

Monday Night Raw – May 15, 1995: They're Already Dying

Monday Night Raw

Date: May 15, 1995

Location: Broome County Arena, Binghamton, New York

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jerry Lawler

We're past In Your House and that means it's time to go towards.....towards.....dang it we're going towards King of the Ring 1995. Diesel is still WWF World Champion as Sid still can't win a singles title. Other than that, we still have Jerry Lawler vs. Bret Hart because why stop at two years? Let's get to it.

We open with dueling IRS and Bam Bam Bigelow promos with both saying they're ready.

Lawler is VERY happy after beating Bret Hart last night. That's quite the accomplishment for him actually.

Owen Hart/Yokozuna vs. Nick Barbarry/Bill Weaver

Non-title of course. Cornette yells that a fan didn't get enough oxygen as a fetus. I've asked this before but WHERE DOES HE COME UP WITH THIS STUFF??? A double clothesline drops the jobbers and it's off to Hart to beat on Weaver. Barbarry actually gets in a hiptoss and they take turns working on Owen's arm. Yokozuna will have none of that and finishes Owen with a Rock Bottom.

Rating: D. Just a squash here though I'm not sure what the need was after a successful title defense on pay per view the night before. Owen and Yokozuna were a good oddball tag team and held the belts for a good long reign, possibly due to a lack of any real competition. They weren't a great team or anything really close to it but when there were almost no other teams of worth around, it wasn't hard to stand out.

We look at some stills of Lawler and his mom (a twenty-something year old

model) beating Bret last night.

The latest ad campaign: aliens want to destroy the world but spare it for the sake of the WWF. Ok then.

Man Mountain Rock vs. Iron Mike Sharpe

That WWF guitar is still one of the coolest things in the history of the world. Like, up there with Tang. Sharpe (How is he still around?) bounces off the huge Rock and gets crushed with an elbow. A Fujiwara Armbar (thankfully not on Sharpe's bad arm) ends Mike in a hurry.

We see the house being given away last night and an 11 year old actually won the thing.

Stills of Jeff Jarrett/The Roadie beating on Razor Ramon until Savio Vega debuted for the save.

Savio speaks Spanish and I think says he's here to work. Vince calms him down enough to speak English and say no one is going to hurt his friends when he's around.

King of the Ring Qualifying Match: Mantaur vs. Bob Holly

Oh...dang man. Mantaur shoves Bob outside like he's nothing and shrugs off some dropkicks back inside. We hit the choking on the ropes as it's very clear that Mantaur isn't very good. Mantaur slowly forearmwrestles Bob in the chest and gets two off a suplex. A rollup and missile dropkick give Holly two each and a high cross body is enough for the pin.

Rating: D-. Oh yeah this was bad and that really can't be a surprise. Mantaur was as bad of a big man as there's been since the last time Mabel had a match (so last night) but Holly isn't exactly the most thrilling guy in the world. There was just no depth to the roster at this point and it's showing more and more every single week.

Bob Backlund has a big announcement. Back at Wrestlemania XI he saw a sign and now everything has ionized. Backlund talks about the Olympics starting in 1776 and John F. Kennedy being shot in December 1963. Then there's February 20, 1978, when he won the WWF World Title, which brings

us to his announcement: he's running for President of the United States and that means a marching band. Vince is STUNNED for a great visual. I'm actually stunned this hasn't been referenced in 2016 when Backlund is around again.

Stills of last night's main event and post match brawl with Tatanka and Bam Bam Bigelow getting involved.

Ted DiBiase wants a tag match with Diesel/Bigelow vs. Sid/Tatanka for King of the Ring.

I.R.S. vs. Bam Bam Bigelow

Bigelow, now a fire enthusiast, brings out Diesel to be in his corner and sounds like he accepts the challenge. Diesel chases DiBiase off and we're ready to go, despite that not being fair to I.R.S. Bigelow sends the tax man outside early on and it's time for an early break. Back with Bigelow dropping a headbutt but missing its top rope cousin. Vince mentions Bigelow having a bad knee, which A, should have been brought up earlier and B, should have been noticed earlier.

We hit the chinlock for a bit, followed by an abdominal stretch to really spice things up. I.R.S. takes a buckle pad off (Uh, Diesel? Help?) and sends Bigelow into the steel for two, only to have Bigelow do the same (with the head clearly not making contact) and dropping a headbutt for the pin.

Rating: D-. Egads they're actually getting worse. You would think a leg injury coming into the match would warrant an actual attack on the leg but instead it was a chinlock and an abdominal stretch. Also I hope this isn't their way to launch Bigelow to the next level as a main event face because he just had to cheat to beat a career midcarder.

Shawn Michaels is coming back next week so here's a video to get you fired up.

Overall Rating: F. Oh yeah they're already dying and this is coming off a pay per view. I have no idea how they could have thought this was going to be a good idea and pushing Bigelow as a main event face, at least like

this, is only going to make things worse. Now we've got tournament qualifiers on top of the bad matches, but maybe Shawn can do them some good. It certainly can't make things worse.

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Monday Night Raw – May 1, 1995: It Just Keeps Going

Monday Night Raw

Date: May 1, 1995

Location: Civic Auditorium, Omaha, Nebraska

Attendance: 5,800

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jerry Lawler

Sweet goodness I might as well just do the rest of 1995 at this rate. We're just past Wrestlemania XI (close enough) and we're about two weeks away from the first In Your House, meaning it's time for Diesel vs. Sid. Yeah like I've said many times, this really isn't a good period for the company. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Tatanka costing Bam Bam Bigelow the WWF World

Title last week, causing Ted DiBiase to fire him. Bigelow fought back and said he quit, earning himself a big beatdown including a horrible powerbomb from Sid. Diesel ran out for the save and a Jackknife on Tatanka. Bigelow and Diesel shook hands to end the show.

Opening sequence.

We look at Sid powerbombing various people to send him into the main event.

Lawler has a contract for Bret Hart.

Allied Powers vs. George Anderson/Tom Hagan

That would be British Bulldog/Lex Luger. Anderson starts with Lex and gets hiptossed for trying to run the ropes. Bulldog comes in and eats a forearm to the face so it's off to Hagan. As Bulldog beats on Hagan, I have to describe Tom's attire, which looks like a birthday party store exploded. Anderson misses a charge and gets powerslammed for the squash pin.

We look at Jeff Jarrett cheating to retain the Intercontinental Title over Bob Holly on the Action Zone, resulting in the match being restarted. Holly got the pin but Jeff's foot was on the ropes. Bob was named the new champion but the title was held up. Holly's win isn't considered an official title reign.

Bob Holly vs. Butler Stevens

Stevens takes him into the corner to start but gets armdragged and hiptossed for his efforts. A few knees to Bob's ribs don't do much and Holly's high cross body is good for the pin.

We go to the In Your House Control Center with Todd Pettengill plugging the idea that the show is only \$15. That really should be the selling point for this show: it's 2/3 the length of a regular pay per view but only half the price. The big story here: Razor Ramon will be facing Jeff Jarrett/the Roadie in a handicap match due to a very real neck injury to the 1-2-3 Kid. Oh and they're giving away a house in Orlando.

Mantaur vs. Sonny Rogers

Mantaur, the half man/half bull, has Jim Cornette with him. It's the squash you would expect with Mantaur throwing him around, hammering away in the corner, shrugging off a comeback attempt and winning with a World's Strongest Slam. They were just so lost at this point and Mantaur is a great example.

A cop from NYDP Blue accuses Man Mountain Rock of pretending to be a wrestler. Hey now he wasn't horrible.

Sycho Sid vs. Razor Ramon

And no match as Sid jumps him through the pyro and destroys Razor in fantastic fashion. I remember watching this as a kid and thinking Sid was amazing for jumping through the pyro. Like, that's crazy. Diesel makes the save.

Adam Bomb vs. Dave Sigfried

Bomb throws him around as you would expect and grabs a snap suplex. A clothesline breaks up Dave's hiptoss attempt and Bomb lets this go a bit longer. Some really basic offense (clothesline, hiptoss, right hands) keep Sigfried in trouble and a top rope clothesline ends the goof.

Rating: D. I always liked Bomb so we'll call this a little better than the normal dull jobber squash. He was a horrible talker or otherwise he might have been a good choice for a midcard power guy. But then he got squashed by Mabel at In Your House because KING MABEL could not be stopped.

Bomb throws his toy footballs into the crowd. That's always going to work.

Razor gets medical treatment.

Hunter Hearst Helmsley is snooty and rich.

Men on a Mission vs. Bill Duke/Kevin Kruger

Mabel throws Kruger around (way too common tonight) and chokes him in the

air. The jobbers' double dropkick has no effect so it's off to Mo for a change. A knee to the ribs drops Duke but Mo misses an elbow drop. It's back to Duke as this squash just keeps going. We actually hit a chinlock for a bit before Mabel finally ends it with a belly to belly.

Rating: F. WAY too long here as it took the better part of five minutes to get rid of these goofs. Men on a Mission just wasn't interesting as a heel team (or anything more than a comedy face team for that matter) but it was even worse when they turned Mabel into a monster heel for reasons of genuine stupidity.

Here's Bret Hart to answer Lawler's contract offer. Vince does Bret's pose for a funny visual. Apparently Lawler thinks Bret signed to face Hakushi to get out of a match against Jerry at In Your House. Bret will fight Hakushi at In Your House but he'll fight Lawler on the same night as a bonus. Pyro goes off to end the show.

Overall Rating: F. This was the kind of horrible show that you grew to expect around this time, which should tell you why no one talks about this era. I was bored out of my mind with most of these matches and it's all building towards Mabel vs. Adam Bomb? That's my big reward after all this? Nitro can't come around to light a fire under Vince soon enough.

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