

# ECW on TNN – October 1, 1999: Dreamer And Raven Are Fighting. Imagine That.

## ECW on TNN

Date: October 1, 1999

Location: Compuware Sports Arena, Plymouth, Michigan

Attendance: 1,600

Commentators: Joey Styles, Joel Gertner

Back here again and we're somehow less than a year from this show ending. I didn't realize how short this series was but we're about a month into it and we have less than a year to go at this point. Awesome is the world champion and needs someone to fight so maybe we'll get to that tonight. Let's get to it.

We open with breaking news: the tag champions got in a fight backstage and Dreamer is still wrestling tonight.

Mike Awesome will defend the title tonight.

Theme song. That's still pretty awesome.

## ECW World Title: Rhyno vs. Mike Awesome

Rhyno charges into a clothesline before the bell and then takes a jumping back elbow off the middle rope. Another clothesline puts him on the floor and Awesome hits a dive over the top. Most of it hit concrete but the effort was there. Back in a top rope clothesline gets two. Awesome likes that move. Awesome Bomb is countered and Rhyno Gores him but that's not a finisher yet. Swan dive by Rhyno gets two. German suplex out of nowhere takes Rhyno down and there's an Awesome Bomb up and over the top rope and through a table on the floor. Rhyno is mostly dead so the Awesome Splash retains the title.

**Rating:** C. Awesome was, in a word, awesome with the stuff he

could pull off in the ring. People shouldn't be able to move the way he could so it amazes me that WCW screwed him up as much as they did. He was mostly a face as the fans cheered him because there was almost no way to not be impressed. Fun match here and basically a squash for the champ.

### Big Sal E. Graziano vs. Little Spike Dudley

Sal weighs about 500lbs. Spike is the Giant Killer so I think you know where this is going. It's going to a no contest as Guido runs in for the DQ and it's time for a new match.

### Little Spike Dudley vs. Little Guido

Does the winner get upgraded to a medium? After a quick break they trade rollups and Spike takes him down with a neckbreaker for two. A forearm puts Guido on the floor and there's a dive. Guido throws him into the barricade and Sal splashes him up against the steel. Middle rope Fameasser gets two. Tomikaze (Killswitch) gets two and Guido is frustrated. Sal comes in but his splash misses and the Acid Drop to both guys (with Sal landing on Guido) gets the pin.

**Rating:** D+. It was entertaining enough but the Spike character could only be carried so far. The idea of him hitting one shot and then the Acid Drop to win matches worked for awhile but it finally had to stop. Guido was his usual self and Sal did his usual fat guy stuff. Not bad or anything but Spike did the same thing every week.

Music video on RVD.

The following is from Anarchy Rulz but it was a dark match so I haven't seen it yet.

### Danny Doring/Roadkill vs. CW Anderson/Bill Whilles

Big pop for Roadkill before he and Whilles gets us going. Roadie punches him down and hits a powerslam to set up a double tag. Doring speeds things way up and hits a Japanese

armdrag. Back to Roadkill who hits a Bossman Slam and everyone is in now. Doring cleans house but walks into an Anderson spinebuster and a single arm DDT. The control lasts for about 30 seconds and it's back to Roadkill. Bill manages a spinning powerslam on Doring for two and everything breaks down again. Danny hits a reverse DDT to set up a top rope splash by Roadkill for the pin.

**Rating:** C. This was a good choice for a dark match as the fans were WAY into Roadkill and Doring. They would get the titles in about 14 months but ECW was long past dead by that point. They also had Lita as a manager for a cup of coffee so there aren't any complaints there. Fun match here that was very fast paced and got the people going though.

#### Yoshihiro Tajiri vs. Tommy Dreamer

Dreamer is in street clothes. Back from a break before the match and Dreamer hits a baseball slide to send Corino (manager) into Tajiri. Tajiri gets crotched on the barricade and takes the deadly Pepsi to the face. Back in the handspring elbow and the Buzzsaw kick give Tajiri a quick advantage but Dreamer comes back with a slingshot splash for two. Dreamer goes up for something like a moonsault I think but gets crotched and put in the Tree of Woe.

Tajiri misses his baseball slide and crotches himself so Tommy shows him how its done. Dreamer sets for a suplex to the floor through a table but Tajiri manages to superkick him down to the floor. Back inside Dreamer puts Tajiri in the Tarantula and doesn't look half bad at it. We go back to the floor and Tajiri is thrown into the crowd. It's your usual crowd brawl with both guys being thrown in the penalty box. Tajiri is busted.

They head to ringside and Tajiri steals a beer which he spits into Tajiri's face Mist style. In the ring Dreamer runs into a superkick but pulls off a Dre

amer Driver for two. Corino and Francine come in with the girl hitting a Pedigree on Corino. Raven comes in, DDTs Dreamer and lets Tajiri kick him in the head for the pin.

**Rating:** C-. The brawling was ok but at the same time, the same problem most ECW brawls had comes into play: why are these two having this big wild brawl? I'd assume it's over the tag titles but that's really just an educated guess. There's no real reason to have these two beat on each other so much so it's not something you can just jump into and be interested. Kind of a fun match but it was only there for the ending.

**Overall Rating:** C. Much like the Sci-Fi version, this show is finally starting to calm down and therefore it's gotten a lot more entertaining and watchable. There are stories being told throughout the show and they eventually (in theory) get paid off at the PPV. That's basic wrestling booking and if they can get that down, things will go way up as a result. Not a great show but it's a good sign.

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## **ECW on TNN – September 3, 1999: Two Out, One In**

### **ECW on TNN**

Date: September 3, 1999

Location: Lost Battalion Hall, New York City, New York

Attendance: 1000

Commentators: Joey Styles, Joel Gertner

This is the second episode and I honestly have no idea what's

going on at the moment. Apparently we're coming up on Anarchy Rulz which for some reason had the main event of RVD vs. Balls Mahoney but I don't think that was advertised before the show. You'll hear that a lot in these reviews: the matches aren't really planned. Let's get to it.

### ECW World Title: Taz vs. Yoshihiro Tajiri

Taz is world champion but would be gone very soon. He would be in the WWF in January. Tajiri has Corino and Victory with him in his corner. You can barely understand the announcer. I think this is non-title. Taz pounds on him to start but walks into the handspring elbow.

Tajiri kicks him in the head and this is for the title. Ok then. Tajiri tries the Tarantula but gets countered into what we would call the Alabama Slam. Head and arms Tazplex and Taz spits in Tajiri's face. They slug it out and Taz hooks a capture Tazplex to kill Tajiri. Taz hits the crossface shots but gets kicked in the head for two. Tajiri tries a big kick but Taz ducks and the Tazmission ends this quick.

**Rating:** C-. Nothing great here but the crowd LOVED Taz. That being said, he would lose the title at the PPV to Mike Awesome and would say goodbye to ECW. That's not good because the Dudleys would be leaving really soon also. Tajiri is a guy I've been liking more and more lately as those kicks were SWEET.

Theme song after the opening match which is something that was a trend of theirs.

Joey is in the ring to open the show. There's a TNN chant to start which sounds like they're saying TNA. Now they chant NYC. Joel Gertner comes out and declares himself the new cohost. His nickname tonight: Joel "I'm like the Rubik's Cube: the more you play with me, the harder I get" Gertner. Those were always hilarious.

They bring out Jerry Lynn who says that they're better than Raw and Nitro. Therefore, he should bring them the best match they can. He calls out RVD for a TV Title shot RIGHT NOW. Fonzie, RVD's manager, comes out and says no. Lynn goes after Fonzie so RVD comes out for the brawl.

Anarchy Rulz ad.

Someone has jumped from WCW to ECW. Find out who it was on the hotline! Or wait another 30 minutes because they show up at the end of the show!

Here are the Dudleyz who are here for their last night in the company. Before they can talk though we go to the announcers and are told next week it's RVD vs. Lynn.

House show ads.

#### ECW Tag Titles: Dudley Boys vs. Spike Dudley/Balls Mahoney

The Dudleys, on their last night in the promotion remember, are challenging here. Why would Heyman give them a shot if he knew they were jumping ship? No wonder they're not in business anymore. This is joined in progress after a break. The champs take over and clear the ring. Balls throws Spike over the top onto the Dudleys in a cool spot. Back in and Spike walks into a Bubba Bomb to take him down.

Now let's stop watching the match and see a replay of what we just saw. Spike is dropped over the barricade and is busted open. The Dudleys have threatened to win the titles and give them to the McMahons on Raw. Bubba sets for the back splash off the middle rope but Spike punches him in the balls. Bubba responds by superbombing him off the middle rope as we take a break.

Back with the champions hitting their finishers at the same time for two each. D-Von hits a reverse DDT on Balls while Spike is thrown over the top and through a table. Balls comes

back with chair shots for both guys. He brings in a table and covers it in tacks which isn't going to end well for him. According to the first law of wrestling, Balls goes through the table that he set up. They botch the ending as Spike misses the save he's supposed to make so the referee counts three but goes to count four. 3D to Spike gives them the titles a second later anyway.

**Rating:** D+. Match was a mess but the whole point of it is that the company has no idea what to do now because they've lost the titles and the Dudleys are headed out the door with them. Spike teamed with a lot of random people to fight his brothers and Balls was just another in the line of them.

More house show ads.

Rob Zombie likes ECW so we get a music video of his with ECW clips in it. This eats up like three minutes.

The Impact Players pose. Ok then. That's Justin Credible and Lance Storm.

Rollerjam ad. I LOVED that show for some reason.

The Dudleys are here again and after the hotline is plugged again, they say that here, boys become men and men become heroes. In the WWF, heroes become legends. Great line from Bubba: "If God was a heel, he'd be the Dudley Boys." He calls Stamford, Connecticut the true hot bed of hardcore wrestling. However, before they go there's one more thing they need to do.

They say they're going to ruin the company by taking out the heart and soul of the company. The fans chant for Sandman and the Dudleys say they'll give him 3D if he comes out. Instead they tell Dreamer to come out if he cares about this company at all. Dreamer has a very bad back at this point. Dreamer comes out but Heyman is stopping him from getting into the ring. Francine comes out and Bubba calls her a \$2 w\*\*\*\*. Joel:

“Joey can I borrow \$1.87?”

This is all being done over clips of the Dudleys and Dreamer's highlights. The Dudleys talk about the time they broke Dreamer's wife's neck which was the story they used when Beulah wanted to get out of wrestling. Bubba says the Dudleys used to come into her hospital room and double team her. Dreamer still won't come to the ring as the Dudleys taunt him. He finally snaps and it's on. Since it's ECW, we get a ref and a bell and the titles are on the line.

Tag Titles: Tommy Dreamer vs. Dudley Boys

Dreamer takes them down with a double Russian legsweep for two. Tommy finds some salad tongs and grabs D-Von's balls. Francine throws in a ladder which Tommy tettertotters into the Dudley's faces. Francine hits Sign Guy in the head with something to take him down. Bubba gets thrown into the ladder and D-Von gets thrown into Bubba, resulting in the falling headbutt ball shot to D-Von.

Bubba gets up and sends Dreamer into the ladder which kills him because of his back. The Dudleys destroy Tommy with belt shots and loads up 3D but Dreamer counters with a DDT. Cue the returning RAVEN who kills Bubba with the Even Flow and pins him to win the titles with Dreamer, his mortal enemy.

**Rating:** C. This is a really hard one to grade because all that mattered were the last 10 seconds of the match. A lot of it was Dreamer out cold while the Dudleys beat on him so it barely qualifies as a match. Anyway, this was the big return mentioned earlier and Raven got an eruption after finally returning from WCW. At WCW, there had been a meeting where Bischoff told the roster that if anyone wanted out to get up and leave now. Raven was the only one that walked out and he was in ECW in a week.

Raven celebrates in the crowd while Dreamer is stunned to end the show.



**Overall Rating:** C+. This show has a VERY different grading scale than the rest of the shows I do. For one thing, they had no idea what they were doing yet and their top champions were leaving in the span of two weeks. What exactly were they supposed to do in that situation? Anyway, this was about getting the Dudleys out with a bang and they certainly did that. Fun show, but they had a lot to learn, and to be fair the show got a lot better structured soon.

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# Hardcore Justice – This Actually Wasn't A Total Failure

## Hardcore Justice

Date: August 8, 2010

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Tazz, Mike Tenay

This is the second return to PPV for ECW as they try to squeeze the final drop of blood out of the stone that was ECW. I really am not looking forward to this as it was built around two matches and one of those was canceled. It's RVD vs. Sabu tonight which needs to stay under 8 minutes or so. Other than that we know a lot of names and that's about it. Let's get to it.

Tazz is here and says this is going to be EXTREME and that

this is going to be awesome no matter what people say. Yeah I'm sure.

### FBI vs. Kid Kash/Simon Diamond/Swinger

It's Tony, Tracy and Guido. Yeah because Kash was SO important to ECW. Sal is somehow even fatter if that's possible. Smothers looks AWFUL. It's Tony Luke now instead of Mamaluke. Guido looks about the same. The lights are all dark and there's this weird blue tint to it. Guido and Kash start us off. They point out that they can't say certain names or letters. WOW.

Simon is HUGE and even Tazz suggests different attire. He stops halfway through the match and cuts a promo to which he gets a LOUD Shut the F Up chant. He challenges them to a dance off. It's somehow worse than it sounds. The non-FBI team breaks it up but Sal crushes them. Kash does a big dive to do something. Keep in mind we're 20 minutes into this.

We get to a normal match now and it's not bad. Seriously, we would have had to pay 45 dollars for this. Mamaluke is getting destroyed here and Diamond does something close to Three Amigos. Guido hits the Kiss of Death (Killswitch) to end it.

**Rating:** D. Once this got going it wasn't bad but ten minutes of crap to get to the good stuff isn't how this is supposed to go. This didn't work at all for me though as three of these guys meant next to nothing at all in the original ECW. This was watchable I guess but the lighting and the other stuff just isn't doing it so far.

The announcers talk about Sabu being in the main event.

We have a Where Are They Now series tonight. That's not a good sign.

Tod Gordon says goodbye. He's fat.

Pitbull #1 says hi.

Blue Meanie is on a TNA PPV. Literally that's all they're saying.

They do their intros and then they come back. Pitbull says show them hardcore. Meanie says thank you. None of them are here or anything.

AJ liked ECW.

Love liked ECW but only saw the end.

Snow yells at Head for possibly causing legal issues with the show. Richards comes in and this is his night apparently. Nova (Simon Dean) shows up in his BWO apparel. He talks about getting the band back together and this is painful to watch. A fake Blue Meanie comes in and we're told that it doesn't matter if it's not really him. Good night.

Hey look it's a match.

### CW Anderson vs. 2 Cold Scorpio

You know, because these two have SUCH a history together. They keep calling it the original era because they can't say ECW, even though they do anyway. Oh this is wrestling. Just to be clear I guess. Amazingly enough, there's next to nothing to talk about here. Scorpio was great in his time, but he was old in 99 and he's very old now. This is kind of back and forth and really isn't bad for the most part. Spinebuster gets two and the Tumbleweed ends it.

**Rating:** C-. This was actually ok. They had a nice back and forth thing going here with a solid clash of styles going. I liked Anderson to an extent and I always liked Scorpio so this worked well for me. Somehow I have a feeling this is going to be the best match of the night. This wasn't bad at all though and has me in a better mood.

Madison liked ECW too.

Matt Morgan got to go to a bar where ECW guys came to. They have to call it the Philadelphia promotion. This is sad.

Anderson says ECW was doing other stuff.

RVD and Fonzie say they wish they had a chance to fight Lynn again. RVD wants a replacement and picks Sabu. Fonzie says he'll call it right down the middle.

### PJ Polaco vs. Stevie Richards

Richards has the BWO with them despite not being Big Stevie Cool here. The fans chant Polaco's name (Justin Credible which I'll be referring to him as) and then Stevie Richards. The fans want blood and an hour (almost) into it we haven't had any. Justin hits a jumping spinning DDT which was one of his signature moves back in the day at least.

The fake Meanie is one of the Phi Delta Slam guys if anyone remembers them. He's a security guard at times too. The matches here aren't completely awful but this comes off as so low rent that it just can't be taken seriously. And remember, this is TNA's PPV offering this month. It's not like the real PPV is next week or anything. This is it for August.

And That's Incredible ends...nothing as Nova jumps up. Stevie Kick ends this in something that would NEVER have happened in the original company. The lights go out and Sandman is here to no music at all. White Russian Leg Sweep and Justin is back up before like a second. Cane shots put him down again.

**Rating:** D+. Not too bad here but the booking was just bad. I know Justin is crap but he was world champion for five months in the old days while Stevie was billed as a clueless putz. This didn't work that well but it could have been FAR worse. Keep in mind that these grades are on an adjusted scale here as most of these would be fails or worse.

Francine and her daughter are at home. She looks bad. Like

really bad. She was hot back in the day and now this.

They pay tribute to the people that have died with a graphic and nothing more. No names, no faces, no anything.

#### Brother Runt vs. Al Snow vs. Rhyno

Runt is Spike Dudley of course and is nearly bald. This is elimination rules and better not break 8 minutes. Spike hits a dive that is ok after some basic stuff. He plays the role of the pinball of course and I still wonder what Snow has to do with this. Snow hits the trapping headbutts on Rhyno. TNA guys are watching in the back. Why they're here is beyond me because they're not wrestling.

Acid Drop to Rhyno is blocked and this needs to end fast. We're on the floor again and you actually can't see due to the lighting. The referee goes down and Head drills Rhyno. Spike does the Eddie chair thing by slamming the mat with it and throwing it to Rhyno. He and Snow do the same thing so they're all down. Oh my head hurts. Acid Drop ends Snow and then the Gore ends the whole thing.

**Rating:** D. I like Snow but this was just bad. There's a reason these guys retired: THEY AREN'T THAT GOOD ANYMORE. Rhyno is ok at best and he's the biggest star by far in this. At least he won I suppose, but this was just random with no point at all. Well at least it's over and wasn't that long.

Foley is reading Hogan's book and likes being the ref.

More guys talk about the company, including Sabin and Magnus.

#### Cajones/Axl Rotter vs. ???/???

Cajones is of course Balls Mahoney. He issues an open challenge and it's JOEL GERTNER. Ok this is at least an improvement. I think I smell Team 3D. Yep I'm right and they're in tie-dye. Thankfully Joel does a poem which is funny. He looks...bad. Like even worse than before. It's a South

Philadelphia Street Fight in Orlando according to Ray.

They go split screen here for the sake of torturing us even better. Ray shouts at him and calls him Balls because that's ok I guess. We go into the crowd for fun. This is "hardcore" I guess with mainly just punching and random shots with weak weapons. We bring in some more traditional weapons back in the ring. The announcers are of course cracking up over everything here instead of selling it like a hardcore match.

Frying pan to the head of Balls. And Mahoney breaks out a toy lightsaber. And so does Bubba. I hate this show. I truly do. Axl botches a reverse DDT on Bubba and Nutcracker Suite to D-Von gets two. The fans want flaming tables. They get a chair duel instead. The referee tries a double clothesline on the team that isn't the Dudleys. It fails, much like this match.

The Dudleys bring in a table and Gertner has lighter fluid. Balls goes through it, ending this mess.

**Rating:** D-. Flaming table is all that keeps this from failing. This whole show is a freaking joke and that's being kind.

Team 3D says they're the best in the world and cue The Gangstas. They beat the tar out of each other and then hug.

Raven talks about his past with Dreamer where they were kids together and Dreamer was a jock. Raven slept with a girl Tommy liked and then the girl left Raven for Dreamer. That was Beulah in case you don't know that somehow.

Jesse Neal liked the little that he saw of ECW.

Kaz wanted to be in ECW.

Joey Styles should be here but isn't. Everyone talks about him. This is so stupid. They make it sound like he's dead.

Raven vs. Tommy Dreamer

For no apparent reason, Foley is the referee. Beulah is here and is still hot. The fans chant Uncle Scotty to complete this joke. They do the drop toehold spot and Dreamer gets beaten up in front of his kids. Dreamer might be the first guy to bleed tonight. It's your usual stuff here with the beatdown that isn't that great but the history makes it watchable. Raven is busted.

The signs are brought in as is the ladder. They do some decent stuff with that for two for Raven. Dreamer Driver gets no cover. We finally get to the barbed wire which is wrapped around Raven's face. He taps but the BWO runs in to make sure it doesn't count. This needs a Sandman run-in. Down goes Foley for no apparent reason. Raven Effect gets two. Or is it the Even Flow? Whatever.

Foley and Socko, which they can't say, takes down Raven and that guy from earlier that we couldn't recognize in the Blue Meanie skit runs down with a top rope leg drop for Dreamer. Allegedly his name is Lupus? Mandible Claw with wire to Raven of course doesn't put him down and he cuffs Dreamer.

Beulah comes in to stop the Rock/Foley ending in the Last Man Standing match which doesn't work. Dreamer manages to DDT Raven while cuffed behind his back for two. Raven hits Dreamer in the knee with the chair and a DDT on it ends this. Yes, Dreamer jobbed to Raven in the final encounter. I am about to give up.

**Rating:** D. This started out as an ok brawl but just got insane. To be fair it was a pretty brutal match but the ending is just stupid. The problem is that this feud was perfectly finished in ECW and there was no need for this. Dreamer winning was the right way to go here so of course they didn't do that. Not a horrible match, but it's just showing how bad this idea was overall as this feud is one that didn't need to continue.

The Gangstas hit on So Cal Val and make racial jokes. Borash is New Jack's now.

We talk about Heyman and say stuff we've all heard before.

### Sabu vs. Rob Van Dam

It's 10:15 so hopefully we're out before half past the hour. Other than that this is going to go WAY too long. Fonzie is in a yellow jacket and RVD comes out first. The fans say this is classic. Sabu is bald. They start out with a feeling out process because they know each other so well. Sabu does his point to the sky and RVD does his pointing. It would be nice if they actually did something.

In an interesting thing Fonzie sends a chair in but does it right down the middle. We hit the crowd for a bit as the chanting is just idiotic. Sabu botches...something and then the camel clutch is on. The bald guy doesn't look half bad all things considered. With both guys down, Fonzie throws both of them a bottle of water. Both get tables as a result. Oh this isn't going to end well.

Van Dam hits some slingshot legdrops and Fonzie tries to revive Sabu. Sabu hits a rana to send RVD into a chair in the middle of the ring. It looked totally fake but not bad at the same time. Clutch is on again for like 2 seconds. Triple Jump Moonsault is blocked by Van Dam and Sabu is bleeding from somewhere. Van Assassin hits (the one footed dropkick into the chair while the guy is crotched) and Sabu to the floor.

Ok so that lasts like a second and we're back now. Morrison, watch an RVD match to see how you do the split legged moonsault, I beg of you. Rolling Thunder to the chair hits for two. Five Star ends it.

**Rating:** D+. While a mess, this is what it was supposed to be: a war. They beat each other up and it really isn't as bad as anyone is saying it is. It's bad, but this is what the match



was supposed to be. There was no way it was going to be a classic, but this really wasn't horrible. It held my attention for the most part and had some decent spots. For the ending to this show, this was bearable.

The locker room empties and we have a beer bash, which isn't like that other show at all. The crowd chants F YOU VINCE and Dixie gets in the ring. Bubba takes her on a victory lap to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** D-. Let's get the obvious out of the way first: this was bad. The wrestling was awful and there were really only two matches worth much at all. Luckily those were the two main matches and not the stuff no one remembers. This show is being called one of the worst of all time and from the view that this is the TNA offering this month, they're right. From the perspective of using your intelligence, that's not the case. Something that needs to be remembered here is the audience. This wasn't for the casual wrestling fan. This was for the ECW fan and those people likely loved this. While the wrestling was bad, the booking was smart for the TNA fans as they get their PPV for FREE on Thursday. This was a way to get money out of the people that likely wouldn't pay for a TNA show 90% of the time while still appeasing those that do. It's a brilliant strategy from that perspective, but for casual TNA fans this was dreadful.

Another thing to keep in mind is that this was supposed to be like an ECW show. As great and fun as it was, in retrospect One Night Stand was more like a WWE show than an ECW show. This show had the realism of ECW far more than ONS did. This had the bad comedy and the random interference and the bad wrestling and the random matches. This was FAR more like ECW than the show five years ago was. Now that being said I'd still watch ONS over this a million times, but like I said earlier I'm not the target audience in the slightest. This wasn't a good show, but it will likely be a successful one. It worked from that perspective and will be seen by ECW fans as a

success, which is the whole idea. Don't watch it or anything, but it's not as bad as it's made out to be, period.