

# Monday Night Raw – June 18, 2001 – The Stalker Gers A Pop

## Monday Night Raw

Date: June 18, 2001

Location: Ice Palace, Tampa, Florida

Attendance: 10,264

Commentators: Jim Ross, Paul Heyman

It's the go home show for King of the Ring and that's about all we've got for that show. The tournament gets set tonight I think and we have a main event, but other than that I don't remember anything being made for the card. The Invasion would get its first big name at that PPV though, so at least there's that. Let's get to it.

The opening video is from Smackdown with Austin trying to get a petition together to present to Linda that says the triple threat is unfair. Spike ripped it up when Austin called Molly a bimbo, resulting in Spike getting a world title shot.

Dudleys/Austin vs. Canadians/Spike later. Now this is where things get confusing. That's what the graphic says, but JR says it's just Dudleys vs. Canadians for the titles. Oh boy. I wonder who's getting fired over this one. Now the Dudleys would indeed get a title match later this week on Smackdown (and they'd win the belts), but that's not what we saw on the screen.

We open with Spike and Molly of all people. Spike talks about how he's shocked to have been in this ring and gotten to wrestle for the WWF Title and that could have been his moment in the sun. However, Austin had to go after Molly after that, so Spike calls out Austin. Heyman's reaction is very funny.

Austin and Spike introduce themselves and Austin says he's not going to be called out by someone like Spike. Spike says he

just did and Austin starts to walk away. Spike asks the fans and they want to see it for the title. Austin still says no but says Spike has guts. No one else would, but Molly is still a bimbo. Spike: "YOU TAKE THAT BACK!" Molly slaps Austin and Heyman erupts. Austin looks...happy? That earned Molly respect so Austin sticks his hand out. Spike shakes it and Austin pulls him but doesn't attack. Molly however gets a Stunner though.

During the break, the Dudleys didn't seem mad.

Molly is getting looked at and the Dudleys show up. They praise Spike for standing up for himself. However, they want to know what's wrong with a picture when Spike has been here three months and has gotten a title shot while they've gotten zero in a year and a half. Spike says he'll do something about it.

Now the graphic says the titles are on the line in the main event. Interesting.

### King of the Ring Quarterfinals: Kurt Angle vs. Jeff Hardy

This would be a TNA PPV main event today, almost 11 years later. Angle snaps off a quick German and Jeff is in trouble. He goes after the leg but Jeff speeds things up and we go to the floor where Jeff runs the railing into a clothesline. Angle hits the release German this time but the Slam is countered. A jawbreaker looks to set up the Swanton but Kurt rolls away before Jeff jumps. The moonsault is as gorgeous as ever but Kurt misses, allowing Jeff to hit the Swanton for two. Jeff goes up but gets pulled down into the ankle lock for the tap out.

**Rating:** B-. What the heck was that??? Jeff Hardy is a midcard guy on his best day in 2001 but this was AWESOME. Well, awesome all things considered. I mean it was just a three minute match but they cranked out a very fun match here, especially when you consider where Jeff was on the ladder at

this point. Jeff's best match ever might have been with Kurt in 2010 so this isn't really shocking.

Austin needs someone to talk to who understands him. His wife, Debra, volunteers. Austin: "I said someone that understands me." Debra says understands about titles because she used to be champion. Austin laughs and Debra is hurt.

Tajiri and Regal are talking about the tournament which Tajiri is in when Austin enters. Spike asked for a match with him and Regal made the aforementioned six man, saying the title match will wait for tomorrow. Austin says he'll do it but he needs someone to talk to and he picks....Tajiri? Regal is confused but goes along with it and leaves.

Tough Enough commercial. Josh Matthews is I believe the only one left from that season.

Tazz, one of the Tough Enough trainers, says that there's a preview at WWF New York. Hardcore Holly comes up to make fun of him and a match is made.

Kane is at WWF New York...and he's playing a crane game to win prizes. He doesn't win so he breaks the glass and steals a bunch which he gives to a kid. You know, I watched a Raw earlier today and Kane was about to win the world title from Austin. The last thing I expected him to do was play a crane game to win prizes. Just throwing that out there.

We recap the Undertaker's wife stalker thing with Sara being stalked. That's about it.

### Taz vs. Hardcore Holly

The entrances are cut off by a new stalker video of the stalker watching Taker and his wife leaving their house. She almost comes into what I guess is a garage where he is but doesn't. The voice says tonight he'll reveal himself. Back to the match. Holly starts out fast with his usual stuff and

drops a top rope leg for two. Taz comes back but walks into a powerslam. And there's the Tazmission out of nowhere to end this.

Austin explains how Linda McMahon is ruining his life. Tajiri replies in Japanese as Austin rants against women. Austin thanks him for the talk and bows to him. Regal comes in and says that Tajiri is up next. Funny stuff at least.

Christian isn't happy that he has to face Big Show and teases tension with Edge. Angle breaks it up.

### King of the Ring Quarterfinals: Rhyno vs. Tajiri

The winner gets the winner of Edge vs. Saturn. Lillian sounded a step off on the announcing for some reason. Rhyno takes over with power but Tajiri rans him down and they go to the floor. Back in a spinebuster gets two for Rhyno. Tajiri hits the handspring elbow which is always cool. There's an Octopus Hold which he shifts into the Tarantula. Buzzsaw kick misses and Rhyno powerbombs him half through the ring. Rhyno loads up the Gore but Tajiri KICKS HIS FREAKING HEAD OFF to counter. Tajiri goes up for some reason but jumps into a Gore for the pin.

**Rating:** C+. Not as good as the opener but that ending was very good stuff. There's something awesome about seeing Tajiri just kick the tar out of people and also seeing Rhyno blast someone with a Gore. This was very entertaining and the show is on a roll to start so far.

Post break Regal GOES OFF on Regal. I mean there's a vein coming out of his head.

Here's Taker....or not. It's the Stalker as Taker is in Houston. He immediately unmask and it's Diamond Dallas Page to an ERUPTION. Yep they're cheering a crazy stalker. He says Taker never saw this coming, just like a Diamond Cutter. Page talks about doing this because he wanted to make an impact, so he went after the biggest dog in the yard.

A few weeks ago, Taker went off on Austin for mentioning Taker's family. Taker said he'd make Austin famous if he tried that. "You idiot, Steve Austin is already famous!" He says Taker is a liar for some reason so he wants to be famous and he wants to use Taker to get him there. He'll be at King of the Ring. Security chases him off. Ross tries to tie it into the Invasion but it only kind of works.

#### King of the Ring Quarterfinals: Edge vs. Perry Saturn

Saturn is nuts still. We get a clip from a double date on Thursday and Saturn took another shot to the head. See it's funny because he has brain damage and might go psycho and murder his wife and children before killing himself. Get it? Saturn starts fast and pops Christian but walks into an Edge-O-Matic for two. Edge is in control but Saturn grabs a crucifix for two. Edge goes up but jumps into a belly to belly suplex. Fisherman's suplex gets two. Christian gets kicked in the face and the Impaler ends Saturn.

**Rating:** D+. Not great but WAY down from what we had been seeing so far tonight. Edge would be about to start his singles push which didn't really stop for the rest of his career. Saturn just kept getting hit in the face until he found a mop that he liked better than Terri and that was about it.

Vince arrives, over halfway through the show.

Foley was on Regis and....Tony Danza?

#### European Title: Matt Hardy vs. Albert

Albert was in the middle of pretty much the push of his life and he runs over Matt to start. A splash misses though and Matt can keep hitting and running. Matt jumps into a gorilla press attempt which he escapes and hits a running tornado DDT for two. Paul: "Albert is the Rabbi of Retribution." JR: "Oy vey." Albert destroys him until he chokes too long for a DQ.

Weak.

Pac and Credible run in and hit a double superkick. Jeff runs in and takes them both down. Lita hits the usual gorgeous top rope rana. Albert gets back in it and destroys everyone.

Vince is with Austin and Austin feels good. Austin is getting in touch with his feelings and Vince isn't wild on it. Austin rants about the divorce and says pick Austin or Linda.

During the break Vince left.

Spike thanks the Canadians for helping Molly last week. Benoit goes off on him, talking about how this wasn't about him at all. And then they crack up laughing.

Edge and Rhyno get into an argument over who should be #1 contender if they win the tournament. Christian comes in and whines again.

#### King of the Ring Quarterfinals: Big Show vs. Christian

Angle is on commentary. Christian jumps him and just guess how well that goes. Edge tries to interfere which goes about as well. Show destroys him but they go to the announce table and Angle gets shoved for running his mouth. An Angle distraction allows the Conchairto to end Show and Christian puts all of Team RECK in the final four.

#### Steve Austin/Dudley Boys vs. Spike Dudley/Chris Benoit/Chris Jericho

Jericho vs. Bubba to start things off. Ray uses power to start but runs into the speed of Jericho. Off to Benoit and D-Von and the Canadian hits a German on the Dudley. Spike comes in with a double stomp and a rana to have D-Von in trouble. Here comes Austin to pound on Spike. Things finally calm down as Spike remembers he's Spike and Austin remembers he's Austin and the beating begins.

Austin calls for some tables but isn't happy when they come out for some reason. Back to Bubba after Austin freaks due to getting rolled up for two. Bubba loads up What's Up and both Austin and D-Von go up at the same time. That's rather awesome. The middle rope backplash misses and there's the tag to Benoit. Everything breaks down and D-Von is sent through a table by Jericho.

Dudley Dog to Bubba and it's time for the Canadian to hit Rolling Germans on the American. The Swan Dive misses though and Austin takes over. A Dudley Dog attempt results in Spike going through a table and Austin grabs a chair. Jericho comes back in for the save and we get the insanely awesome Walls of Crossface double submission to make Austin tap. Hebner asks about 4 times before calling for the bell.

**Rating:** C+. This was fine for a six man main event and most importantly, it made Jericho and Benoit look like a legit threat for the championship. Until then it was a bunch of fluke victories in tag matches. This was good stuff though as Austin looked like he was about to snap in that double hold.

**Overall Rating:** B. With all of the good to very good matches tonight, this was a pretty awesome Raw. Throw in that with the comedy from Austin and Vince and how can you go wrong? The DDP thing would be pretty underwhelming on Sunday but that's life. Also very little mention of Angle vs. Shane, but the focus was on the tournament so that's ok. Good show here.

Here's King of the Ring if you're interested:

[\*King of the Ring 2001 – One Great Fight\*](#)

Remember to like me on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/kbwrestlingreviewscom/117930294974885?sk=wall>

---

# Monday Night Raw – June 22, 1998 – Edge Is Here

## Monday Night Raw

Date: June 22, 1998

Location: Frank Erwin Center, Austin, Texas

Attendance: 10,891

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler, Jim Ross

This is the go home show for the King of the Ring and the first set of KOTR matches, so we'll have four of those tonight. Other than that expect more as far as the C-o-n-spiracy and the whole fallout from that. We also have Kane and Mankind vs. an Outlaw apiece. This looks like a very standard go home show, so let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the end of last week's show with Taker destroying Bearer. Kane will break his silence tonight.

Theme song.

The Cell is above the ring again.

Here's Vince to open the show. He brings out the next WWF Champion, Kane. Bearer is watching on satellite. The fans immediately chant for Austin. Vince says this will be the greatest day of Kane's life on Sunday. Kane has apparently requested a special kind of match. There's no pin, submission, DQ or countout. It's first blood. Vince wants to know how confident Austin is. Kane (who hasn't said anything until now) says that if he doesn't win the title, he'll set himself on fire. I can't help but laugh at this.

King of the Ring Quarterfinals: Ken Shamrock vs. Mark Henry



The Nation is sent out again as they've been for the last few weeks. Shamrock makes Henry miss and fires off the kicks. He walks into a powerslam to take him down though. Legdrop gets no cover for Henry, which is chalked up to a rookie mistake by JR. Henry hooks on a bearhug and then a splash to the back of Kenny. Back to the bearhug. Shamrock tries to come back with a sunset flip but Henry drops down onto him. And now bearhug #3. FEEL THE ELECTRICITY BABY!!! Shamrock fights back and manages to hit the rana, sending Mark to the floor. Vader runs out and drills Henry. Belly to belly by Shamrock wins this.

**Rating:** D+. Henry somehow didn't get any better for about 12 years. I mean dude, by the laws of averages and muscle memory you would think that somehow he would get better. That belly to belly was pretty impressive. Shamrock had a lot of talent but was only going to be an upper midcarder at best given the way his character went. Plus injuries on top of that.

Edge is in the audience.

### X-Pac vs. Dustin Runnels

Dustin, the newly religious man, offers a handshake but gets a crotch chop for his efforts. The move known as the X-Factor takes him down but it doesn't mean much yet. Dustin crotches him to counter a bulldog but Pac sends him to the floor. Chyna hits him low and momentum shifts again. Pac hits some of those very fast legdrops of his. I've always liked those. Off to a chinlock and we talk about how Austin could make Kane bleed. Dustin makes a comeback and a cross body gets two. One armed suplex gets the same. He loads up the bulldog but Chyna trips him. Pac kicks his head off for the pin.

**Rating:** C-. It's amazing how much less annoying Sean Waltman is when he's against someone who isn't a giant. Dustin is a good sized guy but they didn't have to make him look like an idiot here to have Pac beat him. That's what gets on my nerves about small guys like Pac and Mysterio: if they're fighting

giants, the giants have to look like idiots for the small guy to win. This has nothing to do with the match. I'm just kind of rambling now.

Pac won't shake his hand again post match.

We talk to Bearer at his home in...wherever it is. He promises to be at Kane's side on Sunday.

Here's Jerry Lawler to rant about Al Snow some more. Snow has apparently stolen the cleaning lady's dress. Jerry has some papers for Snow, and here comes Snow out of the crowd in a dress. Head has the King's Crown. Jerry offers a meeting with Vince for the crown. Lawler gets the crown back and Snow is handed a contract, signed by Vince McMahon. Snow and Head have to team up and face Too Much at King of the Ring. If they win, Snow gets his meeting with Vince.

Snow drops to the mat and says pin me and pay me. Why wait until the PPV apparently? Jerry calls out Too Much but Snow pops up and beats them up with Head.

Edge is now sitting on the stage.

#### King of the Ring Quarterfinals: Marc Mero vs. Jeff Jarrett

Jarrett knocks him to the floor quickly as the fans are cheering for Sable. There's a gag order on the Sable issue which translates to me that they have no idea what they're doing with the story but they have to have her back. Mero powerbombs Jarrett and hits a moonsault press for two. He might have hurt his knee jumping but still manages a small package for two. Jackie trips Jarrett and Tennessee Lee goes after her. That lets Mero hit Jeff low and hit the TKO but there's no referee. Cue Sable for a distraction and Jarrett grabs a DDT to advance.

**Rating:** C-. Match was okayish but this was about Sable. I don't think they ever actually revealed what the reason was

for her coming back, but that's par for the course in this ear. Anyway, decent match and a weird thing to see Jarrett as the face in one of these, especially after that character totally bombed as a face for the Horsemen.

Jarrett says he's seen the light and will be king.

### Kane vs. Road Dogg

I don't see this lasting long. Billy is sent to the back. Roadie tries to stick and move but there's too much Kane. A big boot puts Road Dogg down and there's the smother that Kane has been using on Cena lately. Road Dogg takes a beating but manages to get in some punches and a clothesline to send him to the floor. And never mind as Kane takes over again quickly. Chokeslam is loaded up but Roadie hits him low...to no effect. The chokeslam hits and Tombstone finishes.

**Rating:** D. Just an extended squash here but it made Kane look unhurttable going into the match on Sunday. That's the point of this and it also pushes the tag title match which is coming eventually. See how easy it can be to efficiently book a show? Why don't people get that more often?

Bearer talks about the Conspiracy and Taker wanting to shut him up last week. Screams are heard and Taker comes in and destroys Bearer again. Various stuff is destroyed and the feed cuts out.

And now, it's time.

### Edge vs. Jose Estrada

All that is known about Edge is that he's a tortured soul from Toronto. He comes in through the crowd and Estrada jumps him. Edge comes back with a spear and sends him to the floor. Edge hits a flip dive over the top onto Estrada...and breaks Estrada's neck, putting him out for months. Edge wins by countout. The replay shows that Edge's leg landed on the top

of Jose's head. It only lasted about 30 seconds.

And that's how Edge debuted.

Kane is freaking in the back as Foley tries to calm him down. There's a buzz from Kane's voicebox.

Jose is taken out on a stretcher. Based on the replay, it's hard to say who's at fault. When you flip forward like that, it's hard to control where you land. Probably a combination of both.

#### King of the Ring Quarterfinals: Dan Severn vs. Owen Hart

Severn is in that t-shirt of his. He spears Owen down and you know he wants it on the mat. The American hits a German on the Canadian but gets caught in an enziguri. Fisherman's suplex gets two for Owen. Severn comes back but gets caught in a neckbreaker. Owen rolls outside and grabs a chair. Severn grabs it and in the distraction, X-Pac comes in and cracks a chair on Owen's back. Severn's submission ends this. Too short to rate but the match was fine.

The Nation runs Severn off.

Post break Rock calls out DX for a fight and here they come. Remember that it's still HHH vs. Rock in the tournament later. DX comes out but suits hold them back.

#### King of the Ring Quarterfinals: HHH vs. The Rock

Just Chyna out there with either person. Winner gets Severn at the PPV. Rock takes over to start and hammers HHH down. He ducks his head though and HHH grabs a swinging neckbreaker. HHH takes over and drops the Flair Knee for two. Rock takes over and hits a suplex for two. There's the People's Elbow but HHH kicks out. Rock punches HHH, HHH punches Rock, HHH hits the facebuster to take over. Rock sends him to the floor but as he poses, Chyna DDTs him for two. They trade sleepers and Chyna tries to interfere for some reason. The distraction lets

Rock hit a low blow and win with a fisherman's suplex.

**Rating:** D+. How was that 8 minutes long? Usually the rule of thumb I use is that each paragraph of text is about four minutes of video. How in the world was this an 8 minute match? It was mainly punching for one thing and nothing at all stands out about it. Definitely one of the weakest I can remember from these two, but their big one is coming.

DX and the Nation run out and it's a big brawl.

Here's the semi-finals for the KOTR:

Shamrock

Jarrett

Severn

Rock

Kane is still freaking out. Mankind says stay here because he has to go have a match.

### Mankind vs. Billy Gunn

Mankind talks about being a history fan and having a picture of men from Gettysburg near his bed. As he's talking about this, the Cell is lowered. The story was about time healing all wounds, but he doesn't want to heal the wounds with Taker after what Taker did to Paul Bearer last week. They're not going to prosecute him though because it's a family matter on Sunday at the PPV.

Here's Billy and the Cell is still down. All Mankind to start including the running knee in the corner. He takes Billy to the mat with a body scissors and the Cell is up. Billy tries to fire off some punches and they go to the floor. Chyna's interference doesn't really work at all. She gets ejected and they stay on the floor. Billy drops him onto the railing and into the post but it doesn't really do anything. Billy dropkicks the steps into Mankind's face and hammers away but

Mankind keeps getting up. Fameasser (called the Rocker Dropper) doesn't do anything and a piledriver is countered. Mandible Claw ends this.

**Rating:** D. The problem here was that the ending was inevitable. I mean, did anyone think Billy Gunn was going to win this? The match just went on and wasn't all that interesting at all. The Outlaws were good at just about everything, except for that whole having matches thing. They were more of an act than a team, which makes things like this a bit annoying.

Mankind can't find Kane.

Here's Sable of all people with about 5 minutes left in the show. She brings out Austin in the white baseball jersey which never really worked for him. He wants Sable to go flip Vince off for him. Austin looks around for anyone wanting a fight and then accepts Kane's challenge. In one of the funniest lines I can ever remember, Austin says if Kane lights himself on fire, he'll be there with marshmallows, hot dogs and beer and we'll have a big campfire. Here comes Kane but blood flows from the ceiling onto Austin. Now the white shirt makes more sense. Kane says on Sunday the blood will be real.

**Overall Rating:** D+. I really didn't like this one as much as I did last week's. This was more about getting all of the things that we had to get done before Sunday done. The lack of Vince has been hurting the shows as he's only been in the opening segments lately. The wrestling here continues to be weak, but seeing Edge debut, even though it was shot, was very cool.

Here's King of the Ring if you're interested:

[King of the Ring 1998 – Kane Is Champion](#)

Remember to like me on Facebook at:

# Monday Night Raw – June 15, 1998 – Lower The Cell

## Monday Night Raw

Date: June 15, 1998

Location: Freeman Coliseum, San Antonio, Texas

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

We're just a few weeks away from the King of the Ring and the main event tonight is an unannounced Hell in a Cell with Austin/Taker vs. Kane/Mankind. This is the forgotten Cell match and for the life of me I don't get what WWF was thinking when they put it on. There's also a tag team battle royal which will probably be boring. Let's get to it.

Here's Sable to open the show, making it about two weeks that she was actually gone. She brings out the person responsible for her being back: Vince. Even kids are flipping him off. He wants to clear up these conspiracy rumors. Vince gives Sable a statement to read which basically says he had nothing to do with Austin getting beaten up last week. And that's it.

Oh wait never mind as here's Austin. He has Sable leave and then says he doesn't buy anything Vince just said. Austin comes after him and Vince says for once in your life, don't react in a physical and violent way. Austin asks if that's what the fans want to see and slow motion chases Vince. Vince blames the Undertaker, swearing on his grandmother's kittens. It was Undertaker that challenged him remember?

Austin loads up the belt to drill Vince but Vince keeps talking about Taker. He says remember that Taker is from the Dark Side. I wonder if he's neighbors with the Midnight Express. Cue Taker in ring gear, who says he challenged Austin but did it like a man. As for Vince, he's a manipulator and before Taker kills him, Vince needs to know he'll never be able to manipulate Undertaker.

Cue Kane as this segment is still going. Actually cue him, Bearer and Mankind. Bearer says that was a great acting job and that Taker knows Vince had nothing to do with it. Bearer claims that he and Taker cooked up the scheme. If that's the case, aren't they exposing it a little early? Taker wants Austin in the Cell apparently, so Paul challenges them to a tag team Cell match. Well gee good thing the Cell was already up there isn't it?

#### King of the Ring Qualifying Match: Vader vs. The Rock

The Nation is sent to the back before the match starts. Rock pounds him in the corner which just ticks Vader off. Now Vader hammers him in the corner and a splash follows. There's another splash and a middle rope one gets a two count. Rock comes back with a DDT for two of his own but an authoritative kickout. A slam doesn't work for Rocky but the second attempt does. The People's Elbow gets a big reaction but only a two count. It wasn't quite electrifying yet. Vader comes back with splash #4 for two. Rocky knocks him to the floor and Mark Henry beats Vader down. Rock Bottom ends this.

**Rating:** D. Pretty boring match here but it was designed to give Rock a win over a guy that was rapidly losing credibility. Vader was on his way out and was putting over everyone that he could, which is exactly what he should have been doing. He wasn't anything of note anymore, but he was far past his prime so what did you expect? You never see midcard jobbers like this anymore which is a shame.



DX is Droppin Knowledge on us. X-Pac and HHH have a qualifying match tonight so Road Dogg gives both of them pointers.

Edge needs to get here already. Oh ok he debuts next week.

### Darren Drozdov vs. Jeff Jarrett

And Jarrett needs to get rid of Colonel Parker already. Jarrett jumps Droz to start and here are Mero and Jackie. He gets Jarrett in the KOTR next week so there's your explanation. Mero rants about Sable as Droz runs over Jarrett. Powerslam gets two for Droz but he gets caught in a suplex. Jumping back elbow puts Jarrett down and Jackie hits on Tennessee Lee. He gets slapped so Jarrett goes out to save him, resulting in Mero hitting Jeff low. That's enough for Droz to get the pin. This was more of an angle than a match.

More Dropping Knowledge, this time will Billy explaining why this is going to be match of the year. He asks where Chyna will be in all this. My guess is at Spanish class.

### Val Venis vs. Chainz

Kind of a random pairing. JR brings up the obvious question of why is the Cell here in the first place. Chainz takes over quickly with some elbows as the announcers are ignoring the match. Now to be fair, it's Val Venis vs. Chainz so it's a bit less annoying. Val hits a bulldog and takes over as the announcers ask what the other believes.

Now let's talk about DX as Val hits some knees to the ribs. Russian legsweep takes Chainz down and Val grinds a bit. A big boot just ticks Chainz off but a clothesline takes him down. Chainz gets in some offense but walks into a powerslam. Val goes up but gets crotched. He blocks a superplex and the Money Shot ends this clean.

**Rating:** D+. This was fine all things considered. I don't think anyone was shooting for a classic here but it worked well

enough. Val would get into a story soon enough if I remember right while the DOA would become just a tag team after Chainz left. Actually this was Chainz' last match in WWF.

Undertaker says he doesn't trust Austin but Austin can trust him because all he wants is a title shot.

More DX Knowledge. HHH and Pac say nothing of note.

### Marc Mero vs. Dustin Runnels

Jarrett and Southern Justice come out almost immediately. Dustin takes over early with a lariat. Out to the floor and Dustin goes into the post. Back in Mero hits a powerbomb. Jarrett is actually doing a decent job at hyping up his match next week. It's amazing what happens when you actually let the guys talk. Mero snaps off a top rope rana as Jeff gets up on the apron. Here's Sable and the distraction lets Dustin win with the bulldog.

**Rating:** D-. Let this sink in for a minute: they managed to overbook a lower midcard match that was there to hype up a match for next week. HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE??? We have two people interfering and at least two distinct stories in there aside from just the match itself. That's either impressive or insane.

Chyna calms Pac and HHH down but it wasn't exactly firey in the first place.

Dustin thanks Jesus for his win.

### King of the Ring Qualifying Match: X-Pac vs. HHH

This is the start of the second hour I believe. Pac grabs a cradle for two while HHH is doing his entrance. This is one of Pac's first matches back in about 9 months after a bad neck injury. Pac hits a spin kick to take HHH down but walks into a jumping knee to send Pac to the floor. Here comes Chyna who throws Pac back in. Back in an atomic drop and suplex put Pac

down.

Pac hits a spin kick to knock HHH to the floor and Chyna throws him right back in too. Very nicely done there. A BIG spin kick gets two. They're hitting each other in the face here which is a good thing to see rather than them basically hiding from each other. HHH knocks him to the floor again...and here's the Rock. He's in the crowd and the distraction allows Owen to crotch Pac on the railing. HHH wins by countout.

**Rating:** C. Not bad here but this was far more about pushing the feud between the Nation and DX and that's fine. They were doing some decent stuff too so I don't have much to complain about here. I'm not particularly sure how to handle that, so let's just go with it was good. Rock gets HHH in the KOTR.

Here are the KOTR brackets:

Shamrock

Henry

Jarrett

Mero

Rock

HHH

Severn

Owen Hart

Only the final four happened at the PPV.

Here's Al Snow in the Avatar (old gimmick of his) mask. Post break, Lawler yells at him and Snow pulls the mask off. Snow rants about Vince and Lawler and says Lawler is lewd man for slipping him the sausage and makes a lot of references to gay sex. Lawler blames Head for it. He tries to throw it into the crowd and Snow decks him then hits a Snowplow on the referee. Lawler gets a low blow and a Head shot. Snow runs off after beating up some security.

Austin says he doesn't trust anyone. Taker can't trust him either.

### Owen Hart/Mark Henry vs. Ken Shamrock/Dan Severn

We get some UFC footage of Shamrock vs. Severn. That's still bizarre to see on Raw. Owen and Shamrock start off fast and Ken takes him down with a kick to the chest. Owen misses a dropkick and there's an ankle lock attempt. Enziguri doesn't quite hit but a low blow stops Shamrock. Off to Henry who hits a powerslam for two. A splash misses and Severn comes in allegedly off a tag. He throws Henry around like a Steiner would. Off to Owen who Severn rides like a pony. The Nation gets Severn into their corner and Owen kicks him low. Shamrock comes in but is easily put in a Sharpshooter. And here's DX for the DQ.

**Rating:** D. Just a basic tag match here without anything to it. DX vs. the Nation would go on for months until they finally blew it off. Severn could have been something good if he didn't have the personality of a road sign. Shamrock would get a solid push soon after this, but of all people, Henry would be the only one to win a major world title out of these four.

It's a big brawl as Vader comes out to get Henry from earlier and it winds up being about Rock vs. HHH, as it should be.

### Tag Team Royal Rumble

It's a ten team battle royal and the winners get a title shot eventually. I'm assuming that it's at timed intervals due to the name, but I doubt that'll be the case. LOD 2000 is in first. In second: Kane/Mankind, who are apparently pulling double time tonight. The match starts during the break in in third is the New Midnight Express. Animal gets chokeslammed as the Midnights chill on the floor. And never mind as they're in now. The Headbangers are in now. I think the intervals are about 30 seconds.

I don't know if both guys have to go out or not. Here's the DOA at 5. They go right for the LOD of course and no one is out yet. The Oddities, as in Golga and Kurrigan, come in next. The Midnights go out and you only have to put one of them out. Too Much (Cool) is out next. They're number 7 I think. This is a big mess so calling anything is impossible. Farrooq and Blackman come in now. The Oddities work over Kane.

#9 is Taka/Bradshaw for some reason. The DOA is out. The final team is Terry Funk/Scorpio. There are eight left. Terry knocks Kurrigan out and we have seven to go. Taka gets put out as does Too Much. There go the Headbangers. Animal puts Blackman out and there goes the LOD.

So it's Scorpio/Funk vs. Kane/Mankind. Terry and Mankind fight on the floor for old times' sake and Scorpio hits what we would call Trouble in Paradise to no effect. Funk grabs a chair and BLASTS Kane but Foley comes in and knocks him down. Tombstone to Scorpio and another chair to Funk wins it for the monsters.

**Rating:** D-. I really didn't like this at all. The amount of people being in there got way too high given the amount of time they were flying through the entrances. Having a bunch of people in there at the end really hurt it, although Funk going after Kane would have been awesome to see as he was just crazy enough to somehow pull it off.

Kane and Mankind stay in the ring as the Cell is lowered. Mankind recites a poem about the Cell. This is the debut of Corporate Mankind with the famous shirt and tie also.

### Steve Austin/Undertaker vs. Mankind/Kane

In the Cell of course. And there's no Taker. Austin wants to climb the cage to start instead of walking into the open door to face Kane/Mankind/Paul. Well at least he's smart. Here comes Taker...and never mind. They hit the music again and still no Taker. Mankind tries to charge at Austin but he slams

the door on Foley's head to knock him down. Kane goes after Austin and they fight on the ramp. Bearer locks himself in the Cell so he's by himself.

Mankind is back up and Austin is getting double teamed. And then we get to the important part here: Taker comes up from under the ring and has Bearer all to himself in the Cell. Kane and Mankind try to get in but even on top there's no way. Bearer is busted. Mankind and Austin are between the ramp and the barricade as Taker just kills Paul in the Cell.

Austin pops Mankind with a chair to the back and GOOD NIGHT that was a sick shot to Mankind's head. Taker crushes Bearer with the steps and Austin goes up to fight Kane on top of the Cell. They slug it out...and we go off the air. Now THAT is a cliffhanger. This wasn't a match of any sort so I'm not going to bother rating it. I definitely see why no one counts this among the Cell matches.

**Overall Rating:** C. This was an ok show but it drags a lot at times. It certainly moved stories forward which is the most important thing, but I don't think anyone can properly diagram the whole Conspiracy angle for you. It becomes one of the most complicated stories in history and either transitions or continues into the Vince is Crazy story next year with the Ministry, the Corporation and then the Corporate Ministry, but we'll get there soon enough. Decent show, but it wasn't great.

Remember to like me on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/kbwrestlingreviewscom/117930294974885?sk=wall>

---

# Monday Night Raw – July 1, 2002 – Worst Ladder Match Ever

## Monday Night Raw

Date: July 1, 2002

Location: Verizon Wireless Arena, Manchester, New Hampshire

Commentators; Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

Back to something other than TNA for a nice change of pace. This is a request and it's probably due to just the main event. This is the show where somehow midcarder Jeff Hardy is getting a world title shot in a ladder match against the Undertaker. Other than that, this is a very generic looking card. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of last week where Vince talked about Ruthless Aggression. Vince wanted to know who had it, and that man would be the new King of the Ring: Brock Lesnar. Van Dam, the guy that Brock beat in the finals, disrupted the coronation and beat Lesnar up. Kind of. They had a rematch later that night for the IC Title which RVD had won with the Five Star but Heyman caused a DQ. Brock powerbombed him through a table to end the show.

I forgot how much I liked Across The Nation as a theme song.

Here are Heyman and Lesnar to open the show. Paul says this will be the summer of Lesnar, not the summer of RVD. Heyman talks about how Lesnar has intelligence and is inspired by Kurt Angle. Angle issued a challenge to any rookie to debut against Angle (some guy named Cena debuted). Heyman says Brock is issuing a challenge to anyone.

Brock Lesnar vs. Ric Flair

Not bad for an opener. They do also cover themselves here by saying that this open contract was issued at 1pm this afternoon so it's not completely illogical to have Flair ready to go. Flair yells at I think Heyman about interfering in a match that cost Flair control of Raw. Lesnar says Flair is in the wrong place with the wrong guy in the wrong year. Flair gets run over to start but manages a chop to slow him down.

More chops and Flair tries to get Brock to chase him. Knee drop gets two for Ric but he gets launched over the referee with ease. Brock takes over and there's the Flair Flop in the corner. Lesnar works on the back and they go to the floor for a little bit. He goes shoulder first into the post back in the ring and Flair has an opening. Flair chops away but runs into a bearhug. A pretty weak spinebuster (no snap or pop at all. Maybe some crackle though) takes Flair down but he hits a low blow. Figure Four goes on but here's Heyman for the distraction. Flair goes for him and walks into an F5 for the pin.

**Rating:** D. Apparently the bad booking of monsters isn't a new thing. Lesnar is supposed to be an animal, yet it took Heyman to save him from Ric Flair? Yes, Flair is a veteran but that doesn't mean Lesnar shouldn't kill him. Would you see a 53 year old boxer destroying a 25 year old phenom? I didn't think so. Not a fan of this at all. The veteran will possibly have better technique and be more polished, but at the end of the day he isn't going to be able to take a right cross to the chin.

Coach hits on Jackie Gayda in a creepy way, talking about the Divas Undressed competition. Jackie gets annoyed with him, blaming her last tag team loss on Molly. Molly comes up and says Jackie should follow a role model. They brawl into the arena and Molly tries to kill her with a pipe. Time for a match no one is interested in!

Molly Holly vs. Jackie Gayda



Molly hits a missile dropkick and beats Jackie into the ground. I don't think this is an actual match. There was no bell or referee or pin. Trish comes out to save Jackie and takes Molly's pants off. I clearly get the point in this. Don't you?

Christopher Nowitski has challenged Bradshaw to a match that isn't for JBL's Hardcore Title.

#### Christopher Nowitski vs. Bradshaw

King has Chris' Harvard ring. JBL kicks his head off to start and it's a beating. Jibbles goes for weapons but it's not hardcore. In the confusion, Chris hits Bradshaw with a cowbell and pins him. This didn't even last a minute.

Regal is watching on a monitor in what is apparently Heyman and Lesnar's dressing room. RVD arrives limping and wants to know where Brock and Paul are. Regal says be on time next time and they'll have a match later apparently.

Jeff is in the back and is offended to hear he's the underdog tonight. He has to climb a ladder and he runs around in the back climbing various things. We really should have seen the signs back then.

Booker and Goldust are in the back and Goldust is dressed as Darth Vader for no apparent reason. Booker doesn't like Star Wars but apparently he likes handling a Lightsaber. "Obi-Book-Kenobi." WHAT AM I WATCHING???

Vince gives the fairly newly back Eddie a pep talk before he teams up with Benoit later. Vince asks what the translation is for Ruthless Aggression in Spanish. "Eddie Guerrero holmes!" Benoit is in his first match back in like a year after his neck injury.

#### Rob Van Dam vs. William Regal

Van Dam is IC Champion and Regal is European Champion but this

is non-title. Regal takes him to the match very quickly and counters the stepover kick. Out to the floor after a suplex and a Knee Trembler gets two back in the ring. Regal keeps it on the mat and hooks a crossface minus the arm trap. Rob manages to grab a monkey flip and hammers away in various corners. Spinning cross body gets two as does Rolling Thunder. Butterfly suplex is countered and the Five Star ends this.

**Rating:** C-. Eh not bad and definitely the best of the night. They were starting to push Van Dam at this point and he got some world title shots later in the year, but then the company decided to go with Shawn as champion and then HHH forever instead of Van Dam. RVD got the title in like 4 years, but then proved that he couldn't handle it so that's all well and good.

Van Dam calls out Lesnar but gets Heyman instead. Heyman says we'll do it at Vengeance. Ok then.

#### Bubba Ray Dudley/Spike Dudley vs. Eddie Guerrero/Chris Benoit

This was set up last year with Benoit returning and putting a wicked Crossface on Bubba. Eddie vs. Spike gets us going and Eddie controls as he should. Bubba comes in and hammers on Guerrero, only to walk into a dropkick. Eddie does a fairly unnecessary roll but it brings in Benoit. Benoit goes all psycho with the chops in the corner and Bubba is in trouble.

Bubba hits a sidewalk slam for two but the Canadian hits a German on the American to take over again. I love watching people throw German suplexes. Bubba gets a neckbreaker and it's off to Spike. Spike grabs a rolling cradle for two. He tries another but Benoit grabs a Crossface to draw in Bubba. The heels make an illegal switch and Eddie pounds on Spike for a bit. Spike goes into the post but there's heel miscommunication and the Dudley Dog.

Both guys are down and there's the hot tag to Bubba. They were pushing him as kind of an upper midcard guy around this time,

possibly as a world title challenger when HHH got the Raw title. Believe that playa. Sorry I had to do it. What's Up to Eddie and Bubba orders a table. There's one set up on the floor but Benoit pops Spike. Eddie hits a nice springboard rana to take Bubba out but the Frog Splash misses. Bubba Bomb ends Eddie.

**Rating:** C+. Not exactly the ending I was expecting but it was a good tag match which is what this show needed. The Dudleys were still an odd pairing as while Spike is indeed a Dudley, he's not the Dudley that you think of as part of the Dudley Boys. Also, kind of an odd return for Benoit wouldn't you think?

Spike goes through the table and Benoit hooks a Crossface on Bubba for a good while.

Rey Mysterio is coming. The music almost sounds like it's from Halloween.

DarthDust comes up to Big Show and it's just weird. Goldust says he's Show's father and breaks a plastic sword over his head. Goldie goes to leave but walks into Nash who kills him. It was NWO time if I didn't mention this.

Video on Hardy's history in ladder matches.

Taker says he's going after Angle and then Rock. He's not worried about Hardy at all.

Show finds X-Pac unconscious in the back. Make your own jokes.

### Booker T vs. Big Show

This was supposed to be a tag match but take what you can get. Booker had been kicked out of the NWO and was on a revenge tour...kind of. The NWO would be gone in two weeks anyway so it doesn't really matter. The mashup of Show's music with the NWO theme doesn't work at all. Show and his one piece women's swimsuit of doom takes over quickly on Booker with the size

and power game.

There's a suplex for two. This was a period for Big Show where he was getting way too big and way too slow and it hurt his game really badly. Bearhug now and Booker is in trouble. Sidewalk slam gets two. They go to the floor and Show keeps up the dominance. Show gets the steps but they get kicked into his face. We'll ignore the laws of physics that would suggest that it's IMPOSSIBLE for the steps to hit him in the face from that angle but whatever. Booker wins by countout.

**Rating:** F+. This was nothing and the ending sucked. Booker got in one move other than the kick to knock the steps into Show's face. Other than the tag match, all of these matches have just sucked, mainly due to them being short. The NWO never worked in the WWF but they kept shoving them down our throats until WWE woke up and stopped it in a few weeks.

Nash and Michaels, also in the NWO, punch Big Show. Make that just Nash actually. Michaels says they're after Booker, not each other. Shawn says the NWO is a family and they'll be a more complete family when the injured member returns. That would be HHH and he never would join. After a LONG speech, he kicks Show in the face and they leave.

Vince tells Taker how awesome he is. Taker vs. Rock is announced for Vengeance.

Matt wishes Jeff good luck and Lita pops in in a neckbrace to wish him good luck too. Jeff nearly destroys the door and screams a lot as he leaves. We really should have seen the signs coming.

### Undisputed WWE Championship: Jeff Hardy vs. Undertaker

So the idea here is that Jeff has been destroyed by Taker every time they've fought but Taker has never been in a ladder match so Jeff should have a chance. Taker goes for the ladder but gets it kicked into his face. Jeff gets a chair shot in

but Taker catches the ladder shot from Jeff. They haven't been in the ring together yet. Taker hammers on Jeff for awhile but gets sent into a ladder to slow things down.

Jeff launches himself at the ladder with Taker under it, probably hurting himself even worse. They get into the ring and Jeff is down again. Taker gets a big shot with the ladder to knock Jeff into the table. He has the match won but instead Taker climbs down and pounds on Jeff even more. This is SO slow. Jeff tries to fire in some shots and goes off on Taker but a single punch slows him down.

Taker hits a running clothesline in the corner. This is the least interesting ladder match I've ever seen. Taker misses a charge in the corner and slams into the ladder...but is back on offense about 4 seconds later. Whisper in the Wind takes Taker down but the champ is back up and hitting a big boot before Jeff gets in another shot. A low blow puts Taker down as does a flip dive to the floor.

Jeff gets the big ladder but Taker stops him with a Last Ride attempt. The WORST RANA EVER sends Taker to the floor as a counter and Jeff climbs. He touches the gold but Taker makes the save. Taker goes for the Last Ride again but Jeff cracks him with a chair twice and climbs very slowly. And never mind as Undertaker cracks him with the chair and "choke-slams" (more like choke-shoves) him off to retain.

**Rating:** D. I remember this a lot more fondly than it was here. The ending is good and is some decent drama, but the rest of it is just SO slow and uninteresting. Jeff never had a chance but Taker did nothing but punch the rest of the time and that doesn't make for an interesting match at all. Very weak match but a good ending.

Jeff gets back up so Taker goes back in and hits a Last Ride. Taker rides off but Jeff gets the mic and says he's still standing. Taker comes back to hit him but stops and raises

Jeff's hand, supposedly turning face in the process. I don't remember that coming for a few more weeks but allegedly it was here.

**Overall Rating:** C-. Well the second hour was much better but the first one was just horrible. The problem here is that it felt like a throwaway show but they didn't want it to be if that made sense. It set up some stuff for Vengeance but not a lot happened here. Oh and Thursday is the show where Angle made the Undisputed Title disputed, which I've already reviewed actually.

Remember to like me on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/kbwrestlingreviewscom/117930294974885?sk=wall>

---

## **Monday Night Raw – January 16, 2012 – Ace...With Emotion?**

### **Monday Night Raw**

Date: January 16, 2012

Location: Honda Center, Anaheim, California

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

It's another Monday and if I didn't know any better, I'd have no idea that the Rumble was less than two weeks away. Has any Raw guy mentioned being in the Rumble at all? We've had nothing but the Cena vs. Kane stuff with Ryder running scared. Ryder defends the US Title tonight and for some reason Perez Hilton is here. Let's get to it.

Opening video is about Martin Luther King.

Let's Burn It To The Ground.

Here's Foley to open the show. He talks about enjoying being a non physical presence, including hosting This Is Your Life John Cena. However, his kids got to see him perform, (including being in the main event of Wrestlemania in this arena). He does have two other kids though, who haven't seen him perform. Due to that, he's entering the Rumble.

Cue Vickie and Ziggler. Ziggler yells at him about taking up a spot in the Rumble from someone else that could use it more. Foley says it might be a huge mistake but he'll be there to win it. Ziggler talks about everything he's done to get to this point in his career and how he can't imagine facing someone fat like Foley at Mania for his world title. He tells Foley to go home, get a new shirt, eat a salad and go home.

Cue Punk who is glad to see Foley. Punk says that he and Foley are a lot alike in that they're unconventional and don't look like the rest of the WWE roster. He makes fun of Ziggler's look and Ace in general. They get in an argument with Vickie and here's Ace. He says he'll be fair at the Rumble and says he'll consider Foley in the Rumble. After about 2 seconds, he says no. Vickie laughs at him and that's it.

Tag Titles: Epico/Primo vs. Air Boom

Neither team even gets intros. Great to see how well the new champs are treated. We actually get clips of the title change last night. There's a fortune to be made in filming house show stuff and releasing like 3 hours of it for ten bucks on DVD or WWE.com or something. The matches are already there anyway so just film them. Epico vs. Bourne to start us off.

Bourne hits an awesome standing rana to Epico off the top to send him into Primo. Off to Kofi who cleans a house that wasn't very dirty in the first place. Boom Drop gets two and it's Trouble in Paradise time, but Primo breaks it up. The kick hits Epico a second later but the Shooting Star takes too

long to hit. Backstabber keeps the titles on the champs at 2:20.

Ace is in the back when Otunga comes in. He hands Ace an envelope which isn't spoken of again. Someone comes in and Ace puts him in the main event: a six man with Bryan/Punk vs. Otunga/Ziggler/Henry. It's Jericho, who turns off the lights, turns on the jacket, and poses.

The envelope that Otunga handed Ace was a doctor's update on Ryder. We go to the back where Ryder is with Eve. His ribs are all taped up. Josh comes up and they say that he's in no condition to compete. He says he won't forfeit the title and Eve says she'll go with him.

We get a video from last week about Kane/Ryder/Cena and all that stuff.

#### US Title: Jack Swagger vs. Zack Ryder

Swagger goes straight for the ribs and Ryder's offense can't do much. Vader Bomb to the back gets two. Gutwrench powerbomb barely gets two. Another gets the same. He drops elbows on Ryder's ribs and slaps him around before hitting a third powerbomb...and he wins the freaking title at 2:35.

After a break Ace says that Ryder wasn't medically cleared. And that's it.

Great and no it's Hilton time. He's booed out of the freaking building. Thank you Anaheim.

#### Kelly Kelly/Alicia Fox vs. Bella Twins

Perez breaks up Twin Magic and Kelly gets a rollup at 55 seconds. GET RID OF THIS DIVISION ALREADY.

Rumble moment: 92 with Flair's marathon. Heenan's reaction to Flair being #3 is left out here for no apparent reason.



Here's Truth but before he can say anything cue Barrett. Barrett: "R-Truth...if that's even your real name." Ok that made me smile. Truth is officially in the Rumble and Foley isn't. Truth says Barrett talks funny. The fans are allowed to WHAT him. Truth went to Disneyland this morning and it made him smile. He has a slideshow to show us. First of all he met Mickie and Minnie. And Donald Duck.

Then he met Pinocchio who said Barrett is winning the Rumble. The picture of Pinocchio's nose grows. Truth: "I don't even know if that's PG." Truth bashes Barrett when Miz jumps him. Sheamus makes the save. Cue Teddy who is here because...I have no idea. Let's have an over the top rope challenge.

#### Sheamus vs. The Miz vs. R-Truth vs. Wade Barrett

After the feuds pair off, everyone joins up to throw out Barrett. Truth and Sheamus get into it but Miz takes them both down. Sheamus "hits" three double axes (and by that I mean they missed by six inches each) and the forearms to the chest. Brogue Kick misses and Miz can't knock him out. Sheamus tries to put him out but Truth throws them both out to win at 5:10.

**Rating:** D. The match was just there but the point was to remind people that the Rumble is actually happening. Not bad and nice to play up the anyone can win aspect. Barrett going out first like that was kind of surprising. Still though, it was nothing special, but it wasn't really supposed to be.

Miz gets his head kicked off post match.

Cena comes in to yell at Ace who makes Cena vs. Kane for the PPV. Cena vs. Swagger is...next?

#### Jack Swagger vs. John Cena

Cena takes his head off before the bell even rings. Out to the floor and Cena keeps destroying him. The bell never rang and Cena beats the tar out of him. Let me guess: embrace the hate

right? Cena sets to crush Swagger's skull with the steps but cue Kane's pyro and music. Kane pops up on the monitor and says Cena will have embraced the hate by the Rumble. You know, because Cena has NEVER been violent or aggressive before right? Give me a break. There was no match.

Here's Brodus who has a new intro with I'm assuming his dancing chicks talking about how he's the only Funkasaurus in captivity.

### Brodus Clay vs. JTG

JTG gets molested but he does manage to get in a punch. Brodus does his chatting during the match. Corner splash sets up the cross body and we're done at 1:09. The finisher is called Funky. Ok then.

We recap Show running over AJ last week.

Here's Bryan for an update on her. He runs down Big Show for what happened and says they were fake tears. Show should never show his face on Smackdown. Violence is threatened if he does appear. Bryan is dedicating his match Friday to AJ.

### Daniel Bryan/Chris Jericho/CM Punk vs. Dolph Ziggler/Mark Henry/David Otunga

Punk vs. Ziggler gets us going. The champ takes over to start and a snap suplex gets two. Off to Bryan who might have tweaked his knee. Ziggler DDTs it and it's off to Otunga. Bryan takes a beating but it's off to Punk vs. Otunga. Notice that Jericho hasn't been in there yet. Ziggy comes back in and stomps away on the champ. Punk gets in a shot and Jericho wants in but Ziggler stops it and it's back to Otunga.

Naturally Punk beats him down, hits the Macho Elbow and it's off to Jericho. Jericho plays to the crowd instead of going after Otunga though...and tags out to Bryan, walks up the ramp, and leaves. We take a break as no one is quite sure what's

going on. Back with Bryan in trouble and it's off to Punk quickly. He hits the springboard clothesline but Henry comes in. Everything breaks down and Bryan pops Henry, but Mark screams at him. Bryan hobbles away and they fight up the aisle.

Ok so it's 2-1 now more or less. Henry is beating Bryan up...and here's Foley? The fans seemingly boo this out of the building but it's hard to tell. Fameasser gets two on Punk. Punk gets in a kick and it's off to Foley who gets a pop so I must have misunderstood the reaction earlier. He destroys Otunga and hits the running knee in the corner. Double arm DDT hits and it's Socko! It gets the win at 14:43.

**Rating:** C. Well that was a mess. Foley and Punk are announced as the winners and I have no idea how you get to that conclusion. Either way, the match was a mess with a bunch of stuff with some wrestling thrown in. I really don't get what they were going with here but it continues the working theme that nothing has much of a plan that I can see.

Ace comes out post match and reverses the decision. Punk gets in his face and says the reason Ace doesn't like Punk is because Ace never was anything but a look. He was the brother of a Road Warrior but he was nothing more than roadkill. It kills Ace that he never made it to this level as a competitor. Punk swears he's going to get cheated at the Rumble because Ace can't stand that Punk is the champion. No matter what, Punk will still be better than Ace because the people will be talking about Ace for the first time, but it'll be because Punk is going to destroy him. Punk fakes him out with a punch and calls Ace pathetic.

Punk leaves and Foley gets Ace a very funny double thumbs up. Ace is ticked off but we're not done yet. He says he'll be the future permanent GM of Raw and he won't be intimidated by Punk. Foley says just admit that you're going to screw Punk. He calls Ace a sycophant, which is New York Times

bestsellerish for kiss-up. Ace wants to know who Foley thinks he is. He admits he's going to screw Punk because he's tired of being bullied because he's not appreciated for putting on the best shows he can. He hits Foley with the mic

**Overall Rating:** C. I wasn't feeling this show tonight. I've certainly seen worse, but the booking ticked me off. The whole US Title changing hands is stupid as they had Ryder get one of the most unique pushes ever and then he loses the title less than a month later? WHY? Anyway other than that (and the announcers being more excited about Perez Hilton than a title change), the show was just kind of there. They've barely built up to the Rumble at all which is pretty stupid, but hey it's not like PPV means anything anymore right? It's about TV ratings and that's it it seems. The ending however helped the title scene A LOT.

### Results

Epico/Primo b. Air Boom – Backstabber to Bourne

Jack Swagger b. Zack Ryder – Gutwrench powerbomb

Kelly Kelly/Alicia Fox b. Bella Twins – Rollup to Brie Bella

R-Truth b. The Miz, Sheamus and Wade Barrett in an over the top rope challenge

Brodus Clay b. JTG – Funky

Dolph Ziggler/David Otunga/Mark Henry b. Daniel Bryan/CM Punk/Chris Jericho via DQ when Mick Foley interfered

Remember to like me on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/kbwrestlingreviewscom/117930294974885?sk=wall>

---

# Epico And Primo Win Tag Titles At House Show

Can't say I saw that coming.

<http://www.sescoops.com/wrestling-news/wwe/breaking-news-primo-epico-win-wwe-tag-titles/>

Thoughts on this?

---

## Monday Night Raw – December 25, 2000 – Get Your Alcoholic Egg Nog. You'll Need It.

### Monday Night Raw

Date: December 25, 2000

Location: McKenzie Arena, Chattanooga, Tennessee

Attendance: 7,223

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

This is another request due to it being Christmas recently. One night late in WCW's dying days, Raw has a show on Christmas night. If I remember right, Nitro didn't air and I don't think many people noticed. This is a few weeks after Armageddon and the 6 man Cell match so we're rolling towards New Orleans and the Rumble which was very good. Let's get to it.

And no this isn't live of course. It was taped the Saturday before.

Here's Stephanie to open the show. You know, the implants with a McMahon attached. She looks great though. The McMahons are celebrating Christmas at the moment, with Vince volunteering at a soup kitchen in Greenwich and HHH sending Steph here. Even Stephanie is getting into it, making something that reminds her of her mother: a fruitcake. We get a clip from the end of Smackdown, which is Rock and Undertaker arguing over something. Therefore tonight it's Rock vs. Taker.

She brings out Edge and Christian with Angle as well. Angle is in his first reign as world champion while the Canadians are tag champions. Edge wishes Stephanie a Merry Christmas but they're sorry that Foley isn't here due to being fired last week. Christian insults Chattanooga for a bit and talks about Smackdown, which we see a clip from showing Edge pinning Rock to win the tag titles.

Angle does the same but with his own brand of humor. He's given himself a Christmas gift and has flown out his family. Here's an army of people that all look like Kurt. He introduces all of his family and all of their accomplishments. He talks about hitting Foley with a chair so the fans chant for Foley. Stephanie reminds us that he's fired and the fans boo Kurt's family. They sing Walkin In A Winter Wonderland until Jericho FINALLY cuts them off.

He tells Angle to shut up. Jericho liked the singing but instead it should have been the Twelve Days of Christmas. We have six Angles who will never be a laying, two valley girls and Stephanie, who gets all of her usual insults, in a a pear tree. For Christmas, Jericho wants the world title, and he wants it tonight. Angle yells but Stephanie cuts him off. The title shot is denied but instead it's a six man: Angle/Canadians vs. Jericho/whatever team Chris wants. Jericho says that's nice but he didn't get anything for Stepahanie. What do you get for someone who's had everyone? Jericho implies the Dudleys will be his partners.

Kurt gives his family a tour of the arena and runs into K-Kwik (R-Truth) and that's about it.

### Hardy Boys vs. Dean Malenko/Chris Benoit

Benoit is IC Champion and Dean is Light Heavyweight Champion. In the back, Matt tells Lita to stay in the back because she'll get hurt. Lita goes anyway. Big brawl to start and Malenko pulls Benoit to the floor. Jeff is like cool man and hits a huge Poetry in Motion to the floor. That looked awesome. Benoit SNAPS off a dragon screw on Jeff's leg to take over. That looked sick. Malenko works on the knee a bit as well but Jeff gets a SWEET spinning leg sweep cradle for two. A double dropkick puts the Radicalz down and it's off to Matt. Everything breaks down and Lita hits Dean low. Top rope legdrop ends this.

**Rating:** C-. Nothing great here but the knee stuff was great. By that I mean one move but you get the idea. This would lead to Dean getting a date with Lita which wound up in a hotel room and Lita in some very nice lingerie. Anyway, not much to see here but it was nice to get the Hardys away from the Dudleys and Canadians.

Post match Matt gets put in the Texas Cloverleaf and Lita in the Crossface.

Post break Lita is being checked on when Benoit jumps Matt again.

Rock arrives and doesn't care to hear about his match with Taker.

Debra is still Lieutenant Commissioner but it's not fun without Foley anymore. She makes a triple threat Hardcore Title match with Raven, Blackman and Holly.

Vince calls Stephanie on voicemail and likes the match. He says he has to do something real quick at the soup kitchen but

Trish's voice is heard giggling.

We get a clip of Austin getting chokeslammed by Kane and then Austin demanding a match with him, which he gets tonight. Austin says he'll beat Kane up tonight.

#### Hardcore Title: Hardcore Holly vs. Raven vs. Steve Blackman

Blackman is champion. Raven and Holly get into it before Steve gets there. I'm not sure what you want me to say here as it's your usual one guy gets knocked down, the other two fight, the third makes the save. The challengers fight into the crowd but Blackman beats them both down out there. They go under the stage and into the back where Raven beats up what appears to be some stagehands. They go outside and Raven is thrown down some stairs. Holly finds a random 2x4 and swings at Blackman. He misses though and Blackman hits a German onto the hood of a car to retain.

**Rating:** D+. As I've said before, once you've seen one of these matches, you've seen them all. It's just basic brawling with weapons that goes nowhere and then they have the ending. They had beaten this so far into the ground but by keeping it down to like three minutes per match, I think it's ok.

Blackman is walking back to the locker room but Raven hits him with a board and steals the title.

The XFL is coming. OH YEAH!

Here's Regal who is European Champion. Little trivia for you: he's one of only two Europeans to hold that title. He blasts Americans for awhile until Kane comes out for his match. Ok then.

#### Kane vs. Steve Austin

Brawl to start with Austin hammering him into the corner. Regal is on commentary. A clothesline puts Kane down and another puts him on the floor. Austin gets pulled out there



and Kane takes over. Regal gets up for some reason and Austin takes him down as well. Austin stomps on both of them as this is a total brawl. Back in the ring a big boot puts Austin down and they slow down.

A second boot is blocked and Austin goes for the knee. Kane fights back and wraps Austin's leg around the post. Lawler says Kane is the official first entrant in the Rumble. Back in the top rope clothesline gets two. After a suplex gets two it's a bearhug. Austin comes back with the Thesz Press and the elbow. Chokeslam, Stunner and Tombstone are countered until a Stunner hits. Regal pops up on the apron and Kane gets up. Regal finally gets in for the DQ.

**Rating:** C. This was fine. It was just a brawl that ran about seven and a half minutes and that's all it really needed to be. The interesting thing is you could easily compare this to a lot of Cena's matches on Raw today. There wasn't anything to it for the most part and there wasn't supposed to be. However Cena gets blasted for it and Austin is one of the most popular stars ever. Go figure.

Regal tries to bring in a chair but Austin clocks both guys with it instead.

Taker says he isn't surprised by having to fight Rock later. He says Rock has the bark but he has the bite. Taker is still face here.

Cue The Kat in a robe. She has a gift with her. She gets in front of the announce table and grabs a mic. The gift is for JR and it's the latest Divas video. As for King, Kat gets on the table and pulls the robe open to reveal some red lingerie. She shows the crowd too. Jerry gets a kiss also.

Stephanie barges in on T&A who says Trish isn't here. She leaves and they imply Trish is with Vince.

Angle calls his parents as his brothers/cousin watch. Well

that was pointless.

### Too Cool vs. T&A

Grandmaster vs. Test to start. Stephanie comes out to watch, probably because of the jokes T&A made after she left. Sexay hits a middle rope dropkick and it's off to Scotty so he can get beaten up for awhile. Albert comes in and Scott can't do anything. Baldo (Albert) Bomb gets two as Grandmaster makes the save. Scotty gets in some kicks and a forearm to set up a double tag. Everything breaks down and Scotty sets for the Worm. Test kicks Scotty's head off after it hits. He sets for the ending but Stephanie distracts him, allowing Grandmaster to roll up Test for the win.

**Rating:** D. Didn't like this one at all. This whole show has felt like it's just a labor to get through and that's not good. To be fair though it's Christmas night so it's not like anyone is watching. Stephanie came in to mess with them, presumably to cost Trish's team, but this went nowhere.

Post break, Albert comes in to talk with Stephanie. He offers his services to Stephanie for whatever she needs.

### Chris Jericho/Dudley Boys vs. Kurt Angle/Edge/Christian

Jericho and Christian start things off. The fans want tables and Jericho tries a quick Walls attempt but settles for a slingshot into a rollup for two instead. D-Von and Edge come in and things speed up. Bubba comes in and does his always funny yelling. What's Up to Edge. It's Table Time already and everything breaks down on the outside. Edge hammers on Bubba but it's quickly off to Christian.

The beating goes on for about 20 seconds before it's off to Jericho and Angle. Jericho gets in a fight with Angle's family who is all in the front row. The Dudleys put one of them through a table. The Dudleys and the Canadians fight up the ramp and Jericho hits a missile dropkick for no cover but the

Lionsault eats knees. Angle Slam (and a good one too) beats Jericho.

**Rating:** C. This was going on so fast that it was hard to tell if it was good or bad. It certainly wasn't boring and the big stuff looked pretty good. I liked it for the most part but much like the rest of this show and the show overall, it came and went and that's all there really is to say about it.

The Angle family beats him down but the Dudleys make the save.

Edge and Christian say they'll get the Dudleys for what they did.

### Right to Censor vs. APA

It's Buchanan/Godfather this time. Buchanan gives a very southern promo, talking about how evil the Dudleys are. Bradshaw starts with Godfather and the beating begins. Farroq and Buchanan come in and the bald one takes a spinebuster. Bradshaw comes in and runs people over, including a top rope shoulder. Ivory interferes and Jackie runs her over. They get in the ring because Jackie has to get on my nerves at least once a year. Val Venis uses the distraction to run in and DDT Bradshaw. A Buchanan legdrop ends this. The match was nothing.

We get a video of Chyna taking a spike piledriver and injuring her neck. She had an MRI so we get a sitdown interview with her. Short version: I'm hurt, I'm sad, I'm successful outside the ring, I don't like RTC, I'll be back but not against men. Somehow that took six minutes.

Rock is in the back and cuts Kevin Kelly off because they are chanting his name. He gives his version of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and sings to Undertaker a bit too.

### Undertaker vs. The Rock

I've never really seen these two have a good match so maybe this is the exception. Taker pounds him down and knocks Rock

to the floor with one punch. Rock gets dropped onto the barricade and the table as JR is running out of room to run. Back in the ring Rock fires off a few rights and the jumping clothesline to take over. Swinging neckbreaker gets no cover but a Russian legsweep gets two.

Taker gets in a big boot and pounds away on the back. They mess up something so Taker hits a side slam for two. DDT by Rock gets two. More back work by Taker and this match isn't breaking the streak these two have. Oh joy: it's a bearhug. Rock fights out and now Taker hits a DDT of his own for two. Chokeslam and Rock Bottom are countered but a chokeslam hits. No cover though because he wants a Last Ride. And here's Rikishi to interfere. Spinebuster to Taker but Rikishi pulls the top rope down and Rock wins by REALLY LAME DQ.

**Rating:** D-. What a boring match. They walked around, punched each other a lot, and that's about it. The really bad ending didn't help anything at all but hey, Rikishi is a top heel right? They don't really give a reason or a thought as to whether or not it would work, but he was the next guy to feud with Rock I believe. Give me a break.

Rikishi stands tall to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** F+. OH MAN thank goodness it's over. This was one of the least interesting shows I've seen in longer than I can remember. Nothing happened here, no one cared, no one wanted to be on the show it seemed, and nothing here would have seemed to have mattered. That being said, it's unlikely anyone watched it but if one person did, it beat Nitro that night. Horrible show though.

Remember to like me on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/kbwrestlingreviewscom/117930294974885?sk=wall>

---

# Monday Night Raw – January 9, 2012 – Comedy, Drama, Suspense, Romance, La Cucaracha AND PLANET FUNK!

## Monday Night Raw

Date: January 9, 2012

Location: American Bank Center Arena, Corpus Christi, Texas

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

It's the week after HE IS HERE and Chris Jericho is back. That being said, I don't know what to expect from him. Maybe he'll actually say something this time? Either way, things almost have to be better than they were last week. We're getting close to Rumble time too which is always interesting. Let's get to it.

After a video of the ending of last week's show, here's Kane to open the show. He says people are wondering why he's embracing hate, and it's because the people are in denial. Everyone gets up next to a spouse they can't stand and go to a job they hate and go home to children who are brats. Everyone has delusions of hope like Cena himself does.

Cena represents hope and success. The people should see Cena as unfulfilled hopes and dreams. The people are all liars when they cheer for Cena because they think cheering for an underdog makes them good. Look at Zack Ryder for example: The people made him a star because he's an underdog. Last week Kane tried to drag Ryder to the depths but Cena stopped him. That just delayed the inevitable though, because Kane wants consequences.

Cue Cena and it's a brawl immediately. A clothesline puts Kane outside and they brawl up the aisle. They fight into the back and they're outside. They're over a kind of pit which looks to be a few feet deep but you can see the bottom. There's a production truck and Cena is knocked into some metal stuff next to it. He hits Kane in the leg with a pipe but is knocked into some boxes. He gets up and Kane is gone as we go to a break.

### Sheamus/Santino Marella vs. Jinder Mahal/Wade Barrett

All four are officially in the Rumble. The non-main event guys start us off as Cole tries to explain to us what the turban is for because he's a man of the world or something. Off to the Englishman who beats up the Canditalian who is waiting on the tag to the Irishman so he can hopefully beat up the Indian that he's mad at. There's the tag and Sheamus cleans house. Brogue Kick to Mahal and the Cobra gets the pin at 2:52. This was nothing, and Mahal continues to look like nothing compared to Sheamus.

Miz complains to Ace and Otunga about the Truth attacks lately. Brodus is debuting tonight apparently. Miz wants private security but Ace says he's Big Johnny, not Little Jimmy.

We get a Hall of Fame inductee announced tonight.

The first inductee is.....Edge. We get a video about his career. There's going to be a second inductee tonight as well. Cool.

Miz is trying to get a bodyguard in the form of Mason Ryan but he gets turned down.

Ryder is on the phone with his dad, talking about how afraid he is of Kane. Eve pops up and he says he'll beat Kane up later. He's off the phone and asks Eve for another date. She actually says yes but it's after her match later. Both of them leave separately and a door opens behind Ryder. Kane pokes his

head in and then goes back out as we go to a break.

### Kofi Kingston vs. Daniel Bryan

Well this is a surprise. This was set up via a video on WWE.com where Kofi questioned Bryan's methods of winning the world title. I hope they showed that to the live crowd. Bryan's weight is up to 210lbs so maybe they're back to faking weights. Kofi hits a springboard cross body for a fast two but Bryan rolls him up for the same. This is non-title if I didn't mention that. Bryan does his corner moonsault so Kofi comes out of the corner with a cross body. In a SLICK counter, Bryan lands in the LeBell Lock and we're done at 1:14.

Bryan does the big celebration again post match. And here's Big Show. He gets in the ring and Bryan begs off, saying he hated the ending to the title match. The title is too important to end like that. He offers Show a title match anytime he wants. Show says Teddy agrees as well, so there's going to be a title match on Friday, no DQ and no count-outs. Oh dear. They shake hands and Show leaves.

Royal Rumble Moment is the end of 1994 with the double winners.

Justin Roberts introduces Brodus Clay as being from the Planet Funk and being the Funk-o-Saurus. He has dancers and is coming out to ERNEST MILLER'S WWE music. WHAT IN THE WORLD AM I WATCHING??? He's DANCING! I swear I'm not making this up. He's in a red track suit and has a red hat on.

### Brodus Clay vs. Curt Hawkins

Total squash and he dances a lot. A cross body ends this in 65 seconds. This is BIZARRE.

Zack Ryder is brushing his teeth and looking in a mirror. He keeps thinking someone is watching him and leaves!

Miz tries to get Rosa and Epico/Primo to protect him. They say

no and leave but Punk pops up to NO reaction.

They go to a break here and thank goodness. I need a minute after what I just saw with Brodus.

### Jack Swagger vs. CM Punk

Ace comes out and says that if Punk wins, Swagger and Vickie are barred from ringside at the Rumble. Ziggler tonight has to fight Cena to keep things fair. Feeling out process to start with Punk working a headlock but Swagger taking it to the mat. Punk goes up for the elbow so Jack hits the floor. Swagger takes over with his size advantage and hooks a quickly countered ankle lock. Off to a double chicken wing kind of hold and then a waistlock. Swagger is knocked to the floor and a suicide dive takes him out as we go to a break.

Back with Punk starting his comeback. He fires off some strikes and hits the knee in the corner but the bulldog is thrown off and the Vader Bomb gets two. Another attempt at a Bomb is countered but Swagger takes over again quickly. He loads up a superplex but Punk shoves him off for a top rope elbow...for the pin? I thought he kicked out but apparently not as Punk gets the pin at 13:57.

**Rating:** C. Not a bad match here despite what the referee shows was a bad call at the end. Not sure if that'll play into the Ace as referee thing or not but it could have been an honest mistake. I mean it's not like Swagger was going to win either way. Decent match and while I think Swagger should go face, he'll be ok as a jobber to the stars like this.

Replay shows that it was a bad call and Cole freaks.

We see the ending of the Cena vs. Kane fight earlier.

Cena and Ryder are in the back talking and Ryder thanks Cena for everything he's done for him.

The Bellas are talking in the back when Ricardo pops up. They



brought him all the way from Mexico to give Del Rio a message. Miz interrupts them and says Ricardo is going to draw out R-Truth by insulting him. Ricardo says no but Miz threatens him.

The second HOF inductee: It's still not Savage, but it's THE FOUR HORSEMEN!!!

Here's Ricardo to insult Truth but he's very nervous to do so. He says that Truth's breath smells like a rotten burrito and that's enough to draw Truth out. Truth doesn't know why Ricardo would want to pick a fight with him. Even Little Jimmy thinks he's a good R-Truth now. He asks Little Jimmy if he should let Ricardo go. Apparently Jimmy doesn't like Ricardo so Truth should turn Ricardo into a human pinata.

Ricardo freaks out so Truth asks for a song. La Cucaracha in fact. Ricardo gets WAY into this and even says this is a remix halfway through. Truth asks him to do it again and Ricardo knocks the mic out of his hand. Ricardo takes a Little Jimmy and here's Miz for the beatdown.

Jericho time. He gets an entrance from Roberts and does the same entrance that he did last week. He's doing the same thing he did last week with the whole running around the ring. No mic that I can see. Oh now he has one and the music ends. He poses on the corner and hasn't talked yet. The mic is to his chest....(this is high drama stuff people) and he looks like he's about to cry. He takes a minute to compose himself....and is now crying. The music comes on and he walks out, still not saying anything.

Another Rumble Moment: 98, Austin wins.

### Eve Torres vs. Beth Phoenix

Eve has new music I think. It's 10:51 before Beth comes out so they're going to have to blaze through this. And never mind because here's Kane. Since women in wrestling are idiots, Eve gets out of the ring and STANDS THERE. Ryder runs out to save

her and they run off to the side of the tron. No match.

We cut to the back and Ryder throws her into a car. The tire is flat though, so Ryder CHANGES THE TIRE. We take a break as Pep Boy #4 keeps at it.

Ryder defends against Swagger next week.

Ryder is still changing the tire when we get back. Call AAA dude. I'm sure they have some luchadores that could help you.

### John Cena vs. Dolph Ziggler

No entrance for Dolph and the bell rings at 10:59. Ziggler starts fast and hits a quick Fameasser for two. Off to a chinlock and Ziggler does a headstand while holding it. Cole: "You couldn't do that King." Lawler: "Why would I want to?" Good question. Ziggler drops some elbows and does the situps. Cena starts his comeback and we cut to the back where Ryder is STILL changing the tire.

Kane finally comes to attack him and Ziggler throws on a sleeper. We cut to the back again and Kane chokeslams him into the pit I mentioned at the beginning of the show. Ziggler puts on another sleeper but Cena hits an AA to escape. He goes to the back and I guess the match is thrown out at about 5:00. I'm not going to rate it due to the match just being a placeholder for the angle. It was nothing of note anyway.

Cena gets out there and Kane jumps him. He smothers Cena down again and Ryder is just laying on the wooden pallet he was chokeslammed onto. Cena is left laying too. Kane stands very tall to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. This was a very different kind of show but I was liking it a lot. Things were a lot more comedy based than they were last week and it was certainly a more memorable show. The wrestling was just ok but they played things up as over the top and overly dramatic tonight and I thought it made

for a much better show. Also the HOF stuff is a nice touch so few complaints here, other than the lack of in ring action.

### Results

Sheamus/Santino Marella b. Wade Barrett/Jinder Mahal – Cobra to Mahal

Daniel Bryan b. Kofi Kingston – LeBell Lock

Brodus Clay b. Curt Hawkins – Cross Body

CM Punk b. Jack Swagger – Top Rope Elbow Drop

John Cena vs. Dolph Ziggler went to a no contest

Remember to like me on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/kbwrestlingreviewscom/117930294974885?sk=wall>

---

## **Horsemen to the Hall of Fame Also**

I think I can live with this too. Still no Savage though? Really? Wait....Benoit is in the HOF now. Interesting.

Thoughts on this?

---

# **Brodus Clay: The Funkasaurus**

I haven't laughed so hard in YEARS. That was great.