

Rampage – May 27, 2022: The Big Push

Rampage

Date: May 27, 2022

Location: Michelob Ultra Arena, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Excalibur, Taz, Ricky Starks

It's the final show before Double Or Nothing and that means it is time for the last push towards the show. If nothing else, we get to find out who will be in the final of the women's Owen Hart Foundation tournament, because that is still going. Tonight is mostly about firming up what is already there though so let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Bryan Danielson vs. Matt Sydal

William Regal is on commentary as Danielson wins a test of strength and grabs a headlock. Back up and Sydal snaps off a flying mare, leaving us with a standoff. Danielson uppercuts him down and fires off the forearms to the head but Sydal is back with a leg lariat. We take a break and come back with Danielson dropping a knee for two of his own, only to have Sydal kick him in the face for a breather.

A hurricanrana gives Sydal two so he goes up for the Meteora, which is pulled into a nasty half crab. Sydal has to roll out so Danielson puts him on top. The belly to back superplex is reversed into a heck of a powerbomb to give Sydal two (that was great). A slugout goes to Sydal and he hits the jumping knee. Danielson isn't having that and hits the running knee, setting up the hammer and anvil elbows. The guillotine choke finishes Sydal at 11:00.

Rating: B. Sydal was bringing it here and you knew that Danielson was going to be able to do some violent and painful things. The match was hard hitting and competitive, which is a good way to go as there wasn't much doubt about the winner. Very good opener here, with that top rope powerbomb looking awesome.

Video on the rise of Hookhausen, though Danhausen still can't train that well.

Young Bucks vs. Taylor Rust/Jon Cruz

The Bucks come out in full on Hardys cosplay, complete with the music, the dancing, the DELETING, the Gangrel (yes the real one) and the Brandon Cutler as Lita (including the underwear). Cruz gets taken down by Nick, with some spot on Jeff Hardy style offense. Matt (as Matt) goes up top for the elbow before coming down to the middle rope instead. The delay lets Cruz get over to Rust, who walks into a double superkick. Another double superkick knocks Cruz silly and sets up the Swanton for the pin at 2:40. This was hilarious and you can tell the Bucks are huge Hardys fans.

Post match the Bucks turn on Gangrel but the real Hardys...rather slowly come to the ring for the save. Cutler breaks up the double Twist of Fate but Gangrel Impales him. The Twist of Fate into the Swanton crushes Cutler and we get the New Brood reunion.

Darby Allin challenges Kyle O'Reilly for Double Or Nothing. If O'Reilly turns him down, Allin will interfere in both of the Undisputed Elite's matches and ruin their night.

Max Caster vs. Dante Martin

Caster's rap is about Martin's lack of success with women. The Gunn Club is here with him and try to handle Anthony Bowens' signature, causing Bowens (as pushed to the ring in a wheelchair by Billy Gunn) to protest until he gets to do it.

Martin dives onto Caster and the Club so we're ready to go. Everyone else is ejected as Caster goes after the knee and twists it down for an early two as we take a break. Back with Caster missing the Mic Drop and Martin backflipping over him. Some elbows put Caster down and the Nose Dive finishes for Martin at 6:14. Not enough shown to rate, which makes the commercial all the more annoying.

Video on Adam Cole vs. Samoa Joe in the Owen Hart Foundation men's final.

We look at Sammy Guevara and Frankie Kazarian destroying the TNT Title last week.

Here are the Men of the Year, with Dan Lambert talking about how you can guarantee that there are very few things you can believe in. You can believe in them though, including the TNT Champion. We need a new title belt for him though, with Scorpio Sky receiving the newly designed version, which is basically the same belt with yellow and purple trim (ala the Los Angeles Lakers).

Hold on though as we cut to American Top Team headquarters, where Sammy Guevara/Tay Conti/Frankie Kazarian break in. They look at the title collection and, with a lead pipe, break into it and steal some titles. The challenge for the six person tag is thrown out for Double Or Nothing, with Sky accepting, on one condition: if Sky/Ethan Page/Paige VanZant win, Kazarian/Guevara can never challenge for the TNT Title again.

Kris Statlander is tired of being nice because it hasn't gotten her anywhere.

Double Or Nothing rundown.

Women's Owen Hart Foundation Tournament Semifinals: Kris Statlander vs. Ruby Soho

The winner gets Britt Baker on Sunday. Soho goes for the knee

to start but Statlander flips her away with straight power. An armdrag sends Statlander into the corner but she blocks another one, again with the power. A kick to the knee just annoys Statlander, who blasts Soho with a clothesline as we take a break.

Back with Statlander powerbombing her out of the corner but her arm gives out on a gorilla press attempt. No Future connects for Soho but Statlander gets sent outside. Soho has to get her up and it's a hurricanrana from the apron to stagger Statlander again. Statlander is fine enough to hit a quick Falcon Arrow for two but the shoulder gives out on the Spider Crab attempt. Soho kicks the knee out again and crabs an Oklahoma roll for the pin at 10:10.

Rating: B-. This was another match where there wasn't a ton of drama about the result but Statlander did well in her spot. Soho vs. Baker was all but guaranteed for the final as there is enough of a history there to make it work. Good main event here though and it's nice to see Soho getting a run for a change.

Post match here is Britt Baker, but Soho cuts her off. Soho is tired of hearing Baker talk so on Sunday, Soho is taking the tournament. Baker has a receipt coming on Sunday and the mic is dropped to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Now that is more like it, as we had good action, but more importantly they did a lot of the work on the way to the pay per view on Sunday. That is the point of a show like this and AEW made it work very well. Double Or Nothing is looking great, though adding in two more matches might have been a step too far. Anyway, pretty awesome Rampage this week.

Results

Bryan Danielson b. Matt Sydal – Guillotine choke

Young Bucks b. Jon Cruz/Taylor Rust – Swanton Bomb to Cruz

Dante Martin b. Max Caster – Nose Dive

Ruby Soho b. Kris Statlander – Oklahoma roll

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Rampage – May 20, 2022: Catch Me In A Few Hours

Rampage

Date: May 20, 2022

Location: Fertitta Center, Houston, Texas

Commentators: Taz, Excalibur, Chris Jericho, Ricky Starks

We are less than two weeks away from Double Or Nothing and now it is time for the card to really get hammered home. This time around, that only includes one Owen Hart Tournament match, which seems like a drop compared to recent weeks. The Blackpool Combat Club is here though so let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

House Of Black vs. Dark Order/Fuego del Sol

Black has no time for Evil Uno to start so it's off to Fuego, who gets taken down into a kneebar. Matthews comes in and stomps away but Fuego gets over to Uno to pick up the pace. Black tags himself back in though and the House cleans itself as we take a break. Back with 10 cleaning house but he can't get the full nelson. Everything breaks down and Uno gets to kick King in the face over and over but a kick to the face sets up the Ganso Bomb for the pin at 9:20.

Rating: C. This is a good example of what has been wrong with the House of Black: there is no reason for it to take nearly ten minutes for the full strength team to beat these three. Fuego is the definition of a loser and the Dark Order are a low level team. Why is it taking that long to complete what should have been a four minute squash? Make them look dominant, not like they have to rally to win.

Post match Death Triangle comes out and unveils a House Of Black tombstone with DOUBLE OR NOTHING included. Thank goodness. Have the match already so we can move on to anything else.

Anthony Bowens has been injured and the Gunn Club promises a reunion when he's healthy again.

FTR is down for a Ring Of Honor Title match against Roppongi Vice. Oh and they want the IWGP Tag Team Titles too.

Shawn Spears vs. Big Damo

That would be Killian Dain, formerly of NXT fame. Damo takes him down to start and hammers away inside, only to miss the Vader Bomb. A running knee and the C4 (Spears: "WARDLOW!") finishes Damo at 1:38. That was a bit unexpected.

The Undisputed Elite teases a Fingerpoke of Doom once they get to the Owen Hart finals. Or they could do it seriously, which

works for both of them. The Young Bucks also want the Hardys at Double Or Nothing.

Owen Hart Foundation Tournament First Round: Red Velvet vs. Kris Statlander

Ruby Soho is on commentary and doesn't seem to like Jericho. Statlander starts fast with a one armed gorilla press (because of course she can do that) but misses a charge, allowing Velvet to tie her up in the rink skirt. We take a break and come back with Statlander taking her down but getting caught with the Final Slice for two. Statlander's Blue Thunder Bomb gets the same and a wheelbarrow faceplant gives Velvet two more. Back up and Statlander clotheslines her down but can't hit the Big Bang Theory. Instead Velvet counters into a rollup, which is countered into a rollup to give Statlander the pin at 7:35.

Rating: C. Little surprised by the ending there and that is a nice feeling. Statlander going forward is more interesting than one of Cargill's minions, even if Soho vs. Baker seems like a more likely final. I'm glad to see Statlander getting to move up the ladder a bit, as she hasn't had much going on in recent months.

Post match the Baddie Section comes in for the beatdown and Ruby Soho's save fails. Anna Jay comes in and grabs Mark Sterling's crutch for the real save.

Mark Sterling, Tony Nese and Hookhausen are all training for Double Or Nothing. Danhausen is cranking on those one pound weights.

Here are the Men of the Year for a chat. They mock the end of the Inner Circle (Jericho: "That's a low blow.") and Scorpio Sky wants the TNT Title back from Sammy Guevara. We cut to Guevara, who breaks the title with a sledgehammer. Frankie Kazarian pops up to take over, leaving Sammy to kiss Tay Conti. Kazarian promises more violence. AEW has a roster

deeper than anyone could ask for these days and these two are STILL FIGHTING???

Britt Baker mocks Toni Storm's record in big matches. Storm threatens to knock her teeth out.

Dante Martin and Matt Sydal like the idea of peace, love and pro wrestling. The Blackpool Combat Club doesn't agree.

Here's what is coming on various shows.

Jade Cargill is ready for Anna Jay at Double Or Nothing.

Blackpool Combat Club vs. Dante Martin/Matt Sydal

William Regal is on commentary. The Club jumps them to start and it's Moxley getting two off a suplex to Martin. Danielson comes in for some forearms to the head as Regal sings the praises of cauliflower faces. Martin avoids a charge to send Moxley into the post and it's off to Sydal to pick up the pace.

We take a break and come back with Martin cleaning house but missing the Nose Dive. Danielson catches him on top with the butterfly superplex, setting up the LeBell Lock. The rope is reached so Danielson starts kicking away at the ribs, but what looks to be a Hart Attack is broken up. Everything breaks down and Sydal hits a Meteora to Danielson on the apron. Danielson is up in time to save Moxley from the Nose Dive, leaving Moxley to hit a piledriver. That's good for two, so Danielson and Moxley come in for the hard elbows. The Paradigm Shift finishes Martin at 12:05.

Rating: C+. This was a little too similar to the opener, in that the established team, especially two main eventers like Danielson and Moxley, shouldn't be needing twelve minutes to put away Martin and Sydal. It shouldn't have been a squash, but this was a bit lengthy for something that should have been done more quickly.

Post match, the Jericho Appreciation Society runs in to go after the Combat Club. Santana and Ortiz runs in for the big brawl to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. I wasn't feeling this one all that much as it didn't feel like a very important show. The wrestling was perfectly fine and it didn't have a bad match, but there was nothing on here that I'm going to remember in a few hours. As has always been the case though: it's an hour long, and that is WAY too short to have me begging for it to end. Even a weaker Rampage is still fine TV and that's what we had this week.

Results

House of Black b. Fuego del Sol/Dark Order – Ganso Bomb to Uno
Shawn Spears b. Big Damo – C4

Kris Statlander b. Red Velvet – Rollup

Blackpool Combat Club b. Dante Martin/Matt Sydal – Paradigm Shift to Martin

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Rampage – May 6, 2022: Back On Track

Rampage

Date: May 6, 2022

Location: Chesapeake Employers Insurance Arena, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Chris Jericho, Excalibur, Ricky Starks, Taz

We are on the way to Double Or Nothing and that means it is time to start hammering things down. Therefore, it means we are still wrapping up the qualifying matches for the Owen Hart Foundation tournaments, as they have now entered their third month. Maybe this show can be better than Dynamite though so let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Britt Baker/Jamie Hayter vs. Toni Storm/Ruby Soho

Rebel is here too. Storm runs Hayter over to start and drives her into the corner to take over. Baker comes in and gets taken down by Soho, who ducks a superkick and rolls her up for two. The villains take over though and we take an early break. Back with Storm fighting her way out of the corner and the double tag brings in Ruby to elbow Baker down.

Everything breaks down and Baker's Pittsburgh Sunrise is broken up but Baker counters Storm Zero into an Air Raid Crash. Back up and Rebel offers a distraction so Baker can suplex Storm down into a Stomp for two as Soho makes the save. Baker superkicks Soho but Storm grabs a rollup for the pin on

Baker at 8:28.

Rating: C. It says something about the tournament qualifying matches have been going on for so long that a feud has been put together between the qualifiers and a match has taken place while the qualifying matches still aren't done yet. Storm gaining some momentum is a good thing, though I'm not sure I would bet on her in the tournament. Then again, it is the kind of place that could help build her up.

Eddie Kingston calls in to talk to Chris Jericho on commentary. Kingston talks about how he has been with his wife for twenty years and she has seen him banged up but always puts him back together. Then she saw how he looked after the fireball from Jericho and she couldn't stop crying. This is no longer about pro wrestling because Jericho has made Kingston's wife cry. Kingston is going to hurt him and then hangs up. As usual, Kingston was bringing the serious fire here. Now HAVE THE MATCH ALREADY.

Tony Nese and Mark Sterling want a match with Danhausen next week in Nese's hometown of Long Island.

Hook vs. JD Drake

Drake hits a chop so Hook tells him to do it again, only to have Hook duck his head and headbutt the chop (even Jericho has never seen that before). Hook grabs a suplex but a second attempt is countered into a front facelock. That's fine with Hook, who flips over and grabs Redrum for the tap at 1:22.

Post match Danhausen comes out and asks Hook to be in his corner for his match against Tony Nese next week. Hook shoves him down and Danhausen leaves, though he drops a present for Hook (as it's his birthday): a BAG OF CHIPS! Hook stops to think about it before leaving (without the chips). So yes, Danhausen is all that and a bag of chips.

Dax Harwood is ready for Adam Cole in the Owen Hart

tournament.

Owen Hart Foundation Qualifying Match: Yuka Sakazaki vs. Riho

Sakazaki is making her return and Justin Roberts says her name three times in a row. They start fast by rolling around for an exchange of grappling before Riho kicks her in the face. A running kick in the corner drops Sakazaki again, setting up a high crossbody for two. Back up and Sakazaki sends her outside for a dive off the apron and we take a break.

We come back with Sakazaki hitting a northern lights bomb for two but Riho misses a running knee in the corner. An exchange of rollups get two each and they head up top, where Sakazaki hits a super Downward Spiral for two. Back up and they forearm it out until Riho rolls her forward into a cradle for the pin at 9:20.

Rating: B-. It's nice to have Riho back and it makes sense to put her into the tournament as she is going to be seen as at least a good opponent for someone in the first round, if not a threat to win the whole thing. She and Sakazaki worked well together here and had a good match, though Sakazaki wasn't going to win after being away for so long. Sometimes it's ok to have a good match with an obvious winner and that is what they did here.

Here are the women's tournament brackets:

Toni Storm
Jamie Hayter

Britt Baker
JOKER

Riho
Ruby Soho

Red Velvet
Hikaru Shida

Shawn Spears talks about how Wardlow is a giant who has taken out giants put in front of him. Spears is ready for him though and has a GIANT KILLER chair.

Here are Dan Lambert and the Men of the Year, with the hometown boy Lambert talking about how this city has been destroyed. From now on, he tells people that he is from Miami. Ethan Page goes on a rant about the upcoming mixed tag and doesn't think much of Sammy Guevara and Tay Conti's public displays of affection. Since Guevara doesn't keep his word, neither will he, because the mixed tag is OFF!

Cue Kazarian to say Lambert and Page are annoying but he has always believed in Scorpio Sky. He has always been Sky's biggest supporter but now he's the biggest threat. Kazarian wants his TNT Title shot, though it's Page yelling at Kazarian instead. Sky promises to be a fight champion and the days of this title getting passed around like Conti backstage are over. That means the Interim TNT Title needs to go back into the American Top Team trophy case where it belongs. As for the real title, it's on the line against Kazarian next week. Works for Kazarian.

Jungle Boy comes out and gets in a fight with Ricky Starks before their FTW Title match on Dynamite.

Konosuke Takeshita is ready for Jay Lethal and company. Lethal and company yell at him but they're also ready for Samoa Joe.

Here's what's coming on upcoming shows.

Konosuke Takeshita vs. Jay Lethal

Sonjay Dutt and Satnam Singh are here with Lethal. Takeshita takes Lethal down to start but Lethal gets in his own shot and teases the strut. That's fine with Takeshita who hits his own shot and gets in the strut (with WOO). Lethal is sent outside and it's a slingshot dive to drop Lethal again. A Singh staredown cuts Takeshita off though and we take a break.

Back with both of them on top and Takeshita hitting a big clothesline to bring both of them back down (that looked cool). Lethal is fine enough to pull him into a Figure Four but Takeshita is right next to the rope. Takeshita hits his jumping knee but Dutt offers a distraction to prevent the cover. A kick to the knee slows Takeshita down though and the Lethal Injection gives Lethal the pin at 9:35.

Rating: B-. I haven't seen much of Takeshita before but he has a good look and enough charisma to make me want to see more of him. The match itself worked out as you had someone like Lethal, who is virtually impervious to a bad match. The distraction finish protects Takeshita a bit as well so it was pretty well put together.

Post match the big beatdown is on but the Best Friends come out for the save. Samoa Joe with his pipe comes out for the staredown but security keeps him from the ring to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Now that's more like it, as this felt like an AEW quality show. That's what AEW needed after a pretty lame Dynamite so well done on righting the ship after Wednesday. The tournaments are still dominating the shows but at least we're rounding the final turn with them. Now get some other stuff going for Double Or Nothing and we should be fine.

Results

Toni Storm/Ruby Soho b. Britt Baker/Jamie Hayter – Rollup to Baker

Hook b. JD Drake – Redrum

Riho b. Yuka Sakazaki – Rollup

Jay Lethal b. Konosuke Takeshita – Lethal Injection

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Some Random AEW Thoughts

This is what happens when I start going for walks again. In no order.

- This week on Dynamite, you had two Impact wrestlers, an advertisement for a DDT Pro wrestler, multiple Ring of Honor wrestlers, and a Ring of Honor title match in the main event, plus advertisements for the AEW vs. New Japan show.

Tony, slow down man.

- If Khan insists on having ROH content on AEW programming, is there any reason he can't make one of the Darks the ROH show? You have all the time you need/want and it doesn't take away from Rampage/Dynamite. I know we might need to find another way to build up the midcard challenger of the month's ten straight wins over Shawn Dean or whoever Dean's female equivalent is, meaning it might put a dent in the "10 straight wins? Where?" questions, but that might be

an acceptable loss.

- Ways to make the House of Black better:
 1. Have them wrestle a match in the last month (last match: March 30).
 2. Don't have them spend a month talking about taking out Fuego del Sol.
 3. Let it go with the Death Triangle feud. You had your six man against most of them at Revolution. It's over.
 4. Let it go with the Julia Hart thing, as it made them look like they couldn't beat a cheerleader.
 - I would be willing to buy my first wrestling shirt in over 25 years if AEW could go two weeks without the big forearm exchange. Yes, I know it's Japanese tradition. Yes, I know it's required in modern wrestling because the Japanese style is everything these days. Yes, I know I'm absolutely sick of it because it feels like they're checking a box off of a list by having one.
 - I'd still like to know how qualifying matches in the Owen Hart Tournaments are different than first round matches. Bobby Fish vs. Jeff Hardy isn't good enough to be called a first round match?
 - The qualifying matches for the Owen Hart Foundation tournaments began back in March, five weeks ago. The tournaments themselves are going to run two and a half weeks. How does that make sense?
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Rampage – April 29, 2022: Call It A Punt?

Rampage

Date: April 29, 2022

Location: Liacouras Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Excalibur, Taz, Ricky Starks, Chris Jericho

We're still in the most serious wrestling city in the country and that should play into AEW's hands rather well. Rampage is the show that is going to focus on the in-ring action more than anything else and hopefully that makes for a good night. Throw in Danhausen calling out Hook and...I'm really not sure what that is going to mean. Let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Owen Hart Foundation Tournament Qualifying Match: Swerve Strickland vs. Darby Allin

Sting is in Allin's corner as they start with a wrestle off. Neither can get very far until Allin takes him down by the arm. Make that a chinlock for a bit before Allin knocks him to the floor. The suicide dive is cut off by a jumping knee as commentary talks about how well these two know each other.

We take a break and come back with Allin working on the knee but Strickland fights up. Swerve knocks him down but misses the Serve Stomp. Allin's Coffin Drop hits raised knees so Strickland kicks him in the head for two. Strickland heads to the apron and suplexes him down onto the floor, because that's a totally rational thing to do. Cue Ricky Starks off commentary to go to ringside but Sting cuts him off. Allin grabs the Last Supper for the pin at 10:25.

Rating: C+. Annoying distraction finish aside, this worked well while it lasted, even if you factor in the pretty insane suplex to the floor. You could have gone with either winning here, but Allin is a bigger star and a threat to win the whole thing. Strickland needs a win of his own though, as he hasn't had much success so far around here.

Shawn Spears is excited to see Wardlow get taken out by the big guy next week. They still won't say who it is though.

Chris Jericho names himself Sports Entertainer Of The Week for attacking Eddie Kingston.

Santana and Ortiz storm the commentary booth and jump Jericho to lay him out.

Baddies vs. Skye Blue/Trish Adora/Willow Nightingale

That would be Jade Cargill/Red Velvet/Kiera Hogan. Blue gets taken into the corner to start so Velvet can choke with the boot. Hogan comes in with a running boot the face but Blue manages a kick. Blue and Hogan both catch a kick at the same time before Hogan kicks her in the head. Adora comes in and gets hit with a step up Fameasser, allowing the tag off to Cargill for jaded and the pin on Adora at 2:40. Total squash.

Darby Allin offers Swerve Strickland another match after the ending but Strickland knows Allin didn't have anything to do with it. Strickland wants Allin to win the tournament so now he can go find Keith Lee and deal with Team Taz.

Keith Lee vs. Colten Gunn

Gunn looks like he got kicked in the face by a horse, kicked the horse back, and then got kicked in the face again. They shove each other around a bit until Lee takes him into the corner for the Grizzly Magnum chop. We take a break and come back with Lee hitting some running shoulders but missing a charge in the corner. The Fameasser is blocked though and the

Big Bang Catastrophe finishes Gunn at 7:00.

Rating: C. As is so often said about AEW matches, this needed a break? The match wasn't even that good as Gunn was little more than a sacrificial lamb for Lee. I'm still not sure what Lee is supposed to do in AEW, because he has been stuck in minor stories and matches like this for a lot of his time there. The Gunns continue to be watchable though and there might even be some potential upward mobility for both of them.

Jeff Hardy is ready to take out Bobby Fish next week in the Owen Hart Foundation tournament.

The Undisputed Elite laughs off the idea of Jeff Hardy being a threat, with Fish calling him Jeff hardly.

Here is Danhausen, who says SEND HOOK. Cue Hook, with Danhausen thinking that we need to do this at another time. Cue Mark Sterling for a distraction so Tony Nese can jump both of them. Hook fights up and grabs a suplex, allowing Danhausen to curse Nese and Sterling. The villains leave and the fans want Hookhausen, but Hook grabs him by the neck instead, only to leave without getting violent.

The Gunn Club says that isn't a loss but the Acclaimed comes in to offer some scissoring, complete with hand gestures. The Club wants to go talk to their dad, leaving the interviewer to turn down the same offer.

Mercedes Martinez is ready to take out Deonna Purrazzo and become the undisputed Ring Of Honor Women's Champion.

Samoa Joe threatens to kill Trent Beretta, while Trent says he's going to win the ROH TV Title.

Ring Of Honor TV Title: Trent Beretta vs. Samoa Joe

Joe is defending and the Best Friends are here with Trent. Joe knocks him into the corner to start but gets knocked outside, setting up Trent's Asai moonsault. We take a break and come

back with Trent hitting a top rope dive to the floor to drop Joe. Back in and Trent grabs a Saito suplex for two, only to have Joe pull him into an STF. We'll make that a Crossface but Trent gets his foot on the rope. Jericho: "He's not dead yet!" Joe blasts Trent with a clothesline, with Jericho switching to "he might be now!" The MuscleBuster is broken up and it's the Koquina Clutch to make Trent tap at 10:02.

Rating: C+. Joe can have a good match with anyone and the same is true of Trent, making this a fine enough main event. That being said, having a 40+ year old Joe as the midcard champion of a minor league promotion isn't likely to bring in more eyes to the show. Joe can still draw in some attention, but isn't there anything bigger that he could do than this?

Post match Jay Lethal, Sonjay Dutt and Satnam Singh come out to interrupt a Samoa Joe interview. Orange Cassidy tries some lazy kicks but gets decked by Dutt. The brawl is on with Lethal and Joe having to be held apart to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. Maybe they were taking a week off this time because of the NBA and NFL events going on, but this wasn't exactly a great show. It didn't feel like much of anything on this show mattered and that isn't a great feeling to have. There is some good enough action, but it continued AEW's trend of not feeling important without the big stars. Certainly a watchable show, but not worth the time.

Results

Darby Allin b. Swerve Strickland – Last Supper

Baddies b. Skye Blue/Trish Adora/Willow Nightingale – Jaded to Adora

Keith Lee b. Colten Gunn – Big Bang Catastrophe

Samoa Joe b. Trent Beretta – Koquina Clutch

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Rampage – April 22, 2022: She's Coachable

Rampage

Date: April 22, 2022

Location: Petersen Events Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Ricky Starks, Taz, Excalibur

We're back on Friday this week as AEW has been trying to ramp this show up a bit more in recent weeks. That means more star power, and this week it means a title match as Jade Cargill is defending the TBS Title against Marina Shafir. We also have a pretty big showdown between Adam Cole and Tomohiro Ishii. Let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Owen Hart Foundation Qualifying Match: Adam Cole vs. Tomohiro

Ishii

We go right to the ring (with Rocky Romero and Orange Cassidy at ringside) with Cole striking away but getting dropped with a chop. They head outside with Ishii hitting the post and getting driven into the barricade. Back in and Cole grabs the chinlock but seems to be favoring his arm. Some forearms don't do much on Ishii, who knocks Cole into the corner with a single shot. Back up and Cole charges into a powerslam but slips out of a powerslam.

The fireman's carry onto the knee drops Ishii and we take a break. We come back with Ishii hitting a superplex and sliding lariat for two each. Cole grabs a brainbuster onto the knee but Ishii shrugs off a superkick. Ishii hits an enziguri and headbutting him, only to have Cole hit a superkick. That still doesn't matter as Ishii hits a hard clothesline, only to have Jay White run out and send Rocky Romero into the steps. The distraction lets Cole get in a low blow and the Boom finishes Ishii at 11:18.

Rating: C+. I'm not sure I'd call that a dream match but Cole going over a bigger name is a good thing for his future. Granted I don't know how good of an idea it is to have him on a show a week after losing in a Texas Death Match to a big finisher, but if he was just fine on Dynamite, he can be just fine here....right?

Earlier today, the Jericho Appreciation Society wasn't allowed in the building. Chris Jericho doesn't like it but backs down from a bunch of security. Daniel Garcia is allowed in because he has a match, though Jericho promises to call human resources on the main guard.

Danhausen eats some of Hook's chips to steal his power, but Hook pins him against the wall and says (I believe for the first time) that if Danhausen wants his attention, he has it. Danhausen knows he's in trouble.

Lance Archer vs. Serpentic

Serpentic jumps at Archer to start and can't even knock him down. Shawn Spears is on commentary as Archer starts the destruction, setting up the Blackout for the pin at 29 seconds. Same thing they did with Butcher last week and it's still the right thing to do.

Post match Archer hits some chokeslams.

Video on Tony Nese and Mark Sterling.

Eddie Kingston vs. Daniel Garcia

Kingston starts fast by taking it to the floor for some chops. Back in and Garcia gets in a shot of his own, only to have his skin removed with a chop. Kingston fights off an armbar with some knees to the ribs and chops away as commentary compares Garcia's chest to various cuts of meat.

We take a break and come back with Garcia reversing a dragon sleeper and hitting a suplex to send Kingston into the corner. The Boston crab sends Kingston towards the ropes so Garcia tries a failed Sharpshooter attempt. Back up and Kingston manages an exploder suplex, setting up the Spinning Backfist To The Future for the pin at 12:20.

Rating: C+. The long and drawn out build towards their respective teams finally having their big showdown continues, but I'm not sure if they can make it all the way to Double Or Nothing. Kingston getting a win is almost weird to see but he's a bigger star than Garcia and should have gone over. If nothing else, the backfist almost always looks like a knockout shot and Kingston hits it well so it was nice to see.

Keith Lee and Swerve Strickland promise that the war isn't over with Team Taz.

Ricky Starks: "You broke a** Kenan and Kel." Starks promises to finish the job with Lee and Strickland. I had to pause for

a second after the Kenan and Kel line because nothing was topping that this week.

Toni Storm and Jamie Hayter are ready to fight each other.

Dax Harwood is ready to fight Cash Wheeler for himself and his family.

Mark Sterling reveals that he is a black belt, having bought it for \$20 on Amazon. As for tonight, he is ready to celebrate Jade Cargill's win over Marina Shafir. That doesn't work for Shafir, because problems don't worry about plans. Time for the main event.

TBS Title: Marina Shafir vs. Jade Cargill

Cargill, with Mark Sterling, is defending. Shafir goes at her but Cargill isn't impressed and hits a fall away slam into the nip up. A clothesline puts Shafir on the floor, where Cargill follows to get some kisses on the cheek from the Baddies section. Back in and a belly to back suplex gives Cargill two, followed by a powerslam for the same.

We take a break and come back with Shafir fighting out of an armbar and taking her down to work on the leg. With that broken up, they head outside where Sterling's interference earns him a throw of his own. Cargill gets in a pump kick though and chokeslams her onto (not through) the timekeeper's table. Back in and the foot on the chest cover gives Cargill two, with Shafir pulling her into a kneebar. Cargill fights out and hits Jaded (with Shafir having NO emotion on her face as she goes up) to retain at 11:39.

Rating: C. All things considered, this could have been FAR worse. They were smart to keep things simple and have them in spots where they could walk around a bit in between moves, as it let them burn some time off the clock and kept things simple. Neither of these two has any significant experience and neither is what I would consider really good in the ring.

Cargill has an amazing presence to her and can make the limited stuff work, which is enough to focus on to ignore what wasn't a great match otherwise. While it looked very, very planned out, they got through this rather well and I'd call that a big success.

Balloons fall to celebrate Jade being 30-0 to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. The star power was here this week and it continues to serve as a supplement to Dynamite, though it wasn't exactly must see stuff. The best thing about Rampage continues to be that it is still an hour long and it can't have that much time to overstay its welcome. That was the case here as just as it was starting to lose its charm, the show was wrapping up, which is some pretty good timing.

Results

Adam Cole b. Tomohiro Ishii – Boom

Lance Archer b. Serpentico – Black Out

Eddie Kingston b. Daniel Garcia – Spinning Backfist To The Future

Jade Cargill b. Marina Shafir – Jaded

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Rampage – April 1, 2022: The Rampage Way

Rampage

Date: April 1, 2022

Location: Colonial Life Arena, Columbia, South Carolina

Commentators: Excalibur, Chris Jericho, Ricky Starks, Taz, Chris Jericho

Wrestlemania weekend caused me to miss this one so now it's time to catch up. I'm kind of curious to see how this show works without the timing issues and watching it as a stand alone event. The big draw this week is Powerhouse Hobbs vs. Keith Lee, which certainly sounds good on paper. Let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Young Bucks vs. Top Flight

Nick shoulders Dante down to start so Dante nips up. They head to the floor and hit stereo dropkicks, setting up a staredown. Matt comes in and gets sent into the corner, setting up a slingshot hilo. A double dropkick takes the illegal Nick down and Darius pulls Matt into something like the Rings of Saturn.

That's broken up so Nick comes back in, only to have his springboard countered into an atomic drop. Back to back dives take the Bucks down but a Cutler distraction lets Matt hit a superkick to drop Darius on the floor. A Cannonball/running kick in the corner has Darius in more trouble and we take a break.

We come back with Dante coming in off the hot tag to clean house, including a superkick to Nick. There's a missile dropkick to Matt and Darius gets to stare at the crowd a bit. A slingshot Flatliner sets up the Broken Arrow (that jumping over your partner to land on someone's back for two on Nick. Darius gets knocked off the top and down into the barricade though and it's Nick vs. Darius in a slugout. Matt comes back in for the save though and it's the BTE Trigger for the pin at 10:48.

Rating: B-. It was the entertaining spectacle style match and that is all it needed to do. You have the Bucks against Top Flight in there to do their big choreographed routine and it did exactly what it needed to do. I'm not probably not going to remember it because I've seen the Bucks do this a dozen times, but while it's still in the short term memory, they were doing it pretty well here.

Video on the OTHER SIDE of Kris Statlander, meaning the paint on her face changes side.

Here are the Men of the Year to complain about Tay Conti and Sammy Guevara. Above all else, they don't like the photo shoot with the TNT Title, but they also want to know who was behind the camera. After some jokes about Orange Cassidy, Dan Lambert makes it clear that they will never give Guevara the match. Guevara pops up on screen from the parking lot, where he and Conti destroy Lambert's car with sledgehammers. This company REALLY likes wrecking cars.

Hook is ready for an interview when Danhausen comes in to curse him. Again, Hook just walks away, leaving Danhausen to panic.

House of Black vs. Dark Order/Fuego del Sol

Matthews shoulders Grayson down but he's back up with a running forearm. The Order is sent outside, leaving Fuego to get lawn darted into the middle buckle. King tosses Fuego onto

the Order on the floor and we take a break. Back with Fuego kicking Buddy away and making the hot tag off to Grayson to clean house.

Everything breaks down and a toss powerbomb gives Uno two. The Order is sent outside for a running flip dive from King, leaving Black vs. Fuego inside. The rest of the House gets back in but the Order makes the save. Fuego manages a poisonrana on Black, who Black Masses Fuego out of the air for the pin at 7:14.

Rating: C. This was a bit longer than it needed to be for the House, as they should have smashed people like the Order and Fuego. It wasn't exactly a competitive match but the House has stalled a bit in recent weeks, as we are seemingly STILL waiting on their showdown with Death Triangle. I'm sure the match will be great when it happens, but has Death Triangle ever been together in the first place?

The Young Bucks brag about themselves and are ready for FTR on Dynamite.

Owen Hart Foundation Qualifying Match: Skye Blue vs. Jamie Hayter

Hayter powers her up against the ropes to start and then hits an elbow in the face. Blue grabs an armdrag into an armbar and Hayter looks more surprised than anything else. A suplex sends Blue into the corner though and Hayter does it again for a bonus. Blue is back up with some rollups for two each, only to walk into a backbreaker to cut her off. A spinning kick to the head drops Hayter for two but she grabs a backdrop driver. Hayter charges into a superkick but is fine enough to hit a superplex. There's a brainbuster to drop Blue again and a ripcord lariat finishes for Hayter at 5:36.

Rating: C-. This tournament feels like it is going to take a long time to set up as we are still waiting to see all of the qualifying matches. Hayter is someone who could be a nice

monster to slay in the field without being a favorite and that's a good enough idea. They didn't waste a lot of time here on a match that isn't going to matter so I'll take that as a quick match.

Penta Obscuro and Alex Abrahantes warn the House of Black to be worried about Death Triangle.

Powerhouse Hobbs and Keith Lee are ready to wreck each other, albeit while using a reading/book motif. Well, as much wrecking as Lee can do in his odd way of speaking.

Keith Lee vs. Powerhouse Hobbs

The fans are behind Lee as he takes his vest off and they stare each other down a bit. The big lockup doesn't go anywhere as they shake the other off. Hobbs hits some running shoulders to no avail but Lee's running shoulder puts Hobbs out on the floor. We take a break and come back with Lee in trouble, allowing Hobbs to hit a running clothesline for two. Back up and a beal is blocked and Hobbs knows he's in trouble.

A hard clothesline gives Lee two but Hobbs backdrops his way out of a Spirit Bomb attempt. Lee hits a running splash in the corner and there's the Uncle Phil Beal. Cue Ricky Starks with a chair but Lee punches it away. Swerve Strickland runs in and takes out Starks, leaving Hobbs to hit a spinebuster. There's no count because of the distracted referee though, allowing Lee to hit the Big Bang Catastrophe for the pin at 10:45.

Rating: C+. There is something fun about a hoss battle, but this hit a certain level and never got past it. They were big men hitting each other with power moves for about ten minutes and then Lee won. It was a fun showdown, but when you have people who wrestle a similar style, there is only so much that you can get out of the thing.

Starks beats down Strickland and puts him through the table at ringside. Hobbs chairs Lee in the back and another table is

set up in the corner. Lee goes through said table to wrap it up.

Overall Rating: C+. Rampage continues to be a weird show as you have a bunch of matches but they rarely feel like they matter. You're not going to get much of anything significant on this show but it is still fun to watch for about an hour a week. That was certainly the case this week, as I had a good time with the show but it didn't exactly blow the doors off.

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Rampage – April 8, 2022: Elevation

Rampage

Date: April 8, 2022

Location: Agganis Arena, Boston, Massachusetts

Commentators: Excalibur, Tazz, Ricky Starks, Chris Jericho

I don't know why, but something tells me they are going to have a hard time following FTR vs. the Bucks from Dynamite. That being said, they are certainly amping up Rampage this week, as Bryan Danielson and Jon Moxley will both be in action on the show. I'm thinking that's enough to carry things so let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Trent Beretta vs. Bryan Danielson

William Regal is on commentary and it's a feeling out process to start and they go to the mat. A shot to the face drops Danielson, who seems to get how things are going to go here. Danielson gets a boot up in the corner and grabs a guillotine choke, with Beretta suplexing his way to freedom. Beretta sends him outside but the switch places, only to have Danielson's suicide dive pulled out of the air. Danielson sends him into the steps and we take a break.

Back with Danielson suplexing him over and busting out some jumping jacks. A reverse capture suplex gives Danielson two and it's off to the cravate with knees to the face. Trent slips out and tries Strong Zero but has to settle for two off a sunset flip. Danielson misses the running knee in the corner, allowing Beretta to hit the tornado DDT for two.

Trent goes up top but gets crotched, only to reverse Danielson's belly to back superplex into a crossbody for two more. A half and half suplex into a running lariat gets another two on Danielson, who is right back up with the running knee. The Gotch style piledriver into some stomps to the face set up the LeBell Lock to finish the unconscious Trent at 13:38.

Rating: B-. Trent is the most impressive in-ring star of the Best Friends and it was nice to see him on his own and getting to show off his skills like this. Having Regal in there to sound nervous and call the technical side of the match with Taz made the match that much better. Good stuff here, and Danielson broke a heck of a sweat to beat Beretta here.

Hook has nothing to say but Danhausen pops out of a trashcan to curse him again. Hook walks away again, but this time Danhausen eats Hook's chips, thinking they might be the source of his power.

Here are the Men of the Year for a chat. Scorpio Sky says he has dropped the Open Challenge because he wants to do the right thing. No one has beaten him in 394 days but here are Sammy Guevara and Tay Conti to interrupt. They call Lambert a piece of s*** sexist, which translates to Dan Lambert in Portuguese.

Lambert doesn't like hearing about what the two of them do in their bedroom but Sammy wants a match. Ethan Page doesn't think much of the idea and hopes his daughter doesn't want to be like Tay. Sammy says they're going to do this every week until they get their match and wait to see what they have planned for next week.

Based on his tastes in colognes and BMW's, QT Marshall is Chris Jericho's Sports Entertainer of the Week.

QT Marshall vs. Swerve Strickland

Marshall shoulders him down to start and does Swerve's pose. Back up and Swerve grabs a headscissors and rolls into a jackknife cover for two. Marshall throws him over the top but Swerve sticks the landing as we take a break. Back with Strickland hitting a running forearm into the middle rope elbow between the shoulders. A pop up right hand rocks Swerve but he blocks the Diamond Cutter and kicks the knee out. The rolling Flatliner sets up the House Call for the pin at 6:05.

Not enough shown to rate but Strickland getting a win is a good thing.

Post match Ricky Starks issues the challenge to face Swerve and Keith Lee in New Orleans on Dynamite.

Video on Marina Shafir.

Owen Hart Foundation Women's Tournament Qualifying Match:
Willow Nightingale vs. Red Velvet

Willow grabs a rollup to start before taking Velvet down with a shoulder. Velvet comes back with some shots to the face in the corner. Nightingale runs her over again but misses a moonsault, allowing Velvet to strike away. Some running knees to the back rock Nightingale and Just Desserts gets two. Back up and Willow hits the Pounce, setting up the Cannonball for two more. Velvet manages to kick her away though and a spinning kick to the head finishes Nightingale at 5:19.

Rating: B-. Velvet isn't exactly known for her in-ring abilities and as a result, this was a near miracle. They were getting in some nice near falls and the match looked pretty smooth. Nightingale has some charisma to her and I've been intrigued by what she can do since her debut in Ring of Honor. Put her in AEW where she might develop a bit and she could go somewhere.

Tony Nese isn't happy with the lack of enthusiasm for his introduction and wants to know when he's getting some respect. Mark Sterling comes in to offer some legal representation and Nese seems intrigued.

Wheeler Yuta talks about getting closer and closer to defeating Jon Moxley and tonight he'll do it. Moxley promises to wreck Yuta because this is a fight instead of Pure Rules.

Jon Moxley vs. Wheeler Yuta

Yuta's ROH Pure Wrestling Title isn't on the line. Yuta gets

smart and dives off the steps to take Moxley down during his entrance for a fast start. They fight into the crowd with Yuta keeping control until Moxley snaps off a suplex back inside. The bell rings and Moxley hits another suplex to put Yuta in trouble. Some chops don't get Moxley very far as Yuta comes back with an atomic drop. Yuta is sent to the floor and into the steps as we take a break.

Back with a bloody Yuta getting to the ropes to escape a Boston crab and striking away. Moxley is sent outside for the big splash through the announcers' table. Back in and Yuta grabs a backslide for two before hitting the Bryan Danielson stomps. Some German suplexes into a top rope splash sets up the Crossface but Moxley slips out. The King Kong lariat gives Moxley two and he bites at the cut. Yuta goes up top but dives into the Paradigm Shift for two, which leaves Moxley absolutely stunned.

The bulldog choke is broken up but Yuta misses the running boot, allowing Yuta to grab his own bulldog choke. Moxley escapes as well so Moxley hits the hard elbows, setting up the Regal running knee. A spike Paradigm Shift gets two more so Moxley grabs a choke and Yuta is out at 12:39.

Rating: B. Now THAT worked and was a great example of lifting someone up to the next level. Moxley looking stunned by his big stuff not working and having to choke Yuta out because he couldn't pin him was an effective way to go. This was a great way to elevate Yuta and there is a good chance that it takes him into the Blackpool Combat Club. Heck of a match and Moxley's selling of the kickouts was awesome.

Post match Moxley looks stunned at Yuta being that tough. Bryan Danielson and William Regal come in, with Yuta saying bring it on. Yuta pulls his fist back but Regal extends a hand. The handshake ends the show.

Overall Rating: A-. This was Rampage roaring back to life

after a few lackluster weeks (assuming they didn't do it last week as I still need to get to that show). There was nothing close to bad on here and the night belonged to the Combat Club. It was a week built around letting wrestlers hit each other hard and Yuta looked like a star. Very good show here and next week's will be even bigger with the World Title on the line.

Results

Bryan Danielson b. Trent Beretta – LeBell Lock

Swerve Strickland b. QT Marshall – House Call

Red Velvet b. Willow Nightingale – Spinning kick to the head

Jon Moxley b. Wheeler Yuta – Rear naked choke

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Rampage – March 25, 2022: Nice And Smooth

Rampage

Date: March 25, 2022

Location: HEB Center, Cedar Park, Texas

Commentators: Taz, Chris Jericho, Excalibur

We are back on Friday and that means we should be in for the heavy wrestling show. There is also a title match this week as Shane Strickland gets to challenge Ricky Starks for the FTW Title. Other than that, hometown boy Dustin Rhodes is facing Lance Archer in a bid for revenge from months ago. Let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Lance Archer vs. Dustin Rhodes

Archer drags one of Rhodes' students to the ring but here is Dustin for the save. Hold on though as Dustin has to beat up Dan Lambert (who is still managing Archer, despite them not being together much lately) but Archer makes the save. They head inside with Archer knocking him around and hitting him in the head. Dustin fights back up and knocks him outside, only to miss the flip dive off the apron.

Back in and Dustin is bleeding from the ear, with the blood on Archer's hands for a good visual. A twisting middle rope splash gives Archer two and we take a break. Back with Jericho pointing out that Archer's hoot is unlaced before Archer bites Dustin's finger. Dustin fights up anyway and hits some clotheslines but the snap powerslam is countered into a belly to belly.

The bulldog gets Dustin out of trouble and the Cross Rhodes connects for two. Archer is back up with a chokeslam for the same but the Black Out is escaped as Dustin...well just collapses. Back up and Archer tries to send him into the corner but gets sent face first into the exposed buckle (which apparently was exposed earlier), allowing Dustin to grab a jackknife rollup for the pin at 9:32.

Rating: C. Ok they got me with the surprise here, though Dustin winning a match over anyone with value is a bit of an odd choice. I'm not sure why Archer needed to lose here, but at least Rhodes didn't lose in his hometown. Granted he could have lost at any other time and it would have been fine, but it did come after a decent enough match. Rather surprising ending though.

Post match Archer hits Rhodes with the steps to bust him open before beating up Dustin's students for daring to try a save. The chokeslam through the table leaves Rhodes laying.

Jay Lethal starts laughing about his loss last week and says he can't get past the two blemishes on his record. He took Adam Cole and Ricky Starks to the limit and they both had to cheat to beat him. That should make his proud, but all he sees are the losses and them getting opportunities. He needs a better way and is off to find it.

Fuego del Sol is here to talk about how close he has gotten to a bunch of big wins. He made these people chant his name because they believed in him. That makes him want the House of Black, so the lights go off and the entire House is in the ring with Fuego. The beatdown doesn't take long but here is the Dark Order to stare down the House of Black. Tensions seem to be boiling.

The Men of the Year say the TNT/Co-TNT Titles are no longer subject to open challenges. Therefore, if you want a title shot, you better bring a good resume. If you want a shot, get

it the hard way, because the open door is closed.

ReDRagon vs. Dark Order

5 and 10 for the Order here with O'Reilly kicking 5's leg out to start. Angels slips out of a double suplex and sends Fish outside, setting up the rolling tag to 10. A lifting wristlock takes O'Reilly down and a double middle rope shoulder drops ReDRagon. We take a break and come back with 10 hitting a clothesline out of the corner and making it over for the tag (even as O'Reilly chokes him). The hot tag brings in 5 to clean house but O'Reilly reverses a northern lights suplex into a guillotine. 10 spinebusters Fish onto the two of them for the save, earning himself stereo kicks to the face. Chasing the Dragon finishes 5 at 6:59.

Rating: C. This was close to a squash for ReDRagon and that's what it needed to be. The Dark Order may be a fun team but they aren't at ReDRagon's level in any important way. Odds are ReDRagon is going after the titles again soon so they need to win matches like this to build them up after their Revolution loss.

Post match the beatdown stays on but the Jurassic Express makes the save. Cue Adam Cole to steal the Tag Team Titles.

Nyla Rose and Vickie Guerrero say they interrupted Thunder Rosa on Dynamite because they wanted to disrespect Thunder Rosa. Now Rose is going to show how dominant she can be.

Thunder Rosa has plans for Rose and Guerrero.

Nyla Rose vs. Madi Wrenkowski

A backslash into the Beast Bomb finishes Madi at 42 seconds. Of note: Madi is a Thunder Rosa student, so Rose is making it personal.

Here are QT Marshall and Aaron Solow to present Hook with the Certificate of Accomplishment. Cue Hook, with Marshall saying

that he isn't the kind of trainer to feel jealous when the student surpasses him. We see the award, with Hook sending Solow face first into it. Hook goes to leave but Danhausen pops up to curse him. That does nothing for Hook, who keeps walking to leave Danhausen confused.

Ricky Starks says the last time Shane Strickland had a house, he got ejected from it. Strickland laughs it off and says this is the same Starks he has always heard. Tonight, Strickland is going to take the FTW Title. Mark Henry doesn't like this getting a bit too personal so he goes to the catchphrase.

FTW Title: Ricky Starks vs. Shane Strickland

Starks, with Powerhouse Hobbs, is challenging. Feeling out process to start but Starks takes him down and poses in the corner. Back up and Strickland drops to the mat to avoid a clothesline, nips up, and hits a headscissors into a great dropkick to cap off an awesome sequence. Starks is back up to send him into the corner though and we take a break. We come back with Starks hitting a tornado DDT for two and grabbing a seated abdominal stretch.

Strickland is back to his feet for a jumping knee to the face, setting up the middle rope uppercut to the back. Strickland goes up top but jams his knee coming back down, meaning he has to block the Roshambo attempt. Starks is knocked outside and Strickland follows him out with a running shooting star off the apron. Back in and the Swerve Stomp gets two but the half nelson driver is broken up. A rollup is countered and the kickout sends Strickland to the floor, allowing Hobbs to take him out. Now the Roshambo can retain the title at 11:21.

Rating: B-. I know it is his reputation, but my goodness it can be fun to swatch Strickland. He is so smooth in the ring and he makes this look like an art. You don't see someone who can do that very often and it was fun to see again here. Strickland got cheated out of the win, though I really could

have gone for him not being pinned here. Starks is a promising star too and it is nice to see him getting back to some longer matches after his injury.

Post match Starks' entourage pull up a Starks banner but Keith Lee pops up behind it and comes in to help Strickland go after Team Taz to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. This was an entertaining enough show and some of that was due to the pace slowing down just a hair. There were entrances for the opener and I got more of a feeling that things were given a chance to breathe. Good enough show here, though it didn't have any kind of a standout match this week.

Results

Dustin Rhodes b. Lance Archer – Jackknife rollup

ReDRagon b. Dark Order – Chasing The Dragon to 5

Nyla Rose b. Madi Wrenkowski – Beast Bomb

Ricky Starks b. Shane Strickland – Roshambo

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Rampage – March 18, 2022: The Night Shift

Rampage

Date: March 18, 2022

Location: Freeman Coliseum, San Antonio, Texas

Commentators: Excalibur, Taz, Ricky Starks

We're on late this week due to the NCAA Tournament so I'm not sure what kind of an audience this show is going to have. The good thing is Rampage is rarely the show that features a lot of important developments, but it does offer some good action more often than not. Let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Butcher vs. Darby Allin

Sting is in Allin's corner. Allin charges right at him to start but gets sent into the corner and out to the floor. Back up on the apron and Allin slaps him in the face. They change places though and Allin hits a hard suicide dive into the barricade. Back in and Allin starts working on the hand but Butcher knocks him down again as Jericho talks about how a hand injury could hurt Butcher's music career. A hard clothesline drops Allin and they head outside, with Butcher glaring at Sting.

We take a break and come back with Butcher putting on a Texas cloverleaf but Allin makes the ropes. Butcher picks him up on the floor and swings him into the barricade/steps. Allin fights up and knocks him down for a change, setting up the

Coffin Drop from the top to the floor, which is actually good for a countout win at 10:41.

Rating: C+. I can go with a curve in the end as it spiced things up a bit here. Butcher looked like a good monster and that is something that will always have a place in a wrestling company. Allin needs something a little bigger than a feud with Andrade and company though, like perhaps just a feud with Andrade for a change.

Post match the AF0 comes in for the beatdown but the Hardys run in for the save. Matt issues the challenge for an eight man Texas Tornado match next week, with the answer coming later.

Dan Lambert and company brag about winning the TNT Title and beating up Tay Conti, though they're worried that signing Paige VanZant's contract on her gave the contract an STD.

Leyla Hirsch vs. Red Velvet

The fight starts on the ramp and Velvet hits a suplex to take Hirsch down. They get inside for the opening bell with Velvet hammering away as much as she can. Hirsch knocks her into the ropes and starts choking away as we take a break. Back with Velvet firing off some kicks but a bit one is countered into a suplex. A German suplex sets up a cross armbreaker but Velvet makes it to the ropes. Hirsch goes for her turnbuckle connector but here is Kris Statlander to take it away. The distraction lets Velvet hit a spinning kick to the face for the pin at 8:00.

Rating: C. Velvet is someone who needs a good opponent to rein her in and Hirsch did well enough here, even if this was much more about the Statlander/Hirsch stuff. I don't see Velvet going very far but she is a name that has been at least somewhat established around here. Not exactly a thrilling match but they have both done worse.

QT Marshall talks about his mom being so upset over what Hook did to him that she even called him. Apparently he went to the same high school as Bruce Springsteen and offers to give Hook the QT Marshall Certificate Of Accomplishment next week.

House Of Black vs. Fuego del Sol/Bear Country

Malakai Black sweeps Bear Bronson's leg to start so it's off to Fuego. Black kicks him down and knees Bear Boulder in the face. Buddy Matthews comes in for a few shots before Brody King gets to come in and wreck everyone. Boulder looks to stare the House down but it's a series of strikes to set up King's big lariat. Fuego comes in and goes after all three, including an enziguri to Black. King misses the big lariat but Matthews runs Fuego over. Black and King take out Bear Country, leaving Matthews to hit the former Murphy's Law to pin Fuego at 3:19.

Rating: C. It was nice to see this be the squash that it should have been as I was half expecting it to go a lot longer than it needed to. The House of Black is a dominant enough faction and they looked good here, with Matthews and King getting the change to shine over the leader. I'm sure they'll have to have their big showdown with Death Triangle whenever they're all together, but I'd like to see where they go from there.

Penta Obscuro wants to destroy the House of Black.

Max Caster is ready to take out Keith Lee, with Bowens saying Lee sounds like King Henry VIII. Lee tells them to be prepared for pain because they are his stepping stone.

Keith Lee vs. Max Caster

Caster's rap makes various Texas references, including saying people will remember Lee like the Alamo. Caster goes for the knee to start but Lee grabs him by the arm for some driving shoulders. Lee knocks him down again but Powerhouse Hobbs

comes to the stage as we take a break. Back with Bowens choking Lee from the floor so Caster can get in some crossface shots. Lee fights up and Pounces Caster, setting up the Big Bang Catastrophe for the pin at 9:45.

Rating: C-. Lee is little more than signature moves at this point and while they still look good, this wasn't a match I'll ever need to see again. Caster isn't exactly great in the ring in the first place and Lee can't move very well anymore. It was longer than it needed to be and not very good either, making this a pretty weak main event.

Post match Hobbs and Starks go after Lee but Shane Strickland makes the save.

Overall Rating: C. Maybe it was the show being on so late but I wasn't feeling this one as much as usual. Granted there is a good chance that they took things more slowly tonight because they knew no one was going to be watching and if so, fair enough. The wrestling was ok at best and the best thing about it was that it was only an hour, so this wasn't one of the better Rampages.

Results

Darby Allin b. Butcher via countout

Red Velvet b. Leyla Hirsch – Spinning kick to the head

House Of Black b. Bear Country/Fuego del Sol – Spinning Samoan drop to del Sol

Keith Lee b. Max Caster – Big Bang Catastrophe

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