

Smackdown – July 15, 2011 – More Solid Stuff, As Always

Smackdown

Date: July 15, 2011

Location: Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville, Connecticut

Commentators: Michael Cole, Booker T, Josh Matthews

It's the final show before Money in the Bank and everything is pretty much set in stone at this point. The MITB match itself is a pretty open field but I'd look for Sheamus, Barrett or Rhodes to win it (what a limb I'm going out on with those picks). Probably just some last minute pushes for the show here as expected. Let's get to it.

Do you know your enemy? Mine is a bad internet connection. And popcorn costing \$7 at a theater.

Orton vs. Kane tonight.

DiBiase gets a shot at Jackson too.

Josh is in the ring and brings out the dude that hears voices in his head. Orton says he won't get disqualified and that he thinks this is a cheap attempt by Christian to try to steal the title. Christian pops up on screen and says that clause was his lawyers' idea. He has a gift for Orton which is a portrait of Christian standing over Orton with the title. Orton says that isn't going to work to make him mad.

Christian starts talking about Orton's family, namely Bob Orton Jr., who was only a glorified sidekick. His dad is in the Hall of Fame in the wing with guys like Drew Carey and the other cheap jokes. He's in the HOF to keep Randy happy. Orton says come say that to his face, which Christian says he'll do once he wins the title on Sunday. He calls Orton

pathetic and Orton calls Christian a pathetic excuse for a man and a superstar. After Sunday, Christian will be exposed as a flash in the pan that needed Edge to help him win the title for five days. Simple segment but the emotion was there.

Video on Show vs. Henry which I think is the same one from Raw. They face off tonight. Not a match, just a face off.

Intercontinental Title: Ezekiel Jackson vs. Ted DiBiase

New ring announcer tonight who looks a bit better in a blue dress than Chimmel does. DiBiase hits Jackson and that doesn't go well for him. Out to the floor as Booker rambles about his Fave Five as is his custom. Jackson is rammed into the post which gets two in the ring. Cody is watching and the referee, the former Nunzio, is really loud here.

DiBiase takes over and throws on a chinlock. The following clothesline is countered by Jackson. How has no one else ever countered that? Apparently Ted has blown all of his money and it's implied that it was on Maryse. Here come the slams but DiBiase counters into a Dream Street attempt but Jackson shrugs it off and slams Ted again. Rack doesn't work but the second attempt does with the submission coming at 3:45.

Rating: C. See, this is what Jackson needs more of: wins where he gets in some trouble but eventually uses the power game to make his comeback and set up his finishing stuff. Nothing fancy here and it worked just fine. Also helps when he actually, you know, wins his matches instead of losing them.

Most of the MITB people are in matches later.

Ted is in the back and Cody says he'll bag him if Ted loses again.

Daniel Bryan vs. Cody Rhodes

We get a quick recap video of this feud during the introductions. It's almost shot like its from the mind of a crazy person so it looks really cool. Ok make that a long one. Bryan hammers him into the corner to start us off and he escapes an Alabama Slam attempt. LeBell Lock doesn't work and Cole puts a bag on and imitates Booker. Ok that was kind of funny.

Rhodes takes over for a bit but Bryan sends him to the floor and takes over with a dive. We take a break and come back in the ring with Cody in control. Cody throws on a half crab which doesn't last long. Like you can put a submission on Bryan. Cody works over the ribs as the fans keep coming in and out of this one. Booker gets asked about being in a MITB match and somehow he starts talking about Daniel Bryan. Apparently it's too brutal to talk about. I give up.

Anyway it's back to the half crab as the announcers totally ignore the match other than Josh when he can get a word in edgewise. Bryan fires back with some forearms and a leg lariat/running kick for two. Some light Cody chants start up. Not we're talking about Booker being a drum major. Alabama Slam gets two and the commentary is really starting to get old. Talk about MITB or ANYTHING of importance, but drop the bickering.

Cody tries Cross Rhodes but Bryan climbs the ropes to get behind Cody. Bryan gets put on the top but kicks Cody away and manages to grab the LeBell Lock while on the ropes. That gets broken up of course so Bryan settles for the missile dropkick for a long two. Running dropkick in the corner puts Cody down again. They both go up and Bryan gets crotched badly. That positioning allows the Beautiful Disaster to end this at 7:29 shown of 10:59.

Rating: B. I liked this one a lot actually. Cody can be

really good when he gets some time and Bryan of course is capable of having a good match with anyone. This has been a pretty solid mini feud and I'd like to see it get a title involved. Good stuff here and a rather fun TV match indeed.

Teddy is on the phone talking about getting protection or something. A referee comes in and Teddy tells him that if there's any physicality in the Big Show/Mark Henry showdown, their PPV match is off. The referee leaves and Teddy talks about gambling a lot. This seems to be a running theme with him. Kane comes in to thank Teddy for giving him a match with Orton as he requested. Kane isn't happy because he's starting to feel human instead of like a monster. Teddy says if it makes him feel any better, he's scaring Teddy right now. Kane says if Teddy was really scared, Teddy wouldn't be able to tell him.

Jinder and Khali are in a photo shoot and Jinder isn't happy with the photographer paying attention to Khali. They both yell at him and that's about it.

Christian is looking at Orton's bus and there's spray paint on the side talking about Christian being the uncrowned champion. He says he'll find out who did this.

Sheamus vs. Sin Cara

This should be interesting. Wade Barrett is on commentary here. The match starts after a break. Cara takes over to start with his high flying stuff. Barrett admits that the Corre was a disaster. Sheamus can't get anything going as Cara gets an armdrag out of the corner. And let's talk about the Fave Five because it's been a full 4 minutes since we did. Apparently Booker sees some of himself in Sheamus. Uh...ok?

We talk about the drum major stuff as it's kind of interesting

to see how long they can go without actually talking about the match. Barrett is talking about how he's going to win as Sheamus gets a running knee lift while Cara is draped in the ropes. Off to a cravate as we're probably two minutes without talking about the match now. Now let's look at Booker and Barrett talking because the match isn't important I guess.

Josh finally mentions Cara being grounded here, which apparently has NEVER happened to him before. Honestly, is there something in the water in the announcers' water cooler? Cara sends him to the floor and Sheamus may have hurt his knee. Back in Sheamus catches Cara in a dive and hits a fallaway slam for no cover. He loads up the High Cross but Cara counters into a rana for the surprise pin at 6:00.

Rating: C+. Not a great match but by far and away Cara's biggest win to date in WWE. I'm rather surprised that they would have Sheamus lose here but it looked like a fluke win which is probably the best way to have it happen. It doesn't really hurt Sheamus as he had Cara beaten but took too much time to end him, which is good for both guys.

Barrett takes Sheamus down post match and hits Wasteland. He looks weird in a collared shirt and slacks.

Christian is in the casino with a wallet. Naturally it belongs to Orton and it's time to gamble with the \$1000 he finds in there. He says Orton is going to need the money for anger management and his daughter's college. Christian puts it all on 1 in a game of roulette and loses it of course. Christian says Orton's luck just ran out. I liked this as it was something outside of the ordinary which you hardly ever see anymore in promos. Just having something different in the background makes it more interesting.

Time for the showdown which is just the two big guys talking. Teddy moderates it for lack of a better term. Henry isn't going to come farther from the stage though because he can't

hold his temper well enough apparently. They talk about pain and how it's Show's problem apparently.

Show says everyone has been waiting for Henry to wake up and Show finally did it. Henry asks if Show thinks bigger is better. Without waiting for an answer, he says stronger and meaner are better. Both guys say the other has no idea what they're capable of. Teddy has to stop a fight and says we'll see who wins Sunday. I still don't get the appeal of this feud. Scratch that. I get the appeal, but I just don't care about Mark Henry at all.

Rosa Mendes vs. Kelly Kelly

Non title here. I have absolutely no idea what to talk about here. Match is over and there's just nothing to say. Kelly wins with the K2 at 1:49. The majority of the match was spent talking about jobs Rosa has had. Nothing else to say at all. Oh and Alicia was at ringside and did nothing at all.

Johnny Curtis pulls an elephant out of a bag which is supposed to be a cat. Apparently it's the big elephant in the room. They're really running out of ideas aren't they?

Justin Gabriel vs. Heath Slater

Both guys have their own music now. Slater says he's tired of being held back and that he'll show he's better tonight. Nice technical stuff to start as they know each other really well. The crowd doesn't seem to care at all but you can't have everything I guess. Gabriel starts fighting back but can't hit the 450. Cole runs his mouth some more as Slater misses a moonsault. The 450 hits and we're done at 2:52. Well Slater looks like nothing now.

Video on Punk vs. Cena, which is the same from NXT.

Randy Orton vs. Kane

For some reason I've wanted to see a proper feud between these two for years. Just seems like it would be good. Orton hammers away to start which doesn't really work. Christian is on the stage. Kane hammers away as he is known to do. The clothesline hits and he calls for the chokeslam about 75 seconds into this. Orton counters with right hands but he can't take Kane down. He manages to get the powerslam and the elevated DDT. RKO is countered and Orton sees Christian, allowing Kane to send him to the floor. Christian throws a drink at Randy and runs into the crowd. It's enough for the count out at 2:58 though.

Orton chases after Christian and gets him near Kane and the beatdown is on. Kane doesn't like Christian though and chases him off. Orton pops up and hits the RKO on Kane but Christian hits a spear and pounds on Randy. Christian gets a chair but Orton gets it away from him as the Canadian runs. Kane takes a chair shot. Make that a lot of them. Orton goes all bugged eyed on Christian to end the show.

Overall Rating: B+. Good show but it was a step behind what the others have been recently. That being said, they had some good matches and a story going throughout the show. Also they had some nice build for the PPV so maybe it wasn't all that bad of a show. It's not as good as some others they've done, but still for a go home show, this was really pretty good.

Results

Ezekiel Jackson b. Ted DiBiase – Torture Rack

Cody Rhodes b. Daniel Bryan – Beautiful Disaster

Sin Cara b. Sheamus – Hurricanrana into a pin

Kelly Kelly b. Rosa Mendes – K2

Justin Gabriel b. Heath Slater – 450 Splash

Kane b. Randy Orton via countout

Smackdown – June 10, 2011 – Nice Long Main Event

Smackdown

Date: June 10, 2011

Location: Roanoke Civic Center, Roanoke, Virginia

Commentators: Michael Cole, Booker T, Josh Matthews

With Christian apparently a heel now, it should be interesting to see where he goes. It's pretty clear that they're setting up for Christian/Orton III at the PPV which is probably their best bet. Other than that there isn't much to talk about here. Everything seems to be going along as it always does, which is a good thing as no one can really run a TV show like Smackdown does at this point. Let's get to it.

We open with a clip of last week with Christian apparently turning heel and bashing Orton's head in with the title. The dramatic music is a nice touch here.

Speaking of the Canadian here he is. He talks about how the fans that boo him get it apparently because he was screwed out of winning the championship just five days out of winning it. He was also screwed out of being #1 contender two weeks ago so he was justified in what he did last week, which draws booing. Christian says he is done with all the people, his so called "peeps". He doesn't want to talk to them ever again. There's a solid evil smile on his face here too which is

really selling the heel turn.

The one person he does want to talk to is sitting over here, and his name is Michael Cole. Christian calls Cole into the ring and has something to say in general and not specifically to Cole. Christian talks about how he doesn't get the fans. These are the people that went off on the internet about how he lost the title and how unfair it is but now they're blasting him for what he did last week. He doesn't get how the fans cheering went.

Let's talk about Bob in accounting. If Bob is up for a big promotion, he should get it on the basis of his merit, not by going out and asking people on the street if he should get it. That's what Teddy did by asking the fans. It's disrespectful to Christian to have Teddy do that. He's been disrespected by one person in particular: Randy Orton. A real man wouldn't have taken that title shot five days after a ladder match.

Christian asks Cole for a favor since he's not talking to the people. He wants Cole to ask the people if they think he deserves to be the world heavyweight champion. Great heat for him mentioning that. Cole asks the fans and the booing isn't as loud. Wow so he has Cole beaten already. Christian calls the fans clueless and says he'll be champion again. When he does it, it'll be for himself and not for them. With that, he leaves. Very solid heel turn speech here as there's total logic to what he's saying and the delivery was great. This was one of the better ones I can remember in a very long time.

Corre vs. Ezekiel Jackson/Usos

What an odd face tag team. Jackson wants Barrett to start but gets Slater instead. Jackson of course runs over him and brings in let's say Jey. Slater gets beaten from one side of the ring to the other and brings in Gabriel to face apparently

Jimmy. Does it really matter? Gabriel is an extremist apparently. Booker compares the Usos to Harlem Heat. That's a surprising pairing to be sure.

Booker spent about six months with the Usos before. Corre speeds things up and sends the Usos to the floor and into the table. We take a break for a don't try this at home video. Can't make fun of that. Back with Barrett stomping away at "one of the Usos" as apparently Josh can't tell them apart either. Boss Man Slam gets two. Let's say that's Jimmy (bet that's wrong but again does it matter?) playing Ricky Morton for awhile so I guess that makes Slater Bobby Eaton?

Hot tag to Jackson and Barrett runs off, bringing in Gabriel. Jackson starts the slams and Barrett tries to bail. Slater yells at him but he walks off anyway. Slams all around and the Usos add a double superkick (how has that never been a tag team finisher? I know the Rockers used it at times but not as a finisher) to Slater and the Torture Rack ends Gabriel at 6:45 shown of 10:15 shown. Barrett vs. Jackson for the title at the PPV.

Rating: C. Just a run of the mill six man here to further the Corre splitting up. Nothing wrong with that at all as I think it leads to the Jackson title reign at the PPV, which it probably should do. Anyway, the Usos were a surprising addition here and the whole thing was fine. Right in the middle sounds fine.

Teddy is on the phone and apparently making bets on horse racing. Sheamus comes in and Teddy pretends that he's talking to his wife. I wonder if that betting thing is going anywhere. Anyway Sheamus wants Christian tonight and Teddy says no. Instead Teddy makes it Orton vs. Sheamus, no DQ. Sheamus likes that as he's smiling about it, but the visual is really weird here as the camera zooms in on his face like Teddy has left or the shot is ending but it pulls back to see Teddy just looking at him. Unintentional comedy works every

time.

Gabriel and Slater want an explanation and Barrett says they're nothing without him. The tag team says you're about to find out because the Corre is done.

Trent Barreta vs. Jinder Mahal

I can never spell Barreta right the first time. Always add an extra T. Mahal's legs are almost creepy looking from being so long. We have the makings of another squash here and the height that Trent gets on a backdrop is great. He gets a shot in to break Mahal's momentum and tries what looks like a moonsault, but Khali provides the distraction. Full nelson slam ends this at 1:29. More or less a squash. Vice Grip to Trent post match.

Some young clueless putz gets to talk to AJ who is all perky and cute and I can't help but smile. Before she gets anywhere Tamina and Rosa come up to give her cheese, because she's a little mouse. AJ says Laycool called and wants their gimmick back. The evil ones say AJ will be alone tonight but Natalya comes up and the heels leave.

Tamina vs. AJ

AJ has music now. Tamina tries to overpower her but AJ gets a quick dropkick in. That gets her nowhere so Tamina slams her and we hit the armbar. Booker flat out says he can't focus because of Rosa's short dress in front of him. Sounds far less creepy than Lawler here. Apparently Natalya took AJ and Kaitlyn paintballing. Think Cole has fun with that line? Tamina puts her in a fireman's carry but yells at Natalya too much and AJ rolls down her back and gets a rollup for the pin at 2:00. Dang she has nice abs.

We see a shorter version of the opening video about Christian to set up this.

Here's Orton but this isn't for his match apparently. He wants Christian to come out here right now and explain this. Christian pops up on the screen and says ask the fans if that's what they want. He imitates Teddy in a funny bit and says he's not coming out here. Christian wants one more match but Orton says he doesn't care.

Christian talks about how he could have counted Orton down last week but didn't want to face Sheamus for the title. He wants Orton, because he knows he can beat him. Orton wants Christian RIGHT NOW but Christian says on his terms, not anyone else's. They make the match at Capitol Punishment. Christian gets in his car and leaves, more or less guaranteeing he'll be here for later.

DiBiase and Rhodes make Anthony Weiner jokes. Cody wants to know if he can call the shots out there tonight and Ted takes exception. Rhodes talks about having money and women in Legacy and Ted says then you got your face messed up and went nuts. Cody casually shouts for a bagger and has the bagger put the bag on his own (the bagger's) head. Cody says he's not nuts but prematurely enlightened. Now he feels free and while he may be nuts, he may also be a genius. This was odd to say the least.

Sin Cara vs. Ted DiBiase

I'd have bet on this being the tag that was more or less set up last week. No Bryan in sight but Cody and the baggers are with Ted here. There go the lights which I don't get. It kind of made sense for Kane but I don't get it at all with Cara. Fast start of course as Cara gets a pretty awesome but completely overdone armdrag. Ted gets a boot up in the corner to take Cara down. Cara gets in a shot and sets for a

springboard something but Cody pulls him down and it's a DQ at 1:50.

Bryan runs out for the save and Teddy makes the tag match.

Daniel Bryan/Sin Cara vs. Ted DiBiase/Cody Rhodes

Well at least they didn't waste much of our time on the one on one. There's a break before the match. The match is in progress when we come back with Bryan hitting an arm drag to DiBiase. LeBell Lock can't go on as Ted runs to the corner and brings in Cody. Cody gets in an argument with the referee and walks into a missile dropkick by Cara. Cara gets sent shoulder first into the post and here comes Rhodes.

Never mind as it's off to Ted. He only came a little. Make your own jokes there. Ted works on the injured arm but gets caught in a cross armbreaker. Cara rolls it into the ropes though so it doesn't really mean anything. Cody comes in and works on the arm while the referee speaks Spanish. Single arm DDT gets two. This match is awkward for some reason and I can't put my finger on why.

Ted works on the arm now as we talk about Booker getting back in the ring on Monday. Back off to Cody as I think the problem is the former Legacy isn't staying in long enough to make anything work really. Cara tries to speed it up and hits an enziguri to put Cody down. Double tags to Bryan and DiBiase and Bryan takes over. Even Cole is complimenting him here. Cara hits a suicide dive to take Cody out and Bryan jumps off the middle rope into a guillotine and then into the LeBell Lock for the tap at 6:30.

Rating: C-. I didn't like this at all for the most part but it was technically fine. The formula was there for the most part

but I couldn't get into it at all. The rating is probably low but at the same time it just didn't draw me in at all. Very awkward match for some reason which I think might have been due to Cara and Bryan never really being on offense other than at the end and a brief bit at the beginning.

Johnny Curtis has a chip on his shoulder. Like a potato chip. He eats the chip and that's about it. I spent 15 weeks watching NXT for this. I hate my life, I have my life.

Orton talks about his past anger management issues and says this match will help him.

Randy Orton vs. Sheamus

No DQ remember. Sheamus goes straight at him like a good monster heel and hammers him down. Orton gets his non-Thesz Press to take over. They head to the floor as Orton sends Sheamus into the barricade. Sheamus hammers away but Orton gets a dropkick up to block the slingshot shoulder block and we head back to the floor. He puts Sheamus' head on the steps and tries to stomp down but since that would more or less kill him, Sheamus pulls him down and rams Orton's head into the steps as we take a break.

Back with Sheamus having that crossface chickenwing on but shifting to a chinlock rather quickly. Ok back to the crossface. Pick a hold dude. Orton fires off a headbutt of all things to escape. Sheamus takes him down again and back to the same hold. There's the slingshot shoulder for two. Again with the chickenwing but now it's off to a regular chinlock one more time.

Ok make that a headlock. At least this time Orton gets a

belly to back to break up the monotony. Orton hammers him down and it's a slugout again. Orton fires off and hits his powerslam but Sheamus heads to the floor. Sheamus is sent into the barricade but reverses to send Orton into the steps. Both guys are down but it's Sheamus up first. Into the ring and Sheamus brings the steps with him.

Orton counters with the backbreaker for two. The steps are pulled into the middle of the ring but Sheamus pulls him into the middle buckle and stomps away. Austin would be proud of those. Sheamus can't powerslam Orton onto the steps but Orton gets one onto them to put the pale one down. The steps are shoved aside and Sheamus hits the Irish Curse for two.

Sheamus heads to the floor and pulls out a kendo stick. He beats the tar out of Orton with it but can only get two. The crowd is rapidly getting into this. Sheamus throws the stick away and sets for the Brogue Kick. Orton avoids it though and Sheamus' foot is caught in the ropes. Randy picks up the stick and unloads on Sheamus, hitting probably twenty shots or so. Orton has that crazy look in his eyes and it's the elevated DDT.

He loads up the RK0 but Christian runs in. He can't hit the Killswitch though and Randy can't hit the RK0. Sheamus takes Randy's head off with a running double axe handle and it's time for the High Cross. Orton escapes and ducks the Brogue Kick. RK0 hits but Christian blasts him with the belt and Sheamus crawls on top for the pin at approximately 17:12 shown of 21:14. The video was jumping around a lot on the site I was using so this is as good of a guess as I can give it.

Rating: B+. I rather liked this as they didn't have a really boring part other than in the very middle with Sheamus using a ton of rest holds. Still though it worked rather well as they've apparently figured out how to not bore us to tears. The ending here works also because Orton had the win until Christian interfered. I like this ending as it makes

Christian seem like he's getting under his skin through action instead of doing whatever Anderson is trying to do to Sting at the moment. Fun and solid match.

Christian holds up the belt to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Good show but a step down from last week. They continue to have the perfect pacing as far as matches to promos and we got a ton of wrestling here. Not as good as last week but still quite good, especially with the majority of stuff already set up for the PPV, which is the main idea at this point. Good show but not great.

Smackdown – May 20, 2011 – Just Kind of There

Smackdown

Date: May 20, 2011

Location: American Bank Center Arena Corpus Christi, Texas

Commentators: Michael Cole, Booker T, Josh Matthews

We have one more show before Over the Limit and this is it. I wouldn't expect much tonight other than a final push to the PPV as the card seems to be mostly set already. Orton and Christian will likely have some more interaction tonight but other than that I don't know of anything that's likely to happen. Anyway, let's get to it.

Do You Know Your Enemy? Mine at the moment is a bad cough that I've had all week.

Orton vs. Henry tonight.

Christian vs. Sheamus

We get an old school inset promo from Sheamus as he comes to the ring where he says it took Christian 15 years to win a world title and it took him two months. Rather true actually. Sheamus uses power to take over early and Christian is in trouble. Christian manages to send the pale dude to the floor but gets caught by a shoulder through the ropes.

Christian speeds things up as we hit the floor. And never mind as we go back into the ring and Sheamus shoves him off the top to the floor and we take a break. Back with Sheamus getting a powerslam for two. Off to a chinlock by Sheamus as they rest a bit. Reverse DDT gets two for Christian as does a cross body. Middle rope elbow looks to set up the Killswitch but Christian walks into the Irish Curse for two.

Tornado DDT by Christian as this is a rather nice TV match so far. That only gets two though because regular moves can't get pins remember? Finishers only. Sheamus is knocked to the apron and hits a slingshot shoulder block to get two as well. And scratch what I said about finishers only as Christian grabs a small package for the pin at 8:43 shown on 12:13.

Rating: B-. The ending was a bit abrupt but this was a pretty solid opening match. Sheamus tends to work rather well with guys a bit smaller than him and this was no exception. Solid back and forth match here but the ending left a bit to be desired with it seeming to not follow the buildup it had for the most part. Still good overall though.

Henry comes out for the double beatdown post match. Orton comes out very slowly for the save but watches a bit first. So Orton is a voyeur now?

Long video on Miz vs. Cena on Sunday.

We run down the rest of the card for Sunday to fill in more time. Brie Bella is defending against Kelly Kelly apparently.

Speaking of the Bellas they're in the back and Grisham asks them about the beatdown on Monday from Kharma. Brie is asked why she let Nikki get beaten down and they get in an argument about why they let each other get beaten down. They agree that they would have done the same thing in each other's place so this is totally pointless.

Natalya vs. Brie Bella

Non-title here as I guess Natalya is now just there to fill in a space. Booker rambles on about biscuits and butter and Kharma as even Josh laughs at how out there he sounds. Natalya takes her down with relative ease and gets two. What looks like a Boston Crab can't go on so Brie takes over, working on the arm. Discus lariat gets two for Natalya as this is a rather boring match with the fans totally dead. Delayed vertical suplex gets no cover. Brie sends her shoulder first into the corner and gets a horrible looking X-Factor for the pin at 3:01.

Rating: D-. Yeah shockingly enough a match with one of the Bellas was junk. The only thing they're good for is shaking their hips and their in ring work proves that. This was another weak Divas match as Nattie is now losing clean to Brie Bella of all people. It never ceases to amaze me how fast a long running champion can fall like that.

We talk about Big Zeke getting thrown out of Corre and he'll be here next.

Here's Jackson who says he came to SD to write a new chapter in the Book of Ezekiel. He joined the Corre to make an impact

and talks about how Corre took over. Not really but we'll go with that. He wants to know if Corre needed him or if he needed Corre. The last two weeks he's taken a beating but they can't break him. He's not going to sleep until they've all suffered.

Here comes Corre for the beatdown but Teddy interrupts them and makes a six man tag.

Corre vs. Ezekiel Jackson/Kane/Big Show

Slater is in tights now instead of trunks. Show starts for the Bald Brotherhood to face Gabriel. The title match on Sunday is against Ryan and Punk. Why would it be against them when McGillicutty and Otunga beat the champions? Why am I trying to make sense of this? Kane comes in as this has been one sided so far. Off to Slater whose luck is about the same. Booker wants to step outside with Cole. I guess he's afraid to cross the street and needs Cole to hold his hand.

Barrett gets the tag and is rather skeptical to face Kane so he gets Jackson instead. Barrett beats him down but can't suplex him. Jackson clotheslines him to the floor as we take a break. Back with Jackson running over Gabriel and it's off to Big Show. Showstopper (standing leg drop if I remember the name correctly) puts Gabriel down as does something resembling a superkick.

Back to Jackson as the beating continues. Totally one sided so far. Barrett comes in and has the best luck so he tags out to Slater immediately. Jackson runs over Slater now and Kane adds the top rope clothesline. Sidewalk slam gets two but Barrett pulls the top rope down to send Kane to the floor. Corre takes over as Slater throws on a chinlock which gets him nowhere.

Kane suplexes his way out of it but Barrett stops the tag.

Double big boot puts both guys

down and it's back off to Slater again. Big uppercut puts Heath down and a double tag brings in Gabriel and Jackson. All Big Zeke here but everything breaks down quickly. Jackson slams Gabriel about four times and a torture rack (love that move for Jackson) ends this at 8:10 shown of 11:40.

Rating: C. Just a six man here with the good guys dominating almost the entire time. I'm skeptical about who wins both title matches on Sunday but it's not like this told us anything about the tag champions really. Either way, not a terrible match but just kind of there really. Zeke having a new finisher is definitely a good thing for him though as he really needed one and a Torture Rack is perfect.

Christian suggests we look at some tape from earlier which is Orton taking his time getting down there for the save. He's going to be 100% on Sunday.

This isn't from the show but as I'm reviewing this news broke that Randy Savage died in a car wreck. That completely blew me away and I have no idea what to even think about it. Sad indeed.

Chavo Guerrero vs. Daniel Bryan

Pre match Chavo says that he brought Sin Cara here and how he's going to beat Bryan in five minutes as opposed to the fifteen it took Cara to do it last week. Chavo vs. Cara is confirmed for the PPV. There's a countdown clock on screen for this. First minute passes with nothing more than basic stuff. Bryan gets a dropkick and drop toehold to take over. Chavo gets his feet up in the corner to get two with 3:25 to go.

Booker and Cole get into it again as has become a tradition on Fridays anymore. Chavo locks in a reverse chinlock which doesn't last long. They exchange rollups and things speed up a bit with about two minutes to go. Here come the kicks and it's LeBell Lock time. He can't quite get it on so he hits the floor with a minute left. Big dive to the floor takes Chavo out and the missile dropkick misses with thirty five seconds left. Chavo goes with Three Amigos with very little time left. Frog Splash only gets two and the clock runs out at 5:00.

Rating: C+. Pretty clear that we were going with the time limit but that was the point in this case so it's nothing to complain about. Chavo as usual works rather well out there and with a guy like Bryan it's not like they were asking much of him. This was absolutely fine and it worked rather well indeed. Good match and nice to see Bryan not get pinned again.

Chavo throws him to the floor post match and Sin Cara comes out for the save, hitting a rana to send Chavo to the floor.

Here's Cody with Ted for the paper bag thing. PLEASE tell me they're not reforming Legacy and messing up Cody's push for the sake of a weak tag team. Cody gets a bag especially for Ted who doesn't want to put it on but does anyway. It turns out to be a joke for the sake of making fun of Corpus Christi as Ted speaks in a bad Mexican accent. The fans boo and Cody yells at them to put the bags on. Ted takes the bag off and says bring out his opponent.

Ted DiBiase vs. Trent Barreta

Ted hammers him back into the corner as I think we have a squash on our hands here. Apparently Cody called Ted a shrub

or something, meaning his career has fallen apart. Trent takes Ted down with a standing Swanton for two. Enziguri has Ted staggering but a tornado DDT is countered into a sitout powerbomb. Dream Street ends this clean in 1:25 for no rating of course. Trent gets paper bagged post match.

Great Khali vs. Jey Uso

What do you think is going to happen here? No Singh with Khali here. Jey tries to get some kicks in but Khali throws him around. A dropkick sends Khali into the corner and here's Jinder Mahal to yell at Khali some more. Khali goes to the floor to stare him down and almost gets counted out because of it. Back in the chop and Khali Bomb ends this at 2:05. Total squash for all intents and purposes. Someone, perhaps Jimmy Uso, comes in and gets chopped also as he checks on Jey.

Apparently Christian said he'll be 100%. Orton says that's not going to be enough.

Randy Orton vs. Mark Henry

Henry takes him back into the corner to start and the power game takes over rather quickly. The less orange than usual Orton is sent to the floor and the beating continues. Back in and Orton gets a few shots in and a dropkick sends Henry to the floor. Back with another dropkick doing the same. It was one of those commercials where nothing changed so I'm not adding the time to the clock.

Back in and Henry gets a powerslam for no cover as Booker freaks out. Oh there's the cover but there was a delay in between. Henry shouts that he owns Orton. I wonder if he sees fried chicken when he looks at Orton. Off to an armbar because when you think big, strong, mad, ticked off Texan, you

think armbars. Orton hits the rope and runs over Henry and adds some knee drops to take over.

The Garvin Stomp begins as it amazes me that he's stealing stuff from Ronnie Freaking Garvin. Dude, were there no Kansas Jayhawk moves available? Henry hits the floor to avoid the RKO but gets caught in position for the elevated DDT. And never mind as here's Sheamus for the DQ at 5:45.

Rating: C-. Not much of a main event at all here but at the same time they were just doing this for the save at the end which is fine. Henry is a guy that I do not get the point in but he's gotten pushes for nearly 15 years now so there you are. Anyway, weak match for the most part and nothing of note at all as it was more there to set up an angle rather than be a match but whatever.

Christian does the same thing that Orton did earlier and waits a bit on the stage before coming in for the save. Randy is all ticked off about the delay but Christian is like dude I was having an awesome game of Parcheesi with Corre. Anyway the monsters come in again and get beaten down. RKO to Henry sets up a handshake to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. Not much here but we did get two additional matches for the PPV. There was no real feeling here of needing to see anything but they played up some of the PPV matches with the emphasis being on the world title, which is exactly what they needed to do. I can't imagine that Christian will get the title back on Sunday but they've at least made it seem possible which is the right idea. Not bad, but nothing special at all.

Results

Christian b. Sheamus – Small Package

Brie Bella b. Natalya – Faceplant

Ezekiel Jackson/Kane/Big Show b. Corre – Torture Rack to Gabriel

Daniel Bryan vs. Chavo Guerrero went to a time limit draw

Ted DiBiase b. Trent Barreta – Dream Street

Randy Orton b. Mark Henry via DQ when Sheamus interfered

Monday Night Raw – April 18, 2011 – What’s the British Translation of “Bad Show”?

Monday Night Raw

Date: April 18, 2011

Location: O2 Arena, London, England

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler, Michael Cole

We’re in England tonight as you can see by the location of the show. This show was taped which might explain some differences in the look and feel of the show. We’re apparently a week away from the 2011 WWE Draft which means this might be the last night a lot of Raw stars are well...Raw stars. We also will likely get some more matches added to the Extreme Rules card. Let’s get to it.

Nickelback opens us up. Awesome. Yes I like them. Go ahead and make your jokes.

Here’s R-Truth to open the show in the arena. Cole cuts Lawler and King off almost immediately and says it’s not 12 years ago. Lawler says he likes listening to R-Truth rap.

Why do I have a problem believing that? Truth says he's going to preach the gospel. He's been down a long road of trials, tribulations and demons. His problem now is that he's in line to become WWE Champion. Cena's name is booed. For the WWE Universe he's fighting everybody anywhere anytime. And that is the truth.

Cue John Morrison who says he's happy but would be happier if it was him. Morrison says Truth got lucky last week. Truth says he's in the best shape of his life. We get a clip from last week where during a commercial a referee handed Truth some water as Cena came in. Morrison says Truth is in good shape for someone who smokes.

Truth: "All you're trying to do is get me to challenge you to a match for my spot at Extreme Rules." Morrison: "All right I accept." Morrison points out that Truth said he'd fight anybody and the people seem to like the idea. Truth says he'll do it on two conditions. First up a bottle of water and a cigarette. Morrison says he'll need some luck too. Crowd had no response at all to those three final things.

John Morrison vs. R-Truth

This is for the spot at Extreme Rules apparently. Morrison takes over early and Truth hits the floor. The fans aren't thrilled as he gets some water and we take a break. Back with Truth holding a headlock and then grabbing some pinning combinations for two. Back to the headlock again as I guess Truth was tired again? Morrison makes a small comeback with clotheslines but is taken down by a spinning kick by Truth.

Truth works on the arm for a bit and hits that suplex into a Stunner move of his for two. Axe kick misses as does Morrison's kick off the middle rope. Morrison blocks the jumping downward spiral (which I think is called What's Up but I'm not sure), putting Truth in perfect position for Starship

Pain to end this in 7:08 (counting commercial). Morrison is now in the PPV main event.

Rating: C. Just an ok match here but the water angle was kind of interesting for a nice twist. The reaction to the change in the triple threat is kind of surprising though as they acted like it was no big deal at all. Not a terrible match but just kind of there. The best word I can think of for this match is basic. It wasn't anything great but it wasn't bad either. Average grade sounds right.

Truth goes off on Morrison post match, apparently turning heel. He throws in a running knee to Morrison's head, driving it into the railing. Then he kind of houghs Morrison and says it's all right before throwing him down on the floor. He steals Jerry's water and blasts Morrison in the head with it. Truth says John did this and hits What's Up on the floor. He gets a cigarette from a fan and actually lights up. Never thought I'd see that on WWE programming. He blows smoke on Morrison and throws the lit cigarette at him before leaving. Long segment here but not too bad.

Evan Bourne vs. Dolph Ziggler

No entrance for Bourne here other than a faint trace of his music. Vickie does the regular entrance for Ziggler, who she claims is new and improved. He has a haircut and dark hair now. Well he doesn't look like Curt Hennig anymore. Ziggler takes over quickly but is caught in a hurricanrana. Bourne tries to come off the ropes but gets caught by a dropkick for two.

We hit the mat and Ziggler looks like he's unsure what he wants to do before settling on a bow and arrow kind of hold for a bit. Bourne keeps trying to fight back with some strikes but Ziggler takes him down with ease. A nice little string of offense by Evan ends with a spin kick for two. He

goes up for Air Bourne but Ziggler moves. Bourne LANDS ON HIM FEET but is caught in a Zig Zag to end it at 2:10. That landing by Bourne was amazing.

Cole is going to be knighted later apparently.

The Raw Rewind is all three of Sin Cara's appearances.

Video of Edge's two appearances last week, set to 3 Doors Down's When You're Young. Del Rio is going to have a farewell party for Edge on Smackdown apparently.

Here's Miz in a new shirt, along with Riley. It looks like a baseball jersey and says Awesome. Miz complains about being in a triple threat match and having it changed on him. The match is going to be in a cage also where you can win by pinfall, submission or escape. He wants a chair because he's going to protest this change as we take a break.

Back with Miz running his mouth as we come back in mid sentence. He's talking about how it doesn't matter who does something because at Extreme Rules he's going to still be champion at the end of the match. He sets for the catchphrase and Sin (Scene according to JR) Cara's music cuts him off.

Sin Cara vs. Alex Riley

BIG height on the trampoline this week as he easily clears the top rope. Loud Sin Cara chant starts and here's Cena at a full sprint to clear the ring. Well you can't say Cara isn't getting a good rub right of the bat. The GM sends an e-mail to make it a tag match. Works for me.

Alex Riley/The Miz vs. John Cena/Sin Cara

Riley and Cena start with the fans booing Cena out of the

building. Bulldog takes Alex down and he bails to the floor as we take another break. Back with Cena taking it to Miz FU is blocked and Miz gets a Side Effect to send Cena into the corner. The announcers talk about the Draft and Jerry wants to know if Cole is drafted off Raw. My guess would be very little would change as he already does Smackdown but what do I know?

Riley and Miz hammer on Cena a bit more until Cena gets that sitout powerslam kind of move he hit last week. That's enough for the hot tag as Cara comes in by kind of jumping into Miz. Things speed way up and Cara hits all kinds of dives and springboard moves to take down both opponents. He sets for what looked like a springboard splash of some sort but Riley made the save, pulling him to the floor.

Miz rams him into the apron and takes over as they're now the legal men. The dueling Cena chants begin as Riley gets a clothesline for two. Back off to the champion who can't get his running clothesline in the corner. Double tags bring in Riley and Cena and John initiates his ending sequence. Before 5 Knuckle Shuffle he takes out Miz. The champ picks up his title to leave as Cena hits the FU on Riley. Tag brings in Sin Cara who TOTALLY misses a springboard moonsault which is enough to end this at 10:30.

Rating: C+. Not a terrible match but Cara still looks really shaky out there and can't hit some very basic spots. If not for the sake of a quick camera edit that ending would have looked completely unrealistic and even with it the move looked bad. Cara is trying but he looks like he's about to go flying to the floor any second. Not a good sign to be sure.

Nikki Bella vs. Eve Torres

Brie says that she wants a rematch but Eve might get drafted to Smackdown. Not really any kind of a threat or anything but

just kind of a statement of fact. Eve misses a baseball slide to Nikki as she's in a Tree of Woe to let Nikki take over. Brie I think tries to slam Eve's knee into the apron but the contact doesn't seem to be there. Nikki misses a double knee drop and Eve gets a rollup to end it at 1:48.

Eve poses after her win and Cole cuts it off. He's going to be knighted next.

Back with Cole in the ring and he calls out Swagger. Jack comes out in a suit holding what looks like a robe over his arm. Swagger doesn't look mad at him after last week. They hug so I guess everything is ok. Swagger pulls out a scroll and botches saying "Hear Ye" by saying "Hear He". Tonight we add a new item to his hall of fame career as he becomes Sir Michael Cole.

Swagger brings out a woman that is called Queen Elizabeth. The fans boo loudly as she reads whatever proclamation she has and taps him on the shoulders with the sword. Cole kisses the queen and tries to start a Sir Michael Cole chant. The fans reply by chanting sucks. Cole says to show respect because they're all his peasants. And speaking of peasants, he turns his attention to JR and the King. Isn't a King ahead of a knight?

Cole says they should kiss his feet. Cole takes his shoe and sock off, revealing a disgusting looking foot that looks like it's dirty and infected or something. Swagger takes Lawler out and then grabs Ross. JR of course refuses so the ankle lock goes on and down goes Ross onto the foot. Cole and Swagger stand tall.

Punk vs. Orton later tonight.

Santino Marella vs. Sheamus

Cole and Matthews on commentary now as this is what, the 7th or 8th week in a row that the same team doesn't finish commentary? Sheamus says this might be his last chance to embarrass Santino due to the draft. The Champion sends Santino into the corner and takes over with ease. Powerslam is reversed and that's about it for this sequence by Santino.

Off to that crossface chickenwing on the mat but Marella fights back up. An elbow drop leads to a similar version of the same hold. Total dominance for the first few minutes until Santino dodges a charge in the corner. He loads up the Cobra but falls down in the process. Brogue Kick ends this clean at 3:28.

Rating: D+. Just a squash here and a way to get Sheamus on the show. Santino is a rare breed of jobber where he can lose time after time but keep his credibility based solely on his comedy. Not much of a match but at the same time it wasn't supposed to be. Kind of surprised that Santino got in literally no offense.

CM Punk vs. Randy Orton

Punk grabs a headlock to start and the fans chant in a dueling fashion. Orton stomps Punk down in the corner which doesn't last long at all. Punk fires off some knees to the head and a running one puts the Viper down. Orton comes back and gets his powerslam to set up the RK0. Punk shoves him off and we take a break.

Back with Punk slamming Orton and dropping a knee. Off to a front facelock and Orton can't seem to reverse it. We get a GTS/RK0 chant as Punk keeps up his offense. We go out to the floor for a bit as Punk wants to know if he can get a pin out there. Back in and it's off to a modified triangle choke. Orton bites the fingers to escape. Punk tries a bulldog which

is reversed into a belly to back suplex as we're back to about even.

The bulldog hits this time and it gets two. Punk is all frustrated since getting bitten on the hand. He fires off some kicks but walks into the Orton backbreaks and an Angle Slam for two. Punk clotheslines him on the top rope as we get another dueling chant. Springboard clothesline gets two. Punk goes up, only to get caught by a superplex for a long two. Punk rolls to the apron which is a bad idea against Orton. Elevated DDT is reversed into a GTS attempt. That is countered into an RKO attempt but Punk gets a kick to the head. Another GTS attempt is countered into a rollup for the pin at 15:44.

Rating: B-. Not a terrible match here but it certainly wasn't enough to save the show. They were trying and gave us a pretty good match but it wasn't as good as their Mania match. This was the standard long match to end a TV show and send the fans home happy which is fine, but I'd like to see Punk get one win over Orton in this feud. Not bad, but nothing classic.

Post match the New Nexus hits the ring for the big beatdown. Batista's Welsh son hits his Rock Bottom/Side Effect finisher to leave Orton laying. McGillicutty and Otunga want to do something of their own but Ryan says Orton is his. Ryan sets for a punt but Punk wants the honor. After taking forever, Punk charges into an RKO to end the show. Nice ending.

Overall Rating: D. This didn't do it for me at all. I know it's a show over in London so things are a bit different, but at the same time a lot of this felt like it was completely lacking. There wasn't a main point to most of tonight other than I guess you could say Truth's turn. Cole's segment didn't really do anything other than make him look like a bad guy which we've known for a long time now. Nothing of note here and I wasn't impressed at all.

Results

John Morrison b. R-Truth – Starship Pain

Dolph Ziggler b. Evan Bourne – Zig Zag

Sin Cara/John Cena b. The Miz/Alex Riley – Springboard moonsault to Riley

Eve Torres b. Nikki Bella – Rollup

Randy Orton b. CM Punk – Rollup