

# Smackdown – March 16, 2012: AJ Vs. Bryan Has More Friction Than Bryan Vs. Sheamus

## Smackdown

Date: March 16, 2012

Location: Nationwide Arena, Columbus, Ohio

Commentators: Michael Cole, Booker T, Josh Matthews

It's that time of the week again. It's time for absolutely nothing being done about Bryan vs. Sheamus because that match means nothing in the grand scheme of Wrestlemania. Odds are we'll hear more about the battling GM's and that's about it. I haven't heard anything announced for tonight yet so it'll be a surprise to me as well. Let's get to it.

Do You Know Your Enemy? Mine at the moment is Iowa St. They need to be defeated Saturday.

Here's Christian to open the show with the Peep Show. He looks healthy now at least. Christian gets a nice reaction but Booker informs us that Christian is looking down at all of us. He talks about the 12 man tag match at Mania and says that it'll change a lot in WWE. Christian brings out Ace and Otunga as well as Teddy who comes out with Aksana. R-Truth is officially part of Team Long.

Christian says let the bidding begin on his services and Teddy gets to go first. Teddy looks at him so Christian goes on a small rant and says make it worth his while. He says to give Christian what he deserves: one more match. Teddy tells Christian he's awesome but won't beg him to be part of the team. Once Teddy takes over both shows, you have to earn title shots and they won't get one if they get on his nerves. So in

other words, earn it, but make sure you suck up at the same time?

Ace says that Christian should be on his team and guarantees Christian a title match if Team Ace wins. Christian says he won't fail, unlike Teddy. He officially joins Team Ace. Christian's music plays but Teddy says hang on a minute. He says Christian will be in action tonight but Ace says no because he isn't medically cleared tonight. Instead, Otunga gets to face the newest member of Team Teddy.

### David Otunga vs. Kofi Kingston

This is joined in progress as we come back from a break. Ace is on commentary and Christian and Santino are at ringside. Teddy is on commentary too. Kofi kicks away to start but Otunga avoids him to take over. Cole and Teddy argue as Otunga pounds away. Christian can't compete because of an ingrown toenail. Powerslam gets two for David. Teddy and Ace argue about ingrown toenails as Otunga poses.

Off to a chinlock as Cole talks about baseball. Thankfully Josh actually talks about the match even a little bit to get us back to some sanity. Otunga hits a clothesline in the corner and then a second one. Booker says Otunga would have been better off in the WBF. That's allowed to be mentioned? Kofi comes back with a cross body for two and a dropkick to put David down. He loads up the Boom Drop but Christian trips Kofi. Teddy points it out so Christian is ejected. The GM's argue and Cole says something about the IC Title. Otunta tries to hit Kofi with his belt but Santino stops him. Trouble in Paradise ends this at 5:40.

**Rating:** C-. In a roughly five and a half minute match, we had attempted weapon use, two interferences, a fight between the GM's, and a WBF reference. Who in the world thought this match needed that much to it? The match was just ok and it's good to see Otunga getting some time to be on offense.

Bryan is outside the Divas locker room and AJ comes out in a little black dress. AJ says this dress Bryan bought her doesn't seem to fit. Bryan: "It looked much better on the mannequin." Bryan talks about how they need to be the new power couple so he's gotten her a match tonight where a win could get her a Divas title match.

### AJ vs. Nikki Bella

Bryan comes out to be in AJ's corner. Nikki gets on her knees because AJ is short so AJ dropkicks her in the face. Bryan is coaching AJ from the floor. Nikki stands on AJ's hair and pulls her up. Booker thinks AJ doesn't want to be in the ring. Off to a chinlock as Booker goes on a long and stupid rant about how AJ shouldn't be in there and doesn't want this. Josh and Cole agree that it's stupid because she's a wrestler and that's her job. AJ comes back with a cross body and Twin Magic fails. AJ grabs a rollup for the pin at 2:27.

Bryan celebrates post match. Booker says Bryan is ruining AJ's career and that wasn't a win. WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT???

Sheamus vs. Jericho later.

Raw ReBound shortens the Rap vs. Rock deal to about three minutes.

Cody talks about how dominant Big Show is 364 days out of the year, but at Wrestlemania he's a choke artist. This match also has more story than Sheamus vs. Bryan.

### Great Khali vs. Cody Rhodes

Khali easily overpowers him to start and chops Rhodes a lot. Cody grabs a single arm DDT which Khali can't sell right so Cody works over the arm. Booker says go for the legs, even though Cody has Khali down already. Now it's to the knees for a bit but Cody goes up and jumps into a chop. Khali loads up a chop but Cody heads to the apron and hits an enziguri. A

dropkick to the knee sets up the Beautiful Disaster for the pin at 3:13.

**Rating:** C-. Cody beating a giant is a good idea heading into Wrestlemania. It worked for Luger when he was getting ready to face Giant back in 1996. It might work a little better if there was more than one face giant to face before Big Show but you get the idea. Cole called this a huge upset for no apparent reason.

Video on the Central American tour.

Here's Orton with something to say. He says he usually doesn't come out here to talk when he has a problem with someone but instead he hunts them down. However he feels like he's being hunted by Kane. Orton wants to know why Kane has chosen him. Kane wants people to embrace hate and Orton is embracing it as well. He calls out Kane for an explanation. Well forced exposition is better than no exposition I guess. Orton wants to know why he's putting Kane down when it eventually happens.

Here's the Big Fried Freak who talks about how Orton doesn't like being in the unknown. Usually he'd like to see Orton all unsure but since Orton asked, Kane will tell him. At least he's polite. We get a clip from last year where Orton beat Kane in a street fight and post match Kane offered a handshake which Orton accepted. I don't remember that but maybe it was a post show thing.

Kane says he watches that footage every day because it reminds him of what he had become: something with humanity. Kane says he's a monster again but he needs closure, which he'll get by destroying Orton. Orton says come get me but Kane says we'll do it at Wrestlemania. That gets us to eight matches which is acceptable.

Go to the David Otunga law offices!

Here's Drew for a match. Teddy pops up on screen and says Drew

has a one year contract that can't be broken. Here's Drew's first opponent.

### Drew McIntyre vs. Big Show

Show powers him around to start with pure power. McIntyre comes back with some kicks but Futureshock is broken up and Show spears him down. Show chokeslams him but decides to punch him instead of covering him. Show goes over to him and the referee stops it at 1:52. That's an odd ending.

### Mark Henry vs. Yoshi Tatsu

Yoshi immediately dropkicks him but Henry glares at him. Henry takes over with power and powerslams Yoshi into dust. World's Strongest Slam ends this in about 2:00.

Here's Jericho to talk a bit before the main event. He talks about how he's been requested to apologize for what he said on Monday about Punk's family. There's no need to apologize for the truth. Punk has all the signs of an alcoholic such as the tattoos and trying to hide. Jericho talks about how the Pipe Bombs are things Punk wants to say to his parents. He's the best in the world and he's going to prove it by winning the world title at Mania. Afterwards, he's going to make a stiff cocktail and toast Punk and Punk's father. He starts a CM Drunk chant and says Pipe Bomb.

### Sheamus vs. Chris Jericho

Sheamus knocks him into the corner to start and Jericho bails to the floor. That goes nowhere as Sheamus takes him back inside and gets two. Jericho gets sent over the corner and out to the floor in a crash. There are the ten forearms to the chest which Booker calls musical chairs. A delayed vertical suplex gets two for Sheamus. This has been one sided thus far.

Just as I say that, Jericho low bridges him to send Sheamus to the floor. A baseball slide sends Sheamus into the barricade.

Bryan and AJ (now in matching colors) come out to watch as we take a break. Back with Jericho still in control. The big red welt on Sheamus' back is still there after crashing into the table on Monday. Jericho hits a belly to back suplex as we hear about Jericho's Vengeance 2001 accomplishments.

Jericho loads up the running bulldog but Sheamus sends him into the corner to counter. Sheamus comes back with his double ax handles and the Irish Curse for two. The rolling fireman's carry slam looks to set up White Noise but Jericho counters into a Codebreaker attempt. Sheamus puts him on the top rope but the Brogue Kick misses. Jericho hits the bulldog and Lionsault for two. Sheamus pulls himself to the top but gets crotched. Jericho gets knocked to the mat and Sheamus hits the top rope shoulder for two.

Celtic Cross is loaded up but Jericho rolls down the back and counters into the Walls. Since Sheamus is a top face though he manages to get the ropes to break it up. Another Celtic Cross is loaded up but Jericho escapes again. They go to the floor and Sheamus throws Jericho over towards Bryan and AJ but they move. Sheamus stares at Bryan but Jericho rams him into the table. Bryan kicks Sheamus in the head as Jericho is getting back in and Chris wins by countout at 10:52 shown of 14:22.

**Rating:** B. I was digging this one and I can live with the ending because it serves a better purpose. It was obvious neither guy was going to go over clean here which is ok, but they still need to give us something else to care about with Sheamus vs. Bryan. The AJ stuff is kind of there on the side and I don't know if they're going to be able to have it mean anything for the PPV.

Sheamus kicks Jericho's head off to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. I like this one more than I've liked most of their shows lately. This did a good job of pushing a lot of the matches for Mania which is really all you can do with two

weeks left. Orton vs. Kane has a story (not a great one but a story nonetheless) now and we FINALLY get a little friction between Bryan vs. Sheamus. It doesn't mean anything but it's better than leaving them apart. Good show here though and a good Mania build show.

### Results

Kofi Kingston b. David Otunga – Trouble in Paradise

AJ b. Nikki Bella – Rollup

Cody Rhodes b. Great Khali – Beautiful Disaster

Big Show b. Drew McIntyre by referee stoppage

Mark Henry b. Yoshi Tatsu – World's Strongest Slam

Chris Jericho b. Sheamus via countout

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# **Smackdown – 2/25/11: Remember when this show used to be awesome?**

### Smackdown

Date: February 25, 2011

Location: ARCO Arena, Sacramento, California

Commentators: Michael Cole, Josh Matthews, Booker T

It's time for the Road to Wrestlemania and thankfully this is the last time I have to say that. Alberto vs. Edge is the official main event contribution from the blue show. This could be altered though with the return of Christian on

Sunday. Also we have Teddy Long back now so who knows what's in store for Vickie. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of last week's events regarding the world title. Edge came in as champion, the title was stripped and given to Dolph as Edge was fired. Teddy Long, the real GM returned, rehired Edge and gave him a rematch for the title. Edge won and Zigler was fired to end the show. And people say nothing happens on Smackdown?

Teddy says Vickie gets to fight for her job tonight in the form of Vickie/Drew McIntyre vs. Kelly Kelly/Edge. If Vickie's team loses then she's fired.

Do you know your enemy? Mine are people that actually believed 2-21-11 was Sting.

### Rey Mysterio vs. Kane

Kane does the fire corners thing before the match. Those things are incredible live as they're incredibly loud and you can actually feel the heat on your face. Kane gets a quick cover for two. He lowers his head though and Rey fires off some kicks. Rey tries to go to the air and is caught in a powerslam position. A shot into the corner gets two and Kane adds a body scissors.

Cody Rhodes is going to be here tonight but is apparently out of Mania. Rey fights up but gets caught in a backbreaker for two. He needs to stop this flying stuff as it doesn't seem to be working for him here. Another rana attempt is blocked but Rey puts Kane into the 619 position. Kane avoids it and hits the floor and Rey goes after him only to run into a big boot as we take a break.

Back with Kane working on the back of Rey as the masked man is in trouble. Kane drops some elbows for two again. He seems a



bit off here for some reason. Bearhug goes on while Cole goes off on Josh about being afraid of powerful women or something like that. Rey escapes but is put right back into the hold and then rammed into the corner. Kane puts Rey on the top rope but gets caught by a seated senton. Big swinging kick to a seated Kane gets two.

Rey goes up and is caught by a big uppercut which is dreaded according to Booker but it only gets two. Top rope clothesline misses so Rey, ever the genius, runs right at Kane as he's up and not hurt. Chokeslam is countered into the 619. Kane catches a seated senton into a powerbomb position but Rey climbs down the back into a sunset flip but can't hook it so he settles for a rollup for the pin at 7:30 shown of 11:00.

**Rating:** C. Totally average match here. I've never been a fan of this pairing but this was ok. Kane's title reign is long over so he's back to being a main event jobber now which is fine. He has a lot more credibility now and can go back to doing what he does best. This was nothing special but it wasn't too bad at all. Right in the middle sounds about right.

Rey stays in the ring to celebrate but is interrupted by...Dusty Rhodes? Dusty hugs him and we take a break. Back with the fat man himself saying they're friends and that he's disappointed in his son's actions and what Cody has been saying. Dusty wants Cody out here now to apologize to Rey.

Here's Cody in a clear mask that almost looks skin colored from a distance. He says that he's been through a lot and Dusty wants him to apologize to Rey? Because of Rey Cody wasn't in the Rumble or the Chamber and he won't be at Wrestlemania. Dusty looks ancient. He says that when Cody came to WWE there were some things they talked about, such as Wrestlemania and being a champion. Was this the wrestling version of the birds and the bees?

Dusty says that somewhere along the line Cody lost focus. With the Divas saying he's handsome and being in commercials and being on Syfy and agents from Hollywood calling him, he lost focus. While Cody was being Dashing, Miz took the WWE Title in Cody's spot and Edge came in and took the world title off an injury. Then there's the situation with Rey where Cody is the one to blame. Right now though, Cody needs to apologize.

Cody apologizes to Dusty and says to Rey that he's sorry too. They shake hands as do Rey and Dusty but it's a Dusty Finish to the segment as Dusty doesn't let go of Rey's hand and Cody jumps him. The beatdown is on Cody sends Rey into various things on the floor. He rubs Rey's face into the steel at the top of the stage and then into the mirror that Cody looks into during his entrance. Cody pulls the mask off and kicks Rey in the face, leaving him laying. That added a lot to this.

Back from a break with the Rhodes men hugging and Dusty saying he'd do anything for his son.

### Layla vs. Rosa Mendes

Michelle is on commentary again. Rosa starts with a Thesz Press. Is Michelle supposed to be like Paris Hilton or something? Cole of course sucks up to her as Rosa is being all feisty and aggressive. She goes after Michelle when Michelle gets in her face and a shot from the blonde (Michelle if you're not familiar with the other girls' hair) ends this in a DQ at 1:27.

Laycool argues post match.

### Jack Swagger vs. Kofi Kingston

I guess we're back to this feud. No entrance for Swagger this

week. We get a quick clip of Alberto jumping Kofi on Raw to injure his arm. Josh says these two feuded over the IC Title over the past year. You mean the title Ziggler held for like five and a half months and the Jack Swagger that was world champion for part of the summer and the Kofi that was on Raw until April and then feuded with McIntyre and Ziggler until the fall/winter? I don't say this often but Josh...you're an idiot.

I'm pretty sure this is non-title. Kofi gets a boot up and hammers away on Swagger with a ton of strikes. Superman clothesline sets up the Boom Drop for no cover. Swagger goes off on Kofi again and works on the leg by wrapping it around the post. Back in the ring and the ankle lock ends this clean at 2:52. That's rather surprising indeed. Too short to get anything going but this was nothing bad at all.

Vickie tries to talk to Teddy, saying this is so unfair. She goes into his office despite him not answering.

We recap, and by that I mean reair, the Cena promo. It's still hilarious, especially the pinwheel thing. I'm hoping this leads to Cena vs. Rock but I can live with it if it doesn't. The crowd ate this up too which is a great sign.

Vickie is still looking for help and asks Chavo who says her asking for help almost makes him forget about all the times she had him get her coffee and be her gopher. Very true indeed.

### Wade Barrett vs. Big Show

Corre is barred from ringside. Show throws his jacket on Cole while Cole and Booker argue over whether or not Booker should be on commentary. Show dominates to start but runs into a big boot. Barrett chokes away while on Show's back and Show is in some trouble. Show gets to the ropes and Barrett pounds away

more as we take a break.

Back with more Barrett domination including a big boot to the jaw from during the break. Show fights back from one knee with big chops. Barrett gets a low dropkick to the knee and down goes Show. DDT gets two. We hit the floor and it's all Show after that kickout. Barrett manages to send him into the post but Show pulls him back out to the floor and beats the count to win at 4:00 shown of 7:30.

**Rating:** C-. This was your basic giant vs. heel with the work on the legs going nowhere for the most part. I'm getting tired of these relatively short matches though. Also I'd like to see Show vs. a member of the Corre that means something in a match that gets a bit of time and has an ending that isn't a count out or DQ. Not bad though.

Corre comes out but Show wisely grabs a chair and Corre runs. Gabriel takes a shot with it though and Show stands tall.

Long recap video of Taker and HHH from Monday. I liked it despite what a lot of people seem to think of it. Aww it wasn't Sting. Get over it already.

### Edge/Kelly Kelly vs. Vickie Guerrero/Drew McIntyre

If Vickie's team loses, she's fired. The genders have to match here. Edge starts but immediately tags in Kelly to make this girl on girl. Vickie gets beaten down and it's off to Drew in less than a minute. He yells at Kelly, saying he was the only one to stand up for her. Edge hammers away but Drew takes over rather quickly. Off to an armbar to the champion while the announcers bicker about what Vickie would do if she kept her job.

Edge takes him down and adds a forearm and some clotheslines for two. The champion charges into the corner but pauses when

Drew moves. Vickie slaps him and Edge walks into a big boot from McIntyre. Futureshock is countered into the Edgecution and it's spear time. Vickie comes in to beg Edge not to do it so Kelly takes her down. Spear to Drew and Vickie is gone at 5:36. What is with these short matches tonight???

**Rating:** C-. Vickie being gone is a nice touch but a five minute main event? What happened to the days when Smackdown regularly had 15 minute matches? The problem is that the ratings have been going up lately so they'll likely stick with the Raw formula of quick matches. Blast it all.

Teddy comes out to dance and we take a break. Vickie cries and apologizes, even throwing in some solid begging. Teddy fires her anyway. Vickie begs the referee to reverse the decision to no avail. Booker won't help her either. Cole doesn't know what to do. The cameraman won't help.

Finally she begs Edge, holding onto his legs and crying. Edge says he can help her but instead he'd rather sing. You know the song I think and Vickie heads up the ramp. She shouts you just wait and Alberto jumps Edge from behind, going after his arm. Edge is left laying and I really hope Vickie doesn't come back as Alberto's employee.

**Overall Rating:** D+. This was one of the weakest shows from Smackdown that I've seen in a very long time. None of the matches were very good, the main event is five minutes long followed by a seven minute segment with Vickie trying to get someone to help her. The stories didn't really go anywhere but it's not like there were any in the first place. Nothing show for the most part with nothing other than Vickie going on.

## Results

Rey Mysterio b. Kane – Rollup

Rosa Mendes b. Layla via DQ when Michelle McCool interfered

Jack Swagger b. Kofi Kingston – Ankle Lock

Big Show b. Wade Barrett via countout

Edge/Kelly Kelly b. Drew McIntyre/Vickie Guerrero – Spear to McIntyre