

On This Day: December 22, 1997 – Monday Nitro: The Dumbest Idea In A Long Time

Monday Nitro #119

Date: December 22, 1997

Location: Macon Coliseum, Macon, Georgia

Attendance: 7,615

Commentators: Larry Zbyszko, Tony Schiavone, Mike Tenay, Bobby Heenan

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Fit Finlay vs. Eddie Guerrero

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Meng goes up top for a splash but picks McMichael up at two. Dude, I watched you for like fifteen years and THIS is what I get in return? Mongo bails to the floor and finds the dreaded wooden chair. As usual it gets destroyed over Meng's head (not a DQ for no apparent reason) to no effect (also as usual), so Mongo instead tombstones him for the pin.

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First of all, Bischoff dedicates the show to Hogan and literally bows down to him. His first gift: NWO leaflets falling from the ceiling. Now he gets a motorcycle. Then he gets a second motorcycle. Then he gets a LONG open top limousine with built in hot tub and his own set of Nitro Girls. Bischoff promises even MORE gifts for him later because this hasn't gone on long enough yet.

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Tenay joins in on commentary again to give us Bobby, Mike and Rick. Booker easily takes down Riggs and they trade wristlocks. Scotty takes him down with a dropkick to give the Flock its only advantage of the match, but Booker spin kicks him down with ease. Off to Stevie Ray who misses an elbow and it's off to Lodi for the first time ever.

Ray immediately clotheslines him down as the punishment continues. A backbreaker keeps Lodi down and it's off to Booker for the ax kick. The Heat hit a double suplex for two before Stevie chokes with his knee. A bicycle kick gets two on Lodi as the Heat are barely breaking a sweat here. Stevie hits what would become known as the AA as Riggs walks out on his partner. The Big Apple Blast (Hart Attack with a side kick from Booker instead of a clothesline) ends this massacre.

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The announcers of course suck up to Bagwell because we have to make sure that every NWO guy on the team looks as amazing as they can. Jericho fights up and dropkicks Bagwell a few times before getting a near fall off a powerslam. Bagwell pounds him down again and goes up top, only to miss an elbow. Jericho tries a rana (I think) but they just collide and Jericho comes straight down instead of doing anything to Bagwell. After a double underhook backbreaker, Jericho looks for a superplex, only to be shoved down and hit with the Blockbuster for the pin.

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Savage comes in like a crazy man (perfect for the role) and gets beaten down as a result. A hard clothesline in the corner has Luger in control but he charges into Savage's boot to put him down. Savage pounds away and chokes a lot before sending Luger to the floor. Luger goes face first into the steps but blocks a shot into the barricade.

Lex throws him into the crowd for a quick beating before we head back inside, where the referee is bumped by Luger's steel forearm. Savage hides behind Liz as Luger makes his big comeback and of course here's the NWO, led by Bagwell, for the big beatdown. The big elbow ends Luger in a worthless match.

Rating: D+. I'm trying to like some of these matches but they're not making it easy on me. Luger and Savage fought on and over for years and the matches were only good once in awhile. The best I can make of this is they wanted Bagwell to cost Luger a match here to give Luger a reason to want to beat him on Sunday, again working on the assumption that anyone cares about Buff Bagwell.

Here are Hogan and Bischoff YET AGAIN to finally close things out. Hogan talks about how many people he's beaten over the years and how Sting is going to be stung, but there's another gift for Hollywood. Eric says this isn't from him and here's Bret Hart in the limo. Hogan opens the box to reveal...a Hogan head. Sting shows up on top of the NWO sign at the entrance and ziplines down to the ring to end the show.

Overall Rating: D-. I've seen a lot of dull go home shows before, but this one was absolutely horrible. This show barely promoted Starrcade at all and was all about the NWO taking over Nitro. I've read rumors before that the NWO was originally going to get Nitro but this show was such a ratings disaster that the plans were changed to WCW keeping it. That's how big of a flop this show was, but I guess since so many people had already been sold on Starrcade that it didn't make much of a difference.

Here's Starrcade if you're interested:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2011/02/03/starrcade-1997-the-death-of-wcw/>

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Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up my new book of on the History of In Your House at Amazon for just \$4 at:

And check out my Amazon author page with wrestling books for just \$4 at:

Also my Christmas sale on ebooks is ending soon so take advantage of it while you can:

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Lex throws him into the crowd for a quick beating before we head back inside, where the referee is bumped by Luger's steel forearm. Savage hides behind Liz as Luger makes his big comeback and of course here's the NWO, led by Bagwell, for the big beatdown. The big elbow ends Luger in a worthless match.

Rating: D+. I'm trying to like some of these matches but they're not making it easy on me. Luger and Savage fought on and over for years and the matches were only good once in awhile. The best I can make of this is they wanted Bagwell to cost Luger a match here to give Luger a reason to want to beat him on Sunday, again working on the assumption that anyone cares about Buff Bagwell.

Here are Hogan and Bischoff YET AGAIN to finally close things out. Hogan talks about how many people he's beaten over the years and how Sting is going to be stung, but there's another gift for Hollywood. Eric says this isn't from him and here's Bret Hart in the limo. Hogan opens the box to reveal...a Hogan head. Sting shows up on top of the NWO sign at the entrance and ziplines down to the ring to end the show.

Overall Rating: D-. I've seen a lot of dull go home shows before, but this one was absolutely horrible. This show barely promoted Starrcade at all and was all about the NWO taking over Nitro. I've read rumors before that the NWO was originally going to get Nitro but this show was such a ratings disaster that the plans were changed to WCW keeping it. That's how big of a flop this show was, but I guess since so many people had already been sold on Starrcade that it didn't make much of a difference.

Here's Starrcade if you're interested:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2011/02/03/starrcade-1997-the-death-of-wcw/>

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