

# Monday Night Raw – April 20, 2015: The Post European Blues

## Monday Night Raw

Date: April 20, 2015

Location: Times Union Center, Albany, New York

Commentators: Booker T., John Bradshaw Layfield, Michael Cole

We're six days away from Extreme Rules and the card is all set. The main event will be Seth Rollins' first title defense as he takes on Randy Orton in a cage match with the RKO banned for Orton. As for tonight, one of the major stories will be Kane's continuing issues with the Authority, as the monster has been having issues with his bosses in the last few weeks. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Orton and Rollins earning the right to pick stipulations for the title match on last week's show.

Here's Randy Orton as a cage is lowered. He thinks Rollins screwed up with his choice because the RKO isn't his greatest weapon. Orton's best weapon is the ability to hurt people in any way that he possibly can. This Sunday, he's going to break Rollins' jaw so he can't run his mouth anymore. Then he's going to stomp Seth's ribs until they break. After that, Rollins is going to be sent into the cage so many times that every bone in his body hurts. Then and only then will Orton leave the cage as the new WWE Champion.

Cue Rollins and the Stooges with what sounds like some new music. He talks about Orton having anger issues but Randy cuts him off and says that his issues are with Seth Rollins. Seth laughs it off and says he plays this game of human chess better than anyone because he can outmaneuver anyone inside that ring. He's the best at everything here and just that much better than Orton. Seth tells him to get it out of his system and Orton thinks that's a good idea. After this segment is over, he's going to go backstage and RKO everyone he can find, including Rollins himself.

## Dean Ambrose vs. Luke Harper

You would think they would save this for Sunday. Harper actually talks on the way to the ring, saying Ambrose will fear him after tonight. The brawl is on fast to start with Harper getting caught in a bulldog, only to superkick Dean down and hammer him in the back of the head. Dean takes him outside and sends Harper into the apron and announcers' table, only to be tossed over the barricade and into the crowd. They keep fighting up the ramp and the match has been thrown out at somewhere around 2:00.

Harper loads up a powerbomb off the stage but Dean escapes and sends Harper running.

Orton and the Stooges are checking for Orton around every corner when the Prime Time Players sneak up and do the dog bark to scare them out of their wits in a funny bit. O'Neil and Noble have a quick exchange with Noble being called a Smurf before Rollins yells at a production guy. They run into HHH who says he's been hearing from Kane as he's been preparing for Tough Enough. Kane will be here later and Rollins requests some more security. HHH says Orton is just one guy and leaves.

## Lucha Dragons vs. New Day

#1 contenders match. Kofi and Cara get things going with Woods on the floor as usual. Both guys tag before anything happens and grabs Kalisto, who tries every spin he can but eventually settles for a kick to the head. A headscissors works a bit better and it's quickly off to Cara for a springboard forearm to the head for two. It's quickly back to Kofi vs. Cara and they actually do something this time with Cara armdragging Kingston but getting sent to the floor for a baseball slide to take over.

Back to Big E. who runs Cara over as we take a break. We come back to see Kofi dropkicking Cara in the face before handing it off to Big E. for some clubbing shots to the face. Cara dives over Big E. and makes the tag to Kalisto to clean house, including the headscissor driver to Kofi for two. Kofi gets backdropped to the floor, setting up stereo moonsaults to take New Day down again. Everyone tries to get back in but Woods holds Cara's foot to send New Day to Extreme Rules via countout at 9:34.

**Rating:** B-. This really got going at the end and Woods interfering was the right idea. It's going to be interesting to see heel vs. heel on Sunday but the match should be entertaining. Good stuff here though and a good showcase for the Dragons, who only lose due to the interference and the numbers game.

Post match Orton comes in and RKOs Woods and Kingston (with a slight botch as Kofi wasn't ready to be thrown into the air, so there goes his push again). Big E. runs away instead.

We recap Rusev attacking Cena to set up the Russian Chain match on Sunday.

Recap of Big Show attacking Reigns last week on Raw and his speech on Thursday to set up the Last Man Standing match on Sunday. Maybe their solution to the ratings issue is to have Big Show put everyone to sleep so they can't change the channel.

#### Fandango vs. Curtis Axel

Speaking of don't change the channel. Axel dances a bit to start but takes too long tearing off the shirt, allowing Fandango to roll him up for two. A Falcon Arrow plants Curtis and the Last Dance is good for the pin at 1:16.

Here's HHH to talk about the return of Tough Enough. A year ago, the Authority was at a crossroads. They needed to find that one man to carry the company for the next ten years and they found that man in Seth Rollins. Now it's time to find the next Seth Rollins. That search will begin right here on USA with the return of Tough Enough on June 23. Who hasn't dreamed of walking down the ramp in front of 76,000 people with the WWE Championship hanging above your head? Right now is your chance to fulfill that dream and you can do that on Tough Enough.

HHH walks us through the application process but gets cut off by Kane. "You're a little bit seasoned for Tough Enough." Kane asks why HHH hasn't responded to the voicemails, texts and emails but HHH says he's just been letting Kane cool down. It's been an honor to be Director of Operations, but Kane can't deal with the disrespect of Seth Rollins so this is his

official two weeks' notice. HHH tries to talk him down but here are Rollins and the Stooges to interrupt. Kane and Rollins start arguing again despite HHH telling them to cool it.

Kane shouts that Rollins is only champion because the Authority decided he was going to be. Would it have been different if they had recruited Dean Ambrose or El Torito? That's finally enough for HHH (a big Torito fan I guess) who makes Kane guardian of the cage door on Sunday. Seth isn't cool with this but HHH says the two of them need to get along. A tense handshake ends things.

We recap Paige winning the Divas battle royal but getting attacked by Naomi after the win.

Kane and Rollins are already arguing in the back but HHH comes up and says Kane has lost the hellfire and brimstone. Kane is going to prove him wrong tonight. Rollins smirks a bit but HHH rips him apart, saying the title doesn't make him the man. Therefore, tonight it's Rollins vs. Ziggler with Rollins getting to prove himself. Rollins likes the idea, despite almost cowering before HHH.

### Naomi vs. Brie Bella

No dancing this week. Naomi's inset interview talks about how many times she's had to beat a Bella to get her shot but constantly being told to wait her turn. Nikki sits in on commentary and talks about still being champion as Naomi slides across the mat and kicks Brie in the face. Naomi nips out of a headscissors and Nikki says she'll fight anyone anytime. Some kicks to the ribs sent Brie to the floor and the show to a break.

Back with Naomi holding a front facelock and slowly stomping Brie around the ring. We hit a chinlock before a double clothesline puts both girls down. Brie fights up and does a face comeback with a middle rope dropkick getting two. Naomi misses a high cross body but hits the Rear View for the pin at 10:01.

**Rating:** D. They're turning the Bellas face aren't they? After all the nonsense we've had to put up with from them over the last year and most of the roster wrestling circles around them, now we're supposed to cheer

for them for reasons that have yet to be explained and likely never will be explained. But they're STARS so that's what matters right?

Heath Slater tells Erick Rowan that he's accepting the open challenge for the US Title tonight. Rowan walks away and Slater is RKOed through his salad. Orton even eats some lettuce.

Here's Roman Reigns to address what happened last week. He wants to fight right now so get out here Big Show. Instead he gets Bo Dallas, who quotes Yoda from Star Wars Episode I, saying that hate leads to suffering. Reigns is suffering after losing at Wrestlemania and is kind of a bust. Despite being Captain Kevlar, Reigns is the Tim Tebow of the WWE: constantly getting chances and screwing up every time. The Superman Punch and spear destroy Dallas as you would expect. Reigns is going to take Big Show out on Sunday, and you can bo-lieve that. I forgot how much I liked Dallas.

#### Sheamus vs. Zack Ryder

Sheamus says ring the bell and kicks Ryder in the face at three seconds. He slowly turns him over and says that's too easy. Ryder deserves more than a five second match so Sheamus slowly beats him up in the corner while talking trash on the mic about how the people in this crowd don't belong in his ring.

That's a good idea actually as he throws Ryder to the floor and keeps talking about how he's the real superstar. There's another Brogue Kick on the floor and Sheamus asks about the New York fighting spirit. He loads up another Brogue Kick but Zigler runs in for a Zig Zag to send Sheamus running. It's a DQ win for Sheamus at 3:14 despite the lack of a bell. No rating for obvious reasons.

There's going to be another live Talk Is Jericho on April 30. The guest: Stephanie McMahon. Just in case you thought the Cena interview was WAY too company friendly.

Here's Cena for the Open Challenge but first he needs to explain the rules of the Russian Chain match on Sunday. He'll never give up you see. Rusev is trying to kill the fighting spirit of America but Cena is going

to get back up every time he gets knocked down. This Sunday, he's getting his hand raised and dropping the American flag to prove that Wrestlemania was a statement. As for tonight, someone can come get some but know it's going to be against a Cena who is ready to fight.

#### US Title: John Cena vs. Kane

Kane throws Cena around to start and hits the VINTAGE side slam. He kicks Cena to the floor for a nine count and slowly stomps away back inside. Kane follows up the slow stomping with a slow uppercut for two and an elbow gets the same. Cena finally comes back with the ProtoBomb but as is his custom, Kane grabs him by the throat as Cena loads up the Shuffle. Chokeslam gets two but Cena counters the tombstone into the AA for the pin at 6:18. Rollins and the Stooges chuckle in the back.

**Rating:** D. I've seen sparklers with more fire than Kane was showing here. This was five and a half minutes of slow punching before they did the finishing sequence. It doesn't help that Kane is one of the few people that can bring Cena down to a level that almost no one else can. Bad match here and hopefully the last time they use the open challenge for another story.

Bray Wyatt asks if people want money, power or respect. Most of the time it's everything, just like whomever he's talking about. That person can lift all the weights in the world, but he can never lift the weight of his personal failures. After that moment, he'll see Bray's face looking own at him. At that moment, the person will learn that everything he has done has been for nothing. Behold the new face of fear.

Post break Kane walks past HHH and snarls.

Miz says the only thing that matters is his new movie and the fact that he did it without a stunt double. Renee cuts him off and says we need to go to John Cena.

Cena was surprised by Kane answering the challenge but says the champ will be here on Sunday. Rusev jumps him with the chain and puts him in the Accolade with the chain around Cena's face.

## Miz vs. Damien Mizdow

The winner gets the Miz brand and Summer Rae is with Mizdow. Mizdow goes for the rollup early on but Miz gets away just in time. Cole talks about someone saying the Miz brand is useless. He doesn't disagree with the statement of course and just keeps going with the commentary.

Miz gets two off a small package and stomps away in the corner to take over. Mizdow comes back with the Reality Check and a discus clothesline in the corner. The low DDT gets two on Miz but neither guy can hit the Skull Crushing Finale. Summer rakes Mizdow's eyes, setting up the Skull Crushing Finale from Miz for the pin at 2:47.

Miz loads up his catchphrase but eats an RKO. JBL: "He wouldn't do that to Brad Pitt!" Booker: "He'd do it to Lorenzo Lamas!"

We run down the Extreme Rules card. Daniel Bryan vs. Bad News Barrett is subject to Bryan's health. Also added is Ambrose vs. Harper in a street fight.

Bray Wyatt asks if people want money, power or respect. Most of the time it's everything, just like whomever he's talking about. That person can lift all the weights in the world, but he can never lift the weight of his personal failures. After that moment, he'll see Bray's face looking own at him. At that moment, the person will learn that everything he has done has been for nothing. Behold the new face of fear.

## Adam Rose vs. Ryback

Rose gets in some shots before Ryback's two move combination ends this at 1:30.

The hot dog and the banana attack Ryback post match so it's a double Shell Shock. Ryback: "What did the banana say to the hot dog? Nothing because they just got Shell Shocked!"

Renee Young reads Kane some Tweets from Rollins and the Stooges about Kane being old. Kane goes into the Authority's locker room and Seth actually says he's sorry because that was supposed to be a private conversation. The Orton thing has him out of sorts so he's going to

dedicate the match with Ziggler to Kane. The camera follows Rollins and the Stooges out. Orton is watching them.

### Seth Rollins vs. Dolph Ziggler

Non-title. Rollins hammers away to start but Ziggler grabs his neckbreaker and drops the big elbow for two. A Cactus Clothesline puts both guys on the floor but Ziggler quickly throws him back inside for a suplex. Rollins catapults him into the buckle as we take a break. Back with Rollins slamming Ziggler's head onto the mat and stomping even more.

We hit the chinlock for a few moments before Dolph comes back with the running DDT for two. Rollins gets the same off an enziguri but the Buckle Bomb is countered into a sunset flip. Ziggler hits a sweet superkick for two more but Sheamus comes out for a distraction, allowing Rollins to hit the Buckle Bomb and a snap front DDT (think Christian's layout reverse DDT but with Dolph facing down) for the pin at 10:35.

**Rating:** B-. Sheamus interfering made sense but I REALLY hope that isn't the replacement for the Curb Stomp (which has apparently been banned due to the danger of head injuries). Ziggler is a good opponent for someone like Rollins as a loss to the champ doesn't hurt anyone and he can make Rollins look good in the process. Good match here but they never hit a higher gear.

Post match HHH comes out and cuts on Rollins' bragging. Seth takes the mic away and keeps talking about how he's going to take care of Orton this Sunday. As for Kane, HHH needs to stop.....something but an angry Kane cuts him off. Rollins asks the cage to be lowered and of course Orton is inside. Seth tries to run but gets pulled off the top into an RK0 to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** D+. This show did its job of setting up Extreme Rules, but it doesn't help that Extreme Rules isn't the best looking show in the world. What is there on that show that I should be looking forward to? I'll say this though: I thought the same thing going into Wrestlemania this year and was blown away so maybe they can nail it twice in a row. Tonight's show wasn't terrible but it really didn't have much to keep me interested. Too many short matches or matches that build uninteresting



angles. Hopefully Sunday is stronger, as this wasn't the best show in the world, but the post Europe show rarely works.

## Results

Dean Ambrose vs. Luke Harper went to a no contest

New Day b. Lucha Dragons via countout

Fandango b. Curtis Axel – Last Dance

Naomi b. Brie Bella – Rear View

Sheamus b. Zack Ryder via DQ when Dolph Ziggler interfered

John Cena b. Kane – Attitude Adjustment

Miz b. Damien Mizdow – Skull Crushing Finale

Ryback b. Adam Rose – Shell Shock

Seth Rollins b. Dolph Ziggler – Falling DDT

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# **Reviewing the Review: Monday Night Raw – April 13, 2015**

Maybe I can start getting these things done before the next show starts. We're firmly into the Extreme Rules build now, and by firmly into I mean we're almost to the show. Therefore we need some stipulations for the big matches but we're taped, meaning it's not likely to be the most thrilling show. Let's get to it.

Cena opened things up with the Open Challenge for the US Title and beat Bad News Barrett in a decent enough match. These two have fought so many times over the years that it's kind of hard to care anymore, but at least

the Challenges are doing their job. I'd like to see someone from NXT debut through one and hopefully they continue after Extreme Rules. Speaking of after, Rusev came out and blasted Cena with a chain to set up a Russian Chain match for the PPV. It makes sense given Rusev being involved but these matches have a high rate of suck more often than not.

Paige won a Divas Battle Royal for the #1 contendership to give the fans something to cheer. Naomi then turned heel and beat her down so Paige can go off to make a movie. They REALLY need to stop building people up and then send them away for six weeks to make a movie that 87 people might see. Or maybe they should stop with the bad movies and just do what they did before: pick a movie that is going to be seen and slap their name on it.

On top of that, as I went on about on Smackdown, who does this leave as a face Diva? Emma? Fox is acting like a heel and turns every four days anyway, the Bellas, Cameron and Naomi are confirmed heels and Paige is leaving. Are they really hoping that a returning Layla is going to be a big deal? Natalya is supposed to be a heel but wrestles like a face because her psychology is all messed up, but she's awesome. Right?

Bray Wyatt has a new target. Yeah whatever. Go win a big match already.

The Lucha Dragons beat up the Ascension because that's what they do. They did it in NXT and they're doing it on Raw. I still feel bad for Ascension but they were dead in the water months ago.

Roman Reigns came out and talked about going to Suplex City until Big Show came out to continue THE STUPIDEST FEUD IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD. Show beat him up on the props but Roman kept getting up. Indeed, it's for a last man standing match. Of all the things I'd love to grab Vince by the throat for and shout at him about, keeping Big Show in this spot is one of them. How can they possibly think that beating up Big Show over and over and over and over and over and I think you get the point by now, is going to help Reigns look like a big deal?

Orton beat Cesaro via DQ to earn the right to pick a stipulation, but then Kane came out to make sure the Tag Team Champions were hurt as much as they could and made Orton vs. both of them. As you would expect, Orton

beat both of them in one match because he could. By this point, this show was starting to make my head hurt.

Rollins yelled at Kane and teased getting him fired by the Authority. So yes, the two stories that are being built up are the Divas battle royal from last week and what seems like another Kane face turn. BECAUSE THAT CREATES RATINGS BECAUSE KANE IS BIG! LIKE BIG SHOW!!! Rollins wants Kane to lay down later. One last thing though: Rollins emasculates Kane and it seems like he's going to rise up because of it. Stephanie emasculates people and they get to stand there and take it.

Dean Ambrose beat Adam Rose to remind us that Dean Ambrose does in fact exist.

Big Show tried to talk Kane out of turning on the Authority. Bryan would do the opposite later, but Bryan brought up the Fingerpoke of Doom because we must make fun of WCW, despite a lot of the fans not even being alive for that moment. But hey, it makes Vince smile at his past accomplishments and that's what we need to do.

Fandango beat Stardust in a filler match which set up Fandango turning face and dumping Rosa. I highly doubt this is the big career saver he's needing.

Kane beat up Rollins and the Stooges before laying down for him. For the thousandth time, no one cares about Kane in this role.

Mizdow beat Miz in another short match to set up a big match later on, because that's how WWE works.

The Prime Time Players kept making fun of other tag teams. I've gone into this in depth elsewhere, but this is the best thing that has ever happened to these guys.

Ryback beat Luke Harper in yet another short match because we need time for Kane segments.

Naomi explains that she's tired of getting passed up for people like AJ. Thankfully it wasn't another IT'S ALL ABOUT ME character but my goodness this division is dying for faces. It's interesting that they keep

mentioning AJ's name.

Dolph Ziggler beat Neville in another entertaining match. This is the Mighty Mouse gimmick that everyone who didn't think the thing through was terrified of.

Rollins and Orton announced that it's going to be a cage match with the RKO banned. Ok then. Seriously that was my reaction. A brawl ended the show.

This show pretty much just came and went. There's not much going on at the moment that makes me want to see the next show, but there's a difference between being horrible and just being dull. They really need to get past the Wrestlemania rematches, but we're likely getting ready for yet another round of these matches in May. Hopefully that means a strong start to the summer, but this was really nothing worth seeing. Neville is still a high spot though and could mean something big later on. Not much to see this week, except for the dozens and dozens of Kane and Big Show fans out there.

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**John Cena's "Gimmick**

# Infringement” of Steve Austin

Are we really this bored these days?

So let me get this straight: Cena started using a springboard Stunner (allegedly due to Austin filming Broken Skull Challenge instead of Tough Enough and Vince being a vindictive old man that was annoyed at Austin for having a career outside of WWE, though that’s still pretty much speculation) and the response is that it’s gimmick infringement. I for one certainly agree.

It’s the same as Randy Orton and Diamond Dallas Page, Dean Ambrose and Mick Foley, Fandango and John Cena (who cares which way the guy is facing? It’s still a top rope legdrop) and the probably dozen guys who have used a superkick over the years and Shawn Michaels. I mean, Tyler Breeze and Alberto Del Rio are clearly ripping off Shawn Michaels.

Calling this gimmick infringement shows that wrestling fans continue to type before they think for ten seconds, as for one thing it’s not gimmick infringement but move somewhat, kind of, almost, maybe, sort of move borrowing. On the other hand, it’s not even the same move. The moves are the same as the RKO and Diamond Cutter or Drew McIntyre’s Future Shock and Jake Roberts’ DDT. If you want to talk about gimmick infringement, talk about Orton being named after a snake and posing with two arms in the air on the ropes a few years back.

This is a non-story but for some reason people are bored and trying to make it into a thing because they’re not thinking, as is so often the case. It’s on par with the dust up of Michelle McCool using the Styles Clash a few years ago when TNA fans complained about it and then McCool said something along the lines of “Uh, it’s not a big deal” and that was the end of it. This isn’t a big deal and the fact that it was talked about so much makes my head hurt.

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# Smackdown – April 16, 2015: Mind the Goat

## Smackdown

Date: April 16, 2015

Location: O2 Arena, London, England

Attendance: 10,000

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler, Byron Saxton

It's time for the last TV show of the European tour. You can see most of the Extreme Rules card from here as a lot of the stipulations have been announced. The main event will see Randy Orton challenging Seth Rollins inside a cage with the RKO banned. A few things still need to be filled in on the card though as we've got less than two weeks to go. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Here's John Cena to open things up. Why is he always surprised that a British crowd is booing a loud American talking about how great his country is and bragging about being the champion of his country? After a quick look at Rusev's attack on Monday, Cena goes over the rules of the Russian chain match, which is the four corners version. There's a chance that he won't even be in it though because he's issuing another open challenge RIGHT NOW.

He gets Cesaro/Kidd/Natalya, but they're not here to accept the challenge. Instead, they're here to drop FACTS. Cena has been out here pandering to the crowd (fact!) and saying London deserves a Wrestlemania (fact!) but that's a blatant lie. They think the "please retire" chants should have been directed at Cena, which the fans here don't seem to agree with. Cena tells either guy to bring it on but cue Daniel Bryan to even things up.

Bryan has heard Cesaro and Kidd calling themselves the greatest champions in WWE today but he'd like to ask the fans what they think. When he gets to himself he changes it to being the most handsome man in WWE. That gets

a mixed reaction, so Bryan just asks for the tag match to get the fans back on his side. Kidd quickly accepts so we can have the Tag Team Champions lose twice in four days. As a consolation prize, they've got something with that FACT line.

Neville vs. Sheamus tonight. That would be the third World Champion he's fought out of the four opponents he's faced.

### Bray Wyatt vs. R-Truth

Lawler calls this a rare in ring appearance for Wyatt. That's true as it's been a whole week since we last saw him wrestle on Smackdown. Truth hammers away and actually puts Bray down. We get the pelvic thrust but Bray spiders up and nails an uppercut. The chokeslam is countered so Wyatt just runs him over and hits Sister Abigail for the pin at 1:38. That's the fifth time Bray has squashed Truth on TV in just over a year.

We look back at the Divas battle royal on Monday and Naomi jumping Paige post match, sending her off to film a movie.

This week's WWE.com interview is with Roman Reigns, who says he's going to get back up every time Big Show puts him down. He's speaking in just above a whisper.

Here's Miz with something to say. Mizdow got lucky on Monday because he made Mizdow what he is, just like he made Summer Rae and the Marine 4 into a soon to be success. Cue Bad News Barrett who says we're in London tonight. The fans aren't here to see a pretend movie star, because they want to see the future six time Intercontinental Champion.

### Miz vs. Bad News Barrett

Miz spends 27 seconds taking off his sunglasses and turns into the Bull Hammer for the pin at 34 seconds. I think the fans have forgotten Monday's loss to Cena.

We recap Orton and Rollins on Raw with both guys winning matches to earn a stipulation for the title match at Extreme Rules.

Damien Mizdow and Summer Rae are with Renee Young and celebrate the win

on Monday when Miz comes in. He isn't cool with Mizdow using his gimmick, but Summer says Mizdow does Miz better than Miz. Mizdow takes off his sunglasses and starts imitating Miz again before challenging Miz to one more match on Monday for the whole Miz character. Summer talks Miz into taking the match, pretty much guaranteeing that she turns on Mizdow. She slaps him for good measure.

### Sheamus vs. Neville

Neville is now billed as sensational. Before the match, Sheamus says Neville is a tiny little man, just like Daniel Bryan and Dolph Ziggler. He brags about being from the real Ireland and his people don't like the English. Neville puts the mouthpiece in and is shoved into the corner for some forearms to the back. Some front flips give Neville some room to hit a running hurricanrana to send Sheamus outside for a twisting flip dive.

Back in and Sheamus rolls away before Neville can try the Red Arrow. Instead Neville dives at Sheamus but gets caught in a tilt-a-whirl slam on the floor. Back with Neville fighting out of a chinlock but Sheamus picks him up for a suplex and just throws him down in a big crash. The Irish Curse plants Neville and we hit another chinlock. This one doesn't last as long though and Neville avoids a charge, sending Sheamus' shoulder into the post. A running kick to the face and the standing moonsault get two for Neville and Sheamus is staggered.

Neville breaks up the ten forearms and ducks a Brogue Kick before hitting a missile dropkick. A kick to the head in the corner sets up the Red Arrow but it's a middle rope Phoenix Splash for two more instead. Now he goes up for the Red Arrow but gets crotched down, but Neville counters White Noise into a sunset flip for two. Back up and Sheamus clotheslines him out to the floor and drops him onto the announcers' table for the DQ at 10:53.

**Rating:** B. I liked this far more than I was expecting to as Neville continues to be one of the best pushed rookies in a long time. A few months back, the rumors came in that he was going to be Mighty Mouse and I think people too that too literally. They saw it as something like the Hurricane when it was really going to be more like what Superstar Bill



Dundee saw himself as: a guy who was about 5'7 but saw himself as 6'4.

Neville is a small guy who has been thrown out there with three World Champions and a former Intercontinental Champion but hasn't backed down an inch. If they keep this up and have him start winning some of these matches, such as this one here, fans are going to stop seeing him as an underdog and start seeing him as an equal. In other words, they're going past the period of wasting him in squash matches and throw him right into the big time. You don't see that too often these days but it might work wonders for him.

The key here though was Sheamus didn't squash Neville and then lose on a fluke. Neville was going move for move with Sheamus here and had some near falls. It wasn't like Sheamus hit the Brogue Kick and threw an unconscious Neville over the table for the DQ. Neville came off like he could hang with Sheamus, which is quite the accomplishment for someone headlining NXT house shows a month ago. I'm excited about this guy and he could be something special if this keeps up.

Sheamus throws him back inside and drives knees into his head until Dolph Ziggler comes out for the save. Sheamus bails but Ziggler grabs the mic and says no one from the Germans to the Bronies to the Irish like Sheamus. Ziggler is going to stand up to Sheamus but Sheamus tells him what he can kiss. He means it literally though, because they're having a Kiss Me Arse match at Extreme Rules. To recap: Neville vs. Sheamus and Ziggler were entertaining matches but the match between the two stars has a comedy stipulation. I think I prefer it that way actually.

### Los Matadores vs. New Day

Big E.'s entrance: "OH 02! It may not be the USA but I guess it'll do!" Diego chops Big E. to start but gets stomped down in the corner. You can tell New Day is officially heel now as they're in the bottom right hand corner of the ring and that's where heels always stand. Off to Kofi who walks into a jawbreaker and springboards into a shot to the ribs. Fernando gets two off a rollup and everything breaks down. Trouble in Paradise drops Diego as Torito armdrags Woods. The Midnight Hour ends Fernando at 2:33.

We recap Fandango dumping Rosa.

In the back, Fandango reiterates that Rosa is dumped. He leaves and the Rosebuds run by in a scene that only makes sense in wrestling or on Monty Python. Rose says Rosa can be #1 again in a certain somebody's life. Think about it.

Here's Big Show with something to say. This past Monday proved that English people suck because they don't appreciate the fact that he's the best giant of all time. No one in the world, including Roman Reigns, can stop him. Show doesn't answer to anyone but the Authority because he doesn't see Reigns as anything but a victim of an automobile crash.

This Monday, it was the car getting hit by Reigns and we see a clip of Show throwing him at the car. Then he kneed Roman in the head, complete with clip. The chokeslam on top of the car gets the same treatment to really stretch this out. Show sits on top of the car and shows us a clip of Reigns walking off under his own power. That's not cool with Big Show, so it's a last man standing match at Extreme Rules. Man, if there's one thing that the least interesting feud in the world needed, it was a six minute segment from one of the most boring talkers in years. That's got my money for sure.

#### Cameron vs. Alicia Fox vs. Natalya

I sit through a Big Show promo and my reward is a Cameron match???

Cameron gets double teamed to start and knocked to the floor. Fox bails to the ropes to avoid the Sharpshooter but Cameron comes back in with a rollup for two on Natalya. It's Fox taking over by running over both girls with clotheslines, only to get taken down for Natalya's stepover into the basement dropkick for two. A superkick drops Cameron for two but she gets in a forearm to Fox's jaw.

Cameron makes the mistake of going up though and gets caught in the top of a Tower of Doom to put everyone down. Fox is thrown outside, leaving Cameron to trade rollups with Natalya for two each. Believe it or not, Cameron doesn't horribly botch anything! She's improving! Natalya puts Cameron in the Sharpshooter, then does the same to Fox, only to break it up to throw Cameron outside. Fox kicks her in the face and nails the ax

kick but Cameron throws Fox to the floor and pins Natalya at 4:45.

**Rating:** D+. The match wasn't bad but they're really pushing Cameron as something now? Their idea to make us care about the Divas is to have Cameron and the Bellas getting pushed? Oh and Paige is going on vacation and Naomi is now a heel. Natalya is heel as well so who in the world is left as a face? Alicia? Emma? Summer? I'm blanking on anyone else.

Post match Alicia throws a fit so I guess we really are down to just Emma and Summer (I'm guessing until Monday) as face Divas. Really, who else is there?

### Fandango vs. Adam Rose

Fandango scores with an early dropkick and clotheslines Rose to the floor for a slingshot dive. Rosa comes out to yell at Fandango, allowing Rose to baseball slide him down. Back in and Adam looks at Rosa, setting up the rollup to give Fandango the pin at 1:24.

Bray Wyatt asks what happens when you lose it all. Eventually you're going to be all alone with nothing but regret. You should be more careful because the reaper walks in the daylight.

### John Cena/Daniel Bryan vs. Tyson Kidd/Cesaro

Cena and his black eye start against Kidd with John shoving him down. It's off to Cesaro for a test of strength but Kidd gets in a cheap shot from the apron to take over. He comes back in legally for a front facelock, followed by a spinning kick to the face for two. Cesaro knocks Bryan off the apron to break up a hot tag attempt and gets two off a suplex.

Cena sends Cesaro into the corner and Kidd out to the floor but Tyson pulls Bryan off the apron. The STF on Cesaro is quickly broken up behind the referee's back and Kidd hits a low dropkick to Cena for two. Cena hits a quick backdrop (totally different than the AA of course) and the hot tag finally brings in Bryan.

A series of right hands sets up the moonsault out of the corner but he hits a running boot through the ropes instead of the Flying Goat to

Cesaro. There are the YES Kicks in the corner followed by a top rope hurricanrana for two. Both Tag Team Champs get YES Kicks but Bryan has to yell at Natalya. Kidd accidentally knocks her off the apron and into Cesaro, allowing Bryan to YES Lock Kidd for the win at 7:49.

**Rating:** C. Oh yeah they're protecting Bryan. Other than being pulled off the apron and a rollup by Kidd, Bryan was never hit with any offensive moves. About 90% of his offense was strikes and the only high spots were that hurricanrana and the moonsault. The match was fine, but they really had to make the champs lose clean for the second time in a week? You can't do a countout or something?

Bryan and Cena celebrate to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C-. Neville vs. Sheamus was good but this was a very skippable show otherwise. It's so sad to see Bryan's neck flaring up so soon and it's clear he can't do much at the moment. I thought the worries about the neck were keeping him out of the main event and if that's the case, WWE seems to have been justified in not going with him so soon.

The rest of the show was nothing much to see, but I'm really interested to see how they get out of this mess with the Divas. Either someone is being called up or Paige is going to be very busy in the near future, as I really don't think anyone but maybe Emma is still a face on the main roster and most of the heels were recently turned. Nothing show here but Extreme Rules is coming up soon, meaning we can hopefully get away from the Wrestlemania rematches.

## Results

Bray Wyatt b. R-Truth – Sister Abigail

Bad News Barrett b. Miz – Bull Hammer

Neville b. Sheamus via DQ when Sheamus threw him onto the announcers' table

New Day b. Los Matadores – Midnight Hour to Fernando

Cameron b. Alicia Fox and Natalya – Cameron pinned Natalya after an ax

kick from Fox

Fandango b. Adam Rose – Rollup

John Cena/Daniel Bryan b. Tyson Kidd/Cesaro – YES Lock to Kidd

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## **New Column: Here It Comes To Save The Day!**

It's an old idea that still works today. And Mighty Mouse.

<http://www.wrestlingrumors.net/kbs-review-comes-save-day/35066/>

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## **Reviewing the Review – Monday Night Raw – April 6, 2015**

So yeah this one is kind of late but it's been a very hectic week and reviewing a show that didn't do too much for me in the first place wasn't really high on my priority list. We're past the Wrestlemania season now and things are about to settle way back down. It's now the Wrestlemania rematch season though and that can be a rough go. Let's get to it.

The opening was, of course, the Authority but thankfully without HHH and Stephanie, who are on vacation for the next few weeks. After a few unintentional shots at Kane for not doing much at Wrestlemania, Rollins bragged about how great he was. Well he's certainly getting into the heel champion schtick already. Orton came out, said his usual stuff, and was

put into a triple threat for the #1 contendership against Ryback and Reigns. All three will have singles matches first though.

Before we get to the first match, there's something that needs to be noted here: Rollins is VERY lucky that the Authority hasn't been on Raw for the last two weeks (if you count the week after this show). If they're on the show with him and associated with him, they're going to dominate whatever scene they're in because Raw is completely centered around the two of them (and by the two of them I mean Stephanie because we all know this is her company). Let Rollins have some spotlight as the new champion, at least until the bosses get back.

I'll sum up the three matches here: Orton beat Kane in a short match via DQ, Ryback beat Luke Harper in an even shorter match with only one big move, and Reigns pinned Big Show because what else would he be doing? None of these were anything worth seeing, but they certainly did help fill in time on the show. What else were they going to do? Give the Divas a chance out there?

Neville's second match on Raw was against Seth Rollins. Of course Rollins won, but I've actually seen people saying Neville is being buried. Let me make sure I've got this straight: Curtis Axel, Seth Rollins, Dolph Ziggler and Sheamus this Thursday. In his five TV matches on the main roster, the lowest level guy he's fought is a former Intercontinental and Tag Team Champion. That's one of the best groups of opponents I've ever seen someone start against.

This week's open challenge for the US Title was answered by Stardust. That's exactly what this thing should be used for: giving someone like Stardust, who isn't going anywhere at this point, a good match and something interesting to do for one night. When else is he getting a title shot or a match with Cena? Stardust loses to a guy he's supposed to lose to, Cena beats a guy he's supposed to beat and we get a title defense in a good match. Everyone wins, except the fans that don't get how common sense and logic work.

Naomi pinned Nikki again in a tag match with Paige joining her against the Bellas. This was a horrible match with Naomi botching a ton of stuff

and the Bellas proving every criticism of them right: they have no flow in the ring, they have limited charisma, their work is ok at best and there's nothing interesting to them. But that's what we're getting in the Divas division because what else could we ever get?

The Prime Time Players kept making fun of other tag teams. This is more interesting than anything else they've ever done so run with that thing.

The New Day doesn't like the fans booing them because their clapping gives them strength. This was another chance for Big E. to show off his comedic chops as he imitated a young kid. Why they use him like they do when they clearly know about his other talents is beyond me. Then the Lucha Dragons beat them in a short match because New Day sucks.

A bunch of Divas came up to Kane and asked for a #1 contenders battle royal next week. Of all the things they can set up in advance, it's a DIVAS BATTLE ROYAL???

Sheamus came out and explained that he's acting this way because he's tired of the little guys getting pushed. He'd fight anyone his size, and then he beat Mark Henry in about two and a half minutes. Another hometown boy bites the dust.

Bray Wyatt has a new target. Let me know when he actually beats one of these targets.

Miz cheated to beat Mizdow. You can pencil in Mizdow beating Miz with the same move next week.

Orton won the triple threat to go to Extreme Rules in a quick but decent match with the Authority interfering as much as you would expect them to.

This was resetting things for Raw and there wasn't a lot to see on it. There's enough good on it to make the show work, but this was about setting up things for later on instead of getting things done tonight. It wasn't anything to see though and that makes for a dull show instead of a bad one, which often times makes for a worse show. Not much to say here, which you can probably tell.

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# Monday Night Raw – April 13, 2015: Show and Tell

## Monday Night Raw

Date: April 13, 2015

Location: O2 Arena, London, England

Commentators: Booker T., John Bradshaw Layfield, Booker T

We're taped from England tonight as the build to Extreme Rules continues. Coming off last week, we know Randy Orton is going to be challenging Seth Rollins for the World Title at the next pay per view but we don't have much more set up than that. The only match announced so far is a Divas battle royal for the title shot against Nikki Bella. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

We open with John Cena to a very loud JOHN CENA SUCKS to the tune of his music. Even Cena seems a bit blown away by how intense it is tonight. Cena brings up the London crowd not liking him all that much but it means they have more energy than any crowd WWE performs for.

He gets them on his side by saying London deserves Wrestlemania and has to pause for the YES chant. Those in charge have decided to wait for a London Wrestlemania, much like Rusev waiting to challenge for the US Title. The open challenge is on right now so here's Bad News Barrett to a



nice reaction to accept. Why wait for his Intercontinental Title shot at Extreme Rules?

### US Title: Bad News Barrett vs. John Cena

The fans are almost entirely behind Barrett as he shrugs off a headlock and kicks Cena to the floor. Back in and the champ puts on another headlock so Bad News kicks him in the face again. The knees to the head in the ropes have Cena in even more trouble and Barrett hits another big boot to knock Cena to the floor one more time. Cena comes back with a dropkick and a high cross body for two. He's been adding more moves lately and it's always nice to see.

Barrett rolls to the floor to avoid the Shuffle and sends Cena into the steps. A missed top rope elbow lets Cena hit the Shuffle this time but the AA is countered into Winds of Change for two. Cena grabs the STF out of nowhere but Barrett is too close to the ropes. A low superkick gets two for Bad News and both guys are down. Barrett throws him into the corner for another kick to the face, setting up Wasteland for another near fall.

The AA gets two (when was the last time the first one of those pinned someone not named Stardust?) and the Bull Hammer gets the same (when was the last time Cena didn't kick out of a finisher?), followed by the springboard Stunner into the second AA to retain Cena's title at 9:55.

**Rating:** C+. Not bad but it felt like they were going through the motions here more than having a naturally good match. It doesn't help that it's clear that Cena is retaining until Extreme Rules, but could you at least make it feel like Barrett has a better chance? Also, stop kicking out of the finisher and having the AA only get two. We get the concept now.

Post match Lana comes out to distract Cena so Rusev can come in and get a cheap shot with a chain. The rematch is officially a Russian chain match.

We recap Orton winning the triple threat last week to get the pay per view title shot.

Orton vs. Cesaro and Rollins vs. Ziggler tonight. If Rollins and/or Orton

win, they get to pick the stipulations for Extreme Rules.

### Battle Royal

Rosa Mendes, Paige, Naomi, Natalya, Cameron, Summer Rae, Alicia Fox, Emma

Winner gets Nikki Bella at Extreme Rules and the Bellas are on commentary. Everyone pairs off and Rosa actually dropkicks Summer and Natalya, only to get dropkicked out a few seconds later. Another dropkick, this time from Fox, gets rid of Emma. Cameron and Alicia team up to go after Paige and get loudly booed, only to have Paige slide back in. A double Rear View puts Cameron down and Alicia gets rid of Paige, leaving her with Naomi as the final two. They fight to the apron with both coming close to elimination, only to have Paige avoid the Rear View, allowing her to superkick her to the floor at 3:50.

**Rating:** D-. Well that sucked, just like most Divas battle royals. The Bellas are great at getting on my nerves, but unfortunately they have to get in the ring at some point and that makes things even worse. They're more annoying than anything else and that's not what you want as the face of a division. Hopefully Naomi gets back in this as she belongs in the title scene.

Post break Paige reminds us of her success in WWE so far but says nothing feels better than to win this match in England. She remembers getting paid five pounds for a match when she was wrestling in high school gyms but now she's in front of her family and friends on the biggest stage of them all. Naomi comes back in and lays out Paige before driving her into the barricade.

Bray talks about a certain someone he's becoming obsessed with and it's becoming a sin. Love can blind everything and whoever he's talking about is in luck. Bray has decided to reach inside himself and pull out the love that is growing like a cancer. Fear is stronger than any love can be because it can take away what you care about. Still no word on who he's talking about.

### Lucha Dragons vs. Ascension

These teams just can't get away from each other. Ascension doesn't get an entrance but they do share an NXT chant. The big guys throw Cara around to start but a quick hot tag brings in Kalisto to hit his springboard twisting cross body. Cara hits Konnor with a suicide dive, setting up the Salida Del Sol and the Swanton Bomb to pin Viktor at 2:18.

Here's Roman Reigns for his first interview since Wrestlemania. The fans chant SUPLEX CITY and Reigns remembers going there. He busted Brock up though and gave the fans the fight he and Brock had promised them. This brings interviewer Booker T to Seth Rollins, who Reigns was about to face had it not been for Big Show. Reigns thinks Show has just been following Rollins around lately and the fans seem to agree.

This brings Big Show onto the screen to say he's loved making Reigns into the biggest failure in WWE history. He's going to turn him into a football league? It was his pleasure to stop Reigns every week and he's going to keep doing it every chance he gets. Reigns says Show should come out here and say that to his face so Reigns can shove the trophy down his throat.

Reigns goes to leave but Big Show jumps him, throwing Reigns into parts of the set and against the door of the cab. He adds a chokeslam on top of the cab, which doesn't give way.

### Randy Orton vs. Cesaro

If Orton wins, he gets to pick a stipulation for the World Title match at Extreme Rules. Cesaro takes over with some European uppercuts in the corner and a double stomp for no cover. Kidd is enjoying the match so much that he's taken his headphones off. We hit the chinlock on Randy but Orton fights up and comes back, only to have Kidd grab his leg for the DQ at 2:19.

Post match Kane comes out and says he's still in charge because the Authority is back from vacation but don't want to be in London. He can't let this match end in a DQ so he's restarting it as a handicap match.

### Cesaro/Tyson Kidd vs. Randy Orton

Orton gets double teamed and we quickly take a break. Back with Cesaro hammering away in the corner before it's off to Kidd, who launches Orton into a European uppercut for two. Orton fights back but Cesaro pulls his partner to the floor to avoid an RKO. That's fine with Orton who drops Cesaro back first onto the barricade, only to eat Tyson's knee to the face. Back in and Kidd's springboard elbow (love that move) gets two, but Cesaro gets throw to the floor, allowing Orton to catch another springboard in an RKO for the pin on Kidd at 6:46.

**Rating:** D+. Well Cesaro and Kidd, it was nice while it lasted but you're now the victims of being Tag Team Champions. I have no idea why we needed to see Orton beat both of them at once, when having him beat either Cesaro or both of them in back to back singles matches would have accomplished the same basic result. But then again, why not have the champions look like losers if you can?

Rollins gets on Kane's back for Orton winning but Kane tells him to beat Ziggler tonight. Rollins thinks that's too dangerous, so he's facing Jamie Noble instead. Noble doesn't like the idea of laying down when Kane got them into this mess. Kane has another idea involving Jamie's testicles and a car battery. Rollins backs Noble up and says Kane's job is to protect the title. Maybe Kane should be the one laying down tonight. If Kane doesn't like that, maybe they should just call HHH. Notice something here: Seth is emasculating Kane to set up a face turn. Stephanie emasculates people and we never see a comeback.

#### Adam Rose vs. Dean Ambrose

Ambrose goes right at him to start but Rose takes it to the mat for a chinlock. That goes nowhere as Dean fights back up with chops and punches before hitting some running forearms. He follows up with a suicide dive and Rose is in big trouble. Back inside and Rose knocks him into the ropes for the rebound clothesline, followed by Dirty Deeds for the pin at 2:08. Nothing match but when was the last time Ambrose won a match clean?

Big Show reminds Kane of Survivor Series where he turned on John Cena. He knows the Authority is the winning side and warns Kane about crossing the

Authority. Kane understands and says he'll do what's best for business against Rollins.

### Fandango vs. Stardust

Well this is....something. Stardust runs him over to start and tells the fans his name. Fandango goes up but Stardust rolls away and hits the Disaster Kick for the pin at 1:10.

Post match Fandango blames Rosa for the loss and dances on the table to his old music, sending the crowd into a HUGE Fandangoing dance. See, why do this after a loss? Why not have him beat like, Heath Slater without having Rosa out there and say that's why he hasn't been winning? Same result, no loss.

Daniel Bryan can't believe Kane is going to lay down and brings up the Fingerpoke of Doom of all things to say how stupid it was. Kane finally snaps but Bryan tells him to go out there and be a man. For goodness' sake STOP TALKING ABOUT WCW LIKE IT WAS TRASH. We get it: fourteen years ago you beat a show that wasn't even on the air six years. LET THE THING DIE ALREADY.

Rusev vs. Cena is officially a Russian chain match.

### Seth Rollins vs. Kane

If Rollins wins, he gets to pick a stipulation for the match vs. Rollins at Extreme Rules. Kane is out in a suit but starts disrobing after the bell rings. He gets in Seth's face but hears that it's best for business. Kane slowly lays down but stands up, drawing in the Stooges. They're both thrown to the floor so Rollins yells at him, only to get smacked in the face. Rollins tells him to lay down but eventually eats a chokeslam. Kane signals for the tombstone but stops mid throat slit. He lays down again and pulls Rollins on top of him for the pin at 4:35.

**Rating:** C+. Well they started slow but that second batch of staring was straight out of Funk vs. Brisco back in 68. Just great stuff there. Unfortunately it was downhill from there and the Stooges interfering ruined what was otherwise great stuff. Still though, that 18 seconds of

staring made it work. Good enough match.

### Miz vs. Damien Mizdow

Mizdow has Summer Rae with him after kissing her on Smackdown. After spending a minute on the disrobing, Miz jumps Mizdow to get going. A quick Reality Check puts Miz down but neither can hit the Skull Crushing Finale. Instead, Mizdow rolls him up for the pin at 2:10.

This week, the Prime Time Players make fun of Los Matadores by pulling out a stuffed rainbow bear to represent Torito. Young: "Rainbow is my favorite color!" Titus asks why two guys from Puerto Rico are bullfighters. Cue the Millions of Dollars dance. These promos are nothing special, but man alive they've actually got me liking the Players a bit. Imagine that: you get to know a wrestler a bit better and you actually have a bit of a connection to them.

Cole calls the announcements of the stipulations the Extreme Decisions and says people have been calling it by that name tonight. WHO IS CALLING IT THAT COLE??? WHO BESIDES YOU HAS CALLED IT THAT IN THE LAST FIFTEEN MINUTES???

### Ryback vs. Luke Harper

Ryback hammers away to start but Harper shoves him out of the corner. A superkick drops Ryback though and it's Gator Roll time. Back up and Harper has to roll away from the Meat Hook so he heads outside, where he nails Ryback with a piece of the announcers' table for the DQ at 1:50.

Naomi is disappointed in herself for attacking Paige out there but cracks up and says she couldn't care less. See, it's all about her not being Divas Champion. Why did they have to have a battle royal tonight after she pinned Nikki twice? She was in the same season of NXT as AJ Lee but AJ is gone and Naomi hasn't had her chance yet. Why is AJ considered a legend already? It's time for her to get her shot. Thank goodness it wasn't another "it's all about me" character.

Dolph Ziggler questions Kane laying down for Rollins as being best for business. Tonight though, he wants to compete in this ring so it's open

challenge time.

### Neville vs. Dolph Ziggler

Good pop for Neville, as usual. A quick wristdrag takes Dolph down and Neville flips into the corner. He takes Dolph down and hits a standing shooting star before slapping on a chinlock. The running DDT plants him for two though and we take a break. Back with Neville throwing Ziggler into the air for a big crash. Dolph makes the mistake of rolling to the floor for a HUGE springboard moonsault and it's all Neville so far.

Neville slides in but slides right back out, walks the barricade and hits a 450 onto Dolph to really get the crowd into things (with good reason. That looked GREAT). Back in and Neville hits a standing enziguri but charges into a superkick for two. Neville comes back with another kick but can't hit the Red Arrow. He misses a charge too and the Zig Zag gives Dolph the pin at 9:09.

**Rating:** B-. Neville is a great guy to have on the roster as he has a good look and can fly all over the place to pop the crowd. The key thing to him is that he doesn't wrestle like a small guy, but rather a guy who happens to be small. As long as they don't acknowledge his size too much, it's never going to be a detriment against him.

Ziggler checks on Neville post match but gets run over by Sheamus. Neville takes a Brogue Kick but Ziggler fights back, only to be taken to the floor for a Brogue Kick of his own.

It's time for the announcement of the stipulations and Rollins has a La-Z-Boy. The Stooges have their own leather chairs but Orton isn't impressed. Orton wants to fight right now but Rollins would rather just announce his stipulation: at Extreme Rules, the RKO is banned. Orton likes that thinking and wants to take away Rollins' best weapon as well. That's not his speed or intelligence, but rather the Authority. Therefore, it's a cage match at Extreme Rules, which takes away some of Rollins' smirk. Orton wants to fight now and cleans house but Rollins runs from a DDT attempt, leaving Mercury to take the RKO to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C+. I liked this show and I'm really liking where things

seem to be going at the moment. There's some questionable stuff for sure, but we're getting better motivation from wrestlers than we've had in a long time. The key to that change: they're telling us. If there are two things that drives me crazy in wrestling it's getting no explanation or being told we don't deserve one. Just something simple like "I don't like small people" or "I beat the champ twice and should be #1 contender" tell us more than enough to warrant a feud. Keep that up and things will get better every week.

## Results

John Cena b. Bad News Barrett – Attitude Adjustment

Paige won a battle royal last eliminating Naomi

Lucha Dragons b. Ascension – Swanton Bomb to Viktor

Randy Orton b. Cesaro via DQ when Tyson Kidd interfered

Randy Orton b. Cesaro/Tyson Kidd – RKO to Kidd

Dean Ambrose b. Adam Rose – Dirty Deeds

Stardust b. Fandango – Disaster Kick

Seth Rollins b. Kane – Kane laid down

Damien Mizdow b. Miz – Rollup

Ryback b. Luke Harper via DQ when Harper hit Ryback with the announcers' table

Dolph Ziggler b. Neville – Zig Zag

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# My Response To People Who Overuse The Term Burying

Is to show that the WWE is burying EVERY SINGLE MEMBER OF ITS ROSTER! **Adam Rose** – Stuck in a comedy tag team and they didn't care enough about the Bunny storyline to follow up. It's burial time, all the time.

**Bad News Barrett** – Reduced to a glorified commentator. Why would I care about someone like him? Bad News for you dude: You're buried.

**Big E.** – Sent into a horrible team that no one cares about after being in a six man tag team match last year at the Raw after Wrestlemania where the fans booed him. Oh and he's black so he's never going anywhere. Don't sweat it Big E. You're just being buried.

**Big Show** – Look what happened to Cesaro after he won the battle royal last year. He's clearly going to get buried. Oh and he didn't get a pin the next night. We're going to need a big box to bury a guy this big, but rest assured, he shall be buried.

**Bo Dallas** – He was eliminated by an NXT guy. He's not even good enough to be buried by the major league guy. Dallas is far enough down that he's being developmentally buried.

**Bray Wyatt** – Look at all those pay per view losses. He hasn't won a single match on pay per view THIS YEAR. All he got on a pay per view was an interview where he ripped off another

guy's entrance. Follow the buzzards to his buried body.

**Brock Lesnar** – Do I even need to explain this one? Lost the title and HASN'T DONE A THING SINCE! Now he's suspended and won't get his revenge. People are going to forget about him and he'll lose his heat. The next big burial indeed.

**The Bunny** – See Rose. They didn't care enough about him to even unmask him as Darren Young. And I know that's where it was going because I read it on a dirt sheet and they never make stuff up. I hope he can hop out of that grave he's been buried in.

**Cesaro** – A TAG TEAM CHAMPION? Well, he's screwed. He was so bad they stuck him on the pre-show. TWICE! What's the Swiss word for buried?

**Curtis Axel** – Had to sell for Hulk Hogan and a celebrity with the 2.4 inch Pythons. Can we get a clock on how long he's been buried for?

**Damien Mizdow** – Geez man. How can someone allegedly so smart (like I'm smart. I read wrestling news on the internet bro.) not come up with something better than just copying someone else? He's totally ripping off Buddy Landell with Ric Flair from the 80s. Maybe he can get a stunt double when they throw him in the grave.

**Daniel Bryan** – Yeah he won the Intercontinental Title but he lost in his first non-title match by countout due to interference. NO! He doesn't have any hope and YES! He is being buried. It's so clear that you would have to be a goat faced moron to not see it.

**Darren Young** – They put him in a gimmick where he makes fun of people and shills old shirts. He's like the black Charlie Haas. Oh and he's black and therefore buried. Total racism.

**Dean Ambrose** – He lost both of his pay per view main events

late last year, only got into the final five of the Rumble and then lost his Wrestlemania title match. Then Cena beat him in the US Title match the next night on Raw. There's no hope for his future, but maybe he warm himself with all the memories of how people TOTALLY said he would be the star of the Shield.

**Diego** – He was replaced by a short guy named Kalisto as the resident luchador and he's second fiddle to a guy in a bull suit. Either way, bury the dude. Just make sure it's Diego instead of Fernando. Actually never mind as they're the same person.

**Dolph Ziggler** – Where do I even start? He hasn't won a thing since he won the World Title because that was Cena's win at Survivor Series and he couldn't even mean anything because STING won't get out of his way. Then he jobbed to Luke Harper because this company has a thing for beards. Maybe he can show off the shovel used to bury him.

**Erick Rowan** – When has he actually won something recently? He's just a big version of Daniel Bryan anyway. Maybe he can avoid being buried by pretending to be a sheep or something.

**Fandango** – When the feature of your act is the dancing chick who has never won a singles match in like five years, you're just the new and improved version of the same buried Fandango.

**Fernando** – He was replaced by a short guy named Sin Cara as the resident luchador and he's second fiddle to a guy in a bull suit. Either way, bury the dude. Just make sure it's Fernando instead of Diego. Actually never mind as they're the same person.

**Goldust** – WWE cares about him so much that he wins a match and lost all of his heat due to a post match attack. Then he got crushed by Rusev after Raw to complete the burial.

**Heath Slater** – They hate this guy so much that they go from a 3 Count knockoff to making him look like Apollo Creed. Even

Drew McIntyre in TNA is getting pushed harder than this guy. I wonder if the guy burying him needed two helpers so it could be a THREE MAN BURIAL?

**Jack Swagger** – He's lost to Rusev six times in less than a year. That's like Zack Ryder territory and we all know he's been buried.

**Jey Uso/Jimmy Uso** – Let's combine this one into one. They can't even beat Los Matadores and they're only there to push Total Divas "star" Naomi. It doesn't help that they're just a placeholder tag team and haven't done anything since they dropped the tag belts. Siva Tao your ways into the burial positions guys.

**John Cena** – This guy is the KING of burials. How do you go from the main event of Wrestlemania two years ago to basically being the TV Champion and fighting guys like Dean "I used to be a big deal when I said NOPE that one time!" Ambrose and Star "Please think of Mockingjay when you see me and forget that I'm jobbing to old guys" Dust. How could they put this guy over Rusev? He's even using more than five moves to make you think he knows more than five moves! How can you trust this guy??? You won't be able to see him now that he's been buried.

**Kalisto** – He's just there to make people forget about Rey Mysterio. Flip yourself into the line for being buried and LEARN SOME ENGLISH. Clearly people hate him because he's Hispanic right?

**Kane** – PUT THE MASK BACK ON! You were totally cool back then when you were the old dude in the mask instead of the old dude in the dress pants. Now you're just getting speared and pinned all the time by a guy with no heat like Roman Reigns. I would say you're buried but you're way too old to belong in the ground anymore.

**Kofi Kingston** – Just a jumping guy. He's black though and in that trio of losers so we'll have him jump into the grave.

**Konnor** – They're just using him to cash in on the Crusher stuff from last year. Why else would you name someone Konnor? Thankfully the WWE has clearly seen that there's no future for he and Viktor and they're burying them accordingly.

**Luke Harper** – When your only gimmick is you have a dirty shirt, you're clearly being buried. GO BACK TO BRAY'S SIDE YOU FREAKY LOOKING LOSER!

**Mark Henry** – They brought him back to put over Roman Reigns and Sheamus? There's no future in being a jobber to the stars and if you need any more proof, they put him in a battle royal a few weeks back. AND LET HIM WIN IT! Of course on top of that, he's black and all black people are buried in WWE. Because they're black and WWE is racist.

**The Miz** – An actor gimmick? That's the best they can do? Then they keep giving him movie roles and have him lose to a guy most famous for imitating Miz and wearing Lanny Poffo's thrown out trunks? I hope we can have quiet at the cemetery when they officially bury him, but they did that when they made him play third fiddle when he kept the title at Wrestlemania a few years back. If you want further proof, they gave him a Tag Team Title a few months ago. How can you possibly believe that he's not being buried?

**Neville** – Losing to the World Champion in his SECOND MATCH on the main roster? Do I even need to explain why that's a burial?

**R-Truth** – Just there for comedy and there's that whole black guys don't get pushed. Buried! That's what's up!

**Randy Orton** – You think Cena sucks because he only knows five moves? RKO, backbreaker, elevated DDT, right hand, I'm waiting for the fifth move. We'll call that a BURIAL OUT OF NOWHERE!

**The Rock** – He came back for five Wrestlemanias and can only get TALKING SEGMENTS??? That's the ultimate sign of being put out of pasture. Get out of the ring and just let Ronda Rousey show you how REAL WRESTLING is done you actor. So not only is he being buried in talking segments year after year, at the same time he's burying people who really deserve the time. Do you have any idea how hard it is to bury people and be buried at the same time??? I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU COULD DO THAT!!!

**Roman Reigns** – Totally choked in the biggest match ever and then got stuck in a meaningless six man the next night as Orton's partner. He's just Cena with a tan anyway and we've already established that Cena is being buried, so Reigns is being buried with a tan and stupid looking tattoos.

**Rusev** – No one cares about him unless Lana and the tank are there. Plus he lost his big title match so he's clearly being buried.

**Ryback** – Can they pick a gimmick with this guy? Not that it matters because each one leads to him being buried. First he was a monster and then A FREAKING REFEREE costs him the title match? Buried. Then he's a heel who goes to a draw against Cena in his main events. Buried. Then he's a bully and that doesn't sound like being a star, meaning he's not in the sky. You know where that leaves him right? Buried. In the ground. Now he's back to the beginning as a monster, which is clearly just leading to him being buried all over again.

**Seth Rollins** – Yeah he's the Undisputed WWE World Heavyweight Champion, but they're clearly doing nothing with him. He had to sell for a rookie and needs comedy goons to save him all the time. Curb stomp him into the grave and put him out of his misery before he has a rematch for the title in the main event of the pay per view.

**Sheamus** – Comes back from being a four time World Champion and they turn him heel? That's what you do when you have nothing

left to do with someone so his days are numbered. Plus he couldn't even beat a vanilla midget like Bryan without help so he's done. Buried.

**Sin Cara** – A masked tag match? What happened to being the most popular guy in Mexico? Leave the mask on to hide your face you buried loser.

**Stardust** – He's lost two title shots in eight days and is there as a movie tie-in character to some girly movie like Thirsty Games or whatever it's called. Buried and buried bad.

**Sting** – Well he's never won a match so he's already behind Barry Horowitz. How do you get more buried than that?

**Titus O'Neil** – I'm tired so we'll stick with he's black and therefore buried. He's even in a black tag team so it's even worse. Buried again.

**Triple H** – This guy invented being buried! Getting thrown around by a celebrity? That's even worse than when he got slapped around by an actor back in 2000. When is the last time he won a World Title anyway? Now he's beating up old WCW rejects like Sting, which means he's just fighting jobbers. There's no point to having him around anymore so we'll say he's buried.

**Tyson Kidd** – Yeah he's got a belt, but it's the same one he had a few years ago and now he's pitching Burger King ads while wearing lame headphones and showing off his love for his cats? That's the best they've got for him? Oh yeah he's buried.

**Undertaker** – The guy has lost how many BURIED alive matches? He's literally been buried multiple times so I think you get the point here.

**Viktor** – He got beaten up by the APA and DX. How does he not understand that he's being buried?

**Xavier Woods** – The leader of the trio of black losers. Still means he's being buried though. Yeah he wants to work with children and is working on his PH.D, but can he win a match? Until we know he can, he can defend his dissertation after getting out of that dirt from when they buried him.

**Zack Ryder** – Do I even need to explain this one? He's had like four matches with Rusev that add up to less than five minutes. And to think a guy like Rock talked (Like I said, he only does talking segments!) so highly of him after the main event of Survivor Series 2012.

All Divas but the Bellas are of course being buried so we'll put them in a big group.

**Bella Twins** – They're just there because of a reality show with ratings that keep falling. They may be "stars" there but here they're just propping up tombstones. I mean, they lost at Wrestlemania and weren't even important enough to defend their title. Yeah they're both champion. The name graphics said so and even if it might have been a slip up, it's how I interpreted it so therefore it's true.

Finally, some other people they have on screen.

**El Torito** – They can't decide if he's a man or a bull. If they don't care enough, they're buried him already.

**Hornswoggle** – Well they gave him a movie so he wouldn't be on screen. Sounds like a burial to me.

**The Stooges** – How many finishers do they keep taking? I don't remember two J's being in the word buried, but maybe I just missed it.

**Lana** – She gets a dead end foreigner gimmick and isn't even on Total Divas. Bury her and her legs.

**Paul Heyman** – How many times can he say the same thing over and over again? He's nothing without Lesnar so just like



ECW,'s he's dead and buried.

**Stephanie McMahon** – She got beaten up by Ronda Rousey (I know her of course, because I pay for the Wrestling Observer Newsletter for my MMA news and that makes me a REAL fan) on the biggest night of the year. Yeah she beat a Bella. Freaking woop. Bury her with the rest of the McMahon Family so we can get a good boss in there. Is Sapolsky available?

**William Regal** – They already buried him. I mean, he's the third NXT boss in like two years. How much could they possibly care about him?

**Zeb Colter** – How does this guy have a job? All he does is talk and claims an injury after he FINALLY took a bump. Bury him next to Swagger and Cesaro.

SEE? WWE BURIES EVERYONE ON THE ROSTER! I JUST PROVED IT!!!

Oh and I got this list off the WWE Roster Wikipedia page. Bury that too since it hasn't done anything for me since I started writing this list.

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## **New Column: Come One, Come All**

Looking at the open challenges from John Cena and how they could do a lot of good things for the title. And I have statistics!

<http://www.wrestlingrumors.net/kbs-review-come-one-come/34928/>

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# Monday Night Raw – April 6, 2015: The Three Headed Killing Machines

## Monday Night Raw

Date: April 6, 2015

Location: Frank Erwin Center, Austin, Texas

Commentators: Byron Saxton, Booker T., John Bradshaw Layfield

It's back to the regular style shows this week with Wrestlemania season wrapped up. The big story coming out of last week was Brock Lesnar's suspension, meaning we're not likely to see him again for a few months. In the meantime, we have Randy Orton challenging for the World Title at Extreme Rules, which is likely the focus of tonight's show. We also find out who is answering this week's open challenge for the US Title. Let's get to it.

Saxton is in for Cole on commentary.

We look at some stills of HHH vs. Sting.

The Authority is in the ring minus HHH and Stephanie. Rollins is booted out of the building but Big Show says the champion is trying to talk. Seth says the Authority is on vacation tonight before bragging about the attendance record, the number of people watching and the number of times they trended worldwide. That last part sounded so stupid. HHH put the final nail in WCW's coffin because the Authority always win. Big Show is officially the best giant of all time and Kane....well Kane was there too!

Show says everyone on this roster is under his shadow but the important thing is Wrestlemania ended with a new, honorable champion. Rollins again fails at coming up with something Kane did at Wrestlemania but before Kane can give his answer, here's Randy Orton to interrupt. Randy

congratulates him on having his Wrestlemania moment. Of course it happened after a huge RKO took him out earlier in the night.

Rollins calls that complaining but Orton says he wants another shot, this time for the title. I'm pretty sure that match was already confirmed on Smackdown, or at least heavily implied. Orton asks Kane for the shot, and even asks if Kane needs to call mommy and daddy for permission. Kane demands respect and makes a three way match for the #1 contendership tonight between Orton, Reigns and Ryback. As usual, I had that typed before Kane even started because WWE is that predictable these days. However, Kane mixes things up a bit by saying all three of them have to compete in singles matches first.

### Kane vs. Randy Orton

Randy gets to the middle rope to start and drives in some forearms to the chest, only to get caught by an uppercut to knock him to the floor. Back from a break with Kane stomping away but getting caught in the elevated DDT. They head outside with Orton nailing a clothesline, only to take a chair to the ribs for the DQ at 6:58. Not enough shown to rate but it was just a way to get to the storyline ending.

Post match Kane tries a chokeslam on the chair but Orton counters into an RKO attempt, sending Kane running.

The announcers bring up AJ retiring and show a tweet of her boots.

Brad Maddox is in Kane's office when Rollins comes in to yell at Kane. The priority is to protect Rollins, but for some reason Kane doesn't get that. Kane takes credit for Rollins winning Money in the Bank, so Rollins says Kane is going to have to answer to the Authority. That's fine with Kane, as he puts Rollins in a match tonight. For those of you counting, that would be five matches made during the show.

Cole is considering legal actions against Lesnar. JBL had to have emergency surgery for a torn abdomen wall and Booker wants Lesnar fired. Yay! Legal ramifications!

We look back at Lesnar's path of rage last week.

The WWE Network is free for April. That's the third free month out of six.

### Seth Rollins vs. Neville

Non-title and Rollins is suddenly far less nervous. He grabs a mic and talks some trash to Neville, saying Neville must be terrified to be out here. Rollins has been there before too and offers the pipsqueak a chance to sit this one out. Neville kicks him in the ribs and we're ready to go. A quick armdrag puts the champ down but he stomps Neville in the corner to take over. Neville does his front flip out of the corner and hurricanranas Seth to the floor, setting up a big flip dive. He slides back in to avoid the Stooges and we take a break. Back with Neville being sent face first into the middle buckle and Seth dropping knees to the face.

We hit the chinlock for a bit before Rollins picks him up for some knees to the ribs. Seth is toying with him as he drives some elbows into the head before putting on another chinlock. A running clothesline flips Neville inside out but he counters the buckle bomb with a hurricanrana. It's Red Arrow time but Mercury offers a distraction so Noble can break it up. Instead it's a quick rollup for two on Seth, who counters another hurricanrana into the buckle bomb. Curb Stomp ends Neville at 11:39.

**Rating:** C+. Let's get this out of the way right now: Neville is not buried, isn't being buried, and doesn't even have any dirt on him. If you need an explanation for why, I've failed at teaching you anything. This was a good showcase for Neville but there was no other logical way this could end without interference. The fact that Neville is in this spot two weeks in is a great sign for the future.

Rollins gives him another Curb Stomp after the match.

Here's Cena for this week's open challenge. The city of Austin has declared this WWE Day so Cena is extra fired up. A lot of fans want him to come out and lose the title already, but this title is a symbol of opportunity. Someone can come out here and have a chance to put their name in the history books. Take Rusev for example. He wants his rematch

for the title, but for some reason he wants to wait until Extreme Rules. Why not have the match tonight in Austin? Anyway, someone can come out here right now and step up to get stepped on.

### US Title: John Cena vs. Stardust

Cena grabs a headlock to start and throws Stardust to the ropes, only to have him skin the cat. Back in and Cena drops some elbows as the announcers talk about Back to the Future for no logical reason. A delayed suplex gets two for the champ as Cena is mixing things up this week. The chinlock doesn't last long as Stardust bails to the floor and we take a break. Back with Cena diving into a dropkick and Stardust hitting something like Diamond Dust for two.

What looks to be a springboard hurricanrana is countered into a powerbomb to give Cena a near fall of his own. The AA doesn't work so Stardust hooks an Alabama Slam for another two count. Cross Rhodes is countered as well and Cena plants him with a kind of sitout powerslam. The ProtoBomb looks to set up the Shuffle but Stardust kicks him in the head and gets another close cover off a DDT.

A moonsault press gets the same and Cena is in some trouble. It's not enough trouble though as he trips Stardust into the STF. Stardust is close to the ropes though and hits a quick Cross Rhodes for two. That's enough for Cena as he hits the springboard Stunner and the AA retains the title at 13:10.

**Rating:** C+. This is exactly what the open challenge should be doing: giving someone you don't usually see in a spot like this getting a chance to showcase themselves. Good match here with Stardust getting to show off a bit but ultimately coming up short. What I liked best about this match though: it was fresh. I'll take a match with an obvious ending over a match we've seen 19 times before almost every time.

### Naomi/Paige vs. Bella Twins

The Bella Twins' name graphic now lists them both as Divas Champion. I know it's not intentional but it's probably more accurate than they intended. Brie takes Paige into the ropes to start and sends her to the

floor for a hard shot from Nikki. The BRIE MODE knee gets two and we hit the chinlock.

Off to Nikki for a bodyscissors for a bit before Nikki misses a charge in the corner, allowing the hot tag to Naomi. She botches a spinning headscissors before kicking Nikki in the face before slipping on a landing out of the corner. The Rear View gets two with Brie making the save, only to have Paige kick Nikki down. The headscissors driver gets zero reaction but it's enough to pin Nikki at 5:00.

**Rating:** D-. Sweet Christmas the Bellas are dull in the ring. They're just not interesting no matter how you look at them and there's nothing in the ring that makes me want to watch them. It didn't help that Naomi was botching almost everything she was doing here and looked more like Cameron than anyone else. Horrible match that gave me flashbacks to the dark days of the division.

The announcers talk about Miz vs. Mizdow but we go to the Prime Time Players ripping on New Day with the same insults from Smackdown. They switch over to making fun of Ascension with some home made spiked shoulder pads that keep breaking. Ascension can't read either and they hit the Millions of Dollars dance. I've heard of worse gimmicks.

### Luke Harper vs. Ryback

Harper nails a quick dropkick to start and a big boot sends Ryback to the floor. After teasing loading up the announcers' table, Harper takes him back inside for a Boss Man Slam and something like a crossface. Ryback gets the rope, avoids a charge to send Harper into the post and hits Shell Shock out of nowhere for the pin at 2:48. That was his only significant move of the match.

The New Day is hurt and disappointed by the crowd thinking they suck, but they won't find disappointment in their dancing. They clap or they snap. Big E. says he was eating at the airport yesterday when a kid came up and asked him (with Big E. doing a kid's voice) to sign a breakfast menu for his brother. Of course he could, because he claps. It really doesn't make more sense in context.

### New Day vs. Lucha Dragons

Kofi is on the floor this time but his slapping of the apron makes the fans chant NEW DAYS SUCKS in time. Big E. runs Cara over to start and both he and Woods take turns stomping away in the corner.

Cesaro/Kidd/Natalya are watching in the back as Woods gives up the hot tag to Kalisto. Things speed way up with Kalisto snapping off the hurricanrana but Big E. makes the save. Cara low bridges Big E. to the floor but Kofi gets in a cheap shot from the floor to give Woods two on Kalisto. Woods like the cheating but the Dragons make a blind tag, allowing the Salida Del Sol to set up the Swanton from Cara to pin Woods at 2:59.

### Big Show vs. Roman Reigns

Because, uh, reasons! They slug it out to start with Show taking him into the corner for some chops. Show throws him across the ring by the vest and stands on his back on the ropes. They head outside with Show slowly plodding around and throwing Reigns into the barricade. Reigns comes back with a running apron kick but Show spears him down as we take a break. Back with Big Show still dominating because, uh, reasons!

Show charges into a boot in the corner and gets staggered by some clotheslines, only to catch Reigns in a side slam. The bouncing Vader Bomb gets two more and Show baseball slides him into the barricade. Reigns comes up to the apron and hammers away before Stunning Show over the apron. The Superman Punch from the floor sets up another in the ring. The third sets up the spear for the pin at 10:39.

**Rating:** D. I did not like this match. I am ceasing this rating description for reasons as an exercise in anger management due to a desire to not die at the age of 43, which is also Big Show's current age, which is usually when wrestlers retire but he's still out there getting to dominate people and for some reason WWE doesn't get that we don't care.

Kane is on the phone when a bunch of Divas come in to hit on him. They bring up the "Give Divas A Chance movement" (Alicia's finger quotes, not mine) and ask for a #1 contenders battle royal. Kane makes the match for

next week to get rid of them.

Reigns says watch what he does next.

Here's Sheamus to say he looks like a real man. The fans tell him that he looks stupid but he says the grown up is talking now. He's a warrior who belongs here, unlike the go getters who just won't go away. People like Dolph Ziggler are insects who need to be crushed. Sheamus is told to pick on people his size, but there aren't too many his size. Cue his opponent.

### Sheamus vs. Mark Henry

Henry is the hometown boy. Sheamus goes to leave but gets pulled back into the ring to start the fight. The bell rings and Henry blocks a kick with a right hand to the face. A top wristlock goes badly for Sheamus as he's shoved to the floor. Back up and Sheamus can't finish the ten forearms as Henry elbows him in the face, only to have Sheamus nail some knee lifts on the apron. The World's Strongest Slam is countered and Sheamus nails the Brogue Kick for the pin at 2:33. Booker calls Sheamus a viking for no apparent reason.

We look at the big talking segment from Wrestlemania.

Bray Wyatt shows up on screen and says someone's entire life revolves around dedication. However dedicated you are, you can't compete with the forces of nature. You can't compete against fear either, for it is not your drive for success that motivates you. What motivates you is fear and it holds the key to your undoing. Does he have your attention now? Behold the new face of fear.

Ryback is hungry for the WWE World Title.

### Damien Mizdow vs. Miz

We get a battle of sunglasses removal to start but Mizdow knocks him to the floor before taking his off. Back in and Mizdow chokes him in the corner but eats a big boot to the face. Mizdow shoves him to the corner but doesn't seem that comfortable on offense. A snap suplex and knee drop keep Miz in trouble. Mizdow scores with an electric chair and headbutt, followed by the Reality Check for no cover. Miz tries a low blow but gets



taken down and punched in the face. A quick rollup with a handful of trunks is enough to pin Mizdow at 5:03.

**Rating:** D+. This show is going WAY too long and it's starting to drag horribly. It's pretty clear that this match was designed to set up a gimmick rematch, maybe for the rights to the name and the music, at Extreme Rules. Nothing much to see here though, other than Mizdow looking awkward on offense at times.

Orton has nothing against his opponents but he's winning tonight.

### Ryback vs. Roman Reigns vs. Randy Orton

Winner gets the title shot at Extreme Rules. Ryback tries to Shell Shock Reigns seconds in but gets taken down by Orton's backbreaker for two. A clothesline gets the same on Reigns but Ryback throws Orton to the floor. Cue the Authority on the stage, where they can see Ryback powerslam Reigns. Roman breaks up the elevated DDT on Ryback before clotheslining him in the corner. There's a Superman Punch to Orton but Ryback plants Reigns with a spinebuster.

The Meat Hook puts Reigns down again but Ryback has to stop Orton with a spinebuster as well. Reigns breaks up Shell Shock on Orton with a spear and all three are down. Now the Authority starts coming to the ring but Reigns dives on all of them. Show KO Punches him though, only to have Rollins go after Orton. Cue the Stooges to go after Orton but Ryback beats them up. The RKO on Ryback sends Orton to Extreme Rules at 5:18.

**Rating:** C. This didn't have time to go anywhere but it wasn't bad while it lasted. I'm getting back into Ryback but there was almost no way Orton didn't win here. Unfortunately it really seems that they're setting up Reigns vs. Big Show again, despite the interest just not being there. That never stopped them before though.

Rollins hits a Curb Stomp before we can hear what the voices do in Orton's head.

**Overall Rating:** C-. This show was more good than bad but it really started dragging at about 10:30. At the end of the day, three hours is

just too long for a single wrestling show every week. It doesn't help that a lot of the talent was working twice tonight and we had more than one Divas segments. The stuff with the new guys or the new characters was good, but they really need to get away from Big Show and the Bellas. Those three are just crippling whatever scenes they're in and the fans aren't going to lighten up on them anytime soon. Watchable show this week but it needed to be half an hour shorter.

## Results

Randy Orton b. Kane via DQ when Kane used a chair

Seth Rollins b. Neville – Curb Stomp

John Cena b. Stardust – Attitude Adjustment

Naomi/Paige b. Bella Twins – Headscissors driver to Nikki

Ryback b. Luke Harper – Shell Shock

Lucha Dragons b. New Day – Swanton Bomb to Woods

Roman Reigns b. Big Show – Spear

Sheamus b. Mark Henry – Brogue Kick

Miz b. Damien Mizdow – Rollup with a handful of trunks

Randy Orton b. Ryback and Roman Reigns – RKO to Ryback

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