

# Dynamite – April 13, 2022: The Downhill Slide

## Dynamite

Date: April 13, 2022

Location: UNO Lakefront Arena, New Orleans, Louisiana

Commentators: Excalibur, Jim Ross, Tony Schiavone

It's the start of a big week around here as we are on the third of five shows. There are some important matches set up for this card and there is a good chance that we could be in for a fun one. If nothing else, they are coming in off a white hot main event last week so hopefully they can keep up the momentum. Let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

## CM Punk vs. Penta Obscuro

Alex Abrahantes is here with Penta. Punk isn't overly intimidated by Obscuro's entrance and they stare each other down to start. That goes into the big chop off, with the fans getting right into this as soon as they get going. A superkick staggers Punk but he kicks Penta in the ribs to cut him off. Punk strikes away as commentary runs down tonight's card, including Samoa Joe vs. Minoru Suzuki. The GTS is countered into an ankle lock and Punk gets sent to the floor. Some suicide dives take too long though and Punk takes his place, setting up a dive of his own.

We take a break and come back with both of them going up to the same corner. Punk pulls him down into...something that wasn't clear as his knee seems to give out. Penta takes him into the corner but Punk comes out with a super hurricanrana, setting up the running knee in the corner. The GTS is

countered so Punk tries the Anaconda Vice, sending Penta straight to the rope.

They head to the apron to slug it out but neither can hit a piledriver. Instead Punk hits the running knee in the corner back inside, only to have the GTS blocked. The arm snap is countered into a rollup but that's countered into another rollup to give Penta two. Another superkick rocks Punk but he's fine enough to pull Penta out of the air for the GTS and the pin at 13:33.

**Rating:** B. They worked hard here and the ending was good, though it felt a bit like a match you would see on a big time indy show: no real reason for them to be fighting, but it makes fans go "that sounds AWESOME". It was good while it lasted though and Punk continues his climb up to the top of the rankings. I'm sure the path will be completely scientific and logical as well.

The Jericho Appreciation Society arrived at the airport earlier but Eddie Kingston, Santana and Ortiz were waiting on them. They beat up 3.0 and took their shoes, as good guys tend to do.

### Tag Team Titles: ReDRagon vs. Jurassic Express

Jurassic Express is defending. Jungle Boy gets struck into the corner by Fish, allowing O'Reilly to come in for a headlock. Luchasaurus tags himself in and starts kicking away, only to get caught with some dragon screw legwhips. That's enough to put Luchasaurus in the corner but he strikes his way out of trouble, allowing the tag off to Jungle Boy.

The suicide dives are on (JR: "It's Tope Suicida Night folks! And the kids eat free!"), setting up Luchasaurus hitting his own dive. Jungle Boy goes for a dive but Fish isn't quite ready and has to move over in a hurry (that could have been nasty). Fish twists Jungle Boy off the apron by the arm though and we take a break.

Back with O'Reilly trying a cross armbreaker on Jungle Boy but getting stacked up for two instead. Jungle Boy gets over for the tag off to Luchasaurus to clean house, including the Tail Whip to O'Reilly. There's the double chokeslam into the standing moonsault for two on O'Reilly. A side slam top rope elbow combination (that looked good) gets two on Fish but ReDRagon is back in for a kick off into a German suplex.

O'Reilly grabs a cross armbreaker (while also trapping the leg) but Jungle Boy makes the rope. Back up and O'Reilly grabs a guillotine on Luchasaurus as Fish jumps over them with a super Falcon Arrow to Jungle Boy. Luchasaurus throws O'Reilly onto the two of them for the break and it's time to strike it out again. Fish gets Tail Whipped by Luchasaurus and it's the Throwassic Express for the pin to retain the titles at 13:45.

**Rating:** B. This was back into the "what's tagging" formula for the most part and I can with with that after last week's tag team clinic main event. Jurassic Express getting to add another win to their list is a good idea, but those titles seem destined either for FTR or the Young Bucks to set up the rubber match between the bigger name teams.

Post match O'Reilly chairs the champs down but FTR comes in to scare them off. I think you know where FTR and the Express are going.

The Blackpool Combat Club, now with Wheeler Yuta, are ready to fight the undisputed Gunn Club on Friday. Moxley's idea: break their faces.

Jamie Hayter and Toni Storm are ready to face each other in the first round of the Owen Hart Foundation tournament. Hayter talks about their history together and how it was a lot like Owen's rise to prominent. She isn't going to let Storm slow her down and asks what Storm is going to do about it. Storm smirks and walks away.

Maxwell Jacob Friedman vs. Shawn Dean

Shawn Spears is here with MJF. Hold on though as MJF's scarf gets caught in his jacket, but he jumps Dean from behind anyway. And yes, the scarf is completely fine in case you were wondering. MJF poses but we cut to the back where security has been taken out, with one of them missing a shirt. Back in the arena and MJF takes him to the floor, but Wardlow is behind MJF. The chase is on and security comes out to hold Wardlow back. MJF runs and, despite offering the referee a lot of money, loses by countout at 3:54.

**Rating:** D. This was a match in name only and that is ok. They are building up towards Wardlow vs. MJF even more and it is nice to see Dean getting some wins, even if they don't mean anything. MJF begging at the idea of losing makes sense as he is that obsessed with being the best, so they had the logic going strong here. Not a match for the most part but they weren't trying to make it one.

Post match Wardlow is taken to the back and Spears has to hold MJF back from fighting the referee. We cut to the back where Wardlow beats up security again and says he isn't going to stop until MJF lets him out of his contract. Then he breaks the camera, which will somehow go on MJF's bill.

In a video that is a bit more complicated for its message, Darby Allin challenges Andrade El Idolo to a casket match.

Malakai Black talks about how the House of Black is going to destroy Fuego del Sol.

### Jericho Appreciation Society vs. Eddie Kingston/Santana/Ortiz

Jericho flips Santana off to start and then hits him in the face, only to get himself into a chop off. Everything breaks down and Santana gets to beat on Jericho a bit more inside. It's off to Ortiz, who gets caught in a double flapjack from Jericho and Hager to put him down for a change. Hager drives him into the corner again and it's Garcia getting to come in for some shots of his own. Jericho gets the arrogant cover for

two and we take a break.

Back with Jericho missing the Lionsault and, after getting away from Hager, Ortiz manages the hot tag off to Kingston. House is cleaned without much trouble and Santana comes in with a top rope splash for two on Garcia. Ortiz's middle rope legdrop gets the same and the Street Sweeper is loaded up. Instead, Santana throws Garcia at Jericho to take him out. Cue 3.0 (still missing shoes) but Ortiz hits a big flip dive to take them down. The distraction lets Jericho get in a bat shot to finish Kingston at 11:45.

**Rating:** C+. It's far from a disaster, but I'm really not feeling the Society so far. They feel like a rehash of the Inner Circle but nowhere near as good. It's more of Jericho getting beaten up and then cheating to win, which is a pretty tired style. The match was good enough, but it feels like we've done this before and that isn't great to see.

Post match the big beatdown is on and no one makes the save.

A very angry MJF talks about how he has money and can do whatever he wants. Also, since he owns Wardlow, he's going to put Wardlow into the ring against the Butcher.

### Marina Shafir vs. Skye Blue

This is Shafir's Dynamite debut and Mark Sterling/Jade Cargill are watching in the back (Sterling more than Cargill). Shafir takes her down to start as we see Red Velvet as part of the Baddie Section. Blue's attempt at a choke is countered into a bearhug and a slam down. Shafir pounds away and hits a pumphandle suplex. A palm strike sets up a headscissors choke to make Blue tap at 2:22. Shafir really didn't look good here and they weren't exactly mixing well. I don't know what was wrong, but if this was anything more than an off night, Shafir is in trouble.

Tony Nese and Mark Sterling (third segment in a row after MJF

and Cargill) interrupt Hook's interview. Hook throws a medicine ball over his shoulder, hits an interrupting Danhausen, and leaves. Danhausen continues to be unsure what is going on.

The Men of the Year are ready for Sammy Guevara at Battle of the Belts on Saturday.

### Swerve Strickland/Keith Lee vs. Team Taz

The fans are way into Ricky Starks as the hometown boy. Powerhouse Hobbs shoves Strickland around to start and doesn't seem happy at Swerve trying an armbar. JR uses this time to talk about Mid-South/UWF memories and it's off to Starks to run the ropes into a rope walk. A top rope shot to the shoulder drops Strickland and Starks hits his pose. It's off to Lee, who sends Starks into the corner for the big chop, with Strickland holding the arms back to make it worse.

Everything breaks down and Strickland uses Lee's chest as a springboard for a moonsault down onto Team Taz. We take a break and come back with Lee cleaning house. Swerve takes Hobbs off the apron but springboards into a spear from Starks. A Canadian Destroyer plants Swerve for two but he is right back up to put Starks in a fireman's carry. Swerve goes up and throws Starks into the Pounce from Lee, who is cut off by Hobbs.

Cue Taz at ringside as Starks can't Ro Sham Bo Lee. Swerve gets shoved off the top but manages to post Hobbs. Starks' tornado DDT is blocked so he settles for a middle rope spear. Swerve breaks up the cover with a 450 but gets crushed by a running splash in the corner. Taz trips Lee though and the Last Will And Testament finishes Lee at 11:58.

**Rating:** C+. You build up Starks as the big star and don't have him get the pin in the match? Anyway, they weren't going to be able to get Starks booed here no matter what they tried so they didn't even bother. That's the right call here and Lee

lost to cheating rather than clean. They did things as they should have here and it was a pretty hot match.

Here's what's coming at various upcoming shows.

Thunder Rosa is interrupted by Nyla Rose and Vickie Guerrero. They have a cake to celebrate her short title reign but there is no writing on it because she isn't worth their money. Rosa: "Do you think I'm stupid?" Vickie and Nyla: "YES!" The cake goes in Rosa's face and she's so blind that she hits Vickie by mistake. Rosa gets sent into some boxes, with Rose shouting that the joke is on Rosa because she loves cake! This was pretty great.

Video on Hangman Page vs. Adam Cole in a Texas Deathmatch this week on Rampage.

Ring Of Honor TV Title: Samoa Joe vs. Minoru Suzuki

Suzuki is defending and they go straight to the required strike off. This includes chops and forearms for two minutes plus until Suzuki gets knocked to the apron. The armbar over the ropes slows Joe down and we take a break with Joe looking to be more than a bit spent pretty soon into things.

Back with Suzuki fighting out of a Crossface as Joe's chest is REALLY red. The Gotch Style piledriver is blocked and the chop it out again. Another piledriver attempt is blocked so Suzuki takes him into the corner for some choking. That's countered into the MuscleBuster to knock Suzuki silly and Joe is champion at 11:34.

**Rating:** B-. This is going to be the definition of "your mileage may vary" as the chop/strike off stuff loses its charm pretty quickly (the fact that Penta and Punk did the same thing an hour and a half ago didn't help). They kept this moving and it's hard to believe that it went as long as it did, but Suzuki was the definition of a transitional champion. That isn't a bad thing, but this one felt a lot more like

something that sounded great on paper fifteen years ago rather than here, with both of them likely near the end of their careers.

Post match here are Jay Lethal and Sonjay Dutt with a present for Joe. It's Lethal's middle finger, but the lights go out. Cue a 7'3 monster (identified by Tony as Satnam Singh, an Indian basketball player who was drafted into the NBA) to take Joe down and crush his head in a Khali style vice grip. Lethal and Dutt seem to have a monster enforcer to end the show. I don't know how the STUPENDOUS Khali will do but this wasn't exactly an inspiring debut.

**Overall Rating:** B-. It was a weird week as they started off great and then fell pretty hard before almost limping across the finish line. The Singh debut didn't exactly leave on a high note and the show was a bit of a rollercoaster. It doesn't feel like there is a top story at the moment and the World Title was a complete afterthought this week. Still a perfectly good show, but far from one of their best.

### Results

CM Punk b. Penta Obscuro – GTS

Jurassic Express b. ReDRagon – Throwassic Express to Fish

Shawn Dean b. Maxwell Jacob Friedman via countout

Jericho Appreciation Society b. Eddie Kingston/Santana/Ortiz – Baseball bat shot to Kingston

Marina Shafir b. Skye Blue – Headscissors choke

Team Taz b. Keith Lee/Swerve Strickland – Last Will And Testament to Lee

Samoa Joe b. Minoru Suzuki – MuscleBuster

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and head over to



my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

AND

[Remember to check out Wrestlingrumors.net](http://www.wrestlingrumors.net) for all of your [wrestling headline needs](http://www.wrestlingrumors.net).

---

# Rampage – April 1, 2022: The Rampage Way

## Rampage

Date: April 1, 2022

Location: Colonial Life Arena, Columbia, South Carolina

Commentators: Excalibur, Chris Jericho, Ricky Starks, Taz, Chris Jericho

Wrestlemania weekend caused me to miss this one so now it's time to catch up. I'm kind of curious to see how this show works without the timing issues and watching it as a stand alone event. The big draw this week is Powerhouse Hobbs vs. Keith Lee, which certainly sounds good on paper. Let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Young Bucks vs. Top Flight

Nick shoulders Dante down to start so Dante nips up. They head

to the floor and hit stereo dropkicks, setting up a staredown. Matt comes in and gets sent into the corner, setting up a slingshot hilo. A double dropkick takes the illegal Nick down and Darius pulls Matt into something like the Rings of Saturn.

That's broken up so Nick comes back in, only to have his springboard countered into an atomic drop. Back to back dives take the Bucks down but a Cutler distraction lets Matt hit a superkick to drop Darius on the floor. A Cannonball/running kick in the corner has Darius in more trouble and we take a break.

We come back with Dante coming in off the hot tag to clean house, including a superkick to Nick. There's a missile dropkick to Matt and Darius gets to stare at the crowd a bit. A slingshot Flatliner sets up the Broken Arrow (that jumping over your partner to land on someone's back for two on Nick. Darius gets knocked off the top and down into the barricade though and it's Nick vs. Darius in a slugout. Matt comes back in for the save though and it's the BTE Trigger for the pin at 10:48.

**Rating:** B-. It was the entertaining spectacle style match and that is all it needed to do. You have the Bucks against Top Flight in there to do their big choreographed routine and it did exactly what it needed to do. I'm not probably not going to remember it because I've seen the Bucks do this a dozen times, but while it's still in the short term memory, they were doing it pretty well here.

Video on the OTHER SIDE of Kris Statlander, meaning the paint on her face changes side.

Here are the Men of the Year to complain about Tay Conti and Sammy Guevara. Above all else, they don't like the photo shoot with the TNT Title, but they also want to know who was behind the camera. After some jokes about Orange Cassidy, Dan Lambert makes it clear that they will never give Guevara the match.

Guevara pops up on screen from the parking lot, where he and Conti destroy Lambert's car with sledgehammers. This company REALLY likes wrecking cars.

Hook is ready for an interview when Danhausen comes in to curse him. Again, Hook just walks away, leaving Danhausen to panic.

### House of Black vs. Dark Order/Fuego del Sol

Matthews shoulders Grayson down but he's back up with a running forearm. The Order is sent outside, leaving Fuego to get lawn darted into the middle buckle. King tosses Fuego onto the Order on the floor and we take a break. Back with Fuego kicking Buddy away and making the hot tag off to Grayson to clean house.

Everything breaks down and a toss powerbomb gives Uno two. The Order is sent outside for a running flip dive from King, leaving Black vs. Fuego inside. The rest of the House gets back in but the Order makes the save. Fuego manages a poisonrana on Black, who Black Masses Fuego out of the air for the pin at 7:14.

**Rating:** C. This was a bit longer than it needed to be for the House, as they should have smashed people like the Order and Fuego. It wasn't exactly a competitive match but the House has stalled a bit in recent weeks, as we are seemingly STILL waiting on their showdown with Death Triangle. I'm sure the match will be great when it happens, but has Death Triangle ever been together in the first place?

The Young Bucks brag about themselves and are ready for FTR on Dynamite.

### Owen Hart Foundation Qualifying Match: Skye Blue vs. Jamie Hayter

Hayter powers her up against the ropes to start and then hits

an elbow in the face. Blue grabs an armdrag into an armbar and Hayter looks more surprised than anything else. A suplex sends Blue into the corner though and Hayter does it again for a bonus. Blue is back up with some rollups for two each, only to walk into a backbreaker to cut her off. A spinning kick to the head drops Hayter for two but she grabs a backdrop driver. Hayter charges into a superkick but is fine enough to hit a superplex. There's a brainbuster to drop Blue again and a ripcord lariat finishes for Hayter at 5:36.

**Rating:** C-. This tournament feels like it is going to take a long time to set up as we are still waiting to see all of the qualifying matches. Hayter is someone who could be a nice monster to slay in the field without being a favorite and that's a good enough idea. They didn't waste a lot of time here on a match that isn't going to matter so I'll take that as a quick match.

Penta Obscuro and Alex Abrahantes warn the House of Black to be worried about Death Triangle.

Powerhouse Hobbs and Keith Lee are ready to wreck each other, albeit while using a reading/book motif. Well, as much wrecking as Lee can do in his odd way of speaking.

### Keith Lee vs. Powerhouse Hobbs

The fans are behind Lee as he takes his vest off and they stare each other down a bit. The big lockup doesn't go anywhere as they shake the other off. Hobbs hits some running shoulders to no avail but Lee's running shoulder puts Hobbs out on the floor. We take a break and come back with Lee in trouble, allowing Hobbs to hit a running clothesline for two. Back up and a beal is blocked and Hobbs knows he's in trouble.

A hard clothesline gives Lee two but Hobbs backdrops his way out of a Spirit Bomb attempt. Lee hits a running splash in the corner and there's the Uncle Phil Beal. Cue Ricky Starks with a chair but Lee punches it away. Swerve Strickland runs in and

takes out Starks, leaving Hobbs to hit a spinebuster. There's no count because of the distracted referee though, allowing Lee to hit the Big Bang Catastrophe for the pin at 10:45.

**Rating:** C+. There is something fun about a hoss battle, but this hit a certain level and never got past it. They were big men hitting each other with power moves for about ten minutes and then Lee won. It was a fun showdown, but when you have people who wrestle a similar style, there is only so much that you can get out of the thing.

Starks beats down Strickland and puts him through the table at ringside. Hobbs chairs Lee in the back and another table is set up in the corner. Lee goes through said table to wrap it up.

**Overall Rating:** C+. Rampage continues to be a weird show as you have a bunch of matches but they rarely feel like they matter. You're not going to get much of anything significant on this show but it is still fun to watch for about an hour a week. That was certainly the case this week, as I had a good time with the show but it didn't exactly blow the doors off.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

AND

[Remember to check out Wrestlingrumors.net for all of your wrestling headline needs.](http://wrestlingrumors.net)

---

# Dynamite – January 19, 2022: Maybe Their Worst Ever

## Dynamite

Date: January 19, 2022

Location: Entertainment & Sports Arena, Washington DC

Commentators: Jim Ross, Excalibur, Tony Schiavone

It's a big night around here as we have the return of Jon Moxley after a nearly three month absence. Moxley has been out of action due to undergoing alcohol rehabilitation treatment and it is great to have him back. What matters most is that he is healthy and if that is the case, I'm glad he can be around here again. Let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

Here is Jon Moxley to a hero's welcome to get things going. Moxley gets in the ring and, after telling a fan "Go f\*\*\* yourself, get that piece of s\*\*\* out of here" (completely uncensored on the broadcast), Moxley talks about having a dream where a demon told him he would never make it. He has more scars on his body than most people and those are the things that tell our story. Those scars are the ones that tell us the story of who we are. Nobody is perfect and no one should be afraid to stand up and bare it all.

Everything that makes you the person you are, scars and all, should make you say THIS IS ME. If you want to write him off, he'll tell you where to shove all that s\*\*\*, just like he told that demon. For everyone who has supported him, thank you. He

is going on a pilgrimage and do whatever he wants to the world of professional wrestling because he is truly free. No one here can put him through worse than he has been through and these days, all he drinks is blood. Well that was amazing, and one of the most emotional speeches you'll see in a LONG time.

MJF talks about CM Punk needing to steal a win by using the hair and trunks last week to beat Wardlow (who could have escaped with a bit more experience). As for this week, it is Wardlow's birthday and MJF offers him a sincere apology for losing it last week. Wardlow seems to appreciate that...but MJF is docking Wardlow's pay for putting his hands on him. MJF moves on to Shawn Spears, who is going to hand PG Punk his first loss, while teaching Wardlow a lesson. The turn is going to be incredible when we finally get there.

#### Adam Cole/Britt Baker vs. Kris Statlander/Orange Cassidy

The women start but Baker tags out almost immediately. Then Cole tags out, meaning Statlander has to come back in. Hold on though as Cassidy does the lazy kicks, earning himself a stomp to the food. Statlander comes in to slam the posing Baker but it's too early for the Big Bang Theory. It's back to the men, meaning Cassidy can hit a tornado DDT to send Cole outside.

Back in and Statlander grabs a delayed vertical suplex on Baker, with Cassidy shoving it over. Cassidy hits a rather low dive on Cole before stopping for a pose, allowing Baker and Cole to superkick them down. A nice kiss sends us to a break and we come back with Cassidy taking Cole down.

The women come back in with Statlander hitting a Blue Thunder Bomb for her own two. A neckbreaker takes Statlander down though and it's back to Cole for the superkick to Cassidy's knee. Cole hits an enziguri but Stundog Millionaire gets Cassidy out of trouble. Baker comes in off the blind tag to break up Beach Break and Stomp Cassidy down. Statlander kicks her in the face and hits something like a Falcon Arrow for

two.

Area 451 is loaded up but Cole covers Baker...which is fine with Statlander, who splashes both of them. The Beach Break hits Cole for two but he superkicks a dive out of the air. Baker takes Statlander to the ramp for a Canadian Destroyer, leaving Cole to Panama Sunrise Cassidy for two. With nothing else working, Cole loads up a table at ringside (because we need tables), only to have Cassidy accidentally knock Baker through it. Cole is livid and it's a low blow into the Boom for the pin at 14:22.

**Rating:** C+. That's it for the feud right? There is no reason for Cole and Cassidy to feud any longer and hopefully we can move on and let Cole do something more important. The match was your usual AEW match with big kickouts and went on a bit longer than necessary, but it did have the entertaining bits that you would expect.

Chris Jericho tells Eddie Kingston to GFY but Santana and Ortiz don't like him talking about Kingston that way. Actually, when has Jericho even had their back? Maybe next week, they can prove that they don't need Jericho. That seems to shake Jericho a bit.

Adam Cole is sick of Orange Cassidy. He has beaten Cassidy every way he can, but now Cassidy is attacking Baker? Next week, it can be No DQ, anything goes, lights out. It might not be a good idea to point out that you have beaten the guy over and over before challenging him to another match. And great, ANOTHER hardcore match.

### CM Punk vs. Shawn Spears

MJF is on commentary as the GTS finishes Spears at 12 seconds. Much like last week: that's how I like my Spears matches.

Post match Punk poses so MJF tries to sneak in, only to have Punk jump in his face. Punk grabs the scarf but MJF bails from



the threat of a right hand.

Billy Gunn stops Christian Cage in the back and says his sons have earned a Tag Team Title shot against Cage's friends, the Jurassic Express. Cage says make a statement and they'll talk. Cue the Gunn Club to jump Christian and send him head first into the steel door. Billy as a mouthpiece for his kids is a completely acceptable idea and an upgrade over what he has been doing.

Here is Cody Rhodes, with a huge ladder in the ring. Rhodes talks about CM Punk's pipe bomb, which was the beginning of a revolution. Some of the things Punk were saying were the blueprint for what AEW would do. After pausing for some negative chants, Cody talks about how Punk made the comeback of the decade and we are all living it. Cody starts yelling about how he carried the revolution and since "you ask me why I won't turn heel", it's because they cheered him when he needed it the most.

There are industry journalists who talk about opening the forbidden door...and now let's talk about how ReDRagon passed hiptoss class. There are wrestlers elsewhere named Gunner McGillcutty or whatever it is but then he was gone for two weeks and there is an Interim TNT Title. Fans have been taught to believe that any title without the word World in it doesn't matter.

That's why he wants to face Sammy Guevara in a ladder match at Beach Break for the undisputed title. I got the gist of what Cody was saying here, but this was all over the place with one idea after another thrown out there but he kept moving on before getting to the point. The ladder match (because this company loves ladder matches) is a fine way to unify the titles, but this was a rambling mess of an insider/shoot promo and it was all about Cody, again, without making much sense until the end.

Jade Cargill has issued an open challenge for the TBS Title and Anna Jay is ready to accept it. Jay talks about the hardcore match from a few weeks ago to show she's ready.

### Kings of the Black Throne vs. Varsity Blonds

Brody shoves Garrison around to start and sends him outside, meaning it's off to Pillman. That doesn't work though as Pillman won't try Air Pillman. Instead he drops outside to talk to Garrison, who is driven into the steps. Back in and Black sweeps Pillman's leg so Garrison can hit a backsplash. Garrison is taken out again and Dante's Inferno finishes Pillman at 1:48.

Post match Black tells the House of Black to rise but Pac, still blind, pops up on screen to say he is beyond Black's reach.

Video on Lance Archer vs. Hangman Page, with Jake Roberts returning to say Archer is ready for Page.

Roppongi Vice steals Brandon Cutler to challenge the Young Bucks to a match on Rampage. They beat the Bucks in Japan once so they can do it again. Cutler thinks the Bucks are going to kill him. Romero: "Then turn the camera off bro."

### Lance Archer vs. Frankie Kazarian

Jake Roberts and Dan Lambert are in Archer's corner. Archer hammers him down before the bell and then stands on Kazarian's neck. The beating continues with Archer slowly pounding away as Kazarian can't get anything going. Kazarian gets dropped again and again and we take a break.

We come back with Archer loudly saying "F\*\*\* YOU" (seemingly to a fan) and sending Kazarian chest first into the buckle. The Blackout is broken up with Kazarian finally getting in a little something. That doesn't work for Archer though and he chokeslams Kazarian down as this is going WAY too long. Archer

finally finishes with the Blackout at 10:01.

**Rating:** D. This was a bad miss, as Archer didn't look like a monster but rather a guy lumbering around and (very) slowly beating Kazarian down. I don't know if they were told to fill in time or what, but they took what should have been a three minute match and stretched it way further than it needed to be. This doesn't make me want to see Archer vs. Page, but rather seeing a big audible call.

Post match, Dan Lambert goes on another cowboy rant against Hangman Page, but Archer cuts him off because he's sick of this s\*\*\* (as we have even more swearing, which isn't as edgy as AEW seems to think it is). Archer loads up a chokeslam off the ramp but here is Hangman Page for the save. Page gets kneed down so he pulls off his cowboy boot to blast Archer in the head. The Buckshot Lariat is blocked so Page forearmms him out to the floor. Page stands tall.

Dante Martin is ready for Team Taz, with Lee Moriarty and Matt Sydal having his back until his brother gets back.

Ricky Starks and Powerhouse Hobbs are going to prove Martin is all alone because he'll need someone to watch every side.

Leyla Hirsch breaks up a Red Velvet/Kris Statlander interview to complain about their loss on Friday. Velvet says it was miscommunication and gets her arm barred as a result.

### Serena Deeb vs. Skye Blue

Deeb takes her down to start and sends Blue to the apron to keep up the beating. Back in and some uppercuts to the back of the heck set up a fisherman's neckbreaker. The Serenity Lock finishes Blue at 2:50. I can absolutely go for more of this Deeb.

Ethan Page wants a big match on Rampage and tells Tony Khan to put the franchise player in.

On Rampage: Ethan Page vs. Jon Moxley, plus Roppongi Vice vs. the Young Bucks. We get some New Japan footage of their previous matches.

Video on Hook.

Matt Hardy has signed Andrade El Idolo 51% of the Hardy Family Office but he is still in charge of the board of directors. Andrade will be the president though, and they are now the AHFO. Now, they want Darby Allin. I'll take them combining some of their more boring acts into one.

### Acclaimed vs. Darby Allin/Sting

Caster's rap promises to make this worse than Starrcade 97 so you know it's serious. The Acclaimed jump them before the bell as Tony says he still can't explain Starrcade 1997. A chair is wrapped around Allin's neck and Caster whips it into the post. Sting is back up as medics check on Allin but he's willing to fight on his own. Sting takes the Acclaimed down to start but the Stinger Splash hits an exposed buckle, giving Bowens two.

We take a break and come back with Sting putting Caster in the Deathlock. Bowens hits a discus forearm but Sting yells and doesn't let go. A superkick breaks it up but Allin comes back in to make the save. Allin gets taken down again so the Mic Drop can give Caster two. Sting backdrops Bowens over the top and splashes Caster through a table at ringside. Fans: "YOU STILL GOT IT!" I don't think YOU STILL GOT IT is a term that applies to something that Sting rarely did, but fair enough. The Coffin Drop finishes Bowens at 9:20.

**Rating:** C+. Sting matches are all smoke and mirrors, but dang they're fun smoke and mirrors. They aren't doing anything too bad and the fans' reactions alone carry the matches to another level. That being said, Sting and Allin have to be close to being #1 contenders right? They're undefeated and just beat the #1 contenders, so shouldn't their title shot be coming soon? That's not a bad thing, but it should be addressed.

**Overall Rating:** C-. I'm not sure what happened tonight but this might have been the biggest miss Dynamite has had to date. There were good parts to it (Gunn being moved into a manager role (at least for now), Deeb's squash, the main event, Spears going short again and King/Black's debut) but the rest was a bit of a mess. It felt like they didn't have a plan tonight and it was kind of all over the place.

The biggest standout part was the Cody promo, which started and ended well but took a right turn into lala land in the middle. I still don't know what he was trying to say with a lot of that and it was one of the bigger head scratchers in recent memory. In addition, you have Cole saying that he has done everything he can to Cassidy, including pinning him tonight, but now we're going to do it AGAIN, and this time in a hardcore match.

That is where AEW is starting to slip a bit for me, as it feels like they are trying to be a modern day ECW. Between the constant hardcore based matches (I believe Cole vs. Cassidy makes three since December 31), the table spots (two tonight) and ALL THE SWEARING, it feels like they are trying to push the envelope for the sake of pushing the envelope. When you do that kind of thing all the time, the impact goes away very fast and that is what they are doing now. Just pull it back a bit and save that stuff for when it matters, not whenever you can throw it out.

Overall, this show just did not feel like AEW quality. Dynamite has been good to excellent most of the time but they have been missing a bit in recent weeks. I don't know if that is due to some kind of Covid deal shaking things up backstage or something else, but the shows have not been the best as of late. Maybe they need to change something backstage, because this is starting to trend in a bad direction.

### Results

Adam Cole/Britt Baker b. Orange Cassidy/Kris Statlander – Boom

to Cassidy

CM Punk b. Shawn Spears – GTS

Kings of the Black Throne b. Varsity Blonds – Dante's Inferno  
to Pillman

Lance Archer b. Frankie Kazarian – Blackout

Serena Deeb b. Skye Blue – Serenity Lock

Sting/Darby Allin b. Acclaimed – Coffin Drop to Bowens

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

AND

[Remember to check out Wrestlingrumors.net](http://wrestlingrumors.net) for all of your [wrestling headline needs](http://wrestlingrumors.net).

---

# **Rampage – October 8, 2021: The Wrestling Edition**

## **Rampage**

Date: October 8, 2021

Location: Licouras Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Excalibur, Taz, Chris Jericho

We're still in front of one of the hottest crowds of the year and that should do a lot of good for the card. This is another stacked show as we have CM Punk vs. Daniel Garcia, the Tag Team Titles on the line and the Brian Cage challenging Ricky Starks for the FTW Title in a street fight. Let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

We start with Mark Henry's split screen interview. Daniel Garcia and 2.0 say that CM Punk walked away from wrestling when the focus wasn't all on him anymore but now he's back to get the attention. Punk isn't worried about that and is here to face Garcia because of his skill. Oh and 2.0 are like the Nasty Boys' little brothers.

CM Punk vs. Daniel Garcia

2.0 is here with Garcia. Punk wins a test of strength to put Garcia down, setting up a crossarm choke. Back up and Punk sends him into the corner so Garcia slows things down a bit. A heel hook sends Garcia to the ropes so Punk comes back with a few slams. As commentary talks about how great the slam can be, Garcia takes Punk down and wraps his leg around the post.

We take a break and come back with Garcia staying on the leg. Punk can't suplex his way to freedom and it's off to another leglock. Back up and Punk avoids a running dropkick in the corner, setting up the strike off. Punk uses the good leg for a leg lariat into a neckbreaker, setting up the running knee in the corner. Garcia is fine enough to hit an Angle Slam for two but Punk grabs the Pepsi Twist for two of his own. That's broken up with Punk kicking him to the floor for the big dive onto Garcia and 2.0. Back in and Punk busts out a piledriver, setting up the Anaconda Vice for the tap at 14:15.

**Rating:** B. This is one of the reasons that Punk was brought in. The match made Garcia look better than he ever has and he

got to beat Punk up for a bit. You don't get to see that happen very often and it was probably the biggest match of his career. Punk breaks a sweat and has a rather good match while Garcia looks solid in defeat. Not bad, and what Punk is there to do (partially).

Matt Sydal doesn't think Lio Rush has anything to offer Dante Martin. Rush doesn't like that and offers to get Sydal a match with CM Punk next week. Works for Sydal.

### Tag Team Titles: Lucha Bros vs. Acclaimed

The Acclaimed are challenging and rap about how they're going to win the titles. The Bros get jumped from behind before the bell, earning the Acclaimed a bunch of kicks to the head to knock them silly. More kicks take things to the floor where a boom box shot has Fenix in trouble. That leaves the Acclaimed to take turns putting Penta in trouble but he DDTs his way to freedom.

That's enough to bring Fenix in for some kicks of his own, plus a cutter to drop Caster. Penta and Caster are back up with superkicks but Fenix hits a double handspring cutter to put everyone down. Back up and Bowens hits Fenix in the face but Penta breaks up the Mic Drop. The spike Fear Factor retains the titles at 5:19.

**Rating:** C. They were going fast here and packed a lot into just five minutes. That's what you expect out of the Lucha Bros and the Acclaimed did well enough to keep up with them. It wasn't supposed to be a match with drama and they didn't really come close to it, but it was a completely fine short form TV title defense.

Various women want the TBS Title.

### Jade Cargill vs. Skye Blue

Cargill isn't happy that Blue wants the TBS Title. Jade avoids



a shot off the top to start and hits a pump kick. Jaded finishes Blue at 1:08.

Post match Cargill stays on Blue but Thunder Rosa makes the save with a chair.

We get the face to face interview between Ricky Starks and Brian Cage. Starks isn't scared of Cage but Cage says no one is better than him. Henry hits his catchphrase.

### FTW Title: Ricky Starks vs. Brian Cage

Starks is defending in a street fight. Cage starts fast and chairs Starks in the back. They head outside with Cage throwing him over the barricade, followed by some chops against the apron. There's a whip into the barricade to keep Starks in trouble and it's time to bring out the trashcan full of weapons. Back in and Starks grabs half of a pool cue to hit Cage in the ribs and face.

We take a break and come back with Starks hitting him in the face with a chain. A legdrop with a trashcan lid gets two on Cage but he cuts Starks off with a superkick. Starks gets dropped onto the trashcan so Taz calls out Hook and Powerhouse Hobbs. The distraction is enough for Starks to get in a belt shot and the spear for two, with Starks losing it over the near fall. Another spear hits a chair in the corner and the discus lariat blasts Starks but Hobbs makes a save. Hook breaks up the apron superplex though and the bleeding Starks hits Ro Sham Bo to retain at 10:43.

**Rating:** C+. This was a good fight and that's what they were going for. I haven't been overly interested in their feud, mainly because it has taken so long to get here, but at least the blowoff (or what should be the blowoff) was good. Both guys need to move on and in Cage's case, he needs to move on rather far.

Team Taz celebrates to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. They focused on the wrestling this week and that's a good thing. The hour flew by and had multiple solid matches, making this one of the higher quality editions of the show so far. The Philadelphia crowd was going to cheer for anything and they had a lot to get excited about here, so well done on a rather fine show.

### Results

CM Punk b. Daniel Garcia – Anaconda Vice

Lucha Bros b. Acclaimed – Spike Fear Factor to Bowens

Jade Cargill b. Skye Blue – Jaded

Ricky Starks b. Brian Cage – Ro Sham Bo

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

AND

[Remember to check out Wrestlingrumors.net](http://Wrestlingrumors.net) for all of your [wrestling headline needs](http://Wrestlingrumors.net).