

# On This Day: June 22, 1998 – Monday Night Raw: He Is The Future

## 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 matches? 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](#)

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# More on Zeb Colter's Militia

Yes that's the real name, as per Colter's Twitter. So Cesaro is filling in for Swagger now due to Jack's hand injury. The first thing that comes to my mind is how good of an idea this is for multiple reasons.

1. Cesaro isn't as broken as Swagger. Jack has built a reputation as being someone who can't win anything of note other than a fluke world title a few years back. He chokes in every big match he's been in for years and people don't buy him as a threat. While Cesaro is a jobber to the stars, he hasn't been in many huge matches, meaning he isn't viewed as a choker yet.

2. Colter looks like an even bigger hypocrite. This idea that heels have to tell the truth or make sense all the time needs to die a very horrible death. Having Colter say random nonsense and then not live up to it while still saying it is EXACTLY how heels can get heat without being boring. Simply put, people will pay their money to see someone like that get what's coming to them, thereby creating tension and a story that people want to see. It's called booking a story, which is a lost art anymore. This should also shut up a lot of the fans that agree with his views in a double benefit.

3. Cesaro is better than Swagger. He just is, in every aspect of the word.

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# Monday Night Raw – June 17, 2013: The WWE It Is A-Changing

## Monday Night Raw

Date: June 17, 2013

Location: Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids Arena

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler, John Bradshaw Layfield

We're past Payback now and moving towards July's Money in the Bank. Cena has retained his title but we had a very interesting development: the ultra rare double turn for Del Rio and Ziggler as Alberto won the World Heavyweight Championship by doing some very bad things to Ziggler's injured head. It should be interesting to see where things go over the summer. Let's get to it.

We open with the usual package of still photos from Payback last night, complete with the voiceover dude.

Here's Del Rio to open things up. He asks us how his weekend was before telling us that his was excellent. Del Rio isn't pleased that the fans were cheering for Ziggler after he won the title back last night in controversial fashion. The fans chant for Ziggler again and Del Rio yells at them for chanting USA the night before.

He says this is what America is all about: pigs and cowards. Del Rio says he's spent the last five months fighting for us and he's gotten nothing (other than the world title) but last night he fought for himself and won the world title. He's willing to give the people a second chance though so we have another chance to show him the respect that he deserves.

Cue Punk to an ERUPTION. He says it's been awhile since he beat Del Rio for the world title at Survivor Series 2011. Punk doesn't like hearing Del Rio call himself the best so Alberto holds up the belt. Punk challenges him to a title match but Heyman says that Punk doesn't fight for free. That's not cool with Punk though because he wants to fight no matter what.

Yeah Punk is banged up but when Del Rio was stealing the title, Punk was stealing the show. Punk still wants a match tonight but Del Rio says Punk doesn't want any of him. With that not being an option, Punk offers to fight Ricardo but here are Vickie and Maddox for an interruption. She says it's Del Rio vs. Punk tonight but makes no mention of the title being on the line.

Punk says that he respects Paul Heyman but he isn't a client. From now on, Punk doesn't want Heyman out there for his matches. Punk respects him but he doesn't want him there.

#### Intercontinental Title: Curtis Axel vs. Wade Barrett

Before Axel's entrance, Vickie interferes and makes it Barrett vs.....CHRISTIAN!

#### Wade Barrett vs. Christian

Christian takes it to the floor to start and hits a BIG dive to take out Barrett. Back in and Barrett hooks a chinlock, only to have Christian fight up and hit a tornado DDT for two. Wade kicks him in the ribs for two but Christian avoids a charge in the corner. The Killswitch ends Barrett in 3:10.

**Rating:** C-. That's a nice return for Christian but the guy isn't going to be a huge star like people think he's going to be. Barrett's slide continues and I'm thinking his time of mattering in WWE whatsoever is

almost done. There's just nothing here for him as he hasn't done anything of note in forever.

You can pick No DQ, 2/3 falls or no countout for Bryan vs. Orton later on.

The Wyatt Family is coming.

### Sheamus vs. Rhodes Scholars

For those of you not happy with Sheamus beating one of them at once, now he gets to beat both of them AT THE SAME TIME! The Scholars don't have to tag so they manage to stomp Sheamus down and hit a double snap suplex for two. A kick to the face sets up the Wind-Up Elbow for two on Sheamus. Cody slaps Sheamus in the face and the one on two beatdown begins. Rhodes is sent to the floor and Sheamus hits the Regal Roll on Sandow. The ten forearms crush Cody and White Noise crushes the crushed remains of Cody Rhodes even further. Sheamus loads up the Brogue Kick but gets rolled up by Sandow for the pin at 3:38.

**Rating:** D-. I love Sheamus but DEAR GOD LET THIS FREAKING FEUD END ALREADY. Scratch that. This isn't a feud. This is Sheamus swatting away flies for an extended period of time. It's not fun, it's not interesting, and the matches aren't any good. Is there NOTHING else that Sheamus could be doing at all? NOTHING?

Mark Henry might retire later tonight.

RVD is back at MITB.

HHH is in the back with Vickie and Brad. Vickie sucks up to him but HHH wants to know what the main event was going to be if Punk didn't question him. He also wants to know why Christian has been medically cleared for a month and a half and not been back until tonight. Also, why didn't he

hear about either Brad or Vickie when he was negotiating for RVD's return? As for Shield, if they get involved then play tough with them. HHH thinks it's a stroke of genius to put 3MB on the show tonight as well. HHH's questions were HILARIOUS.

Yeah I just said that. Why do you ask?

Bryan doesn't want to hear it from Kane that he told Bryan so. Kane thinks HELL NO should reunite but Bryan only wants to think about Team DB, Team Daniel Bryan. Kane: "Well that's good because you're acting like a D.B." They both say they want to win the WWE Championship and they don't know if the team is done or not. Kane wishes him good luck tonight, which Bryan interprets as Kane saying he's the weak link.

### Randy Orton vs. Daniel Bryan

Before the match we hear Orton saying that Bryan is the weak link in the team and is the reason they lost the title match last night. The match is going to be No DQ with 54% of the vote. Bryan goes after the arm to start but Orton reverses into a hammerlock of his own. Daniel fights up and kicks away at the legs before hitting the double knee stomp out of the surfboard. Orton comes back to stomp Bryan down into the corner and puts Daniel down off the slingshot suplex.

Bryan counters the Thesz Press into a half crab but Orton grabs the ropes. More kicks in the corner put Orton down again but he comes back with a clothesline and a chinlock. Back up and Orton pounds away in the corner but Bryan comes back with the moonsault out of the corner and a running clothesline. A pair of running dropkicks in the corner get two for Daniel but Orton avoids the FLYING GOAT. Orton pulls out a kendo stick to pound on Bryan for two back in the ring and we take a break.

Back with Bryan blocking a superplex and hitting the missile dropkick for no cover. Orton comes back with the powerslam and Bryan goes to the apron for the Elevated DDT, only to have Bryan fight out and go for the NO

Lock. Orton counters into a slingshot to send Bryan to the apron and a kick to the ribs puts him on the floor. It appeared to be a low blow so here's a trainer to check on Bryan. Back in and Bryan pounds away before they head to the floor again. Orton belly to back suplexes Daniel onto the barricade so the referee checks again....and the match at 15:00.

**Rating:** C+. Uh....WHAT? That's either the start of an angle or a legit injury when Bryan went into the barricade earlier. Bryan seemed fine but if a doctor saw something in him that we didn't then the match should have been stopped. Either way, it was getting good until the sudden ending but never hit a high level.

Post match Orton helps Bryan up and nothing else happens, making me think it was a legit stoppage.

Here's AJ to brag about winning the Divas Title by crushing Kaitlyn's spirit. AJ says that she's the hero of the story because she's a woman that knows how to get what she wants. There isn't a woman in the audience or locker room who is as strong, brilliant or courageous as she is. AJ issues an open challenge to the locker room and gets.....STEPHANIE MCMAHON???

Stephanie compliments AJ on her victory but thinks what AJ was saying was degrading to women. It's time for AJ to start acting like a champion, about 23 hours since she won the title. AJ: "Instead of acting like a superstar, maybe I should marry one." Stephanie says no one does crazy like the McMahons but AJ says she's the younger version of Stephanie, just without a fancy pantsuit. Cue an army of Divas but Stephanie cuts off Kaitlyn, threatening her with punishment for ever interrupting her again. The fans tell Kaitlyn that she tapped off while Kaitlyn yells at AJ. The beatdown is on but Langston saves a screaming AJ.

US Title: Kane vs. Dean Ambrose

This is a rematch from last night with Dean defending. Kane hits some

quick uppercuts and a powerslam for two. Apparently Bryan might have some nerve damage but is still being checked. Kane fires off some clotheslines in the corner and gets two off the side slam. Not that it matters as here's Reigns for the DQ at 1:35.

Shield beats Kane down post match with the TripleBomb.

Mark Henry is here.

Vickie yells at Shield in the back but Vince comes in and compliments their ruthless aggression, meaning Vince vs. HHH MUST CONTINUE!!!

We're now getting regular commercials for the WWE App. My girlfriend downloaded it the other day for fun and it's nothing. It's a string of videos and access to a social media thing where you can hashtag your city. There's also a breaking news section with nothing in it that we could see.

Here's Zeb Colter to say that he's bringing Antonio Cesaro to his team. In other words, he's now a jobber to the stars with a manager. Cole immediately buries the idea on commentary.

### Antonio Cesaro vs. William Regal

Cesaro pounds him down and hits the gutwrench suplex as the announcers ignore the match to bicker. A delayed backdrop gets two on Regal and Cesaro hooks a swinging chinlock of all things. The Neutralizer ends Regal at 2:43.

Cesaro drapes a Don't Treat On Me flag over Regal as Cole is literally laughing at this.

Here's Cena for a chat. He loves being booed by the fans because they can cheer anyone they want. Some people love Punk and boo him all night and

that's perfectly fine with him. He goes to war every time he defends the title and after putting Ryback in an ambulance last night, he gets to say the champ is here. For everyone who never left his side, thank you. He can take any challenge that anyone puts in front of him and can't wait for Money in the Bank.

Cena doesn't care who challenges him that night because he'll be ready. He knows he won't have the title forever but the next person to hold it will earn it because the champ is here. The fans seemed receptive to Cena tonight...and here's Mark Henry. He leaves a pair of boots on the stage and tells Cena he can put his guard down. Henry has watched Cena rise through the WWE and thinks Cena is doing a great job. The fans chant Sexual Chocolate as Henry says if you don't remember the moment, at least you'll remember his salmon colored coat.

Henry is proud of all of his success in the business as a former ECW Champion and World Heavyweight Champion. However, due to all of his injuries, he's going to have to retire. The fans chant one more match and Cena hands Henry the title. Henry holds up the belt but hands it back to Cena because he never earned it. Henry talks about his family and says they're going to get sick of them because he's coming home. Cena shakes his hand....AND GETS A WORLD'S STRONGEST SLAM? Henry shouts that he has a lot left in the tank and says that the title will be his.

Post break Henry says all the people are puppets and everyone bought it.

#### Heath Slater vs. Chris Jericho

Jericho pounds him down with ease but Jinder Mahal breaks up the Lionsault to give Slater two. If my memory is right, Slater beat Jericho back in the first season of NXT. Not that it matters as the Codebreaker ends Slater at 2:20. Nothing to see here.

Post match Jericho beats up the rest of the Band because he can.

Paul Heyman doesn't want to answer any questions about CM Punk. He says that he knows when to give his friends space and thinks we should be talking about the Intercontinental Champion. New catchphrase for Axel: he was born to be better than perfect. I think I like that one.

### Sin Cara vs. Curtis Axel

Miz is on commentary. This is Axel's third match against Sin Cara in less than six months. A quick backbreaker puts Cara down and a shoulder block puts him down again. There's a quick belly to back suplex for two but Cara comes back with a DDT. Cara's Swanton hits knees and a spinning DDT ends Cara at 2:40. Total squash.

Vince approves Henry vs. Cena for MITB when Stephanie and HHH come in. Trips gets on Vickie for not listening to him and glares at Vince.

Heyman sucks up to Punk and says he'll be cheering for Punk tonight.

### Alberto Del Rio vs. CM Punk

Non-title and Del Rio runs to the floor twice in the first minute. Punk finally goes to the floor but gets stomped down on the way back in. Del Rio kicks him in the head and pounds him to the floor, only to have Punk whip him into the barricade to take over again. Punk takes too long to shout at Ricardo on the way back in though, allowing Del Rio to snap Punk's arm over the top rope as we take a break.

Back with Del Rio kicking Punk in the head as we hear that Bryan will be ready to go on Friday. Alberto goes up for an ax handle but gets punched in the ribs on the way down. Del Rio gets in another kick to the arm to send Punk into the ropes for the Backstabber for two. The low superkick is countered into a rollup for two and now the low superkick connects for two for the champion. The cross armbreaker is countered into the GTS but Del Rio rolls to the outside. Alberto walks out for the countout at

11:30.

**Rating:** C-. This wasn't much but it worked well enough all things considered. This was really just a backdrop for the post match stuff which we'll go to now because it's more interesting than this match.

Post match Ziggler runs out and DESTROYS Del Rio to a mammoth face reaction.

Punk is still standing in the ring and LESNAR! He picks up a mic but says nothing. Instead he picks up Punk and lays him out with a massive F5 to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. I was digging tonight's show as it had a certain edge to it. Stuff was set up for Money in the Bank, we got some decent action, we had a return, and we had some humorous lines from HHH to Vickie. The main story continues to be Vince vs. HHH which is still a stupid power control angle that has been done so many times and I have no idea why they think this is the best way to go. I was digging the show tonight for the first time in a long time though which is a great sign coming off a solid PPV.

### Results

Christian b. Wade Barrett – Killswitch

Rhodes Scholars b. Sheamus – Rollup

Randy Orton b. Daniel Bryan via referee stoppage

Kane b. Dean Ambrose via DQ when Shield interfered

Antonio Cesaro b. William Regal – Neutralizer

Chris Jericho b. 3MB – Codebreaker

Curtis Axel b. Sin Cara – Spinning DDT

CM Punk b. Alberto Del Rio via countout

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## **LESNAR! AND HE'S NOT FIGHTING HHH!**

He's back and he laid out Punk with an F5. i can see Summerslam and I'm not sure what to think of it yet.

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## **Ziggler Is YOUR New Super Face**

He came out to attack Del Rio to a MONSTER face reaction. Things are changing and they're changing in a hurry.

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# Mark Henry Retires

He officially announced it on Raw. Given all the injuries, I can't say I blame him. The fans gave him a very nice reaction and chanted his name.

Edit: scratch that as Henry beat up Cena to set up a future match.

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## Captain Charisma Comes Calling

Christian came back tonight on Raw and beat Barrett in a glorified squash. I still don't get the mass appeal of him but he's certainly a good hand to have.

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## CM Punk and Paul Heyman Split

Punk said that he doesn't want Heyman out there for his matches anymore. You can see Punk vs. Lesnar at Summerslam for here. Why I'm not sure but you can see it.

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# Alberto Del Rio Is A Heel Again

He called the US a bunch of pigs and cowards.

For the love of all things good and holy, let it be better than the last heel run.

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## Monday Night Raw – June 10, 2013: Meet The New Problems, Same As The Old Problems

### Monday Night Raw

Date: June 10, 2013

Location: Richmond Coliseum, Richmond, Virginia

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler, John Bradshaw Layfield

It's the go home show for Payback and the main story tonight is HHH vs. Axel II, assuming the match actually happens. Last week Vince and Stephanie talked him out of it, which made for a less interesting show than it could have been otherwise. I'd look for the match to be pushed back again until Payback, where HHH likely puts Axel over...in theory. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of HHH and the McMahon's issues from last week. As in we recap the WHOLE THING.

Curtis Axel vs. HHH

Axel is a bit hesitant to get in the ring. The bell sounds odd for some reason tonight. HHH pounds away in the corner to start and hits a quick suplex for two. Here's Vince of all people to say that the match is over with Axel winning via DQ at about 90 seconds. This can't end well.

Actually scratch that as HHH says restart it. The match continues for a few seconds and here's Vince again to say HHH loses via forfeit. HHH starts it again and this time it's a 60 minute iron man match. This time Vince takes the bell away and the match just ends. This was less than five minutes from opening to closing bell.

Ryback and Cena will be face to face tonight.

Post break Stephanie begs HHH to think of Vince because he's old and doesn't have much time left. HHH says he'll talk to Vince if Stephanie goes to calm him down first.

#### Kane vs. Dean Ambrose

Dean pounds on him in the corner but gets caught by a big boot to the face for two. Kane takes his turn at pounding away in the corner and hits a backbreaker for no cover. It looks like Kane has a huge bald spot on the right hand side of his head. Ambrose is whipped into the ropes and hit with another backbreaker as the referee brings out the bell. Dean misses a charge and is sent to the floor where he jumps into an uppercut as we take a break.

Back with Dean kicking Kane in the ribs as we see Orton watching in the back on the WWE App. Kane comes back with a boot to the face before tossing Ambrose into the corner. Dean is slammed face first into the mat before being taken into the corner. Kane loads up the chokeslam but Ambrose bails to the floor as Reigns comes in for the DQ at 11:23.

**Rating:** D+. Nothing to see here as it was mainly just killing time until the DQ ending. That's getting really annoying in the singles matches with the Shield involved but it's the best they can do because they don't want to job the Shield. Why they didn't just job Kane is beyond me, especially in a non-title match.

Sheamus vs. Sandow is on the pre-show Sunday.

You can pick Rollins or Reigns to face Bryan tonight.

Rollins wins 66-33. Orton will face Reigns.

We get a clip of Bryan accidentally dropkicking Orton on Smackdown.

Orton and Bryan are arguing in the back when Kane comes in and says to chill. Apparently they have matches against Reigns and Rollins tonight. I know this because Kane helpfully explained the graphics we saw a full 40 seconds ago. Vickie comes in and makes Orton/Bryan vs. Reigns/Rollins and Kane vs. Ambrose for the titles on Sunday. Kane is so happy that he hugs Vickie with a goofy grin on his face.

### Cody Rhodes vs. The Miz

Barrett is on commentary as we're told that Fandango won't be allowed to compete in the triple threat match, meaning Barrett defends against Miz alone. Miz pounds on Rhodes to start and hits the corner clothesline for no cover. The top rope ax handle misses though and Cody goes after Miz's knee. A front suplex gets two for Rhodes and it's off to a modified Indian deathlock on Miz. Not that it matters much as Miz counters into the Figure Four for the tap out at 2:36.

Heyman comes out before Miz and Fandango leave and announces that Axel is replacing Fandango in the triple threat. Axel says that him winning the IC Title on Sunday would be the perfect ending to the match on Sunday.

Mark Henry is coming back.

We recap the opening of the show.

Vince and Stephanie are in the back but Vince won't look at her. She knows he's upset and is just trying to protect Hunter, but HHH is a proud man and Vince stepped all over him out there. Vince doesn't like this idea of him not having much time left and is mad at HHH for making Stephanie cry. He cares about business first and Stephanie agrees, but business has to come first. If Vince tries to talk to him, Stephanie will be even more upset.

Here's Jericho for the hard sell before his match with Punk on Sunday. He talks about how the two of them came into the business with a huge chip on their shoulders and they both think they're the best in the world. They'll continue their awesome trilogy that was started last year and Punk will never (EVER!) forget him.

This brings out Ziggler who says that he's making his triumphant return here to steal the show from Jericho. Dolph talks about stealing the show every night and that on Sunday he'll prove that he's better than Del Rio in every way. Jericho cuts him off and asks Ziggler if he wants a tuneup match tonight. Ziggler says sure....but with Jericho facing Langston. The match is after the break.

#### Chris Jericho vs. Big E. Langston

This is joined in progress with both guys on the floor before Jericho heads inside for a quick baseball slide to take Langston down. Big E. whips Jericho into the steps to take over and heads in for some shoulders tot he ribs. Alberto Del Rio is ranting about something on the WWE App as Langston charges shoulder first into the post, giving Jericho a two count. Langston runs him over for the same result and pounds away for good measure.

Jericho fires back with an enzguri for two but his cross body is caught in a trio of backbreakers for two. Chris comes right back with a top rope cross body for two of his own but a Ziggler distraction lets Langston run him over with ease. A Del Rio distraction breaks up the Big Ending though and it's a Codebreaker for the pin at 6:30.

**Rating:** C. Jericho is fine for a spot like this, but the Del Rio vs. Ziggler feud has lost so much steam over the last few weeks due to Ziggler's injury. There's no shame for Langston to lose to someone like Jericho, but it's a bad spot for him to be in when he could be such a huge deal with the lightest tweaking. Good enough match here but it was nothing great.

Jericho celebrates as Ziggler tells Del Rio no way.

#### Sin Cara vs. Antonio Cesaro

Zeb Colter is at ringside, claiming that Cara snuck across our borders in the middle of the night but Cesaro is ok because he came into the country legally. So why was Colter not ok with Barrett months back? Sin Cara hooks a quick wristlock before getting slammed out of the corner for no cover. The gutwrench suplex sets up a powerslam for two before Cesaro pounds away on Cara's face.

A double stomp gets two and it's off to a chinlock. Back up and Cara hooks his spinning headscissors and a sunset bomb for two. Cole rants about Colter making money in the foreign country of Puerto Rico as Cesaro catches a cross body in a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker. A spinning chinlock (you read that right) sets up the Neutralizer for the pin on Sin Cara at 3:52.

**Rating:** C. I could live with Cesaro as Colter's new guy, although it doesn't fit with past continuity. If nothing else it would give Cesaro ANYTHING else to do instead of the vacuum he's stuck in now. Sin Cara is long past being a bust and it's kind of sad to see him lose time after time like this anymore.

Bray Wyatt and the Family are still coming.

Vickie and Brad Maddox plug the new Hardee's burger until Vince comes in to glare at them. Vince is ticked off about Ryback and Cena going face to face tonight because it could put the PPV main event in jeopardy. Vickie's answer is to cancel the match tonight (they have a match?) but Brad suggests to have the lumberjacks out there as security. Vince is pleased and tells Vickie to share her burger with Brad.

### Randy Orton vs. Roman Reigns

Before the match here's Daniel Bryan to be in Orton's corner. Orton pounds away on Reigns to start and gets two off a dropkick. We get an abbreviated Orton Stomp and a knee drop to the chest for two but Randy goes after Rollins on the floor. Seth's distraction does nothing for Roman as Orton drops him back first onto the barricade for two back inside. Orton misses another kneedrop and Roman takes over to stomp away in the corner.

Orton comes right back with the Thesz Press and some right hands in the corner to take over. Randy goes to the middle rope on the inside but a Superman punch knocks him to the floor and us to a break. Back with Roman holding a chinlock as Bryan plays cheerleader on the floor. Randy fights up but gets taken down by a running clothesline for two more. Kane is watching in the back on the WWE App! LIVE! Off to another chinlock by Reigns but Orton suplexes out of it to put both guys down.

Randy is starting to feel it and hits a bunch of clotheslines followed by the backbreaker to counter a Samoan Drop. Reigns rolls to the apron like an idiot, earning himself that Elevated DDT. The RKO is loaded up but Orton has to put Rollins in position for the Elevated DDT. Reigns makes the save but Bryan hits the suicide dive on both Shield members for the DQ at 12:30. Make that a no contest because WWE is afraid to call a DQ for some reason.

**Rating:** C+. Again, as we not allowed to have Shield get a finish in a one on one match? I understand the idea of not wanting to have either guy lose going into the PPV on Sunday, but maybe they shouldn't be having the match six days before the PPV. The match was pretty good for the most part, other than one too many rest holds by Reigns.

The next match begins immediately.

#### Daniel Bryan vs. Seth Rollins

Bryan avoids a charge in the corner and fires off the kicks followed by a knee to the ribs. Daniel alternates between knees, elbows and kicks with the YES chants getting louder and louder every time. Rapid fire elbows to the chest get two and hooks the double knee stop out of the surfboard. Rollins runs to the floor, only to be taken out by a slingshot dropkick through the ropes. Bryan hits the running knee off the apron for two back inside as Rollins is in big trouble early on.

Seth avoids a right hand and hooks the Downward Spiral into the middle turnbuckle for two. In a nice move, Rollins uses Bryan's own surfboard against him but Daniel quickly escapes and fires off kicks to Seth's leg. There's a surfboard on Rollins but Bryan pulls his head down into a Dragon Sleeper for extra pressure. Seth elbows out and we take a break to

come back with Seth holding a chinlock. A forearm to the face gets two for Seth as Cole lists off a bunch of channels the show is airing on that no one but WWE cares about.

Back to the chinlock by Rollins as JBL talks about how awesome this show is. Bryan fights up and ducks an enziguri into a half crab but Seth is quickly into the ropes. Bryan fires off some kicks in the corner followed by a pair of running dropkicks for two. Back up again and Rollins hits the enziguri for two before firing off Bryan's own kicks against him. Daniel's hurricanrana is countered into a buckle bomb for two as the fans are all behind Bryan.

Seth kicks away in the corner but is backdropped out to the floor. The FLYING GOAT is blocked by a forearm but Bryan hooks Douglas Williams' Rolling Chaos Theory suplex for two. Bryan gets crotched on the top rope but escapes a superplex into a belly to back superplex which is countered into a midair cross body for no cover. Orton takes out Reigns before he can interfere, allowing Bryan to roll up Rollins for the pin at 15:30.

**Rating:** B+. That's more like it! I get that you can't have great matches all the time, but at the same time you need to have some high quality matches like this every now and then. Bryan is just MAD over right now and if they tweak his character in anything more than a minor way they're insane. He's ready for a main event push RIGHT NOW but I'm afraid they'll be worried about the sagging ratings and ignore how over he is because he's not "a draw".

Post match Orton hits an RKO on Rollins and the fans go INSANE with YES chants and the Bryan pointing.

In case you missed it the first two times, here's another recap of the HHH/Stephanie/Vince stuff. Oh and Curtis Axel is in there too.

WWE does stuff with the Special Olympics.

It's time for Kaitlyn's secret admirer to be revealed and it's....Big E. Langston. He hands Kaitlyn some flowers and says that this is odd because he's such a big guy who constantly beats people up. However since he first saw Kaitlyn, she's all he can think about. Kaitlyn looks very

nervous as Langston leans in to kiss her, only to drop her on the mat instead.

Cue AJ because it was a SWERVE! She yells at Kaitlyn about feeling worthless because Kaitlyn was never there when AJ was having her heart broken. Instead of being there, Kaitlyn was off chasing the Divas Title. AJ can beat her mentally because Kaitlyn is trash and no one cares about her. The only thing Kaitlyn has of value is the title and that's gone on Sunday. AJ says that Kaitlyn can go back to her trailer park after the match on Sunday but the brawl is on now with Kaitlyn being left glaring at the crazy chick.

Bray Wyatt quotes the Bible (what happens to a man who gains the world but loses his soul?) and says they're coming.

#### Damien Sandow vs. R-Truth

This match has two purposes: hyping up Sandow as having a chance on Sunday and letting Jerry Lawler drool over a burger and shake from Sonic. Sandow quickly takes it to the floor and rams Truth back first into the apron before pounding away on the ribs. Back in and Damien stomps Truth down before hooking a chinlock. The Wind-Up Elbow gets two and the Silencer is good for the pin at 3:21.

**Rating:** D. Sandow has no chance on Sunday. There's nothing else to talk about here at all.

Post match here's Sheamus to congratulate Sandow on his win and say that he'll kick Sandow's head off at the Payback kickoff.

Stephanie is in the back and sends a messenger to find Vince for a meeting in their office. She sends another to find HHH for a meeting in their office.

Video on Ryback's path of destruction towards Cena for the Three Stages of Hell match on Sunday.

Vickie and Maddox bring out the lumberjacks (the entire roster) to protect Cena and Ryback from fighting. We take a break at 10:55 with this and the McMahons to go.

Back from break with Vince and HHH arguing in the back with Stephanie in between them. She SCREECHES at them to stop and work it out because she's tired of it. Vince won't apologize because he wants HHH to be more than a legend or a big deal or a champion. He wants HHH to be THE MAN. HHH wants a match with Curtis Axel and Vince likes the idea but they get in an argument over who wants to see the match. Then Stephanie comes back in and asks for a group hug. Vince says he'll hug Stephanie and HHH can hug them both. The guys slap each others' backs hard and that's it. Seriously, we spent all night setting up THAT.

It's 11:03 and here's the world champion for the first time tonight. Ryback stands in the aisle but Cena is ticked off that this isn't really face to face. They argue about the same things they've fought about for weeks: Ryback should have been champion but it's Cena's fault, Cena says that Ryback should take account of his own failures because THE CHAMP IS HERE. Ryback says he can see Cena and the legend ends when Ryback wins the title on Sunday in three stages. Cena wants to fight now but the lumberjacks hold him back. They get in the ring and the brawl is on, but both guys are held back to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C. Here's the problem with Raw in a nutshell: it's a solid two hour show but the extra sixty minutes of filler drags it down. If that sounds familiar, it's because it's been the problem for nearly a year since the show went to three hours. There are some solid stories and interesting action on here, but the constant recaps of stuff we saw 45 minutes ago and the incessant commercials for WWE App make this a chore to sit through at three hours. I'm sure the solution is more Vince, Stephanie and HHH though, because there's no way they're taking it back to two hours.

### Results

HHH vs. Curtis Axel went to a no contest

Kane b. Dean Ambrose via DQ when Shield interfered

Miz b. Cody Rhodes – Figure Four

Chris Jericho b. Big E. Langston – Codebreaker

Antonio Cesaro b. Sin Cara – Neutralizer

Randy Orton vs. Roman Reigns went to a no contest when Seth Rollins and Daniel Bryan interfered

Daniel Bryan b. Seth Rollins – Small Package

Damien Sandow b. R-Truth – Silencer

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