one.

Roxanne Perez comes up to Liv Morgan in the back to pitch an alliance to help win the Women's Title for Judgment Day. Morgan isn't interested and blows her off.

Queen Of The Ring First Round: Liv Morgan vs. Rhea Ripley vs. Roxanne Perez vs. Kairi Sane

Ripley picks up Morgan to start but gets knocked down, with Sand taking down Morgan and Perez at the same time. Ripley gets back up for the staredown but Morgan breaks it up. Perez saves Morgan, who gets kicked in the head by Ripley. The Riptide is broken up by Perez and Ripley is sent out to the floor.

Sane gets tossed onto her for the big crash and we take a break. Back with Morgan hitting a Codebreaker on Ripley and

taking Sane up top. Ripley powerbombs the villains down but walks into a top rope forearm from Sane. Back up and Sane hits a quick sitout Stunner for two on Ripley with Morgan and Perez making the save.

Sane is kicked to the floor but Ripley pulls herself up and goes after Perez and Morgan. Ripley headbutts sane and blocks Morgan's Oblivion. Riptide connects but Raquel Rodriguez breaks up the pin. Sane dives onto both of them and then drops the Insane Elbow on Morgan...but Perez steals the pin at 12:48.

Rating: B. As much as I never need to see that "steal the pin" ending again, this was a heck of a match with quite a bit of action throughout. Perez going forward is a smart way to advance both her status on the main roster and the issues with Judgment Day. At the same time, Ripley needs something fresh, as she is starting to feel pretty ice cold. As hard as that might be to fathom, that needs to change.

Video on Worlds Collide.

Video on Nikki Bella.

Bella introduces herself to various women backstage and exchanges terms of respect with Kairi Sane.

Here is Becky Lynch for a chat. She isn't sure where her YOU DESERVE IT chants are and lists off her various accomplishments. Lynch has raised the status of the Intercontinental Title just by winning it. On Saturday, Lyra Valkyria injured Lynch's shoulder and Lynch, just trying to finish their issues, asked Valkyria to put the title on her waist. Then that crazy bird lady tried to kill her!

Lynch wants Valkyria out here to raise her hand properly so here is Valkyria, who Lynch says has that crazy look in her eyes again. Cue the returning Bayley from behind to jump her, sending Lynch bailing. That's a good way to go as Bayley is a fresh opponent for Lynch, which Valkyria was cheated out of

the title.

Commentary argues about what they just saw but R-Truth climbs onto the announcers' table. Killings says don't let anyone ever tell you that you don't matter. They heard and they understood so he is back because of these people. He's back and while the people love R-Truth, he can be funny all the time. Or too forgiving all the time, but not him.

He's not a side show or a gimmick...and he takes some scissors out to cut his hair off. The truth has set him free and he is Ron The Truth Killings, so put some respect on his name. And with that he walks out through the crowd. I have no idea what is next for him, but it better be something special after a pretty awesome promo that showed a VERY different side of Killings.

Finn Balor isn't sure why Dominik Mysterio is getting a match in the King Of The Ring. Mysterio makes sure Balor is cool with it, with JD McDonagh saying he and Balor are going to win the Tag Team Titles. Roxanne Perez comes in to celebrate her own win but Liv Morgan and Raquel Rodriguez come in to not be pleased with her. Balor approves. As the clubhouse continues to turn.

Video on Mr. Iguana from AAA.

Seth Rollins give Bron Breaker a pep talk before his match.

King Of The Ring First Round: Dominik Mysterio vs. Sami Zayn vs. Bron Breaker vs. Penta

Non-title. Penta and Mysterio go to the floor to start, leaving Zayn to hammer on Breaker in the corner. Breaker is right back up with a running clothesline to Mysterio and we take a break. Back with Breaker suplexing Penta so all three others go after Breaker at the same time. Mysterio's rollup gets two on Penta but Zayn is back up for the corner climbing tornado DDT.

Zayn dives onto Breakker on the floor so Penta dives onto Zayn, setting up Mysterio's suicide DDT. Breakker hits his clothesline off the apron to crush Mysterio and we take another break. Back again with Breakker running the corner for a super Frankensteiner and then catching Penta with a jumping knee.

Breakker's gorilla press is countered into a DDT for two and Mysterio is back in. Zayn gets caught with Two Amigos but reverses the third into a Blue Thunder Bomb for his own near fall. Back up and Penta sacrifices Zayn's arm and hits the Penta Driver, with Mysterio stealing the two. Breakker is back up and takes the straps down, allowing him to run around the ring to spear Penta. Cue LA Knight of all people with a BFT to Breakker, leaving Zayn to exploder Mysterio into the corner. The Helluva Kick gives Zayn the pin on Mysterio at 17:06.

Rating: B-. This got a lot of time and while it felt really similar to the four way for the Intercontinental Title at Wrestlemania (which only had Finn Balor in Zayn's place), Zayn winning was a surprise. The match felt like it was designed for Breakker to win as he is known to smash through almost anyone. Zayn winning the whole thing is certainly an option and that is quite the interesting option.

AJ Styles isn't happy with Seth Rollins sending Paul Heyman to threaten him last week. If you threaten Styles, he'll hit you in the mouth and he'll go tell Rollins that himself.

New Day is not happy with being asked who is next for their Tag Team Titles. Instead you should be thanking God for them being champions.

Video on Asuka, who is back next week after about a year away. I'm hoping this wasn't meant to be a surprise as her name was listed in the graphics earlier in the night.

Here is Nikki Bella to thank us for having her back. She gets to the point, which is Evolution II taking place next month.

Bella talks about the various women who will be around for the show and all of the talent we have here (including Stephanie "Vaquay"), which brings out a furious Liv Morgan. She isn't happy with Bella not mentioning her and goes off about all of her accomplishments.

Morgan knows that Bella is scared of her because Morgan would have beaten her if Bella was still around. Morgan brings up that at least she has a man, unlike Bella. That makes Bella laugh, and she asks who Morgan's man belongs to. Bella goes to leave but comes back when Morgan calls her a reality Diva. The Oblivion leaves Bella laying. Bella being in the ring again at Evolution seems like a layup, and it wouldn't stun me to see her sister show up to try and win the Women's Tag Team Titles.

John Cena vs. CM Punk is set for Night Of Champions.

Raw World Title: Jey Uso vs. Gunther

Gunther is challenging. Uso starts fast and tries some early sleepers, with Gunther bailing to the floor as we take an early break. Back with Uso hitting a high crossbody but coming up favoring his ribs, which gives Gunther a target. Gunther rips Uso's shirt off and goes after the bad ribs with some knees to the back. A suplex drops Uso again and it's time to rip the tape off as well. They go to the floor with a German suplex dropping Uso again and we take another break.

Back again with Uso winning a battle over a suplex and striking away. The enziguri rocks Gunther again and they go to the apron, with Uso knocking Gunther out to the floor. Gunther pulls him down again though and tries the top rope splash, which hits raised knees. Back in and the spear sets up the Superfly Splash for two on Gunther, leaving them both down.

The powerbomb is countered into a hurricanrana and Uso hits a superkick. Uso gets the sleeper but gets caught with a backbreaker. Gunther's powerbomb gets two and he hits his own spear for two. Uso can't get the sleeper but he can hit a

spear. The Superfly Splash misses and Gunther grabs a choke, even pulling it back to the middle.

Usó fights up but gets pulled back down, with Gunther letting go for some reason. Back up and Usó grabs his own sleeper, which is countered into the elbows to the head. Gunther elbows him in the head and gets the sleeper again to finally finish Usó and win the title at 22:01.

Rating: B-. They were really starting to get me here, but then the sleepers just kept going and took a lot of the energy out of the thing. That being said, I was rather stunned by the ending, as it felt like a situation where something big was going to happen to end the match. Instead, Gunther just won clean in a major moment. I'm not sure where this is leading, but there are certainly options available. Just try to find something other than the sleeper whenever we get there.

Gunther celebrates to end the show.

Overall Rating: A-. Sweet goodness what a show. You had some very good action, some great talking and a major title change to wrap it up. This was one of the times where the show felt red hot again and has me wondering what is going to happen next. That isn't a feeling that happens very often and dang did it work here. Awesome show, both for tonight and for the future.

Results

AJ Styles b. Chad Gable – Styles Clash

Roxanne Perez b. Rhea Ripley, Liv Morgan and Kairi Sane – Rollup to Sane

Sami Zayn b. Dominik Mysterio, Penta and Bron Breaker – Helluva Kick to Mysterio

Gunther b. Jey Usó – Sleeper

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Monday Night Raw – May 5, 2025: The Numbers Don't Add Up

Monday Night Raw

Date: May 5, 2025

Location: CHI Health Center, Omaha, Nebraska

Commentators: Michael Cole, Pat McAfee

It's the last Raw before Backlash and that is quite the speedy turnaround from Wrestlemania. There are only a few matches set for the pay per view so there is a good chance to see something else added here. If nothing else, we'll get to see what Seth Rollins and company have going on so let's get to it.

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

We open with a long recap of last week, with Bron Breakker wrecking Sami Zayn on Seth Rollins' orders.

Here is Jey Uso, who comes through the crowd with some kids, which will always work. He gets right to the point by calling out Logan Paul but gets Paul Heyman instead. Heyman says he isn't here to disrespect Uso but Uso talks about how Heyman has a lot of nerves to come out here after what Heyman did to his family. Heyman finds it interesting to hear that coming

from Uso after what he did to Roman Reigns. Where was everyone to warn Heyman about what was going to happen to him?

Heyman blames CM Punk for the betrayal at Wrestlemania and, after complaining about the CM PUNK chants, talks about Punk putting him in a no win situation. That brings him to Reigns, who was still playing high school football when Heyman and Punk got together. What did Reigns think he was going to do? Sell his secrets to Punk? Heyman turned Reigns into the Tribal Chief and the two of them were the Undisputed WWE Champion for over 1000 days, but it was Reigns who lost the title.

Then Reigns left him with Solo Sikoa, Jacob Fatu and those Tongans! Reigns finally came back, but it wasn't to avenge Heyman, but rather to get his ula fala back. Everyone wants to blame Heyman (who is SCREAMING this stuff) but this time, he is in the right and SCREW EVERYONE ELSE. Uso: "Are you ok?" He wants to know what this has to do with him, which sends Heyman into a speech about how Uso doesn't understand what it means to be champion.

Uso does not know what power that title brings and Seth Rollins needs it. Stage one is what has happened so far, but stage two is taking that title (Uso looks...sad?). Uso gets to pick the date he loses the title, because Rollins is officially challenging him for the title. Heyman goes to leave but Uso calls him back. If it's anyplace, anytime, we'll do it tonight (Heyman's eyes bug out at this). Good stuff here, with Heyman bringing the emotion and setting up the title shot while also making Uso feel like a big time fighting champion.

We look back at JD McDonagh's return last week (with Michael Cole making a mistake and saying the War Raiders retained the Tag Team Titles).

Paul Heyman goes to see Seth Rollins and Bron Breakker, and says he can't believe Jey Uso fell for it. Rollins says he told Heyman it would happen before leaving. Heyman explains

Rollins' recent efforts and how Uso isn't ready for him tonight. When Rollins wins tonight, they get the keys to the kingdom.

Penta vs. JD McDonagh

Judgment Day is here too as McDonagh grabs an armdrag to start. Back up and Penta strikes away in the corner, including a kick to the leg. McDonagh chops his way out of trouble and they go to the apron, where Penta scores with a jumping enziguri. A Balor distraction lets McDonagh come back with a Death Valley Driver though and we take a break.

Back with McDonagh getting crotched against the post, setting up a dropkick to the head. Penta chops away and hits a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker for two before diving onto an interfering Carlito. Finn Balor gets in a shot but gets caught, meaning it's a double ejection. Cue Chad Gable to crotch Penta on top, earning himself a big flip dive. McDonagh hits a jawbreaker but misses the moonsault, allowing Penta to grab the Canadian Destroyer for the pin at 10:54.

Rating: C+. They did a nice job here with making Penta look like a star. He got a win here and survived a few bits of interference to make it happen. That's a fine way to go and hopefully they keep it going for the next few weeks, as Penta can become a bigger deal in a hurry. If nothing else, there is a good chance he'll be challenging Dominik Mysterio for the Intercontinental Title sooner rather than later and that's a good way for him to go.

Grayson Waller is pleading his case to Adam Pearce and offers the match to Austin Theory instead. Theory agrees and gets the match, but Waller won't say who isn't against.

Austin Theory vs. Sheamus

I had been wondering what happened to Sheamus. Theory, who does not seem happy with Grayson Waller, gets shoved into the

corner to start, allowing Sheamus to fire off some uppercuts. A nice dropkick gives Theory a breather but Sheamus hits him in the face. Sheamus grabs a pair of Irish Curses and puts on the Cloverleaf, with Theory making the rope, right in front of a less than interested Waller.

Sheamus comes off the top with a shot to the head and we take a break. Back with Sheamus missing a charge into the post and getting caught with a Blockbuster for two. They go up top where Sheamus hits a super White Noise, followed by the ten forearms to the chest. The Brogue Kick finishes for Sheamus at 9:39.

Rating: C+. This was Sheamus doing what he does best, as he was out there beating Theory up until he finished him off. That's something that has worked for him for a long time now and it's nice to have him back. If nothing else, there is something fun about seeing Waller and Theory have issues but winding up staying together because they're they only people who would have the other.

Penta is getting an Intercontinental Title shot at Backlash.

JD McDonagh isn't happy with his loss but Dominik Mysterio isn't interested. Cue AJ Styles to say this place isn't hard to find, but he's coming for the winner of the title match at Backlash. Styles leaves and Mysterio talks about everyone coming for the title. He suggests Finn Balor deal with Styles, but Balor isn't pleased with the idea. Or he's just kidding so it's fine.

New Day comes up to Chad Gable and suggests a mutually beneficial agreement about dealing with the War Raiders. Becky Lynch comes up and New Day doesn't like what happened to her last week.

Here is Lynch for a chat. She doesn't like being told she sucks because she should be thanked for taking out the garbage. Then she took out the recycling, which is what Lyra

Valkyria is. Valkyria is slightly better than garbage but still worthless. The reality is that Valkyria owes everything to her, so here is Valkyria to interrupt. Valkyria says Lynch is the queen of recycling as she has done the same things over and over. The reality is that Lynch went on holidays and everyone else got better, including Valkyria, who is now a champion.

Valkyria has had more title defenses than says Lynch has shown up to work this year. Lynch goes into a rant about being the best ever, even citing Sports Illustrated. Valkyria lists off Lynch's accomplishments, but it doesn't include being the first Women's Intercontinental Champion. As long as Valkyria is here, Lynch better like second place. The brawl is on and security can't break it up. Lynch gets away and rants about disrespect, only to get caught in Nightwing to leave her laying. Valkyria is trying here but it's hard to imagine that she retains the title over a star like Lynch.

Roxanne Perez vs. Iyo Sky

Non-title. Sky flips away a few times to start and Perez doesn't seem to know what to do. A dropkick sends Perez outside but she comes back in with a nice dropkick to the leg. Perez works on the leg but Sky is back up with a heck of a suicide dive and we take a break. Back with Sky winning an exchange of forearms and hitting a flapjack.

A kick to the head gives Sky two but the leg starts giving out. Sky is fine enough to hit a quick double stomp for two but Over The Moonsault misses. The leg is hurt again and a faceplant into a cartwheel knee to the neck gives Perez two. They go into a rather fast pinfall reversal sequence until Sky gets a rollup for the pin at 10:11.

Rating: B. The women's division continues to feel stacked with talent and that was on display again here. Perez is starting to fit in around here and I could go for seeing what is next

for her. At the same time, Sky is rapidly reaching the top level of the division (if she isn't already there). Good match here, with that ending sequence being quite the back and forth.

We actually get a show of respect after the match but Giulia runs in to jump Sky. That has Perez beating Sky down as well, with commentary pointing out that Rhea Ripley is in Australia so there is no one to make a save.

Otis vs. Rusev

They collide to start and no one goes anywhere, but some running shots stagger Rusev. A jumping spinwheel kick drops Otis though and we take a break. Back with Otis dropping Rusev over the announcers' table but Rusev is back up. A big kick hits the post though and Rusev is in more trouble. They get back in, where Rusev drops him again with a superkick, setting up the Accolade for the win at 6:27.

Rating: C+. Remember Rusev? Well he's back, once again as a monster heel. That is something that could go somewhere but WWE is going to need to come up for something for him. Facing the Alpha Academy needs to be something short term, though I'm not sure who is next for him after that. For now though, nice return, with Rusev looking like a killer.

Post match Akira Tozawa comes after Rusev, earning both Tozawa and Otis another beating. Tozawa gets powerbombed onto Otis and another Accolade ensues.

Adam Pearce brings Pat McAfee into the ring to address the Gunther situation. Gunther comes out as well, wearing street clothes because McAfee isn't that important to him. Gunther promises to keep this professional, unlike Michael Cole, but he does not appreciate the YOU TAPPED OUT chants. McAfee puts over Cole as a legend and since Gunther had to attack a 60 year old man, so he'll give Gunther his opinion about him.

Hold on though as McAfee has to put over the city of Omaha for a good while before talking about how the two of them grew up watching all the wrestling they could. McAfee grew up as a huge wrestling fan, dreaming that he could one day get in the ring. For Gunther, it's become a job after twenty years but for McAfee, it's still the biggest thrill. On Saturday, McAfee is going to prove that this version of Gunther is soft.

After some staring, Gunther asks if McAfee enjoyed his daughter's birthday last week. That must have been a special day, and now Backlash is going to be a special day for Gunther. It's his first match since Wrestlemania and he is going to be more focused than ever before. Gunther promises to destroy him once and for all, but for tonight, he's safe.

If they do this the right way, everything should be fine on Saturday, as McAfee can get in some shots, preferably with the big kick, before Gunther gets to crush him for good. McAfee is fired up about this, but his promos are going on rather long each time and that's not helping as much as it could.

We look back at John Cena vs. Randy Orton in their I Quit match at Breaking Point.

Raw World Title: Seth Rollins vs. Jey Uso

Rollins, with Bron Breaker and Paul Heyman, is challenging. We get the Big Match Intros before Rollins takes him down with a crucifix for two. Rollins knocks him down again and it's time to shove each other around a bit. Uso knocks him to the floor and Rollins needs a bit of a breather. Back in and Rollins gets in another knockdown, only to be sent outside as well. The big suicide dive connects for Uso and we take a break.

Back with Uso knocking him off the top but they both hit crossbodies. Uso wins a slugout and hits a Samoan drop, followed by a running Umaga Attack in the corner. Back up and Rollins knocks him to the floor for a dive, only to get

superkicked out of the air for two back inside. They're both down for the THIS IS AWESOME chants but Rollins is back up with the buckle bomb. The frog splash misses though and Rollins counters the spear into a Pedigree for two.

The Stomp misses and Uso gets a sleeper (how he won the title), which is broken rather quickly. Uso is back up with the spear for two so he goes up, only for a distraction to let Breakker get in a crotching. The superplex into the Falcon Arrow drops Uso and the Stomp (or most of one) gets two.

Cue Sami Zayn to go after Breakker, allowing Uso to hit a spear into the Superfly Splash for...two. Breakker spears Zayn down and Uso goes to check on him, allowing Breakker to hit a spear on Uso as well. Back in and a Stomp connects...but CM Punk is back. After taking Breakker out with a chair, Punk chairs Rollins down for the DQ at 19:30.

Rating: B. I wasn't sure where this was going but they had a good match before they went to the right ending with Punk returning. I was worried they would have one of them take a fall here and that was a terrible idea. They did a nice job here, though I'm not sure how the numbers game is going to workout. Right now it's Punk/Zayn/Uso vs. Rollins and Breakker, with Roman Reigns still to come back to uneven things even more. That opens up some interesting options and with Heyman talking, everything should go well.

Post match the beating stays on until the villains run to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. This show did a good job of making me want to see where things are going. You had a nice return with Sheamus, some solid action, and a big moment in the end with Punk coming back to get revenge. There are good things taking place on this show week to week, even if it feels far too early for another pay per view with Backlash. For now though, another strong show here, with pieces that make me want to

come back next week, which is incredibly important.

Results

Penta b. JD McDonagh – Canadian Destroyer

Sheamus b. Austin Theory – Brogue Kick

Iyo Sky b. Roxanne Perez – Rollup

Rusev b. Otis – Accolade

Seth Rollins b. Jey Uso via DQ when CM Punk interfered

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Bad Blood 2024: Thank You Cell

Bad Blood 2024

Date: October 5, 2024

Location: State Farm Arena, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves

For reasons I'm still not clear on, Bad Blood is back after a twenty year hiatus. In this case it's once again about the Cell, with Drew McIntyre and CM Punk being locked inside to presumably wrap up their feud for good. Other than that, Cody Rhodes and Roman Reigns are teaming up to face the Bloodline.

Let's get to it.

The opening video is a mini movie with HHH and Cody Rhodes in a parking lot talking about their plans for the evening, with HHH saying text Roman Reigns if you get in trouble. Then Rhodes and someone named Metro are sitting in a car watching the arena, apparently for the last several weeks. After a look at the bigger matches, Rhodes and Metro agree that it's time and go inside. This was...certainly a thing.

Rhodes and Metro (last name Boomin) arrive in a banged up Ford.

Here are your hosts for the evening: Bianca Belair, Jade Cargill and Naomi. Their offering at the moment: announcing that the Cell is lowering.

Drew McIntyre vs. CM Punk

Inside the Cell. They take their time staring at each other until McIntyre knocks him into the corner and hammers away. McIntyre sends him outside but gets whipped into the Cell to give Punk a breather. A table is pulled out but McIntyre knocks him down and grabs a wrench from a toolbox. The big shot only hits post though so McIntyre rips the legs off a table. Punk takes them away and chokes before sending McIntyre back first onto the bottom of the table.

They head back outside where McIntyre hits a quick Claymore for a needed breather. Punk is busted open and McIntyre certainly seems to like that. The steps to the head have Punk in more trouble and McIntyre says Punk's wife is going to leave him. Back in and the wrench is dug into the cut on Punk's head before another table is pulled in. Punk manages a running knee in the corner though and goes up top for an ax handle to the head.

A top rope wrench to the head is countered into a suplex to send Punk flying as the fans approve. The threat of a Claymore

sends Punk outside, where he finds a toolbox to bash McIntyre in the head (the blood is gushing, with Graves making a Muta Scale reference). Two more toolbox shots to the head have McIntyre rocked and the GTS...sends him rolling out to the floor. Back in and Punk grabs a not exactly great Sharpshooter but McIntyre gets in a wrench shot.

We actually pause for the referee to wipe the blood off of McIntyre's face and they slug it out again. McIntyre gets the better of things and suplexes Punk off the apron and through a table. It's McIntyre up first but he has a lot of trouble getting the steps inside the ring. The delay lets Punk hit a quick GTS for two and they're both down again. McIntyre is able to come back with White Noise onto the steps for two and another double down.

Punk manages a quick Anaconda Vice but McIntyre grabs the wrench...which Punk takes away and smashes onto McIntyre's head. McIntyre begs off and catches Punk with a low blow to put them down again. Back up and McIntyre pours a bag of beads, like in the bracelet, onto Punk's head. The Claymore is loaded up but McIntyre misses and lands BACK FIRST ONTO THE EDGE OF THE STEPS for the terrifying crash (I'm hoping he accidentally left it short because if that was the plan that man needs help.). Punk pours the beads into McIntyre's mouth and hits the GTS (with a chain around his knee) for the win at 31:15.

Rating: A. Sweet goodness that was a war and Punk survived rather than won. After that, you almost have to imagine Punk gets into the World Title scene sooner than later, as there isn't much else for him to do at the moment. As for the match, they did some good stuff with the wrenches to make it feel all the more violent and bloodthirsty. What matters here though is they wrapped up the feud with a fight befitting the Cell, which hasn't always been the case for a long time.

Post match Punk slams the door and walks out but collapses in the aisle, with the medics coming out to give him oxygen. Punk

pulls that off and walks out again.

We recap Bayley challenging Nia Jax for the Smackdown Women's Title. Jax beat her for the title at Summerslam and Bayley wants the title back. Tiffany Stratton is lurking around with the Money In The Bank briefcase.

We go to the VIP suite where the hosts talk about various legends who are in the background and awkwardly talk about the rest of the show.

Smackdown Women's Title: Bayley vs. Nia Jax

Jax is defending and they run around a bit first, only for Jax to hit a hard clothesline. The running hip attack in the corner sets up a leglock of all things and even commentary isn't sure what to make of that. Bayley gets up and slides between legs before sending Jax outside. A slingshot legdrop hits Jax but it's too early for a suicide dive. Instead Bayley hits a baseball slide dropkick and hammers away on the floor but the suicide dive only kind of bounces off of Jax.

Back in and Jax runs her over, only for Bayley to break up the Annihilator. Bayley's powerbomb out of the corner is countered into something like a hurricanrana (ok more like Jax pulled her forward but that could have been worse). A Bayley To Belly plants Bayley for two but Bayley is back with a sunset bomb, with Jax landing on Bayley's leg in the process. The top rope elbow hits Jax, who bails out to the floor for a breather.

Back in and Jax runs her over again, only to charge into a Samoan drop of all things to give Bayley two. Jax crushes the referee though...and it's Tiffy Time. Stratton drops Bayley with the briefcase and wakes up the referee, but Jax does an Undertaker situp. That's enough for Stratton to bail, only for her to throw the briefcase at Bayley for a distraction. Jax plants Bayley and hits the Annihilator for the pin at 14:12.

Rating: C-. This really didn't work as Jax was trying some

different things but couldn't make them go well. It didn't help that Bayley felt like a lame duck challenger throughout and the cash-in tease was treated as a bigger deal. They both need to move on, though I'm not sure who is supposed to be next to come after Jax's title.

Xavier Woods gets to play a Dragon Ball game early.

We recap Finn Balor vs. Damian Priest. Balor turned on Priest at Summerslam and kicked him out of Judgment Day so Priest has been on a path of revenge, leading up to tonight.

Finn Balor vs. Damian Priest

Priest chops him hard into the corner and then punches him in another as the beating is on in a hurry. Balor gets in a shot of his own though and fires off the Kawada kicks, followed by some jumping stomps. Priest pops right back up for the big staredown, only for Balor to elbow him back down. Back up and a right hand rocks Balor so hard that commentary is nearly cringing, but Balor is able to grab a spinning Russian legsweep for a near fall.

Priest hits some more loud right hands, setting up a spinning kick to the head and a clothesline for two. The Pele kick gives Balor a breather but Priest is right back with a Razor's Edge to send Balor outside. Something close to a Pounce sends Balor onto the announcers' table and Priest drops him onto the apron.

Cue Carlito for a distraction though, allowing JD McDonagh to come in for a cheap shot. The Coup de Grace gets two and Priest takes out the rest of the team. South Of Heaven is countered into a rollup for two and Balor hits a top rope double stomp to the back. That doesn't work either though and Priest hits South Of Heaven for the pin at 12:50.

Rating: C+. This was ok enough but not exactly great, with Priest just shrugging off the interference and winning. That's

the way the ending should have gone, but it was never exactly a dramatic match on the way there. I'm not sure what is next for Priest, though it's hard to imagine Judgment Day being big time players that much longer from this point.

Here is HHH for a big announcement, complete with a pedestal labeled Crown Jewel and something covered up. HHH talks about his time in WCW when he was "terra ryzing" WCW and here are are with 16,092 in attendance. In four weeks, WWE will be returning to Saudi Arabia for Crown Jewel in the beginning of a new era.

There will be an annual event at Crown Jewel, where the two World Champions (both men and women) will face off in non-title matches. However, there will be a definitive winner for both, with the winner being named the Crown Jewel Champion, which is the title underneath the sheet (and is gigantic).

Cue Gunther to interrupt, saying he's looking forward to winning the title in four weeks. Gunther laughs off the idea of Sami Zayn taking the title from him on Monday before moving on to the legends who are already here. This would mean Goldberg, who really isn't one of Gunther's childhood heroes. How could anyone be impressed with a one trick pony like Goldberg? Gunther looks over at Goldberg's son and says he hopes Goldberg is a better father than he is a wrestler. Goldberg comes over the barricade and security breaks it up, only for Sami Zayn to run in and brawl with Gunther to the back. HHH and Goldberg pose.

There was a lot here and neither of it is overly positive. This is the same thing they did with the Battle For Brand Supremacy for years and all that does is make one champion look weak. I'm sure the Saudis requested something like this so WWE is stuck but that doesn't make it much better. Other than that...sweet goodness can we just move on from Goldberg against these big stars? Have him beat up some midcard goof (Finn Balor or someone) and get his nostalgia pop so we can

not have to sit through another wasted World Title match.

Various legends are here.

Back to the VIP suite where Chelsea Green shows up and smells bad. Piper Niven is willing to stay though.

Raw Women's Title: Rhea Ripley vs. Liv Morgan

Ripley is challenging and Dominik Mysterio is locked in a shark cage. Hold on though as Ripley says Dominik is scared of heights too so raise that cage! Ripley knocks her to the floor to start but gets sent into the steps after looking up at Dominik for a bit too long. A dragon screw legwhip over the ropes keeps Ripley in trouble and it's a half crab to make it worse.

That's broken up and Ripley slugs away, only to have her leg taken out again. The leg is rammed into the apron and a spinning kick to the head staggers Ripley. Morgan hits a sunset bomb into the barricade and a middle rope Codebreaker connects back inside. Oblivion is broken up with a roll through (would have been better without the bad leg), only for Morgan to snap off a crucifix bomb for two more.

Ripley is back up with a toss powerbomb but Dominik has managed to open the shark cage door. The frog splash sets up the Prism Trap but Morgan rolls out to the floor. Morgan gets sent into the barricade, followed by the Riptide on the outside. Dominik teases climbing down...but winds up hanging upside down by his foot. Rather than finishing Morgan, Ripley grabs a kendo stick and, after wishing herself a happy birthday, beats on him with the stick. Cue Raquel Rodriguez of all people to jump Ripley for the DQ at 14:30.

Rating: C-. That ending was all kinds of messy and it hurt things badly, though they weren't doing well in the first place. At the end of the day, it's just not that easy to buy Morgan as a threat against Ripley, even if Ripley is hurt.

Rodriguez should be a lot better as she can match up physically with Morgan, but they need to let Ripley get the win, crush Dominik, and move WAY on because this feud is running out of steam in a hurry.

Post match Rodriguez puts Morgan on top of Ripley, presumably for a pin, which makes me wonder if the DQ wasn't the planned finish.

We recap Roman Reigns/Cody Rhodes vs. the Bloodline. Reigns and Rhodes are sick of them and are teaming up to get rid of them, with Reigns saying he's coming for the title after it's over.

Bloodline vs. Cody Rhodes/Roman Reigns

Rhodes is played to the ring by the Arkansas Pine Bluff marching band, who played his song during a college football game a few weeks back. Not to be outdone, Reigns has his own band playing him out. Cody and Fatu start things off with the early Disaster Kick being shrugged off. It's (slowly) off to Reigns vs. Siko, with Reigns hammering away in the corner.

Siko headbutts him down but gets clotheslined outside, meaning Fatu comes in to glare at Reigns. That's enough of a distraction for Siko to deck Reigns and start the headbutting. Siko hits the running Umaga Attack, followed by Fatu hitting his own. Fatu misses a charge and goes head first into the post though and it's back to Rhodes for the Flip Flop and Fly. The Cody Cutter puts Fatu down but a Siko distraction lets him come back with a pop up Samoan drop.

Things slow back down with Fatu getting to hammer away, including a double wishbone with Siko. Fatu grabs a nerve hold to keep Rhodes in trouble and then does it again for a bonus. Rhodes fights up and manages to drop Fatu, which is enough for the tag back to Reigns for the house cleaning. The Samoan Spike is countered into a crucifix of all things to give Reigns two, followed by a Superman Punch of the same.

Rhodes whips Fatu into the steps before avoiding a charge, sending Fatu through the barricade. Some superkicks put Fatu onto the announcers' table and a splash off the post puts him through it. Now it's Reigns getting to clean house but cue the Tonga's, allowing Sikoa to hit a spear for two. Cue a guy in a hoodie to superkick the Tongas because Jimmy Uso is back. That's enough for Reigns to spear Sikoa down for the pin at 25:43.

Rating: B-. This match felt like a car that kept stalling before finally turning on just enough to get you where you needed to go. It desperately needed about eight minutes cut off as the heat segments on Rhodes weren't working. Fatu feels like a beast but Sikoa just isn't quite living up to the same hype. The Uso reveal was good and it was a nice moment, but this was a long main event at the end of a not so great show and it felt like that the whole way.

Post match Reigns and Jimmy hug and Reigns has a brief staredown with Cody before leaving. The Bloodline is back up and jumps Cody though, with Jimmy saying they should go back for the save. Reigns thinks about it before going back in and cleaning house. With the Bloodline gone, Reigns picks up the title and hands it back to Rhodes for some applause. Rhodes holds up the title...and the Rock is here (with the People's Champion belt and someone from his team reaching their arm around the edge of the screen to film it from behind). The Rock glares at Reigns, seems to count to three (I'm guessing because he pinned Cody at Wrestlemania) and walks out to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. The opener is an instant classic (partially because it was the ONLY Cell match on the card rather than one of two or three) and the main event is enough to get by, but this was a two match show and the rest of the card falls off a cliff outside of those two. Balor vs. Priest was acceptable enough, but sweet goodness those Women's Title matches did not work, with the Crown Jewel announcement being

about on the same level. It's not a terrible show, but the Cell match is the only thing worth seeing in the slightest.

Results

CM Punk b. Drew McIntyre – GTS with a chain

Nia Jax b. Bayley – Annihilator

Damian Priest b. Finn Balor – South Of Heaven

Rhea Ripley b. Liv Morgan via DQ when Raquel Rodriguez interfered

Roman Reigns/Cody Rhodes b. Bloodline – Spear to Sikoa

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