

# Monday Night Raw – June 27, 2011 (2025 Edition): Boom

## Monday Night Raw

Date: June 27, 2011

Location: Thomas And Mack Center, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Jerry Lawler, Michael Cole

It's Raw Roulette and that means it is time for things to get a bit gimmicky. There are going to be a variety of special stipulations this week and there is a chance that most of them are going to be less than serious. Yeah I can't imagine that taking place around here either but let's get to it.

Opening sequence, featuring Burn It To The Ground by Nickelback. Eh I still like it.

We open with a look at Raw Roulette, which will be hosted by Booker T.

Here is Special Guest Star (not host, because that's a different thing) Shawn Michaels to get things going. Yes he promised to stay away, but he just couldn't help himself...and gosh darn it, he missed the people too much. Now everyone who hosts this show has something to plug but that's not his way. He's not someone to plug his new show, Macmillan River Adventures, but did you notice his Twitter on the screen?

Cue CM Punk with the Tag Team Champions the New Nexus to interrupt. Punk talks about how he's going to be leaving in July, just as WWE Champion. Michaels likes the idea of Punk leaving but Punk mocks Michaels for losing to Undertaker last year at Wrestlemania. Punk brags about being ready to beat John Cena, though Michaels says they're cheering him over Punk because they know he's better. Punk: "You were."

Punk thinks that sounds like a challenge but Michaels says they have nothing in common. Michaels: "I don't smoke, I don't drink, I don't do drugs." Punk: "Anymore." Michaels: "Fair enough." Then Michaels superkicks David Otunga but we get an email from the Anonymous Raw General Manager, with Punk getting the first match tonight. He wants it to be with Michaels but we get a spin of the wheel, which earns him a mystery opponent. Then Booker T. says it's Kane, which isn't much of a mystery. Michaels superkicks Michael McGillicutty and wishes Punk luck.

### CM Punk vs. Kane

Kane wastes no time in knocking him down and sending things outside, setting up a basement dropkick for two back inside. The side slam gets two but Punk manages a neck snap across the top rope for a needed breather. A kick to the head rocks Kane again and Punk gets to drive in some knees in the corner. Kane fights back and knocks Punk down again, which is enough for Punk to walk out at 3:39. As Cole points out, Punk shouldn't care as he's already the #1 contender, which does make sense.

**Rating:** C. This was more of an angle than a match and that's not a bad thing. As commentary pointed out, what does Punk have to gain by fighting Kane in a long match here when he has a huge match coming up in less than a month? It's not the best way to start out a night of gimmick matches as there wasn't much of a gimmick, but at least they did something logical. At least by wrestling standards.

We get an ad for WWE Poker. I won \$10 on there.

### Sin Cara vs. Evan Bourne

The bell rings and we get another spin of the wheel, as done by Eve Torres for fairly apparent reasons: No Countout. This isn't the best start, but at least the bell rings again rather than adding time for the spin. They

fight over wrist control to start and Cara wristdrags him out to the floor. A baseball slide misses and Bourne takes him down back inside.

Bourne gets sent outside again though and this time the dive connects. Cara's spinning sideslam is countered into a headscissors and they trade some rollups for two each back inside. A springboard corkscrew dive gives Cara two, with Bourne coming back with a standing moonsault for the same. Air Bourne misses though and Cara hits La Mistica for the pin at 4:52.

**Rating:** B-. It was a good, fast paced match with a bunch of dives, but the No Countout thing added pretty much nothing as they weren't even outside long enough for a countout. Cara is one of those incredible "what if" cases as he was a mega star before coming to WWE and then did it again after he left. It never clicked in WWE though and the weird yellow lighting wasn't helping anything.

Kofi Kingston gets to spin the wheel for his match against Dolph Ziggler, but here is Vickie Guerrero to spin instead. It's Player's Choice, with Kofi getting the pick. He'll go with Vickie being banned from ringside, as this isn't the most thrilling selection of matches so far.

#### Kofi Kingston vs. Dolph Ziggler

Ziggler's US Title isn't on the line. Vickie handles Ziggler's introduction and this was during his short hair phase, which really did not work in the slightest. Kingston knocks him to the floor to start and then does it again, this time for a slam on the outside. Ziggler gets in a posting though and we take an early break. Back with Kingston fighting out of a chinlock but missing a Stinger Splash, allowing Ziggler to hit a Fameasser for two. Kingston fights up again and hits a quick Trouble In Paradise for the pin at 7:55.

**Rating:** C+. These two fought roughly 183,485 times over the

years and this was just another in their endless series. As usual, a reigning champion loses clean, though in this case it likely sets up another title match between the two of them. Also as usual, the stipulation meant pretty much nothing here, as Vickie just left instead of being there to cheat for Ziggler. It gives the idea that Kingston can beat Ziggler clean, but they could have had a better stipulation than this.

Booker, with Maryse, recaps the night when Alberto Del Rio comes in to complain about having to face Big Show again. Del Rio hits on Maryse, who spins the wheel for him and gets a cage match, which ends the flirting.

#### Alberto Del Rio vs. Big Show

In a cage. Del Rio tries to escape to start and gets chopped down just as fast. Some kicks to Show's bad knee give Del Rio two and he cranks on said knee in a smart move. Cue Mark Henry (feuding with Show) to watch from ringside but Show catches Del Rio going up for a superplex. Then Henry pulls the cage door off and throws it inside, with Del Rio escaping at 5:18.

**Rating:** C-. This didn't have time to do much but again the point was advancing the story rather than anything about the match itself. Del Rio escaped rather than win here, which doesn't make for the best match. Show vs. Henry will be a good battle of the monsters when we get there, though it didn't exactly make for the best use of something like a cage.

Post match Henry hits Show with the door, knocking him through the wall for a huge crash. That always looks cool and was another step in Henry's path to the World Title in a few months.

Cole and Lawler recap the Show vs. Henry feud, which seems like something that would have been better suited before the whole thing started.

### Kelly Kelly vs. Nikki Bella

Kelly's Divas Title (which she won from Brie Bella last week) isn't on the line. The wheel makes this...a submission match, with Brie at ringside. That's quite the choice. The submission deal, though Brie is quite the choice as well. Nikki takes her down by the arm to start and grabs a Fujiwara armbar of all things. Kelly reverses that into a Boston crab and Nikki taps at 1:13.

Post match Brie jumps Kelly but Eve Torres makes the save.

We look at Andy Leavine winning Tough Enough. He never went anywhere at all in WWE.

Rey Mysterio gets a tornado tag match but here is Diamond Dallas Page to come in and plug the new Monday Nitro DVD. A rather young looking Drew McIntyre comes in to say the two of them need to leave in ten minutes or else. Then Shawn Michaels superkicks McIntyre and talks about everything the DVD...which he has never seen.

### The Miz/Jack Swagger vs. Alex Riley/Rey Mysterio

Tornado Tag. Swagger takes over on Mysterio to start and hits a quick backbreaker as Miz kicks Riley down on the floor. The Vader Bomb gets two on Mysterio but Riley sends Swagger outside for a seated senton from the apron. Mysterio gets sent into the post but Riley fights back on both of them. That's broken up and a gorilla press gutbuster gets two on Mysterio.

Back up and Riley backdrops Swagger out to the floor, leaving Mysterio to kick Miz in the head for two. Swagger breaks up the 619 though, leaving Riley to get double teamed. Riley manages a Cactus Clothesline to take Miz outside and breaks up the ankle lock on Mysterio. That means a 619 into Riley's implant DDT into Mysterio's top rope splash for the pin at 11:58.

**Rating:** B-. It was nice to see a match get some time here

with the stipulation actually having an impact. That really hasn't been the case on the whole show and it helped out quite a bit here. Riley is one of those cases where he could have been a bigger deal but it just never came together for one reason or another, which is quite the shame.

R-Truth talks to Little Jimmy and gets a tables match with John Cena. Booker leaves out of fear.

### John Cena vs. R-Truth

Cena's Raw World Title isn't on the line and R-Truth doesn't have any music as he's rather crazy (work with me here) at the moment. R-Truth hammers away to start and actually takes over in the corner but Cena fights back with a release fisherman's suplex. Back up and Cena gets sent through the ropes for a crash, allowing R-Truth to crank away on both arms.

A dropkick puts R-Truth down but he slips out of the AA and hits his suplex Stunner. That means it's time to put a table in the corner, only for Cena to get in a suplex for a breather. They go to the floor with R-Truth being sent into the steps so Cena can get another table. Cue CM Punk to move the table though, allowing R-Truth to spear Cena through another table for the win at 5:12.

**Rating:** C. Cena really doesn't have the best luck in tables matches, which is kind of the point of the thing. They let him lose a match without taking a pin or giving up and that's the entire point. Punk cost him a win here and that helps set up their title match at Money In The Bank, though the match is going to need a bit more than that.

With that out of the way, R-Truth leaves and Punk, who is wearing a Stone Cold Steve Austin shirt, grabs the microphone and sits down on the stage. Punk says that he hopes Cena is as uncomfortable as possible but before he leaves in three weeks with the WWE Title, he has a lot to

get off his chest. He doesn't hate Cena nearly as much as he hates some of the people backstage, but he hates this idea that Cena is the best in the world.

The reality is that Cena is the best in the world at kissing Vince McMahon's a\*\*. Cena might be as good at it as Hulk Hogan but maybe not as good as Dwayne. Punk: "Oops, I'm breaking the fourth wall." Punk talks about being the best in the world since he got here, because Paul Heyman saw something in him. Punk: "Yeah I'm a Paul Heyman guy." So was Brock Lesnar and Punk is leaving just like Lesnar, but Punk is doing it as WWE Champion.

Punk has grabbed so many imaginary brass rings that he has finally realized they are just that: imaginary. In six years, he has realized that the only thing that is real is him and he is the best around, but he isn't on the cups or on the programs or on some bad USA Network show. He should be on Conan O'Brien or Jimmy Fallon but the fact that the Rock is in the main event of Wrestlemania next year makes him sick.

Those of you cheering him right now are a big part of the reason he's leaving, because they're buying all that stuff that he isn't on, then they want him to sign it at the airport so they can sell it on eBay. He'll win the WWE Title and maybe he'll defend it in New Japan or go to Ring Of Honor. Punk: "Hey Colt Cabana, how you doing?"

Punk talks about how Vince McMahon is a millionaire rather than a billionaire because of people like John Laurinaitis. Maybe it will be better when Vince is dead, but his stupid daughter and his doofus son-in-law. Punk goes to tell us a personal story about Vince and bullying...but his mic cuts out. Punk yells at the camera to end the show.

I've been thinking about this one for a bit now that it's over and I'm not sure where to start. In the nearly fourteen years since this took place, the promo has taken

on a life of its own and turned Punk from a star into a Star in just a few minutes. Actually that's one of the things that might stand out the most: this whole thing was just over six minutes long. In the days of the monologue style promos and seemingly endless exchanges between top names, seeing something have this kind of an impact in such a short time is remarkable.

Is it really that great of a promo? Kind of, but a lot of that is due to the way Punk was saying it. This felt like he meant every single word that he was saying and it made the fans hang on every word he was saying. Punk was talking about some fairly inside baseball things here and it was going in a direction that you don't often see with wrestling. I'm not sure how great it was from a quality standpoint, but it certainly got and kept the fans' attention.

With that being said, this is one of the most legendary promos in the history of WWE, and wrestling as a whole, for a reason. It was the suggestion that something was going to be changing, as you did not see anyone call out a bunch of these beyond the fourth wall issues. Punk got to open up and show that he's one of the best talkers of all time, which had been kind of known before this, albeit not to this extent. It had people talking and while that only led to so much of a financial impact on the title match with Cena, Punk has lived off of this for a LONG time, despite him not even having the microphone for that long.

**Overall Rating:** D+. Well thank goodness Punk cut one of the most famous promos of all time and stole the night because this show was HORRIBLE otherwise. The rest of this show was a bunch of gimmicks for the sake of adding something to matches which didn't make anything better. There is nothing to see here (save for the last seven minutes or so) and my goodness it is quite the mess, which is partially why Punk's promo meant so much. Fans were wanting something, or



really ANYTHING else and Punk was seemingly offering that. It only kind of worked, but wow what a start he really had with this all timer.

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# Monday Night Raw – January 7, 2008: Spin The Wheel, Steal The Show

## Monday Night Raw

Date: January 7, 2008

Location: Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville, Connecticut

Attendance: 7,000

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

It's the first Raw of the new year and we're starting big with Raw Roulette. The show will basically be a bunch of Spin The Wheel Make The Deal matches and that should make for some interesting options. I say should because it probably won't, but at least they're doing something. Oh and there will be a lot about Ric Flair, because we need to do that as often as possible. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of last week's main event with William Regal costing HHH a spot in the Royal Rumble, but Ric Flair's career was saved again.

William Regal is in Vince McMahon's office and tells him that the fans are expecting something big from Raw Roulette on the first Raw of the year. Vince goes over some of the options and you can hear the salesman in him, which is where he tends to shine. As for HHH, Vince wants to see him injured so Regal can face him tonight. We spin the wheel and it's....First Blood. Regal seems to approve and leaves, only to get jumped by an angry HHH.

Opening sequence.

Here are Shawn Michaels and Mr. Kennedy and the wheel gives them....a Strange Bedfellows match, meaning they're going to be partners!

Shawn Michaels/Mr. Kennedy vs. Charlie Haas/Trevor Murdoch

We're joined in progress with Kennedy dropping Haas for two but Shawn tags himself in and throws Kennedy outside. Then Haas goes to the floor as well, puts on a superhero mask, declares IT'S TIME, and gets slingshotted back inside. Murdoch gets in a cheap shot from the apron though and a clothesline gives him two.

Haas comes back in but gets dropped, only to have Kennedy bail to the floor to avoid a tag. Shawn doesn't seem to mind and rips Haas' mask off before starting the comeback. Sweet Chin Music knocks Murdoch off the apron but Kennedy tags himself in, just before Shawn superkicks Haas as well. The Mic Check drops Shawn and Kennedy pins Haas.

**Rating:** C. Haas and Murdoch were little more than props here and that isn't the worst idea. What mattered here was keeping Michaels vs. Kennedy going and it wouldn't surprise me to see them have their big blowoff at the Rumble. The wrestling wasn't the point here and in this case that's ok.

Carlito vs. Hardcore Holly

Trading Places match, meaning they're dressed as each other, but we don't even get to see the spin of the wheel,

which is the best part of the show. Santino Marella and Cody Rhodes are here too, but hang on as Holly has trouble with his big afro. It doesn't stay on long but Carlito uses the distraction to stomp away and take over. Carlito hits a chop in the corner but Holly shows him how it's really done to start the comeback. There's the dropkick so Santino offers a distraction. Since it's Santino, that doesn't exactly go well as Holly intercepts the apple and spits it in Carlito's face. The Alabama Slam finishes for Holly.

**Rating:** C-. This was mainly there for the visual gag of Holly in a wig so there was no need to have the match get any kind of time. There isn't much to the tag division at the moment but would Carlito/Marella be huge underdogs against Holly and Rhodes? Carlito in a blond wig was a bit confusing as he did look like Holly, so they got half of the visual quite right.

Maria spins the wheel for her match and it lands on submission match, but Vince McMahon changes it to a lingerie pillow fight. For some reason, Vince feels the need to explain the concept. This results in Maria making a joke about having natural pillows.

Video on Randy Orton vs. Jeff Hardy, including Orton kicking an injured Matt Hardy last week.

Jeff Hardy promises to take Randy Orton out.

Vince McMahon has Hornswoggle spin the wheel and gives him a talk about....I have no idea as the audio is all screwed up, with JR apologizing for the issues.

Post break we see a repaired version of the video, which saw Vince put Hornswoggle in the Royal Rumble, but first he has to qualify. It's a Mr. McMahon's Choice match, so we'll have a tag match with Hornswoggle getting to pick his partner, with the winning team qualifying. Finlay isn't here, but Hornswoggle seems confident.

### Maria vs. Jillian Hall vs. Mickie James vs. Melina

Lingerie pillow fight, meaning there is a bed with a bunch of pillows on it provided. Lawler: "Why do all of these Divas have all of this great looking lingerie with them every week?" Hold on though as we have a surprise bonus.

### Maria vs. Jillian Hall vs. Mickie James vs. Melina vs. Ashley

Jillian and Melina try to hide under the bedspread and get beaten up with the pillows. Maria gives Jillian a Bronco Buster and Mickie tries to powerbomb Melina onto the bed. We get some "vicious" pillow attacks and Jillian is tossed into Melina. Ashley drops an elbow for the pin.

**Rating:** D-. It's a good example of a match where the concept is obvious but it's just so dumb that the charm was lost. Everyone is just oh so happy to be out there with their friends and it comes off as so stupid. There is enough talent in there to get over without this stuff and it's annoying to have to see.

Super Crazy turns down Hornswoggle's offer to team up but Hornswoggle sees someone else off camera who gets his attention.

### HHH vs. William Regal

First blood. HHH wastes no time in taking the brawl to the floor but misses a toss with the steps. Regal posts him head first and they head back inside where a turnbuckle pad is taken off. Right hands and a knee drop stay on the face but HHH is back with a facebuster. A kick to the head drops HHH again and the fans are all over Regal. The brass knuckles shot is broken up with a spinebuster, allowing HHH to unload with right hands to bust Regal open for the win.

**Rating:** C. This was short and to the point but mainly just made me want to see these two have a regular match. You can't do much in a five minute First Blood match but HHH

pounding on Regal's face until it was busted open was quite the visual. Regal is a good lackey who can fight and he wasn't squashed here, but a First Blood match needs more time than this.

Post match HHH hits a Pedigree.

Video on Jeff Hardy vs. Randy Orton.

Santino Marella turns Hornswoggle down too because he doesn't want Vince mad at him and small people freak him out. Hornswoggle is dejected.

We recap JBL vs. Chris Jericho, which stems from Jericho being annoyed at getting bumped into. Then they yelled at and punched each other a lot.

Chris Jericho comes to the ring and finds out that he is in a handicap match.

Chris Jericho vs. Snitsky/John Bradshaw Layfield

Snitsky hammers away in the corner to start but gets caught with the running forearm. Some stomping has Jericho in more trouble but he's back up with the triangle dropkick to the floor. The brawl with JBL is on outside, at least until JBL hits him with the bell for the fast DQ.

Post match the beatdown continues, with JBL pounding away and choking with a microphone cable. JBL even drags him up the aisle by the cord to make things extra violent.

Royal Rumble Qualifying Match: Highlanders vs. Hornswoggle/BH Jordan

Jordan is a rather skinny guy but hang on as someone comes out to take his place.

Royal Rumble Qualifying Match: Highlanders vs. Hornswoggle/Mick Foley

Foley hammers away at Robbie to start and it's off to Hornswoggle for a running kick to the face. Rory comes in for a faceplant but a slide through the legs allows the tag

off to Foley. The Highlanders actually take him into the corner to start up the double teaming. Foley fights him off like he's Mick Foley beating up the Highlanders, including the Mandible Sock to Rory and a double arm DDT to Robbie. Hornswoggle comes in with the tadpole splash for the pin.

**Rating:** C-. Nothing wrong with Foley coming in to save Hornswoggle from a low level team. Foley in the Rumble in the Garden will be nice and Hornswoggle has been featured far too much lately to not be around in some way. They kept it quick here and the fans were into Foley so it went well enough. That being said, egads the Highlanders fell fast, despite not even being that high up in the first place.

The cage is lowered, as the stipulation was already set.

#### Jeff Hardy vs. Umaga

Non-title in a cage and Randy Orton is watching from ringside. Umaga runs him over to start but misses a sitdown splash. A jawbreaker staggers Umaga and he misses a charge into the cage in the corner. Back up and Umaga launches him into the cage but Hardy hangs on in an impressive counter. It's too early to go over the top though as Umaga pulls him back down for a crash as we take a break.

We come back with Umaga working on a nerve hold for a good while. A backdrop into the cage rocks Hardy again and Umaga splashes him up against the cage for a bonus. Hardy manages a few right hands so Orton throws in a bunch of chairs to give Umaga weaponry. A chair to the back has Hardy in trouble but he's fine enough to crotch a climbing Umaga on top. Springboard Poetry In Motion drives Umaga into the corner but the Twist of Fate is easily blocked.

The running hip attack misses though and Hardy LAUNCHES a chair at Umaga's head to stagger him again. A DDT onto a chair gives Hardy two but Orton slams the door on his head to cut off the escape. The Samoan Spike is blocked though and now the Twist of Fate connects. Hardy goes up, sees

Orton waiting on him below, and dives off the cage with a Whisper In The Wind to knock Umaga silly for the pin.

**Rating:** B. That's almost all for the finish as otherwise it was a run of the mill cage match with some good spots. What mattered here was Hardy coming off like a superhero with that Whisper in the Wind and Orton looking scared of what is waiting on him at the Rumble. I remember watching this live and being completely sold on Hardy beating Orton. It had me needing to see the title match because I knew Hardy could win. That's a nice feeling to have and it worked to perfection here.

**Overall Rating:** C. The main event is more than enough to carry the show, but the Raw Roulette stuff was only so good. They didn't even show some of the spins and the matches didn't exactly blow anyone away. What matters here is Hardy, as Orton is starting to realize he could be in trouble and that feels different for him. I liked parts of the show, but the Rumble itself needs some more build. More on that next week, but for now, it's all about Hardy and that's really cool to see.

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# Monday Night Raw – October 7, 2002: Gimmicks Gone Wild

## Monday Night Raw

Date: October 7, 2002

Location: Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

We're in Las Vegas for a special show as WWE continues to fight (in vein) against Monday Night Football. This week it's Raw Roulette, meaning every match is Spin the Wheel, Make the deal. I was always a fan of that gimmick back in WCW but having a full show built around it could be a mess. Let's get to it.

Quick video on Raw Roulette which basically says "tonight is Raw Roulette". Thanks for that one.

Eric Bischoff is in the back with some showgirls and explains the concept: a spin of the wheel determines the gimmick for every match tonight. First up: a steel cage match.

Opening sequence.

### Booker T. vs. Big Show

In a cage of course. There's a weird buzzing sound coming through commentary so I have another annoying sound to deal with aside from JR and King try to explain why this match is happening. Show tosses him into the cage and hits a hard clothesline before throwing Booker into the corner again.

The very slow beating continues as this is going nowhere. Booker slugs away a bit so Show kicks him in the face for his efforts. A side kick knocks Big Show into the cage and a top rope scissors kick (cool move) knocks him silly. Somehow that's not enough to finish it either as Booker has to low blow Big Show off the top before escaping for the win.

**Rating:** D-. For a regular match it was boring but for a cage match it was a disaster. This is a good example of what's going to be



going wrong all night: these gimmicks aren't adding anything to the matches but we're getting them for the sake of trying to fight off football. Really boring stuff here as Show does little more than throwing Booker into things and that's not enough to fill in eight minutes.

Chris Jericho runs in and lays Booker out, even drawing some blood.

Kane and the Hurricane get to defend the Tag Team Titles in....a TLC match. Bischoff: "Tables, ladders and chairs." Hurricane: "Holy Mick Foley!"

Jericho is tired of being overlooked and wants some respect.

HHH gets a blindfold match and thinks it should be against one of the showgirls. Flair calms HHH down and introduces Bischoff to his own personal lesbians. William Regal comes in to say this is ridiculous so the wheel gives him a Las Vegas Showgirl against Goldust. As in they have to dress like showgirls. We're really going the drag route?

Batista is coming to Raw. Anything that gets him away from D-Von is great, but what about the contracts being frozen a few weeks ago?

#### HHH vs. D'Lo Brown

Non-title and they're both blindfolded. They slowly walk past each other before the miss right hands. HHH talks smack to a turnbuckle and Brown hits a lucky right hand. Of course he grabs the referee because he thinks HHH wrestles in a shirt. Some right hands have Brown in trouble but he backdrops his way out of a Pedigree. There's the Sky High but HHH rolls over to the ropes. A Flair distraction lets HHH cheat and hit the Pedigree for the pin. What a waste of time and the WORLD CHAMPION.

Christian, Bubba Ray Dudley and Jeff Hardy are in Bischoff's office where he says no one knows more about TLC matches than they do. All three of them can pick their own partners for tonight's title match and Bubba stares Eric down. Goldust comes in in his showgirl attire and seems right in his element.

Quick sidebar. The Raw tag division is a wreck, Smackdown is having to put together any two people they can to do a tournament and these three are all split from their respective partners. Edge is doing wonders on his own and Matt is doing pretty well (albeit as a goon in the Undertaker vs. Lesnar feud) but D-Von is a disaster. Can

anyone give me one good reason why the Dudleyz weren't back together two months ago? And maybe the Hardyz too? Anyway, Goldust pops up in his showgirl attire.

#### Goldust vs. William Regal

They're both dressed as showgirls and of course Regal goes WAY too far with it to great comedic effect. It's a good thing they had showgirl outfits in mens professional wrestlers' sizes. Goldust takes over and tries the Shattered Dreams but Lance storm offers a distraction. Regal pulls the knucks from his bra (just go with it) and knocks Goldust cold for the pin in less than a minute.

Christian isn't going to pick any of the Un-Americans to be his partner because he'd like to win. Instead he'll have Chris Jericho as his partner.

Stacy Keibler vs. Trish Stratus for the Women's Title gets two spins: paddle on a pole and bra and panties. The first to strip their opponent wins and then gets to spank the loser.

Bubba picks Tommy Dreamer as his partner tonight but sees Spike being upset. Spike has watched Bubba and D-Von for years and wanted to be there one day. Bubba changes partners and Spike smiles (Dreamer is fine with this).

#### Women's Title: Stacy Keibler vs. Trish Stratus

Trish is defending and this is a bra and panties match. Stacy jumps her from behind and sends Trish face first into the title. They both lose their tops until Trish reverses a rollup and gets Stacy's shorts off for the win. Normal situation here: great visuals, horrible non-wrestling.

Victoria comes out and destroys Trish post match.

Jeff Hardy picks Rob Van Dam as his partner.

Victoria wants the Women's Title and suggests that Trish has done some horrible things in her past,

<http://onhealthy.net/product-category/allergy/> including things that hurt Victoria personally.

#### Al Snow vs. Test

Las Vegas Street Fight, meaning they've found a new way to put hardcore back on TV. The weapons are pulled out and Snow starts swinging plastic dice. Test knocks him out of the air with a

trashcan lid but gets suplexed onto the full can. A trashcan lid shot to the head staggers Test again and Snow grabs a bowling ball. Test gets up but slips on a trashcan lid (unintentionally) and gets hit in the head with the ball for the pin.

**Rating:** D. Remember when they got rid of the hardcore division because it was the same stupid stuff over and over? That's exactly what the case was here as there was nothing we hadn't seen before. Snow was one of the more entertaining hardcore guys but they got rid of this nonsense for a reason.

#### Jerry Lawler vs. Steven Richards

It's Legal in Nevada match, meaning here come the Godfather and his ladies. The winner here gets to take a ride on the train so I think you know where this is going. Richards jumps Jerry from behind and gets two off a suplex. Lawler gets his feet up to block a middle rope fist drop though and the strap comes down. Jerry hits the dropkick and fist drop for two. Back up and Richards tries a sunset flip but Lawler drops down for the pin.

Lawler is very, very happy.

Randy Orton video. Bob Orton: "In ten years, I see Randy being one of the best of all time." He's not wrong.

Kane is all fired up to become a triple champion at No Mercy. Coach comes up to tell him that Flair and HHH are beating up Hurricane so Kane runs off for the late save.

#### Tag Team Titles: Rob Van Dam/Jeff Hardy vs. Dudley Boyz vs. Chris Jericho/Christian vs. Kane/Hurricane

TLC with Kane defending on his own as Hurricane is still down in the back. It's a huge brawl to start with Jericho throwing in an early ladder as people pair off. Christian and Jericho are easily shoved off said ladder though and everyone else heads outside. Jeff dives off the barricade to take Kane down and it's Christian and Jericho putting the ladder on the turnbuckle.

Spike goes into the ladder but heel miscommunication puts Christian down. Kane comes back in with the top rope clothesline and chokeslams Bubba for good measure. There's a ladder up in the ring as Kane throws Spike over the top and onto Van Dam. The Canadians knock Kane to the floor and put him on a table so Jeff can hit a legdrop off a ladder. Christian gets powerbombed off the ladder and

we take a break.

Back with Bubba and Jericho slugging it out on top of the ladder as it's clear that Kane is the only one tall enough to reach the belts at that height. Jericho bulldogs Bubba off the ladder and Christian gives Van Dam a reverse DDT off another one. This match is still all over the place and doesn't feel like there's any teamwork or anything other than a bunch of people doing a bunch of spots.

With everyone down, the fans want tables. Christian goes up but gets crotched on the top by Kane, followed by a powerslam to Jeff. Bubba plays Matt for some Poetry in Motion to Kane and there's the Van Terminator to knock him even sillier. Jeff goes up so Bubba superplexes him right back down and everyone is done. In an interesting note, we see a replay of the superplex and the original commentary is still there. You don't hear that too often.

Now it's Jericho going up with Spike shoving the ladder over, sending Jericho out to the floor in a scary looking crash. Christian throws Spike through a table as this just keeps going. The Five Star hits Christian and Jeff misses a Swanton before being backdropped through a table. Kane comes back in and chokeslams Jericho off a ladder before pulling down the titles for the win.

**Rating:** B-. This was entertaining but WAY too long at over twenty five minutes, the fourth longest of all time and the longest team version ever. Above that though, there was no flow or psychology to the match. With the more famous one, you could tell that the matches were laid out with far more precision, which made for a better match. This one was all over the place with everyone hitting random spots and popping back up for the next one. It's entertaining but nothing I'll remember watching in a day or two.

Post match here are HHH and Flair to mention the name....here we go....Katie Vick, who Kane killed ten years ago. HHH calls Kane a murderer to end the show as the audience doesn't seem too thrilled.

**Overall Rating:** D-. The second best match of the night was Stevie Richards vs. Jerry Lawler in a match to leave with a bunch of random women. This was ALL about gimmick overload and proof that there's no benefit from just throwing gimmicks out there for the sake of having them without the stories behind them. The wrestling barely existed and a main event that wasn't all that great was nowhere near enough to save it, especially with the big angle to end the show. Terrible

show here as they're looking more and more desperate every week.

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# Monday Night Raw – January 28, 2013: Paul Heyman Lies A Lot, Raw Roulette Sucks and LESNAR!

## Monday Night Raw

Date: January 28, 2013

Location: Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler, John Bradshaw Layfield

The Rumble is over now and the big stories are Rock winning the title and Cena winning the Rumble, likely setting up a title rematch that I don't think many people are interested in seeing. Tonight is also Raw Roulette which is a gimmick that this show flat out doesn't need. We should be getting ready for Wrestlemania but instead we get a night of gimmick matches and lame jokes instead. Let's get to it.

We open with Vickie who has three roulette wheels behind her. One

has superstars, one has stipulations and one has a bunch of HILARIOUS gimmicks on it. First up is Cesaro vs. Orton which gets a special referee.

Here are Punk and Heyman to the ring and they are TICKED. Punk says this is day 435 and he goes on a RANT about how he's still champion and that he didn't lose. Ropes are kicked and tiny pieces of hair follicles are probably pulled out. Punk says Rock couldn't beat him without anyone's help and that makes the fans cheaters. Vince and Rock are swindlers and Punk is going to crash Rock's party tonight.

This brings out Vince who has this big goofy grin on his face. Punk calls him every insulting name he can think of but Vince says that he has proof that Heyman was behind the Shield attacks. Heyman: "Sir if I may..." Vince: "YOU MAY NOT!" Vince says he'll be evaluating Heyman later tonight which might result in his firing. This was a pretty fast ending.

#### Randy Orton vs. Antonio Cesaro

The guest referee is the Miz, which I said before his music hit. This was obvious because Cesaro pinned Miz clean last night, meaning the feud must continue. Anyway this is joined in progress after a break with Orton getting two off something we didn't see. Cesaro pounds away in the corner but gets clotheslined down again. A suplex gets two for Orton and we head to the floor where Cesaro's back is sent into the barricade.

Back in and Orton slingshots Antonio's throat into the ropes for two. Miz has done nothing of note so far. They trade European uppercuts with Cesaro taking over. Orton comes right back with a BIG backdrop to send Cesaro to the floor as we take another break. Back with Cesaro guillotining Orton on the top rope and heading to the floor for a bit. Back in and there's a cravate for a bit before Randy charges into a falcon's arrow for two.

Off to a chinlock but Orton fights out of it with his usual stuff including the powerslam. Cesaro comes back with a jumping back elbow

off the middle rope (looked great) for two. He argues with Miz, allowing Orton to hit the backbreaker. Cesaro pokes Orton in the eye and gets in an argument with Miz, allowing Orton to hit the RK0 for the pin at 12:45 shown.

**Rating:** C+. This was decent stuff but we were just waiting on Miz to do something. Like I said though there is no reason for Miz to be involved in this feud anymore. The guy lost clean in the title match last night so why should they still be interacting? The face turn continues to falter and Orton's heel turn continues to not seem to be anytime soon.

Miz hits Cesaro with the Finale and looks at the Mania sign.

The next spin is by Ryback and he gets to make Vickie laugh. He starts by snorting at her and walking away.

Here's Ryback to the ring and after a break we see Andre Agassi and Stefi Graf in the audience. The Prime Time Players, Ryback and Matt Striker are in the ring. Apparently this is a joke off. The Players make a joke about Striker's luck with women that isn't funny and didn't make a lot of sense. Ryback asks what has four eyes, twenty fingers, and is about to be unconscious. The beating begins and Young runs away. Striker declares Ryback the winner and gets Shell Shocked too.

Backlund HOF video again.

Wade Barrett gets to pick his opponent tonight.

#### Wade Barrett vs. Bo Dallas

Dallas eliminated Barrett from the Rumble last and is the rookie from NXT. They fight in the corner a bit but Barrett hits his kick to the ribs to take over. Barrett loads up the Bull Hammer but charges into a belly to belly suplex for the shocking pin at 2:12. There's Barrett's first real feud as champion.

Cody Rhodes spins John Cena which is up next.

We hear about Cena being on Fruity Pebbles boxes, replacing Fred Flintstone. As stupid as it sounds, that's a pretty big deal.

### Cody Rhodes vs. John Cena

Cena starts fast with a dropkick and a fisherman's suplex to send Rhodes to the floor. Cody says this is a waste of his talents and walks away, only for Cena to throw him right back in. The usual finishes for Cena at 1:56.

Cena talks about how some people don't seem thrilled that he won. There were 30 people in the match last night but he's the guy that won. Throwing Ryback out to win is the first step towards Wrestlemania, where he can face a champion of his choosing. Cena says this is a difficult step, but first let's pause to tell Cena he sucks. Apparently it's going to be either Rock or Punk for some reason. I didn't hear talk of a rematch. Cena says that he can face Punk again but he's come up short in six tries to win the title. But I thought Cena never lost anything.

On the other hand is the Rock. Cena talks about talking down about Rock even before Rock returned so that when Rock showed up again, there would be only one possible candidate. Then Cena spent a year feuding with Rock and there were times Cena showed him up completely. Everything was perfect until April 1 when he lost everything he had spent a year doing.

Cena says Rock won and there's the chant for the champion. He asks which one he should challenge: the guy he has even money to beat or one of the two guys he seemingly never could beat. Cena makes his decision right now: the WWE Champion, whoever that is at Mania. That smells like a three way to me.

Before Cena can leave, cue the Shield to surround the ring. The beating is on, which basically kills the Cena leads the Shield rumors. Sheamus tries to make the save but here's Ryback for the real save. Six man tag at Elimination Chamber maybe? Either way a big brawl breaks out with Sheamus being posted. Cena tries to fight



them off again but gets beaten down. The TripleBomb leaves Cena laying.

Brodus and Tensai are going to have a lingerie pillow fight but Tensai says no way. They spin the other wheel and it's a dance off but Tensai didn't see it. COMEDY is coming people!

We see everything WWE did in Phoenix this week.

Time for the dance off but Tensai first takes off a robe to reveal women's lingerie. Brodus has a heart attack. It's time for the dance off with Brodus going first. Tensai doesn't want to dance but Lawler says what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. Tensai does some very awkward stuff including Gangam Style and some other outdated stuff. The guy that got to beat Punk and Cena last year everybody. Ron Simmons pops up for his one word. JBL: "I know that guy."

Del Rio gets a body slam challenge with Big Show.

It's time for the body slam challenge but Big Show knocks Del Rio out. He tapes the champion up to the rope and destroys Ricardo while Alberto has to watch. This goes on for awhile and is rather awesome with Del Rio being tortured mentally while Ricardo got the physical part. Also the revenge will be SWEET.

#### Kaitlyn vs. Tamina

This is a showgirl lumberjill match. The girls are in showgirl outfits which look good but the lumberjill stuff is played already. This is non-title too. Tamina takes over to start and takes Kaitlyn down with a chinlock. Kaitlyn is thrown to the floor and beats up I think Aksana in the process. Tamina gets hit by a headdress and Kaitlyn goes after her with some decent aggression. That goes out the window as she puts the hat on Kaitlyn but the girls all come in for the no contest at 2:58. Nothing to see here.

Here's Rock to address the people. He says that the word to sum up the title win is FINALLY, because it's been a long journey. Rock has won seven WWE Championships before but this one means more than any.

He thanks the people and says the days of CM Punk saying the people mean nothing are over. Rock gets in his usual jabs at Punk and Heyman but here's the ex-champion.

Punk says that he earned the title unlike rock who had it handed to him. If Rock has any respect at all, he would hand the championship back to Punk right now. Rock says come get it and says Punk can either come get it or stand up there like a coward. Punk comes to the ring but says he's staying on the stage. He wants a rematch and lists off some places he'll be this weekend but finally says let's do it at Elimination Chamber. Also, this is ROCK's rematch, not Punk's. Rock says let's do it.

#### Sheamus vs. Damien Sandow

This is a tables match because RANDOM! Sheamus seems to be favoring his left arm. Sandow runs to the floor to start and Sheamus is fine with beating him up out there. A table is set up in front of the ramp but Sandow runs away from it. We head to the other side of the ring where Damien finally dropkicks him down to take over. Another table is set up but instead Sheamus just throws it at him. Back in and Sandow takes out the injured (by the Shield) shoulder with a DDT. Apparently it's Sheamus' birthday today. Ok then.

Damien brings in another table and kind of Pillmanizes the arm with the table legs. Sheamus comes back with ease but misses a Brogue Kick that would have sent Sandow through a table. Damien charges but gets caught by the slingshot shoulder. Sandow hits him in the arm again and drops the Wind-Up Elbow. Sheamus is thrown ribs first into the side of a table in a painful looking move. Sandow goes up top, only to get shoved down to the apron for the ten forearms. A suplex back in doesn't work but White Noise through the table in the corner is enough for the win at 7:21.

**Rating:** C. Pretty decent match here but the tables were more clutter than anything else. That's the problem with Raw Roulette in general: these gimmicks don't add anything at all to the matches. If you want Sheamus to beat Sandow with White Noise, you can do that just fine

without tables. The match was pretty entertaining but it doesn't accomplish much of anything.

It's time for WWE Karaoke with Ryder and Khali and company as the contestants. Khali gets to sing Shawn's theme song but after nearly crushing Shawn's entire career, 3MB interrupts. Drew: "Whoa whoa whooooooooooooooooo sweet child of mine." I love Drew McIntyre now. He gets chopped in the head for his efforts and it's a Rough Ryder for Mahal. The big chop and Tadpole Splash (Horny is part of "and company") take out Slater.

Here's Jericho's latest return to Raw. He welcomes us to Raw is Jericho and thanks all of the Jericholics for watching at home, which is something he'll neeeeeeeeeeeeeever forget a-gain. This brings out Team Ziggler with the namesake pointing out that Jericho is gone thanks to losing to Dolph six months ago. AJ says that was her idea but Jericho says put a leash on her already.

Langston says Jericho should leave before Big E. ruins the return. Jericho: "What does the E stand for? Your bra size?" Vickie pops up on screen and says she signed Jericho back to Raw and he gets to face Dolph tonight in a Strange Bedfellows match. In other words, they get to team up to fight HELL NO.

#### HELL NO vs. Dolph Ziggler/Chris Jericho

Ziglgler and Kane start things off with the unlikely partners bickering as we take a break about 25 seconds into the match. Back with Jericho being tagged in reluctantly, only to take both Kane and the legal Bryan down. The Walls to Bryan can't work and HELL NO collides. Jericho lets them fight and they start shoving each other. Ziggler tags himself in but Jericho slaps Kane in the back, leaving Ziggler alone in the ring. Chokeslam ends Ziggler at 5:40, over half of which was in commercial.

Here's Vince to give Heyman his job evaluation. Before Paul comes out, Vince says Punk has been escorted from the building. They shake hands so Vince uses some liquid soap. He asks Heyman if Paul is

behind the Shield or Maddox but Paul denies it. Vince asks Heyman if he's ever lied. Heyman says something Vince's dad says before saying of course he's lied every day because promoters have to do that to survive. However, right now he isn't lying of course.

Vince asks the fans if Heyman has an honest face or if he's an honest man. The fans chant no so let's go to the tape that Vince has. It's of Heyman and Maddox in the dark somewhere with Heyman saying turn the camera off. The audio keeps going though and the cameraman turns it back on. Heyman talks about paying Maddox off to screw Ryback in the Cell and paying the Shield in general. He says he and Punk have been doing it together and the Shield comes up to surround Maddox. Maddox begs and is beaten down anyway as the camera goes out.

Back in the arena and Heyman is panicking. Fans: "YOU GOT BUSTED!" Heyman says that wasn't him in the video and that Vince knows what it's like to be falsely accused. Paul says he has a thick New York Jewish accent and it's easy to impersonate. Heyman goes on a big rant about being falsely accused because of his success and saying that wasn't him again. Vince says he's going to have to future endeavor Heyman but LESNAR!

Brock is back (in bright yellow shoes) and circles the ring before getting inside to face Vince. He gets in Vince's face and they touch noses. Vince says Lesnar shouldn't do something he'll regret later. Lesnar keeps telling Heyman to go back to the corner. He nods at Heyman and it's an F5 for Vince as Heyman screams NO.

**Overall Rating:** D+. I forgot how annoying Raw Roulette can be. There's nothing to most of these shows and that was the case here. The gimmicks get in the way of the matches which defeats the purpose. This is very reminiscent of Open Fight Night where the matches are the same ones we could see on any given Raw. Nothing much to see here and the show was a letdown coming off last night's Raw. The ending helps a bit but not enough.

Results

Randy Orton b. Antonio Cesaro – RKO

Bo Dallas b. Wade Barrett – Belly to belly suplex

John Cena b. Cody Rhodes – Attitude Adjustment

Kaitlyn vs. Tamina went to a no contest

Sheamus b. Damien Sandow – White Noise through a table

HELL NO b. Chris Jericho/Dolph Ziggler

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# Raw Roulette Is Back Next Week

As per this video on WWE.'s Youtube channel.

Any predictions/matches/stipulations you want to see?