

Smackdown – November 7, 2025: We Need A Match

Smackdown

Date: November 7, 2025

Location: Bon Secours Wellness Center, Greenville, South Carolina

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves

We're done with Saturday Night's Main Event and Cody Rhodes seems to be done with Drew McIntyre. After defending the title again, Rhodes is going to need a new challenger and with Survivor Series in about three weeks, there is a good chance we find out something about that tonight. Let's get to it.

[Here is Saturday Night's Main Event if you need a recap.](#)

We open with a recap of Rhodes retaining the title at Saturday Night's Main Event.

Here is Rhodes, who talks about ending things against McIntyre once and for all. He wants someone new to come after the title and is willing to sit in the crowd and find out who it is. Cue Aleister Black and Zelina to interrupt, with Black saying there is a WWE Championship sized chip on his shoulder. Vega gets in Rhodes' face but Nick Aldis comes out to make the match for tonight.

Ilja Dragunov runs into Tama Tonga in the back.

US Title: Ilja Dragunov vs. ???

Dragunov is defending in another open challenge, with DIY answering. Tommaso Ciampa calls out Dragunov for calling him a jackass last week, earning a JACKASS chant. Dragunov is willing to defend...against Johnny Gargano. Ciampa isn't happy but goes with it and we're ready to go. Gargano knocks him

into the corner to start but gets taken down in some rolling German suplexes. Another suplex drops Gargano again and we take a break.

We come back with Gargano enziguring him down so they can trade forearms. The Constantine Special drops Gargano again and Dragunov hits a running boot in the corner. Gargano is right back with a superkick into a poisonrana, with Dragunov coming up with a busted nose.

They go to the corner with Dragunov knocking him off, setting up a middle rope backsplash. A belly to back slam plants Gargano but Candice LeRae pulls Dragunov outside. One Final Beat gives Gargano two but Dragunov catches him with an apron superplex. The H Bomb retains the title at 10:51.

Rating: B-. This was what you would expect from these two as they were doing their big time moves until Gargano lost. Dragunov vs. Ciampa is the big teased match and that could be quite the showdown. They have to do stuff like this to get there though and at least the match was good enough.

Sami Zayn comes in to see Nick Aldis and asks him to be ringside for Rey Fenix's match tonight. Aldis has to turn him down again and that's not a request. Zayn agrees, but he won't do this much longer. R-Truth comes in and wants to be in the Last Time Is Now tournament. He puts his balls in Aldis' hands (literally) but Aldis says he's already in the field. This makes R-Truth mad and he leaves. Aldis: "I don't know what just happened here."

We look at Jade Cargill winning the Women's Title at Saturday Night's Main Event.

Johnny Gargano apologized to Tommaso Ciampa for losing but Fraxiom comes in to mock them both.

Here is Jade Cargill for a chat. Cargill says that will happen to anyone who comes after her and she is that b****. And

that's it, though she runs into Charlotte and Alexa Bliss on the way to the ring as she leaves. Staring ensues.

Chelsea Green is ready to win the Women's US Title back but Michin and B-Fab come in to mock her. Green says she'll be the best champion on Smackdown but Jade Cargill comes in to scare her. B-Fab isn't pleased and a match is made for next week.

Charlotte vs. Nia Jax

Alexa Bliss is here with Charlotte. They trade slaps to start until Charlotte hits a Thesz press to hammer away. After not quite sticking the landing on a nip up (she laughed about it), Charlotte is sent hard into the corner as we take a break. We come back with Charlotte booting her in the face and hitting a high crossbody.

A flipping clothesline drops Jax (and we go black screen due to some wardrobe issues), followed by a moonsault to give Charlotte two. Jax grabs a sitout powerbomb for two more but the Annihilator misses. Charlotte knees her for two and a tornado DDT gets the same. Cue NXT's Lash Legend to jump Bliss and choke her on the floor, allowing Jax to splash Charlotte in the corner. The Annihilator finishes for Jax at 10:25.

Rating: C+. Charlotte is one of the few women who can hang with Jax size wise and it made for a better match. You don't see Jax have something of a hoss fight very often and I was digging it here. Charlotte's evolution is rather shocking as I never imagined it going this well and now we have a tag match set.

Legend and Jax leave together. I can absolutely go for Legend being on Smackdown full time.

We recap the Last Time Is Now tournament.

Nick Aldis draws two first round matches:

Miz vs. Jey Uso

LA Knight vs. ???

Aldis won't say Knight's opponent. That makes me think a returning Gunther or someone who will appear when you say his name.

Nia Jax says she and Lash Legend are indeed friends. Legend introduces herself and says they're going to the top.

Women's United States Title: Giulia vs. Chelsea Green

Green, with Alba Fyre, is challenging and Kiana James is here with Giulia. A headbutt rocks Green to start and the knee gets two. Giulia chokes on the ropes and James gets in a cheap shot, earning a superkick from Fyre. Giulia goes after Fyre...and gets rolled up with feet on the ropes to give Green the title back at 1:35. It's not like Giulia was doing anything with the title anyway so go with the one on a roll at the moment.

Solo Sikoa wants more from the MFT's, starting with Talla Tonga needing to teach a lesson. The team leaves and the Wyatt Sicks pop up behind them.

Charlotte checks on Alexa Bliss in the trainer's room...but Asuka pops in to mist Charlotte in the eyes. Well that's mean.

Talla Tonga vs. Rey Fenix

The MFT's are here with Tonga. Actually never mind as the Motor City Machine Guns and Shinsuke Nakamura come out to brawl with them to the back. That leaves Fenix to hit a dive and the bell rings with Tonga easily shoving him down. A running big boot sends Fenix into the barricade and we take a break.

We come back with Fenix's springboard being knocked out of the air and some elbows in the corner keeping him in trouble. Tonga misses a charge though and gets kicked in the face, only to come back with a heck of an uppercut. Fenix kicks him in

the head a few times, including a rope walk kick to the face. A springboard high crossbody gives Fenix two but a hurricanrana is countered into a powerbomb. The chokeslam finishes Fenix off at 9:11.

Rating: B-. There was a good story here with the giant vs. the smaller guy and it worked well. The problem is that Tonga is only so good in the ring and Fenix has lost time after time to the point where it doesn't mean as much. The MFT's seem like they're ready to do a bunch of stuff but none of it has really happened yet. That's going to need to change, which has been the case for a long time.

Post match Tonga goes after Fenix again but Sami Zayn runs in with a chair for the save.

Here's what's coming next week.

The Miz says last week's attack on Carmelo Hayes wasn't payback before moving on to the Last Time Is Now tournament. He's ready to win the tournament and beat John Cena again, just like he did in the main event of Wrestlemania.

Cody Rhodes vs. Aleister Black

Non-title and Zelina is here with Black. They trade armdrags to start fast until Rhodes jumps over him in the corner. The drop down uppercut is countered into a quickly broken cross armbreaker but Black kicks him out to the floor. We take a break and come back with Rhodes getting two off the snap powerslam before Black's kick to the head gets the same. Rhodes comes back with a running forearm and another powerslam, followed by the Disaster Kick for two.

Cross Rhodes is countered and another kick drops Rhodes, who is back with a Cody Cutter for two more. Another Cross Rhodes attempt is countered and they kick each other down...and here is Drew McIntyre to Claymore the referee. Rhodes goes after McIntyre so Black jumps Rhodes, with Damian Priest coming in

to go after the villains. Zelina's interference doesn't really work but Black gets in a shot to Priest's eye. The match is a no contest at around 10:00.

Rating: B-. They got in some good stuff while they had the chance, which granted was only so long. The ending is a bit interesting as it opens up some doors, though Rhodes needs a new top challenger. While McIntyre is a big deal, he was only so much of a threat to take the title. I'm not sure Black is going to be anything more than a challenger of the month, but at least it's something different.

Post match Nick Aldis suspends McIntyre to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. The action here was fine, but this was another show that didn't feel very exciting. The matches were ok enough and nothing was terrible, but there is nothing on here that makes me want to keep watching. Rather than rushing towards something, it comes off more like a leisurely jog with little in the way of drama. Nothing much to this one, which is a shame as the wrestling was pretty decent.

Results

Ilja Dragunov b. Johnny Gargano – H Bomb

Nia Jax b. Charlotte – Annihilator

Chelsea Green b. Giulia – Rollup with feet on the ropes

Cody Rhodes vs. Aleister Black went to a no contest

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Smackdown – October 31, 2025: Merry Halloween

Smackdown

Date: October 31, 2025

Location: Delta Center, Salt Lake City, Utah

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves

It's the night before Saturday Night's Main Event and that means it's time for the big push before the show. That could make for some interesting builds to tomorrow, including the final setup of Drew McIntyre challenging Cody Rhodes for the Smackdown World Title. That should be enough to carry this week, plus all of the holiday shenanigans. Let's get to it.

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

We have a theme of the University of Utah vs. the University of Cincinnati football game tomorrow.

We look at Jade Cargill turning heel last week and attacking Tiffany Stratton.

Cue Stratton to say she wants Cargill out here right now but Nick Aldis says it can't get physical. This brings out Cargill, with Aldis calling for security. Cargill says she wants the title so Stratton goes into the aisle for the brawl, with Cargill getting away before it gets started.

Video on Ilja Dragunov.

R-Truth, dressed as Santa Claus, gives the Motor City Machine Guns some candy. He doesn't believe that it's Halloween and leaves but Solo Sikoa comes in to mock the Guns. A tag match seems set for later.

US Title: Ilja Dragunov vs. ???

Dragunov is defending against...Nathan Frazer. Wait hang on though as Tommaso Ciampa comes to the ring, saying Dragunov can't possibly give him the shot. Dragunov says it's for everyone but Frazer was here first. Also Ciampa is a jackass. Frazer knees him down to start fast and a spinning enziguri sends Dragunov outside. The suicide dive connects but Dragunov is fine enough to hit a spinning chop back inside.

Frazer manages a necksnap across the top but a springboard is cut off with a jumping knee. Dragunov tells him that it's nothing personal before giving him a German suplex on the floor. We take a break and come back with Dragunov rolling more German suplexes but missing the Constantine Special. Frazer's running shooting star press gets two and they trade strikes to the head. Dragunov misses a charge out to the floor but is back in with a shot to the face.

The top rope backsplash misses though and Frazer's frog splash gets two as we take another break. We come back again with Frazer fighting out of a powerbomb and kicking Dragunov in the head. A superbomb is countered into a super hurricanrana to send Dragunov outside, meaning it's another dive. The phoenix splash gets two back inside as Frazer can't believe the kickout. Frazer elbows him off the top but Dragunov is right back up with a nasty middle rope German superplex for two of his own. A powerbomb into the H Bomb retains the title at 18:51.

Rating: B. These guys beat each other up and it's nice to see Frazer getting to show off a bit. Dragunov is the story again here though, as he continues to look like he leaves everything he has in the ring and that makes for some awesome moments. Do more of this, which seems to be the idea at the moment.

Post match respect is shown but Tommaso Ciampa runs in to jump Frazer again. During the break, Axiom and Johnny Gargano ran

in to join the brawl, with Dragunov trying to break it up.

Post break, the brawl continues until Tama Tonga comes in to grab the title and stare at Dragunov.

Kit Wilson vs. Carmelo Hayes

And Hayes is now a good guy. Ok then. Wilson tries to jump him from behind to start and manages a running elbow. A cross arm choke lets Wilson call Hayes toxic before stomping him down. Something like a spinning DDT gets two on Hayes, who fights up and hits a springboard clothesline. Wilson bails out to the floor and gets taken out with a dive...and here is Miz to post Hayes. A top rope elbow gives Wilson two but the First 48 gives Hayes the pin at 3:11.

Rating: C. Not much to the match other than to establish that Hayes is now a good guy. That worked out well enough as he did fine in the role in NXT and it's not like he's set the world on fire so far. A feud with Miz has worked for others before and at least he has a nice starting point.

Post match Miz drops Hayes with the Skull Crushing Finale.

Charlotte and Alexa Bliss aren't worried about the Kabuki Warriors. As for tonight, Charlotte says Nia Jax is still in fear because she's displaying classic Gemini behavior. Bliss isn't sure what to make of that.

Nick Aldis won't let Sami Zayn be ringside for the Motor City Machine Guns vs. MFTs as he isn't cleared. Cody Rhodes comes in and pleasantries are exchanged. Aldis flat out asks Rhodes if he attacked Jacob Fatu and Rhodes gives a definitive no. He's fine with the contract for the title match against Drew McIntyre.

Nia Jax vs. Alexa Bliss

Charlotte is here with Bliss. Jax jumps her from behind to start so Bliss gets in a slap to the face. That earns a big

shout from Jax, who runs Bliss over. A hurricanrana is cut off but Jax misses a charge into the post. Instead she sends Bliss into the barricade and takes a bow as we take a break.

We come back with a splash in the corner setting up the running hip attack. Jax misses a second attempt and Charlotte offers a distraction, allowing Bliss to get in a neck snap over the ropes. Bliss strikes away and gets two off a basement crossbody. Jax is right back with a Samoan drop for two of her own, with the referee losing his shoe. Back up and Charlotte offers another distraction to break up the Annihilator, allowing Bliss to kick the leg out and get the pin at 9:35.

Rating: C+. This worked about as well as these two are ever going to do, as the size difference hurts it a good bit. What matters here though was that Charlotte and Bliss are still working together and turning into a rather nice team. They're the team that the division has been needing and hopefully it can last for a long while.

The MFTs run into Rey Fenix, with Solo Siko asking if he's looking for a fight. Fenix says no, because he wants to fight Talla Tonga. Sure.

Damian Priest says it's now personal with Aleister Black and punishment is coming.

Saturday Night's Main Event rundown.

Tiffany Stratton runs into Kiana James and Giulia. James says Stratton should have accepted their offer and Nick Aldis has to keep Stratton from jumping her. Chelsea Green and Alba Fyre come in, with Green not being happy about Giulia coming up on the record for longest Women's US Title reign. Green wants a match and Giulia is in for next week. Nikki Cross pops in to scare them off.

Earlier today, the Utah Utes mascot beat the Cincinnati Bearcats' mascot. Eh if they air like 30 seconds of it, fine

enough for some crossover appeal.

MFTs vs. Motor City Machine Guns

Shelley and Mateo start things off with Shelley striking away and a missile dropkick/Downward Spiral combination putting Mateo down. The MFT's are sent outside for the dives and it's the Dream Sequence for two on Tonga. We take a break and come back with Shelley fighting out of a chinlock and hitting the Downward Spiral into the buckle.

That's enough for the tag off to Sabin so house can be cleaned, including a tornado DDT to Tonga. It's already back to Shelley, who knocks Tonga outside for a big dive from Sabin. Back in and Solo Sikoa offers a distraction, allowing Tonga to break up the Skull & Bones. The Cutthroat gives Tonga the pin at 8:42.

Rating: B-. As usual, the Guns are able to work well with anyone and that's always fun to see. At the same time, I could go for seeing them have some more success, but they got their title win so now it seems to be time to have them job quite a bit. We're also looking towards the MFTs coming after the Wyatt Sicks and the Tag Team Titles, so it makes sense for them to win here.

Post match the beatdown stays on so Rey Fenix runs in for the save, with Shinsuke Nakamura having to save him. This goes rather badly for Nakamura.

Drew McIntyre has no issues with the contract for Saturday Night's Main Event and tells Nick Aldis to relax.

Here's what's coming next week.

Nick Aldis is in the ring for the main event contract signing. Cody Rhodes and Drew McIntyre join him but McIntyre says he can't sign this. Rhodes certainly can and does, but McIntyre says it's a one sided contract. If either of them get

disqualified or counted out, Rhodes keeps the title and that's not fair. Aldis is done with McIntyre's games and threatens to replace him in the title match. McIntyre says ok and goes to leave but Rhodes tells him to sit down.

Rhodes knows what McIntyre wants: a clause that says if he gets counted out or disqualified, the title changes hands. That's exactly what McIntyre wants and Rhodes is cool with it, so Aldis makes the change. McIntyre signs and talks about how he made the blueprint that Rhodes followed to end the story. He works to get everywhere he goes because he's the real American Dream.

Rhodes says McIntyre did indeed write the blueprint but the difference is Rhodes walked away instead of getting fired. Rhodes: "Nice guys used to finish last. Then I showed up." McIntyre cuts him off from leaving and says that the people will eventually turn on Rhodes too. He brings up Rhodes not being there to take his daughters trick or treating and that touches a nerve.

McIntyre asks what Rhodes' daughters are named and the fight is on, with Rhodes missing a belt shot. A Claymore drops Rhodes and McIntyre puts him through the table. Some promises of taking the title end the show. They've got me thinking that a title change is possible and that's a nice feeling to have.

Overall Rating: B+. I liked this show quite a bit with the good opener and solid main event segment. The World Title match needed the build to get ready for Saturday and they accomplished that rather well. This felt like a show where they were setting up things and then getting it done, which is what they needed to do. Solid show here and I want to see what happens tomorrow.

Results

Ilja Dragunov b. Nathan Frazer – H Bomb
Carmelo Hayes b. Kit Wilson – First 48

Alexa Bliss b. Nia Jax – Rollup

MFTs b. Motor City Machine Guns – Cutthroat to Sabin

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Smackdown – May 23, 2025: That's An Angry Fatu

Smackdown

Date: May 23, 2025

Location: Enmarket Arena, Savannah, Georgia

Commentators: Joe Tessitore, Wade Barrett

It's the night before Saturday Night's Main Event, which is one heck of a card. It is big enough to feel like a bonus pay per view and this week's show is likely going to be focused on building it up. Other than that, we have some spots in Money In The Bank to be filled, which should make for some good action. Let's get to it.

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

Various people are coming to work, including Damian Priest, who jumps Drew McIntyre. Security breaks it up.

Here is Tiffany Stratton for a chat. She's rather happy with

what she has been doing lately and is looking forward to Money In The Bank, but no one better think twice about cashing in on her. Cue Alexa Bliss for a formal introduction before saying she needs that briefcase. She doesn't know Stratton very well, so Stratton better pray that Bliss doesn't win.

Cue Charlotte to brag about everything she's done, save for winning Money In The Bank. She wants the spotlight back, but Charlotte calls her a hypocrite. Charlotte has called the briefcase a cheap way in, but it doesn't matter because Charlotte and Bliss are a bit old school for her. Stratton is the upgraded version of the two of them and that doesn't sit well.

Money In The Bank Qualifying Match: Charlotte vs. Giulia vs. Zelina Vega

Non-title. They stare at each other to start and Charlotte knocks Vega outside. Back in and Vega gets sent flying with a fall away slam before Giulia takes Charlotte down. Some leg stomps and a neck twist have Charlotte in more trouble but she's back up with a clothesline. Vega is back up to take both of them down and a moonsault to the floor drops them again.

We take a break and come back with Charlotte kicking Giulia off the apron. Giulia is back up with something like a Doomsday dropkick to Vega but Charlotte pops up with a high crossbody to the two of them. Charlotte moonsaults onto both of them for two but Giulia pulls Charlotte into the Rings Of Saturn. Vega breaks it up with a dropkick and hits a 619 but Charlotte drops Vega again. The Figure Eight has Giulia in trouble until Vega makes the save with the Meteora. Charlotte boots Vega down but Giulia comes in with a top rope double stomp for the save. The Northern Lights Bomb gives Giulia the pin on Vega at 13:31.

Rating: B. The second Vega was introduced as the third entrant, it was a question of whether Charlotte or Giulia

would beat her. With all of the women they have available around here for this kind of a spot, they had no better option than the US Champion? The title has only been around for a few months and having losses like this isn't going to help it. The match was good, but some better thinking would be appreciated.

DIY takes credit for the tag division coming together and doesn't like other teams acting like they did it.

Zelina Vega is in the back and Chelsea Green mocks her. The ensuing brawl is quickly broken up by the Secret Hervice. B-Fab and Michin come in to say they want a fight tonight, with Nick Aldis making it happen.

Tommaso Ciampa vs. Chris Sabin

Johnny Gargano and Alex Shelley are here too. Sabin works on an armdrag to start and grinds away at the arm. Ciampa breaks that up and stomps away in the corner but Sabin armdrags him out to the floor. Sabin goes after him so Ciampa throws in a jacket, setting up Willow's Bell as we take a break.

Back with Sabin hitting a German suplex and a running shot to the face for two. They slug it out on the apron until Ciampa grabs a White Noise for two of his own. Back in and Sabin blocks the Fairy Tale Ending, with Ciampa favoring his knee. A springboard tornado DDT drops Ciampa so it's time for Gargano and Shelley to get involved. Sabin dives onto DIY but cue Candice LeRae to rake Sabin's eyes. Ciampa hits a running knee for the pin at 10:15.

Rating: B-. It's so nice to have teams like DIY and the Guns who can be slotted in as singles stars if need be. That's what we got here and it was a perfectly fine way to keep the feud going without doing the same match time after time. Having LeRae in the DIY fold would make perfect sense too, as it's not like she has anything else going on.

Fraxiom is ready for the biggest night of their careers as

they have a Tag Team Title shot.

We look back at John Cena's heel turn and how he blames the fans for abusing him over the years.

Damian Priest is supposed to come out to talk about Drew McIntyre but they brawl to ringside instead. It's broken up but Priest says he wants more, with the brawl continuing.

Jacob Fatu doesn't know JC Mateo and doesn't trust him. Solo Sikoa says use that aggression tonight. Sikoa wants Jimmy Uso back in the fold but Fatu doesn't seem convinced by the two of them.

Alexa Bliss mocks Charlotte for losing.

Secret Hervice vs. B-Fab/Michin

B-Fab tries to slug away at Niven to start and gets nowhere as a result. Fyre comes in and Niven hits a backsplash to put B-Fab in early trouble. A Boss Man Slam gives Niven two but B-Fab gets up and brings in Michin to clean house. Chelsea Green gets on the apron but here is Zelina Vega to cut her off. Eat Defeat into a swinging faceplant from B-Fab finishes Fyre at 3:44.

Rating: C. So I guess we're getting ready for another Vega vs. Green title match, which hopefully leads to Green getting the title back. Vega has gotten her big win but Green being her hilarious self is the better option. For now though, this was another attempt to make B-Fab a bigger deal and I'm not sure how likely that is to work.

The Street Profits are ready for Fraxiom and don't like the suggestion that there is a better team. Jacob Fatu, Solo Sikoa and JC Mateo come back for some glaring.

Legado del Fantasma has a meeting to try to calm things down. Santos Escobar wants them ready for a six man tag at Worlds Collide on June 7. Berto still doesn't seem convinced but

drinks a toast. Not exactly with them, but close enough.

Jimmy Uso and Rey Fenix are ready.

Jacob Fatu/JC Mateo vs. Jimmy Uso/Rey Fenix

Jimmy and Fatu start things off but Mateo tags himself in, earning a glare from Fatu. Mateo takes over but Fatu tags himself in and gets hurricanranaed down by Fenix. Jimmy helps Fenix hit a springboard corkscrew dive and we take an early break. Back with Fatu hitting a running Umaga attack on Jimmy but Mateo can't get a belly to back superplex. Instead Jimmy knocks him down and hits a Whisper In The Wind, giving us a diving tag to Fenix.

The pace is picked way up, with a 619 into a poisonrana getting two on Fatu. A pop up Samoan drop cuts Fenix off though and Mateo sends him flying, with Fenix sticking the landing. Jimmy tags himself in, leaving Fenix to dive onto Fatu, who pulls him out of the air. A spear drops Mateo so Sikoa offers a distraction. Jimmy isn't interested, but it's enough for Mateo to hit the Tour Of The Islands for the pin at 12:27.

Rating: B-. Nice stuff here for a pair of monsters who don't get along and a makeshift team of Uso and Fenix. I'm curious about where this is going for Fatu, who is pretty clearly about to become one heck of a good guy, while the rest of the team won't like that. It's an interesting change of pace and the idea of Jimmy possibly being brought back in is...well that's another thing that could be happening.

LA Knight is ready to go through Aleister Black and Shinsuke Nakamura to go to Money In The Bank. He's tired of the darkness and is ready to BFT them into the light.

Here is R-Truth for a chat. John Cena is his childhood hero but he doesn't recognize this Cena. The problem is power, because they used to be friends. The more power and fame Cena

got though, the more disconnect he felt. They stopped talking and R-Truth felt like Cena was always annoyed at him. Maybe R-Truth thought he had done something wrong, but other people felt the same.

Cena is like Gollum from Lord Of The Rings, with his championship being his precious. He doesn't believe Cena is happy, but maybe he can bring Cena back. If R-Truth wants to save wrestling, he has to save Cena, so he'll beat the hustle, loyalty and respect back into Cena. If Cena wins, WE RIOT! This was the serious R-Truth for the first time in forever and he did exactly what he needed to do here. Good promo, even if he's going to get massacred.

We look at Sami Zayn/CM Punk vs. Seth Rollins/Bron Breakker at Saturday Night's Main Event.

Video on Naomi vs. Jade Cargill vs. Nia Jax in next week's Money In The Bank qualifying match.

Money In The Bank Qualifying Match: Shinsuke Nakamura vs. LA Knight vs. Aleister Black

They slug it out to start and Nakamura gets sent outside. Knight and Black seem cool with each other before locking up, with Knight grabbing his jumping neckbreaker. Nakamura breaks up Knight's stomping in the corner and trades kicks with Black. Knight gets kneed down and we take a break.

Back with Nakamura sending Knight into the steps but Nakamura gets knocked outside. Black takes Knight down with a running flip dive but comes up holding his leg. Back in and Black misses a moonsault, allowing Knight to catch him with a DDT. Black is sent into the post but he catches Nakamura with Black Mass. That's fine with Knight, who sends Black outside and steals the pin at 11:02.

Rating: B-. Knight needed a win like this, even if he didn't do the damage in the first place. I can't imagine him getting

the briefcase, but he needs to get away from facing these same people for the US Title for a bit. He's been there twice now and there is little left for him to do in that area. If he's going to move up to the main event scene, this is as good of a chance as he is going to have.

Miz has gotten Carmelo Hayes a Money In The Bank qualifying match because he knows how important it can be to a wrestler's career. Now he wants Hayes to follow his play calling, with Hayes seemingly being in on the idea.

Video on Jey Uso vs. Logan Paul.

Saturday Night's Main Event rundown, with Zelina Vega defending against Chelsea Green added.

Nick Aldis tells Jacob Fatu that he's in the final Money In The Bank qualifying match next week. Fatu actually says he loves Solo Sikoa.

Bianca Belair is back next week.

Tag Team Titles: Street Profits vs. Fraxiom

The Profits are defending and we get the Big Match Intros. Dawkins takes Axiom down by the arm to start so Frazer comes in for a headlock. That's broken up and it's off to Ford to work on the arm. Everything breaks down in a hurry and the champs are knocked outside for the dives. We take a break and come back with Dawkins pulling Axiom down into a chinlock.

Ford flips in and hits a running shoulder in the corner before handing it back to Dawkins. Barrett gets in a very insightful statement by saying that it's not about hitting your best move, but rather taking away your opponent's best move. That's some incredibly logical thinking about how to dominate a match. Axiom gets in a knockdown though and hands it back to Frazer to pick up the pace.

A running shooting star hits Ford and Frazer head fakes him to

hit a springboard missile dropkick (Barrett is VERY impressed). Frazer gets knocked down again though and we take another break. Back again with Axiom pulling Ford into a rear naked choke and Frazer guillotines Dawkins at the same time. Those are both broken up so Frazer takes Ford up top for the superplex and rolls into a brainbuster/superkick combination for two.

Dawkins cuts off a dive though and sends Frazer into the steps, meaning a Doomsday Blockbuster can hit Axiom. Frazer dives in for a save, meaning the Spanish Fly into the Phoenix splash plants Dawkins. Ford makes a save of his own and everyone is down. Cue DIY but the Motor City Machine Guns cut them off. Ford flip dives onto all of them, leaving Dawkins to spinebuster Frazer. Then the lights go out and the Wyatt Sicks are back. The brawl is on and it's a double DQ at 21:08.

Rating: B. That's certainly one way to get you out of the issue of having one of the teams lose. They were having another awesome match, as Fraxiom knows exactly how to do this kind of fast paced offense. The Wyatts being back is certainly a way to go, but at least they seem to have a target rather than just doing random stuff.

The Wyatts wreck everyone and Sister Abigail plants Gargano to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. I had a good time with this show as the action was solid and they made me more interested in Saturday Night's Main Event. R-Truth's promo was shockingly good and it fits with what they're doing. Other than that, they set up some things for Money In The Bank and the rest of the card can come together after Saturday. Nice work this week, with the best part being that the show didn't feel nearly as long, which has been a major issue in recent weeks.

Results

Giulia b. Zelina Vega and Charlotte – Northern Lights Bomb to

Vega

Tommaso Ciampa b. Chris Sabin – Running knee

B-Fab/Michin b. Secret Hervice – Spinning faceplant to Fyre

Jacob Fatu/JC Mateo b. Rey Fenix/Jimmy Uso – Tour Of The Islands to Uso

LA Knight b. Aleister Black and Shinsuke Nakamura – Black Mass to Nakamura

Street Profits vs. Fraxiom went to a double DQ when the Wyatt Sicks interfered

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Smackdown – January 24, 2025: The Show To Get Ready For The Shows

Smackdown

Date: January 24, 2025

Location: Moody Center, Austin, Texas

Commentators: Joe Tessitore, Wade Barrett

We're coming up on both Saturday Night's Main Event and the Royal Rumble and that means it is time to hammer home the final pieces of the card. That is going to make for an interesting situation, along with various other issues around

here. One of the biggest is the future of Solo Sikoa, who was at a loss for words last week. Let's get to it.

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

Joe Tessitore welcomes us to the show and brings in Cody Rhodes for a chat. Tessitore brings up Rhodes having to hand over his title tomorrow night to get ready for the ladder match at the Royal Rumble. Rhodes is ready for the whole thing and knows Shawn Michaels is ready to be a perfect moderator. He's fine with handing the title over to Michaels but it's time to get ready for Wrestlemania season.

Tessitore brings up Rhodes' issues with Owens, who Rhodes praises for his skill. The violence makes the ladder match all the more appropriate because it's all about climbing the ladder and reaching this championship. As for what Rhodes would like to say to Owens before the match, maybe it's true that Rhodes smiles a lot, but it doesn't mean that he can't take it to another level. He is the son of a plumber and the student of Randy Orton so he is ready to punch Owens in the face and knock him onto the island of self righteousness. Good luck at the Rumble. Simple, to the point promo from Rhodes here.

Pretty Deadly comes up to DIY but they don't have time for Pretty Deadly's match. DIY tells them to handle the Motor City Machine Guns tonight and do whatever it takes. With DIY gone, Pretty Deadly runs into Legado del Fantasma for a fairly tense staredown.

Motor City Machine Guns vs. Pretty Deadly

Sabin armdrags Prince to start and it's off to Shelley for stereo kicks to the head. Wilson comes in and gets caught with a double flapjack but Prince's distraction lets Sabin get knocked outside. A posting has Sabin down as we take a break. Back with Sabin fighting back and managing to dive over for the needed tag to Shelley. Everything breaks down and Sabin

hits a nice dive. Back in and a gutbuster puts Shelley down and an assisted middle rope bulldog gets two on Sabin. Spilled Mile is broken up though and Skull & Bones finishes Wilson at 9:54.

Rating: B-. Pretty Deadly is mainly known for their goofiness but they can hang in there with a good team. In this case they were in there with a great team and that made for a nice enough match. The Guns are on their way to a showdown for the titles and giving them some momentum like this is a good idea.

The Miz is officially on Smackdown but didn't seem to know about it. He isn't happy because he's on the same show with the Wyatts, so Nick Aldis advises making some new friends.

Video on Braun Strowman vs. Jacob Fatu.

Kevin Owens invades commentary and wants to know where his interview is. Joe Tessitore is so annoying that he makes Owens miss Michael Cole! Owens gets on the announcers' table and gets in an argument with Matthew McConaghey before being interrupted by Jimmy Uso. Owens isn't pleased but Uso says Owens talks too much and hits him in the face. Owens bails in a hurry, with Uso issuing a challenge for tonight.

Carmelo Hayes is mad at Nick Aldis because he was supposed to face Jimmy Uso. Aldis moves the match to next week but lets Hayes have a match with the newest Smackdown acquisition. That's fine with Hayes, but he wants to meet the opponent before they go to the ring.

Chelsea Green/Piper Niven vs. B-Fab/Michin

Michin strikes away at Niven to start before pulling Green in. The Unprettier is broken up but Michin misses a charge into the corner. Michin fights back rather quickly and brings in B-Fab to clean house. Niven runs B-Fab over but a blind tag brings in Michin for Eat Defeat to pin Green at 3:25.

Rating: C. This was purely there for the sake of Michin getting to pin Green, likely setting up another title match between them. I like that better than having the two of them just put into another match after Green has beaten her twice, but this next one needs to be the last match. Green is rather good at what she does, though she needs a fresh opponent.

Carmelo Hayes meets his opponent tonight: Damian Priest. Hayes is aghast and the match is on for tonight.

Charlotte is back in the Royal Rumble. Well that was pretty obvious.

Here is Tiffany Stratton for a chat. She isn't worried about the winner of the Royal Rumble because she'll beat anyone...and here is Rhea Ripley to interrupt. Ripley is ready to face anyone because she's going to beat Nia Jax. Cue Jax and Candice LeRae, with Jax officially entering the Royal Rumble.

Yes she's going to win the title from Ripley tomorrow, but she's winning the Rumble too. Cue Naomi and Bianca Belair to interrupt and they're both in the Rumble. Liv Morgan and Raquel Rodriguez interrupt as well and Morgan is in as well. She kind of suggests that Rodriguez will be in but Ripley headbutts Morgan before we get an official announcement.

Bianca Belair/Naomi/Rhea Ripley vs. Nia Jax/Liv Morgan/Candice LeRae

Ripley and Jax start things off...and we'll make that LeRae before anything happens. Everything breaks down and Naomi is tossed into a moonsault onto Jax for a nice spot. A standing moonsault/legdrop combination gets two on Morgan and Belair hammers away in the corner. Jax comes in off a blind tag though and runs Belair over but it's way too early for the Annihilator.

We take a break and come back with Naomi in trouble as LeRae drags her back into the corner. Naomi tries to get away but

Morgan is smart enough to break up the tag attempt, as you occasionally see. The diving tag brings in Ripley anyway and it's time to pick the pace way up. Everything breaks down and Jax blocks the Riptide attempt. LeRae Codebreakers Ripley to the floor but gets caught with the KOD, only for Morgan to roll Belair up for the pin at 12:14.

Rating: C+. Perfectly fine match here with the villains stealing the win after a fairly wild finish. You don't get that kind of thing often enough around here and it made for a fun match. Morgan stealing the pin is par for the course for her, even if it means nothing in the context of getting ready for the Royal Rumble.

Chelsea Green is upset at the loss and it's made worse when Michin comes in, announcing that she has one more title shot next week. Niven says they need a bigger security detail. That sounds ominous.

Johnny Gargano vs. Apollo Crews

Tommaso Ciampa is here with Gargano. Crews muscles him up for a suplex to start and snaps off a dropkick to send Gargano outside. A moonsault to the floor drops Gargano, who is back up with a superkick to rock Crews for the first time. Crews is right back up with the gorilla press drop into the standing moonsault for two, only for Gargano to get in a pretty close to low blow. A missed charge sends Crews outside so Ciampa can get in a running knee but cue the Motor City Machine Guns. That's enough of a distraction for Crews to grab a rollup pin at 4:14.

Rating: C. That was a nice little surprise result and I'll take Crews actually getting a win for a change. Gargano and Ciampa were starting to do their cheating again but they lost because their numbers advantage went away. Good enough match here, though it was more about setting up the Tag Team Title match.

Jacob Fatu is ready for Braun Strowman because he's King Kong and Godzilla, plus all gas and no brakes. Then Tama Tonga makes a weird sound.

Tama Tonga vs. LA Knight

Jacob Fatu is here with Tonga. Before the match, Knight promises various levels of beatings to both of them. Knight slugs away to start and grabs a powerslam before taking the fight outside. A clothesline puts Tonga over the barricade but he walks said barricade for a clothesline. Back in and a slingshot shoulder gives Knight two and they're already on the floor again. Knight gets sent into the steps and we take a break.

Back with Tonga grabbing a dragon screw legwhip but Knight neckbreakers his way to a breather. That's cut off as well so Knight has to fight out of a nerve hold, setting up a jumping neckbreaker. Tonga hits the jumping neckbreaker for two but Knight knocks him off the top. The jumping top rope elbow connects and the BFT finishes Tonga at 12:06.

Rating: B-. Knight needed a win like this one as he's been kind of floundering since losing the US Title. Getting a clean win over someone who is in a big time stable is a good sign and I could go for Knight moving closer to the main event scene. I'm not sure if that is what he's going to do, but Knight as the second or third biggest good guy on Smackdown has potential.

Post match Fatu jumps Knight and drives him onto the announcers' table. Cue Braun Strowman and Tonga has to hold Fatu back. That doesn't work so well so Tonga tries a distraction, only to have Fatu miss a charge. Strowman clears the ring and stands tall.

Miz tries to get on A-Town Down Under's good side...but finds out that they have been sent to Raw.

Shinsuke Nakamura warns anyone against coming after the US Title and then enters the Royal Rumble.

Damian Priest vs. Carmelo Hayes

Hayes tries to strike away to start but gets caught with an Old School crossbody for two. They head outside with Hayes kicking away at the leg and we take an early break. Back with Hayes knocking him outside again and a high crossbody gets two. Hayes grabs an armbar before chopping away, which just wakes Priest up.

The Broken Arrow sets up the lifting Downward Spiral for two and Hayes is ready to walk. That's broken up but Hayes is back with the First 48 for two. Barrett: "That First 48 usually beats most opponents." No Wade, it doesn't. Priest has had it with this and hits a rebound clothesline into South Of Heaven for the win at 10:48.

Rating: C+. This was a nice back and forth match as Hayes is becoming the guy whose job is to make everyone else look good. He's solid enough in that role, but I could go for him doing more. That being said, this was all about Priest, who comes in and gets an impressive enough win through straight power and dominance, which worked well.

The Motor City Machine Guns are getting a 2/3 falls match against DIY for the Tag Team Titles at the Royal Rumble and DIY isn't happy.

Cody Rhodes welcomes Damian Priest to Smackdown and Priest says he'll see Rhodes soon.

Saturday Night's Main Event rundown.

Miz says Andrade needs someone to guide him. Andrade likes that idea and goes off to find someone.

Jimmy Uso is ready to beat Carmelo Hayes next week.

Jimmy Uso vs. Kevin Owens

Hold on though as Hayes jumps Uso during the entrance but Uso is fine enough. Owens wears a Naomi shirt because he knows how to do some awesome yet simple things. The bell rings and Owens drops to the floor to yell at Tessitore, so Uso has to bring him back inside. That means Owens grabs a headlock into a backsplash to take over early before driving some shoulders in the corner. Uso fights out of said corner but it's too early for the Umaga Attack.

Some rams into the apron have Owens in trouble but he's right back with a knockdown off the apron. A frog splash off the apron hits Uso and we take a break. Back with Owens working on the arm but taking to long going up top, allowing Uso to...well get his arm snapped across the top. The Swanton hits raised knees though and now the running Umaga Attack connects.

The Samoan drop gets two and a superkick gets the same as they're slowing down. Uso drops him again and goes up, only to miss the Superfly Splash. Another superkick gives Uso another two though and the spear connects. Uso goes up again but gets his arm snapped across the top, setting up the pop up powerbomb to give Owens the pin at 13:45.

Rating: B-. Nice main event here with Owens beating enough of a name opponent, though I'm not overly interested in seeing Uso vs. Hayes next week when they both lost here. That's not the most logical move and it's not like Hayes' attack meant much. Owens needed the win on the way to the Rumble title match, though it was a bit of a weird way to get there.

Post match the package piledriver is loaded up but Cody Rhodes runs in for the save. Owens is beaten down as the fight continues to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. The shows are getting better about stretching the three hours but the show still feel long. Maybe it's being so used to two hours of Smackdown for so long but

these shows still don't feel quite right. Other than that, they had a show that was designed to set up the next two big shows, which makes things a bit tricky. With the Rumble in about a week, very little feels important because everything changes there. For now though, nice enough show which set some things up, but I'm looking forward to these shows dropping back to two hours.

Results

Motor City Machine Guns b. Pretty Deadly – Skull & Bones to Wilson

B-Fab/Michin b. Chelsea Green/Piper Niven – Eat Defeat to Green

Liv Morgan/Nia Jax/Candice LeRae b. Rhea Ripley/Naomi/Bianca Belair – Rollup to Belair

Apollo Crews b. Johnny Gargano – Rollup

LA Knight b. Tama Tonga – BFT

Damian Priest b. Carmelo Hayes – South Of Heaven

Kevin Owens b. Jimmy Uso – Pop up powerbomb

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Smackdown – December 20, 2024: They Fit It In

Smackdown

Date: December 20, 2024

Location: XL Center, Hartford, Connecticut

Commentators: Corey Graves, Michael Cole

It's the last Smackdown before Christmas and that means we are taped from last week. Therefore we might not get much more in the way of fallout from Saturday Night's Main Event, which saw Cody Rhodes retain the Smackdown World Title over Kevin Owens. However, Owens attacked Rhodes after the show and stole the title belt. Let's get to it.

[Here is Saturday Night's Main Event if you need a recap.](#)

We open with a long Saturday Night's Main Event recap. We also get a clip from after the show, with Kevin Owens giving Cody Rhodes a package piledriver.

Here is the Bloodline for a chat. Solo Sikoa saw Roman Reigns sitting on a boat and challenging him to Tribal Combat on the January 6 Raw. Sikoa suggests that instead of saying WHAT, the people here need to acknowledge him. If Reigns wants to take the Tribal Chief to war, let's do it, with everyone else being left behind. Sikoa promises to use violence to make Reigns acknowledge him...and Drew McIntyre interrupts.

Sikoa says he better have a good reason for this, with McIntyre saying he'll make this quick because he's sick being this close to Sikoa without fighting him. McIntyre wants to know if Sikoa stays up at night, wondering when McIntyre is coming for him. Sikoa cost him the WWE Title at Clash At The

Castle, but now he stood up to Roman Reigns. McIntyre wants the business with Reigns finished, and then the two of them can finish their business. Cue Jimmy Uso to pull McIntyre to the floor and beat him with a crutch. McIntyre bails into the crowd with Jimmy in pursuit and it's time for a six man.

Bloodline vs. Apollo Crews/LA Knight/Andrade

The Bloodline is cleared out before the bell and we take a break. Back with Crews gorilla pressing Tonga and dropping him hard in an impressive feat. Knight comes in with a neckbreaker and it's off to Andrade for the chopping. Andrade sends Tonga to the floor, setting up stereo dives with Crews. Knight teases one of his own but just glares at Sikoa instead. Fatu comes in to wreck some havoc and we take a break.

Back with Crews still in trouble but he manages to get over to Andrade. The pace picks up and Andrade sends Fatu into the corner for the running knees and a near fall. The double moonsault gets two but Fatu shrugs off a kick to the head and hits a pop up Samoan drop. We take another break and come back again with Fatu missing a charge in the corner, allowing Knight to come in and clean house.

There's a neckbreaker to Sikoa and Crews comes in for a frog splash to Tonga, setting up a crossface. Cue Shinsuke Nakamura to drop Knight and Sikoa is smart enough to drag Tonga over for the tag. The running Umaga Attack into Spinning Solo into the Samoan Spike finishes Crews at 16:31.

Rating: B-. This got some time and that made the Bloodline feel like they were sweating a bit more than usual. Crews being the one to take the fall makes sense and Nakamura interfering makes Knight's team's loss feel a bit less bad. Nice, long opener here with Sikoa looking like a force for a change.

The Motor City Machine Guns want revenge on Johnny Gargano. Alex Shelley has to do this one on his own, which Chris Sabin

accepts.

We look back at Chelsea Green beating Michin to become the first Women's United States Champion.

Green is glad to win the title and make it about red, white and green in a nice line. She should have been here a long time ago, but now she's off to Disneyland.

We look at Kevin Owens losing to Cody Rhodes at Saturday Night's Main Event but taking him out after the match/show. Owens then stole the Winged Eagle belt and has said that what happens next is on WWE's hands.

Johnny Gargano is ready to prove himself to Alex Shelley. Tommaso Ciampa is willing to stay in the back as well.

It's time for the Grayson Waller Effect with Braun Strowman, dressed as Santa Claus to throw presents to the fans. Waller (with Austin Theory) is worried about Strowman wrecking the new threat but Strowman isn't impressed. The villains pitch the idea of Strowman joining up ("The brains and the braun!") but Strowman is absolutely not interested. Cue Carmelo Hayes to interrupt to say he wasn't ready last week. He might lose, but he'll never quit. Hayes wants to run it back with "this big dumb Santa Claus b****." Strowman wrecks the set and a match is made.

Braun Strowman vs. Carmelo Hayes

Hayes starts slowly and bails to the floor, with the cheap shot on the way back in slowing Strowman down. Strowman picks him up with one hand for a beal from the apron back inside though, meaning it's time to start the beating. Hayes slips out of a chokeslam and actually knocks Strowman outside, where Strowman hits a big boot. For some reason Hayes slaps him in the face and gets tossed back in...and Strowman is counted out at 3:29.

Rating: C-. This wasn't meant to be much of a match but rather a way to have Hayes get under Strowman's skin without pinning him. That's all it needed to be as Hayes is doing well with his pesky stuff, which should set up something nice down the line. Not the best, but it did what it needed to do.

Tiffany Stratton is ready to be ringside for Nia Jax and Candice LeRae winning the Tag Team Titles, but LeRae suggests that Stratton go get ready for the celebration. Stratton isn't pleased.

Braun Strowman goes looking for Carmelo Hayes but gets distracted by Pretty Deadly. Hayes uses the distraction to chair Strowman in the leg and run off.

Alex Shelley vs. Johnny Gargano

Cole goes over their history together, even name dropping JT Lightning for a name I never thought I would hear in WWE. Gargano chops away in the corner to start but Shelley runs him over with a forearm. Shelley sends him to the floor for a slingshot stomp to the arm, setting up a running knee as we take a break.

Back with Gargano's slingshot spear being cut off by a kick to the face. A standing Sliced Bread gives Shelley two and he chops away, only to walk into a superkick. Gargano sends him face first into the middle buckle for two more but the Gargano Escape is blocked. The referee tries to separate them so Gargano hits Shelley in the face. Shelley gets in a Downward Spiral into the corner but cue Tommaso Ciampa. Chris Sabin cuts him off but Gargano rolls through a high crossbody and grabs the tights for the pin at 10:03.

Rating: C+. This was a nice match between two people who have a nice history together. What matters the most here is that Cole made that story clear, which made the match feel important. The ending felt a bit flat though, as Gargano used some cheating to win. That fits what he's been doing, even if

it just kind of happened without feeling all that interesting.

We look at the Netflix Kickoff event, with a bunch of showdowns and promos, including Logan Paul officially moving to Raw.

January 6 Raw rundown.

Naomi and Bianca Belair are ready to retain the Women's Tag Team Titles. They're friends forever.

Women's Tag Team Titles: Naomi/Bianca Belair vs. Nia Jax/Candice LeRae

Naomi and Belair are defending. LeRae elbows Belair in the face to start and gets gorilla pressed for her efforts. Jax comes in and gets dropkicked as Tiffany Stratton is watching in the back. A moonsault/splits splash combination hits Jax but she runs Naomi over as we take a break.

Back with Jax cranking on Belair's arms and then sending one of those arms into the post. Belair fights out of a chinlock and dives for a tag, only to get powered back into the corner. LeRae comes in for two off a step up backsplash but Jax accidentally knocks her down. That's enough for the tag off to Naomi and the pace picks up.

An X Factor gets two on Jax but the slit legged moonsault misses. Jax accidentally headbutts a post though and gets busted open, leaving Belair to hit a 450. LeRae makes the save but here is Stratton as LeRae tornado DDT's Belair. Naomi makes a save of her own so Jax tries the briefcase, which is knocked into her face. Naomi hits a knee to LeRae and adds the split legged moonsault to retain at 11:05.

Rating: B-. Naomi substituting in for Cargill is less than ideal given the titles' history but it's better than vacating them or something like that. It helped to give them a win here, even with the briefcase getting involved. Good match

here and it had a bit of time to make things work, even if the Stratton cash in stuff has been tiresome.

Overall Rating: C+. For a taped show which couldn't really do much in the way of the main event scene, I liked this well enough. You're not going to get very far with so much of the focus on everything other than the World Title, but at least they had a good opening segment. They seemed to understand that the audience wasn't going to be the strongest this week and it's ok to burn off a week like that under the right circumstances.

Results

Bloodline b. Apollo Crews/LA Knight/Andrade – Samoan Spike to Crews

Carmelo Hayes b. Braun Strowman via countout

Johnny Gargano b. Alex Shelley – Rollup while holding tights

Bianca Belair/Naomi b. Nia Jax/Candice LeRae – Split legged moonsault to LeRae

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Smackdown – December 6, 2024: That Makes A Really Good Show

Smackdown

Date: December 6, 2024

Location: Target Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves

We're done with Survivor Series and the big story is that Roman Reigns and his version of the Bloodline beat the new Bloodline in WarGames. Other than that, Shinsuke Nakamura is the new US Champion and we are just over a week away from Saturday Night's Main Event. That's going to need some more work so let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of the Smackdown matches from Survivor Series.

Commentary recaps the three injuries in WarGames, including Bronson Reed with an ankle injury/broken foot, Tonga Loa with a torn bicep, and Jimmy Uso with a broken toe. All three are out indefinitely.

The Bloodline beats up Apollo Crews and security on the way into the arena.

Here is Cody Rhodes for a chat. Rhodes gets right to the point by talking about Kevin Owens at Saturday Night's Main Event but American Made cuts him off. The transfer window is opening up and Nick Aldis has been talking about bringing Chad Gable to Smackdown. You have to remember that the people here in Minnesota are gullible so you have to explain things to them.

Gable wanted to be like Rhodes and he can dress like him, but there is more to it than that. The other thing Gable realizes is that Rhodes is a terrible friend, just like Otis. Rhodes is the definition of superficial because he only cares about what people think of him. That has Rhodes thinking and he brings up Gable's time as Shorty G, but he's looking at Stardust.

Rhodes lost last year at Wrestlemania and it made him think things could go wrong. What happens when things go wrong for Gable? That doesn't go well for Gable, who says he would take Rhodes out if not for the suit he's wearing. Rhodes cuts to the point and issues the challenge for tonight, but he's got Kevin Owens on his mind, which is bad for Gable. This was a rather lengthy exchange for a match that probably didn't need it.

Commentary confirms that the transfer portal is indeed open and wrestlers can move. No word on how long or when that might happen.

Bianca Belair and Naomi are in the back and they're both banged up after WarGames. Naomi leaves for her match when Chelsea Green and Piper Niven come in to mock Belair for the loss in the tournament. Belair thinks Niven might have taken Jade Cargill out so the brawl is on, with Green going after Belair's bad ribs.

Jesse Ventura is here. Yeah that works.

Women's United States Title Tournament First Round: Tiffany Stratton vs. Elektra Lopez vs. Naomi

Lopez throws the banged up Naomi to the floor to start so Stratton, in Minnesota Vikings colors, tries a cheap shot. That doesn't work either as Lopez drops her, followed by another knockdown to Naomi. Stratton is back up and cartwheels over Lopez, setting up a basement dropkick for two. The handspring elbow hits Lopez but Naomi is back in with a high crossbody to Stratton.

Naomi steps onto Stratton's back in the corner but falls over the top, thankfully catching herself for a nice save. A double springboard Stunner (it only kind of works) sends the villains outside but Stratton is back up with a double stomp to crush Naomi on the apron. Back in and Lopez gets a half crab on Stratton before planting Naomi for two.

A Blue Thunder Bomb gives Lopez two on Naomi with Stratton making a last second save. Back up and they strike it out until Naomi hits the Rear View on Stratton...but here is Candice LeRae for a distraction. Lopez breaks up the split legged moonsault so Naomi settles for a layout reverse DDT. Now the moonsault hits but Stratton breaks it up, meaning the Prettiest Moonsault Ever can finish Lopez at 7:15.

Rating: B-. The fans were behind Stratton here and the three of them knew it, making the match a lot more interesting. Stratton got to be the big hometown hero here and the moonsault at the end looked great. At the same time, Lopez came off like a star and something of a wrecking machine, at least until the end.

Commentary talks about the tournament but we go to the back where the Street Profits (challenging for the Tag Team Titles tonight) have been attacked. Nick Aldis goes to deal with this and runs into the Motor City Machine Guns, who are told the match can't happen. Johnny Gargano pops up to say DIY can take the shot, with the Guns agreeing. The match is made, but Aldis says to tell Tommaso Ciampa to not make him regret this.

Bianca Belair vs. Piper Niven

Chelsea Green is here with Niven. Belair powers her into the corner to start as Cole talks about Jell Roll. A slam attempt just hurts Belair's bad ribs and Niven's basement crossbody makes them even worse. The pace slows down and Belair is sent into the corner, setting up a Boss Man Slam for two. We take a break and come back with Belair fighting out of an abdominal

stretch but getting crushed with some backslashes. Belair fights up again and manages a choke but Niven flips her down again.

Another splash misses for Niven though and Belair sends her into the corner over and over. A high crossbody gives Belair two and a spear gets the same, leaving her rather frustrated. For some reason Belair tries the KOD, earning herself a scary Saito suplex. Niven charges into a spinebuster but Belair's handspring moonsault hits knees. Back up and the Piper Driver gets a heck of a near fall so Belair takes her into the corner. Green gets pulled in before Belair somehow manages a KOD (GEEZ) onto Green for the pin at 12:17.

Rating: B. I got pulled way into this one and that they were trading big shots until the end. Belair getting to pull off the KOD with bad ribs might have been a stretch but I was almost cheering her by that point so I'll call it a success. They got into a groove here and it was one of the better matches I've seen on regular Smackdown in a bit.

We look back at Shinsuke Nakamura's return and subsequent US Title win at Survivor Series.

We look at Team Ripley winning the women's WarGames match.

Bianca Belair is walking through the back (and passing Nick Aldis talking to Dominik Mysterio) and runs into Naomi. She's sick of Tiffany and Candice LeRae but Byron Saxton comes in to say Piper Niven has an alibi for the Jade Cargill attack. Belair and Naomi are going to find out who did it.

Here is Shinsuke Nakamura for a chat...but LA Knight interrupts before anything can be said. Knight doesn't think much of Nakamura as the US Champion because that title belongs to him. The challenge is on for the rematch but Nakamura just stands there. Knight says the only thing Nakamura has done to his face is spray that mist so he puts the sunglasses on (makes sense), only for Andrade to interrupt.

Knight says this is his title and Andrade can have the first shot...but here is the Bloodline to take out Knight and Andrade. Nakamura backs away from the violence (with goo streaming out of his mouth), leaving the Bloodline to take out Andrade and Knight again. Solo Sikoa says the Bloodline isn't done and even though they're down two soldiers, step up and take a shot.

Anyone who steps up will get taken out because he's tired of not being taken seriously. Sikoa is still the Tribal Chief and still the head of the table, so everyone is going to acknowledge him. It's really nice to see the Bloodline get away from Roman Reigns and company, but dang this feels like a downgrade.

Tommaso Ciampa says Johnny Gargano getting them this title shot doesn't fix everything. We'll see how that goes if they win the titles.

Kevin Owens isn't happy with having to be in Minneapolis for a sitdown interview with Michael Cole. He never wants to be in this town, especially for something with MICHAEL COLE. Owens is at the arena, so come find his car and have a chat.

Tag Team Titles: Motor City Machine Guns vs. DIY

DIY is challenging. Sabin grabs Ciampa's arm to start and it's off to Shelley for a running dropkick. We hit the chinlock for a bit before Ciampa is knocked outside and we take an early break. Back with Shelley hitting a jawbreaker and ducking Ciampa's boot, which hits Gargano by mistake. The Fairy Tale Ending is blocked and Sabin comes back in with a high crossbody for two on Ciampa.

A middle rope knee/backbreaker combination into a Downward Spiral/enziguri combination gets two more on Ciampa, but he fights back up for a knockdown of his own. Ciampa tags Gargano in but then yells at and shoves him. Gargano shoves Ciampa down and tells him to get out, only to get small packaged for

two. Shelley Downward Spirals Gargano into the middle buckle but Ciampa distracts the referee. Gargano goes low on Sabin and superkick Shelley. Ciampa is rather pleased (Gargano: "Well that worked!") and Meet In The Middle gives DIY the titles back at 10:40.

Rating: B-. This might not have been a classic but the turn went well, as Gargano finally embraces the evil and has success as a result. Odds are Ciampa or DIY took out the Profits earlier as it would fit, though dang I'm not sure how well DIY fits as dastardly villains. For now though, they get the titles and have some ready made challengers, so it's a nice start.

Post break Candice LeRae celebrates with DIY, as Tommaso Ciampa calls his family.

Michael Cole has gone to the parking lot and found Kevin Owens' car (hint: it's the one with Owens inside) where Owens insists that they talk here. Owens hasn't been allowed to go into an arena since Bad Blood and laughs at the idea of Cole wanting to do an unbiased interview. Cole talks about being a big Owens supporter but Owens goes off about Roman Reigns trying to end his career. Cody Rhodes called him an egomaniac but who has THREE SETS OF PYRO for his entrance???

Cole brings up the Usos and Sami Zayn helping Reigns, sending Owens into another rant about how he doesn't care about the Usos. He'll cross that bridge with Zayn when they get there, but Cole doesn't understand this because he doesn't have friends. Cole tells Owens to look in the mirror. Owens: "Ok. I see a handsome man who is completely right." Owens tells him to leave his rental vehicle right now and, with Cole out, an annoyed Owens drives off. As usual, Owens knows how to make the obvious sound good and Cole is good as the realistic voice.

Nick Aldis talks to Gunther, but Carmelo Hayes comes up and

doesn't approve. With Gunther gone, Hayes asks why Aldis doesn't have time for him. If Aldis can't find a place for him, Monday Night Melo sounds good to Hayes. Aldis says that not having to deal with Hayes sounds like something that deserves balloons and a cake. He has something planned for Hayes...and then walks off.

Cody Rhodes vs. Chad Gable

Non-title and the rest of American Made is here too. Gable grabs a waistlock to start and Rhodes has to kick him away for an early standoff. A delayed gordbuster puts Gable down but Ivy Nile cuts off a springboard attempt. Gable gets in a dragon screw legwhip and wraps the leg around the post as we take a break.

Back with Rhodes escaping the ankle lock but getting his leg dropkicked out for two. The top rope headbutt gives Gable two but the moonsault is broken up, allowing Rhodes to hit an inverted superplex to leave both of them down. Rhodes fights up and hits the powerslam, followed by the Disaster Kick. The Cody Cutter connects but the Creeds pull Gable to the floor. American Made gets ejected, allowing Rhodes to grab a rollup for two.

Gable goes back to the leg and takes Rhodes' boot off, setting up the ankle lock. That's broken up with a roll through and the Cody Cutter connects again. Cross Rhodes is reversed into ankle ankle lock, sending Rhodes to the ropes. Gable breaks up Cross Rhodes again and goes up top, only to miss the moonsault. Cross Rhodes finishes Gable at 12:26.

Rating: B. Gable got in more than I was expecting before being taken down here and that's a nice way for him to go. It was a good, back and forth match with both of them working well. Gable taking out Rhodes' leg sounds like a calling card for Kevin Owens, who knows how to go after an injury. Nice main event here, with Gable helping move Rhodes up a bit.

Post match Kevin Owens is here to stomp on the bad ankle. Referees and agents can't keep them apart and the fight keeps going as the show ends.

Overall Rating: B+. You had two rather good matches plus some angle advancement on the way to Saturday Night's Main Event. The Gargano turn and title change just make things feel that much more important and this was a rather engaging show. Smackdown is clicking right now and that is always nice to see. Pretty great show this week.

Results

Tiffany Stratton b. Elektra Lopez and Naomi – Prettiest Moonsault Ever to Lopez

Bianca Belair b. Piper Niven – KOD

DIY b. Motor City Machine Guns – Meet In The Middle to Sabin

Cody Rhodes b. Chad Gable – Cross Rhodes

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Survivor Series Count-Up – 2019 (2020 Redo): Oh Yeah I Went There

Survivor Series 2019

Date: November 24, 2019

Location: Allstate Arena, Chicago, Illinois

Attendance: 13,271

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves, Vic Joseph, Jerry Lawler, Nigel McGuinness, Beth Phoenix

This year's show is all about the Battle For Brand Supremacy, but NXT is involved as well and the invasions have been red hot for a change. They have set up a pretty awesome looking show, even with the amount of triple threat matches, including triple threat elimination matches. Let's get to it.

I was in the arena for this show, sitting in the end zone straight across from the Titantron in the upper deck.

Kickoff Show: Tag Team Battle Royal

Raw: OC, Street Profits, Curt Hawkins/Zack Ryder

Smackdown: Revival, Robert Roode/Dolph Ziggler, Lucha House Party, Heavy Machinery

NXT: Forgotten Sons, Breezango, Imperium

When one member is out, the team is out. Where to begin? First of all, there are no graphics to tell you which brand the teams are on. I get expecting people to know that at the time, but WWE knows that they have the Draft every year and that the Network is a thing here. Throw up a show graphic.

Second, a year later and five of these teams are gone, with four of them out of the company. Third, Hawkins and Ryder are "glad to still be here."

These people were the Tag Team Champions at Wrestlemania seven months and a half months earlier. That's a heck of a fall. Oh and I had forgotten about that Tag Team World Cup deal the OC had from Crown Jewel. I've heard worse ideas.

It's a brawl to start (shocking I know) with Jaxson Ryker saving Gran Metalik for no reason. General stupidity maybe? The Sons are out in a hurry as I try to get over Dolph Ziggler wearing a Smackdown hat in the match. Yeah they need graphics on their name but it's Ziggler so by definition it's a stupid thing to do. Angelo Dawkins throws out Gran Metalik to get rid of the Lucha House Party as Ziggler (now minus the hat) is thrown to the apron for his traditional save fest.

Hawkins is sent through the middle rope but Ryder is thrown over the top and onto him for the elimination. Barthel catapults Ziggler over the top for the skinning of the cat and Roode gets rid of Aichner to eliminate Imperium and save Ziggler (again). Otis falls trying the Caterpillar and gets dumped by OC/Revival. Breezango is out thanks to Revival and that's it for NXT.

We're down to Revival, OC, Roode/Ziggler and the Profits, with the Profits dropkicking Revival out in a hurry. Ziggler saves Roode from the Magic Killer and superkicks Gallows out to get us down to two. The brawl is on with Roode busting Dawkins' spine but Ziggler superkicks Roode through the ropes by mistake. The Sky High looks to set up the frog splash but Roode saves Ziggler (that man needs a lot of saving). Ford hits the frog splash on Ziggler instead, only to be thrown out by Roode for the win at 8:19.

Rating: D+. It's a battle royal and a tag team one at that, with the teams barely being identifiable outside of commentary throwing out a brand here and there. It will get better later on and since this was a bonus match, it's hard to get that upset. What impresses me the most is how much the tag team division changes so quickly, as this feels like it could have been four or five years ago. That probably shouldn't be happening and yet it doesn't seem out of place.

Raw – 0

NXT – 0

Kickoff Show: Cruiserweight Title: Akira Tozawa (Raw) vs. Kalisto (Smackdown) vs. Lio Rush (NXT)

Rush is defending and gets double teamed to start but Tozawa and Kalisto waste no time in turning on each other. That means it's time for Rush to start his bobbing and weaving, which always looked awesome. Kalisto pulls Rush to the floor and cuts off Tozawa's dive before walking the rope to kick Rush in the face.

A spinning wristdrag takes Tozawa down but Tozawa shoves Kalisto into Rush's raised boot. Rush hits a double handspring elbow to take both of them down but Tozawa punches him in the face. Kalisto gets kicked to the floor and Tozawa's sliding boot gets two on Rush. Tozawa and Kalisto take Rush to the top but he double armdrags both of them down for a huge crash.

A circle chop off is capped off by Tozawa German suplexing Rush but Kalisto dives in to roll Rush up for two. Tozawa is back up with a Shining Wizard to send Kalisto outside and the top rope backsplash hits Rush. Kalisto dives in for the save and the slugout is on, with Kalisto hitting the Salida del Sol on Tozawa. That's fine with Rush, who comes in with the Final Hour to pin Tozawa and retain at 8:20.

Rating: C. It's a match that has been done before but what we got worked out just fine with the three of them flying around and doing their high flying stuff. That's something that is always going to work because it is a style that never gets old and Rush retaining is a fine way to get NXT on the board. I know he might have some issues, but dang Rush can do the flying thing.

Smackdown – 1

NXT – 1

Raw – 0

Kickoff Show: New Day (Smackdown) vs. Undisputed Era (NXT) vs. Viking Raiders (Raw)

Non-title (with all three as respective champions) and it's Bobby Fish and Kyle O'Reilly, fresh off WarGames the previous night, for the Era. Big E., Ivar and O'Reilly start things off, which may be a little harder to keep track of but it makes a lot more sense than having two people in there at once instead. O'Reilly is taken down in a hurry so it's Fish coming in, earning himself a beating of his own from Ivar. Both parts of the Era come in and get dropped by Ivar and Big E. before they turn on each other.

They take turns flipping away from each other until Big E. runs Ivar over in the power display. O'Reilly comes back in for the rapid fire knees to Big E. but the Raiders knee O'Reilly down without much effort. It's back to Fish, who gets Ivar slammed onto him to make it even worse. Kingston comes in to slug away on Erik and it's New Day double teaming O'Reilly down for two.

The Era is sent outside and it's the New Day/Raiders showdown. The slugout goes on until Kofi is left alone, meaning it's time for the Era to come back in and take over on Kingston's leg in the corner. Ivar dives in with a splash to break up a kneebar so O'Reilly and Kingston slug it out on the apron instead. Big E. misses his spear through the ropes so Kofi and the Era join him, meaning Erik can slam Ivar onto the other four.

Back in and Fish starts taking over on Erik's knee before handing it off to O'Reilly for the same. Erik manages to suplex O'Reilly into the corner to take Fish down, allowing the hot tag to Ivar. House is cleaned and O'Reilly kicks Fish in the corner by mistake. Big E. gets kicked in the face as well and Erik hits the shotgun dropkick on Fish. Ivar's Bronco Buster misses though, meaning Kofi can come in with a standing double stomp to Erik.

Big E. suplexes the Era and it's a powerbomb/top rope double stomp to crush Erik. Kofi's big dive over the top takes out Ivar and the Era, with Big E. hitting the spear to take Erik down as well. Everyone gets back up

and Erik knees Big E. in the face, setting up the springboard clothesline/German suplex combination (always cool), sending Big E. outside again.

Kofi takes the High/Low on the floor meaning it's the Era vs. the Vikings for a change. Erik is knocked outside so the Era kicks Ivar...who doesn't seem to mind. The handspring double elbow (second in two matches) connects for Ivar and it's the Viking Experience to drive O'Reilly into Fish to give Ivar the pin at 14:42.

Rating: B. This was the kind of all action match that they should have been having and it got enough time to make it work really well. New Day is a team who can be put in there at any time to make other teams look good and the Era can work with anyone. The Raiders needed the win most and it worked out well all around. Good stuff here and a nice way to wrap up the Kickoff Show.

Raw – 1

Smackdown – 1

NXT – 1

The opening video looks at how this is usually Raw vs. Smackdown but then NXT jumped in to make it a lot more interesting in a hurry. There are some other matches thrown in but this is ALL about the three way brand fight, which did have a heck of a build.

Raw Women vs. Smackdown Women vs. NXT Women

Raw – Charlotte, Asuka, Kairi Sane, Natalya, Sarah Logan

Smackdown – Sasha Banks, Dana Brooke, Carmella, Nikki Cross, Lacey Evans

NXT – Rhea Ripley, Bianca Belair, Candice LeRae, Io Shirai, Toni Storm

The NXT team was announced after last night's Takeover and

some of them are coming off of WarGames so they're a little banged up. Storm, Evans and Logan start things off with Lacey taking over early on. That earns her a double flip out to the floor and it's Cross tagging herself in to take her place. Logan hits a cartwheel knee to Storm's back for...well nothing actually as she talks trash until Cross jumps on her back for the choking.

They're both a bit odd so that fits well. Back up and Storm German suplexes both of them at once so it's off to Sane, Carmella and Shirai. The fans get rather excited about two of these people and I'll let you guess who they are. Carmella hands it off to Brooke, who is fine with just standing in the corner while the other two trade headscissors and clotheslines. Shirai hits a running basement dropkick to Sane's face but Brooke sends them both into the corner for a double handspring elbow.

The Swanton hits both of them for two on Shirai so Evans comes in for a double hiptoss instead. Candice gets the tag and strikes away at Evans as Asuka comes in as well. A quick snapmare drops Asuka so Candice can hit a step up backplash and there's a middle rope faceplant for two on Evans. It's off to Ripley, who gets caught in Asuka's armbreaker so Belair makes the save, triggering the parade of secondary finishers. Banks is left alone in the ring with everyone else down...including Shirai and LeRae need medical attention.

Everything pauses as Raw and Smackdown wave goodbye to them instead of, I don't know, trying to eliminate each other. We settle down to Banks vs. Ripley vs. Charlotte, which does sound like a heck of a match. Ripley doesn't seem to be very impressed and since this feels big, it's off to Belair, Logan and Cross instead. Cross hits a neckbreaker on Logan but gets sent to the apron for her efforts. A dive to the floor takes Ripley down and Cross hammers away on Storm against the apron.

Ripley picks Cross up though and puts her on the apron,

allowing Belair to grab a rollup (with Ripley holding the feet) for the elimination at 9:39. Carmella comes in with a big headscissors to Belair and a superkick to Logan, only to walk into Belair's KOD. That sends her into the ropes but Logan sends both of them out to the floor. Running knees takes Carmella and Belair down again with Natalya having to make a save back inside. Belair punches Logan down though and hits the 450 to get rid of her at 12:10.

That puts us at Raw and Smackdown with four each and NXT with three as Charlotte comes in to face Belair and doesn't seem impressed. Belair gets clotheslined but Carmella comes back in to kick Charlotte down. The big boot drops Belair again but Carmella breaks up the moonsault that will never hit no matter what anyway. Charlotte pulls Carmella up for a powerbomb, which is countered into a hurricanrana onto Belair to give Carmella a pair of two's each on both.

Carmella grabs Belair by the ponytail but takes too long, allowing Charlotte to hit Natural Selection on Carmella for the elimination at 15:38. Sane, Storm and Banks come in with Storm kicking Banks in the face. Storm Zero to Shirai is broken up though and the Insane Elbow connects, with Sasha breaking up the pin and...then pinning Sane herself at 16:48. Asuka gets so frustrated that she comes in and wrecks the place, including kicking the now legal Brooke in the face to get rid of her at 17:25.

We're down to Ripley/Belair/LeRae/Shirai (with the latter two backstage) for NXT vs. Evans/Banks for Smackdown vs. Charlotte/Asuka/Natalya for Raw. Charlotte tags herself in and gets into a shoving match with Asuka as a result, eventually slamming Asuka down by the hair. Lacey tries to jump Charlotte but Asuka is back with the green mist (BIG pop for that) to blind Charlotte before walking out. The Woman's Right gets rid of Charlotte at 19:09 and Raw is down to just Natalya. I'll take that over Asuka taking another loss and Charlotte is going to be the focal point of everything she does so a

tainted loss doesn't mean a thing.

Since Natalya is the only one left for Raw, she comes in with the discus lariat to Storm and then rolls Evans up for a fast elimination at 19:51. That leaves us with Storm/Belair/Ripley for NXT, Banks for Smackdown and Natalya for Raw and Ripley is rather pleased. Banks and Natalya get smart and take Storm down for a Sharpshooter/Banks Statement combination for the tap at 20:47.

Belair comes in and Natalya tries to talk trash before going with the smarter move of playing Jim to Banks' Bret on the Hart Attack for the pin at 21:16. So it's down to Banks vs. Natalya vs. Ripley...or at least it is until Banks decks Natalya for the pin at 21:57, eliminating Raw completely.

The fans REALLY like the idea of Banks vs. Ripley though and it's Ripley hammering away and getting two off a dropkick. Back up and Banks can't hit a tornado DDT so it's a sleeper to limited avail instead. Banks hits the running knees in the corner and the middle rope Meteora gets two. More knees to the back of the head send Ripley into the corner again but this time she superkicks the Meteora out of the air.

The Prism Trap (dang that looks awesome) is on but Banks rolls into the Bank Statement instead. Ripley is in trouble so here are LeRae and Shirai, who were never officially eliminated, to pull Ripley to safety. That earns them a dropkick through the ropes each and they head back in, where Banks has to slip out of Riptide. Shirai hits her with a springboard missile dropkick though and now Riptide can give Ripley the final pin at 27:53.

Rating: B-. They got some time here and the important thing is NXT wins a major match. That's an awesome thing to see and it's really cool that it actually happened on a big stage. You want to set things up well for the rest of the night and having an NXT all star team lose to teams involving Logan,

Brooke and Carmella wasn't going to work. Above all else, Ripley looked like a total star here, eclipsing almost everyone else in the match and the fans treated her like one. I wouldn't have had Shirai and LeRae save her at the end, but Ripley pinning Banks for the win is all that matters.

NXT – 2

Raw – 1

Smackdown – 1

We look at the closing moments of WarGames last night when Kevin Owens became the final member of Team Ciampa and helped them win.

Seth Rollins, Raw Team Captain, comes up to Owens to ask where his loyalties lie. Owens says last night was just to get back at the Undisputed Era so tonight, he's Team Raw. He also finds it funny that SETH ROLLINS is questioning loyalty. A mock Shield pose takes us out.

Shinsuke Nakamura (Smackdown) vs. Roderick Strong (NXT) vs. AJ Styles (Raw)

Battle of the midcard champions and Sami Zayn is in Nakamura's corner. Nakamura strikes away at both of them to start but AJ gets them into the corners for some running elbows. Strong's backbreaker gets him out of trouble but AJ knocks him to the floor and hits a shot to the face. Back in and Nakamura breaks up AJ's springboard and kicks Strong to the floor for a bonus. A knee gets two on Styles and there's the running knee in the corner.

The gutbuster fireman's carry gives Strong two on Nakamura but AJ comes back in with a sleeper to give Nakamura a breather. Strong fights back up and runs them both over a few times, including the alternating running forearms to AJ in the ropes. AJ fights up and gets in a few shots, only to be monkey

flipped into a shot to the face from Nakamura. A slugout puts Strong down in a hurry and Nakamura hits the sliding knee for two.

The Styles Clash to Nakamura is broken up and Sami pulls Nakamura outside for a break. Strong unloads on Styles in the corner but gets caught in an Electric Chair, with Nakamura coming in off the top with a kick to the chest. AJ breaks that up as well but Sami pulls him outside, leaving Strong to hit a jumping knee for two on Nakamura. Back in and AJ cuts off Kinshasa, setting up the circle of strikes to the face.

Nakamura drops AJ and hits a reverse exploder on Strong (whose knee got very close to AJ's face), setting up Kinshasa...for two as AJ makes another save. AJ and Nakamura slug it out so Nigel can talk about their Japanese rivalry. The Landslide gets two on AJ but Kinshasa is countered with a shot to the face. AJ hits the Phenomenal Forearm but Strong comes in to get rid of AJ and steal the pin at 16:43.

Rating: B. This was the action packed match that you would have expected and the cool thing is that it made Strong look like he was on their level. Strong isn't someone who has been proven on the big stage before and seeing him win here, especially by outsmarting the other two, is great to see. Again: it's not like Nakamura or Styles are going to be hurt by the loss, especially to another champion. Throw in the fast paced action and having commentary boosting it that much more than this was a great time.

NXT – 3

Raw – 1

Smackdown – 1

Miz comes up to Daniel Bryan in the back and says they're both family men. That's why Miz wants Bryan to stop the Fiend once and for all, because he is an evil that must be stopped. Bryan

doesn't want to hear it from Miz.

NXT Title: Adam Cole vs. Pete Dunne

Cole is defending, but the interesting thing here is the lack of Mauro Ranallo, who apparently blew his voice out last night at Takeover. This would be code for "did not like Corey Graves calling him out for making too many Chicago rap music references and not letting Phoenix and McGuinness talk enough. He would be gone for a little while before returning, but it was clear that something wasn't quite right. Cole has bad ribs and Dunne has a bad knee coming in.

The wristlocking doesn't work well on Cole as Dunne flips out before going straight after the bad ribs. Dunne starts in on the hand before taking it outside to stomp the elbow in the steps. Back in and Cole kicks him down to stomp away before a dropkick cuts off Dunne's knee. Dunne grabs the X Plex for a breather and Cole lands hard on the ribs again. There's an enziguri into the corner to set up a release German suplex.

A sitout powerbomb gets two on Cole and he heads outside, with Dunne hitting a middle rope moonsault to the floor. Back in and Dunne's moonsault hits knees, setting up the Last Shot to give Cole two. The Panama Sunrise misses so they take turns hitting each other in the face. The brainbuster onto the knee gives Cole two but another Last Shot misses and Dunne grabs the Bitter End for a close two. They slug it out again and Dunne unloads with chops but Cole superkicks his moonsault out of the air.

That's good for two as well, as is Dunne's sitout X Plex. They fight to the apron (because of course they do) and Cole busts out the Panama Sunrise to put them both down on the floor. Back in and Cole kicks him in the head and the kickout has Cole panicking. Dunne talks trash as they get up and snaps the finger but the Bitter End is countered into a Panama Sunrise (that looked great). The Last Shot retains the title at 14:09.

Rating: B+. Now that's what you were hoping to see from these two and it was an awesome match throughout. Dunne is an absolute star and Cole looks like someone who should be the future whenever he is in the ring. This is one of those matches that makes you drool when you hear it announced and then they delivered on top of it. Great stuff here and worth seeing for that NXT style that works so well.

Team Smackdown argues over who should be the captain.

We recap the Fiend taking the Smackdown World Title from Seth Rollins at Crown Jewel. Then Miz questioned if Daniel Bryan was the same person he used to be, which got the Fiend involved as well. Bryan finally said YES again and that's just what Fiend wanted as Bryan brought back the YES Movement.

Smackdown World Title: The Fiend vs. Daniel Bryan

Fiend is defending and there is something so creepy about watching him in person. The red lights are on and Bryan hits the running dropkick into the corner. A running clothesline cuts him off though and they head outside with Bryan being sent into the post. Back in and Fiend hits the release Rock Bottom and there's the toss suplex to drop Bryan again. We hit the neck crank as Fiend laughs a lot.

They head outside again with Bryan hitting a running knee from the apron. A top rope dive takes Fiend down again and there's a missile dropkick back inside. Bryan nips up and the YES chants set up the YES Kicks. The big kick to the head just makes Fiend laugh but another one keeps him down for a change. The running knee connects for two but Fiend grabs the Mandible Claw. Bryan manages to reverse into an armbar but another Mandible Claw finishes Bryan at 10:01.

Rating: C+. The point here was to have Fiend get over as a monster in his first title defense and that's what he did. They made Fiend feel like a movie monster and that's the kind of thing you want to do in this situation. Bryan not being

able to win, even with the most successful stuff he has, is a good way to go and it told they story they wanted. Fiend is an unstoppable monster and that's how it should be.

Rey Mysterio says it has been fifteen years since he first faced Brock Lesnar. A few months ago, he was ready to hang up his mask but his son Dominik made him keep going. Tonight, Rey is swinging his lead pipe for Lesnar's knees and hopes his son is watching when he becomes WWE Champion.

Raw Men vs. Smackdown Men vs. NXT Men

Raw: Seth Rollins, Drew McIntyre, Ricochet, Kevin Owens, Randy Orton

Smackdown: Roman Reigns, King Corbin, Mustafa Ali, Shorty G., Braun Strowman

NXT: Tommaso Ciampa, Walter, Keith Lee, Damian Priest, Matt Riddle

The NXT team was announced on the Kickoff Show again. The fans are way into Walter, more or less sealing his fate. Strowman, Ciampa and Rollins start things off and Strowman dropkicks both of them down. Walter and McIntyre come in and Walter is all over a three way battle of the big men. The double teaming works on Strowman this time before slugging it out themselves. A big boot into the running seated senton hits McIntyre and there's a German suplex to drop him again.

Walter chops Strowman to make him mad, tells him to bring it, and hits a dropkick into the corner. McIntyre hits the Claymore to finish Walter at 2:59 and the fans are MAD, as they should be in that spot. Priest comes in to strike away at McIntyre and Strowman. Shorty comes in to moonsault Priest and it's Ricochet coming in as well. That earns him a Chaos Theory from Shorty and it's off to Riddle for the grapple off. Both ankle locks miss and neither can hit a spinning kick so we'll go with the standoff. Ciampa comes in so Ricochet kicks both

he and Shorty down at once. Owens frog splashes Shorty for the pin at 6:27.

Reigns and Corbin both come in with Corbin hitting him in the face like the horrible teammate that he is. Owens heads outside to superkick Corbin and hit the Cannonball on Reigns against the barricade. Back in and...Ciampa grabs Willow's Bell to get rid of Owens at 7:42. Orton slides in behind Ciampa and the fans really like this one. The RKO is blocked and Ciampa clotheslines him outside but Willow's Bell is blocked as well. Orton drops him onto the apron and it's time for the circle stomp back inside. Priest gets a blind tag as Orton RKOs Ciampa, so it's an RKO to get rid of Priest at 10:16.

Riddle comes in and rolls Orton up for the fast pin at 10:30. Riddle is SHOCKED at the win...until Orton hits him with an RKO so Corbin can steal the pin at 10:56. We're down to Rollins/McIntyre/Ricochet for Raw, Reigns/Corbin/Ali/Strowman for Smackdown and Ciampa/Lee for NXT. Lee comes in to face Corbin but Strowman tags himself in as the fans are recommending that we BASK IN HIS GLORY.

Strowman runs Lee over and starts cleaning house, including the freight train around the ring. He does it again but this time Lee Pounces him, followed by a Claymore from McIntyre for the countout at 13:14. Ricochet comes in to kick Corbin down and the big flip dive drops Reigns on the floor. That just earns him the End of Days from Corbin for the pin at 14:30. Ali, the hometown boy, comes in to clean house and soak in some cheers. The wicked tornado DDT plants Rollins and Ali hits a suicide dive...but Corbin yells at him, allowing Rollins to hit the Stomp on Ali for the elimination at 16:10.

Reigns and Corbin get into it on the floor as a quick CM PUNK chant starts and stops just as fast. Back in and McIntyre hits the reverse Alabama Slam on Ciampa. Reigns spears McIntyre down for the pin at 17:39 though, leaving us with Rollins vs. Reigns/Corbin vs. Ciampa/Lee. Rollins rolls Reigns up for two

but gets kicked in the face. Willow's Bell drops Reigns but the Fairy Tale Ending is blocked. Corbin cuts off Lee and drags Reigns over for the tag, only to have Reigns spear Corbin. Ciampa will take that pin at 19:54 and Smackdown is down to Reigns.

Rollins and Reigns go after Ciampa, who is fine with these odds. Rollins throws Ciampa outside though...and it's time to load up the announcers' table. Lee breaks up the DoubleBomb though and Ciampa hits Project Ciampa for a close two on Rollins back inside. The Fairy Tale Ending is countered so Ciampa hits a running knee, only to eat the Superman Punch from Reigns. The Stomp gets rid of Ciampa at 24:01 and we're down to one man each.

Lee comes back in to throw Rollins around and he crossbodies both of them at the same time. Rollins is back with an enziguri into a low superkick and the frog splash gets two, with Lee LAUNCHING him off the kickout. Rollins is all fired up but walks into the Big Bang Catastrophe to give Lee the pin and get rid of Raw at 26:36. Lee smiles down at Reigns, who hits back to back Superman Punches for a VERY close two. The spear is countered into the Spirit Bomb for a nearer fall but the moonsault misses. Reigns hits the spear for the final pin at 29:18.

Rating: A-. I came to Survivor Series wanting to see one of the classic elimination matches and that's what I got here, with one elimination after another and some crazy drama near the end. Lee looked like a STAR here and pinning Rollins clean is as big of a moment as he was going to get. There is no shame in being pinned by Reigns and what we got here was great stuff. I loved this match, save for the way Walter was put out, and it's all I could have asked for.

NXT – 3

Smackdown – 2

NXT – 1

Becky Lynch is ready for Shayna Baszler and there is no one who can keep her down tonight. She has been traveling the world and every day out means one day out of the gym. Becky sees something of herself in Bayley, so tonight she is going to show both of them what she is.

We recap Brock Lesnar vs. Rey Mysterio for Brock's Raw World Title. Brock came after Rey and his family so Rey brought in Cain Velasquez. That didn't go so well as Brock destroyed him, leaving no one to protect Rey. That's why Rey grabbed a lead pipe and started swinging, setting up this No Holds Barred title match.

Raw World Title: Brock Lesnar vs. Rey Mysterio

Lesnar, with Paul Heyman, is defending and it's No Holds Barred. Rey is the Joker here for no apparent reason. Heyman says Lesnar weighs about two and a half Rey Mysterios. Rey grabs a pipe to start so Lesnar drops to the floor. He comes right back in though and blasts Rey with a clothesline. Rey is thrown over the announcers' table and an overhead belly to belly sends him into the announcers' table covering.

Brock posts him but Rey does the same to him, meaning it's pipe time. Back in and Brock suplexes him onto the pipe and then adds another suplex. Cue Dominik to try to throw in the towel but Rey uses the distraction to hit a low blow. Some pipe shots from Rey and a chair shot from Dominik set up stereo 619s. Back to back frog splashes into a double cover gets two on Lesnar, who is back up with a suplex on Dominik. The F5 retains the title at 6:53.

Rating: C+. The whole point here was that one moment of drama and it worked a lot better than I was expecting. I don't think anyone was realistically expecting Rey to win here but they managed to get in that little bit of drama and that was a great surprise. Lesnar was running out of opponents so having

him wreck Mysterio was as good of a move as they had here, with Rey knowing how to sell this perfectly.

We recap the Women's Champions triple threat. Becky Lynch said being the champ was all that mattered but Shayna Baszler just wanted to snap a limb. Bayley wanted to know why she was an afterthought and now it's match time.

Bayley (Smackdown) vs. Becky Lynch (Raw) vs. Shayna Baszler (NXT)

Non-title again. They stare each other down to start and Bayley shoves Baszler into Becky. The brawling continues to the floor so Becky dives onto both of them. Back in and Bayley avoids the running spinning legdrop but Becky kicks her in the head. Baszler is back in as well and starts cleaning house until Bayley knocks her outside. Bayley stomps on Becky but charges into an elbow in the corner. With Baszler being dropped to the floor again, Bayley drops onto Becky's back for two.

All three are back in with Becky kicking Baszler down and starting the Bexploders. A DDT gets two on Bayley and the top rope legdrop is good for the same with Baszler making the save. Becky gets sent outside so Bayley can hit a running knee for two on Baszler. Back up and Baszler sends Bayley outside, meaning it's time for the big showdown with Becky. Bayley crossbodies both of them at once though and Becky is back outside. Bayley has to elbow her way out of a gutwrench superkicks but Becky breaks up the Kirifuda Clutch.

A powerbomb out of the corner gives Becky two on Baszler, who knocks Bayley off the apron. That means the Disarm-Her on Baszler but Bayley makes a save. They all head outside again with Becky tweaking her knee, allowing Baszler to drop her onto the announcers' table. Becky gets dropped onto the table again but Bayley runs Baszler over. Back in and Bayley hits the top rope elbow, only to get pulled into the Kirifuda

Clutch for the tap at 18:05.

Rating: C. Another viewing helped this a lot but it was longer than it needed to be and the action was only so good. Bayley was obviously there to take the fall and there is nothing wrong with that. If nothing else this should set up Becky vs. Baszler in a mega showdown later as Becky is unstoppable and Becky looks that way. Not overly great, but it did its job, albeit in the very long form.

Final Standings:

NXT – 4

Smackdown – 2

Raw – 1

Overall Rating: B+. The two last matches drag this down a bit but otherwise it's a heck of a show with nothing bad and some good drama/shock as NXT runs away with things. What matters most here is they took some chances (some good some bad) and gave us a special moment with NXT. The wrestling was good throughout and it felt like the Survivor Series I had wanted to see for such a long time. Awesome show here and proof of what NXT can offer when they get the chance (and win the trophy).

Ratings Comparison

Tag Team Battle Royal:

Original: D

Redo: D+

Lio Rush vs. Akira Tozawa vs. Kalisto

Original: C+

Redo: C

New Day vs. Viking Raiders vs. Undisputed Era

Original: B

Redo: B

Raw Women vs. Smackdown Women vs. NXT Women

Original: B-

Redo: B-

Shinsuke Nakamura vs. Roderick Strong vs. AJ Styles

Original: B

Redo: B

Pete Dunne vs. Adam Cole

Original: A-

Redo: B+

The Fiend vs. Daniel Bryan

Original: B

Redo: C+

Raw Men vs. Smackdown Men vs. NXT Men

Original: B+

Redo: A-

Rey Mysterio vs. Brock Lesnar

Original: C+

Redo: C+

Bayley vs. Shayna Baszler vs. Becky Lynch

Original: D+

Redo: C

Overall Rating:

Original: B+

Redo: B+

Other than the main event, the memories seem strong with this one.

Here's the original Review if you're interested:

<https://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2019/12/01/survivor-series-2019-they-really-did-that/>

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Smackdown – November 22,

2024: Welcome Welcome Back Back

Smackdown

Date: November 22, 2024

Location: Delta Center, Salt Lake City, Utah

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves

We're just over a week away from Survivor Series and the card still needs some help. Right now we have the women's WarGames match and the Raw World Title match set, but the men's WarGames match still needs an extra name. Maybe that, plus some other things, get set up this week so let's get to it.

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

Opening recap, focusing on Roman Reigns and company needing help against the Bloodline.

Here are the Bloodline and Bronson Reed to get things going. Solo Sikoa does his usual thing and requests that Roman Reigns meet him in the ring tonight to accept terms of surrender. Then Reigns and the Usos can acknowledge him. And that's that for a fast opening sequence.

Women's United States Title Tournament First Round: Bianca Belair vs. Chelsea Green vs. Blair Davenport

They trade rollups to start until Green clotheslines Davenport out to the floor. Green's middle rope sunset flip gets two on Belair, who is back up with a slingshot dive to drop Green outside. Davenport is back up with a shot of her own though and we take a break. Back with Green hitting a Rough Ryder on Belair but getting stomped down by Davenport.

Belair suplexes Davenport for two with Green making the save, earning herself some shoulders in the corner. Green

superplexes Davenport, who gets crushed by Belair's 450, with Green's stolen cover only getting two. We cut to the back where someone has knocked Jade Cargill through the windshield of a car, which is enough for Belair to run off to help her. The Unprettier gives Green the pin on Davenport at 9:50.

Rating: C+. Green advancing is nice to see as there is a chance that she could wind up winning the title in a nice surprise. Other than that, this was more about the Cargill attack, which could lead into something interesting with WarGames right around the corner. Other than that, Davenport was pretty much just there to take the fall, which is about all she's doing at the moment anyway.

Post break Belair gets in the ambulance with Cargill as Bayley and Naomi aren't sure what to do. It still isn't clear who attacked Cargill.

United States Title: LA Knight vs. Santos Escobar

Escobar, with the rest of Legado del Fantasma, is challenging. Hold on though as we get a video from Shinsuke Nakamura, talking about how Knight is scared of everything and this is the beginning of his end. Escobar jumps Knight from behind to start fast and knocks him to the floor for the slingshot dive.

We take a break and come back with Escobar kicking Knight in the head for two, setting up the seated armbar. Knight fights up and hits the slingshot shoulder before grabbing the jumping neckbreaker for two. The jumping top rope elbow is loaded up but cue Nakamura for a distraction. Escobar takes Knight down and hits a frog splash but doesn't cover. Instead the Phantom Driver is loaded up but Knight reverses into the BFT for the pin at 8:04.

Rating: C. They kept this short and to the point, as Knight gets to add another win to his resume. Nakamura is coming for Knight soon enough though and there is a good chance that we'll be seeing it at Survivor Series or Saturday Night's Main

Event. For now though, Knight gets a quick boost, with a nice counter to let him retain the title.

Post match Nakamura runs in and lays Knight out.

We look back at Tommaso Ciampa costing the Street Profits their Tag Team Title shot.

Johnny Gargano asks the Motor City Machine Guns for a Tag Team Title shot but they think the Street Profits deserve another shot. The Profits come in and don't think much of Ciampa. All this did was show me that the Profits are giants compared to Gargano and the Guns.

Nia Jax doesn't know anything about who attacked Jade Cargill.

Cody Rhodes is told Kevin Owens isn't here but doesn't buy it.

Here is Rhodes for a chat. Rhodes doesn't believe that Kevin Owens isn't here so cue Owens (in a sleeveless tuxedo shirt) to say he deserves the Rhodes suit treatment (as Rhodes is in workout gear rather than his usual suit). Owens doesn't get why Rhodes is upset when everything is his fault. Rhodes is ready to fight as Owens comes to ringside to rant about how Rhodes teamed with Roman Reigns after Owens spent years fighting the Bloodline.

Reigns needed help and Rhodes teamed with him so everything is his fault. Rhodes goes on a rant about how this is all on Owens, who always has to self sabotage himself. Owens has all of the accolades and is a great star but he doesn't realize it. Rhodes beat him at Bash In Berlin because, as always, Owens couldn't pull the trigger. He pulled the trigger later, but it was on the wrong guy.

Rhodes issues the challenge for Saturday Night's Main Event but Owens gives him the "on my time" response. Owens says he hates Rhodes, though Rhodes says Owens hates himself. Rhodes won't wait to cross any line when they finally fight. This was

a good laying out of the whole story and Rhodes was selling the emotion rather well.

Roman Reigns, the Usos and Sami Zayn aren't sure what to do for WarGames. Cody Rhodes and Seth Rollins' names are floated but Reigns shuts them down. Reigns says the four of them can do it themselves so Zayn is in, but wants to know what the plan is going to be. Even Reigns doesn't know this time.

Cody Rhodes is storming through the back and doesn't like Carmelo Hayes saying Rhodes had that coming. Shoving ensues.

Bayley/Naomi vs. Tiffany Stratton/Candice LeRae

Nia Jax is here with the villains. Naomi slugs away at Stratton to start and snaps off a running hurricanrana. That means Stratton needs a breather on the floor, with Jax's distraction letting LeRae get in a cheap shot. Bayley is in with a dive onto Stratton and we take an early breather. Back with Bayley in trouble and Stratton drawing Naomi in to cut off a tag attempt. LeRae and Stratton get in an argument though, with LeRae having to make another save. Bayley fights up but Jax pulls Naomi off the apron for the DQ at 7:46.

Rating: C. This was more about the villains arguing than anything else, which is a big deal with WarGames just over a week away. I'm not sure what to expect from the match, but having Jax get involved here to avoid someone take a fall is a good idea. They weren't given the chance to do much here but it kept the bigger story moving well enough.

Post match the beatdown is on but Iyo Sky runs in for the save. Liv Morgan and Raquel Rodriguez come in to jump Sky but Rhea Ripley runs in with the kendo stick to clean house.

Montez Ford vs. Tommaso Ciampa

Ciampa misses a charge into the corner to start and Ford hammers away, setting up a quick dropkick for two. Back up and

Ciampa hits a knee to the ribs, only to be sent to the floor for the big flip dive. A hard knee to the face sends Ford off the apron though and we take a break. Back with Ford powerbombing him out of the corner and grabbing a belly to back suplex. The standing moonsault gives Ford two, with Ciampa's swinging neckbreaker getting the same. The Fairy Tale Ending is cut off but Ciampa knees Ford out of the air. Ciampa tries the Fairy Tale Ending again, only for Ford to reverse into a cradle for the pin at 7:52.

Rating: C+. They packed in a good bit of offense here and it made for a good enough match, though I'm a bit surprised that Ciampa lost clean so soon after his recent rampage. One would think that it would lead to Ciampa doing something better but maybe it leads to DIY splitting and moving on to something better. Ford continues to look good on his own, though he seems to be sticking with the tag team for the time being.

Post match Ciampa stays on Ford but Angelo Dawkins and Johnny Gargano run in to break it up. Ciampa shoves Gargano down so the Motor City Machine Guns run in to really break it up. Ciampa asks Gargano whose team he is on.

Here's what's coming next week.

Here is the Bloodline to get the answer from Roman Reigns and company. Cue Reigns, the Usos and Sami Zayn for the big showdown but Solo Sikoa says he still loves all four of them. If they join the Bloodline, the team can run the company for decades. Reigns has no fifth man and no wise man, so join the team or die where you stand...and Paul Heyman is back (in a red shirt with no tie). There is no way to do WarGames 5-4 because that math does not make sense to the Wise Man.

That's why he has a fifth man...and CM Punk is back. The big brawl is on with the Bloodline being cleared out, leaving Reigns and Punk to have a big staredown, with Heyman between them for the awesome visual. The fans think this is awesome

and...well yeah. It was going to be Punk, Rollins or on a long shot, Lesnar, and Punk is the (arguably) the most interesting of them all.

Overall Rating: B. This was a show where the wrestling was nowhere near as important as the talking and it worked well. The point of this show was the big ending with Punk and Heyman returning, but the Rhodes/Owens segment worked well too. They did a nice job of making things more interesting for Survivor Series and probably some other shows, and that's the kind of show that can be the most interesting around. Good stuff here, with the big angle at the end being what the match needed.

Results

Chelsea Green b. Bianca Belair and Blair Davenport – Unprettier to Davenport

LA Knight b. Santos Escobar – BFT

Bayley/Naomi b. Tiffany Stratton/Candice LeRae via DQ when Nia Jax interfered

Montez Ford b. Tommaso Ciampa – Cradle

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Smackdown – June 7, 2024: The Show To Set Up The Show But The Show Isn't An Interesting Show

Smackdown

Date: June 7, 2024

Location: KFC Yum Center, Louisville, Kentucky

Commentators: Corey Graves, Wade Barrett

We have just over a week to go before Clash At The Castle and after last week, it seems that we are going to be seeing AJ Styles vs. Cody Rhodes II for the Smackdown World Title. Other than that, LA Knight and Logan Paul have been circling each other and there is a good chance that we will see that match set up this week as well. Let's get to it.

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

We look back at AJ Styles faking retirement last week and attacking Cody Rhodes to end the show.

An annoyed Rhodes is waiting for Styles.

Here is the Bloodline to get things going. The still nervous looking Paul Heyman says that until Roman Reigns comes back, Solo Sikoa is at the head of the table. The fans want Reigns, which has me wondering how long they can hold off on the return. Sikoa has decided to make a double proclamation tonight, starting with Tama Tonga being named the Right Hand Man. Second, Tonga Loa is officially a member of the team. Heyman tries to wrap it up but Sikoa asks what's going on.

Heyman should be thanking them for the save against Kevin Owens last week, with Heyman doing just that. In addition, Heyman was here earlier today and heard that Owens is wanting a piece of the Bloodline. Cue Owens (Heyman bails) and the brawl is on but the numbers game has Owens in trouble. The Street Profits run in for the save though, allowing Owens to grab a chair and clear the ring. This feels like it's going to keep building until Reigns comes back for the big moment and they need to make Sikoa feel that much more evil on the way there.

Post break, Sikoa tells Heyman to make this a six man or it's Heyman vs. Tama Tonga. Heyman: "I like the six man idea a lot better."

Jade Cargill/Bianca Belair vs. Indi Hartwell/Candice LeRae

Non-title. The bell rings and here are Isla Dawn/Alba Fyre and Shayna Baszler/Zoey Stark to watch. Belair takes LeRae down to start and hits a quick moonsault for two. Hartwell comes in for a cheap shot though and the posing takes us to a break. Back with Belair getting over for the tag to Cargill so house can be quickly cleaned. The assisted German suplex finishes Hartwell at 6:32. Not enough shown to rate but Cargill and Belair wrecked them after the break.

Post match the other four come in to beat down the champs, only to fight amongst themselves. Cargill and Belair take them out and stand tall.

Nick Aldis tells Cody Rhodes to not get in a fight with AJ Styles on the loading dock but Cody says he's taking care of this himself.

Apollo Crews is ready...to get jumped by Angel and Berto. Nick Aldis calls for medics but as Crews is taken away, LA Knight comes in to ask where Logan Paul is. Carmelo Hayes pops in to say he's getting to Knight so Aldis makes the match for later tonight. Aldis implied that this was taking the place of

Crews' match so points for some continuity.

Johnny Gargano vs. Grayson Waller

Tommaso Ciampa and Austin Theory are here too. Gargano knocks him into the corner to start and chops away but a spinning backbreaker puts Gargano down. The rolling Stunner is countered into a belly to back suplex though and they head outside. Gargano's Sliced Bread leaves both of them down and we take an early break.

Back with Gargano hitting some clotheslines into an enziguri, setting up the slingshot spear for two. An electric chair belly to back suplex drops Gargano for two more but something like a Destroyer out of the corner plants Waller hard. Waller bails outside and pulls Theory into a dive before posting Gargano. Back in and a running flipping Unprettier (picture Cena's Throwback but landing on the other person instead of grabbing their head) finishes Gargano at 8:16.

Rating: C+. Assuming DIY is going to get the title shot, I'm not sure how logical it was to have Gargano lose here. Then again, at least it's something different than winning singles matches to set up a tag match. For now though, the match was perfectly fine, with Waller pulling Theory in the way of the dive being completely in line with his way of thinking.

Nick Aldis, with security, tells Cody Rhodes that AJ Styles is arriving. Post break the car arrives with Styles in the sunroof and the OC standing in Rhodes' way. Rhodes goes into the arena and calls Styles out for a fight RIGHT NOW. Cue Styles to say he doesn't care what Rhodes wants, but Styles wants a title shot at Clash At The Castle. Works for Rhodes, but he wants it to be I Quit. Nick Aldis comes out to make the match and Rhodes beats up security. With Rhodes held back, Styles gets in a cheap shot.

Bianca Belair and Jade Cargill leave Aldis' office and announce a triple threat Women's Tag Team Title match at Clash

At The Castle, with Shayna Baszler/Zoey Stark and Isla Dawn/Alba Fyre getting the shots. Makes sense and goes another step towards trying to make the champs feel like they're in danger. They aren't, but points for trying.

LA Knight vs. Carmelo Hayes

Knight isn't impressed to start and takes Hayes outside for some rams into the announcers' table. A backdrop onto the table makes it worse and we take a break. Back with Knight fighting out of a top wristlock but getting hit in the face for two. Knight avoids something from the top and hits a faceplant, only to charge into a superkick. A slam puts Hayes down again but the LA Elbow (minus the LA, making it just a jumping elbow) misses. The powerslam connects but the BFT is countered into a rollup with trunks for two. Knight reverses the rollup into a rollup of his own for the pin at 8:33.

Rating: C+. This is a match where there was not harmless result, as Knight needed a win to boost him towards the likely US Title shot, but my goodness Hayes needs to win something sooner than later. Other than a fluke rollup against Baron Corbin, he hasn't won anything of note since earlier this year in NXT. He doesn't have to be beating top names, but he can beat some lower level names just to build himself up a bit.

Post match Knight promises to bring Smackdown to Logan Paul.

Tiffany Stratton offers to unite with Nia Jax, who looks as annoyed as someone who has to watch a Nia Jax match. With Stratton gone, Michin comes in to throw water in Jax's face and they have to be held apart.

Video on Bayley vs. Piper Niven.

Here is Bayley for a chat. She mentions the match with Niven but here are Chelsea Green and Niven to interrupt. Niven promises to make Bayley lose again and says that the two of them will be the new champ. Bayley respects Niven, which is

why she was watching from the front row at the Mae Young Classic.

She's lost in front of everyone she's loved and knows how bad it feels, so she'll do it again to Niven next week. Niven gets in the ring to talk about her journey from 2008. She worked around the world while Bayley walked into a perfect situation in the Performance Center. Now she has an annoying friend in Naomi and everything handed to her. Niven promises to win the title, with Green mimicking almost every word in a nice touch.

Logan Paul sends in a video and says he's in Los Angeles for the World Tetrax Championships because he wants a real challenger. Knight needs to go back to the midcard where he belongs.

Naomi doesn't like what Chelsea Green and Piper Niven said out there. Nick Aldis makes Naomi vs. Green for next week.

Kevin Owens/Street Profits vs. Bloodline

Dawkins powers Tonga into the corner to start and hands it off to Ford. The shoulders to the ribs have Tama in trouble but he fights out rather quickly. Loa comes in for the forearms to the head and Sikoa sends Ford outside for the crash as we take a break. Back with the slow beating to Ford continuing, with Loa hitting a basement clothesline.

Ford finally manages to get in a shot of his own and the diving tag brings in Owens to face Sikoa. Owens drops him fast and hits the Swanton for two as everything breaks down. Ford hits a big running flip dive onto the pile at ringside, which just causes Sikoa to chair Ford for the DQ at 9:40.

Rating: C+. This was picking up near the end but then they pulled all of the energy out with the lame ending. It makes the Bloodline look more violent as they would rather swing chairs than compete, but it doesn't exactly make for the most thrilling conclusion. At least Owens didn't take another pin

though.

Post match the big beatdown is on, with Owens being put through the announcers' table to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. This show did a nice job of setting up the Smackdown side of Clash At The Castle, but the problem is that half isn't very interesting. The show is going to be ALL about Drew McIntyre getting his title shot with Rhodes vs. Styles II not exactly feeling hot, even with the stipulation. Paul vs. Knight should be good as well, but it wasn't officially announced here. Stuff did happen here and that's good, but the stuff wasn't that interesting, which is a problem. Odds are that changes after next week though, so this shouldn't be a long term issue.

Results

Jade Cargill/Bianca Belair b. Indi Hartwell/Candice LeRae – Assisted German suplex to Hartwell

Grayson Waller b. Johnny Gargano – Running flipping Unprettier
LA Knight b. Carmelo Hayes – Rollup

Kevin Owens/Street Profits b. Bloodline via DQ when Sikoa used a chair

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Smackdown – May 31, 2024: Needs More Salmon

Smackdown

Date: May 31, 2024

Location: MVP Arena, Albany, New York

Commentators: Corey Graves, Wade Barrett

We are just over two weeks away from Clash At The Castle and the show needs to start coming together. In addition, we still have some fallout from King And Queen Of The Ring, including the official coronation of Queen Nia Jax. Finally, the Bloodline is in action tonight, which feels rather important. Let's get to it.

[Here is King And Queen Of The Ring if you need a recap.](#)

King And Queen Of The Ring recap.

Here is Nick Aldis to introduce Nia Jax for her coronation. Jax brags about the win and demands that Bayley come to the ring right now. Cue Bayley but Piper Niven and Chelsea Green jump her from behind. Bayley gets crushed but Green tells Jax to be ready to face Niven at Summerslam instead. This was to the point and that's what it needed to be.

AJ Styles goes on to see Nick Aldis and asks for some time to say something, but he only wants to say it once. Aldis agrees.

Naomi checks on Bayley in the trainer's room and Bayley is good to go tonight.

Tommaso Ciampa vs. Austin Theory

Both partners are here too. Ciampa elbows him in the face to start and hammers away, only to walk into a brainbuster onto the knee. Theory gets in some knees in the corner and a hanging neckbreaker to the floor puts Ciampa down again as we take a break. Back with Ciampa fighting out of a chinlock but getting elbowed in the face for his efforts.

Ciampa fights up again and hits a hard clothesline, setting up a reverse DDT for two. Theory gets in another shot but A Town Down is blocked. Waller goes to yell at commentary for some reason and seems to claim credit for Theory's success. That allows the distracted Ciampa to roll Theory up for the pin at 8:45.

Rating: C+. We continue the fairly slow build towards DIY challenging for the Tag Team Titles, though the champs having some issues makes it a bit more interesting. The idea of "tag teams in singles matches" has been done for years and it's only going to get them so far. For now though, it's better than DIY losing another match.

Naomi comes in to see Nick Aldis and, after a mini argument with Blair Davenport, gets a tag match with Bayley against Chelsea Green and Piper Niven. With the women gone, LA Knight comes in to ask if Aldis knows where he can find Logan Paul. Well that's interesting.

We look at Cody Rhodes defeating Logan Paul to retain the WWE Universal Title at King And Queen Of The Ring.

LA Knight says Logan Paul isn't here this week, but Knight IS here, so he'll make it clear: he wants the US Title. Carmelo Hayes comes in to suggest he's a better candidate for a title shot.

Andrade vs. Apollo Crews

Earlier today, Andrade turned down an invitation to Legado del Fantasma. Andrade snaps off a dropkick to start and slowly stomps away but here is Angel for a distraction. A dropkick sends Andrade to the floor and us to a break. Back with Andrade hitting a high crossbody to leave both of them down. Andrade strikes away and the running knees gives hit Crews for two. Crews is back with the gorilla press drop into the standing moonsault for two. Andrade isn't having this and elbows him in the face, setting up the double underhook swinging DDT for the pin at 7:04.

Rating: C+. This was a match where the commercial took away so much of the energy, as there is only so much you can do with seven minutes including a break. Crews' athleticism continues to be impressive but his ship has long since sailed. As for Andrade, a feud with Legado is better than nothing, but it's not the most thrilling concept.

Post match Andrade walks past Legado del Fantasma so Angel seems ready to deal with this.

Solo Sikoa tells the Bloodline to deal with it when Paul Heyman comes in. Heyman has been trying to make things better for the team but he sees random acts of violence with no bigger plan. He thinks they need Cody Rhodes in check for when Roman Reigns comes back but Sikoa says we already do. Heyman: "With all due respect, who is we?" The answer is cut off by Kevin Owens coming to the ring, with Sikoa telling Heyman to go deal with this. Heyman is starting to snap under the pressure and that opens up a lot of possibilities.

Apollo Crews jumps Angel.

Kevin Owens is in the ring and says he was in Saudi Arabia to help Randy Orton in person. Orton has had his back for weeks now and...here is Paul Heyman to interrupt. Heyman is sounding rather nervous as he says he hopes to come to a mutual understanding with Owens. The fans want Roman but Heyman says

no one wants him here more than Heyman himself.

Heyman talks about how Reigns respects Owens but Solo Sikoa and the new members of the Bloodline are going to hurt him. He begs Owens to back off but Owens doesn't quite buy the kind offer. Owens thinks Heyman sees Sikoa as his next cash cow. In four years of fighting the Bloodline, Owens has been superkicked thirty times at once and thrown off high things, but he's never going to stop fighting to get rid of them.

He neither wants nor needs Heyman's help, so Heyman goes on a rant about how he might be trying to redeem himself. Heyman says he is a Hall of Fame wise man and is worried about Sikoa taking over the entire Bloodline SO WHY WILL NO ONE LISTEN TO HIM??? Heyman goes so nuts that he throws the mic and hits Owens, who appears ready to destroy him. Cue the Bloodline but the Street Profits (set to face the Bloodline tonight) run in to even things up. Angelo Dawkins hits a big flip dive to take out the Tongas. And there is Heyman snapping, which is not going to go well for him. I'm not sure how soon Reigns is going to come back, but dang they have a wide open field with this thing and it's great.

Bloodline vs. Street Profits

Joined in progress with Ford firing off shoulders to Tama in the corner and Dawkins coming in for a double belly to back suplex. Loa gets in a cheap shot though and hammers away on the floor as Paul Heyman is looking terrified on the floor. A slingshot elbow hits Ford but he gets over for the tag to Dawkins. House is quickly cleaned but it's back to Loa off a blind tag to run Dawkins over. A Saito suplex connects and Dawkins is taken outside for a ram into the announcers' table.

We take a break and come back with Tama hammering away as Heyman is looking even worse. Dawkins manages to suplex his way out of trouble and it's a double tag to bring in Ford and Loa. The Profits take over and grab a Doomsday Blockbuster,

with Tama having to make the save. Tama gets in a blind tag so Ford's frog splash to Loa means nothing. Back up and Ford walks into the jumping Downward Spiral for the pin at 12:12.

Rating: B-. This was a way to make the Bloodline look good because the Profits are a pretty established team for them to take down. I'm not sure if the feud continues whenever Bobby Lashley is back, but it might be time for the Profits to move on to something else. For now though, the Bloodline looks good and that's what matters.

Indi Hartwell is upset at Jade Cargill and Bianca Belair for injuring Candice LeRae...but not upset enough to agree to face Cargill.

Michin is asked about AJ Styles but Nia Jax interrupts. That doesn't work for Michin, which REALLY does not work for Jax.

Chelsea Green/Piper Niven vs. Bayley/Naomi

Green runs from Bayley to start and hands it to Niven, who crushes Bayley in the corner. That doesn't seem to matter much as Bayley fights up and hits a clothesline on Green. Naomi comes in and knocks Green to the floor, with the villains being beaten down as we take a break.

Back with Niven missing an elbow, allowing the tag back to Naomi. A running basement dropkick in the corner sets up a split legged moonsault, with Niven having to make a save. The Rear View gets two more with Niven making another save with a backsplash. Niven puts Green on top for the pin at 8:30.

Rating: C. Another pretty to the point match here, with Niven getting to look strong as we are coming up on a show in her home country. Bayley is going to need a title challenger and putting here in there against Niven for the title could be a heck of a moment. The match was just good enough, with Naomi taking the fall to build Niven up that much more.

LA Knight runs into AJ Styles in the back and says if the rumors are true, he respects Styles. With Knight gone, Styles runs into Cody Rhodes and they shake hands. Styles hugs the OC, who have his back out there tonight.

Here is Styles, with the OC, for his big announcement. Styles talks about how he has dwelt on Nick Aldis saying he had to earn another title shot for a week. At this point in his career, he can't do that though, and we pause for some applause. He just got to have his son's graduation party and it made him wonder how many of them he missed. Maybe it's time he became a phenomenal father. Styles thanks the OC for being there and they do the pose one more time. There's one more thing though, and Styles would like Cody Rhodes out here.

Cue Rhodes, with Styles saying their match at Backlash was one of their best ever. This is still the house that Styles built and Rhodes says they shared their first text after that match. Styles called Rhodes his little bro, but Rhodes says Styles is a good big bro. They have a hug and Rhodes holds Styles' arm up, only for Styles to channel his inner Mark Henry and beat him down.. The Styles Clash from the steps to the floor drops Rhodes to end the show. They weren't exactly hiding what they were going for here and that works well enough, as having another title match between them at Clash will be a fine way to go.

Overall Rating: B. This was a show with good enough action, but the main positives came from the storytelling. Odds are we have a Smackdown main event set for Clash, plus Heyman losing his mind and Bayley probably set to defend against Niven. As usual lately, WWE knows how to move things forward while having completely acceptable (at worst) wrestling and that makes for a very easy watch.

Results

Tommaso Ciampa b. Austin Theory – Rollup

Andrade b. Apollo Crews – Double underhook swinging DDT

Bloodline b. Street Profits – Jumping Downward Spiral to Ford
Piper Niven/Chelsea Green b. Bayley/Naomi – Backsplash to
Naomi

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