

# Monday Night Raw – October 2, 2017: The Upside Down Egg Version

## Monday Night Raw

Date: October 2, 2017

Location: Pepsi Center, Denver Colorado

Commentators: Tom Phillips, Corey Graves, Booker T.

We've got a title match on the card tonight as the Miz defends the Intercontinental Title against Roman Reigns. While a title change is always possible, there's also the high likelihood that this is all helping to set up the Miztourage vs. a reunited Shield at Tables Ladders and Chairs 2017. Let's get to it.

The roster is on the stage for a moment of silence in memory of the Las Vegas shooting. Even Vince and Shane are there.

Video on the Miztourage beating Reigns down last week and standing over him in the Shield pose.

Opening sequence.

## Seth Rollins vs. Braun Strowman

Rollins kicks at the ribs to start but has to slip out of a running powerslam attempt. For some reason Seth slaps him in the face, setting off a chase. A kick to Braun's head connects but Braun launches him into the air for a big crash. We hit the chinlock for a bit before Seth fights up and sends him outside. A suicide dive is knocked out of the air though and we take a break.

Back with Rollins getting tossed via a fall away slam but sidestepping a charge. Now the suicide dives connect, only to have the springboard knee to the face get two. A great looking superkick drops Braun but the wind up knee is countered with a clothesline. The running powerslam ends Rollins at 10:27.

**Rating:** C. Not a bad little match here but there was no question about Strowman winning. Rollins is great for something like this though as he's legitimate competition for Strowman and makes him look great even in defeat. It was a fun match and a good way to open the show, which is all you can ask for.

Strowman gives him another powerslam for fun. He goes back for more but Dean Ambrose runs out for a save attempt, only to get chokeslammed for his efforts. Another running powerslam leaves both champions laying. Strowman leaves and here are Sheamus and Cesaro to pick the bones.

Breast cancer awareness video.

We recap Mickie James and Alexa Bliss' issues.

Mickie runs into Alicia Fox and Emma, who say there's a present in Mickie's dressing room. She goes in to find a walker and adult diapers. Mickie goes to find Alexa but she's hiding behind Nia Jax. A match is set for later.

Bray Wyatt is in his walking chair and rocking back and forth, going over things that Sister Abigail told him. She told him to fight the man and would never lie to him. He repeats the last line over and over.

Here's Elias to tell us how horrible this town is and how much he can't stand Titus O'Neil.

#### Elias vs. Titus O'Neil

Elias headlocks him to start but gets shoved off for a crash. A big boot knocks Elias outside where he gets in a staredown with Apollo Crews. Back in and Drift Away ends Titus at 2:58. Nothing match.

The announcers preview Hell in a Cell.

#### Mickie James vs. Nia Jax

Alexa comes out to watch and the distraction lets Nia jump Mickie from behind. The beating is on in a hurry and Mickie is sent outside as we take a break. Back with Mickie slugging away but getting thrown down

again, setting up a chinlock and bearhug. Nia tries a powerbomb but Mickie slips out, setting up a few running kicks. A bad looking tornado DDT (Mickie's leg was underneath Nia) plants Jax, only to have Alexa run in for the DQ at 9:45.

**Rating:** D+. As I've said before, Nia needs to win something at some point. That being said, I'm very happy that Mickie is in this story as she's the fresh blood the division has been needing. That being said, she's now been in stories where she's crazy, fat and old. What did she do to WWE over the years to deserve those?

Mickie kicks Alexa in the face.

Long recap of Enzo Amore winning the title and being destroyed last week.

Enzo has nothing to say.

Mickie James will get her title shot at TLC.

#### Matt Hardy/Jason Jordan vs. Anderson and Gallows

Jordan slugs away at Anderson to start but everything breaks down with the good guys (guys, not Brothers) cleaning house to send us to a break. Back with Anderson working over Matt in the corner but it's quickly off to Jordan. A slam is broken up via a Gallows kick to the face and Jordan is back in trouble again.

Anderson slaps on an armbar as the announcers ask Booker why he's always complaining about Jordan's relationship with Angle. That's broken up as well and the hot tag brings in Matt for a middle rope elbow. Anderson makes a save and knocks Jordan outside, leaving Matt to take the Magic Killer for the pin at 11:02.

**Rating:** D+. Not much to this one but were you expecting anything else? Jordan is a complete filler partner and while that makes sense in the short term, I don't see this lasting too much longer. Hardy is more than capable of a singles run and that would be the best option for everyone at the moment.

Reigns says he's keeping things simple tonight: destroy what's in front

of him, break Miz's jaw, and leave with the title.

Some breast cancer survivors are brought out and presented with WWE Championships by Dana Warrior.

### Intercontinental Title: Roman Reigns vs. The Miz

Miz is defending and comes out ala the Shield with the Miztourage. Reigns wastes no time in bailing to the floor and beating the heck out of the Miztourage to make things even. Axel staggers through the crowd so Reigns follows him up for a chair to the back. Dallas gets one as well before Reigns just unloads on both of them with multiple chair shots. The bell rings after a break with Reigns headbutting the champ on the floor. Miz avoids a charge though and Reigns winds up in the crowd. That's only good for a nine count but Miz catches him in a short DDT for two.

We hit the chinlock for a bit before Miz switches to just choking on the ropes. Back from a break with Miz hitting the YES Kicks but getting caught in a sitout powerbomb for a very near fall. The Superman Punch is countered into the Skull Crushing Finale for the same and Miz is stunned. The second Superman Punch connects for an even closer two and it's Reigns' turn to be shocked. Reigns loads up the spear but Sheamus and Cesaro pull him out for the DQ at 10:47.

**Rating:** B-. This was good while it lasted but the ending hurt it a lot. They're not hiding what they're going for in the post match stuff and while there's nothing wrong with that, I could go for it not being so heavy handed. There were some awesome near falls in this one and it was really entertaining at times, but the time factor and the storyline stuff isn't great.

Reigns gets destroyed post match. The fans chant for the Shield as Reigns takes a TripleBomb. Miz, Sheamus and Cesaro do the Shield pose. That would be a heck of a lot better than Miz and the Miztourage.

Here's Finn Balor for a chat. He's heard Bray Wyatt's talk for weeks now and he sees Bray for the coward he is. For all of Bray's games, it boils down to him just being afraid that he can't beat Finn Balor. If Bray wants another fight, come get one right now. Bray appears on screen,

again in his rocking chair and saying that she never lied to me. Finn lied to him though and hid his true face behind the Demon. Sister Abigail is alive and dying to meet Balor.

Video on Asuka.

### Sasha Banks/Bayley vs. Emma/Alicia Fox

Sasha takes Emma down and does Bayley's roll over Emma's back to take over. Bayley sends her into the corner for some rams into the buckle and we take a break. Back with Fox hammering on Banks before Emma comes in for a chinlock. Emma's butterfly suplex gets two and Fox's tilt-a-whirl backbreaker gets the same.

Banks still can't get over for the hot tag as Fox pulls her back one more time. This time around though Banks sends the villains into each other and the hot tag brings in Bayley for some right hands to Alicia. A jawbreaker cuts Bayley off...but Emma drops to the floor and says she's out. The Bayley to Belly ends Alicia at 12:58.

**Rating:** C-. Kind of boring with all the chinlockery but it wasn't too bad. The big problem here though was the lack of any question about who was going to win. Emma and Alicia are some of the lowest level women the division has had in a good while and there's no reason to expect that they're going to beat two of the bigger names. That made the long chinlocks feel even longer, though it wasn't the worst thing in the world.

We look at Amore getting destroyed last week.

Here's Enzo Amore to talk about the beating he took last week. He's now put the cruiserweight division in the main event two weeks in a row and you're absolutely right that he deserves it. Enzo talks about all the money he makes and all of his star power, but carrying the division has made his back hurt. He brings up the No Contact clause from last week and says there's a new one tonight: if anyone attacks him, they're fired. Now he's on top of the throne but he doesn't have any opponents.

Cue the cruiserweight division to surround Amore but he insults every

single one of them in turn. This brings out Angle to say that none of the cruiserweights at ringside can lay a hand on him. HOWEVER, there's a new member of the Cruiserweight division: Kalisto. The fight is on in a hurry with Kalisto easily beating the heck out of Enzo.

A banged up Reigns is in the back when Ambrose comes in. They stare at each other a bit until Rollins comes in as well. Ambrose leaves with Rollins going the opposite way. Reigns thinks things over to end the show. No one ever said or did anything more than look at the others.

**Overall Rating:** C-. I'm really going to need more time to get used to this Saturday Night's Main Event style layout for the shows. For the young ones out there, Saturday Night's Main Event would load up the first third or half of the show and then the last part would be whatever else they had time to squeeze in.

That would make for a far less interesting ending, which is what WWE has been going for lately. I'm so used to Raw ending with a big moment and now it's something that feels like it's filler. I get why they're doing it (the last hour doesn't do well anyway so don't waste big stories) but DANG it's punishing to fans who watch the whole thing.

The rest of the show was fine enough with Cesaro and Sheamus being a VERY nice upgrade over Axel and Dallas. It's made me somewhat more interested in a Shield reunion, even if they're doing such a rushed job with the whole thing. The show wasn't terrible, but aside from the Shield stuff, I'm having trouble remembering anything important on the whole thing. That's not good, especially when we're less than three weeks away from a big pay per view.

### Results

Braun Strowman b. Seth Rollins – Running powerslam

Elias b. Titus O'Neil – Drift Away

Mickie James b. Nia Jax via DQ when Alexa Bliss interfered

Anderson and Gallows b. Matt Hardy/Jason Jordan – Magic Killer to Hardy

Roman Reigns b. The Miz via DQ when Sheamus and Cesaro interfered

Sasha Banks/Bayley b. Alicia Fox/Emma – Bayley to Belly to Fox

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# Monday Night Raw – September 25, 2017: Everything You Need To Know

## Monday Night Raw

Date: September 25, 2017

Location: Citizens Business Bank Arena, Ontario, California

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves, Booker T.

We're past No Mercy and that means we have about a month to go before Tables Ladders and Chairs 2017. That means it's time to build a card, which doesn't seem likely to contain Brock Lesnar. It does however include Roman Reigns, who defeated John Cena last night and Braun Strowman, who fell to Lesnar in the Universal Title match. Let's get to it.

Here's are the Miz and the Miztourage for MizTV. After a quick look at Miz retaining the Intercontinental Title last night and bragging about his victory, Miz brings out his guest for the evening: Roman Reigns. Miz talks about Reigns' accomplishments, including retiring Undertaker. Reigns says Cena carried the company for fifteen years and even an idiot like Miz can see that Reigns is the new guy.

That brings Miz to Jason Jordan, who isn't good enough to be in the ring with him. Reigns disagrees, and says Miz wouldn't win without the Miztourage. He tells Axel and Dallas to go get him a cold beer but Miz brings up Reigns having help in the form of the Shield. A match between the trios is teased and Reigns gets out of his chair, sending the Miztourage and company to the floor. Cue Kurt Angle to say Miz is facing Reigns tonight, but first the Miztourage will be facing Matt Hardy and Jason Jordan.

#### Matt Hardy/Jason Jordan vs. Miztourage

Jordan takes Dallas down without too much effort and northern lights Axel for two. It's off to Matt for a headlock before the Miztourage being cleaned out as we take a break. Back with the Miztourage in control and Axel grabbing a chinlock on Jordan. That goes nowhere as it's off to Matt for the middle rope elbow to the back of the head. Everything breaks down and Jordan does his running shoulder in the corner, followed by the belly to belly on Axel. The Side Effect into the Twist of Fate puts Dallas away at 10:25.

**Rating:** D+. Well that happened. What in the world am I supposed to say about this one anyway? Jordan was thrown in there because Jeff was hurt and it's not like they have any other teams to throw in there. Heath Slater and Rhyno are available but they're pretty low level, even for something like this. In other words, MAKE SOME NEW TEAMS ALREADY!

Quick video on Lesnar vs. Strowman, trying to make it far less disappointing than it really was.

#### Elias vs. Apollo Crews

Rematch from last night's Kickoff Show. Apollo takes him down with a



headlock and Elias can't do much from there. Back up and Crews snaps off a dropkick and a clothesline, drawing a rather hard chant from the fans. Crews dives over the top onto Elias and poses with Titus, only to have Elias kick Titus' knee out. Back in and Elias runs him over, followed by Drift Away for the pin at 2:42. That was Elias' only offense.

Titus beats up Elias post match.

Finn Balor thanks Bray Wyatt for pushing him to the limit and says he wants the Universal Title match.

Here's Curt Hawkins to issue a challenge to end his losing streak.

#### Braun Strowman vs. Curt Hawkins

Hawkins bails before Strowman gets in the ring so Strowman chases him through the crowd. Curt gets caught without too much effort and a chokeslam puts him through a table. Strowman takes him to the stage and powerslams Hawkins through the LED wall in a big crash. No match of course.

With Hawkins pretty much dead, Strowman goes to the ring and grabs the mic. After last night, he wants a real fight right now. Cue Dean Ambrose with a taped up shoulder to answer the challenge.

#### Braun Strowman vs. Dean Ambrose

Strowman throws him around to start and drives Dean into the corner. Dean stumbles backwards, slaps him in the face, and then falls down. The running powerslam is countered though as Dean grabs a sleeper. They fall out to the floor with Dean posting him, only to miss a charge back inside. Strowman gets knocked outside and Dean's suicide dive into a tornado DDT plants him with a loud thud. Back in and a basement dropkick staggers Strowman for two. A missed charge sends Braun into the post but the top rope elbow is countered into the powerslam to give Strowman the pin at 6:32.

**Rating:** C+. This was fun and a good way to get Strowman back on his feet but for what? Where is Strowman supposed to go from here? He's fought Reigns already so maybe Balor? Is that the most interesting thing in the

world? Not that it really matters as we're just waiting on Lesnar to return for his title defense at the Rumble anyway, making the whole thing a pretty big waste of time. But hey, Roman vs. Lesnar II right?

Angle is telling the referee for the Miz vs. Reigns match to keep an eye on the Miztourage. Cue Enzo Amore to say he wants a celebration for tonight. Angle doesn't think so but once he can understand Enzo, he agrees to the idea. This is Enzo's first title so Angle asks if he'd like some advice from a Hall of Famer. Enzo: "Nah."

Seth Rollins brings Dean a bag of ice for his shoulder. Dean is still going to be at ringside for Rollins vs. Sheamus later. Seth is going to go request a match with Strowman for next week.

Here's Alexa Bliss for a chat. She considers all of the fans her friends and she has to be honest with them: she is VERY disappointed with each and every single one of them. This morning she got up and looked at some messages about her title win but everything was about Sasha, Bayley or Asuka. Alexa has cleaned out the entire women's division but here's Mickie James to interrupt.

Mickie brings up Alexa insulting her on Raw Talk after last night's show. Alexa says she's been watching her since she was a little girl and Mickie was even on her top eight on MySpace. There are still some fans who say Mickie still has it but she's worried about Mickie breaking a hip. Mickie brags about all the barriers and hearts she's broken since Alexa was still in a training bra. Mickie: "And that seems to still be working for you." Alexa calls her an old lady and gets slapped in the face, followed by a superkick for good measure.

### Seth Rollins vs. Sheamus

Cesaro, even without the teeth, is here too. Sheamus throws him into the corner to start but gets sent shoulder first into the opposite post for his efforts. That means a suicide dive from Rollins, only to get caught in an Irish Curse back inside. Sheamus bends Seth's knee around his neck before getting two off a sitout powerbomb. After a Cloverleaf doesn't get him very far, Sheamus kicks the head out of Rollins' jaw for two. The Brogue Kick misses though and Rollins grabs the wind-up knee for the pin

at 4:12.

**Rating:** C. This didn't have time to do much and felt like leftovers from last night's great match. Rollins winning makes sense when he's facing Strowman next week, though I'd like to see Rollins get back into the World Title scene. Of course, again, we need a champion around to fight and apparently we can't do that for a few months now. Eh I'm sure this won't be a problem whatsoever.

Balor comes up to Goldust, who isn't cool with Balor taking shots at him. Goldust didn't ask for nor does he need Balor's help. Finn apologizes but Goldust hits him in the face and beats him up anyway.

Video on Reigns vs. Cena. After last night's loss, Cena talked about his role changing in WWE and how much of a weight it felt like was being lifted off his shoulders when he lost. He's not sure he can continue at this pace and while he's not done, he's transitioning.

#### Miz vs. Roman Reigns

Non-title. Reigns pops him in the jaw to start and knocks Miz outside without too much effort. Miz stays on the floor long enough to get Reigns to chase him, allowing a few shots as he gets back in. An Axel cheap shot lets Miz boot him in the face and we hit a chinlock. Reigns powers out but gets taken down by the Miztourage again.

Back in and Miz scores with the running corner dropkicks but Reigns pulls him out of the air with a Samoan drop. Yet another Miztourage distraction lets Miz get in the running clothesline and the YES Kicks. Reigns has finally had it and punches everyone in the face, setting up the apron dropkick. Axel offers ANOTHER distraction though and Miz's short DDT is good for two. Not that it matters as Reigns spears him down for the pin at 9:50.

**Rating:** C. They weren't exactly hiding what they were going for here and you can see the post-match stuff from here. However, as usual, they have no reason to have Miz job here when they could have just done a DQ. But hey, we can add Miz and the Intercontinental Title to things Reigns has conquered to the same level of reaction. Have I mentioned I'm REALLY not

ok with the ending to last night's match?

Reigns tries to fight off the trio but gets laid out with a chair. The Miztourage goes to leave but comes back for some more shots, including another big one with the chair. They throw in the Shield pose to really make this one clear.

### Goldust vs. Finn Balor

Goldust goes straight after him and sends Balor shoulder first into the post. Balor gets dropped onto the barricade and we take a break. Back with Goldust holding a waistlock and kicking Balor in the ribs. Balor kicks him down and stomps away, followed by the Sling Blade and the Coup de Grace for the pin at 7:24.

**Rating:** D+. This was as good as Finn Balor vs. Goldust was going to be. Not that I'm complaining about seeing Goldust getting some time at this stage in his career but it's not like there's any real reason to believe Balor was in any real danger here. Balor needs something to do that isn't Bray Wyatt but who else is he supposed to feud with at the moment?

Post match Bray's lights come on and what sounds like a kid sings He's Got The Whole World In His Hands. Yes, this is actually continuing for whatever reason they have this time.

Bayley and Sasha Banks are in the back before their tag match later. Bayley apologizes for costing her the title last night but says she wants to win it herself. Banks seems cool with that.

Enzo receives a no contract rule for his celebration, saying if any cruiserweight attacks him they can't have a future title shot. Angle finds him very annoying.

### Emma/Nia Jax vs. Bayley/Sasha Banks

Nia and Bayley start things off with the monster knocking Banks off the apron and flattening Bayley with a clothesline. Back from a break with Nia cranking on Bayley's arm and sitting on it for good measure (Graves: "That won't just separate your shoulder. That will divorce it!"). Bayley finally kicks Emma away, sending her right into Nia. The hot tag brings

in Banks to clean house with some bad dropkicks and a Regal Cutter to Emma. Everything breaks down and Nia gets double teamed on the floor, including a good posting from Bayley. Back in and the Bayley to Belly puts Emma away at 8:35.

**Rating:** C-. You know, at some point Nia has to actually win something and stop getting taken down every single time. At this point we're just waiting for Asuka though as she's going to be a complete game changer for the entire division. The match wasn't bad or anything but Bayley and Banks vs. Emma isn't exactly in doubt.

Here's Enzo for the closing segment. He says that it wasn't a dream and first of all it's time to talk about his morning. This morning, he woke up and looked at the title, which made him start reflecting. Over the last few months, there have been more than a cuppa haters. Those people were jealous, just like his former partner Big Cass. From the looks of Cass' knee, Enzo was the one holding him up. He's heard the YOU CAN'T WRESTLE chants and now it's time to retire his jersey.

Enzo pulls a sheet off a framed Certified G jersey and says that he's done the impossible by making 205 Live relevant. This brings out the majority of the cruiserweight division and Enzo starts cracking jokes. Rich Swann is a bad dancer, Cedric Alexander is the man that charisma forgot, Gran Metalik has a big gut, Gulak's gear looks stupid...and here's Neville to cut him off, again looking like a zombie after he lost the title the last time.

Neville rips on Enzo for making everyone around him miserable. Enzo has been tormenting the entire roster for a year and now he's been dumped on the cruiserweights' doorstep. He's done nothing but make a joke out of everything and now it's time to pay. Neville charges the ring but Enzo brings up the no contact clause.

Enzo says that this is the first time the cruiserweights have closed the show in the last nine months and it's because of his star power. He moves more merchandise than all of them combined so he'll see everyone tomorrow night on the Zo Show. Neville kicks him low and sends him through the jersey. Enzo tries to bail but the division cuts him off so the beating

can continue. The contract is put into Enzo's mouth and Neville superkicks him to applause from his fellow cruiserweights. The Red Arrow ends the show.

**Overall Rating:** D+. There were some good things on this show but sweet goodness it died in the last hour. That's been the idea they've been trying in the last few weeks and it's actually not the worst move in the world. People aren't watching in the last hour so why bother wasting something bit when then audience isn't around? The lack of a big story is hurting things but I guess we're using the Shield reunion as a stopgap measure. Let me repeat that: the Shield reunion is a stopgap measure. That should sum up this show's problem in a nutshell.

### Results

Matt Hardy/Jason Jordan b. Miztourage – Twist of Fate to Dallas

Elias b. Apollo Crews – Drift Away

Braun Strowman b. Dean Ambrose – Running powerslam

Seth Rollins b. Sheamus – Wind up knee

Roman Reigns b. Miz – Spear

Finn Balor b. Goldust – Coup de Grace

Sasha Banks/Bayley b. Emma/Nia Jax – Bayley to Belly to Emma

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# Monday Night Raw – September 18, 2017: The Slow Lane

## Monday Night Raw

Date: September 18, 2017

Location: SAP Center, San Jose, California

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves, Booker T.

It's the go home show for No Mercy and that means we should be in for a hard push towards Brock Lesnar vs. Braun Strowman. I say should be because it's not entirely clear if that's going to be the case or not due to Lesnar's limited appearances. What we will be having though is Alexa Bliss facing Nia Jax for the first time ever. Let's get to it.

In Memory of Bobby Heenan. If there's not a long video package on him tonight, be patient. WWE has a tendency to like to wait until they have the time to set these up.

Here's Kurt Angle to open things up. He talks about Sunday's two big matches but gets cut off by Miz and the Miztourage. Angle congratulates him on his upcoming fatherhood but Miz cuts him off to say he doesn't want to hear it. This is the second straight pay per view where the Intercontinental Title won't be on the line. Not so fast though as Angle has a fatal four way planned for tonight to crown a new #1 contender.

Tonight it's Jeff Hardy, Matt Hardy, Jason Jordan and Elias facing off to get a shot on Sunday. Miz rolls his eyes about Jordan being in the title picture and says it's only because he's Angle's son. They get in an argument about who is the better father but here's Jordan to interrupt. Jordan wants his shot but Miz insults Angle, triggering a brawl. Jason fights off the Miztourage without too much effort and the

Angles/Jordans/whatever you call them stand tall.

Post break Jordan is frustrated but Angle gives him a pep talk, basically saying it's ok to not fight back every time someone brings him up. If Jordan wants to get back at Miz, go take his Intercontinental Title.

### Alexa Bliss vs. Nia Jax

Non-title. Alexa bails to the floor to start before completely failing at a waistlock. Nia chokes her a bit and Bliss goes up the ramp, only to be cut off by Sasha Banks. Jax runs Bliss over again and we take a break. Back with Nia going shoulder first into the post and a dropkick staggering her again. Bliss' high crossbody gets countered into a Samoan drop for the pin at 6:39. Not enough to rate but this was a squash. I'm not wild on a champion being pinned clean but it fits the story perfectly in this case and is a lot more acceptable.

Sasha comes in and gets tossed down as well. Cue the returning Bayley (hometown girl) to help Sasha and Alexa clear Jax to the floor. Bliss celebrates with them and gets beaten down as well. Sasha and Bayley celebrate a bit.

The announcers plug the Network with the easiest sales pitch they can have: sign up for free for thirty days and you get two free pay per views. That really has seemed to be the big solution to so many of their problems.

Curtis Axel and Bo Dallas are now in the #1 contenders match.

We see some Tweets from wrestlers about Bobby Heenan's passing.

Long video on Brock Lesnar vs. Braun Strowman, featuring video from Brock Lesnar from 2002 talking about how dominant Lesnar truly is. This turns into a video on Lesnar's current run with Heyman talking about how no one can conquer him. Then it's clips of Strowman manhandling Lesnar at Summerslam and laying him out multiple times. This turns into a more traditional look at the match with Heyman talking about how Lesnar isn't used to facing someone bigger or stronger than he is. The question comes down to whether or not Strowman is bad enough to take down the baddest



man in the world.

Here are Sheamus and Cesaro for a chat before a match. Sheamus talks about the love of nostalgia and thinks it's kind of boring. You have the people wrapping themselves up in the blanket of the Hardys and pretending it's the good old days. They destroy nostalgia acts and you can ask the Hardys for proof of those things. Cesaro says nostalgia will fade soon enough, just like the nostalgia for this reunion between Seth Rollins and Dean Ambrose. They'll be there to take the Tag Team Titles when the team falls apart because they are the bar.

Cue Ambrose and Rollins to call Cesaro and Sheamus a cross between Braveheart and Taxi Driver. Ambrose says they're brothers and sometimes brothers fight, but they would never let a brother leave the house dressed like that. Now it's Anderson and Gallows to say they're the good brothers. They call the champs nerds and that's a bit too much for Ambrose. No one calls him a nerd and the brawl is on. Ambrose and Rollins clean house without too much effort.

Asuka is coming.

### Seth Rollins/Dean Ambrose vs. Cesaro/Sheamus vs. Anderson and Gallows

Non-title and one fall to a finish. Sheamus and Gallows slug it out for a good while before Seth springboards in with a clothesline. Ambrose and Rollins double team Sheamus until Sheamus runs Rollins over. It's off to Cesaro, who swings Ambrose into the barricade to take over.

Gallows drops a series of elbows until Ambrose rolls away, allowing the hot tag to Rollins. Everything breaks down and Seth's sunset powerbomb gets two. Ambrose breaks up a double powerbomb on Rollins and the Magic Killer gets two on Seth with Dean making another save. Back from a break with Cesaro knocking Rollins off the apron and into the barricade. We hit the chinlock for a bit before a 3D of all things gets two.

Back up and Seth sends Sheamus into the post, followed by a tornado DDT on Cesaro. The hot tag brings in Ambrose for a superplex on Anderson, followed by the top rope elbow. Ambrose and Rollins hit back to back suicide dives and everyone is down. Sheamus makes a blind tag right before

Ambrose hits Dirty Deeds on Anderson. That's enough for Sheamus to slide in and steal the pin at 18:47.

**Rating:** B-. Good match but the usual problems abound. These matches just keep going because there's no one else for the teams to face and there's no reason for them to continue otherwise. Couple that with I'm supposed to be interested in seeing them fight again just six days after they fought here. Not that it matters as they'll likely be fighting again the next month because they don't have anyone else to slide into the spots. Give us something fresh, even if it's for a month or so.

Miz gives Miztourage a pep talk but they're not thrilled. Dallas cites his history of giving motivational speeches and Axel talks about his family's history with the Intercontinental Title. Miz doesn't seem thrilled but wishes them luck.

Video on...the first Money in the Bank match at Wrestlemania XXI. Uh, sure?

Video on Roman Reigns vs. John Cena, focusing on how they were both prospects and rose up the ranks in a hurry. Cena was the guy and now Reigns wants to be the guy. Reigns doesn't like Cena being a part timer who gets all the credit for what Reigns does while Cena basically says Reigns can't fill his boots.

Goldust is in Angle's office without face paint. He wants one more shot with Bray Wyatt and he's asking as Dustin Rhodes. Angle gives in and grants the match.

Curt Hawkins is in the ring to say the Star Factory is closed. Instead it's the Curt Hawkins History Machine and tonight, his losing streak comes to an end.

### Curt Hawkins vs. Apollo Crews

How sad is it that I knew it was going to be Crews because I knew this was the kind of spot he would be in? Hawkins takes him down and grabs a chinlock, followed by a rollup with trunks for two. The enziguri into the toss powerbomb ends Hawkins at 2:19. That's 116 losses in a row for

Hawkins.

Lesnar and Strowman have a sitdown interview (in different places). Heyman doesn't think much of Lesnar being the underdog because that was the case when he conquered the Streak. Strowman is confident because he's destroyed people before and will do so again. Heyman talks about Lesnar not being able to train for Strowman because there's no one like him.

Last week Strowman popped up from a German suplex so this Sunday, Lesnar will just have to take him to Suplex City all night long. Strowman doesn't care because he's in charge no matter what. Heyman goes into his usual speech about Lesnar's accomplishments but Lesnar cuts him off. He thanks Strowman for challenging him because that's when he's at his best. He'll see Strowman on Sunday in Suplex City.

Notice the difference between this and Reigns vs. Cena. Strowman has gotten one up on Lesnar and Brock seems like he has to go up a level on this one. It makes you wonder if Strowman's dominance will hold up or if Lesnar has that extra gear in him. That's an interesting story.

On the other hand you have Cena shutting Reigns down every time. Cena is the bigger star in the fans' eyes and hasn't seemed to break a sweat in this whole build. Reigns is completely overmatched by Cena on the mic but they've stuck him out there anyway. That's a very key difference and a rather dumb one at that.

Strowman can hang with Lesnar in the power/physical department so they've focused on that instead. Notice how short Strowman's statements were here. They didn't have time to expose his weaknesses and the actions from last week (popping up from the suplex and laying out Lesnar) spoke for themselves. Reigns and Cena haven't gotten physical for the most part and that doesn't make sense. Reigns is capable of keeping up with Cena in the heavyweight slugfest but they've focused on Reigns' talking and charisma, where not only is he not great in the first place but he's completely outclassed by Cena.

It's a completely different way of presenting the feuds and one of them is working a lot better than the others because it's been crafted to the participants' strengths and weaknesses.

Bayley has been added to the four way on Sunday, which is now a fatal five way.

Here's Roman Reigns for a chat as this show is allergic to actual wrestling. Reigns gets booed but he thinks this should get booed anyway. Some people think Cena is the best talker of all time but sometimes he says some stupid s\*\*\*. People have been talking about Reigns being the next Cena but he's not a white guy with a military crew cut. If he was, he wouldn't have a job here. If you don't believe that, just ask Alex Riley.

Reigns calls Cena a fake guy and shows us a clip from five years ago with Cena talking about Rock being a part timer who keeps bailing to Hollywood. Reigns asks if Cena should come out here and brings up the loss to Rock at Wrestlemania. Roman will see San Jose next time and says he'll see Cena on Sunday, movie star. This was FAR better from Reigns as he actually made a point and told a story (Reigns is the guy that Cena claimed to be and actually backs it up by being here) while also not having Cena (a far better talker than Reigns could ever hope to be) cutting him down every few seconds.

The Hardys talk about fighting each other for years so tonight isn't the biggest change in the world. Some mild tension is teased but they're cool with each other.

Asuka is coming.

### Bray Wyatt vs. Dustin Rhodes

Dustin cleans house to start and hammers away in the corner before taking him outside for some whips into various objects. A bulldog on the floor has Bray in more trouble but he headbutts his way out of trouble. Back in and Goldust kicks at the leg, only to charge into Sister Abigail for the pin at 2:36. Bray barely had any offense.

Finn Balor pops up on screen and talks about growing up reading stories. Finn grew up to become a man who created a Demon, just like the ones he grew up reading about. If the Demon is the creation of a man, how dangerous does that make the man? Bray is going to find out at No Mercy.

More Tweets on Heenan.

The announcers talk about Heenan's greatness and legacy.

We get the big tribute to Heenan, including material all the way back from his AWA days. Thankfully we get a long sequence on his stuff with Gorilla Monsoon from Prime Time Wrestling, which is still some of the funniest stuff you'll ever see. His timing was absolutely perfect and some of those jokes were WAY too funny to be on a wrestling show.

Here's Enzo Amore to talk about the upcoming Cruiserweight Title match but Strowman comes out to maul him. A chokeslam and the powerslam crush Enzo and make Strowman all the more popular. Strowman leaves and here's Neville to add the Red Arrow for good measure. Neville: "HOW YOU DOIN?????"

Post break Enzo says he can compete with Neville on Sunday and is taking that title.

### Neville vs. Gran Metalik

Cole: "Corey do you think Enzo has a chance on Sunday?" Graves: "Nope." Metalik gets in a dropkick to start and walks the ropes for a second one. They head outside with Neville getting in a kick to the chest and RIPPING THE MASK apart, with Metalik's face being exposed for a few seconds. Back in and Metalik kicks him in the face, followed by another springboard dropkick. A running springboard flip dive takes Neville down and a rope walk splash (not a crossbody Cole) gets two. Metalik's moonsault hits knees though and the Rings of Saturn is good for the submission at 3:24.

**Rating:** C+. This worked quite well with Neville showing some viciousness but the Enzo match is like Shelton Benjamin diving into Shawn Michaels' superkick. If he really is the best thing they can do for the division, then just get rid of the thing already. Enzo is getting more annoying by

the week (if that's possible) and I'm really not looking forward to hearing him brag about being champion for the next eight months.

It's Hispanic Heritage Month so here's a video on Jennifer Lopez.

Here's Elias to sing his song about how horrible his opponents are, just like everyone here in San Jose.

Elias vs. Jeff Hardy vs. Matt Hardy vs. Bo Dallas vs. Curtis Axel vs. Jason Jordan

One fall to a finish with Miz watching on the floor. It's a brawl to start with Jeff rolling Matt up for two to send us to an early break. Back with Elias in control until Jordan gets in a right hand. That's fine with Elias who jumps from the mat to the top, only to have the Miztourage shove him off. The Hardys come in for a Tower of Doom, drawing Elias back in to try and steal the pins.

Poetry in Motion hits Elias but Jeff walks into a Side Effect for two. Jordan starts cleaning house until Dallas sends him outside. Miz tosses Jordan over the barricade as the Hardys start working over Elias inside. Jeff's legdrop between the legs sets up the Swanon for two on Axel with Miz making the save. The distraction lets the Axhole plant Jeff, only to have Jordan come in with the wheelbarrow neckbreaker for the pin and the title shot at 11:46.

**Rating:** C. Total chaos for the most part here but it's amazing to see how much easier it is to sit through Jordan's super push than Reigns' was. It's almost like giving him time to grow into his singles role instead of just throwing him into the World Title picture is a really good idea. Jordan's matches have been good so far and it's reasonable to see him winning the Intercontinental Title. Do that instead of pushing him to the moon and it might actually work.

Miz and the Miztourage destroy Jordan and call him out for his, shall we say, questionable parentage to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C-. This show was kind of all over the place but they made do with what they could considering the lack of a live Lesnar or

Cena in general. They did a good enough job at hyping up No Mercy, which is the entire point of this show. However, the wrestling wasn't exactly strong and that makes for a dull show. The first hour and a half was really weak but it picked up the pace a lot down the stretch, which was what mattered most. Not a terrible show, but it was dull for some long stretches.

## Results

Nia Jax b. Alexa Bliss – Samoan drop

Cesaro/Sheamus b. Anderson and Gallows and Seth Rollins/Dean Ambrose – Dirty Deeds to Anderson

Apollo Crews b. Curt Hawkins – Toss powerbomb

Bray Wyatt b. Dustin Rhodes – Sister Abigail

Jason Jordan b. Bo Dallas, Curtis Axel, Jeff Hardy, Matt Hardy and Elias – Wheelbarrow neckbreaker to Axel

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# Main Event – September 7, 2017: I'll Walk With You

## Main Event

Date: September 7, 2017

Location: CenturyLink Center, Omaha, Nebraska

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

We're in a new era here because a change in the commentary team is enough to warrant calling it a new era. Corey Graves has moved up to Smackdown so this show falls to Joseph and McGuinness, who probably aren't going to change all that much. Hopefully the show is good, though as usual it depends on what you get from Monday. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

## TJP/Brian Kendrick vs. Mustafa Ali/Lince Dorado

Dorado enziguris Kendrick to start and gets two off a dropkick. Ali comes in with a neckbreaker for the same but it's off to TJP for a headscissors into some dabbing. A double slam drops TJP and Kendrick charges into a double flapjack. TJP gets in a clothesline from the apron to drop Ali and the villains take over for the first time.

It's off to Brian for an armbar with a neck crank but TJP can't get the kneebar. Kendrick can get a superkick to his jaw though and the hot tag brings in Dorado. A moonsault press gets two on TJP and everything breaks down. Dorado dives onto Kendrick and it's the 054 from Ali to put TJP away at 6:32.

**Rating:** C+. These cruiserweight tag matches have been getting a lot better in recent weeks. They're flying all over the place and showing what they're capable of doing, which makes them great choices for opening matches like this one. TJP has grown on me considerably and Ali is getting better every single time. Good, fun match here.

From Raw.



## John Cena vs. Jason Jordan

Before the match, we look at Cena answering an open challenge from Kurt Angle fifteen years ago in his debut match. The fans are actually behind Cena, which should tell you a lot about Jordan's future. Jason grabs an early takedown and grabs a waistlock. Cena can't do much with him to start until a hard clothesline drops Jason without much effort. A suplex gets two on Jordan, followed by a hard whip into the corner for the same as we take a break.

Back with Jordan hitting his own suplexes and that's enough for Cena, who initiates the finishing sequence. Jordan's rollup is countered into the STF but he reverses into something like a Crossface. Cena powers out (because he's Cena) and reverses another suplex into a crossbody. That's enough for Cena though as he grabs the AA for the pin at 11:38.

**Rating:** B-. These performances make Jordan look like a star but the whole being Angle's son thing is really not doing him any favors. It's not an effective story and I think WWE is starting to get that. Hopefully they build Jordan up and then do something to get rid of the Angle connection because it's not doing much for him.

Post match Roman Reigns comes out for a chat. Back from a break with Roman asking why it took a veteran twenty minutes to beat a rookie. I don't think Reigns knows A, what a rookie is or B, how to tell time. Cena says Roman is starting to ask questions and that's the worst thing he could do. They're distracting him and he's out here with his zipper down. Reigns: "I busted it actually. Big dog."

Cena promises that Reigns will get his answers at No Mercy, either by a guy who has lost his steps or someone who has been stringing Roman along. Roman is going to learn that he's an entitled golden boy while people like Chad Gable, Jason Jordan and even the Miz have had to fight and claw their way to get where they are. Point being, Cena doesn't respect Reigns because Roman is the only one living a lie. Reigns wants to fight right now but Cena doesn't seem interested. That makes Roman think he's all talk, which is why Reigns doesn't respect him.

From Raw again.

## Intercontinental Title: The Miz vs. Jeff Hardy

Miz is defending. Jeff gets three near falls in the first minute before a clothesline puts Miz on the floor. A dive is teased but Jeff pulls back as Miz moves, sending us to a break. Back with Jeff getting two off his sitout gordbuster but mostly missing the Whisper in the Wind. Dallas offers a distraction so Axel can break up the Swanton, leaving Matt to take care of both of them. All three are ejected and it's Jeff grabbing a rollup for two.

Miz's DDT gets the same but he misses the running clothesline in the corner. Miz hits a running knee ala Daniel Bryan for two and we hit the YES Kicks. Jeff is right back with a dropkick but his dive off the apron is broken up. We hit the Figure Four for a bit with Jeff getting out without too much trouble.

The Twisting Stunner has Miz in trouble so he heads outside, only to get caught by Poetry in Motion against the barricade. Back in and the Swanton misses thanks to Maryse telling her husband it was coming. Another Twist of Fate is countered into the Skull Crushing Finale to retain the title at 13:02.

**Rating:** B. Better match than I was expecting and Miz retaining clean (the Maryse thing wasn't interference) is a good idea. The fact that they're pushing Miz's total days as champion is interesting too as he's only about six months away from setting the all time record for combined days with the title. That's easily something he could reach, along with most title reigns. They would be crazy not to push the heck out of that and it seems to have started.

## Elias vs. Kalisto

The fans seem interested in walking with Elias. After a little ditty about how there's nothing cool about Omaha, we're ready to go. Kalisto starts fast with a bunch of kicks to the leg and we take an early break. Back with more kicks, followed by the hurricanrana driver. Not that it matters as Elias nails Drift Away at 5:55. Not enough shown to rate but it felt like they were very rushed.

Video on Big Show and Strowman breaking the ring back in April.

### Big Show vs. Braun Strowman

Inside a cage with pinfall/submission/escape to win. Strowman splashes him up against the cage to start but runs into the KO punch as we go to a break. Back with both guys down again until Show slams him into the cage over and over. Show tries to climb for some reason and gets crotched, only to shove Strowman off again.

That means a top rope elbow for two and a THIS IS AWESOME chant. Show goes for the door but gets pulled back, only to have Strowman get the door slammed on his head. A double shoulder puts both of them down but Show's chokeslam is countered into a DDT for two. The chokeslam is good for two and Show escapes the powerslam. Strowman misses a charge and goes into the cage wall but is still able to catch Big Show escaping. The big old superplex plants Show and it's the running powerslam for the pin at 16:58.

**Rating:** B. These two continue to surprise me as they haven't actually had a bad match. WWE has a bad tendency to turn these battles of the big men into really boring matches but this was another great power match with both guys looking good. It's also proof that having an obvious winner isn't the worst thing in the world. Strowman was obviously winning (Big Show isn't Kalisto after all) and it didn't make the match any less entertaining.

Post match Strowman says that's nothing compared to what he'll do to Lesnar. Now it's time to put Big Show out to pasture, so Strowman powerslams him through the cage (a section of which breaks and falls to the floor) to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C+. Pretty standard episode this week, though I really like that cage match. The Reigns vs. Cena stuff is still entertaining and I remain stunned by how well they're treating Elias. He's barely lost aside from Finn Balor and that's quite the record for someone who shouldn't be that big of a deal. Hopefully things go well for him and he can get back on Raw soon enough.

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# Monday Night Raw – August 28, 2017: Stick to the Plan

## Monday Night Raw

Date: August 28, 2017

Location: FedEx Forum, Memphis, Tennessee

Commentators: Jerry Lawler, Michael Cole, Corey Graves

We're less than a month away from No Mercy and the show is already looking big. With Braun Strowman vs. Brock Lesnar already on the card and some more potentially huge matches being added, this show has suddenly gone from a nothing pay per view to something pretty big. Let's get to it.

The Miztourage is in the ring to open things up. Before Miz can get a single word out though, here's Kurt Angle to interrupt. Angle talks about how the Intercontinental Title has been taking some hits as of late, there's going to be a title match soon. Miz cuts him off to yell about the lack of respect the title has been shown as of late. It's going to be

fixed soon though as we're going to have a battle royal right now with the winner facing Miz for the title next week.

### Battle Royal

Big Show, Curtis Axel, Bo Dallas, Jeff Hardy, Matt Hardy, Finn Balor, Jason Jordan, Curt Hawkins, R-Truth, Kalisto, Goldust, Apollo Crews, Luke Gallows, Karl Anderson, Elias

Big Show is now clean shaven. Hawkins (listed as Curtis) is put out at the bell and everyone else turns their attention to Big Show. That goes poorly for everyone else as Show cleans house and things spread out a bit. Kalisto is put out and the Hardys feed Elias to Show for some loud chops. Cole: "That's music to Big Show's ears."

Anderson and Gallows get together to try and get rid of Show but it's Balor's assistance that finally gets rid of the giant. Elias (called Samson by Cole in what might be a mistake) decks Balor from behind and things break up again. The Miztourage gets rid of Truth and Goldust is put out as well at the hands of Anderson and Gallows.

Back from a break with Crews having been eliminated. Matt gets rid of Gallows and pulls Anderson to the apron for another elimination, only to have Gallows pull Matt out for the elimination. Miz saves Dallas as the referees are distracted and things settle down again. We've got Balor, Jordan, Dallas, Axel, Jeff Hardy and Elias to go.

Balor starts cleaning house but gets into a staredown with Jeff that gets the fans' attention. Some running dropkicks in the corner have people in trouble, but here's Bray Wyatt to eliminate Balor and then disappear again. Jordan starts throwing suplexes and gets rid of the Miztourage. There goes Elias, followed by Jordan at Jeff's hands to give Hardy the win at 16:17.

**Rating:** D+. I like the choice of a winner there as Jeff is someone who can easily get a spot like this and even win the title. While I still think we're heading for a Jordan title match at No Mercy, it's nice to see someone get a surprise shot in the middle. Hardy winning the title wouldn't be the worst idea in the world, but either way it's a good idea

to see him getting more of a singles push.

We look back at Braun Strowman laying out Brock Lesnar last week.

Alexa Bliss promises to regain the title tonight. Tonight, the goddess reclaims her throne.

Here's Enzo Amore to talk about beating a giant like Big Cass last week. Not only can he hang with bigger men like him, he can also compete in the fast paced, high flying cruiserweight division. After bragging about winning money on Saturday's fight, he dances around and announces his opponent.

#### Enzo Amore vs. Noam Dar

Amore spins out of a wristlock to start but gets kneed hard in the ribs. Dar pulls at the hair and knees away in the corner before being sent face first into the middle buckle. Enzo pops right back up and grabs Eat Defeat for the pin at 2:55.

Neville says if Enzo is his competition, he'll be Cruiserweight Champion forever.

Here are Brock Lesnar and Paul Heyman for a chat. Heyman talks about what happened last week with Braun Strowman, who is the kind of monster that his parents warned him about. Strowman had an historic night at Summerslam when he, as Corey Graves said, monster handled Lesnar by powerslamming him through two tables. We see a clip of last week's attack on Lesnar, which Heyman says made him know Strowman is a monster. At No Mercy, Lesnar is going to be ready for Strowman. Heyman explains what's going to happen but Brock takes the mic. Brock: "What he's trying to say is Suplex City b\*\*\*\*."

Long recap of last week's segment with Miz, John Cena, Samoa Joe and Roman Reigns, including their tag match. Cena vs. Reigns is confirmed for No Mercy and their contract signing is tonight.

#### Cesaro vs. Seth Rollins

Rollins and Ambrose did their entrances before the commercial and before

the package. That seems like some mistiming, which you don't see around here too often. Seth starts fast by sending Cesaro outside where he comes up holding his back. Back in and a standing moonsault gives Seth two but he's sent outside as well. Ambrose and Sheamus have the staredown but Rollins catches Cesaro diving off the apron. A tilt-a-whirl backbreaker cuts Rollins off though and we take a break.

Back with Cesaro dropping him with a gorilla press and rolling some gutwrench suplexes. A slam sets up Cesaro's high crossbody but Seth rolls through for two. There's the Sling Blade and a Blockbuster but Cesaro catches him on the top. Sheamus and Ambrose get into it on the floor and the distraction lets Cesaro hit a European uppercut for the pin at 10:19.

**Rating:** C+. I'm already over these teams fighting but that's no excuse to not have the same singles matches over and over on Raw. Can't someone just ask Paul Heyman for 842 ways to advance a feud without doing anything else? This seems to be the only idea they know and since there are almost no other teams, this is what we're stuck watching.

Sheamus says he and Ambrose are up next.

#### Sheamus vs. Dean Ambrose

They fight to the floor to start and it's off to an early break. Back with Sheamus getting two off a top rope superplex and grabbing a Stretch Muffler (Brock Lock). That goes nowhere so it's off to a Texas Cloverleaf instead. The ten forearms to the chest keep Dean in trouble and he hobbles into a boot in the corner.

Dean grabs a swinging neckbreaker for two but gets caught on top, setting up a super Regal Roll. The Brogue Kick misses but Dean can't hit Dirty Deeds. Cesaro and Rollins get into another argument and the chase is on through the ring. The referee deals with Cesaro, allowing Seth to knee Sheamus in the face. Dirty Deeds is good for the pin on Sheamus at 10:45.

**Rating:** C+. Well at least they got it out of the way in a hurry. This was the obvious next match but please tell me they're not just going to switch the opponents next week. The division feels completely depleted at this point and having these teams feud over and over again really doesn't

prove otherwise.

Emma is complaining about the whole Twitter thing again because she started the Women's Revolution. Mickie James is sick of hearing about it (preach it) and has an idea: if Emma beats her tonight, she'll Tweet anything Emma wants. If Mickie wins, Emma can't say she started the Women's Revolution again.

### Mickie James vs. Emma

Emma has new music and they're fighting over hashtags. Mickie kicks her down a few times but gets caught in a quick rollup to give Emma the pin at 1:42.

Emma grabs the mic and says she started the Women's Revolution all the way to the back.

Kurt Angle is in the ring for the contract signing between Cena and Reigns. Cena is out first to say that he's on Raw to face one man and Angle has made that happen for No Mercy. He's seen Reigns being treated as the untouchable star and we'll see how he can hang at No Mercy. Cena signs and here's Reigns. Roman says that as great as Cena is, there's one thing that he's done that Cena can never do: retire the Undertaker at Wrestlemania.

Cena kneels before him and says some people are still trying to figure Reigns out. We hear about the fans wanting to see Cena change his ways (with the term heel turn being dropped in a rare moment) before Cena says Reigns is just a guy trying to fill shoes he can never fill. Cena isn't a man at the end of his career with a bad hip. The reason Reigns won't sign that is because the Roman Empire is done if he does.

Reigns says Cena sucks so Cena puts his arm around Angle and says the fans think he does too but he won a gold medal. Roman seems a bit shaken and lost for what to say. Cena: "Go ahead find it. I'll wait. It's called a promo and if you want to be the big dog you're going to have to learn how to do it. SEE YOU FOURTH WALL!" Reigns gets fired up and goes on a rant that sounds straight off a message board, talking about how hard he works on the weekend so Cena can be on the Today Show.



Then Cena gets on his tour bus and shows up at a show if they pay him enough with the big shovel to bury people around him. Reigns is the one guy he can't bury or see. Cena calls him out for being repetitive and says "it took you five years to cut a halfway decent promo but now I'm about to cut you down to size." He talks about the mythical golden shovel but it's always the fans who hold the keys and they always will.

Cena is tired of hearing the same thing for ten years by a lot tougher people. Here's the thing: Cena hasn't main evented Wrestlemania in five years and he was the opening match at Summerslam. He won the US Title and used it to introduce new stars to the WWE including Kevin Owens and AJ Styles (I believe he means Sami Zayn as AJ debuted way later). Reigns took the US Title as a demotion and now stands there blaming Cena for not being able to hang with him.

Cena has seen a lot of people trying to hang at this level and he's heard about one guy getting to do it. Now he sees Roman face to face and gets the line of the night: "You're lucky I'm a part timer because I can do this part time way better than you ever could full time." Reigns signs and turns over the table...and here are Anderson and Gallows to make it a tag match in the most ridiculous ending to an amazing promo I can remember in a long time.

Cena DESTROYED Reigns here, making him sound like every other heel. Now if Reigns wins at No Mercy (which he probably will), everything will be fine for him but at the end of the day, almost no one ever can hang with Cena on the mic and he picked Reigns apart the entire time. If nothing else the lines about Reigns needing to learn promos and the fourth wall thing were outstanding. Now let's get to this ridiculous tag match.

#### Anderson and Gallows vs. John Cena/Roman Reigns

Joined in progress with Cena in trouble in the corner as Gallows grabs a headlock. Anderson comes in for a chinlock as the announcers rave about everything Cena was saying. Gallows misses an elbow and the hot tag brings in Reigns. Roman cleans house and you can tell Reigns is ticked off here. The Superman Punch connects to both guys and it's an AA and spear at the same time to give Reigns the pin on Anderson at 6:02.

**Rating:** D+. While I still have no idea what the point of this was, Reigns vs. Cena is going to be a huge match when we get to No Mercy. Cena's promo is going to be talked about for a few weeks as he made the match feel even more awesome than it's likely to be. If Reigns wins he'll be fine, but he has a lot to make up for at this point. Now can someone explain to me why this match happened? I really don't get it.

Here's Elias to sing a song to the tune of Hound Dog about how much he hates Memphis. This brings Jerry Lawler out of his seat to say that Elias has a good voice but he's missing his audience. While the people of Memphis might not appreciate what Elias is saying, they might appreciate this man: Southpaw Regional Wrestling's own Pelvis Wesley (Heath Slater). Elias beats him up without too much effort. Cole: "I guess he didn't want to walk with Elias."

Miz and Maryse are annoyed at Jeff Hardy getting a shot by just winning a battle royal.

Sasha Banks is ready to beat Alexa.

#### Women's Title: Alexa Bliss vs. Sasha Banks

Banks is defending and gets rolled up for an early two. Sasha sends her hard into the corner and grabs an armbar. They're starting with a slow pace and Bliss bails to the floor for a breather. There are the double knees from the apron and we take a break. Back with Bliss holding an armbar of her own before starting in on the back.

It's off to a bow and arrow hold but Banks fights up without too much effort. The Bank Statement doesn't work so Sasha goes with the running knees in the corner, only to miss a second attempt. Bliss goes with a hard right hand and a Code Red for a pretty close two. Banks gets in a few more knees and some aggressive forearms in the corner.

Back up and Alexa catches her in the corner by sending her face first into a buckle. A top rope superplex connects to bust up the back even more. Bliss is slow to cover and gets caught in the Bank Statement. That's reversed into a rollup for two and there's the DDT to give Bliss the title back at 15:00.

**Rating:** B. I'm really not getting the lack of successful title defenses for Banks. That makes four reigns and she's lost the title in her first defense every time. As for the match itself, Bliss winning clean is an interesting call and the right one if you have to change the title. She looked better than she has before in the ring and is getting to the point where she can hang with the better workers. Couple that with the insane charisma and persona and she's quite the force.

Post match Nia Jax comes out and destroys Sasha before putting Bliss on her shoulders. One electric chair later and Jax holds up the title over the new champ to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. The wrestling was good, the hype for the pay per view was solid and the Cena promo was outstanding. It might not have been a perfect show or anything really close but they felt like they were executing a plan tonight. Raw is smoking Smackdown at the moment and it's really not even close. Good show this week and one of their best in a long time.

### Results

Jeff Hardy won a battle royal last eliminating Jason Jordan

Enzo Amore b. Noam Dar – Eat Defeat

Cesaro b. Seth Rollins – European uppercut

Dean Ambrose b. Sheamus – Dirty Deeds

Emma b. Mickie James – Rollup

Roman Reigns/John Cena b. Anderson and Gallows – Spear to Anderson

Alexa Bliss b. Sasha Banks – DDT

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# Main Event – August 24, 2017: You Never Get Used To This

## Main Event

Date: August 24, 2017

Location: Barclays Center, New York City, New York

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Corey Graves

I just can't get away from the Barclays Center. If my math is right, this is the seventh show WWE taped from the venue in four days and hopefully that means they'll be all beach balled out. Odds are this is going to be a run of the mill show though as it's not like these things are really any different no matter where they are. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

## Heath Slater vs. Curt Hawkins

Slater sucks up with the Brooklyn 3:16 shirt. Hawkins does the FACE THE FACTS pose so Slater does a bit of a striptease to take the shirt off. A side kick gives Slater two and it's off to the armbar. Hawkins knees him to the back to send Slater into the corner and that means it's time for more posing. We hit the chinlock for as long as a chinlock is going to go before frustration starts to set in. A knee drop gets two and we hit the second chinlock. Heath fights up but gets tripped straight down, only to small package Hawkins for the pin at 4:36.

**Rating:** C-. This was actually better than you would expect with Hawkins

playing a heel who was ahead but got too caught up in bragging to finish the job. Slater hung in there until he had an opening to capitalize on and won as a results. It might not be in depth but it's a story, which is a lot more than you would expect most of the time for Main Event.

Off to Raw.

Here are Lesnar and Paul Heyman to open things up. Heyman says this isn't a tape delay because we're live with Brock Lesnar still your reigning and defending Universal Champion. He talks about the conspiracy against Lesnar, who fought off everyone else last night to keep his title. For the first time in his life, Lesnar was taken off the battlefield in an attempt to get rid of him without having to pin him or make him submit. But Lesnar wouldn't have any of that and marched back down the aisle so conquering could ensue. As for tonight, there is no one in WWE or UFC history, like Lesnar himself.

Cue Braun Strowman and you can see Lesnar wince a bit. The fans cheer for Strowman as Brock gets in his face. A chokeslam is countered but Braun kicks him in the face and hits a powerslam to put Lesnar down. He starts to get up so it's another powerslam, leaving Strowman to hold up the title.

And then again.

Here's Sasha Banks for her first comments after winning the title. She may be from Boston but she's always left her heart right here in Brooklyn. Like when she and Charlotte tore the house down last year at Summerslam, which allows her to wish Ric Flair well. Sasha plans on defending the title the right way but here's Alexa Bliss to interrupt. She laughs off the idea of Sasha being the right kind of champion but wants nothing to do with a rematch tonight in front of these Brooklyn fanboys. They'll fight soon enough but for now, Bliss is fine making Sasha wait.

Lince Dorado vs. Brian Kendrick

Brian takes him to the mat to start but Dorado flips up without too much effort. A quick trip to the floor earns Kendrick a hurricanrana and we

take a break. Back with Kendrick getting two off a big boot and slowing things down with a cravate. Like WAY down as the hold stays on longer than it needs to.

A belly to back superplex is reversed into a crossbody to drop Kendrick and Dorado has a breather. There's a spinwheel kick into a hurricanrana for two, followed by the springboard Stunner for the same. The shooting star hits knees though and Kendrick grabs the Captain's Hook for the tap out at 11:19.

**Rating:** C. Another match that was better than I was expecting though again that's not covering a lot of ground. Dorado is fine for a low level face and Kendrick has completely exceeded expectations in his run with the company. I'm still not sure how good of a finisher the glorified chinlock was but he's making it work to a certain degree.

We'll wrap it up with Monday's main event.

#### Miz/Samoa Joe vs. Roman Reigns/John Cena

Cena bulldogs Miz to start and the fans are very pleased as it's already off to Joe. The fans go nuts over something and Cena actually pauses to look at it....because it's a freaking beach ball. It seems that the ball is taken away with Cena looking annoyed, earning himself a beating from Joe. Miz comes in to stomp away and it's time for the wave again. Now Cena joins in the wave, earning himself a quick DDT for two.

The cheering and booing continues as a beach ball is put into play and confiscated as the match continues to be ignored. Cena gets ax handled for two as Miz stops to tell the fans to pay attention. Miz misses a charge and it's off to Reigns to clean house with clotheslines to no reaction. Roman gets taken down as well for the YES Kicks. The last one is countered into a powerbomb though and both guys are down again.

Joe Rock Bottoms Roman but Reigns heads outside to beat up the Miztourage. Back in and the hot tag brings in Cena for the finishing sequence. Joe cuts off the Shuffle though and it's off to the Koquina Clutch. Reigns tries a save with the Superman Punch but Joe sidesteps it, causing Cena to get hit instead. The second Superman Punch hits Joe but

Cena pops up and grabs the AA to pin Miz at 13:03.

**Rating:** C+. I hate beach balls, I hate beach balls, I hate beach balls. As usual, whenever you ask a crowd to pay attention for this long (to something they paid for of course), it's bound to cause them to lose their interest and set off something like this. Naturally their response is screw anyone who doesn't like it, because wrestling fans are selfish creatures by definition. I couldn't stand this stuff in Orlando and it's really annoying now, much like WWE encouraging this nonsense. As for the match, it was exactly what you would expect though Cena pinning Miz made me roll my eyes.

**Overall Rating:** C+. This was one of the better shows they've done in a long time with two completely watchable matches and some good stuff from Raw. I'm not sure how to live in a world where Raw is completely outshining Smackdown but that's been the case for a long time now. That makes the recap show a lot easier to watch and two pretty good matches helped quite a bit. Nice show this week.

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# New Column: 10 Things From Summerslam Weekend Not as Awesome as Braun Strowman

He was rather awesome.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/10-summerslam-weekend-moments-not-awesome-braun-strowman/>

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## If You Ever Wondered Why The Expanded Kickoff Show Was A Bad Idea

It can lead to things like this.





That would be Miz making his entrance for the Kickoff Show match with only a few hundred (if that) people in the arena. Miz is the current Intercontinental Champion and he's in an arena with fewer people than a flea market show. This match was a rematch from Raw and served virtually no purpose other than getting people on the show. It started at roughly 5:20pm, because we just had to get in three Kickoff Show matches.

Now here's the thing. Apparently the arena's gates didn't open until after 5pm. Ok, that's understandable and can't be blamed on WWE. What CAN be blamed on them is having so much material that the first match had to start an hour and a half before the regular show officially began. The second and third Kickoff Show matches were before a reasonable crowd. This however looks awful and is something that is likely going to be a running joke for a good while.

Stop cramming in so much stuff, especially when it's hardly adding anything.

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## **Main Event – July 27, 2017: Worth the Wait**

### **Main Event**

Date: July 27, 2017

Location: Verizon Center, Washington D.C.

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Corey Graves

It's the nation's capital edition of the show and that means...well nothing of note really as we have the random assortment of matches which

could go anywhere on this show. That's a good thing though and hopefully the Raw highlights are better than what they do around here at times. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

### Cedric Alexander vs. Tony Nese

Nese glares at him a bit and gets armdragged down for his efforts. That earns Alexander a hot shot onto the top rope and the springboard moonsault for good measure. It's off to the Tree of Woe so Nese can work the abs (both Cedric's with the kicks and his own with the crunches) and it's off to a bodyscissors. Cedric fights back with some shots to the face though, followed by the great looking springboard clothesline for two. Nese gutbusters him to stay on the ribs, only to get kicked in the head. The Lumbar Check gives Cedric the pin at 5:28.

**Rating:** C+. They had something going here with the rib stuff and that's a lot more than you can ask for on a show like this. Alexander is one of the most consistently entertaining and polished performers on 205 Live...but it's still 205 Live. He hasn't been near the Cruiserweight Title and I have no idea why. Would Alexander vs. Neville really be the worst feud in the world?

From Raw!

Here's Kurt Angle to open things up. Angle talks about the weight being lifted off his shoulders since he's announced Jason Jordan as his son (Quick sidebar: why would having an illegitimate son from nearly thirty years ago cost him his family? Are Angle's wife and family so nuts that they can't accept him dating in college?).

As for the #1 contendership, Brock Lesnar will be defending against...someone we'll find out later as Braun Strowman interrupts to say he better be getting the title shot. Cue Samoa Joe to say he wants another shot at Lesnar because he knows he can finish him. Strowman and Reigns can finish each other but he better get his title shot. Roman comes out to say Joe and Strowman haven't done anything to earn a shot and lists off all of his accomplishments.

Angle changes his mind again and makes the four way for Summerslam. Joe isn't happy but the brawl breaks out anyway with Joe and Reigns hammering away on Strowman. That lasts all of thirty seconds before they start fighting each other. Strowman gets back up and beats on Reigns before dominating Angle's security. Joe gets the choke on Strowman until the locker room comes out for another failed save attempt. Reigns spears Strowman down but he pops right back up and sends Joe and Reigns outside.

And again!

### Bayley vs. Sasha Banks

The winner gets Bliss, who sits in on commentary, at Summerslam. Feeling out process to start with Bayley grabbing a rollup but getting smacked in the face. Bayley gets in a kick and the charge in the corner, only to get knocked off the top as we take a break. Back with Bayley fighting out of a double arm crank and getting two off a facebuster. The Backstabber into the Bank Statement has Bayley in trouble until she flips over into a rollup for two.

They slap it out with Banks getting the better of it, only to miss the top rope knees. Bayley knees her in the head but gets caught with a Shining Wizard to put both of them down. A fired up Bayley gets more aggressive than she's been in a long time and slugs away, only to have a superplex broken up. Sasha hits a frog splash but Bayley reverses the cover into a rollup for the pin and the title shot at 13:14.

**Rating:** B-. Good match here as Bayley continues her short road to redemption. Having Bayley win the title on the big stage could be interesting but it's more likely that Banks turns on her to cost Bayley her chance. At least they're building up the card in a hurry though as this is the second match announced in about two hours.

### Kalisto vs. Apollo Crews

Crews doesn't waste time and grabs a slam to start, followed by the good looking dropkick. He's certainly athletic. A headscissors sends him outside though, followed by a hurricanrana to stagger Crews even more. Kalisto gets kicked out of the air though and we take a break. Back with

Crews getting two off a slingshot senton and Kalisto's sunset flip getting the same.

The masked one gets in his variety of kicks, including the rolling kick to the head. The hurricanrana driver looks to set up the Salida Del Sol but Kalisto has to settle for a tornado DDT for two instead. A moonsault misses though and Crews' Toss Powerbomb is good for the pin at 7:36.

**Rating:** C+. They were flying around well enough here and Kalisto continues to look quite good. He's such a random former two time US Champion as this is about as high as he gets anymore. Well save for that time when he beat Braun Strowman for reasons that still aren't entirely clear.

Clips of Kurt Angle announcing Jason Jordan as his son.

And finally.

#### Dean Ambrose/Seth Rollins vs. Miz/Miztourage

Ambrose hammers on Axel to start and runs him over for some right hands and elbows to the head. Rollins comes in for a knee drop as we see Sheamus and Cesaro watching. That...could be interesting actually. Miz comes in and eats a Sling Blade, followed by the Miztourage being cleared out as we take a break. Back with Rollins in trouble as Miz cuts off a hot tag attempt.

Miz gets two off a neckbreaker and it's off to Axel for a dropkick (Axel: "HOW GOOD WAS THAT???"). Rollins fights off Dallas but it's still not enough as Miz grabs a DDT for two more. We hit the YES Kicks with Corey singing Miz's praises because he can. The good old double clothesline puts both Rollins and Miz down, followed by a quick roll over to Ambrose for the hot tag.

House is quickly cleaned, including a rebound lariat on Dallas. The top rope elbow is good for two as everything breaks down. Axel escapes Dirty Deeds and it's the Skull Crushing Finale for two on Ambrose. Stereo suicide dives put the Miztourage down though and it's Dirty Deeds to put Miz away at 17:47.

**Rating:** B-. They got along well enough but I can't imagine they'll put the Shield back together for real anytime soon. The match wasn't great or anything though it's not like this was supposed to be a classic of any kind. I liked the match and they did a good enough job of keeping the crowd going. I'm not sure where this is going at the end but it's got enough of my attention.

Post match Seth puts out the fist for the Shield pose but Ambrose leaves him hanging to end the show.

**Opinion:** B. One of the best shows they've had in a good while and for the first time in a long time it's because of the original content. The two matches were energetic and felt interesting, even if they don't mean anything either way. It's a very entertaining show and that's a rather nice surprise, which you don't get to say around here, pretty much ever.

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# Monday Night Raw – July 24,

# 2017: Like Father, Like... Kind Of?

## Monday Night Raw

Date: July 24, 2017

Location: Verizon Center, Washington D.C.

Commentators: Booker T., Michael Cole, Corey Graves

We've got less than a month to go before Summerslam and that means we need to start filling up the card. General Manager Kurt Angle has promised to settle the #1 contendership issue tonight but we also need to find out more about his new son Jason Jordan. There are three matches announced in advance for tonight so let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the end of last week's show where Braun Strowman broke up the #1 contenders match between Roman Reigns and Samoa Joe.

Here's Kurt Angle to open things up. Angle talks about the weight being lifted off his shoulders since he's announced Jason Jordan as his son (Quick sidebar: why would having an illegitimate son from nearly thirty years ago cost him his family? Are Angle's wife and family so nuts that they can't accept him dating in college?).

As for the #1 contendership, Brock Lesnar will be defending against...someone we'll find out later as Braun Strowman interrupts to say he better be getting the title shot. Cue Samoa Joe to say he wants another shot at Lesnar because he knows he can finish him. Strowman and Reigns can finish each other but he better get his title shot. Roman comes out to say Joe and Strowman haven't done anything to earn a shot and lists off all of his accomplishments.

Angle changes his mind again and makes the four way for Summerslam. Joe isn't happy but the brawl breaks out anyway with Joe and Reigns hammering away on Strowman. That lasts all of thirty seconds before they start fighting each other. Strowman gets back up and beats on Reigns before dominating Angle's security. Joe gets the choke on Strowman until the locker room comes out for another failed save attempt. Reigns spears

Strowman down but he pops right back up and sends Joe and Reigns outside.

### Elias Samson vs. Finn Balor

No DQ due to Samson hitting Balor with a guitar last week. Balor breaks up the pre-match song and sends him outside early on. Back from a break with Balor still in control until a shot to the banged up shoulder puts him in trouble. Samson grabs a chair but it's Balor kicking him away and scoring with the basement dropkick. Samson's armbar is broken without much effort and Balor hammers away in the corner.

Finn grabs the chair but Samson takes it away and hits him in the back with it as we take our second break in less than ten minutes. Back again with Balor getting kicked out to the floor and a shoulder breaker giving Samson two. Samson makes the mistake of loading a chair in the corner, meaning his head bounces off of it a few seconds later. Balor catches him in the ring skirt and hammers away ala fellow Irishman Fit Finlay.

A very fired up Finn stomps him down to the floor again and there's the running kick to the face. Some chair shots have Samson beaten down even more and it's the shotgun dropkick into the Coup de Grace...but here's Bray Wyatt. Sister Abigail plants Balor and Samson gets the pin at 17:56.

**Rating:** B-. Longer than it needed to be but this did a good job of setting up the likely Summerslam match. Balor gets to keep looking strong and Samson gets the biggest win of his career, completely by the rules as well. I'm not sure what they're planning with Samson but I haven't seen many newcomers protected like him in a good while.

Bray spider walks over to Finn and says Follow the Buzzards.

We look back at Angle's announcement last week.

Angle is excited to watch Jordan's first singles match. Emma of all people comes up to say she wants some TV time. Maybe she can just start dating Jason. Angle gives her Nia Jax tonight.

Enzo Amore's plan to deal with Big Cass tonight: not have a plan.

### Enzo Amore vs. Big Cass

Before the match, Enzo says he has a tank full of heart and the people in this arena are the key. This is a race and he can't wait to run into Cass like a finish line. Shouldn't that be run OVER Cass like a finish line? Enzo kicks at the leg to start but a dropkick is swatted away. A sleeper is quickly broken up and Cass kicks him in the ribs. Enzo tries to fight back with some rights and lefts, earning himself some hard rams into the corner. One heck of a running bit boot ends Amore at 3:37.

**Rating:** D+. That's exactly what the match needed to be but they don't need to do it again. Amore isn't in Cass' league physically and there's no point in having him beaten down like this for a third time. Just put him on 205 Live already or have someone stand up to Cass (as in Big Show) already because we've covered this thoroughly.

Post match Cass stays on him until Big Show makes the save, only to get kicked in the head. Cass drops a bunch of Empire Elbows and leaves Show down in the corner.

Alexa Bliss can't wait to see Sasha Banks and Bayley ("Team Gag Reflex") explode. She knows one of them is going to go too far to win and avoid watching Summerslam on the WWE Network. No matter what happens, she'll be the real winner tonight.

#### Emma vs. Nia Jax

Emma goes after her like you go after a monster, only to get shoved down and splashed in the corner. A running flip backsplash puts Emma away at 1:24. I'd bet money this was punishment for Emma's complaints last week.

Akira Tozawa is ready to fight Ariya Daivari when Titus O'Neil comes up to say the match is canceled due to the bad shoulder. Tozawa is livid and says he's going to the ring anyway, without Titus.

Post break Tozawa is in the ring and wants Daivari out here (Unfair as Daivari was told he wouldn't have a match. He might be off at a Bingo tournament.) but gets Neville instead. Neville takes credit for the bad shoulder and calls Tozawa pathetic. Tozawa hits him in the face with the good arm and kicks Neville down to set up the top rope backsplash. Cue Daivari (Bingo must have closed up early) to beat up both guys.



Bayley and Sasha are ready but don't agree on who will win.

We recap the opening segment.

Jason Jordan is ready for his match with Curt Hawkins and wants to make his father proud. It's like a dream come true.

Dean Ambrose and Seth Rollins are about to talk strategy but Ambrose says he doesn't trust Seth, which doesn't sit well.

### Bayley vs. Sasha Banks

The winner gets Bliss, who sits in on commentary, at Summerslam. Feeling out process to start with Bayley grabbing a rollup but getting smacked in the face. Bayley gets in a kick and the charge in the corner, only to get knocked off the top as we take a break. Back with Bayley fighting out of a double arm crank and getting two off a facebuster. The Backstabber into the Bank Statement has Bayley in trouble until she flips over into a rollup for two.

They slap it out with Banks getting the better of it, only to miss the top rope knees. Bayley knees her in the head but gets caught with a Shining Wizard to put both of them down. A fired up Bayley gets more aggressive than she's been in a long time and slugs away, only to have a superplex broken up. Sasha hits a frog splash but Bayley reverses the cover into a rollup for the pin and the title shot at 13:14.

**Rating:** B-. Good match here as Bayley continues her short road to redemption. Having Bayley win the title on the big stage could be interesting but it's more likely that Banks turns on her to cost Bayley her chance. At least they're building up the card in a hurry though as this is the second match announced in about two hours.

Bliss comes to the ring for the staredown.

Video on a Special Olympian.

### Curt Hawkins vs. Jason Jordan

Hawkins punches him in the face before the match and gets suplexes down

for his efforts. Some crossface shots and a belly to back get two as Angle is watching on. There's the belly to belly and the shoulder in the corner, followed by a belly to back suplex into a neckbreaker to put Hawkins away at 1:44. Jordan looked fired up (as he always did) but a bit sloppy. Better than I was expecting though.

The Revival comes to the ring for an interview with Dawson telling Charly Caruso to get out because they've got this. They're the best tag team in the world right now because they chased New Day off to Smackdown, took out the Hardys and scared Enzo and Cass so much that they split up too. Cue Anderson and Gallows to say they're the good brothers and this is a good brothers town. They did everything that the Revival did before the Revival, including being bald.

#### Revival vs. Anderson and Gallows

Anderson gets taken into the Revival corner to start for some double teaming, only to have Anderson and Gallows double team the Revival to the floor like some good brothers would. We take a break and come back with Anderson having to punch Dawson in the face as he tries for a hot tag. Gallows comes in and starts cleaning house with a big boot and a splash for no cover on Scott. The Boot of Doom is loaded up but here are the Hardys to interrupt. Revival is thrown to the floor but the distraction just lets them come back in for a Shatter Machine and the pin on Anderson at 9:45.

**Rating:** D+. I'm not sure if this was a face turn for Anderson and Gallows but they could certainly use one, much like the division as a whole. The match was a bit of a mess but that's all you can expect when you have a short match with interference taking up a good chunk of the thing. Still though, it's promising.

The Hardys lay out Revival but they escape before a Swanton can hit.

Miz gives the Miztourage a pep talk. He's successful in Hollywood because he's an original instead of all those rebooted franchises. You know, like the Shield.

Next week: Jason Jordan on MizTV and Samoa Joe vs. Roman Reigns vs. Braun

Strowman.

### Dean Ambrose/Seth Rollins vs. Miz/Miztourage

Ambrose hammers on Axel to start and runs him over for some right hands and elbows to the head. Rollins comes in for a knee drop as we see Sheamus and Cesaro watching. That...could be interesting actually. Miz comes in and eats a Sling Blade, followed by the Miztourage being cleared out as we take a break. Back with Rollins in trouble as Miz cuts off a hot tag attempt.

Miz gets two off a neckbreaker and it's off to Axel for a dropkick (Axel: "HOW GOOD WAS THAT???"). Rollins fights off Dallas but it's still not enough as Miz grabs a DDT for two more. We hit the YES Kicks with Corey singing Miz's praises because he can. The good old double clothesline puts both Rollins and Miz down, followed by a quick roll over to Ambrose for the hot tag.

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**Rating:** B-. They got along well enough but I can't imagine they'll put the Shield back together for real anytime soon. The match wasn't great or anything though it's not like this was supposed to be a classic of any kind. I liked the match and they did a good enough job of keeping the crowd going. I'm not sure where this is going at the end but it's got enough of my attention.

Post match Seth puts out the fist for the Shield pose but Ambrose leaves him hanging to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C+. I liked this show more than I was expecting to and a lot of that has to do with scheduling stuff in advance. Instead of having to spend so many segments setting up matches, we could get straight to the promos before the matches and then the matches themselves. It's how wrestling has worked for the better part of ever and I have no idea why

WWE felt the need to mess with it. At least Summerslam's build is looking strong and that's a very good sign.

### Results

Elias Samson b. Finn Balor – Sister Abigail from Bray Wyatt

Big Cass b. Enzo Amore – Big boot

Nia Jax b. Emma – Running flip backsplash

Bayley b. Sasha Banks – Rollup

Jason Jordan b. Curt Hawkins – Belly to back neckbreaker

Revival b. Anderson and Gallows – Shatter Machine to Anderson

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