

Smackdown Is Live Tonight

Since most people probably forgot. Review up at 10pm EST.

Smackdown – August 30, 2011 – Smackdown Live Works For Me

Smackdown

Date: August 30, 2011

Location: Intrust Bank Arena, Wichita, Kansas

Commentators: Michael Cole, Booker T, Josh Matthews

It's the live show tonight and the main event is Christian vs. Orton 4985 for the title in a cage match. It's a double branded show and hopefully we'll get the announcement that Raw guys will also appear on Smackdown. Anyway this should be fun as the live shows are usually better. Let's get to it.

Punk and HHH will sign their contract tonight.

Do You Know Your Enemy? Mine is the Detroit Tigers who won't let my Indians get back in contention.

Here's Cena to open the show. He's not sure what day it is. I kind of like him talking on the way to the ring. Don't adjust your sets because this is Smackdown, it is Tuesday and we are live. He lists off a bunch of shows that are here, ranging from Raw to Smackdown to Nitro to Smokey Mountain Wrestling to the XFL superstars. Scratch that XFL idea because that was worse than the Shockmaster.

He calls out Alberto and the music plays but it's Rodriguez instead. He says that Cena has to wait a bit longer to be in

the ring with Del Rio and actually speaks English for a bit. And scratch that as it's time for the full entrance. Not that Del Rio is here due to visa issues but whatever. Ricardo keeps saying Del Rio's name over and over until Cena shouts at him. Cena has a gift for Alberto though. It's a right hand and down goes Ricardo.

Here's Barrett or as Cena says "Mr. Winds of Change" himself. Barrett yells at Cena for beating up the fat ring announcer which gets us a Tony Chimmel reference. They argue back and forth a bit and the bell is after the break.

Wade Barrett vs. John Cena

Cena pounds him down into the corner and Barrett is reeling early. Headlock takeover puts Barrett down again but the British dude gets a shot in to take over. Cena doesn't like being in trouble though so he hits a sitout powerslam to put Barrett down again. Boss Man Slam gets two for Wade. They're going through this kind of fast and it's making it a weaker match. Case in point we're less than three minutes in and Cena is on his finishing sequence including the Protobomb and Shuffle. The AA hits and Cena wins 100% clean at 3:17.

Rating: D+. Uh...what was that? I mean I knew Cena was going to dominate but Barrett got in a total of one move of note which was the Boss Man Slam. I really don't get this one at all and while it's not like Barrett is buried now (since anyone that ever loses to a bigger star is instantly buried if you read things on the internet) this was a bit harsh on him.

Henry doesn't care who wins tonight. He says Striker asked a dumb question when he asked what a cage match was like.

Sin Cara vs. Daniel Bryan

This should be good. Cara hits some arm drags to take over and grabs an armbar. Bryan gets a kick to the chest in and the suicide dive/shove to take over. He's looking a bit mad

tonight for some reason. Here come the kicks from Daniel Bryan: Male Rockette. Off to a surfboard but he's no Rob Van Dam so it doesn't work. Instead he drops Cara down into a dragon sleeper which was pretty cool. Bryan is backdropped to the floor and Cara manages to avoid missing a dive but the second, a springboard spinning cross body to the floor, takes Bryan out.

Back in the swanton gets two but he didn't try the Lionsault. Bryan gets his moonsault out of the corner and they collide on cross body attempts to put both of them down. They exchange kicks but Cara manages to put him down and hit the swanton/Lionsault combo and gets the pin at 5:03.

Rating: C+. Ok so maybe there is something to the depushed theory. Bryan losing here is rather odd but maybe it leads to a heel turn eventually. I can understand the losses to people like Christian and Del Rio because they're bigger stars than Bryan. This either says very little about Bryan or says A LOT about Cara. I'm not sure which but I didn't see that one coming.

They shake hands post match but CARA KICKS HIM IN THE FACE!!! Did Sin Cara just turn heel??? I was referring to a Bryan turn!

Air Boom says they're awesome and teach Striker the Boom Boom Boom.

Sheamus doesn't like bullies and you shouldn't either.

We recap the Orton vs. Christian feud since MITB, which is really all you need to know about the feud.

Christian says this is his night.

Natalya/Beth Phoenix vs. Kelly Kelly/Alicia Fox

Aksana is guest ring announcer which is supposed to be connected to her hitting on Teddy. So Alicia is a face now?

Nattie vs. Kelly to start. Kelly looks like the victim of a bubblegum accident. Cold tag to Alicia and after some offense from her, the Glam Slam takes care of this at 2:00.

It's time for the contract signing and Teddy brings out HHH. He talks about the match a bit and says he's glad that he gets to take the suit off for one night. The fans seem totally behind Punk. Punk puts his feet on the table and wants to know why we're here. He thinks HHH has put a stipulation into the contract but HHH says there's nothing suspicious going on. Punk says there's nothing HHH can do to surprise him.

Punk interrupts HHH when he talks about respect and for once, someone tells Punk to shut up. HHH says he's bent over backwards to work with Punk but Punk kept pushing. He wants to know who Punk thinks got Living Color to let the company use Cult of Personality as his theme. Who does Punk think got him that Best in the World shirt? Punk has gotten everything he's asked for but Punk hasn't cooperated. Now HHH wants Punk to deal with him like a man.

Punk says he doesn't want to fight the COO but rather the Cerebral Assassin. Maybe HHH isn't the right man for the job because just like Vince, he can't separate the business from the personal stuff. Punk insists he loves the WWE because if he hated it he wouldn't be sitting here right now. He wants a change and says that he and the fans are dying for a change. Punk says he wants to be a catalyst for that change.

HHH says give me a break because half of the fans agree with him and half of them flat out do not care. Some of the fans like the WWE, which draws a big pop. He's right too. Punk only wants change if it means Punk is on top. He's no different than anyone, including HHH. They'd both do whatever it took to get on top but HHH said he'd do whatever it took to get to the top. Punk has no balls though and is trying to sneak his way to the top by pretending to be a martyr.

Punk says if he's seen as a martyr then maybe he's doing the right thing. HHH talked about half of the people liking it but Punk wants EVERYONE to like it. Before Punk was a wrestler he was a fan and at his core he's still that. He'll do whatever he can do to make this place fun again. The reason he says these things about his wife is because it tests HHH. HHH is just like Vince and is just as egotistical and corrupt as everyone and the hiring of HHH's old buddies is proof of that.

Punk signs and says that if he has to be the catalyst of change and has to go through HHH to do it, so be it. At Night of Champions, don't fine him or suspend him after he beats the boss. HHH says the difference between Punk and himself is respect. He respects Vince and says that they wouldn't be there if not for Vince McMahon. That's a hard one to argue for Punk I think.

He's about to say why he's not like Vince but gets cut off by Punk. Punk calls him short sighted and HHH is living in the past that Vince is trapped in. Punk wants change and HHH says he'll get it. This is where he's not like Vince (he signs here) because at NOC he would have gotten in the ring with Punk and taken a beating because it would have been good for business. This isn't about business and it's personal.

Here's Nash and Punk FREAKS. HHH tries to hold him back but the big man gets in there. They slug it out and HHH tries to break it up, allowing Nash to get in a big boot. HHH gets in his face and Nash shoves him down, stunning HHH.

Sheamus vs. Great Khali

Sheamus still has bad ribs. Khali dominates to start and locks in a nerve hold after hammering away on the chest and ribs. Sheamus fights back and hits his forearms while Khali is in the ropes but as he sets for the Brogue Kick, Mahal comes in for the DQ at 2:50. This was nothing.

Post match the Indian dudes try a beatdown but Khali misses

the chop and hits the post. A Brogue Kick takes him down and Sheamus beats up Legs Mahal for fun.

Inside Out trailer wastes some time.

There's a poll for the world title match tonight: Orton wins 85 to 15. DANG.

The cage is lowered and it's just after 9:30. This is going to get some time.

Smackdown World Title: Christian vs. Randy Orton

In a cage and Orton is champion in case you're reading this in like 10 years. You can win by pin/submission/escape. I didn't know the back of the belt was red. They have about 18 minutes left so for a TV main event that's more than enough. Christian tries two early escapes but Orton saves both times. He tries something off the middle rope but jumps into a dropkick from Randy for two. With that we take an abrupt break less than two minutes into the match.

Back with Christian in control and hammering away in the corner. Orton takes him down with a clothesline and the fans seem to like Orton better. Why do I sound surprised by that? Anyway Christian gets slammed off the top off another escape attempt. A pair of knee drops gets two for Orton. Orton's escape attempt fails as does the elevated DDT. The Canadian goes up but Orton makes a save again.

They're really playing up the idea of it could end at a moment's notice as Orton gets a rollup and Christian gets a spinebuster, both for two. Cole says Christian has been around for 17 years. I don't know what school he went to but they weren't noted for their math. Christian gets to the top of the cage but Randy makes another save. They fight on the top rope and Orton snaps off a superplex to put both guys down at break #2.

Back with Christian almost making it and having his hands on the floor but Orton saves again. Orton starts his insane stuff but the elevated DDT is countered again. A shot to the cage is reversed into the falling DDT for two for the Canadian. Christian goes for the escape and even shoves Orton down but he's feeling froggy and it only gets two.

Orton makes about his 10th save and avoids a spear. RK0 misses and the second spear attempt hits for a close two. The drama in this has been very good. Christian loads up the Punt but Orton avoids it and in a NICE bit of psychology Christian teases his turning dive out of the corner and Orton jumps for an RK0 but Christian fakes him out and climbs. Orton stops him again and gets that sweet over the shoulder powerbomb position into a neckbreaker for two. The fans are into this.

Christian tries the Killswitch but Orton escapes and tries the elevated DDT and gets it for once but the RK0 is countered. Christian makes a lunge for the climb but Orton makes ANOTHER save. We're past 10pm now and they're fighting on the top rope. Christian tries the Killswitch from the top but Orton counters into a SUPER RK0 and Christian is dead at 13:35.

Rating: A. I loved this. They played back to stuff from previous matches like the head fake and the idea of it ending at any time was excellent. This match worked incredibly well and the whole thing was great. These two have had the feud of the year in any other year because Cena vs. Punk happened this year. Great stuff again and I'm thinking it happens again at the Cell, but I'm not sure how they get there.

Post match Henry comes out for the beating and Orton is destroyed. Randy escapes for a bit but Henry takes him down with a clothesline and a splash stops Orton cold. He gets sent into the cage and takes a World's Strongest Slam to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Well the Raw guys didn't play a huge role

here and that's definitely a good thing. Other than the quick Cena match and the HHH/Punk/Nash thing (which I liked) there wasn't much of a Raw presence here. The show was entertaining enough and a good main event makes this pretty easily a solid show. Sheamus vs. the Indian dudes is something to do I guess and we have the NOC main event set up now. It wasn't the huge show they were hoping for but I'd call this a good show, which is the norm on Smackdown for the most part anymore.

Results

John Cena b. Wade Barrett – Attitude Adjustment

Sin Cara b. Daniel Bryan – Lionsault

Natalya/Beth Phoenix b. Kelly Kelly/Alicia Fox – Glam Slam to Fox

Sheamus b. Great Khali via DQ when Jinder Mahal interfered

Randy Orton b. Christian – RKO off the top rope