

# AEW WrestleDream 2024 Preview

We're back on pay per view and that could make for a good show, as AEW has a pretty good record on these things. At the same time though, this show hasn't exactly looked the strongest on paper and that isn't instilling me with hope. It would be nice to see this show exceed expectations, but there are only a few matches on the top that are feeling important. Let's get to it.

## Zero Hour: Ring Of Honor TV Title: Atlantis Jr.(c) vs. Brian Cage

This was announced a few weeks ago on ROH's weekly show and it has been barely been mentioned since, with Cage throwing in a quick promo this week and that's about it. In this case we have Atlantis Jr. having been champion for a few months now and not exactly feeling important. That still puts him ahead of Cage, who hasn't done anything significant in the better part of ever.

I'll go with Atlantis Jr. retaining here, as there is just no reason to believe that Cage is going to win anything on his own. I'm not sure why Atlantis Jr. is still holding the title, but for some reason he's coming up on four months as champion without doing anything important. This should be a fine enough way to warm things up, even if it is the least hyped title match I've seen since last week's Ring Of Honor.

## Zero Hour: MxM Collection vs. The Acclaimed

Here we at least have something from the regular AEW TV shows and in that case we could be seeing something interesting as the Collection has said they are going to have someone in their corner. That could go in a variety of ways as they are going to be counteracting Billy Gunn, which is no easy task. Or it could be a complete disappointment, ala the whole Max Caster jacket reveal.

I'll go with the Collection winning thanks to the person they have in their corner, as they need a win far more than the Acclaimed, who have nothing going on at the moment. This is pretty much entirely built around who might be in the Collection's corner, as there is just nothing else going on that would make this match work. It would be nice to keep it short and to the point, which is where the Zero Hour show detail gives me some hope.

### Zero Hour: Anna Jay vs. Harley Cameron

So Jay is back after her sojourn in Japan and is supposed to be all extra skilled and deadly now. While she has done a few different things, she hasn't shown herself to be anything that much better than her previous time in the company. She needs to be consistently pushed if AEW wants to turn her into something serious, and facing Cameron is not going to help that in any way.

Of course I'll take Jay here, as Cameron is just there for the sake of making her look good. That should work well, but it's not likely to be the match that takes Jay up to the next level. It's nice to see her getting a win on a bigger show, but Jay is firmly in a place where she needs to be pushed harder or it is going to wind up being in the exact same problem she has had for years.

### Ring Of Honor World Title: Mark Briscoe(c) vs. Chris Jericho

Yes Jericho is still getting another title shot and no you should not be surprised by that in the slightest. This is what happens with Jericho over and over and he is doing it again here, with a title he already won a few years ago. Jericho has invoked the name of Mark's brother Jay to really make this serious and thankfully Mark has been able to carry things a bit further from here.

While Briscoe has done absolutely nothing in his six months as champion, there is no reason to put the title on Jericho. If

nothing else, AEW needs to get away from Jericho, who has been around and near titles so frequently that it is little more than a running joke. That being said, yeah I think he'll win it here, because it's just kind of what Jericho does. Even if he doesn't win, it's hard to believe he'll take a step back, so just go with Jericho winning here as it cuts out all of the middle nonsense.

### Darby Allin vs. Brody King

This is the third match in a feud that has been going on for over a year and while it is kind of good, it feels like a major step down for Allin. After he was stupid enough to put his completely earned World Title match on the line, he then loses to Jon Moxley and is left facing one third of a trio rather than in some kind of a big match. Sure he'll get a big reaction because he's Allin and he's near his hometown, but there is still something missing.

I'll take Allin to win here, as there is absolutely no reason for King to win. This should be Allin throwing himself around like a pinball against the monster King and that should work out rather well. After this though, Allin needs to do something significant, as otherwise he is running the risk of dropping way too far down the ladder. Beating King won't fix things, but it will at least give him a win.

### TNT Title: Jack Perry(c) vs. Katsuyori Shibata

We'll get this one out of the way as it might be the most obvious result on the entire show. AEW has made it clear that they are going to do whatever they need to do to make Perry into the most amazing, toughest star in wrestling today and beating Shibata is the next way to go. Shibata feels like someone who is thrown out there to make Perry look better and that is what we're looking at here.

Naturally I'll take Perry to win here, as he is clearly the next big project for AEW and he is going to get another win

here over someone of Shibata's status. Perry can win here and move on to his next victim before we hopefully get to someone to take the title off of him. That isn't going to be Shibata, who is only there to make Perry look like a star, because that is what AEW wants to do.

### Tag Team Titles: Young Bucks(c) vs. Private Party

Ok so when I said the TNT Title match might be the most obvious result, I had completely forgotten about this one. This is a match that is being built around the memory of Private Party beating the Bucks in a total fluke FIVE YEARS AGO. The fact that Private Party has done absolutely nothing important since then should tell you everything that you need to know about this match.

Of course it's going to be the Bucks winning here, giving the fans the most obvious result imaginable. There has never been a reason to believe Private Party was going to win here and while they'll likely put in a hard fight, the Bucks aren't going to lose their big, epic reign here. I'm not sure who is going to the titles from the Bucks, but it isn't going to be a team who has been as nothing as Private Party for so long.

### International Title: Will Ospreay(c) vs. Ricochet vs. Konosuke Takeshita

NOW we're getting somewhere as this could go in all three different directions. Ospreay has issues with both challengers, Ricochet is brand new and could use the win and Takeshita is LONG overdue to win something. When you factor in that Ospreay has lost more than a few times, there is a real chance that he loses here again. That makes things a lot more intriguing and I'm not sure who to pick.

I guess I'll take Ospreay to win, but my goodness I could go for Takeshita getting the title here. The best thing here is that any of the three are viable options to win the whole thing and that is not something you often see. There is a very

good chance that this match steals the show and I'm rather looking forward to what is going to happen. That isn't something that is going to happen very often on this show and I like what's going on with this one.

### Women's Title: Mariah May(c) vs. Willow Nightingale

So here we have the latest attempt to have Nightingale win a title (and keep it for any significant time). Nightingale is one of the most lovable stars in all of wrestling and there is almost nothing to dislike about her. At the same time though, it is hard to imagine May losing to anyone not named Toni Storm, or at least not losing until Storm is back. Nightingale is a star, but I'm not sure she's ready for this spot.

As much as I'd love to see Nightingale pull this off, it is hard to fathom that she gets the title here, which is why I'll take May. That isn't the worst idea, but dang Nightingale getting so close and having her one title reign be used to make Mercedes Mone a champion was rough. May wins here and gets to keep her title reign going while hope continues to spring eternal for Nightingale.

### Hangman Page vs. Jay White

So White made his return recently and wanted revenge on Page, but that might not be enough here. Page is coming off winning a pay per view main event match over a former World Champion. While White is a former World Champion in his own right, he's not feeling anywhere near Page's level at the moment. That should make for a pretty clear result and that is what I think we'll be seeing.

I'll go with Page here, as while I like White, there is no reason to believe he has any kind of a chance against Page. Ultimately, Page very well could be the next big thing in the main event scene, though facing White after last month's war against Swerve Strickland does feel like a downgrade. For now though, Page will be getting another win over a name and that

should tide him over until Full Gear.

### Hologram vs. The Beast Mortos

This is 2/3 falls, in theory so that Hologram can get credit for two wins or some other such nonsense. Hologram is yet another project for AEW and while he has won a bunch of matches, he hasn't really done anything significant, it does make sense to put him on pay per view. It doesn't make sense to have him face someone like Mortos, who was put into a bigger story on Dynamite with Jake Roberts coming on board.

Roberts or no Roberts though, there is no way that Hologram is going to lose his first match in this spot. I'm not even sure I can imagine him losing a fall, at least by pin or submission. This should go to Hologram, but after this, can we please move him on to something a bit more interesting? He has enough wins under his feet to move on but he has to beat Mortos first, which he will here.

### AEW World Title: Bryan Danielson(c) vs. Jon Moxley

Believe it or not, Moxley is back in the World Title scene and is talking about how awesome and tough and violent he really is. It's something we've seen time after time and there is nothing that makes this one stand out, to the point where he already has a lot of the same backup this time around. Apparently he has a secret leader this time though, and it wouldn't shock me to see the big reveal here.

As annoying as it is, I'll go with Moxley to win here, as it feels like the biggest story in AEW at the moment. Give us the big reveal, let Moxley have his title reign (again) and do whatever he's talking about this time. Danielson will likely come back later on in some way, but for now, Moxley seems to be the big focal point and we'll get to hear him talk about how tough and intense he is for months to come.

### Overall Thoughts

There are matches on this show that have me interested, but it would be so much better as a seven or eight match card rather than almost twice that long. There is stuff on here which just does not belong on pay per view and matches like that are going to make for a very long show when this thing is pushing four hours. I'm interested in some matches on this show, but it isn't the strongest pay per view card, which is something I'm saying more and more regularly on the things.

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# Dynamite – May 19, 2021: The Moving Day Show

## **Dynamite**

Date: May 19, 2021

Location: Daily's Place, Jacksonville, Florida

Commentators: Excalibur, Jim Ross, Tony Schiavone

We have two shows left before Double Or Nothing and that means it is time to start hammering home the card. This time around we have a Tag Team Title match with the Varsity Blonds

challenging the Young Bucks. Other than that, we are likely getting some more matches set for the pay per view. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

### Christian Cage vs. Matt Sydal

Taz is on commentary and it's a feeling out process to start, with Sydal's grab of a leg being reversed into a headlock. Sydal slips out for a standoff but gets sent outside for a crash. Back in and a backbreaker sets up a top rope elbow to the face for two on Sydal. There's a headbutt to the back and a stomp to make it worse, as Christian is wrestling a bit more villainish here.

Another backbreaker is countered with a headscissors though and Sydal's jumping spinning kick to the face gives him a breather. The Meteora gives Sydal two and there's a clothesline for the same. Christian misses a charge and gets taken down with a spinwheel kick to the face, followed by a running knee in the corner. Christian's spear is countered into a sunset flip for two and he misses a high crossbody as well. Now the spear can connect for two but Sydal pulls the knee out. A backsplash hits knees though and the Killswitch finishes Sydal at 9:15.

**Rating:** C+. I'm not a big Sydal fan but he was making it work here with Christian looking better than he has so far in AEW. I'm curious to see him being more aggressive, as it certainly seemed to suit him better. Christian still isn't the star he was before, but he can still do things like this well enough.

Post match Taz yells at Christian but here is Ricky Starks to interrupt. Starks is his own man and he is right here. He isn't going to be on the sidelines like these flunkies, so he and Christian have some business to handle. Cue Team Taz to



jump Christian and Sydal for the beatdown. Hangman Page comes in to go after Cage, but Hook gets in a chop block. Cage powerbombs Page down hard.

Here's what's coming tonight.

The Varsity Blonds talk about Brian Pillman, who was not Brian Pillman Jr.'s inspiration to get into the business. All he knew was the dark side of the ring, but then he was inspired by the Young Bucks. Griff Garrison talks about running the Young Bucks' merchandise table at an independent show, but the Bucks of today are not the Bucks of those days.

Jon Moxley and Eddie Kingston aren't sure about what they're facing with the Acclaimed (Kingston: "One's a rapper, the other is the rapper's friend."). They also don't get why they're going to a superkick party when neither of them throw superkicks. Oh well. They'll just beat up the Acclaimed.

The Acclaimed promises to stomp Moxley and Kingston's a\*\*\*\* and that is a mic drop.

### Jon Moxley/Eddie Kingston vs. Acclaimed

Moxley and Kingston come out to the Major League version of Wild Thing, because AEW thinks Cleveland and Cincinnati are close enough. Caster says that Kingston looks like a pack of Newports and Moxley's wife is trying to get him for an oral session (Caster: "What? She just wants me to be on the podcast!"). Moxley knocks Caster silly with a right hand and we start with a double shoulder to put Caster down again.

Kingston plants with an STO but gets caught with a super dragon screw legwhip as we take a break. Back with Kingston getting over for the hot tag to Moxley to clean house, but he gets caught in a suplex/high crossbody combination. Kingston makes the save and sends Bowens into the barricade but Moxley gets sent outside as well. Caster throws Bowens the chain for a distraction so he can bring in the boom box. Moxley breaks

that up though and hits Caster with the boom box instead, setting up a wheelbarrow into a Paradigm Shift for the pin at 10:25.

**Rating:** C. This was a way to get Moxley and Kingston a win over a name team before they get their title shot. There is nothing wrong with building a team up, even if the Acclaimed is better known for their talking. Moxley and Kingston are turning into a pretty good team in the ring and their showdown with the Bucks very well could steal Double Or Nothing.

Chris Jericho and Dean Malenko reminisce about the number of holds they know.

Scorpio Sky and Ethan Page are in the ring to talk about Sting. Sky always wanted to be like Sting, but then he grew up and is now a grown man. Sting isn't the man he used to be and now Sky is his own man. Page talks about Darby Allin loses and promises to be the nail in his coffin. Cue Sting and Allin to clean house, including Allin with some skateboard shots. The Scorpion Deathlock goes on but Page gets away, only to have the Dark Order cut off...well some of their exits at least.

The Pinnacle is at a nice dinner with MJF talking about how unfunny Chris Jericho is. Dax Wilder goes on a rant about how they have to deal with Jericho even after thirty years. Last year's Stadium Stampede was a dog and pony show but this year it's going to be serious. Shawn Spears attacks a waiter for making a mistake and smashes a bottle, so Tully Blanchard throws him some money. MJF says if the Inner Circle agrees to Stadium Stampede, it will be their last match, because when you're in the Pinnacle, you're always on top.

### Hikaru Shida vs. Rebel

Non-title and Britt Baker is here as well. Rebel fakes an early injury but then snaps off some jumping jacks. Shida doesn't take kindly to her dancing and puts on her own glove before trying the Lockjaw. Baker grabs the Women's Title,

allowing Rebel to hit Shida in the back with a crutch. A toss suplex gets two on Shida but she is right back with a knee breaker. The Stretch Muffler makes Rebel tap at 2:01.

Post match Baker comes in and drops Shida onto the belt.

Last week, Kenny Omega and Don Callis came in to see Orange Cassidy in the trainer's room after he got dropped on his head. They need Cassidy to be the AEW mascot instead of challenging him for the title, so they have a contract for him to sign, saying that he can have his match later when he is a little healthier. Cassidy doesn't even look at it and rips it up (rather slowly). Omega talks about how bad it could be if Cassidy takes the One Winged Angel and they offer him another copy of the same deal, which he can think about.

Here is the Inner Circle to respond to the Pinnacle. Ortiz promises violence and Sammy Guevara says this is never over, no matter what he ever does. He promises to douse the Pinnacle in a Little Bit Of The Bubbly and make them flop around like fish if he has to, but they have to have this match. Jake Hager is in too, which just leaves Jericho's opinion. Jericho talks about being done with Blood & Guts and how they left a piece of their souls.

They aren't sure if it's worth it, but Jericho can't stop thinking about MJF looking down at him as he came crashing down. MJF scared his family and his children, and he will never forget it. So was it worth it? Of course it was, because it has given him the fire to end MJF once and for all. Stadium Stampede is on and if the Pinnacle wants to beat him, they'll have to kill him and they are still alive. So yeah, the match is on, and Pinnacle is going down. Very fired up promo here from Jericho, assuming he can back it up in the match.

Jade Cargill is asked about her decision on a manager but MJF's former agent comes up to say he wants to work for her instead of vice versa. Why is Cargill getting an interview

with Schiavone instead of a sitdown with JR? Cargill tells him to leave and gets what she wants.

### NWA Women's Title: Red Velvet vs. Serena Deeb

Deeb is defending and hammers away to start, including some uppercuts. A fisherman's neckbreaker gives Deeb two and she stomps away in the corner. Velvet is right back with a dragon screw legwhip though and we take a break. Back with Velvet hitting a high crossbody for two, followed by a standing moonsault for the same. Velvet shoves her off the apron to break up a neckbreaker attempt, setting up a moonsault to drop Deeb again.

Back in and Just Desserts misses but Velvet counters a sunset flip into a cradle for two more. Serena powerbombs the heck out of her for two and we hit the Serenity Lock. Velvet can't get to the rope but doesn't tap, meaning Deeb lets go and tries a Figure Four. That's reversed into a small package for two so it's back to the Serenity Lock, with Deeb driving the knee into the mat a few times to make Velvet tap at 9:36.

**Rating:** B-. Probably Velvet's best match to date and that is a good thing to see. She looked smoother in here than usual and I bought her as having a chance to pull it off in here at times. Granted some of that might be due to being in there with Deeb, who can work with just about anyone.

Pac is glad to have his title shot because there is nothing Don Callis or Kenny Omega can do about it. Who is betting against him now?

### Anthony Ogogo vs. Austin Gunn

A bunch of people, including an American flag clad Cody Rhodes, is here. Gunn dropkicks him down at the bell and Ogogo is starting to protect his bad eye. A gut shot puts Austin down and he is in big trouble. Back up and Ogogo does it again, meaning Gunn has to stop the referee from calling for

the bell. Gunn is bleeding from the mouth and a pop up right hand knocks him silly for the knockout at 2:15. More baby steps for Ogogo and that's a wise way to go.

Post match Ogogo grabs Cody's American flag and throws it away, which is too far for Cody.

Christopher Daniels won't say anything about SCU splitting up last week. Daniels whispers something to Kazarian and walks away. Kazarian says he can't explain what Daniels means to him, but Kazarian knows what is next. Last week, he lost something very important to him and he blames the Elite for what happened. He is hunting them down and he is a bomb you cannot defuse and a gun you cannot unload. Kazarian as a singles star is an intriguing way to go.

Here is Miro for a chat. He thanks Jesus Christ for giving him the talent to hurt people, like he did to Darby Allin last week. Miro took what Allin said could not be taken and now everyone knows that it doesn't matter who you are. If you have what he wants, it's done. The fans want Allin, so Miro holds up the title and says here he is. Next week, he'll be defending the title against someone and will destroy him on his way to Double Or Nothing.

Cue Lance Archer, who says he has been the beast of AEW since Miro was trying to get a day to himself. Last year he lost in the first ever TNT Title match, so nothing is stopping him from winning at Double Or Nothing. Miro is going to be his Bulgarian b\*\*\*\*, which Miro says he has never heard before. As Archer has said, everyone dies, but Miro is going to make sure Archer dies first. Miro was showing the fire here like he has yet to do in AEW.

Here's what's coming next week, with Dante Martin getting the TNT Title shot. We are also getting a celebration of the Inner Circle's greatest moments, plus Jade Cargill's open challenge (Since EVERY SHOW NEEDS AN OPEN CHALLENGE THESE DAYS!).

At Double Or Nothing: Sting/Darby Allin vs. Ethan Page/Scorpio Sky.

### Tag Team Titles: Young Bucks vs. Varsity Blonds

The Bucks are defending, Julia Hart is here with the Blonds and Don Callis is on commentary. Garrison and Nick run the ropes until a boot to the face drops Nick in a hurry. Matt comes in and gets one of his own, allowing Pillman to come in for some stereo dropkicks to the champs. We settle back down to Pillman armdragging Nick and working on the arm but Nick gets over for the hot tag to Matt.

That means Pillman gets sent outside for a crash onto the ramp, leaving Nick to walk the ropes and jump down onto him. A neck snap across the top rope has Pillman down again and we take a break. Back with Pillman hitting a crossbody and getting over for the hot tag to Garrison. House is cleaned in a hurry and Garrison hits a slingshot crossbody onto both champs. It's back to Pillman, who gets suplexed down so Nick can dive onto Garrison.

Some kicks to the back keep Pillman in trouble but he sends Nick's kick into Matt and hits a superkick of his own. Matt is right back with the Sharpshooter and Nick adds the cold spray to the eyes. Garrison makes the save but Nick hits a couple of superkicks. Matt gets another can of spray but Hart calls him out for it. That's fine with Matt, who has a third can to spray her as well. The Sharpshooter goes on and Nick adds the slingshot X Factor to knock Pillman silly. Pillman taps at 11:55.

**Rating:** B-. I like the Blonds more each time I see them but there was never a bit of drama here. As usual, this was the Young Bucks Show as they are smarter than anyone they face, which goes along with being more athletic because we need to be reminded of how great they are every chance we have.

Post match here are Jon Moxley and Eddie Kingston to choke out

the Bucks and steal their expensive shoes. And the socks too!

We run down the Double Or Nothing card, with Tony making it clear that Sting/Allin vs. Page/Sky will NOT be a cinematic match. Also, Moxley/Kingston are now the #1 contenders and get their title shot.

**Overall Rating:** B. This was a promo heavy show and that's what mattered most here. Since this is the last regularly scheduled Dynamite before the pay per view, they had to rush the build this week and get things ready for Double Or Nothing. That worked out rather well as I'm a good bit more interested in seeing the show than I was coming in. The wrestling here was good to quite good, but this was all about the talking and they were feeling it this week.

### Results

Christian Cage b. Matt Sydal – Killswitch

Jon Moxley/Eddie Kingston b. The Acclaimed – Wheelbarrow Paradigm Shift to Caster

Hikaru Shida b. Rebel – Stretch Muffler

Serena Deeb b. Red Velvet – Serenity Lock

Anthony Ogogo b. Austin Gunn via referee stoppage

Young Bucks b. Varsity Blonds – Sharpshooter to Pillman

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