

Main Event – April 12, 2018: The Best Of The Three



IMG Credit: WWE

Main Event

Date: April 12, 2018

Location: Smoothie King Center, New Orleans, Louisiana

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Percy Watson, Nigel McGuinness

It's been a busy week so it's time for something a little bit easier to watch. This time around we'll have a lot of Wrestlemania to recap but odds are it's going to be focusing on the fallout editions of Raw and Smackdown. Throw in some cruiserweights with the good guys winning and let's get to it.

[Here's Wrestlemania if you need a recap.](#)

I was in the arena for this show, sitting in the upper deck with the Titantron on my right and the hard cameras across the arena.

Opening sequence.

Percy Watson is on commentary. THIS SHOW DOES NOT NEED THREE ANNOUNCERS!

Mark Andrews vs. Tony Nese

Nese starts in with the power, including a knee to the ribs. Andrews

sends him outside for a middle rope moonsault to take over, only to get powered right back down. We hit the torture rack for a few moments until Andrews slips out and starts the sticking and moving. The 619 to the ribs sets up a sitout bulldog for two and Nese is rocked. Andrews stays on the ribs with a double stomp and the shooting star is good for the fast pin at 4:59.

Rating: C. Not bad at all for such a fast match. Andrews is someone who impresses me more and more every time I see him. He's very small but they've developed something of a character for him and that's a lot more than I ever would have guessed. Oh and his theme song is kind of awesome.

Quick look at Jeff Hardy returning on Raw.

From Raw.

Jeff Hardy/Finn Balor/Seth Rollins vs. Miz/Miztourage

Before Finn's entrance, the production crew replaced a piece of the stage, which I thought would be a Rey Mysterio entrance but turned out to just be for the smoke in Balor's entrance. Miz and Rollins start but let's hand it off to Axel instead. Rollins kicks both lackeys in the face and it's off to Jeff for some Poetry in Motion to Axel and Dallas. Finn and Seth play decent Matt's actually.

Back from a break with Balor coming in and forearming all three villains. Miz offers a distraction though and Dallas decks Balor from behind. Now Miz is glad to come in with a chinlock, followed by the Hennig necksnap from Axel. Dallas drops some knees and grabs a chinlock of his own as we're not exactly setting any new standards here (as they shouldn't be here). Balor finally dropkicks Miz down and the hot tag brings in Jeff to clean house.

A Whisper in the Wind takes down the Miztourage as you can see Rollins getting all charged up on the apron. The diving tag brings in Seth with a springboard clothesline to Miz. Rollins suicide dives onto all three of them for a big crash and we hit a BURN IT DOWN chant. Back in and the superplex into the Falcon Arrow (Cole: "Tonight he hits it!" He hit it last night too.) gets two on Miz with Dallas making the save. Finn dives

onto Axel and Dallas and the Stomp finishes Miz at 13:56.

Rating: C+. This was just an easy way to end the show and that's all it needed to be. I would have had Jeff come out later in the night, but that would have meant the lack of the Matt segment so it balances out. Rollins pinning Miz again is fine, especially with the title match already being set. It's not like Miz is going to be damaged by a loss in a six man tag so this was fine all around.

Post match Dallas takes a Twist of Fate, Coup de Grace, Swanton and Stomp. Axel gets a similar treatment and a Stomp to Miz ends the show.

From Raw again.

Here's Roman Reigns for a chat. He took a beating last night but he's here while Brock Lesnar isn't. When he got to the Superdome yesterday, no one could look him in the eye. As of this past Wednesday, Lesnar was done and going to the UFC. Now though they have another match in a cage in Saudi Arabia later this month. That means Reigns can win the title there in a match he found out about on the internet. This brings out Samoa Joe to say Reigns exposed Lesnar last night.

For over a year, Reigns has been saying he's the only one who can beat Lesnar. It doesn't matter who couldn't look at Roman because he's a failure. It also makes him a liar because he can't beat Brock Lesnar. Every time the Beast meets the Big Dog, the Big Dog gets conquered. After Lesnar makes Reigns fail again, Samoa Joe will be waiting at Backlash to put him to sleep. As usual, Joe was great here with the commanding voice and fire in his eyes. Joe as the new #1 contender could do some great things, especially if he eventually wins the title.

Quick package on the debuts from this week.

Lucha House Party vs. TJP/Jack Gallagher/Ariya Daivari

Daivari hammerlocks Dorado to start but gets hurricanranaed and dropkicked for his efforts. A double tag brings in Gallagher and Dorado for the pinfall reversal sequence and Dorado falls forward into a splash. Lince grabs an arm and Kalisto does the same, allowing them to throw

Gallagher down in a heap. That's rather ungentlemanly of them. Daivari offers a distraction though and Jack pulls Kalisto off the ropes for a crash.

Back from a break with Gallagher cranking Kalisto's arm back ala Pentagon Dark and bringing Daivari in for a double suplex. We hit the chinlock for a bit but Davari misses the top rope splash. The hot tag brings in Metalik for rope walking into a headscissors. Everything breaks down and it's a double Golden Rewind to Gallagher and Daivari. Something like a reverse Sling Blade drops TJP and the rope walk elbow ends TJP at 10:24.

Rating: C. Went a little longer than it needed to but the Lucha House Party guys are always worth taking a look at. I'm a little annoyed at the depushing of TJP and Gallagher but anything that involves seeing Daivari getting beaten up with worth some time. The guy is so uninteresting that it's the only fun part about having him around.

From Raw again.

Here's Stephanie McMahon, walking very slowly and with her arm in a cast after last night, to open the show. Cole talks about how Ronda Rousey's debut may be the best debut in Wrestlemania history. Does that mean the best wrestler to debut at Wrestlemania (As in she's better than Fandango and Baron Corbin? Or the best ever first match at Wrestlemania? I'm thinking someone else has probably done it better before. Stephanie talks about the post Wrestlemania crowd having an international flavor (Is that an insult?) but she expected at least SOME sympathy.

She did tap out last night but the fans have to admit that one woman did everything she could last night and made the transition. Yes Stephanie did make that transition and was amazing so she deserves all the praise. This brings out Rousey to a very nice reception (which she earned) and even Stephanie gives her credit for last night. Rousey is a role model and a superstar and with Stephanie guiding her, they can reach new heights. The fans tell Stephanie to shut the F up so Stephanie calls Rousey her friend...and offers a handshake.

Now if you don't know where this is going and yeah I'm not even going to finish that. Rousey hugs her and smiles before shifting to the death

stare. Stephanie gets taken down by the bad arm and Rousey takes the brace off to crank it back all over again. Referees run in for the late save and Rousey is all smiles. She's getting better at the facial expressions and really does come off like a star. Medics come out to check on Stephanie and the fans tell her that she deserves it. As she's leaving, JoJo asks for a little respect for Stephanie. I was hoping that made the broadcast because it made me laugh in my seat.

My issues with Stephanie are fairly well known but I LOVED this. The key to Stephanie is her being in on the joke and that doesn't happen very often. This time she was in full on obnoxious heel mode but with a bit of a wink to the camera that she knew she was about to be destroyed. That made this workable because she was FINALLY getting what was coming to her. I know you can't have it happen all the time, but once a year isn't quite often enough.

Quick look at Paige being announced as the new Smackdown GM.

And from Smackdown.

AJ Styles vs. Daniel Bryan

Non-title. AJ takes him to the mat to start and it's an early standoff. A shoulder block works a bit better and things speed up. Bryan fights out of a test of strength and starts in on the arm with the hard kicks. It's off to a hammerlock with Bryan bending the arm in a variety of unnatural manners. AJ fights up and it's the drop down into the dropkick as the fans aren't sure who they like more. The slingshot forearm to the floor drops Bryan again and we take a break.

Back (after Bryan misses a Swan Dive in the break) with Bryan hitting the running clothesline to set up the YES Kicks. AJ counters the big one with the dragon screw legwhip but Bryan moonsaults over him in the corner. That's fine with AJ, who moonsaults over him right into the reverse DDT to drop Bryan for two. The Phenomenal Blitz is reversed into a cross armbreaker but AJ rolls over for the break.

Instead it's the Calf Crusher to work on Bryan's bad knee but Bryan reverses that into the YES Lock, which is reversed into a rollup for two.

A hard clothesline gives AJ two and they're both winded. Bryan is back up with some hard kicks and it's time to load up the running knee.

Thankfully AJ is smart enough to realize that the YES chants mean something is coming and he ducks the knee, only to get pulled into the YES Lock. Dang Bryan will get you one way or another. AJ gets the rope so Bryan puts him in the Tree of Woe for more kicks. A belly to back superplex is reversed into a crossbody...and here's Nakamura to knee Bryan in the head for the DQ at 12:42.

Rating: B. This was getting somewhere but the ending was the right call. Bryan vs. Styles could be a major pay per view match and there's no reason to throw away a clean finish on a regular TV match. They were starting to really turn this into something good as both guys were cranking it up. I was liking this more than Styles vs. Nakamura from Wrestlemania so there's hope for something better in the future.

Post match Nakamura abuses Styles' groin and hits Kinshasa to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. This is a great way to look at the biggest week in WWE in the span of about forty five minutes. The wrestling wasn't great but this is a great example of that not being the point. I've seen some of this stuff three times now and this might have been the most entertaining presentation. Just get us in and get us out and show us the good stuff. That's Main Event in a nutshell and it worked here.

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<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2018/03/23/new-paperback-kbs-grab-bag/>

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Main Event – April 5, 2018: I'm Ready



IMG Credit: WWE

Main Event

Date: April 5, 2018

Location: Phillips Arena, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

I'm not sure what to expect from a Main Event designed to make me want to see Wrestlemania. Odds are there's going to be some time spent on original matches between people who won't even make it into the battle royals, but that's never stopped this show before. This should be recap heavy so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Cedric Alexander/Mustafa Ali vs. Tony Nese/Ariya Daivari

Did I put in 205 Live by mistake? Of note, all of their name graphics

point out that they are cruiserweights. Not 205 Live wrestlers, but cruiserweights. Nese whips Ali around to start but gets caught with a spinwheel kick for two. Daivari comes in and gets kicked in the face by Alexander for the same but the villains finally use some double teaming to send Ali face first into the apron.

Some stomping sets up a waistlock, followed by a running forearm for two. Another kick to the head allows the hot tag to Alexander though and it's time to speed things up. Everything breaks down and a tornado DDT sets up the Lumbar Check to put Nese away at 5:45.

Rating: C-. Not enough time to do much here but well done on trying to use the Main Event time to actually set something up for Wrestlemania. It's not much of a match and that's all you could have expected, but at least they did something here. Ali vs. Alexander should be a rocking match too.

Quick clip of Cena challenging Undertaker from Raw.

Long recap of Daniel Bryan/Shane McMahon vs. Kevin Owens/Sami Zayn.

From Smackdown.

Here's Daniel Bryan to open the show and shockingly enough, the fans seem into him. He wastes no time in bringing out Shane McMahon for the first time in a few weeks. Shane praises Bryan for having the courage to come back and get in this ring despite everyone telling him it would never happen. He brings up having diverticulitis and a hernia thanks to Kevin Owens and Sami Zayn but just like Bryan, he's medically cleared for Sunday.

Bryan has to apologize to Shane though, because Shane was right about Owens and Zayn all along. Shane says he was a little stubborn over the last six months. Bryan: "YOU? STUBBORN? NO!" Bryan wants a hug but Shane offers a handshake. That's not working because they shook hands a few minutes ago and the people of Nashville want a HUG. The fans finally get their wish and Shane promises to get rid of Owens and Zayn once and for all.

From later in the night.

Kevin Owens and Sami Zayn come through the crowd (with Owens in a KO-MANIA III shirt, thankfully continuing the trend of using the old Wrestlemania logos) onto the announcers' table. No one is stopping them tonight so they've got some apologies of their own. Sami apologizes to Birdie and Brie Danielson for what's going to happen to Bryan. A YOU DESERVE IT chant started by Sami doesn't quite catch on but the mic is cut off anyway. Shane and Bryan come out, sending Owens and Zayn bailing into the crowd. Bryan says this is the last time they'll be on Smackdown and Shane starts the Goodbye Song.

Wrestlemania rundown.

Anderson and Gallows vs. Revival

Remember a year ago at the Raw after Wrestlemania when SAY YEAH got a huge reaction? WWE certainly doesn't. Anderson headlocks Dawson to start but a blind tag...doesn't do much good for Dawson, who gets armdragged down for his efforts. Gallows comes in and charges into a knee and everything breaks down in a hurry. Revival gets sent outside and we take a break. Back with the Magic Killer being broken up and the Shatter Machine ending Gallows at 6:21. Too short to rate of course and not enough time to mean anything in the first place.

We see the end of the Stephanie McMahon/HHH/Kurt Angle/Ronda Rousey sitdown on Monday. Rousey's line about making sure Stephanie can still sign her checks was great.

From Raw.

Here are Heyman and Lesnar with wrestlers guarding the entrance. Heyman doesn't think much of Angle's actions tonight, including failing as Rousey's mentor. We hear about how this Sunday is a battle between the two men who have defeated Undertaker at Wrestlemania. People think that this is going to be Roman Reigns' coronation and Heyman respects everything about Lesnar.

However, this Sunday, Lesnar is going to pin Reigns 1-2-3 after an F5.

Should an act of God happen though and Reigns win, Heyman and Lesnar will never appear on Raw again. If they're leaving though, Brock will say goodbye from UFC but Heyman needs to say something now. You know this aura that Heyman has built up since 2002 of Lesnar being above everyone else and that no one is worthy of polishing his boots? It's all true, because no one in the locker room can hold his jock, let alone take his title.

If Reigns thinks he's having a victory party, he's going to have to go home to his family on Sunday night to say he got beat by Brock Lesnar. Heyman: "Roman Reigns, you're just Brock Lesnar's b****." That's enough to bring out Reigns, who asks why the full time talent is protecting Lesnar.

They give Reigns a path and it's time for the in-ring staredown. The fans chant for Roman (remember he played college football in this town) but Lesnar bails to the floor. Lesnar grabs a chair but it gets Superman Punched into his face. Two more have Brock in trouble and a third puts him down. Reigns picks up the title and is promptly F5'd to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. This is a good example of "it was what it was". The show was all about setting up Wrestlemania and it did that well enough, but it's not like there was anything of note going on. It was mainly recaps and hype videos and really, that's all it should have been. I'm excited for the show, but there's a lot that could go wrong. This did its job well enough.

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Main Event – March 29, 2018: John Cena is Obnoxious



IMG Credit: WWE

Main Event

Date: March 29, 2018

Location: Quicken Loans Arena, Cleveland, Ohio

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

This could be one of the more important Main Events of the year as they can do a pretty hard sale of Wrestlemania with so few shows left to go before Wrestlemania. There was some big stuff this week and that means it's time to really crank things up. Oh and the cruiserweight tag match. Never forget about that. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Titus Worldwide vs. The Revival

Wilder and Apollo start things off but we're at a four way staredown less

than thirty seconds in. Dawson comes in and gets backdropped for his efforts, allowing the tag to Titus. It's already back to Wilder and a running clothesline gives Apollo two. Apollo gets elbowed down in the corner though and Dawson grabs a waistlock. That goes into a chinlock and it's exactly what you would expect to follow that hold. Wilder gets powerslammed and the hot tag brings in Titus to clean house. Not that it matters as the Shatter Machine ends Titus at 5:52.

Rating: D. This was lame even by Main Event standards with Titus Worldwide already losing a lot of its limited steam. The same is true of the Revival, who hasn't done much in recent weeks. Having them thrown into the battle royal isn't a good sign for them either, but at least they're not being completely buried.

From Raw.

Here are Brock Lesnar and Paul Heyman to open things up. Heyman recaps the attack on Roman Reigns last week and of course we see some clips. As it turns out, Reigns' suspension is lifted but he's not here tonight. Heyman goes over the Samoan wrestling family raising Roman to be a star and a champion. What they didn't raise him to be is a man.

Reigns was the one saying he was here every single week no matter what but he's not here tonight. Maybe Reigns should have found three MMA students, dressed them up like US Marshals and beaten the heck out of them before starting a fight with Lesnar. Reigns isn't man enough to do that though, nor is he man enough to show up here and take another beating from Brock.

Heyman loads up the end but Reigns is in the crowd. He comes out swinging with a chair and gets in a few shots but Brock runs him over. A HARD shot to the face with the steps puts Reigns down and Brock lays him out with the chair. Brock goes to leave but comes back with an F5 onto the steps. Reigns is left laying, again. The story they're telling here is good, but Reigns not even missing a single show isn't helping. That and the fans don't want to cheer for Reigns and there isn't much of a way around that problem.

We look at Daniel Bryan's return announcement and beatdown at the hands

of Kevin Owens and Sami Zayn.

From Smackdown.

Here's Daniel Bryan for a chat on the stage. He loves being in Pittsburgh because he's cleared to be back in the ring. However, tonight he has a job to do as General Manager. Bryan is willing to give Kevin Owens and Sami Zayn one more chance: in a tag match against Shane McMahon and himself at Wrestlemania. Shane should be back in time for Wrestlemania, so we have some stipulations. If Owens and Zayn lose, they stay fired. If they win, they're back on Smackdown Live.

Bryan talks about opportunities, like the ones he's given Owens and Zayn. He's given them those opportunities because the two of them have always been there for him, whether it's as a partner or if he needed a bed to sleep in. Bryan has a bunch of responsibilities as General Manager like going to meetings, filling out paperwork and wearing these blazers (CM Punk would not approve).

He's sick of all of them because he fought for three years to get this spot. Owens and Zayn have held him back and now, it's time for him to fight at Wrestlemania. Bryan goes on a rant about how this isn't the Bryan on a disabled list or the General Manager. This is the Bryan coming to Wrestlemania to take out Owens and Zayn.

Wrestlemania rundown.

Lucha House Party vs. Tony Nese/Ariya Daivari/Jack Gallagher

Metalik and Daivari get things going with Ariya charging into a raised boot in the corner. Nese takes Metalik into the corner though and we take an abrupt break (felt like a clip), coming back with Metalik hitting a springboard double dropkick. Dorado dives onto Daivari and Gallagher, leaving the Salida Del Sol to end Nese at 1:46. Oh yeah they clipped the heck out of that.

From Raw.

Here's Kurt Angle to bring out Ronda Rousey. Angle talks about Stephanie and HHH being ready for anything so Wrestlemania is going to be a lot of

fun. Rousey was watching that video earlier and Stephanie is tough, but she's trust fun tough. She's limousine riding tough. At Wrestlemania, she's get what's coming to her when Ronda takes her arm out of its socket.

Cue Absolution with Paige saying this is their world. It's nice that Rousey is going into her first match but she needs backup. Rousey could be the fourth member of Absolution! That's a no from Ronda so Paige sends the other two after her. Deville goes down with one shot and Rousey suplexes Mandy into Sonya's legs. Rousey grabs Mandy's arm and cranks a bit but Angle calms her down. That's very Ken Shamrock of her. This was another rough segment from Rousey, but once she goes beast mode, she's exactly what WWE wants her to be. The talking though...needs some work.

We recap John Cena calling out Undertaker over and over, basically acting like the biggest jerk in the world in the process.

From Raw again.

John Cena vs. Kane

No DQ. Kane wastes no time in stomping Cena down and a big boot puts him on the floor. We're already in the chinlock and Cena can't power up with the AA as Kane falls down onto him for two. They head outside with Cena being sent into the steps as we take a break. Back with Kane knocking him through the crowd and hitting a suplex onto a well placed piece of barricade. They head back to the ring with Kane putting him down and going to take off a turnbuckle.

Cena sits up and sends him into the buckle, followed by the throat slit. A chokeslam gets two on Kane and it's table time. Kane sits up this time though and shoves the table over before the AA can connect. Instead he sends Cena through the table in the corner for two. Rather than going after Cena even more, it's another table being set up instead. The chokeslam is countered into an AA through the table to give Cena the pin at 14:02.

Rating: C. I'm still not interested in seeing Cena vs. Kane but at least they're doing something else to set up the match than the usual stuff.

That being said, Cena acting like Undertaker is some horrible person for wanting to retire because Cena wants a match at Wrestlemania is flimsy at best. This was perfectly fine for a house show main event.

Post match Cena wants to know where the lightning is. He calls Undertaker a coward again because there's no response. Cena is willing to go to Wrestlemania as a fan because all he wants is SOMETHING from Undertaker. There's just one week left to go because Undertaker has one week left to do something and define his career. Oh good grief. Anyway Cena wants him here next week because it's Undertaker's last chance.

Overall Rating: D+. That clipped match made things even less interesting than usual and my goodness Cena gets more and more obnoxious every time he runs his mouth about Undertaker. The Reigns vs. Lesnar and Bryan stuff was all very good and helped the show, but bad wrestling and emphasizing the really bad stories didn't do this show any favors.

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Main Event – March 22, 2018: You Can Feel It Now



IMG Credit: WWE

Main Event

Date: March 22, 2018

Location: American Airlines Center, Dallas, Texas

Commentators: Vic Joseph Nigel McGuinness

I'm just going out on a limb here but I think Smackdown might get some extra attention this week. You know, because of that whole biggest story of the year thing that went down. There was good stuff on Raw too though, meaning we might not be getting a lot of original content this time around. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Curt Hawkins vs. Heath Slater

Hawkins wastes no time in laying down so Slater can pin him but his "surprise" kick to the head is easily countered. A running clothesline puts Hawkins on the floor and he'd be more than happy to have Rhyno attack him for a DQ. Slater cuts him off but Hawkins cuts him off, followed by a chinlock inside. The comeback is cut off with a dropkick and Slater has to break out of another chinlock. There's an enziguri to

get Slater out of trouble and a neckbreaker is good for two. Hawkins decks him again but takes WAY too much time following up, allowing Slater to get a small package for the pin at 5:11.

Rating: D+. They're officially beyond the point of needing to do something with Hawkins. The joke is stale and it's not getting any better by doing the same thing over and over again. That being said, you know the big change isn't happening on Main Event, but maybe having him be Braun Strowman's partner or winning off a fluke of some kind could do just as well.

From Raw.

Here's John Cena to find out what Undertaker is going to do at Wrestlemania. Cena issued a challenge last week and now it's time to find out what he has to say. He can't believe that Undertaker doesn't know he still has a place here because if there's still a WWE, the name Undertaker still has meaning. There's even a man in the crowd dressed like the Undertaker right now. Well hang on because the response to the challenge is...nothing.

There hasn't been a yes or a no and that's the biggest mistake Undertaker has ever made. Cena calls it disrespectful to everyone in this arena who gets up and cheers when they head about the Undertaker. It's disrespectful to everyone who took an oversized mortician and turned him into a god. Without the people, there's no Streak and there's no Undertaker. After these people have given Undertaker everything they have, he can't give them a yes or a no?

If you're retired then say you're retired but if you're in then say you're in. The man that Undertaker has become is a coward. Just do something, even if it's "some of that stupid stuff you do." Roll a casket out here or light something on fire but DO SOMETHING! Fans: "DO SOMETHING!" Cue Kane, with new music, to chokeslam Cena without saying a word. I know the match is almost a guarantee, but they're cutting it ridiculously close with this build.

From Smackdown.

Here's Bryan to open things up. He needs to address the actions of Sami Zayn and Kevin Owens from last week...but they're not here yet so we need to talk about something else. Bryan talks about being grateful for everything he has, which was the theme of his retirement speech. He has the greatest fans in the world and an amazing, beautiful wife who stood by him the entire way. It was her who told him to keep going to see specialist after specialist to get him back in the ring. Fans: "THANK YOU BRIE!"

Then when he got depressed, he decided to fight and it was Brie who told him to fight for his dreams. Eventually he was told he was cleared and those dreams became a reality. Next, Bryan needs to thank all of the doctors who kept giving him clearances until the WWE doctors finally did the same. Bryan isn't sure when he'll be back in the ring so here's a WRESTLEMANIA chant to give him an idea. No announcement is made but the fans (including myself) are thrilled.

And from later in the same show.

Back from a break and Bryan is in the ring to see Owens and Zayn. Owens talks about taking their time getting here but Shane McMahon wasn't going to be here so it wasn't a big deal. Then they heard what happened and got over here as soon as they could. They had to get out of a speeding ticket but it was easy because everyone is dumber in Texas. Sami is happy with the news because Bryan has always been their biggest fan.

It's a classic case of good things happening to good people and any show with the three of them on it is the dream show. It sounds like a dream team, but that's not why Bryan wanted them out here. Bryan shows a clip of the two of them attacking Shane to end last week's show, which they find funny. That's not cool with Bryan but Sami says Shane deserved it. Bryan thinks they don't get it.

Shane was right: Bryan was living vicariously through the two of them, but last week was more than getting a little carried away. The thing is Sami and Kevin won because Shane agreed that he had gone too far. They had a match set up for Wrestlemania, which was all they had ever wanted. Imagine the three of them being told that at an armory in front of 300

people ten years ago.

They would have had Bryan in his corner to run the show but they still assaulted Shane. Bryan doesn't get it but he's been fired from this company twice and grown from it each time. The two of them are fired and are so shocked that they can't speak. Owens goes to leave but decks Bryan, followed by some screaming that Bryan did this.

Bryan fights back with kicks in the corner and a snap German suplex to Sami, followed by the running corner dropkicks. Referees come out as Owens takes the YES Kicks but Sami gets back up for the save. Bryan eats a Helluva Kick and the apron powerbomb makes things even worse to end the show.

Well that worked. This gives you a logical path to the tag match (Sami and Kevin have changed from the men Bryan knew years ago and the attack on Shane was unnecessary) and gives Sami and Kevin a ton of heat at the same time. It's a good angle, but more than that it's bizarre to see Bryan taking bumps after two years of just talking. Good segment though and I'm excited for the match.

Lucha House Party vs. Ariya Daivari/Tony Nese/TJP

It's kind of amazing how the more worthless cruiserweights have just disappeared since the tournament started. Kalisto and TJP start things off with the latter talking trash, earning himself a trip to the mat and a spank. The rolling kick to the head rocks TJP again and everything breaks down in a hurry. Double suicide dives have the villains in trouble but Daivari racks Dorado. That's broken up as well and it's a superkick into the shooting star for the very fast pin on Daivari at 2:01. I'm guessing the Bryan segment cut this way down but it's not like we haven't seen it a dozen times.

Wrestlemania rundown.

From Raw again.

Here's Kurt Angle to open things up and he has some bad news: Roman Reigns will not be here tonight due to his suspension and Brock Lesnar

isn't here yet. Angle goes to talk about the tag team battle royal but here's Roman Reigns through the crowd. Kurt warns him that security is waiting but Roman doesn't care. Someone has to be here to represent the main event of Wrestlemania since Brock isn't showing up.

They yell at each other with Reigns saying he's not going anywhere and getting a chair. Angle waves it off and leaves so here are the US Marshals, one of which pulls out a card and gives him the Miranda rights. Reigns is handcuffed but they make the mistake of grabbing his arms and the beating is on. Reigns stands tall and CUE LESNAR!

The beatdown is on in a hurry with Brock throwing German suplexes and beating the heck out of him with the chair. An F5 leaves Reigns laying and here's a stretcher to come get Roman. He's strapped on but Brock comes back again and shoves the stretcher over. Reigns is left laying after a very strong segment that this match needed.

Overall Rating: B-. The original wrestling was its usual nothing but my goodness what a week for WWE TV. The Bryan announcement and segments were outstanding but the Lesnar beatdown worked very well in its own regard. For the first time I'm getting very excited for Wrestlemania and this is the right time for that to be the case.

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Main Event – March 15, 2018: All Aboard



IMG Credit: WWE

Main Event

Date: March 15, 2018

Location: Little Caesars Arena, Detroit, Michigan

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

We can finally start focusing on the build to Wrestlemania with Fastlane out of the way. That means another week of recaps, likely with Curt Hawkins losing again and a cruiserweight match thrown in. That's not a bad thing though as this whole week is about building to the pay per view. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Goldust vs. Curt Hawkins

Hawkins promises to win so he can have one more win than the Red Wings have had this week. Goldust punches him in the jaw so Curt wants to box, which goes just as badly for him as well. An early Golden Cross attempt is broken up and Hawkins gets two off a suplex. We hit the chinlock but

Hawkins poses for too long, allowing Goldust to score with a spinebuster. Ten right hands in the corner set up the snap powerslam for two but the Golden Cross is broken up again. Now it's Curt getting his own two off his own spinebuster, only to walk into the Golden Cross for the pin at 5:11.

Rating: D+. I know we've seen this one a time or five now but both guys are trying out there. Hawkins losing over and over is getting entertaining and I hope they have some way to pay this off. Goldust is still a great hand in the ring and can put on entertaining matches with just about anyone. I'm still holding out hope that he makes it to 2020 so he can be around for five decades. That's just not normal and it's also not out of the question.

Stills of Sunday's Six Pack Challenge.

From Raw.

Here's John Cena to address his loss last night. Cena has found his path to Wrestlemania and some people might not like that. He's tried as hard as he can but he's lost every chance. The fans chant for Undertaker and Cena says he hopes the people backstage are listening. He won't be contributing to Wrestlemania this year (I'm guessing he misspoke when he said he had found his path.).

That doesn't mean that he's quitting or walking away because he'll be there on the same road to Wrestlemania as the fans. He's going as a fan this year and he'll be having a blast. Cena may be sitting next to us and goes into the crowd to steal a sip of beer. He starts a THIS IS AWESOME chant before switching to a LET'S GO ROMAN which doesn't work so well.

Back in the ring, Cena says we need to get one chant out of our system: LET'S GO CENA! You know what comes from there and Cena says the only way that's going to happen is if he does something he's not supposed to do. Actually, what does he have to lose if he does it? Cena: "Well screw it. I challenge the Undertaker to a match at Wrestlemania." He's been told that's impossible but he doesn't quite get why.

Cena says the challenge a few more times and since his mic is still

working, it's clearly not WWE that doesn't want it to happen. That leaves just Undertaker, who needs to, and I quote, get over his own ego. Undertaker is hiding behind his loss and needs to take his head out of the sand. He's not too old and he's not broken down. If he was, he wouldn't be posting workout videos on his wife's Instagram. Undertaker is hiding and needs to come try and Tombstone Cena in front of 75,000 people. If Cena was Undertaker, he'd want one more match.

So, to recap, this match is going to have, at most, three weeks of official build (assuming Undertaker doesn't Tweet a response) because we needed Cena in a six way match at Fastlane. I don't want to see this match and while it could have a good feeling to it, I would really just prefer that Undertaker goes away after last year's great moment. The Cena vs. Undertaker match could have been awesome, but unless that hip surgery completely changed Undertaker, last year was a really bad sign.

From Raw again.

Cue Roman Reigns to say what just happened was Brock didn't show up for work today. For anyone else, there would be a fine, a suspension, or being fired, but that's not happening to Vince's boy. Reigns says if Angle didn't show up, he'd be fired and not be able to feed his kids. Reigns passed Vince McMahon in the back and Vince didn't have the courtesy to apologize. Roman isn't going to have Vince disrespect him so he leaves the ring and goes to the gorilla position, where Vince and Shane are producing the show. Vince gets up and says they'll talk in his office.

Reigns leaves Vince's office and has nothing to say. Vince comes out a second later and says he had to tell Reigns to know his role and shut his mouth. Brock has certain privileges and may not like anyone but he respects competition. Vince says Brock will be at Wrestlemania and will defend his title but he also promises that Brock will be here next week. As for Reigns, he's been temporarily suspended.

And now to Smackdown.

Here's Shane for his big announcement. He recaps the entire story between himself, Owens and Zayn before saying that he's taking a leave of absence

as Commissioner. Before he goes though, Shane makes Owens vs. Zayn for Wrestlemania. This brings out Owens with his head shaking. Before he can say much though, here's Sami to interrupt. Sami doesn't like Shane listening to the fans but doesn't seem pleased that Shane is leaving.

Shane doesn't understand this as he just gave them what they wanted. Owens does appreciate it, but thinks Shane will appreciate this too. The double beatdown is on and Owens hits a Pop Up Powerbomb and it's time for a chair. They wrap it around Shane's neck and ram it into the post before dragging him to the back. Shane gets powerbombed onto a big metal box and sounds like he can barely breathe. A stretcher is brought in to end the show. I'm sure Shane will be perfectly fine enough for Bryan to add him to the match and make it a triple threat.

Stills of Asuka coming to Fastlane and challenging Charlotte for Wrestlemania.

Hideo Itami/Akira Tozawa vs. Jack Gallagher/TJP

Dang we've got the big name Cruiserweights tonight. Gallagher and Tozawa get things going and Jack actually gives him a clean break. Tozawa, while screaming, kicks him in the chest and gets two off the backsplash. Hideo and TJP come in with the latter taking it to the mat and hammering away at the back of the head. Itami knees him down though and we take an abrupt break. Back with Itami getting two off a fisherman's suplex as everything breaks down. Itami's running corner dropkick sets up the top rope backsplash to give Tozawa the pin at 6:27. Not enough shown to rate but it was quick fun.

Video on the Ultimate Deletion.

We see the last minute and a half of the tag team battle royal.

Overall Rating: C. It's kind of awesome to see the Wrestlemania hype train leaving the station as it's long overdue. There was a bunch of big time stuff going on this week and it was nice to have things feel important again. The wrestling here obviously wasn't the point but they did a great job of filling in the gaps between what really mattered.

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Main Event – March 8, 2018: All I Can Ask For



IMG Credit: WWE

Main Event

Date: March 8, 2018

Location: BMO Harris Bradley Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

We're now on the Road to Wrestlemania and that could be interesting from a Main Event perspective. I mean, I'm not sure how interesting it could be as Main Event doesn't exactly have the best prospects, but at least we could see some good highlights from the important shows. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Apollo vs. Curt Hawkins

Where would we be without Hawkins? They don't waste time and hit an early wrestling sequence until Apollo (I still want to say Crews) scores with a jumping back elbow. Hawkins bails and tries to kiss Dana Brooke, which goes even worse than you would expect. Back in and a Stunner over the ropes ropes Apollo and Hawkins stomps away. Apollo is right back with the jumping enziguri and standing moonsault for two. The Toss Powerbomb is countered into a rollup with a handful of trunks for two more in a not bad false finish. Back up and the Toss Powerbomb connects to end Hawkins at 5:18.

Rating: C. Not too bad here but it's the same thing we've seen so many times now. The thing is, it's not like Hawkins needs really needs to do anything with the losing streak. It's a good idea and something they can continue with for months on end. Go with what you can get out of it and that's all that can be asked.

From Raw.

Here's Kurt Angle to get things going. Kurt is serious this week because he got sucker punched last week. HHH hit him right in the jaw and while Kurt has swallowed his pride before, he's calling HHH out right now. The jacket comes off and here's a swaggering Stephanie (the obvious response) instead. Stephanie asks about Angle's five kids and ex-wife, meaning he likely has an alimony payment. She advises Kurt to stick with what he does for a living and here's Ronda Rousey to interrupt.

Rousey talks about the people who brought her here not being what they said they were but she's dealt with that before. Stephanie laughs this

off and says people don't often understand their bosses' decisions. What Rousey needs to remember is that she signed a contract with WWE and that puts her under Stephanie. Ronda remembers something about that contract: she's allowed to pick her opponent. That opponent would be Stephanie, so here's HHH to keep his wife from a bad case of death.

Angle brings up that Stephanie also has a wrestler's contract (Why?) so the match is on. She's not the only one with a wrestler's contract because HHH has one too. That's why the mixed tag match is on for Wrestlemania. HHH leaves so Stephanie loads up the slap on Angle, only to have Rousey grab the arm. HHH comes back in for the save and the fight is on with Stephanie knocking Rousey down from behind. The stare sends her bailing as HHH is put in the ankle lock. Stephanie comes back for the save but gets pulled back into the ring for a not great Samoan drop from Rousey.

Video on New Day vs. the Usos.

From Smackdown.

Charlotte and Ruby Riott are brought out for an opening chat. Ruby cuts Dasha Fuentes off and says this started on November 14, 2017 when Charlotte won the Smackdown Women's Title. Charlotte is the perfect person to be the top star of the women's division but then Ruby saw the myth fall apart. It was a week later that Ruby started the Riott Squad with the sole purpose of destroying Charlotte's myth.

Charlotte talks about how just being good isn't enough because she has to transcend everything. That's what she's done and now she's become the best ever. Ruby says that's all on the line Sunday and when Charlotte loses, she'll be just another bleach blonde with a famous last name. The Squad gets in the ring but here's Bobby Roode to scare them off and to do commentary on the next match. Good promo here, but it should have been for a Wrestlemania match instead of a Fastlane match.

Gran Metalik/Kalisto vs. Ariya Daivari/Tony Nese

Back to the old 205 Live style, which isn't the worst thing in the world. Daivari and Kalisto get things going with the latter grabbing a bunch of

rollups for two each. It's off to Nese for the posing so Kalisto dropkicks him down without much effort. A hurricanrana sends Nese outside and that means a big flip dive to both villains as we take a break. Back with Metalik missile dropkicking Kalisto for two as everything breaks down. A superkick drops Daivari and Metalik's top rope elbow is good for the pin at 9:38.

Rating: C+. Totally standard Main Event cruiserweight match here and that's all it needs to be. It's a good idea to have the cruiserweights get out there in front of the live crowd as they're certainly exciting enough to fire the fans up. Just go with something like that and see what you can do to get us ready for the important stuff.

From Raw.

Here's Paul Heyman to respond to Roman Reigns' comments last week. Heyman lays the title down, saying he's allowed to do it because Brock Lesnar allows him to. Roman came out here last week and criticized Lesnar's schedule. The biggest win of Reigns' career is defeating the Undertaker last year at Wrestlemania. Brock Lesnar did that too and Lesnar is Brock Lesnar 365 days a year.

After Wrestlemania, Brock may let Heyman come out here and lay the title down again. Then maybe he'll lay the UFC Heavyweight Championship next to it. At Wrestlemania, Reigns is coming for the title but that's just not happening. Heyman: "And Afa Wrestlemania, you can Sika new title to challenge for, because this one is going home with Brock Lesnar." Heyman goes to leave but stops to hold up the title. Last week Reigns said Lesnar was a b****. The reality is the title is Lesnar's b****.

Brock does what he wants with it and looks at it whenever he wants but Reigns has been looking at it. The title, which isn't a belt or a strap but proof that Lesnar is the best in the universe, is going to have to be pried out of Lesnar's hot, active fingers. Reigns wants to be champion because it's his bloodline, but the title is what matters most to Lesnar. If Reigns wants to be the Universal Champion, he can't go home if he finds out something happened to his father, because someone has to be there to defend and present this title the night after Wrestlemania.

Reigns isn't the man to take the title from Lesnar and there's no way around it. Now Reigns knows that he shouldn't shoot from the hip with Heyman and he shouldn't shoot in the ring with Lesnar. Heyman goes to leave again but now it's Reigns coming out to interrupt. Reigns says this is proof that what he said is right: all he did is sent Heyman for his rebuttal. All the fans want is for their champion to show up and want to be here. Brock is going to be in Detroit next week so he better be dressed for a fight. Heyman gets out as fast as he can to end the show.

It's a good promo from Heyman, albeit a little long. The problem though is all the cheering for Reigns comes to a crashing halt as soon as Brock shows up. If it doesn't happen on Raw, it's going to happen at Wrestlemania. It's a story we've tried before and I have no idea why we're stuck doing it all over again. At least it should be over soon though and the promos have been solid so far.

Some short form highlights of Smackdown's five way wraps things up.

Overall Rating: C. Pretty standard Main Event show here and there's nothing wrong with that. They showcased the big stuff from Raw and Smackdown while giving us some fine original matches. I know I've said something similar over and over but it's the Main Event formula to the letter. Good enough show here, as is almost always the case.

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Main Event – March 1, 2018: No Apology Necessary



IMG Credit: WWE

Main Event

Date: March 1, 2018

Location: Honda Center, Anaheim, California

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

The show is in a weird place this week as we have the build to Wrestlemania beginning on the Raw side but Smackdown has another pay per view to get through before it can head for New Orleans. Hopefully Smackdown at least gets some attention this week, but you never can tell. Let's get to it.

[Here's this week's Raw](#)

[And this week's Smackdown](#)

Opening sequence.

Akira Tozawa vs. Ariya Daivari

Tozawa starts with the chops and yelling stomps in the corner. The backplash gets two but Daivari gets in a neckbreaker for his first offense. A backbreaker onto the knee sets up a chinlock but Tozawa is

back up with a Shining Wizard. It's too early for the backslash so Tozawa settles for the suicide dive. Back in and a missile dropkick gives Tozawa two, only to eat a superkick. Daivari runs up top so the frog splash can get two. Not that it matters as Tozawa kicks him in the head and drops the top rope backslash for the pin at 6:20.

Rating: C-. Can we please find someone else for the cruiserweights to beat up? I've seen it happen to Daivari so many times now that it's really hard to care. Tozawa has been lost in the shuffle as of late and that's a shame because he really is one of the best performers on the roster. Get him out there more often, if nothing else to make people look good.

Package on the men's Elimination Chamber match. They're never going to mention Strowman destroying Reigns after the match again are they?

From Raw.

Here's Roman Reigns for the showdown with Lesnar. Actually never mind, because Reigns says something happened and Lesnar isn't here. It's not like it would matter as Lesnar doesn't show up unless he's getting paid. Lesnar hides behind his contract and shows up when he feels like it. Last night, Lesnar was in Las Vegas but he was running around with Dana White from the UFC.

Reigns is going to get in trouble for this but he's here every single week no matter what. He cares about this place and doesn't just call himself a businessman like Lesnar and Heyman. He's going to go to the back and take his yelling like a man because he actually cares about this place. This was a few years late, but it's Roman's best promo ever. Build this up as a fight and it's a much more interesting main event.

Also from Raw.

Here's John Cena to discuss his path to Wrestlemania. Last night he failed in the Elimination Chamber and then had a microphone shoved in his face. He wasn't sure what to say but now he's figured it out. After all these failures in the Royal Rumble and the Elimination Chamber, it's time for a Wrestlemania challenge. It's time for John Cena to challenge THE

UNDERTAKER for Wrestlemania.

The place goes nuts but Cena says that's not happening either. Cena doesn't make the matches around here and has been told that match is impossible. Therefore, his road to Wrestlemania now goes through Smackdown, because Cena is a free agent. He'll be there tomorrow night to earn a spot, so see you then. It's a good thing we can't see Cena, because he's sounding really dumb right now. Apparently everyone without a match right now has failed, meaning everyone but Shinsuke Nakamura, AJ Styles, Lesnar and Reigns have failed. Just please don't be Undertaker. Please.

From Smackdown.

Here's John Cena to open things up. He makes no bones about it: he wants in on the Fatal Five Way for the #1 contendership at Fastlane so let's find out what he has to do to get there. Fans: "NO! NO! NO!" Cue Commissioner Shane McMahon to summarize everything, only to be cut off by a LET'S GO CENA/CENA SUCKS chant.

Cena says half the people want him in the match so he should go in. The fans switch to RUSEV DAY and it seems that Cena will be having a shot. This brings out Daniel Bryan, to say he agrees with Shane. They're willing to put Cena in the main event and if he wins, he's in the Fastlane title match. His opponent tonight: AJ Styles. The DQ finish seems obvious and that would make the most sense at this point.

And from later in the night.

AJ Styles vs. John Cena

Non-title. Feeling out process to start with Cena hitting an early shoulder block for two. A chickening/half nelson has AJ in trouble but he fights out with some chops for a breather. The tornado DDT out of the corner lands awkwardly and gives Cena two as we take a break. Back with Cena hitting the ProtoBomb and Five Knuckle Shuffle but AJ comes back with the fireman's carry neckbreaker for a near fall of his own.

A TKO of all things gives Cena the same and Baron Corbin is watching in

the back. AJ's torture rack neckbreaker and Cena's hard running clothesline get two each but Cena charges into an enziguri as we take another break. Back again with AJ getting two off a clothesline of his own but a Lionsault misses. Cena grabs a Code Red for two more and floats over from the near fall into the STF.

That's reversed as well and the Phenomenal Forearm gets two. The springboard 450 hits knees though and the AA connects. Cena tries another though and winds up on the floor where a missed charge sends him into the steps. AJ won't take the countout though and gets AA'd through the announcers' table for a knockout. Cena rolls back in as the referee checks on AJ, meaning Styles can dive back in to beat the ten count. There's the Calf Crusher but Cena powers to his feet for another AA and the pin at 22:00.

Rating: B+. These two could have a good match in their sleep so this is no surprise. It's also not a surprise that Cena is going to the pay per view where he can have another shot at Wrestlemania, which means he's likely losing at Fastlane so we can set up Cena vs. Undertaker in less than a month. Still though, as good as you would have expected here.

Fastlane rundown.

Curt Hawkins vs. Goldust

They fight over a wristlock to start and Hawkins bails to the ropes to get out of a headlock. That means a spank and Hawkins is begging for a DQ because he was in the ropes. Goldust can't breathe thanks to running the ropes but Hawkins lays down so Goldust can pin him. Of course this doesn't work but the small package does get two. Goldust gets knocked outside and we take a break. Back with Hawkins getting two off a Michinoku Driver, only to get caught in the Golden Cross (basically Cross Rhodes) for the pin at 7:38.

Rating: D+. The comedy wasn't bad here but much like the cruiserweight matches, if you've seen it once, you've seen all it has to offer. Hawkins never winning is funny, but I'm getting curious about how they're going to pay it off. Unless he beats a big name to advance their story, I'm not sure what the point of the whole thing is other than low level comedy.

Stills from the women's Elimination Chamber and Asuka vs. Nia Jax.

Video on the Ronda Rousey signing from Elimination Chamber.

From Raw again.

Here are HHH and Stephanie for the response to last night. First though, here's the same video package for the third time. Stephanie says that was Ronda acting out of savage instinct and the slap was to remind her of who is boss. Now though we need an apology from Kurt Angle so we can get on the Road to Wrestlemania. Instead here's a ticked off Ronda but Kurt runs down and cuts her off.

Ronda talks about having never been slapped before and how that took her to a different place. Angle says he needs this job but last night, he lied. The things he said HHH and Stephanie said aren't true. Stephanie gets back in and says they're not bad people and goes to leave again. Ronda says not so fast and says it's Stephanie who needs to apologize to her. If she doesn't, Stephanie's arm is coming out of its socket. Stephanie gets in her face and apologizes in a funny bit. The bosses go to leave again but HHH punches Kurt in the face on the way out.

Overall Rating: C+. This is the kind of thing Main Event should be for: it recapped the top stories and while there's a lot more to look at, this at least managed to cover almost everything that was needed. It's not easy to cram five plus hours of material (not counting the stuff from Elimination Chamber) into a forty five minute show, especially considering the two bonus match. As it was though, they did it quite well here and the show was easy to watch as a result.

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Main Event – February 22, 2018: There's a Good Match In There



IMG Credit: WWE

Main Event

Date: February 22, 2018

Location: Talking Stick Resort Arena, Phoenix, Arizona

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

I've actually been looking forward to this show as I'm wondering how they're going to air anything from the gauntlet match here. Unless it's about a minute or two from each section, it doesn't leave much time for anything else. Then again it's not like Smackdown was all that interesting. Let's get to it.

[Just in case there's not enough Smackdown, here it is.](#)

Opening sequence.

Tony Nese vs. Gran Metalik

Nese poses at him to start (some things never change) so Metalik snaps off the headscissors and forearms him into the corner. A nipup gets Nese out of the way of a kick to the chest and he blocks a moonsault with some raised boots. Nese grabs a bodyscissors with Nigel admiring the size of Tony's thighs. A Quebrada misses and Metalik is back with the rope walk dropkick. Metalik sends him to the floor for a big flipping corkscrew dive and Nese is rocked. Back in and Nese gets crotched on top, setting up the Metalik Driver for the pin at 5:42.

Rating: C. Totally standard cruiserweight match which means there's not much to say about it. It also felt like an old 205 Live match without much drama or intensity and rather just two smaller guys doing moves to each other. I've gotten into the 205 Live style as of late and it would be nice to see that happening more often rather than going back to the weaker stuff.

Now it's gauntlet match time and since they air about fifteen minutes here and I'm not about to put a nearly two hour match when they're airing about a seventh, here's a link to the full think if you'd like to see it again, but it's a little too much to put in full here.

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2018/02/19/monday-night-raw-february-19-2018-this-didnt-feel-like-the-longest-match-in-wwe-history/>

Jeff Jarrett Hall of Fame announcement.

Heath Slater/Rhyno vs. Revival

Slater and Dawson start things off with Heath working on the arm as the fans remind us that Slater has kids. Wilder tries to sneak in but Slater throws up some fists and rolls away. Heath actually beats them both up without too much effort and it's off to Rhyno. Everything breaks down and a double backdrop puts Dawson down as we take a break. Back with Slater getting a hot tag to clean house, including a neckbreaker for two on

Wilder. A small package gets the same but a blind tag sets up the Shatter Machine for the pin on Slater at 7:46.

Rating: C+. It seems that there's a heck of a match in there if you take away the commercial. That's not exactly a surprise either as Slater is the perfect guy for the heels to get heat on until Rhyno comes in on a hot tag. I liked what we saw but the gauntlet match took a lot out of this one.

Ronda Rousey video.

From Raw.

Sasha Banks/Bayley/Mickie James vs. Mandy Rose/Sonya Deville/Alexa Bliss

Bliss and James start but Alexa bails in short order. With neither getting anywhere, it's off to Mandy vs. Sasha with Graves saying that if they studied art like Rose in college, he wouldn't have dropped out. Bayley comes in with a hair whip, followed by a suplex to send Mandy outside.

Back from a break with Bayley in trouble but getting in a shot to Mandy's jaw. Mandy pulls her right back though and Bliss tags herself in, much to Mandy's annoyance. The running slap drops Bayley and it's off to Deville for a chinlock. Bayley fights up and brings in Mickie for some house cleaning, only to have Rose take her down with a cheap shot.

Deville gets in a hard shot for two of her own, only to have Mickie get in a double neckbreaker for the break. Sasha comes in off the hot tag and house is cleaned, including the double knees to the chest to drop Bliss. The middle rope double knees gets two with Mandy making the save. Not that it matters though as the Bank Statement makes Bliss tap at 15:55.

Rating: C+. This was a way to give Banks some momentum heading into Sunday and that's all it needed to be. I would have gone with Absolution as they don't exactly have much momentum in the first place but Banks is a much more likely winner. It was nothing great, but at least it did something good as we head into the pay per view.

Post match Absolution destroys Banks and Bayley before turning on Bliss.

Mickie makes the save though and it's a double implant DDT to Deville to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. This was a hard one to rate as the gauntlet match is the big centerpiece, but at the same time it's cut up so badly that you can barely get anything out of it. What we did get was good though and that's what matters most. Smackdown got no attention at all here but really, Monday wasn't leaving it a lot of room anyway.

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Main Event – February 15, 2018: Worth the Wait?

Main Event

Date: February 16, 2018

Location: SAP Center, San Jose, California

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

The pay per view season is starting to pick up around here and that means we're getting closer to the big show with Wrestlemania. Thankfully Main

Event is now a show that actually hypes up both Raw and Smackdown, which has needed to be the case for a long time now. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Heath Slater vs. Curt Hawkins

Slater doesn't waste time in shouldering him down a few times and hitting an atomic drop. Rhyno isn't interested in punching Hawkins, who tries to draw a DQ. Slater follows him out and gets sent into the apron, allowing Curt to send him into the barricade. Back in and Curt gets two off a clothesline, only to have Slater grab a belly to back suplex. A running knee into a neckbreaker gets two but Hawkins grabs a Michinoku Driver for the same. Hawkins is ticked and goes up for a top rope elbow and another near fall. He's so ticked off that Slater is able to roll him up for the pin at 4:58.

Rating: C+. The elbow near fall was good but you knew the losing streak wasn't ending here. Hawkins is going to win a match one day (match #200 would make sense) and it's going to be a nice little moment, but it's pretty clear that the win is going to be the high point of his latest WWE run. Still though, nothing wrong with being a well paid loser.

From Raw.

The Miz vs. John Cena

Non-title. Miz covers for two and hammers away for two more as we take a break. Back with Miz hitting his top rope ax handle for two and putting a knee in the ribs for the same. Some rights and lefts to the ribs set up a sleeper for a good while, eventually taking us to a second break.

We come back again with Cena being put into the Figure Four, only to easily raise Miz's leg for the break. That sets up the STF but Miz is quickly in the ropes. Instead Miz heads up top for a high crossbody, only to have Cena roll through into the AA. That's countered as well with Miz grabbing a DDT for two. The AA hits on the second attempt but that's only good for two as well.

Miz crotches him on top and we hit the Figure Four again, but Cena

reverses into a Crossface of all things. After the rope is grabbed again, Miz grabs a quick Skull Crushing Finale for two more and frustration is setting in. The frustration is so strong that Miz takes Cena up top for a super Skull Crushing Finale, only to be reversed into the super AA to give Cena the pin at 16:04.

Rating: B. They did a good job of teasing an upset here and while that doesn't make up for the fact that the Intercontinental Champion lost clean, it does make things a lot easier. Miz being in at #1 will help him a bit as he'll lose the match but have taken such a beating that it doesn't matter as much. Also, another good match from these two as that Wrestlemania match looks more and more like a fluke every time they're out there.

From Smackdown.

Kevin Owens vs. Baron Corbin

The brawl is on to start with Corbin sending Kevin outside and sending him into the barricade, despite holding onto his banged up ribs. Back in and Owens scores with a shot to the ribs, only to get POPPED in the face for his efforts. They're right back on the floor in short order with Corbin sending him into the barricade again. They head inside for the second time where Corbin's slide underneath the ropes is cut off with a superkick to the ribs. The backsplash gets two and we take a break.

Back with Owens still on the ribs before grabbing a chinlock. Corbin fights up (perhaps pushed on by the RUSEV DAY chants) and hits a chokebreaker, followed by the slide under the ropes clothesline for two. Owens gets in another shot to the ribs but charges into Deep Six for two more. End of Days is enough to send Corbin to the pay per view at 10:42.

Rating: C. Well you knew that was coming, which is likely what I'll say when Zigler is added to the match as well. Corbin was wrestling as a face here and that made for a surprisingly good match. He's a natural heel and I wouldn't think a turn is the best idea in the world, but this showed that it wouldn't be the worst thing.

And again.

Sami Zayn vs. Dolph Ziggler

Sami hides in the corner to start with Ziggler not being able to take him down. Instead he hits Sami in the head and nails the Stinger Splash in the corner. Zayn is right back up with forearms in the corner and a kick to the face as they're not exactly speeding through the paces so far. Sami's top rope dive for the sake of being dropkicked out of the air is dropkicked out of the air and we take a break.

Back with Sami in control until Ziggler's DDT gets him out of trouble. The Fameasser gets two but Sami crotches him on top for a breather. Sami is right back up with a super exploder suplex (that looked awesome) for two and the shock is apparently. Back up and Sami misses the Helluva Kick, allowing Ziggler to grab the Zig Zag for two of his own. Sami sends him shoulder first into the post and does it again for good measure. Back up and the Helluva Kick is countered with a superkick to send Ziggler to the pay per view at 16:10.

Rating: B-. So Ziggler is back and a face again, just because...he is I guess. If that's not enough for you, in the span of a week we've doubled the amount of challengers for AJ Styles at Fastlane. Why you ask? Well Raw added an extra challenger and it's not like Smackdown can think of its own ideas. The match was good, with that super exploder looking awesome. Pretty predictable finish aside, it's a nice main event.

Cedric Alexander vs. Ariya Daivari

Feeling out process to start, as you might expect in a barn burner from Daivari. Cedric gets shouldered down and Daivari poses, only to have Cedric pop back up and show him how it's done. An armdrag into an armbar takes Daivari down but he fights up to knock Cedric outside as we take an early break.

Back with Daivari whipping him around the ring, getting as close to showing fire as he's capable of doing. Reach for the stars man. A superkick sets up Daivari's frog splash for two. The hammerlock lariat is broken up and Cedric easily reverses into the Lumbar Check to put Daivari away at 9:45.

Rating: C-. That's all you can expect on Main Event as it's not like a heel is going to win, especially against Cedric, who is on a roll as of late. I'd be surprised if he's not at least in the tournament final at Wrestlemania, but stranger things have happened. I would say like Daivari being interesting, but that hasn't happened as far as I've seen.

We'll wrap it up here. From Raw again.

Bray Wyatt vs. Matt Hardy vs. Apollo Crews vs. Seth Rollins vs. Finn Balor

One fall to a finish and we're joined in progress with Crews cleaning house until Balor sends him to the apron for a kick to the head. An Eye of the Hurricane gives Finn two on Bray but Matt has to break up Sister Abigail. Crews and Rollins head up top but it's Bray breaking up a superplex. The release Rock Bottom into the backsplash is good for two on Crews and we take a break.

Back with Matt applauding Bray before hitting him with the Side Effect. It's too early for the Twist of Fate though with Rollins making the save. A double Blockbuster takes Crews and Wyatt down, followed by a suicide dive on Wyatt. Back in and one heck of a clothesline gives Bray two on Rollins. The Sling Blade cuts Bray down but Rollins breaks up the Coup de Grace. Bray gets back up so Matt grabs a Twist of Fate for two of his own.

Rollins hits the Curb Stomp on Balor for two with Crews diving in for the save. A pop up Samoan drop into the standing moonsault gives Crews two on Rollins. The standing shooting star gets the same and frustration is setting in. Bray pulls Matt outside for Sister Abigail on the floor to knock him silly. Back in and Bray loads up a superplex on Crews, only to have it reversed into the Tower of Doom. Balor and Rollins cover Wyatt at the same time and it's a double pin at 16:18.

Rating: B. Fun match and the ending is acceptable enough. I can get the idea that they're going with of wanting the Wrestlemania moment, assuming you can ignore Cole saying it doesn't get much bigger than this. You know, if you ignore the match they're trying to get into for a shot at the bigger match. Anyway, this had a lot of good action and energy,

though I'm getting a bit tired of having these free for all matches so often.

They argue and we fade out, with commentary not even saying good night.

Overall Rating: C-. There's not much to this one as the big shows were all about setting things up for the pay per views by adding more people to the World Title matches. That's not the most thrilling thing in the world and not something I needed to see again. The new wrestling was nothing great and that makes for a watchable but not exactly good show.

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Main Event – February 8, 2018: That's What It's There For

Main Event

Date: February 8, 2018

Location: Wells Fargo Arena, Des Moines, Iowa

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

We're heading towards Elimination Chamber and Fastlane at the same time, meaning we already have a bunch of stuff going on at once. Therefore, this week is likely to be about qualifying matches and getting ready for a World Title match, all while slowly building things up for Wrestlemania at the same time. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Goldust vs. Curt Hawkins

Goldust has Mandy Rose in his corner and my goodness. Hawkins hides in the ropes to start, earning himself a quick spank. Goldust does his "I'm old and need to breathe" thing before knocking Hawkins outside. A clothesline puts Goldust down on the floor but he dives back in, earning himself a chinlock. Curt spends too much time posing at Mandy though, allowing Goldust to grab a spinebuster. The snap powerslam gets two and the Final Cut ends Hawkins at 4:45.

Rating: D+. This was what you would have expected from Goldust vs. Curt Hawkins. The Mandy/Goldust thing surprised me a bit as they certainly do have chemistry, which is at least part of why I would have expected them to be split up. It's not like there's a point to keeping Absolution together so let Mandy get what she can out of Goldust.

Quick look at Miz defeating Apollo Crews to qualify for the Elimination Chamber.

From Raw.

Elimination Chamber Qualifying Match: Bray Wyatt vs. Roman Reigns

They trade headlocks to start until Reigns powers him into the corner. A charge misses though to give Bray two as Matt Hardy is watching in the back. We hit the chinlock for a bit until Reigns fights back and clotheslines him to the floor. The apron dropkick is broken up with a hard clothesline and Reigns is sent into the steps as we take a break. Back with Wyatt holding a reverse chinlock until Reigns grabs a Samoan

drop.

Bray runs him over with the crossbody and takes Reigns to the corner. The superplex attempt is reversed into a powerbomb for two on Bray and Wyatt is in trouble. He's fine enough to counter the Superman Punch into a release Rock Bottom and the backsplash gets two. Reigns' spear is blocked and Sister Abigail gets two and it's time to just unload with right hands. Another Sister Abigail is blocked and the spear (which was a shove minus any significant contact) sends Reigns to the Chamber at 14:50.

Rating: C+. These two have solid chemistry but that was a bad ending. Reigns just shrugs everything off and mostly misses a spear for the pin. It's also REALLY hard to buy Reigns as being in jeopardy when you know full well what's coming at Wrestlemania. But let's just act like there's drama there and hope for the best right?

From Smackdown.

Sami Zayn vs. Kevin Owens

The winner gets AJ, on commentary, at Fastlane. They're tentative to start until Owens runs him over, only to charge into some armdrags. Some right hands send Owens to the floor and he tells Sami to calm down. Owens gets knocked off the apron and we take a break. Back with Sami in trouble but still being able to block the Cannonball.

The exploder suplex into the corner is countered so Sami settles for a tornado DDT and two instead. Sami gets shoved off the top but is still able to get his knees up and block the Swanton. Kevin rolls to the floor and gets caught with a diving DDT to put both guys down on the outside.

Back in and a superkick sets up Owens' frog splash for two more and he can't believe the kickout. Sami is right back up with the Blue Thunder Bomb (which now has a chance to win as he got a pin out of it a few weeks back) for another near fall (ok maybe I'm overly optimistic). Owens stumbles out to the floor and it's time for the argument with AJ, who beats both guys up (though he hit Sami first) for the no contest at 14:02.

Rating: C+. These two have great chemistry together and it's very easy to have Sami slip back into face mode, even for one night only. He's a natural face who is playing a good heel and it makes for an easy dynamic against a natural heel like Owens. They had a good match here, even if the ending was obvious from before the opening bell.

Cue Bryan to say it's a triple threat at Fastlane, leaving AJ wanting a fight to end the show.

Kalisto vs. Ariya Daivari

An early wristdrag takes Daivari down but he sends Kalisto into the corner and mocks the Lucha pose. That earns him a trip to the floor and a suicide dive so Kalisto can do the real thing. Daivari kicks the leg out though and we take a break. Back with a clothesline dropping Kalisto again and the referee yelling at Daivari for messing with the mask.

We hit the chinlock for a bit, only to have Kalisto come back with the usual. The rolling kick to the head and the hurricanrana driver give Kalisto two but Daivari drops him again. Daivari's frog splash gets two but Kalisto grabs a quick Salida Del Sol gives Kalisto the fast pin at 10:12.

Rating: C. Actually pretty good stuff here with both guys working hard. You get that more often than not and it's a nice thing to see. There's no real reason to put in effort in a match like that but these two did so here. Kalisto was doing his usual stuff here, meaning he was better than most of the cruiserweights.

And from Raw.

John Cena vs. Braun Strowman vs. Elias

The winner gets to enter the Chamber in the six spot. That's quite unfair as the two who qualified tonight don't have a chance to get in. Why? Just because they weren't booked last week? What bias. Elias bails to the floor to start so Strowman kicks Cena in the face as we take an early break.

Back with Strowman chasing Elias around the ring, only to get caught in

an AA. Well an AA attempt at least as Cena collapses under the weight. Elias is clotheslined out to the floor but some double teaming keeps Strowman in trouble. A double clothesline puts Strowman on the floor and a pair of whips into the post keep him down.

The guitar over the back into the AA onto the steps have Strowman knocked silly but Elias uses the rest of the guitar on Cena. A backbreaker gives Elias two on Cena but he comes back with the finishing sequence. The Shuffle doesn't work though as Braun is back in with the running powerslam on Cena. Elias escapes one of his own and sends Strowman to the floor before stealing the pin on Cena at 9:58.

Rating: D+. This was much shorter than I was expecting and while the surprise ending does help, I needed a little more than this one. Strowman as the unstoppable monster was a good idea, but it would help a bit if he wasn't just there as the big guy to be vanquished by Reigns.

Post match Strowman powerslams both guys multiple times to end the show.

Overall Rating: D+. Totally standard Main Event this week with only Mandy being a highlight. It's not bad or anything and I flew through the show, which is pretty much the point of the whole thing. Things are getting interesting around this point and building towards the big shows with the big matches. A show like Main Event can help things in that area and hopefully things keep picking up.

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