

# Bash At The Beach 1995: Uh...It Looks Nice!



IMG Credit: WWE

## Bash at the Beach 1995

Date: July 16, 1995

Location: Huntington Beach, California

Attendance: 9,500

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Bobby Heenan

This is a pretty unique show as it is literally on a beach (and bashing is implied). The wrestling might be hit or miss, but it's one of the coolest visuals you'll see and that's the kind of thing that WWE never does these days. Mixing things up a lot can help and when you have a double main event of Ric Flair vs. Randy Savage and Hulk Hogan defending the World Title against Vader in a cage, we should be fine in the first place. Let's get to it.

The opening video looks at the main events, while also serving as a Slim Jim commercial.

Video on Meng, who has quite the match on this show as well. Meng is ready to destroy anyone in front of him to defend his honor.

Sting is all fired up to be in his hometown and his parents are in the front row. That's a death sentence in the WWF but maybe he can survive

here.

### US Title: Sting vs. Meng

Sting is defending in a rematch from Great American Bash when he beat Meng in a tournament final to become champion. Meng has Colonel Robert Parker with him. Sting has to avoid the strikes to start and drives him into the corner with a test of strength. With that not working so well, they slug it out until Meng yells at him. Meng powers him into the corner and fires off some shoulders to the ribs. Choking ensues to put Sting down and a legdrop gets two.

Back up and they fight over a suplex as they're in a cross between first and second gear. A shot to the face just annoys Meng and you can see the reality setting in for Sting. Meng knocks him down again but misses the middle rope splash, meaning it's time for the early Scorpion Deathlock attempt. Sting actually gets it over but Parker's distraction breaks it up because, as usual, Sting is really stupid.

The distraction lets Meng hit some backbreakers, followed by a knee in the back while pulling on the legs. That's switched into the abdominal stretch but Sting fights up and gets two off a sunset flip. A double knockdown gives us a bit of a breather until Meng grabs something like a Boston crab. Heenan: "But we're not near Boston so it's just a crab."

Sting makes the rope and comes back with a belly to back suplex to start the comeback. A chop block into a Thesz press gets two, followed by a middle rope spinning crossbody for the same. The Stinger Splash is kicked out of the air though and Meng hits the middle rope splash for two. Back up and Meng misses a running kick to the face, allowing Sting to grab a quick rollup for the pin at 15:31.

**Rating:** C. Sting knows how to fight a monster and that's what he had going on here. It wasn't exactly a great match and I'm not sure how much drama there was over the idea of Meng winning the title, but Sting slaying a monster is going to work every time. It's almost weird to see Sting as a midcard guy, but he's going to bring credibility to the title and that's a good idea.

Post match Meng jumps him again but here's Road Warrior Hawk for the save as Tony and Bobby argue about the speed of the count.

Jimmy Hart says every wrestling magazine is talking about the Renegade (No Jimmy, they're not. For those of you lucky enough to not remember, Renegade was as blatant of a ripoff character as you could get, looking and moving like the Ultimate Warrior, with Hulk Hogan even calling him the ULTIMATE surprise when he debuted. The problem was he made Warrior look like Lou Thesz, turning it into one of the more infamously terrible WCW ideas, if that is possible.), who says Hart has programmed him to terminate on sight. Gene Okerlund thinks the California heat has gotten to them.

#### TV Title: Paul Orndorff vs. Renegade

Renegade is defending and they start fast with Orndorff knocking him down early. A knee to the ribs sets up a knee to the face but Orndorff stops to yell at Hart. That means Renegade can get a boot up to stop Orndorff coming off the top (with the sole purpose of diving into a raised boot) and hit a clothesline to the floor. Tony says that could get some sand on Orndorff's skin, with Heenan saying it could also break his ankle. These two have very different perspectives on injury risks.

Renegade pulls him back in by the head and then drops Orndorff face first on the mat. We hit the headlock and even that looks awkward, as Renegade just does not look comfortable out there. A running dropkick sends Orndorff outside again and this time it's a handful of sand to blind Renegade. Some shots to the face keep Renegade in trouble and Orndorff hits his own dropkick (Tony: "And that was a good one fans.").

The piledriver is broken up with a backdrop though and the comeback is on, including another awful dropkick. There's a powerslam but Renegade isn't sure what to do next so Orndorff throws him outside instead. Back in and Renegade reverses a belly to back suplex into one of his own for the pin to retain at 6:08. Orndorff's shoulder may have been up but anything to get out of here is a good idea at this point.

**Rating:** D-. I've liked Orndorff more after I watch him over the years but DANG he was fighting a losing battle here. At the end of the day, there

was no reason for Renegade to be here other than he looked like Ultimate Warrior. The match was horrible because Renegade is so bad and there is no way around it. This shouldn't have been on pay per view, but that has never stopped WCW before.

Post match Orndorff gives him the piledriver but Renegade pops up and hits a high crossbody.

We see how Kamala was introduced to the Dungeon of Doom as Taskmaster's latest soldier against Hulk Hogan. Apparently he has walked the Sahara and climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. Yet he still can't find shoes.

Jim Duggan is ready for Kamala because it's no more Mr. Nice Guy. Have we flashed back to Mid-South?

#### Jim Duggan vs. Kamala

Kamala, despite being a savage, knows to hide in the ropes when Duggan swings the 2x4 around. Duggan slugs away to start but can't get him down. A big shot has Kamala's arms shaking and a big right hand finally puts him down. The USA chant only works so well this time so Kevin Sullivan points to Duggan and shouts HULKAMANIA, which is enough to send Kamala over the edge.

Choking sets up a bearhug but Duggan uses the power of stomping on bare toes for the break. Kamala goes with the chest claw (as stupid as it sounds) but Duggan is right back with a slam. Duggan goes after Sullivan though, allowing Zodiac to come in with Kamala's mask to knock Duggan silly and give Kamala the pin at 6:06.

**Rating:** D. This was a way to introduce Kamala but that makes you realize that you are having to meet Kamala in 1995. I'm not sure how good of an idea that is, but at the same time I'm one of the few who liked the Dungeon of Doom. This stuff felt so out of place and Duggan as one of Hogan's proxy fighters wasn't quite enough to make a lot of people care. It would make for a good indy match, but not exactly on a major pay per view.

Randy Savage (I want that Slim Jim shirt) is ready to end things with Ric

Flair and wants those lifeguards to keep Ric Flair in person. He's from Florida and we're in California but the beach is what matters.

### Diamond Dallas Page vs. Dave Sullivan

Page has Max Muscle (I think you can figure him out) and Kimberly (his pretty manager) with him. Dave Sullivan (with Ralph the Rabbit) is Kevin's nitwit brother and one of the all time worst wrestlers to be on a big stage. A kid gives Kimberly some flowers so Page destroys them, because he's quite the jealous guy (as he should be because he doesn't have much going for himself, outside of winning \$13 million in a Bingo game, because WCW was weird).

That's enough to have Sullivan run to the ring and jump Page as the beating is on early. An atomic drop into a running clothesline keeps Page in trouble but Sullivan stops to wave at Kimberly). Page gets in a few cheap shots but charges into the bearhug. That's broken up as well so Dave hammers away with his right hand/clothesline offense. The inverted bearhug (Dave lifts him up for a piledriver and squeezes, making it an inverted waistlock instead of a bearhug) goes on but Max gets on the apron for a distraction, allowing Page to hit the Diamond Cutter for the pin at 4:22.

**Rating:** D. Yeah what were you expecting here? Dave Sullivan is one of the worst mainstream performers you'll see in recorded history and you could see that on display here. It doesn't help that this was before Page got good, but he was certainly trying and improving, eventually setting up one of the most improbable main event runs of all time. Anyway, horrible match, but when you're flat out copying George Steele/Randy Savage/Elizabeth, what are you expecting?

Sister Sherri says she and Harlem Heat are ready for the Blue Bloods and the Nasty Boys in the triangle match. Harlem Heat is ready too and rant accordingly. This is back when a triple threat was a pretty rare concept so there is some actual intrigue here.

### Tag Team Titles: Blue Bloods vs. Nasty Boys vs. Harlem Heat

Harlem Heat is defending, the Blue Bloods are Robert (Bobby Eaton)/Steven

(William) Regal and this has some weird rules. There is a coin toss to determine which teams start and it's one fall to a finish, but you can be eliminated via DQ and turn it into a regular tag match. In one of the most "because WCW" moments in recent memory, they all flip the coins, but they have to do it again because they're all heads. So yes, WCW couldn't manage to rig/lie about A COIN TOSS WHERE YOU DON'T SEE THE COINS without having to try it again.

Booker and Knobbs start but it's a brawl in just a few seconds because of course it is. Regal takes the Pit Stop and sells it as only he can, falling all the way outside. There's another to send Eaton outside again and we settle down to Booker kicking Knobbs in the face. Regal tags himself in and stomps on Booker, who takes him down without much effort. The spinning kick to the face keeps Regal in trouble and it's Eaton coming in, only to get backdropped down.

It's off to Sags for a legdrop between the legs but Booker is up to forearm Regal as the fast tags continue. Tony points out the lack of logic in tagging another team in as the Nastys hit a double shoulder for two on Booker. Regal comes in to strike away on Stevie but then tags Sags in, causing Heenan to say the Blue Bloods don't understand the match.

The Blue Bloods start taking turns on Stevie but again Regal tags Knobbs in, completely missing the point. Knobbs hits a splash for two with Regal making the save, earning some rarely deserved praise from Tony. Booker comes back in for a knee to Knobbs and then hands it right back to Stevie for a knee of his own. The Blue Bloods take over on Knobbs again as Heenan gets confused on the rules again.

Stevie gets to choke on Knobbs in the corner but Regal tags himself in to break up the ax kick from Booker. Knobbs sits down on Regal's chest to break up the sunset flip attempt and everything breaks down again. Booker gets backdropped onto Regal and Knobbs adds a splash to give Sags the pin....on Booker, who is on Regal, meaning Harlem Heat retains at 13:09.

**Rating:** D+. They were trying something different here but at the end of the day, the teams seemed to get confused by the rules here and it was a big mess as a result. That being said, the ending was creative and I'll

take that over something that is done over and over again. They really needed to tighten up on the execution to make it work, but there was only so much you were going to be able to do with these three teams all at once.

Post match Sherri yells about how great Harlem Heat is and the team agrees. They aren't worried about Bunkhouse Buck and Dick Slater either.

Commentary talks about the upcoming match while everything is set up.

Ric Flair talks about how Elizabeth left Savage for him (Gene: "Did she go to Space Mountain?") and now it's time for Savage to understand what is going on (as we copy another WWF story). Flair is ready to make the girls in California cry again.

Some Baywatch women come to the ring so Heenan gets on his chair for a better look.

#### Ric Flair vs. Randy Savage

This is a Lifeguard match, meaning Lumberjack. You can tell Savage is serious here because he's throwing out Slim Jims. Savage punches him down to start and hammers away as commentary keeps talking about Savage's dad being in attendance. Flair gets sent outside and the lumberjacks are already getting in a fight over throwing him back in. An atomic drop out of the corner lets Flair chop away before sending Savage outside. The same kind of shoving match ensues but Savage sends him into the buckle a few times back inside.

The Flair Flip into the corner is enough for a trip to the floor but Flair is back inside in a hurry. Savage is sent to the apron, where he suplexes Flair over the top and back outside (near the sand for a change, which Tony thinks could be a problem). Back in again and Flair gets in a thumb to the eye, setting up an elbow to the face. The sleeper goes on until Savage sends him into the corner for the break.

Flair sends him outside for a few cheap shots and it's time to go for the leg. To really mix it up, Flair grabs the leg, goes to the middle rope, and flips forward to snap the leg (never seen him do it before or since).

It's enough to set up the Figure Four with Savage finally managing to turn it over. Flair gets two off a suplex but Savage is right back with right hands in the corner. Savage sends him outside with the lifeguards having to catch Flair from trying to escape.

There's the top rope ax handle to the head but Savage has to knock Arn Anderson off the apron. Flair gets sent over the top and the referee is distracted, allowing Arn to come in with the DDT. That's good for two, as is Savage's backslide. Flair is slammed off the top and there's another ax handle to the head. Savage heads up top again and does the fingers in the air (with the huge crowd and ocean behind him for a REALLY cool visual) for the elbow and the clean pin at 13:57.

**Rating:** B-. Savage vs. Flair is always worth a look but this was a pretty paint by numbers version of the match. The lumberjacks didn't do much of anything aside from the Arn DDT, making it more of a gimmick than anyway else. It felt big because of who was in it, but there are roughly 14 better versions of this match available.

Post match Savage hugs one of the Baywatch women, who manages to not be physically ill on camera.

Video on Vader's Road Kill Tour, which has involved him destroying everyone on the way to a cage match against Hulk Hogan here. More paint by numbers stuff, but it's Hogan vs. a monster in a cage. Why mess with what works?

Vader breaks various things and promises to show Hogan who the man is, because Vader fears nothing. While Hogan was out there tanning on the beach, Vader was growing up in the toughest parts of Los Angeles and there is nowhere for Hogan to hide. Vader was extra fired up here.

Commentary hypes up the main event, with Tony calling Heenan a blathering idiot.

Video on Collision In Korea, which is almost hard to fathom these days.

Hulk Hogan, with Jimmy Hart and Dennis Rodman, talks about how they were looking for people to beat up last night. Now it's time to make Woodstock



look like a backyard barbecue while he throws Vader over the top of the cage. Uh, you can win by escape here Hulk. Rodman is going to be guarding the cage door.

#### WCW World Title: Vader vs. Hulk Hogan

Hogan is defending in a cage and I'll never not be a bit disturbed by Vader's helmet. It's pin/submission/escape to win here. Hogan goes right for him to start and the right hands in the corner have Vader in early trouble. The fans are into the counting here as Hogan can't elbow him down. They both block rams into the cage and slug it out with Vader getting the better of things and sending him into the steel first.

Hogan sends him face first into the big helmet and then puts it on (Blasphemous!) for a disturbing visual. With that nonsense out of the way, Hogan rips at his face, only to be sent into the cage. The Vader Bomb gets no cover so Vader does it again for the near fall. There's another ram into the cage and a release suplex drops Hogan again. Vader goes for the door but gets sent into the cage, only to knee Hogan in the head. The top rope backsplash (that's a new one) misses but Hogan falls down on a slam attempt to give Vader two.

The chinlock goes on and Jimmy Hart instantly goes into cheerleader mode, as he is known to do. Hogan fights up and hits the slam, only to hurt his back. Vader's middle rope splash gets two and it's time to Hulk Up. Hogan isn't having any of these forearms to the back or a ram to the cage, as Heenan is all "oh here we go again". Vader is sent into the cage over and over and it's a big boot...as Kevin Sullivan and Zodiac come out. Rodman dispatches them in a hurry as Hogan drops a pair of legs. That's not enough for Hogan to escape (oh come on) so Hogan knocks him off the top and escapes at 13:13.

**Rating:** C-. This was as by the book of a Hogan cage match as you were going to get and there was absolutely no drama to the whole thing. Hogan beating a giant is one thing but could they at least make you believe the title was in the slightest bit of jeopardy? That being said, there is a reason that this formula worked so well for so long and the match wasn't horrible, with the unique setting helping a lot.

Heenan is disgusted as the show ends....in theory at least, as Flair comes into the ring to yell at Vader. Tony isn't sure if we're still on the air as Arn Anderson has to come in to save Flair. Vader chases them both off without much trouble and shouts that Flair needs to stay out of his business.

Commentary recaps the cage match and post match shenanigans to wrap things up.

Roll credits.

**Overall Rating:** D. The two main events were upgrades, but there is a reason that this is such a dark period for WCW. The wrestling wasn't very good, the stories were about as basic as you could get, and nothing is worth seeing. At least the visual was really cool though as going somewhere else for a special show like this does help. It was clear that they needed to change something up here though as this was a really rough one to sit through.

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# Thunder – January 17, 2001: I Can Get Through This

## Thunder

Date: January 17, 2001

Location: Allen County Coliseum, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Attendance: 4,836

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Mike Tenay

We're coming off an interesting show Monday where things have changed a bit yet still feel very much the same. In this case Ric Flair is now all evil for reasons that aren't clear (and will remain that way because this is WCW) and the remaining faces are fighting against the latest NWO. It's certainly better than what we've been having but I don't see much of a shelf life for this one. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Sunday and Monday. You know, the early part of Monday before they did this show in front of a dead crowd.

There's a new opening.

Here are Cat and Miss Jones to get things going. Cat gets straight to the point: he wants to clean up WCW and Flair isn't going to keep Goldberg gone forever. Well to be fair no one really believed his career was completely over anyway. Cat wants Totally Buff out here right now so here are Luger and Buff with the latter making fun of the shape of Cat's mouth.

Luger one ups him by botching Ric Flair's job title, referring to him as the President of WCW. I know it's not that complicated but it's three letters long and Luger can't remember? Cat makes fun of Buff's hat so they come to the ring, only to have Kronik come out for the save, prompting Cat to set up a match between them tonight. Dance time!

Here's Kwee Wee, or Angry Alan more than likely, to issue an open challenge to anyone because he's not happy with being left out of Flair's group (which needs a name). Unfortunately it's quickly answered.

## Kwee Wee vs. Rick Steiner

This would be Kwee Wee's reward for all the effort into making this stupid character work. Steiner takes him down with a suplex right at the bell and it's time to go outside for a whip into the barricade. A wicked Steiner Line is followed by a bunch of right hands to the face as Rick asks if this is what Kwee Wee really wants. Kwee Wee doesn't think too much of Steiner barking at Paisley but his objection is stopped cold with a German suplex, followed by the Steiner Bulldog to complete the destruction in a hurry.

Steiner says that's it for the audition and Flair can come get him (Steiner) if he wants him.

## Hardcore Title: Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Meng

Meng is defending. Bigelow jumps him to start and makes the mistake of hitting him in the head. That's fine with Meng so Bigelow hits him in the back with a few chair shots for maybe 14% more effect. They stay on the floor with Meng going over the announcers' table and Bigelow going into the steps. In other words, it's the exact same thing that happens in almost every hardcore match.

Back in and Bigelow actually works on the leg because this is the match where you expect psychology. Meng shrugs it off (of course) and no sells a DDT, setting up the Death Grip. For some reason that's not enough for a pin though and Meng goes up for a top rope splash to retain.

**Rating:** D. What were you expecting here? Meng wasn't exactly someone worth seeing on his best days so having him be an even more unstoppable monster wasn't exactly the right way to go. It doesn't help that Bigelow had been wrestling the exact same match for at least a year and it wasn't getting any better.

On top of that, this was it for the Hardcore Title as the WWF would sign Meng away and put him in the Royal Rumble just for the fun of it. Now some people might think WCW would put their champions under contract to make sure no one steals them away like this but they had more important things to worry about, such as finding a justification for Lex Luger

being a top heel in 2001.

Glacier video.

Norman Smiley gets a fan letter back from Glacier, who says he'll have Norman's back. Giddiness ensues.

Team Canada arrives.

Lash Leroux and The Wall apologize to Hugh (yes they call him Hugh) about having Chavo's back too often lately.

Don Harris now has a neck brace and will never be able to wrestle again, leaving Ron to wrestle as a singles guy. Norman comes in and challenges him to a match later. I won't even bother making fun of this.

Ric Flair, Scott Steiner, Midajah and some women arrive. WCW does know that they tell people this is being taped on the same night right? As in the fans should know there's no reason for Flair and Steiner to leave and come back for the second show.

#### Norman Smiley vs. Ron Harris

The announcers actually treat Don's "injury" as a big serious thing because Bischoff is in charge again and announcers have to be this stupid. We hit a LONG stall session to start before Norman armdrags him down a few times. A dropkick lets Norman start dancing and it's time to stall again.

Tony starts listing off the reasons why the Twins can't switch again as Ron comes back in with a kick to the face. A side slam gets two so Ron throws him outside and into the barricade. That goes nowhere so Norman makes his comeback with clotheslines and a little spanking. The referee yells at Norman for attacking in the ropes and the Twins switch, allowing Don to give Norman a big side slam for the pin.

**Rating:** F. Norman jobs, the Harris Twins win, and it's time for the announcers to start treating us like idiots while acting like idiots themselves. This is indeed life in WCW because Bischoff really does believe he's smarter than everyone else and that they would actually fall

for the most obvious trick in the history of wrestling.

### Totally Buff vs. Kronik

Just like last week. Adams slowly powers Luger around to start but Lex has that veteran smirk on his face. I'd smirk too if I got paid this much money to do so little. A gorilla press drops Luger and a piledriver gets two with Bagwell coming in for the save. We get a double tag so Clark can powerslam Bagwell, followed by a belly to back suplex. Adams DDT's the heels down at the same time but Luger pops up with a clothesline so the old guys (as in the bad ones) can take over. Everything breaks down and it's Jarrett coming in with the guitar to knock Clark out for the pin.

**Rating:** D-. How in the world do you have a new creative team and fresh stories (well as fresh as the NWO can be) and still have the same ending from last week? This was horribly dull stuff as Luger might as well have been holding up a sign saying "I'm not trying and I get paid for it" and Bagwell was Bagwell.

Page comes out for the save but Flair and company come out to beat him down. Flair makes Page vs. Jarrett for the main event and calls the team The Elite. That might be the most overused name I've heard of in wrestling history.

### Billy Kidman vs. Mike Awesome

Before the match, Lance Storm says the war between the Filthy Animals and Team Canada is far from over but they will have the last laugh. Kidman has bad ribs coming in but shrugs off an early beating to dropkick Awesome out to the floor. A crossbody off the apron only hurts the ribs even worse but he's still able to hit a slingshot legdrop for two.

Awesome gets smart and throws Kidman in the air for a crash down onto the ribs, followed by a splash for a near fall. A powerslam looks to set up the Awesome Splash but it only hits mat to keep things going. Awesome hits a top rope clothesline for two but the Awesome Bomb is countered with a Bodog for two. For reasons of general stupidity, Kidman goes up for the shooting star, only to get crotched back down. Now the Awesome Bomb connects for the pin.

**Rating:** C+. I liked the idea of this match when it was mentioned on Nitro and it was about what I expected. These two worked a nice power vs. speed match though the ribs didn't really cost Kidman in the end. The latest stable war isn't the most interesting thing in the world but that's what you get in a Bischoff run company.

The Canadians go to cut Kidman's hair but the Animals run in for the save.

Chavo Guerrero says he was auditioning for Flair when he attacked Morrus on Monday.

Video recap of Nitro.

#### Chavo Guerrero Jr. vs. Hugh Morrus

Morrus (PICK A NAME ALREADY) runs him over to start and throws him up for a gorilla press. That means it's time for the choking before Morrus puts him on the top, only to eat a tornado DDT for two. It's time to start in on Hugh's leg because this show hasn't died enough already. After that eats up some time, Morrus (called Rection by the announcers) comes back with chops, only to get taken down into another leg lock. A sitout powerbomb plants Chavo but cue the Wall to chokeslam Morrus off the top to give Chavo the pin. The announcers are shocked and call Morrus the heart and soul of WCW.

**Rating:** D+. Somehow that's one of the better matches of the night so far despite Chavo laying on the mat for a long stretch and working on the leg, which of course went nowhere. Now we get the implosion of the Misfits, which I'm sure you were all looking forward to. It's another bad match on a LONG show full of them.

Post break, Chavo says he tried to preach to the other Misfits but couldn't get through to them.

#### Jeff Jarrett vs. Diamond Dallas Page

Before the match, Jarrett addresses the Hoosiernuts. Tenay: "Hoosiernuts? Oh we're in Indiana." Basically he's smart and Page is dumb so come get yours you string bean slapnut. Page starts fast with a clothesline out to

the floor but they head back inside before the announcers have to run away. Jeff gets in a few stomps but Page slugs away and gets two off a Batista Bomb. That earns Page a low blow and things slow right back down. Page blocks a kick to the ribs but eats an enziguri which puts Jarrett down as well for absolutely no reason.

Jeff breaks up a sunset flip with a right hand but kneels down so Page can pull him down for two. It's time for the required Jarrett sleeper hold which has never won a match. Two arm drops bring Page back to life and a sleeper drop (which Tony calls a version of a Diamond Cutter because Tony isn't that bright) puts both guys down again. A spinning Rock Bottom gets two for Page but the Diamond Cutter is countered, only to have the heels come in for the DQ.

**Rating:** C. Typical fine match between these two with nothing all that interesting but nothing too bad. You knew the ending was coming as we've flashed back to 1998 when a few basic moves were enough to bring out the troops for the DQ because things might get too interesting otherwise.

The good guys come out for the brawl with Tony saying they won't stop until someone dies to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** D-. Oh yeah this show has died again. This was another episode with zero effort and almost no storyline development. We have another big storyline with the heel group vs. the face group and they brawled a lot to end the show. It's pretty clear that they're not trying at this point, but the question is (assuming you don't know they have two months left) what are they waiting for? A pay per view just ended and now they're just waiting around again? For what? Another horrible show here as Thunder gets more and more worthless every week.

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# Thunder – January 3, 2001: They Still Suck

## Thunder

Date: January 3, 2001

Location: Mid-South Coliseum, Memphis, Tennessee

Attendance: 2,547

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Tony Schiavone, Stevie Ray

Happy New Year everyone and welcome to some of the final months of WCW. It's been a little while since we've had anything to actually watch as a few shows were preempted by holidays. Even WCW wasn't stupid enough to try and have a show on Christmas night so this is a fresh start for them. Let's get to it.

We open with a rapid fire video of everything that has been happening recently. It would be nice if they had more than five seconds per story but we need to get in and out of this in thirty seconds.

Mike Awesome has a Team Canada bus.

Opening sequence.

Tony calls this 2001: the Wrestling Odyssey. Well it certainly is a difficult journey.

Here's President Ric Flair to get things going. He has a few things to get through before we start the show. First of all, Goldberg's Streak is on the line in his tag match at Sin, as per Goldberg's request. Second,

Scott Steiner will be defending his World Title in a three way dance against Jeff Jarrett and a mystery partner (Yes partner. Even Flair said it twice.). For now though, he's under a two week suspension because that's how you build up a World Champion for a pay per view title defense. That suspension ends on Monday, because having a two week suspension WHEN YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY SHOWS makes perfect sense.

Cue Jeff Jarrett to interrupt because he's tired of hearing about Steiner and the Mystery Man because he's the other one in the match. Ric really doesn't like being threatened so he gives Jarrett a match with Sid with the three way dance spot on the line. His opponent is Sid, whose music starts playing before Ric can even introduce him. It's a taped show and they still can't pull this off. We see a clip of Sid having Steiner pinned at Starrcade, which is enough to warrant another title shot. Shouldn't that be a guaranteed title shot and not a match with Jarrett? Sid says it bees that way so the beating is on tonight.

Post break, Ric asks Mike Sanders why the Insiders aren't on the show. Sanders says they were given a night off. Ric isn't convinced but Sanders insists he's not up to anything.

The Thrillers are in their office when Sanders comes in to say that yeah, he's the reason the Insiders aren't here tonight. Reno is given a match with Johnny the Bull later tonight.

Crowbar has a chair match with Meng tonight before he gets to face his idol again. Terry Funk was the man Crowbar looked up to before he bound Crowbar's hands together and hit him in the head with a chair over and over. Crowbar swears revenge and to receive the hardcore torch at Sin. This was a really impassioned promo, which is why Crowbar isn't going anywhere.

Buy a Cat T-Shirt!

Shane Helms vs. Jamie Noble

This should be good. They run the ropes to start until Shane shoulders him down, followed by Shane pulling on a double underhook and bending Jamie around like an abdominal stretch. A middle rope fist drop (remember

that we're in Memphis) gets two on Noble. Shane takes too much time posing though and the Nightmare on Helm Street (that dragon sleeper into a standing elbow drop) is countered into a northern lights suplex for two. The Vertebreaker plants Jamie but again Shane won't cover. Now the Nightmare on Helm Street is enough for the pin in a bit of excess violence.

**Rating:** C+. Nice little match here with Shane looking good before he heads into his title shot. The Cruiserweights has been one of the few bright spots in these last months as there's a story here and a talented champion defending against a bunch of guys who want the belt and personal revenge at the same time.

Post match Evan Karagias comes out to go after Shane but Shannon Moore runs in for the save. Jamie tombstones Shannon but takes another Nightmare. Now it's Chavo running out to hit Shannon with the belt, making him the last man standing.

We see Konnan beating Elix Skipper for reasons I still don't understand other than stupid politics.

Konnan and Elix get in an argument in the back but it's a Canadian trap with Konnan getting beaten down.

Cat wants to be the Commissioner again and suggests that Gene Okerlund watch Lassie. Gene thinks he could do things to Miss Jones.

The Harris Twins have been laid out.

#### Corporal Cajun/Sgt. AWALL vs. Sean O'Haire/Chuck Palumbo

O'Haire and Palumbo are surprise opponents as this was supposed to be a six man. Sanders publicly says that he's the reason the Insiders aren't here tonight. The rest of the Thrillers lay out the Misfits to give the team an early advantage with Cajun taking the early beating. It's a shame the Thrillers can't beat these stupid names out of them. Stevie makes a Hogan's Heroes reference which actually breaks Tony up a little bit.

AWALL comes in and punches Palumbo a few times, allowing Cajun to powerslam him for two. Cajun gets two more off a back elbow, only to have

Chuck do the Chris Jericho springboard dropkick to knock him off the apron. Of course the Thrillers get in some cheap shots on the outside and AWALL is knocked to the floor. The Seanton Bomb puts Cajun away.

**Rating:** D. Quite the messy match here but it establishes O'Haire and Palumbo as a good team for the future. Odds are they'll be the pair that faces the Insiders for the belts at Sin, which is the best possible option due to the level of talent there. The Misfits on the other hand just need to go away. They're not interesting, the joke is long past over and there's just nothing left for them to do.

The Thrillers lay out the Misfits post match until Chavo tries to make a save. Shane Douglas comes in through the crowd and beats on Rection.

Post break Shane says he's going to keep tormenting Rection until he gets the US Title as revenge for him taking away Torrie Wilson. Sin is going to be a chain on a pole match, which makes me think Russo is back. Rection runs in and beats Shane down.

On the bus, Jim Duggan sneaks up on Skipper and attacks because HE NEVER WALKS AWAY FROM A FIGHT. No, apparently he starts them by sneaking up on someone and telling the camera to stay quiet.

The Filthy Animals need to regroup after Konnan got attacked.

Johnny the Bull and Big Vito are talking about their priest when Cat comes up to say he wants to take out Reno tonight so he can put him in soup.

Buff Bagwell doesn't understand why Sarge has issues with him. Someone who can turn a goof like Goldberg into a wrestler must be talented. Lex Luger has an "autographed copy" of Goldberg's book and apparently Goldberg can't spell.

Video on Sarge running the Power Plant.

Lance Storm gives Mike Awesome a match with Duggan tonight, which apparently he can just do.

Rey Mysterio has a plan.

Flair comes in to see the Thrillers and gives Reno a match with the Cat. So Reno has a night off? Jindrak will have a match too but his opponent isn't named.

Sid, in different clothes than earlier, is ready for Jeff and is very thankful for his spot.

That's about nine straight minutes of backstage segments. Maybe next up they can have someone hold up a sign that says "YEP! WE'RE STALLING!"

#### Crowbar vs. Meng

Chair on a pole match, making me even more convinced that Russo is back. Of note: there isn't an actual pole as the chair is just in the corner. They slug it out to start as Daffney breaks some glass with the screeches. It's already time for the chair with Meng getting his hands on it, only to have Crowbar dive over the top to take him out. Meng is whipped into the barricade but comes right back with his normal Tongan insanity. A drop toehold sends Meng head first into the steps and for some reason it actually works.

Daffney and Paisley get in a fight over the chair (you remember the chair) as Crowbar slows Meng down with a reverse DDT. That's not enough for a cover though as Crowbar charges at Meng, only to be flapjacked into the chair on the top turnbuckle. The Death Grip puts Crowbar out.

**Rating:** D+. For some reason the announcers were stunned by the win, even though this feels like your standard way to build Meng back up before having him get taken down again. I'm assuming we'll be having another three way for the Hardcore Title at Sin, which makes me think this should have been a standard hardcore match but why do that when you can have a (non-existent) pole.

Flair shakes Bagwell and Luger's hands but nothing is heard.

#### Mark Jindrak vs. Goldberg

Jindrak actually gets in some offense but gets beaten in just over a minute with the usual.

Goldberg is ready for Luger and Bagwell.

Jeff Jarrett calls out the Mystery Man tonight because the Mystery Man can choose who he's facing at Sin.

Luger and Bagwell talk to Kronik.

#### The Cat vs. Reno

Before the match, Cat says he wants Sanders out here because he has no issue with Igor (his name for Reno, which he's used at least five times tonight). Reno jumps him from behind and chokes a lot to start, only to get knocked out to the floor. Miss Jones fires off some kicks, which certainly isn't an excuse to showcase how she looks in chaps. Back in and Reno stomps away but his t-bone suplex is countered into a small package for two. Stevie: "Is that a brainbuster?" Cat pops up, does the crotch chop, and the Feliner ends Reno quick. I have no idea what this is supposed to accomplish but Cat is winning a lot lately.

#### Jim Duggan vs. Mike Awesome

There's a big blurred out area behind the Canadians during their pre-match speech due to fans flipping them off. Duggan is back in the blue trunks here. They slug it out to start with Awesome being knocked to the floor for a change. Back in and Awesome slowly beats him down as the match loses the little interest it had coming in. Duggan comes back with a running clothesline as Stevie name drops Bronco Lubich. Skipper does....something from the floor though, allowing Mike to hit a quick Awesome Splash for the pin in a hurry.

Post match the beatdown is on until the Filthy Animals come in for the save. Konnan grabs the mic and tells them to look at the screen, where we see the Team Canada bus covered in graffiti.

After a break, Team Canada says they want to deal with the Animals at Sin instead of calling the cops.

The Mystery Man's gear is shown in the back.

#### Buff Bagwell vs. DeWayne Bruce

Buff turns his back to pose to start (and it's hard to blame him), allowing Bruce to get in a shot from behind. They take it to the floor with Bruce in control and walking around the ring with Buff being dragged behind. Back in and Buff gets two off a neckbreaker before we hit the choking. Bruce fights up and makes his comeback so here's Luger with a chair. We cut to Goldberg running out of his locker room but Kronik jumps him, throws him in a box and carries him away on a forklift. Back in the arena, Luger Pillmanizes Bruce's arm for the DQ.

**Rating:** F. Leave it to two moronic heels to attack a career jobber and injure him instead of going after GOLDBERG. This is such a stupid story as we've already had Goldberg go over Luger twice and now they're going to use Bruce to stretch it out to a third pay per view. Why this is happening while Sid, Jarrett, and whoever is under that mask get a title shot isn't clear, but I'd chalk it up to "WCW is stupid."

#### Jeff Jarrett vs. Sid Vicious

The winner is in the three way dance at Sin. Before the match, Jarrett wants to talk (of course) to the Mystery Man. Jeff rambles on for a long time about how he and Sid both want momentum coming towards Sin but the audio keeps cutting out, likely trying to censor some chants. Sid won't let him bail though and the brawl is on in front of a dead crowd with Jeff being dropped throat first across the barricade.

Back in and Jeff stomps away before a dropkick gets two. We hit the sleeper (of course) until Sid fights back and gets in a chokeslam. The powerbomb is loaded up but the Mystery Man comes in and hits Sid in the back, but since this is WCW we'll call that a no contest, meaning neither has advanced to Sin.

**Rating:** D. Naturally two former World Champions can only get four minutes before a run-in finish that didn't even go the way it was supposed to. As usual, Sid didn't quite look great in the ring and Jeff was doing nothing other than his signature stuff. I'm sure you know where this is going for Sin and I really wish they could have just gone with that in the first place.

Sid gets double teamed and of course it's Scott Steiner under the mask to

end the show.

**Overall Rating:** D-. There's just so much stupid on this show with the main event scene being the biggest issue. I can't get over the fact that it's freaking Buddy Lee Parker getting the spotlight in a story. Yeah he trained Goldberg, but you can't just make up a story to get someone in there with a slightly better win/loss record? As in with any wins on his record? The rest of the show was the usual mess, not made any better by the fact that Sin is next week. Bad show here and a really horrible way to start the new year.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up my new book on NXT: The Full Sail Years Volume II at Amazon for just \$3.99 at:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01FWZZ2UA>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

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# Monday Nitro – December 18, 2000: They've Still Got It

## **Monday Nitro #271**

Date: December 18, 2000

Location: Richmond Coliseum, Richmond, Virginia

Attendance: 2,872

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Scott Hudson, Mark Madden

Since even WCW isn't stupid enough to hold a TV show on Christmas night or New Year's Day, this is the last Monday Nitro of 2000. It's also the



night after Starrcade and a grand total of nothing happened. Steiner is still World Champion, Goldberg is still undefeated (and still feuding with Lex Luger for whatever reason) and the Insiders are still a thing because of reasons. Let's get to it.

Ric Flair welcomes us to the show and talks about how awesome tonight is going to be. We'll be seeing Buff Bagwell vs. Goldberg but more importantly we're going to find out who is going to challenge Steiner for the World Title at Sin. Flair implies that it might be multiple opponents, which would at least be a bit more interesting.

Quick recap of last night's show with a traditional highlight package.

Opening sequence.

#### Shannon Moore vs. Shane Helms

Winner gets the title shot and for some reason Helms doesn't get an introduction. They shake hands and start with a fast paced pinfall reversal sequence before Shane turns things up by throwing him over the top by the hair. Shannon pulls him to the floor for a hurricanrana, only to get powerslammed off the top for two. The X Plex (arm trap German suplex) gets two on Shannon before he misses a hurricanrana, allowing Shane to get in a great looking top rope sunset flip for two. Instead the Vertebreaker puts Shannon away with ease.

**Rating:** B-. This was the old school cruiserweight formula with both guys just doing high spots to wake the crowd up. It's sad that the company had to go out so soon after this as the division was definitely undergoing a renaissance around this time and it could have been interesting to see where things were going.

Chavo runs in to go after Shane but gets laid out as well.

Hugh Morrus yells at Lash for saving Chavo last night.

Here's Scott Steiner with something to say. Scott thinks Flair is taking his job as CEO way too seriously because he can't handle being an average champion by comparison. Steiner dominates while Flair had to squeak by and being CEO is a tough job because Flair can't find any wrestlers to

fight him. Maybe Flair can convince Diamond Dallas Page to get a sex change so he has the balls to face him. That line was allegedly a shoot and led to a fight in the back where Steiner went after Page's eyes and caused Page and Nash to walk out.

This brings out Ric to say he's going to make Sin's main event a three way match with a mini tournament tonight to decide on one opponent. Ric isn't going to announce who the four participants are so Steiner doesn't lay them all out. On top of that, there's going to be a mystery opponent who will be here tonight.

Jimmy Hart does his DJ challenge.

Buff Bagwell laughs at Goldberg spelling "stuff" wrong when he signed a copy of his book. Now Bagwell is here to save the company and has formed a new tag team called Totally Buff. Before Luger can say anything, Scott Steiner comes in and almost begs Luger to help him find out who is in the mini tournament.

#### Hardcore Title: Terry Funk vs. Meng

Meng is challenging and has Paisley/Kwee Wee with him. Funk pops up on screen to call Meng out to the back for a fight in a cage. Meng heads back to fight him and it's just in the regular places instead of a cage. I guess old people who are here for no apparent reason are false advertisers as well. They hit each other with some weapons and Funk gets handcuffed. Funk actually begs off, only to say Meng has a big nose.

We get the hit/walk sequence with Meng beating him back into the arena and then the ring. Funk gets in a trashcan shot of his own but Meng shrugs it off and sets up a table. Meng's splash goes through the table instead of Funk but that's not sold either. The Death Grip goes on, only to have Crowbar come out and hit Meng with the monkey wrench to give Funk the pin.

**Rating:** D-. How much good can come from a man in his mid 50s being hit with a trashcan? Apparently quite a bit in WCW's eyes as they seem perfectly happy to let it happen here and then again in his next title defense. It's almost like they're turning this into a joke, like almost

everything else around here.

Crowbar, again with the crazy man look, wants Funk and the title at Sin.

Now Steiner wants Jarrett's help as well.

Vito wants to know where Reno's family values are. He's coming for Reno and the Thrillers.

Crowbar tells Mike Awesome to drop the 70s stuff. Didn't he already drop that nonsense?

### Lance Storm vs. Rey Mysterio

This is the first qualifying match for the #1 contenders match. Before the match, Storm says it's time for him to win the one title he's never won. Rey has taped ribs coming in but still headscissors Storm down and grabs a rollup for two. Storm gets knocked into the corner and the referee takes a shot to the leg in what seemed like a real injury. A Lionsault hits Storm's raised knees and Storm gets two of his own off a backbreaker.

They head outside with Rey being sent hard into the barricade as they're going with a very simple and logical formula here. Back in and Rey scores with a clothesline (not a move I remember him ever using), only to get caught in an abdominal stretch. Rey gets out again but misses a springboard splash to hurt the ribs even further. A headscissors puts Storm on the floor and Rey hits a running flip dive into a seated senton because Rey Mysterio is Spanish for what bad ribs. Now the springboard splash connects for two but a quick Mapleleaf makes Rey tap.

**Rating:** B. Take two talented wrestlers and let them have a good wrestling match with a simple story. What else were you really expecting out of something like this? It's also cool to see Storm get a chance at a slightly higher spot up on the card. I was really liking this and again I got WAY more out of a basic wrestling match like this over one of the multiple wild brawls last night at Starrcade.

### Mike Awesome vs. Jeff Jarrett

This is the other qualifying match, but first of all let's have Awesome call himself a love doctor crossed with a career killer. I'm not sure how to take that one but it sounds like an upgrade. Awesome throws him up into the air for a big crash and a near fall, followed by a release German suplex. A Stunner across the top rope sends Awesome to the floor and Jeff puts him face first into a chair. Mike drive him back first into the apron a few times before going over to the announcers' table to complete a requirement.

A powerbomb is broken up with a low blow however and Jeff gets in that dropkick of his for two. Awesome shrugs it off (well it was just a dropkick) and gets two off a Batista Bomb. Mike uses a lifting Pedigree of all things (Stevie Ray's Slapjack, which I guess is fair game now) for two but the referee gets bumped a few seconds later. Jeff gets the guitar but it's quickly taken away, only to have Jarrett pull out another one to knock Awesome silly for the pin.

**Rating:** C-. Nowhere near as entertaining as the previous match as Awesome really isn't someone who does well outside of the high impact style, which isn't exactly Jarrett's forte. It wasn't terrible or anything but that guitar shot is turning into one of the most overused finishes I've ever seen.

Steiner goes after Jarrett in the back but Jeff says he wants in the title match to watch Steiner's back.

Glacier is still returning and Norman Smiley dances in happiness.

Shane Douglas wants to fight Hugh Morrus again on Thunder and wants the Misfits involved. He's hired Kronik to make sure everything is all nice and fair.

Clip of Goldberg on the Man Show.

Awesome freaks out in the back.

No Nitro for the next two weeks.

The Cat vs. Alex Wright

For some reason Cat asks Wright to dance some more. Alex does so but Cat says he'd rather see Madden get in the ring and dance. Thankfully that goes nowhere (the last thing we need is Madden thinking more people care about him) and it's Cat missing his kicks to start. Alex throws him out to the floor as Madden gets up and runs away, likely due to the announcers talking about the Insiders for reasons that aren't exactly clear. They trade drink shots as Madden is now back on commentary and a big Wright fan.

Back in and a Saito suplex gets two for Alex and it's right back to the floor. They go inside again as it's clear that Wright doesn't have much of an idea of what to do with this much time. An armbar goes nowhere so Alex cranks on the other arm. Cat gets up for a quick Feliner and the pin.

**Rating:** D-. You know, you can come up with a lot of reasons why WCW wasn't anything worth watching around this time and this is another added to the pile: a lot of the wrestling was absolutely horrible. It's never a good sign when the only good thing about a match is the fact that Ms. Jones looked great. Horribly uninteresting stuff here as people shouldn't be repeating spots in a six minute match.

The Thrillers arrive in a limo.

Scott Steiner beats up some cruiserweights because they're around and not doing anything else.

Here are the Thrillers for a chat. Sanders makes trailer park jokes and then stands around wasting time. Eventually he says they give the children something to look up to and men a reason to get in the gym. Mike rips on the Insiders for not being here tonight and says they'll be defending the titles at Sin.

Their opponents will be...announced later as here's Ric Flair to brag about how many women he would get back in the Horsemen days. Anyway, Perfect Event is awesome but they'll be involved in a tag team battle royal on Thunder to determine the #1 contenders. This took WAY too long to get to the point but you had to expect something like that with Sanders on the mic.

### Buff Bagwell vs. Goldberg

It's a chase to start but Luger is waiting on the floor with a chair to hit Goldberg for the DQ at about thirty seconds. Why not hit Bagwell so Goldberg loses via DQ? Oh and a better question: WHY IS THIS FEUD GOING TO THREE FREAKING PAY PER VIEWS???

Goldberg gets beaten down until Sarge comes in for the save.

### Jeff Jarrett vs. Lance Storm

The winner goes to the title match at Sin. Feeling out process to start with Jarrett hiptossing him down but getting kicked away. Jeff takes him into the corner but gets tossed to the floor. Storm misses a dive to the floor and tweaks his knee, setting up a very quick Figure Four. The hold is turned over again and Storm gets two off a crucifix as this is the most technical match WCW has had in months. Jeff throws him onto the top for a superplex and a near fall. Jarrett's enziguri misses and he has to get over to the ropes to save himself. A Stroke out of nowhere sends Jeff to Sin.

**Rating:** C. This was BEGGING for five more minutes but we were lucky enough to get the Cat vs. Alex Wright instead. Other than that it was a fun match though with two guys who can work a basic yet still entertaining style as well as anyone else. It wasn't a classic or anything but what else were you expecting here?

Post match Steiner runs out and demands to know who the mystery man is. He heads to the back and sees Flair but a masked man jumps him and beats the champ down to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. I'm as shocked as you are but there was a heck of a show and a masterpiece by WCW's standards. They kept the stupid things on low tonight and just had wrestling matches that advanced stories and helped set up the pay per view. Given that they're out of two weeks of Nitro due to the holidays, this was a night where they had to get A LOT done and believe it or not they actually pulled it off. This is likely the final good episode and I can actually live with that.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up my new book of the History of the Intercontinental Title at Amazon for just \$3.99 at:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B01D4D3EGQ>

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# Thunder – December 13, 2000: Just Picture Steve Austin Doing This

## Thunder

Date: December 13, 2000

Location: Centurytel Center, Bossier City, Louisiana

Commentators: Konnan, Tony Schiavone, Mike Tenay

It's the final show before the biggest show of the year and the big match announced for tonight is Sgt. Dwayne Bruce vs. Lex Luger. Odds are Sid and Steiner aren't going to be in the arena tonight because the idea for the match seems to be based on them being apart as long as possible before we get to the pay per view. Let's get to it.

We open with the traditional Nitro recap, which begins with Crowbar and Terry Funk. Not the World Title situation, but a guy in the 70s with a female friend who dresses in 60's clothes getting beaten up by a guy who won his first World Title nearly thirty years before this show. Only in WCW.

Mike Sanders welcomes us to the show and gives Chavo Guerrero Jr. the Perfect Event. He's welcome to find a partner if he wants but otherwise, we'll just make it a handicap match.

Ric Flair cuts into the interview and demands that Sanders makes sure Lance Storm sings the National Anthem. Sid and Steiner are welcome to fight tonight because Ric is tired of trying to keep them apart. Finally, Sanders will be facing Diamond Dallas Page tonight.

Opening sequence.

Tony: "THIS MUST BE THUNDER!"

### Evan Karagias/Jamie Noble vs. 3 Count

Evan is still in the 3 Count entrance video because no one cares enough to fix it. They start brawling and here are the Jung Dragons to make it a three way dance.

### Evan Karagias/Jamie Noble vs. 3 Count vs. Jung Dragons

Karagias springboards in with a double clothesline to take out the Dragons before grabbing a neckbreaker on Yang. We settle down to Evan vs. Noble vs. Shane because teams mean nothing around here. Jamie suplexes Shannon and Konnan seems to be having a great time on commentary.

It's off to Kaz as Konnan talks about what sounds like OMEGA, which isn't something you often hear about. Everything breaks down and a Vertebreaker (no reaction from commentary) plants Kaz. We get a ladder brought in before Shannon plants Evan with a Fameasser (Bottoms Up here), only to have Noble and Karagias superplex Shane, allowing Evan to steal the pin.

**Rating:** C. Best match WCW has had in weeks and it was just ok by these guys' standards. The ladder match should be a blast and at least they have Chavo waiting on the winners instead of whatever nightmare a match against Sanders would have been. It's also nice of WCW to get this out of the way before it could pick the show up later on.

Scott Steiner beats up Kwee Wee as part of a contest where you can win an ATV.



Storm says he doesn't know the words to the National Anthem so he can't sing it. Duggan: "I KNOW THE WORDS! I'LL TEACH YOU!"

### Chavo Guerrero Jr. vs. Perfect Event

Non-title and Chavo doesn't have a partner. Stasiak gets things going as Konnan makes some references to bathhouses. We see the Misfits watching from the back as Chavo gets in Stasiak's face and takes Palumbo out to the floor. Palumbo can't get a delayed vertical suplex and gets clotheslined for two, only to have Stasiak make an easy save. Stasiak puts Chavo down again and we see the Misfits clearly wanting to come out and make the save. Chuck dropkicks Chavo in the back as Stasiak flapjacks him for a near fall. In the back again, Lash is told to stay in the back and we cut to a double flapjack putting Chavo away.

**Rating:** D+. Did Chavo turn face and no one told us? He was slapping hands on the way to the ring and you can't expect someone to be booed when they're fighting two heels at a time. If nothing else this makes the Misfits look like heels, which certainly wasn't what they were going for here. This was a mess of an idea and as usual I doubt they have any idea what's going on.

Sid is on the phone and says to not let Steiner leave the building because he's ten to fifteen minutes away.

Meng finds Kwee Wee down on the floor (because he hasn't gotten any assistance in roughly fifteen minutes) and wants revenge on Steiner.

Reno and Big Vito beat up Bam Bam Bigelow for hitting on Marie. Well at least he has good taste.

Sarge is ready to fight Luger tonight.

The music lessons continue. Duggan: "OH SAY CAN YOU SEE???" Storm: "Who is Jose?"

Luger yawns and reads a magazine.

Video on Sid vs. Steiner.

Video of Goldberg on the Man Show.

Flair gives Meng a World Title shot tonight.

Here's Storm to sing the National Anthem. Storm doesn't want to sing so here are the Cat and Ms. Jones to interrupt, complete with a picnic basket to enjoy the performance. The music sings and Storm misses his start before going into "blah blah blah" for the lyrics. Storm screws up again so Cat tells Duggan to sing instead. Duggan is glad to do it and gets about halfway through until Cat throws hot dogs at Storm. That's enough to set up a match.

#### The Cat vs. Jim Duggan

Duggan forearms him a few times but tells Storm he doesn't want to fight. Cat is sent outside for a beating from Skipper but Duggan says not so fast. The 2x4 is loaded up but Duggan sees a "Hacksaw, come home" sign. He hits Storm by mistake and that's enough to make Duggan rip off the Canadian shirt. The Feliner (more like a kick to the arm) puts Duggan away in a hurry.

Post match, Storm gives Cat one of the best looking superkicks I've ever seen, including some tuning up the band. Tony: "What was he stomping on the mat for?" After the Canadians leave, Cat helps Duggan to his feet.

Video of Sarge training people. It's two people but they are indeed people.

Steiner isn't worried about Sid or Meng.

Luger hits Goldberg in the head with a baseball bat. And I'm sure charges are coming later tonight right? Naturally the announcers treat this like Luger going to catering.

Sid calls in and needs directions.

#### Sgt. Dewayne Bruce vs. Lex Luger

Luger has his old face music here. The fans chant for Goldberg as Luger drops to a knee and offers a test of strength. Bruce kicks him down a few

times so Luger pulls out a wooden baseball bat to knock him cold. The Rack gives Luger the easy win.

Luger keeps stomping on Bruce and shouts for Goldberg to get out here.

Post break Luger bails as fast as he can.

Page thinks it's funny that he's almost twenty years older than Sanders.

Reno and Vito are ready for Kronik. They'll be having the same match on Sunday so you might as well just do the swerve tonight.

Bruce is checked out for neck and rib injuries.

Daffney wants Crowbar to drop the 70's thing.

Video on Starrcade's big matches, the same one that aired on Nitro.

#### Reno/Big Vito vs. Kronik

Reno and Adams start it off with Brian hitting a cool gorilla press gutbuster for an early two. A double elbow drops Adams though as the crowd is just gone for this. The full nelson slam plants Reno and it's off to Clark for a beating in the corner. For some reason Clark sends Reno into the corner for a tag off to Vito. That's quite the arrogance.

Vito Mafia Kicks him for two, only to get suplexed down for the same. They head outside and this is more intense than it really should be but at least they're working hard. A Russian legsweep sends Vito into the barricade and seems to wake him up a bit, only to have Adams put on a chinlock. Cue Jarrett and the Harris Twins to knock Konnan out cold in an attempt to wake the crowd up. An F5 gets two on Vito and it's off to Reno, who walks into High Times for a very quick pin.

**Rating:** C. This was much better than I was expecting but the swerve that you can almost guarantee for Sunday really isn't something I'm looking forward to. It's ok to just have a team be a team for a bit without having some big screwy finish thrown in. Vito and Reno are basically the new and improved Mamalukes and the idea is actually working better than it has any right to.

Kronik keeps up the beating but Vito fights them off.

The sitdown interview this week is with Shane Douglas, who talks about coming through the ranks to get here and wanting the best competition. There are a lot of demons in his closet but he wants to face them all. We hear about Torrie being gone without the words "Torrie" or "Wilson" actually being used and Shane insists that they were much closer than just friends. Shane is ready for Morrus on Sunday and wants to use the US Title as a stepping stone to the World Title.

The Thrillers have laid out Kevin Nash.

#### Mike Sanders vs. Diamond Dallas Page

We recap the Thrillers attacking Nash's knee (which was either last night if you listen to Tony or Monday night if you follow the graphic) before we get going. They slap each other in the face to start before Page easily takes over and sends Sanders to the floor with a Cactus Clothesline.

Back to the announcers' table for the first time in a whole match and it's time to hear from Sid. He's STILL lost because it takes an hour and a half to find what is likely the biggest building in a city whose population was 56,000 people at the time. Page starts slugging away in the corner before Pancaking him down for two. The Diamond Cutter hits but the Thrillers come in for the DQ.

**Rating:** D. Of course this was about Page beating up one of the younger guys who was treated like a joke of a threat. I think I've vented about my issues enough times now, assuming there's any doubt about what's wrong with this mess. Just give Page and Nash the titles back so they can have their second big moment.

Page beats up four Thrillers for a bit until Palumbo and Stasiak come in for the real beatdown.

#### WCW World Title: Meng vs. Scott Steiner

Steiner is defending and Meng has Paisley in his corner for reasons that still aren't exactly clear. Before the match, Steiner talks about how

Flair's hired killer can't even find the arena. Meng goes right after him to start and stomps Steiner down like any given jobber. The champ bails out to the floor for a bit before taking Meng down with a belly to belly.

A belly to belly superplex is broken up and Meng hits a half decent middle rope clothesline. He follows it up with a top rope splash for two but Steiner suplexes him again to take over. Midajah goes after Meng and it's time for a catfight. The Tongan Death Grip is easily broken up and a t-bone sends Meng flying. Sid comes out as Steiner grabs the Recliner to retain.

**Rating:** C+. I'm a fan of Meng and the few times he's gotten a chance to have a big match have turned out quite well. He did just fine beating on Steiner and looking good as a monster for the champ to survive while never being any kind of a real threat to take the title. Plus he found the arena.

Sid beats Steiner up in slow motion and chokeslams him to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** D+. Why do I have a feeling that Thunder is never going to reach this level again? There was some good action tonight in spite of the traditional bad booking. I still can't get over the fact that Sid COULDN'T FIND THE ARENA. That's their big idea: he got lost on the way there. I mean, you can't just say he's there or doing an interview or anything else besides making him look stupid? As usual, WCW decides to go with the worst possible idea and the company suffers as a result.

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# Monday Nitro – December 12, 2000: Might As Well Ruin Tuesday

## Monday Night #270

Date: December 12, 2000

Location: Centurytel Center, Bossier City, Louisiana

Commentators: Stevie Ray, Tony Schiavone, Scott Hudson

It's the go home show for the final Starrcade and the show is airing on a Tuesday, likely due to something else getting the regular timeslot on TNT. These recent shows have ranged from mostly missing to somehow shooting yourself in the foot, dropping the gun and having it shoot you in the other foot but hopefully things pick up a bit before the biggest show of the year. Let's get to it.

This show was taped on Monday so any references to being live are pure falsehoods.

To show you how worthless Thunder is, here's the same recap video that opened last Wednesday's show. In other words: ignore anything on Thunder because the only show that matters is Nitro.

Lex Luger is granted a match by Mike Sanders.

Here's Ric Flair to say we're live (we're not) and that we're in Shreveport (Again not really, though the towns are about five minutes apart. Why not just have everyone say the same town?). Ric says Steiner and Sid aren't going to come into any contact with each other in this arena. They'll be out here talking but they're going to hold the fighting until Starrcade. If they fight, it's going to be a suspension and the title being stripped. As for Steiner, yeah he put Sting, Booker T. and Arn Anderson in the hospital but they could be here tonight to get some

payback (I'm sure).

Sgt. AWALL is going to get a World Title match tonight and that's finally enough to bring Sanders out to interrupt. Mike has a match of his own for tonight as the Perfect Event will face Mark Jindrak/Sean O'Haire and the Insiders in a non-title match. There goes Flair's suit jacket and he makes Sid vs. Sanders. If Mike doesn't wrestle, he loses his power and the Thrillers are barred from ringside.

Earlier today, Scott Steiner beat down Corporal Cajun until AWALL made the save to set up tonight's title match. That's better than I was expecting.

Sid is ready for tonight and for Sunday.

Jindrak and O'Haire have a monitor.

Disco Inferno insults Sarge so he yells a lot. So a guy famous for losing almost all the time is now one of the most intimidating guys in the company? That kind of stuff gets old in a hurry, but I'm not sure how many people remember Sarge in the first place.

#### Lance Storm/Major Gunns vs. The Cat/Ms. Jones

Before the match, Storm has an idea to make this more interesting: if Cat loses, he has to sing the Canadian national anthem on Thunder. Storm stops for the song and here comes Santa Claus (right down the steps instead of right down his own lane). That goes nowhere so here's Cat to call Storm a Power Ranger. Cat makes the obvious stipulation of Storm having to sing if he loses too.

The women get things going with Gunns actually throwing a decent dropkick to knock her into the corner. Jones gets two off a spinning kick to the face and it's off to the men. Cat dances out of a sunset flip and gets one of the loudest pops WCW has had in months. You could actually see the fans freaking out over the dancing. The Feliner gets two with Gunns (not Jones, Tony), putting the foot on the ropes. We get the catfight on the floor as Elix Skipper's interference fails. Cat catches Duggan's 2x4 and knocks Storm out for the pin.

**Rating:** D+. Who knew Cat was this over in Louisiana? Jones and Gunns were just there for their looks (not the worst idea in the world) and their wrestling was of course horrible. The Duggan thing is long overdue and I have no idea why they put him with the Canadians in the first place.

Jimmy Hart is starting a radio network and is ready to wrestle some Memphis DJ's when Nitro hits the Mid-South Coliseum.

Hugh Morrus (yeah we're going with that as the people are calling him Hugh most of the time) catches Lash Leroux (the gimmick names are mostly dead anyway) on the phone with Chavo. That's fine with Hugh as he gives AWALL a pep talk.

Sanders adds Kronik to the three way dance, much to Reno's annoyance.

Crowbar and Daffney are on commentary as Norman Smiley issues an open challenge for a hardcore match in the hopes that he gets a title shot as a result.

#### Meng vs. Norman Smiley

Meng has Paisley with him because that's still a thing. Norman, complete with shoulder pads, gets stomped down in the corner as Crowbar is doing his Gordon Solie thing again. They head up the aisle with Norman actually getting in a few shots for some effect. Somehow DJ Ran still has a job (Why isn't he fighting Jimmy Hart?) and a booth in the arena so the guys fight around there too. Santa tries to get involved so Meng drops him too, followed by some chops to make Norman scream. Norman steals Santa's bag so here's Santa in the ring to throw powder at both guys for a double DQ in a hardcore match.

**Rating:** F. That's my standard rating for hardcore matches anymore because there's no good reason to have guys like this (meaning Crowbar and Smiley) in this waste of time. I mean, they're better than Brian Knobbs and company but there's so much other stuff these people could be doing.

The blinded Meng puts the Death Grip on Paisley. Santa takes off the beard....and it's Terry Funk. Terry starts throwing chair shots but can't put Meng down. Kwee Wee comes out too as Meng finally drops. Terry says



he's the real Santa Claus (Crowbar: "He's my idol.") and wants the Hardcore Title at Starrcade. Crowbar gets in the ring and the match seems to be on, earning himself a chair shot to the head.

Sarge is given Lex Luger on Thunder and Goldberg tonight.

The Harris Brother eat sandwiches because that's a thing that actually exists in wrestling. We cut to the Filthy Animals, who put laxatives in said sandwiches.

Steiner promises to knock down anyone Flair sets up for him.

AWALL is ready and Morrus is fine with a war against Shane Douglas. Lash is facing Shane tonight but he's using some of Chavo's lines to Hugh's annoyance.

#### Mike Sanders vs. Sid Vicious

Sanders is in street clothes and says he's not medically cleared to wrestle. Not that it matters as Sid, also in street clothes, chokeslams and powerbombs him for the pin in about a minute.

Sid says the sucka ain't got no class. Tony: "What is he talking about?"

Post break, Sid attacks a parking lot attendant and demands the keys to all the cars.

Kronik beats Reno down until Vito tries to make a save. The rest of the Thrillers come in to beat him down but Kronik isn't cool because they thought Reno was a Thriller. Apparently there's a tag match at Starrcade.

#### Insiders vs. Perfect Event vs. Mark Jindrak/Sean O'Haire

Non-title and the announcers talk about the Harris Twins' sandwiches during the entrances. Nash, O'Haire and Palumbo and it's Kevin getting superkicked a few seconds in. Stevie: "What does he call that kick?" Tony: "The Jungle Kick." Stevie: ".....ok." Nash clotheslines them down and tags Page in for the house cleaning. Jindrak and Stasiak come in and beat Page down as well but Nash quickly comes back in for the real destruction. Palumbo gets jackknifed but Jindrak takes Nash down to set

up a Seanton Bomb. Now it's Page coming in with a Diamond Cutter on Jindrak, only to have Stasiak hit Page with a belt for the pin.

**Rating:** D. So to recap: Nash and Page were against four young guys, all of whom are either current or former Tag Team Champions and it took a belt shot to finally put them away. As we've firmly established, these stories are designed to make the older generation look good at the expense of the next generation. I don't know how this benefits anyone but Page and Nash but I can't wait for them to get the titles back on Sunday and set things right with the world.

The Thrillers worked over Nash's knee during the break.

Sid is moving cars around in the parking lot.

#### Sgt. Dewayne Bruce vs. Goldberg

Goldberg doesn't know who he's facing because Jindrak and O'Haire took his monitor earlier in the night. Bruce says they have to do this even though Goldberg doesn't want to do it. Cue Luger to say to say it's Goldberg's career if he doesn't fight here. Goldberg tries to leave anyway but Sarge hits him in the back. Goldberg still won't fight back until it's a spear to put him down. There's no Jackhammer though so Sarge grabs his leg and demands it. Goldberg grants the request and it's 30-0.

Sarge is carried out on Goldberg's shoulder.

Jamie Noble asks Kwee Wee, Paisley and Meng for advice on how to deal with Evan Karagias. Evan runs in to say they all have to come see what Sid is doing in the parking lot.

#### Shane Douglas vs. Lash Leroux

Before the match, Shane rants about how he's stuck here without Torrie because of what Morrus did. Lash takes him down in a hurry and pounds away at Shane's head before a snap suplex gets two. A suicide dive sends Shane into the barricade and it's time to fight by the table. This has been all Lash so far and the announcers don't sound very surprised. Back in and Shane grabs a powerslam but it's a double clothesline to put them both down. Cue Chavo to offer Lash a chair but the distraction lets Shane

load up the chain. Lash hits Shane with the chair though and that's a quick DQ.

Shane lays him out with the chain so here's Morrus for the save and some yelling at Chavo.

One of the Harris Twins has a stomach ache.

Sid is still playing with the cars.

Mike Awesome is ready for his ambulance match with Bam Bam Bigelow at Starrcade. Thankfully he says he's ready for the Career Killer to come back so maybe That 70s Guy is dead.

Jarrett and company are ready for Sunday but one of the Twins isn't looking so good. Tony finds this HILARIOUS.

#### Jeff Jarrett/Harris Twins vs. Filthy Animals

Elimination rules and it's Konnan/Kidman/Mysterio. We're not quite ready to go yet though as both Twins run to the back for some, ahem, relief. Konnan gets in an X Factor on Jarrett to start but the other Animals try to come in, allowing Jeff to get in a Stroke on Konnan for the elimination. Jeff's music is quickly cut off because this match MUST CONTINUE! You know, because those are the rules.

Kidman snaps Jeff's throat across the top rope for two but Jarrett suplexes Rey with one arm. A powerbomb plants Rey again but not before he tags Kidman in for a missile dropkick. The baseball slide low blow and the Bronco Buster have Jeff in trouble but the referee gets bumped. Jeff guitars Kidman but Rey springboards in with a sunset flip for the pin.

**Rating:** D-. This is a confusing one as it was fun while it lasted but I'd like to repeat the fact that the Harris Twins were out early because of an overdose of laxatives. Also you would think this match would be the big payoff on Sunday but why do that when you can have another hardcore match? The wrestling was actually good here but the story just crippled it, as is so often the case around here.

Video on Starrcade's main events.

Sid almost has the ring of cars ready.

#### WCW World Title: Scott Steiner vs. Sgt. AWALL

Steiner is defending. Before the match, Steiner says Flair needs to thank Anderson for changing his mind about stripping the title. Steiner, in his deadly purple trunks, pounds AWALL down to start and we're already seeming to be in squash territory. The comeback is quickly cut off with a belly to belly for two before Steiner throws him over the top. AWALL throws him over the barricade to put Steiner in trouble, setting up a powerslam for two back inside. A chokeslam looks to finish but AWALL would rather mess with the stupid table. That earns him a suplex through the table (good riddance) and the Recliner retains the title.

**Rating:** D. I can't stand it when people do stupid things like AWALL messing with the table. It really does make these people look like the biggest morons in the world while also enforcing that relaxed rules nonsense. Even the WWF at the peak of its madness had some rules but this is basically ECW on a bigger stage which really doesn't work.

Steiner chokes AWALL with the pipe until Sid gets up on screen and says since they can't fight in the arena, come fight him in the parking lot. Scott heads outside to find a ring of cars ready for the fight because Sid may not be able to talk, but he can certainly park cars. After busting out a windshield for fun, Steiner hits Sid in the ribs with the pipe but has to fight out of a powerbomb. Steiner rams Sid's head into the top of a car to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** F. Bad wrestling, bad storytelling leading into bad matches and bad everything else (save for a decent angle with Goldberg not wanting to fight his mentor). This was a show that didn't make me want to watch Starrcade but made me not want to watch WCW again. I know the running joke is that WCW was an old folks' home but that's exactly what we're getting here. The biggest show of the year has three major matches and the only one with someone young is designed to make Nash and Page look good. It really is all about the old guard as we head into Starrcade near an all time low for the company.

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# Thunder – November 22, 2000: The Clouds Are Back Again

## **Thunder**

Date: November 22, 2000

Location: Augusta-Richmond County Civic Center, Augusta, Georgia

Attendance: 3,800

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Stevie Ray, Tony Schiavone

It's the go home show for Mayhem and unfortunately that means we're not likely to see much tonight. We might get some build towards the Tag Team Title match which was only added on Monday but other than that, this could be a very long night. Not as long as it would have been for the people who had to sit through this and Nitro of course. Let's get to it.

Opening Nitro recap.

Here are Mike Sanders, Mark Jindrak and Sean O'Haire to get things going with Mike having a big bandage around his head after the Goldberg match. Sanders brings up all the stuff with Kwee Wee on Monday before mentioning Meng, which draws out the monster.

### Meng vs. Mark Jindrak/Sean O'Haire

The Thrillers pound him down as well as they can with O'Haire getting in a good looking clothesline for no cover. Instead Meng shrugs it all off and Samoan drops Jindrak. Something like Poetry in Motion doesn't work and Meng slowly beats them both down like the glorified jobbers they are. A double Tongan Death Grip brings in the rest of the Thrillers and it's a big DQ after Jindrak and O'Haire look worthless.

Nash and Page make the save and Sanders is ticked. Mike wants Page to fight a Thriller tonight and Stasiak volunteers, with Sanders making it a lumberjack match for no logical reason.

Scott Steiner is here.

Ric Flair says there's a restraining order between Scott Steiner and Booker T. If they fight before Sunday, Booker is suspended and Steiner loses his title shot. I'm so glad they did this four days before the pay per view.

Here's 3 Count to say they are in fact still 3 Count. The dancing ensues and almost no one cares.

### Yang vs. Shannon Moore vs. Evan Karagias

Evan and Shannon slug it out to start with Shannon getting the better of it, only to be sent out to the floor for his efforts. Yang misses a kick at Evan and gets rolled up for a fast two as Shannon gets back in. It's Yang taking over on the singer/former singer before Evan pancakes him down. That means it's time to drive the Cadillac (that stupid thing where Evan has his hand on a steering wheel and his other hand as a phone), only to have Shannon get come back in with a Fameasser.

Yang gets sent outside so Jamie can stomp him, leaving Shannon to eat a powerslam for two. There's always something strange about someone Evan's size doing a powerslam. Helms pulls Evan to the floor but gets whipped hard into the barricade. Back in and Yang hits a quick reverse White Noise for the pin on Shannon. It's as sudden as it sounds.

**Rating:** C. As usual this needed more time and some more polish but at

least it was entertaining while it lasted. I still have almost no idea why these teams are still fighting but they can do some fun big matches. Unfortunately this was nowhere near long enough and the match was a bit sloppy, which dragged it down too much.

Alex Wright tries to buy Kronik for later tonight but apparently can only afford half. Adams seems to have an idea.

Stevie Ray interviewed Scott Steiner earlier today and oh this could be a train wreck. Steiner is sitting behind a plastic screen, apparently to prevent another version of what happened to Tenay. Scott is ready to right the wrongs of Halloween Havoc, which of course leads into a discussion of the University of Michigan. This sets off a big censored tirade, during which the camera pans over a bit too much to reveal that the plastic isn't attached to anything. Stevie is all defensive but here's Booker to hit Steiner with a chair. Some hero.

Here are the Filthy Animals for their match with the Boogie Knights, but first it's time to hit all the catchphrases, meaning you have time to make a nice sandwich before we get things going. Alex Wright comes out and says he has a surprise.

#### Rey Mysterio/Kidman vs. Bryan Clark

Kidman gets thrown into the corner to start and it's time for some stomping. A big boot has him in even more trouble but of course a single dropkick staggers Clark. Where would cruiserweights be without their dropkicks? Mysterio comes in to help but Kidman gets crotched for his efforts. A chokeslam sends Rey flying and it's back to Kidman for another dropkick. The faceplant to break up a powerbomb gets two on Clark and it's High Times, with Rey looking right at it and doing nothing. Instead he heads outside to beat on Wright, leaving Kidman to take a Meltdown for the pin.

**Rating:** D. Why does WCW hate cruiserweights so much? They just had former Tag Team Champions lose to Bryan Clarke in a glorified squash match for the sake of pushing a feud with the Boogie Knights. I know they might not have been the biggest things in the world but it would have been nice to see them not treated as cannon fodder.

Steiner invades Sanders' office and demands a match. Mike immediately agrees and that's the segment.

Bam Bam Bigelow and Reno say they'll win their tag match later.

Page and Nash are ready for the Thrillers.

Vito rambles a bit until Sanders comes in to give him a match tonight. Vito calls him Parmesan face.

Recaps of Steiner vs. Booker and DDP/Nash vs. the Thrillers.

The Thrillers rant a lot and Gene Okerlund swears at them. O'Haire says have Paulshock interview them next time.

Video on Sanders vs. Goldberg. Feel free to have a match anytime here.

Here's Booker to talk about various player haters. You'll have to kill him to take the title from him and he's sorry about giving Major Gunns the Book End. Booker has six words for Goldberg: Don't hate the player, hate the game. Instead of killing Booker to take the title, maybe you could just teach him how to count. This brings out Goldberg, who says he saved Booker on Monday. After Mayhem, that title is coming back where it belongs. So I guess the Streak angle is officially dead? They shake hands, though Booker is a bit tentative.

The Cat and Buff Bagwell are ready for their match tonight. Is that match happening ANYTIME SOON???

Shane Douglas and Torrie come out to insult Buff with Shane saying he has a surprise partner to face Bagwell/Cat tonight. That would be Jeff Jarrett, which shouldn't surprise anyone. For some reason Jarrett makes Christmas jokes about Bagwell and this really doesn't go anywhere.

Buff Bagwell/The Cat vs. Jeff Jarrett/Shane Douglas

Cat pounds on Douglas in the corner and kicks him a few times, only to get poked in the eye to stop that cold. As usual, heel wrestlers easily defeat karate guys. Jarrett comes in to keep Douglas safe and it's time for a double beatdown. Cat dropkicks both guys down and makes the hot tag



to Bagwell (yeah a hot tag a minute in) for some house cleaning. Everything breaks down and the women argue on the floor, earning Ms. Jones an ejection. The Stroke plants Cat for no count as the referee is out with the women. Buff mostly botches the Blockbuster but gets hit with a foreign object to give Jeff the weak pin.

**Rating:** D. I'm honestly not sure why these people are fighting in the first place and I really have no idea why I'm supposed to want to see them having matches on pay per view. It really does seem like they're just throwing whatever they can to fill in a card. That's never a good sign for a promotion and it's not a good sign here.

Crowbar and Mike Awesome say they'll win.

#### Scott Steiner vs. Big Vito

Before the match, Steiner accuses Goldberg and Booker of having a love fest earlier. After Sunday, he'll celebrate being the World Champion by getting horizontal. Steiner goes over to the announcers' table to yell at Stevie but Vito comes out to start the brawling. The fans chant for Stevie as Vito gets thrown around, including the spinning belly to belly. A backbreaker allows Steiner to throw Vito outside and it's time for another trip to the announcers' table.

Back in and Steiner keeps beating on Vito in the corner with a genuine imitation mudhole stomping. Vito gets tied in the Tree of Woe for some choking he grabs a quick belly to belly for a breather. The top rope elbow gets two and there's a flying headbutt for the same. Vito goes up for the third time but gets crotched down, setting up the super t-bone. The Recliner puts Vito away.

**Rating:** C-. I remember this being way better and that comeback is still pretty good. Vito has gotten some insane mileage out of that Hardcore Title reign despite barely ever winning anything else since then. This was a better match than it had any right to be and it's clear that they're setting up something with Stevie vs. Scott, or at least they should be.

#### Mike Awesome/Crowbar vs. Bam Bam Bigelow/Reno

Hardcore rules. Awesome and Crowbar bring in the weapons because they're the good guys here. It's a big brawl to start with Crowbar and Reno heading outside, where Reno uses a trashcan lid to block Awesome's suicide dive. Crowbar loads up an Asai moonsault and has to hit the mats stomach first as the heels are too busy brawling to catch him. Thanks for that guys.

They head up to the stage for all of ten seconds before it's back to ringside while Tony plugs Backstage Assault (that wrestling game where you never actually get in a wrestling ring). Reno goes after Awesome's knee in the ring as Bigelow throws a cookie sheet at Crowbar's head. Unfortunately it misses and hits a fan, but at least it was a nice try.

Bigelow and Reno are laid onto tables and Crowbar is nice enough to let Awesome powerbomb him over the top and through Reno for the big crash. Bigelow gets up and kind of sends Awesome through another table (kind of as in Awesome jumped WAY harder than Bigelow threw him) as Reno covers Crowbar for the pin on the floor.

**Rating:** D-. Some of the spots worked here but the match was a huge mess that had no business existing. There's a Hardcore Title match on Sunday and I really don't need to see a hardcore match here to help set that up. The title and the division are just so dead and stupid at this point but for some reason it's still a thing. Really bad match here and no one cared, which is sad when you have someone like Crowbar going all over the place and working so hard to get the stupid idea over.

#### Shawn Stasiak vs. Diamond Dallas Page

Lumberjack match with most of the midcard sans the Thrillers at ringside. During the lumberjacks' entrances, Tony mentions Starrcade for perhaps the first time all year. Mike Sanders sits in on commentary to brag about Stasiak's "youthness." Page knocks him outside early on and hits a big dive to take out Stasiak and some lumberjacks. There goes the brawl between the lumberjacks and we're down to a regular match inside of a minute.

Stasiak gets in a jumping back elbow and here are Chuck Palumbo and Kevin Nash to stand at ringside. A fireman's carry gutbuster gets two on Page

as more Thrillers start showing up. We hit the chinlock and some choking before Page starts a comeback, only to get hit in the head with a foreign object for two as Nash pulls the referee out. There's a Diamond Cutter but there's no referee, allowing Palumbo to hit Page with a chair to give Stasiak the pin.

**Rating:** D-. There's a little credit here for the sake of giving Stasiak a win but this was way messier than it needed to be. They really could have done the exact same match without the lumberjacks and that's never a good sign. Also well done on having Page lose his first match back before he gets a title shot on Sunday.

Nash powerbombs the referee to end the show, which the announcers find funny for whatever reason.

**Overall Rating:** F. The horrible days of Thunder are back and it's as we're going into a pay per view that I had little to no desire to see in the first place. There's almost nothing interesting going on here and the main event really couldn't be more obvious. The second biggest match on the card is going to be Goldberg vs. Lex Luger, which is as horrible of a thought as you could possibly have. This was a really bad show though and there are no signs that it's getting better.

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# Monday Nitro – November 20, 2000: Set It Up, Blow It Off

## Monday Nitro #267

Date: November 20, 2000

Location: Augusta-Richmond County Civic Center, Augusta, Georgia

Attendance: 3,000

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Mark Madden, Scott Hudson

It's the last Nitro before Mayhem and most of the show would seem to be set up already. Scott Steiner continues to be one of the strongest heels the company has pushed in years but at the same time he's not exactly lighting the world on fire with the chinlock finisher and all the insanity in his promos. Maybe the TV being back in America will be better so let's get to it.

We open with a video on some of the big stories at the moment, including Luger vs. Goldberg, Nash vs. the Thrillers, Major Gunns leaving the Misfits for Canada, because that's still a thing, and of course Steiner being all crazy.

Also in Europe, at a show called Millennium Final, the Boogie Knights won the Tag Team Titles in a major upset. Wright won the match on his own after Disco was injured early on.

Earlier today, Luger tried to get a World Title match tonight. Sanders wasn't sure but seemed to agree, only to have the Thrillers bail when they found Sean O'Haire laid out in the hallway.

Sanders says there will still be a Tag Team Title match tonight no matter what. Luger's title shot is confirmed.

Opening sequence.

### Jamie Noble vs. Yang

Yang hits the ring and starts fast as Madden realizes that Jamie is "a white guy." Jamie sends him to the floor for a flip dive (Madden: "He's

pretty fly for a white guy.”) but Yang powerbombs the heck out of him back inside. Jamie bails back to the floor where Leia Meow snaps off a hurricanrana to pop Madden harder than it should. Back in again and they chop it out, followed by Jamie getting two off a middle rope legdrop. Yang catches him coming out of the corner for an over the back piledriver but here’s Evan Karagias and 3 Count for a distraction. Jamie dives on Moore and Helms before rolling Yang up for the pin.

**Rating:** C. Standard yet fun fast paced cruiserweight match here and that’s always a good way to open the show. The three team idea is fine and could set up some interesting stuff down the line, though I have no hope of any of these guys getting anywhere as a result. They’re far too low on the WCW totem pole and there’s almost no way to rise up that thing before turning 40.

Evan and Noble clear the ring post match.

Luger talks to Flair about doing the right thing and Ric promises to make sure it happens.

We look at Scott Steiner beating Sting down on Thunder to put him on the shelf AGAIN.

Alex Wright is on the phone with the injured Disco and doesn’t know who his partner is tonight. He finds Kronik but they won’t take a check. The Filthy Animals chase Wright away.

We see Rick Steiner vs. T-Money (Terry Crews) on Battledome in a boxing match which turned into a big brawl because of course it did.

Here’s Ric Flair with something to say. Ric talks about how awesome WCW is for going from Europe to Georgia and tells Tony that he was great in England all night long. Madden: “DID YOU SLEEP WITH RIC FLAIR???” My goodness there’s an image I never need to think about again. He can’t change Luger vs. Booker T. for tonight because it came from the Commissioner (Can we please pick a set of rules for these two?) but he’ll spice things up tonight.

If Luger wins the title tonight, Goldberg has a title shot on Sunday.

Flair doesn't care about the Streak that Russo invented because Goldberg can get a shot on Sunday. Cue Jeff Jarrett to threaten Ric with a guitar shot. Jeff actually has a reason to be out here: he has information about the father of Stacy Keibler's baby. Ric looks a bit shaken up Jeff says that he (as in Jeff) knocked Stacy up, or gave her the guitar shot of love that is.

David comes out and wants to know when and where this happened. Apparently it was on the night of the Great American Bash at the Baltimore Marriott after Jarrett won another World Title. Stacy came to the door wearing very little and carrying a shopping bag. The Keibler elf wanted to know if Jeff wanted some of her cookies and didn't care what happened with David.

Things happened and the next morning all that was left was the shopping bag. That bag was full of garbage, just like the rest of this story. Jeff guitars David as the announcers try to figure out why Jarrett came up with this story, which is a fair question. Cue Buff Bagwell to go after Jeff, only to be whipped into the set like the goon that he is. Buff gets back up and knocks Jeff off the stage for his big hero moment.

Kevin Nash tells Fit Finlay (now an agent) that he's not here alone.

Team Canada is in the back and apparently Elix Skipper is going to be Wright's partner.

#### Tag Team Titles: Perfect Event vs. Elix Skipper/Alex Wright

Wright and Skipper are defending. Stasiak and Wright get things going with Alex stomping away before Palumbo comes in with a big right hand. A double slingshot suplex puts Wright down and Stasiak gets two off a neckbreaker with Skipper making a save. Everything breaks down and here are the Filthy Animals to lay out Wright, giving Stasiak the pin and the titles.

**Rating:** D. Another nothing match in a move pretty clearly taking place to transition the titles from O'Haire and Jindrak to Perfect Event because that was the big solution they needed or something. They would have been better off having Kidman or one of the Animals in there as the partner

but instead they went with Skipper for reasons of randomness, even though he wound up being a normal partner for Wright.

Video of Mancow attacking Jimmy Hart to set up their match at Mayhem.

Kwee Wee thinks Lance Storm is scared to fight him so he's dropping out of the tag match so General Rection can fight instead. How does that make sense? Kwee Wee's partner Meng promises (yes he's talking) to rip those crossed eyes out of his head. So much for any kind of logic.

Mike Sanders has an idea for Kwee Wee tonight.

Vito hits Reno in the head with a bat with compliments of Maria (Vito's sister). Ignore the bat clearly bending as it made contact.

The Battledome guys are here yelling about something.

Wright thinks WCW is scared of the Boogie Knights being champions so now they want the Animals in a handicap match at Mayhem.

The Battledome guys are still here so Rick Steiner comes out with the Battledome belt. Naturally this means it's time to talk about Luger vs. Booker T. tonight. Steiner challenges them to a fight and T-Money gets in, only to have the other three get in and help with the beatdown. Security comes out for the save and this takes WAY too long to break up.

The Thrillers are ordering pizza when Reno comes in and says he wants to fight Vito tonight.

Rection gives the Misfits a pep talk.

Here's Kevin Nash to introduce his help against the Thrillers. Nash has come to the realization that he has thirteen months and ten days left on his contract and he's not sure how he wants to spend the rest of that time. He drove here from Atlanta today with a good friend of his and now he has to watch the Thrillers be handed the Tag Team Titles.

Cue Sanders to make the match because he's convinced that Nash doesn't have any friends around here. Nash says he's here to make money instead of making friends, which somehow turns into a discussion about cheese

whiz 101. For some reason Nash insults Sanders' ability to hold himself in a bar and that's enough to bring Mike to the ring. Cue Diamond Dallas Page to the ring for the save, which would have worked a lot better had he not come out a few weeks ago for a Battledome segment. Jindrak eats a Diamond Cutter and Page says he'll see them on Sunday.

Luger isn't worried about fighting Booker T. tonight because it's a main event style match.

We recap Meng/Kwee Wee vs. Team Canada in a bizarre yet interesting feud.

#### Jim Duggan/Lance Storm vs. Kwee Wee/Meng

Before the match, Storm rips on America for not being able to figure out its Presidential race two weeks in. Meng kicks Storm in the ribs to start but a Duggan 2x4 shot to the back puts him down. Duggan comes in for some shoulders to the ribs as the fans chant USA. So I guess they're for Duggan as he's the closest thing to an American that they have in the ring right now. A Tongan Death Grip is quickly broken up but the hot tag brings in Rection. Skipper blasts him with the flagpole, which draws out the Misfits to give him a beating. In the melee, Rection rolls Duggan up for the pin. Tony makes WAY too big of a deal out of this.

**Rating:** D. Well that happened. I'm really not sure why Rection pinning Duggan is supposed to be a big deal but Tony certainly seemed to be excited over what we just saw. The match was too short to mean anything, much like everything else that's happened tonight, but at least we had that Jeff Jarrett/Stacy story.

Jeff Jarrett and Shane Douglas are talking about something.

#### Kwee Wee vs. ???

Sanders is on commentary and very pleased when the opponent is revealed as Goldberg. The match lasts 29 seconds in case you were expecting something else.

Post match here's Ric Flair to say Sanders deserves equal treatment. Goldberg isn't all that tired though so here's a bonus.



## Goldberg vs. Mike Sanders

36 seconds and it's 21-0, even though Flair said the Streak didn't matter anymore.

Booker isn't worried about Goldberg interfering tonight because he can beat Luger on his own.

We flash back to Halloween Havoc at Shane Douglas attacking The Cat and then beating up Ms. Jones the next night on Nitro.

## Shane Douglas vs. Buff Bagwell

Before the match, Torrie insults the Georgia women because she's from Los Angeles. Oh and Shane wants Cat at Mayhem. Buff gets sent into the corner to start before coming back with a neckbreaker and that stupid strut of his. Shane knocks him towards the ropes though and Torrie adds in some choking from the floor. The announcers try to push Bagwell as a matinee idol because so many of their fans know what that means.

We hit the chinlock on Buff for a bit before he gets out with an electric chair. The Pittsburgh Plunge gets two but Buff gets in a Vader bomb for the same. A quick double arm DDT (Hudson: "The Kobashi DDT!") puts Shane down so here's Jarrett to interfere and Cat to cut him off. The Blockbuster gives Buff the pin.

**Rating:** C. Totally watchable match here and it's nice to see something actually get a little time (less than six minutes is a marathon tonight) for a change. Douglas isn't much to see in the ring and Bagwell was his usual self but at least we had something decent enough to watch. You can only watch so many three minute matches around here before it gets tiring.

Post match Cat wants to fight right now but it winds up being dance time instead.

Scott Steiner comes out for the main event but first of all he has something to say. He pulls out a box of Kleenex to cry over Sting but doesn't need them because he isn't really sorry for the injuries. Sting had a fair warning to walk away but he came to the ring anyway. Whenever

he comes back, Steiner is more than willing to hurt him again. As for Flair, all he wants to do is screw Steiner out of his World Title. It doesn't matter though because Steiner beat Goldberg at Fall Brawl and he can do it again anytime. Steiner can put Luger and Booker out of wrestling too if he has to because he's a genetic freak.

#### WCW World Title: Booker T. vs. Lex Luger

Steiner is on commentary, Luger is challenging and we've got less than five minutes left in the show. Luger gets kicked in the face to start, followed by an elbow to the jaw. Some forearms to the back have Booker in trouble and a backbreaker gets two. The champ gets in a spinning kick to the head and the ax kick sets up the Spinaroooni. Cue Goldberg so Steiner gets up, triggering their big brawl. Luger loads up a chair but Goldberg gets in and spears Lex to give Booker the retaining pin.

**Rating:** F. This was about four stories mixed together in a match that didn't even last four minutes. I don't know who thought bringing Luger back was a good idea and I don't know who thought putting him in the main event was an even better idea. The match barely existed of course because we needed to see the Cat dance earlier but did you want to see more of Luger?

Booker yells at Goldberg but has to fight off Steiner to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** D. Pretty worthless show here other than to set up the Tag Team Title match on Sunday. The main event was one of those stories that was invented and blown off in the span of a night and went nowhere while not really changing anything. The wrestling was nothing to see, the angles were nothing interesting and the show did almost nothing to make me want to see Mayhem. Such is life in WCW as we approach one of its final pay per views.

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# Thunder – November 8, 2000: Get To Mayhem Already

## Thunder

Date: November 8, 2000

Location: United Center, Chicago, Illinois

Attendance: 7,000

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Mike Tenay, Stevie Ray

We're still rolling towards Mayhem and things are starting to get a bit better. The shows still aren't great but they're coherent and you can see where they want to go for the most part. I'll take that over Russo's insanity as now I kind of want to see where things are going instead of waiting on the next big surprise. Let's get to it.

Booker goes to see Mike Sanders and asks for a match with Shawn Stasiak tonight. Instead he'll get to defend the title against Mike Awesome, which earns Sanders a quick threat.

Opening sequence.

## Evan Karagias vs. Jamie Noble

Apparently Evan is a spoiled celebrity now. The fans don't appreciate a pair of cruiserweights slugging it out so Jamie sends him to the floor and dives off the apron to take Evan down. Back in and Jamie drops a leg to set up what looks like a moonsault, only to get crotched for his efforts. That means it's time for some posing before Evan almost drops

him on his head in a gorilla press. I know Evan is trying to act strong but that doesn't mean he can throw people around.

Thankfully Jamie rolls into a sunset flip, only to get powerbombed for two. A World's Strongest Slam looks to set up a superplex but Jamie shoves him down and drops a top rope legdrop for a near fall of his own. Jamie fights back with chops and a good looking dropkick before missing a charge to the outside. Cue 3 Count to beat down Evan, giving Jamie the easy pin. As usual, WCW referee prove themselves to be such brilliant minds.

**Rating:** D+. Evan wasn't the best worker in the world to start and now they're having him do stuff he isn't exactly ready to do yet. Jamie is talented enough to do a lot in WCW, though of course I can't imagine they'll actually go anywhere with him other than just having the same matches over and over. Splitting the two teams into three was a nice short term concept but as usual it didn't have anywhere to go.

Jamie runs 3 Count off. Music hater.

The Boogie Knights don't like Konnan but Gene doesn't like Disco's hat.

#### Hardcore Title: Reno vs. Crowbar

Reno is defending. Thankfully Crowbar drops his 70s clothes on the way to the ring since he barely interacts with Awesome anymore. Reno starts with some kendo stick shots before opting for trashcan shots to the head. He's nothing if not versatile. Crowbar comes back like it's nothing (because it pretty much was) and splashes a chair onto the champ, meaning it's time for a ladder. To be fair the match is like a minute and a half old so the next step much be a ladder. A splash and a moonsault onto the ladder onto Reno don't even get two so it's time for more chopping.

The ladder is set up in the corner but Reno's suplex is left a good bit short and Crowbar barely makes contact. You had to see something like this coming eventually. Roll the Dice is broken up so Reno settles for a t-bone suplex, only to get dropkicked out to the floor so Crowbar can drop a ladder onto him for a painful crash. Crowbar puts him on a chair on the floor for a clothesline off the apron and they fight up the aisle

with Reno suplexing him near the entrance. A quick trip to the back goes nowhere so here's Vito to kick Reno off the stage, setting up Crowbar's splash for the pin and the title.

**Rating:** C-. Good enough for a hardcore match here and it's nice to see Crowbar finally getting some recognition for how talented he really is. Unfortunately the division barely exists and there's no reason to believe that this is going to lead anywhere for Crowbar. There were some good spots here too and that's as much as you're going to get in a match like this.

Mike Awesome and the Misfits celebrate with the new champion.

### Konnan vs. Disco Inferno

Kidman is on commentary as Konnan jumps Disco at the bell. An armbar doesn't get Konnan anywhere and it's Disco stomping away in the corner. Disco and the referee (Scott Armstrong, oh he of the hitch in the count) get in an argument over choking, which means we get another discussion of Road Dogg. Konnan makes a quick comeback but the Animals have to take out Wright. The distraction lets Konnan get in a quick X Factor for the pin.

Mike Awesome doesn't think much of Booker and/or Scott Steiner.

Now we get a sitdown interview at what looks like a restaurant (minus food of course) with Mark Madden talking to the Cat, with Ms. Jones who seems to be there to give us something to look at. They manage to stay civil for all of two seconds before Cat calls him greasy. I would say just like the food but again this is a restaurant without actual food.

Cat keeps going with something about wanting to be anti-establishment and how much he wants to hurt Madden. He's also not a fan of Ric Flair being around forever and then gets into a stupid discussion of Battledome. Yes that's still a thing and they're really still doing it for reasons that I'll never understand. Oh and he'll fight Shane Douglas anytime. The thing just kind of ends after A LOT of yelling at Madden with Cat really just going insane instead of really sounding coherent or having a point, aside from maybe Battledome.

Steiner goes into Sanders' office and asks if he can get anger management courses to avoid losing his title shot. That's rather out of character for him so he grabs Mike by the throat and threatens to kill him if this doesn't work. That's more like it.

Mayhem ad.

Here's David Flair to accuse Rey Mysterio of being the father. Why in the world is this still a thing, especially since Stacy hasn't been on TV in weeks? Rey says he isn't the father but he'll be David's daddy tonight. Uh, isn't David's daddy already a character on the show?

#### Rey Mysterio vs. David Flair

Rey starts fast with a springboard splash for two but David, in street clothes, takes it outside for a chop against the barricade. The commentary focuses on Battledome of course as Tygress knocks David out with a hard forearm, setting up back to back Bronco Busters on David. A springboard legdrop to the back of the head puts David away with ease.

#### Shawn Stasiak vs. Kevin Nash

Not so fast of course because Stasiak brings out Kronik for some backup. Sanders advises Kronik to head to the back because this isn't worth losing their pay over. They do indeed leave...and the Thrillers turn on Nash for the big beatdown. So Nash is a face? Again? And forget the whole Stasiak face turn I guess? Booker comes in for the save for no real logical reason.

Nash is checked out by the trainers.

Scott Steiner video.

Luger and Bigelow seem to be in cahoots for the main event tonight. Thanks for clearing that up for us WCW.

#### Lance Storm vs. Meng

Storm isn't happy with Meng's job against Sgt. AWALL last week, which made it even more clear that if you want something done right, hire a

Canadian. Kwee Wee and Paisley come out with Meng to continue one of the most confusing pairings in a long time. Naturally the two of them sit down on commentary because that's how you get in bonus material on a wrestling show.

Meng shoves him around to start as Paisley says Angry Alan (the alter ego that comes out when Kwee Wee gets mad) a mini-Meng. Storm gets knocked to the floor and you can see the glitter on him from his match against Kwee Wee on Nitro. Back in and Storm's clothesline has no effect but Skipper gets in a cheap shot so Lance can take over. A Samoan drop plants Storm but it's time for Meng to go after the other Canadians for a double countout.

**Rating:** D. Nothing match here but at least the right guy won while they kept Meng looking strong. Paisley got on my nerves by arguing with Stevie during the entire match but it makes sense that she would be annoyed at being called a yak for weeks. Meng and Kwee Wee have potential as a goofy team and I've heard worse ideas. It was a bad match but the right result so at least they're getting something right.

#### WCW World Title: Booker T. vs. Mike Awesome

Booker is defending of course. Awesome is all fired up to start and gets in Booker's face, finally showing some fire instead of his Saturday Night Fever influences. A headlock doesn't get Mike anywhere as Booker gets in a dropkick for an early advantage. Awesome clotheslines him out to the floor and sends Booker into the barricade before hitting Booker in the back. Maybe he learned that by watching Booker do it to Nash on Monday.

The beating continues for far too long on the floor before some stomps get two on the champ. The fans finally get the table they've been requesting all match and of course the announcers act like this is perfectly normal. Stevie on Booker: "I know this guy like a book. Do you know why?" Tony: "Because he's your brother?" At least he didn't say "because his name is Book."

The running Awesome Bomb through a table doesn't work so Awesome throws him through the table for two instead. You could hear the fans gasp at that kickout. Mike misses the Awesome Splash and gets caught in the

sidewalk slam for two. The ax kick gets an even closer two but the Bookend retains the title.

**Rating:** B-. Best match they've had in weeks here and oddly enough the match that got more time than anything else. It's so funny how that works. Awesome being more serious would only be a good thing for him as he's more than talented enough to make it on his own without a gimmick. Anyway this was a fun match and I had a good time with it, completely unnecessary table spot aside.

We go to the back to Lanita Ericson, who looks like Pamela Paulshock crossed with the bad version of Madusa. She's interviewing future MMA fighter/wrestler Bob Sapp, who has signed with WCW. Sapp was an NFL offensive lineman and decided to make a career change to wrestling. That should be a cakewalk but then he was taken down by a little guy named Sarge on his first day at the Power Plant.

Sapp plugs his upcoming boxing match/toughman contest with Refrigerator William Perry and I have no idea how this is supposed to make me want to keep watching. This new woman is HORRIBLE as well as she sounds like someone trying to get picked up at a bar. Terrible all around here and thankfully Sapp never wrestled for WCW.

#### Goldberg vs. Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Lex Luger

Actually hang on a minute as Kronik comes out before Goldberg and beat up the referee. Stevie: "This is all making sense now." Tenay: "EXPLAIN IT THEN!"

After a break we see the Boogie Knights paying Kronik off. Dang Stevie was right. It did make sense earlier, assuming you paid attention.

Mayhem ad.

Let's try this again.

#### Goldberg vs. Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Lex Luger

Goldberg fights them both off because this is one of those handicap matches called a triple threat in an attempt to make it more interesting.



The villains are sent outside for a bit where they get things together, allowing them to take over inside. A beating on the floor keeps Goldberg in trouble but he easily powers out of Luger's elbow drops. That's enough for Luger as he walks out, leaving Goldberg to Jackhammer Bigelow for the pin.

**Rating:** D. The match has come and gone and I'm still not sure what it changed to make this a three way instead of just having the handicap match that it should have been. Goldberg winning was of course the obvious ending and it makes sense to have Bigelow take the pin but Goldberg vs. Luger is their big idea? That's the best they've got? No wonder they are where they are right now.

**Overall Rating:** D+. Mayhem needs to get here already so we can wrap up some of these stories and get on to some fresh stuff. The midcard stuff has a few interesting ideas in there but they need to polish a lot of this show instead of just running it like they've been doing. The shows are passable enough but they need a few big changes to really make them good.

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# Monday Nitro – October 2, 2000: It Was All A Dream

## Monday Nitro #260

Date: October 2, 2000

Location: Cow Palace, San Francisco, California

Attendance: 2,666

Commentators: Mark Madden, Scott Hudson, Tony Schiavone

Tonight is the night. After several months, if not years, of waiting we FINALLY get to see what the wrestling world has been waiting for: Mike Tenay is getting in the ring for a match. Yes indeed. Somehow, this is the point we've reached. We also might find out something about the fate of the World Title and Russo has a surprise for Goldberg on top of it, but Tenay is wrestling tonight. Let's get to it.

On a side note, check out the attendance. Back in February 1998, the same arena did 12,620 for SuperBrawl VIII. Earlier in 2000, also at the Cow Palace, they drew 8,569 for SuperBrawl X. In six months they've lost about 6,000 fans and in two and a half years they've lost 10,000 fans. In two and a half years, 10,000 have decided that they don't want to waste their money on WCW anymore.

That's ignoring the fact that those were pay per views, meaning this show was likely cheaper. Also, less than 2,000 of these tickets were actually paid. If you want to see (arguably) the biggest reason why WCW died, there it is: people stopped coming to see it. If San Francisco, which wasn't even a major city for them, has shed 10,000 paying fans in less than three years, how bad do you think it is around the country? On top of THAT, how bad do you think the arena is going to look with a minimum of 10,000 empty seats?

Here are the Filthy Animals with the Disgo Duck. After Konnan suggests that Disgo has been, ahem, enjoying one of the Duck's holes, Konnan wants to hang the Duck above the ring and have a ladder match RIGHT NOW.

Madden: "It's duck season, not wabbit season."

## Konnan/Rey Mysterio vs. Boogie Knights

That would be Disco/Alex Wright of course. The announcers sound terrified that they could possibly be called the Boogie Knights in a semi-funny bit. This is a ladder match with Wright springboarding in to take over, allowing Disco to crush Konnan with the ladder in the corner. Rey comes in with a Thesz Press using the ladder and puts the Knights inside and underneath said ladder, setting up an Atomic Arabian Facebuster to crush both guys.

The double Nutcracker Suite keeps the Knights down and Rey flip dives over the top to take Alex out. A Last Dance allows Disco to climb (Hudson: "A last chance for the duck snatch!") but Rey takes him down with a sunset bomb. Konnan climbs up and gets the Duck for the win in less than five minutes.

**Rating:** D+. So the match is four and a half minutes, the Knights lose their first match, AND THEY WERE FIGHTING OVER A DUCK. What am I supposed to say to this? Madden making duck puns was the most entertaining thing in the match. As in him saying the Knights were "mallardjusted" and losing as a result. That's your highlight here.

Post match the Knights beat the Animals down with the Duck.

David Flair brings in a man wearing a hood and bound by handcuffs. Tonight the man is going to confess, which presumably means he's the father.

Russo, now out of his neck brace, says he's not an athlete so he's relinquishing the World Title. That means we're getting a title match tonight between Jeff Jarrett and Scott Steiner for the vacant belt. As for Goldberg, he showed what a coward he was last week and he's lucky that Russo didn't file charges for assault. This brings Goldberg to the ring to call out Russo, who says he's got plans. Hopefully those plans involve actually looking at the camera instead of being just a few inches off like he was in the promo.

Cue Russo in a Popemobile (with Borash driving) as Goldberg plows through security. Russo wants Goldberg to feel his pain so he's got an idea.

Starting tonight, Goldberg has to break his streak of 176-0 to get another shot at the World Title. If he loses once, he's out of WCW. Goldberg goes after Borash and finds the keys but cue Meng to attack Goldberg with the Death Grip. Russo announces Meng as Goldberg's first opponent for later tonight.

Now this is an idea I can get behind a bit more than most of Russo's nonsense because there's an actual plot. You can see where this should go over the next few months with a clear hero and villain. In other words, things are a bit calmer and in theory, Goldberg will get his hands on Russo at some point. Unfortunately that's something so rare in WCW that it's really hard to get behind it.

Russo says he's leaving tonight so Mike Sanders is in charge. Sanders leaves the room and Russo tells Borash to keep an eye on Mike tonight.

Actor Chuck Zito is out for commentary.

#### Hardcore Title; Sgt. AWOL vs. Reno

The title is vacant coming in. AWOL knocks Reno out of the air with a trashcan to start and it's already time for a chair. Reno comes back and goes after Zito for no apparent reason before pounding on AWOL even more. Cue Big Vito to cane Reno, allowing AWOL to chokeslam Reno through a table for the pin and the title.

Post match here's Sanders to say that Reno is champion due to the interference.

The Cat has announced that Booker T. and Sting are the top two contenders instead of Jarrett and Steiner.

David has handcuffed the hooded guy to a dressing room rack. The hooded guy has some very large arms.

Here are Shane and Torrie to talk about being the real first couple of wrestling. Torrie wants to see Shane in action and it's time for a match.

#### Shane Douglas vs. Mike Awesome

Shane takes him right into the corner to start but Mike takes the fight to the floor. Lex Luger, who wrestled a match on Thunder, is sitting in the crowd as a fan. Awesome loads up a table (three matches so far and we've had a ladder and back to back tables) and tries for the Awesome Bomb, only to have Torrie open her top to show off a skin colored swimsuit top. The distraction lets Shane grab the Franchiser for the pin.

Tygress goes after Torrie post match and Konnan has to run out to save her from Shane.

Jarrett and Steiner want Sanders to fix this thing with Booker and Sting. Nash and the Thrillers come in and don't say much.

Nash tries to give Sanders a pep talk to go after the Cat.

Video on Meng.

Meng says (yes says) that Goldberg dies tonight. Apparently if he loses, he's out of WCW too.

Sanders has fixed things somehow.

#### Meng vs. Goldberg

Slugout, Meng misses a kick, spear, Jackhammer, pin in less than 40 seconds.

Goldberg says that's #1 but here's Kronik to beat Goldberg down. High Times plants him and apparently some souls have been sold.

Sanders' solution: Steiner/Sting vs. Booker/Jarrett with the winning team facing each other for the title later tonight.

David pours water on the hooded guy. You can see the same rope tattoo that Buff Bagwell has on his arm.

#### Jeff Jarrett/Booker T. vs. Sting/Scott Steiner

Sting and Jarrett get things going with Sting avoiding a monkey flip attempt and hitting Jeff in the chest. The running bulldog sets up the Stinger Splash but a poke to the eye breaks up the Scorpion. It's off to

Booker vs. Steiner with Scott bailing to the floor as we're already stalling. Back in and Steiner pounds him down until Booker hits a quick kick to the face.

Now it's off to Sting vs. Booker to make things a bit more interesting. Booker's headlock is countered with a hiptoss before it's Sting grabbing a headlock of his own. This is straight out of the totally average match they had at Spring Stampede but the announcers called it amazing anyway. Steiner low bridges Booker out to the floor, only to get beaten down by Jarrett as things get weird again.

Things settle back down with Steiner clotheslining Booker and dropping the elbow. Booker gets tied up in the Tree of Woe but pops out like a daisy from the snow, setting up a spinebuster on Scott. Jeff comes in to stay on Steiner (still odd to see), only to get caught in a spinning belly to belly. Scott rolls over and makes the hot tag off to Sting as everything breaks down. The announcers try to figure out who is legal as Booker ax kicks Steiner. The side kick hits the referee (because of course) and Jarrett guitars Sting for the pin and the title match later.

**Rating:** C-. The match wasn't the worst thing in the world as it had more time but the match was the usual brawling mess that they usually have. Above all else though, it's clear that the wrestlers can go more than two minutes, which makes you wonder why they never do. My best guess: Vince Russo hates wrestling and has no idea how to make it actually work.

#### Cruiserweight Title: Elix Skipper vs. Mike Sanders

Skipper is ticked off that he has to face Sanders after Nash made fun of him last week (by calling Beetlejuice Elix). Skipper wants to fight Nash at the same time so here are all of the Thrillers. Nash has spent the last 45 minutes telling Beetlejuice that he's sorry for calling him Skipper. We're still not ready to go because Sanders has some rules. First of all, Team Canada is banned from ringside. Second, you have to win this match with a powerbomb. Third, let's just make this a handicap match for fun.

Nash hits Elix in the head with a microphone and we're ready to go. Sanders gets backdropped out of a powerbomb attempt and Elix kicks him in

the head. Did I miss Team Canada turning face? Skipper covers for no count because there's no powerbomb. That's enough for Nash as he comes in and decks Skipper before talking about how these kids need to stop taking spots from the veterans.

As he's talking, Elix goes to the top for a really long missile dropkick before hammering away on Nash. We look at Luger in the crowd again and miss Nash taking over again. Nash doesn't like Skipper calling himself a Canadian so it's a powerbomb to give Sanders the title. I'm not going to rate this due to how much of it was spent on miniature Nash promos but as usual it was an angle disguised as a match.

Goldberg tries to leave but Terry Taylor tells him that he has another match tonight.

Nash goes to take a shower when Team Canada jumps the Thrillers from behind. Lance Storm and Jim Duggan have the Thrillers cowering in all of ten seconds because that's what WCW thinks of those guys.

#### Goldberg vs. Harris Brothers

A spear and a Jackhammer give Goldberg two pins in thirty seven seconds, as in two seconds faster than he beat Meng.

The Thrillers are begging Nash for help, even though the simple answer would seem to be BEAT THE CANADIANS TO A PULP BECAUSE THERE ARE ONLY TWO OF THEM RIGHT NOW.

The World Title match will now be a 49ers match. There will be a box at each corner with the belt in one of them. Whoever finds it is the champion. So the title is being decided in a scavenger hunt. Also note that the other three boxes will have weapons. Remember that.

David Flair brings out the guy in a hood. Flair slaps him in the head a few times and promises to embarrass him before removing the handcuffs. As expected, the guy immediately stands up and takes off the hood to reveal that it's Buff Bagwell. The beating is quickly on and Buff scores with a Blockbuster before leaving.

#### WCW World Title: Booker T. vs. Jeff Jarrett

The title is vacant coming in. Jarrett has no guitar and it's actually really strange to not see it. They head outside to start with Jeff taking over. It's already time for the first box and it's....a blowup doll. Yeah here we go. Booker comes back with a side slam and goes for another box which has a picture of Scott Hall. That's actually used as a weapon as the picture is smashed over Jeff's head, leaving him next to the doll.

Booker goes for a third box but Jeff sends him outside for a save. Jeff gets smart by hitting him in the head with a box but can't get a piledriver. Instead Booker grabs one of his own onto the announcers' table which doesn't break in an always scary looking sight. That means it's time to open the third box, which contains a glove.

There's nothing special about the glove (it looks like one you might use while working in your yard) but the announcers declare it a coal miner's glove, meaning it would be weighted. You know what? Well done by them for trying to make this even the slightest bit serious. Russo clearly isn't going to give them anything to work with so it's nice to see them trying to do it themselves.

Jeff takes Booker down and grabs the glove, though you have to wonder why he isn't going after the only box left which must contain the title. A glove shot to the ribs allows Jarrett to pose before breaking another box over Booker's head instead of going for the box. Booker pops back up for the save, only to eat a gloved shot to the jaw.

Jeff STILL won't go up so it's time for a sleeper. To be fair, Booker was up quickly after the shot to the jaw, which shows another problem of the match: the guys have been fighting over the glove like it means something but they can't decide if it knocks the other guy out or not. Booker easily fights out of the sleeper and grabs one of his own, only to get suplexed down.

Back up and Jeff tries a top rope glove shot to the head but dives into a Bookend. Jeff makes another save but the Stroke is countered into the ax kick. ANOTHER save keeps us going and Booker's ax kick hits the ropes. An electric chair out of the corner drops Booker but Jeff STILL WON'T CLIMB. Cue Beetlejuice of all people to hit Jeff low, allowing Booker to get the



box down for the win and the title.

**Rating:** C. This one might require some explanation. Yeah the match sucked, yeah there was a severe lack of logic and yeah there were a ton of holes here, but I don't put that on the wrestlers. It's not their fault that they had fifteen minutes to spend on a ridiculous gimmick that the booker clearly wasn't taking seriously. Maybe this could have gone better had five matches (out of an eight match show) combine to go ten minutes and they didn't have to stall as long as they did before the ending involving a "celebrity". This was horrible, but I'm not about to blame that on the guys who were asked to make something out of this disaster.

Post match Steiner comes out to hit Booker with a pipe and put Beetlejuice in the Recliner to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** D-. So Goldberg runs through people to start a new segment (fine enough in theory but I have no reason to believe it works long term) and then the rest of the show is all downhill from there. There's just way too much insanity at this point and it's almost impossible to keep track of what's going on out there. As usual you have gimmicks all over the place, illogical stories and ideas and the old guys being pushed instead of the new talent who could use a rub. The problem continues to be the same thing as always: Vince Russo doesn't know how to book a wrestling show.

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