

# Survivor Series Count-Up – 2010: Here Lies Wade Barrett

## Survivor Series 2010

Date: November 21, 2010

Location: American Airlines Arena, Miami, Florida

Attendance: 8,000

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler, Matt Striker

This is all about the Nexus with the main event of Orton vs. Barrett for the world title with Cena as the referee. If Barrett wins, Cena is free from Nexus. If Orton wins, Cena is fired. Other than that we've only got one Survivor Series match which is kind of a letdown but it could be worse. This is one of those shows that doesn't mean much because of what happens the next night anyway so it's hard to get into this in a way. This is one of the two Survivor Series I reviewed live so the grades should be interesting. Let's get to it.

The usual opening video is the video that opens us. The idea tonight is Cena not wanting to compromise his integrity and give the title to Barrett when he doesn't deserve it, but he doesn't want to quit. A song about being what you believe plays over this.

## US Title: Daniel Bryan vs. Ted DiBiase

DiBiase is challenging here because he wants to win his first title. Simple but effective I guess. Bryan has Rise of the Valkyries here which makes things all the more awesome but the lack of beard hurts. Maryse is with Ted here too and is rocking a beige dress. Bryan speeds things up to start and there go the lights. Daniel dropkicks DiBiase to the apron but as he goes to get Ted, Bryan gets suplexed out to the floor in a cool bump.

Back in and Bryan fires off the kicks. It's so weird to not hear YES or NO whenever he hits...well anything actually. DiBiase hooks a chinlock to slow the champ down followed by a backbreaker and dropkick for two. Back to the chinlock as the fans are way into Bryan here. This one doesn't

last as long as Bryan fights up and speeds up the pace. There's the moonsault out of the corner and a dropkick to send DiBiase to the floor. Bryan hits the suicide dive to the floor but he comes up favoring his shoulder. Why is that called favoring? It's in worse shape than anything else so how is that favoring it?

They head back in and Bryan hits a missile dropkick for two and it's time for more kicks. The LeBell (NO) Lock can't go on because of the bad shoulder though and DiBiase clotheslines him down. Dream Street (Cobra Clutch) from DiBiase is countered twice so Ted hits a sitout spinebuster for two. DiBiase's superplex is countered a belly to back superplex by Bryan but he still can't get the LeBell Lock. A rollup gets two for Ted and Bryan grabs the arm for the LeBell Lock to retain.

**Rating:** C+. This felt like an extended Smackdown match but that's not a bad thing. Bryan was still a pretty big underdog in a lot of his matches at this point but wins like this were exactly what he needed. DiBiase never got over in this role or really in any other either. He's a guy who needs to change his name as he's never going to get out from under his dad's shadow and it's crippling his career. Well that and WWE never putting him on TV.

As Bryan poses on the stage, Miz and Alex Riley (speaking of guys who need to be on TV more) jump him with the MITB case. Miz and Riley get in the ring but the lights go out again. Miz talks about how he's from Cleveland and doesn't like the Miami Heat that much. He compares Barrett to LeBron James because neither will ever be a world champion. The fans chant for the Heat and Miz says he'll cash in soon. That's true.

We recap Sheamus vs. Morrison. Sheamus is a bully, Morrison is sick of him. That's it.

Sheamus says Morrison is jealous of him for being a former and future world champion because Morrison never will be.

### Sheamus vs. John Morrison

Jerry tells a story of a guy in high school that kept taking everyone's lunch money and picking on everyone he could but no one ever stood up to

him. Striker: "Was his name Judas? (HUH?)" Jerry: "Actually it was Jerry Lawler." Your lesson for the day kids: beat up other kids and treat them like trash and you could be a multiple time world champion and get a job on national TV every week and get into the WWE Hall of Fame. But you'd rather be a STAR right?

Cole says Morrison described this match as a tank against a fighter jet. Cole: "Of course Morrison the jet and Sheamus the tank." What would we ever do without Cole? I'm not sure, but I'm going to go look into it. Anyway Morrison starts fast and dropkicks Sheamus to the floor followed by a corkscrew dive to take the pale one out. Sheamus sends him into the barricade and runs Morrison over with an ax handle.

Back in and we hit the chinlock as the fans aren't all that into Sheamus at all. A backbreaker gets two for Sheamus and it's back to a chinlock again, although this one has an armbar added in. Sheamus hits the ten forearms to the chest from a seated position instead of in the ropes. It's always cool to see the evolution of a move like that. Sheamus puts him on the top and pounds away again but Morrison slugs Sheamus down to the mat. A cross body gets rolled through for two for Sheamus and John is in trouble.

The Brogue Kick misses and Morrison enziguris him down. Morrison is all fired up and hits some clotheslines for two but it's hard to keep Sheamus down. Irish Curse stops the momentum but it only gets two again. The High Cross is countered into a Russian legsweep for two for Johnny. Sheamus goes after the knee to stop Morrison again. This match really is as back and forth as it sounds. No one has had an extended advantage for the most part.

Sheamus puts the leg over his shoulder and pulls Morrison forward to the mat in a cool looking move that I haven't seen before. Half crab does more damage for Sheamus but he slaps Morrison in the face a few times to tick him off. John kicks him down but Starship Pain is broken up with ease. The High Cross is countered again and the Brogue Kick misses, allowing Morrison to hit the Flying Chuck and a running knee to the face for the surprise pin.

**Rating:** B-. These two always have this freakish chemistry that really doesn't make a ton of sense but is always there. Morrison's flying style was a great counter to the power stuff from Sheamus, and as usual the idea of power vs. speed works as well as anything else. Morrison would never hit a level that they were hoping for him to, while Sheamus would go on to win the world title at Wrestlemania in a few years. You never know what's going to happen in wrestling, which is why it's funny.

Watch Big Show's movie! No one else has.

R-Truth continues to meddle in Cena's business and offers to interfere in the main event tonight because you can only win by pin or submission. He offers to attack Orton and Cena will be guilt free. Cena yells at him for suggesting it.

#### Intercontinental Title: Kaval vs. Dolph Ziggler

Kaval is more famous as Low Ki and won NXT Season 2 to get any title shot he wanted. In his first win, he beat Dolph on Smackdown and picked to challenge for this title tonight. A quick elbow gets two so Dolph takes over with a forearm in the corner. There's the Hennig necksnap and a mini AA for two for Dolph. A handspring elbow takes Dolph down and Kaval pounds away in the corner until a Vickie distraction lets Dolph take him down.

Kaval comes back with a handspring into a kick to the face in the corner which looked pretty awesome. Kaval goes up with his back to the ring, allowing Dolph to put on a sleeper on the top rope for some reason. Dolph gets knocked back and Kaval misses a big flip dive, allowing Dolph to hit the Fameasser for two. The sleeper goes on (on the mat this time) but Kaval escapes and is launched to the top rope where he springs off and hits a spin kick to the face in ANOTHER awesome looking move. Ziggler misses a charge in the corner and gets rolled up for two before Ziggler gets a rollup of his own with tights to retain.

**Rating:** C-. Kaval tried here but this crippled whatever he had as far as momentum was going. He would be gone before the end of the year and I can't say I blame him. The match here was ok enough but the chemistry didn't click at all. Also, why would you pick a match for the IC Title

when you can pick whatever you want?

Jack Swagger doesn't like the idea about being on Team Del Rio, because it should be Team Swagger. Jack says some stuff about the Spanish being spoken here because he doesn't habla Español. Rhodes, who is still Dashing at this point, comes up and makes fun of Swagger's shoes. Del Rio, who only mostly sucks at this point, says that he won a bet about Swagger getting interrupted. This goes nowhere.

#### Team Del Rio vs. Team Mysterio

Alberto Del Rio, Tyler Reks, Drew McIntyre, Jack Swagger, Cody Rhodes

Rey Mysterio, Chris Masters, Big Show, MVP, Kofi Kingston

Team Mysterio is all in blue in a nice touch. The fans chant for MVP as he's the hometown boy. The captains start things off but there's no contact as Del Rio tags in Rhodes. We start talking about baseball (Striker: "Rickey Henderson may be the greatest baseball player of all time." Cole and Lawler: "WHAT???") as Rey hooks an O'Connor Roll for two on Cody. Cody comes back with a Disaster Kick and stomps away in the corner.

Here's Del Rio again who gets caught in the corner and hit by a hard running dropkick. Off to MVP who hits a dropkick and ducks an enziguri in the corner. This was right around the time when he was getting good, but he would be gone in less than three weeks. Here's Kofi with some bouncing offense but it's quickly off to Masters. Lawler does his usual talk about the Clowns vs. Kings back in 94 as Reks and McIntyre take turns beating on Masters.

Drew's middle rope jumps lands on a boot and Masters can tag in MVP. MVP suplexes McIntyre down and hits the Ballin Elbow, only to fall victim to the Ultimate Warrior/Rick Rude ending from Mania 5 (MVP suplexes Drew but Alberto hooks MVP's foot and Drew falls on top for a pin). Masters comes back in again and hits a kind of Jackhammer for two. Del Rio avoids the Masterlock and puts on the Armbreaker for the submission to make it 5-3.

Here's Big Show as the stopper for his team and Del Rio bails, bringing

in Swagger. Swagger tries to wrestle him down and is immediately chopped in the chest. A kind of chop block takes Show down and it's back to Del Rio. Show glares at him again and Alberto tags out to Drew, but before Alberto gets out Show knocks him out cold. With McIntyre down, Show slams Kofi down onto Drew for a two count. Apparently Alberto can't continue and is eliminated. Cody comes in to face Kingston and Rhodes snaps when he gets hit in the face. He goes on a rant and heads to the floor to check the mirror on the back of his jacket.

Rhodes heads back in and gets hit in the face again. Off to Show who slaps Cody on the back and the KO punch makes it 3-3. It's Kofi/Rey/Show vs. Reks/Swagger/McIntyre and Reks immediately clotheslines Show down in an impressive move. Swagger comes in to work on the leg and hooks the ankle lock. After nearly tapping, Show crawls over to Rey for the saving tag. Rey speeds things up but Jack kicks his head off for two.

Swagger drills Kofi on the apron before catching Rey's 619 into the ankle lock. Mysterio rolls through the hold and makes the hot tag to Kofi who cleans house and hits the top rope cross body on Reks for two. Kofi misses a charge in the corner and gets caught in the Tree of Woe. After Kofi gets down, Reks charges into a double boot in the corner for the fast elimination. Swagger comes in almost immediately and catches Trouble in Paradise into the ankle lock to tie things back up. Kofi tapping is a weird sight.

Back to Big Show who uses that large body of his to run Swagger over a few times before Swagger has to lay down so Rey and Show can do the on the shoulders splash. McIntyre breaks up the big splash though and Rey is down. Rey gets placed on the top rope but headbutts Jack down to the mat. The 619 sets up that splash off Show's shoulders to make it 2-1. Future Shock is countered and it's a chokeslam from Show for the elimination.

**Rating:** B-. This was a fine Survivor Series match with both teams working well together. I don't get the point in having Del Rio eliminated that early, but I guess it allows for Rey vs. Del Rio to happen later on. The match wasn't a classic but it worked well enough for what it was supposed to be. Decent stuff here and the fans were happy with the ending.

Randy Orton talks about how he's tired of hearing all of the talk about Cena and Barrett, because tonight it's either the RK0 or the Punt to stop Barrett.

#### Divas Title: Laycool vs. Natalya

I miss Laycool's entrance, if nothing else for how they look in the shorts. Laycool are the co champions here as both have belts in a story that wasn't that interesting in the first place. The champs have to tag here and it's Michelle to start. Natalya takes it to the mat early on and Michelle actually takes over with the amateur stuff. Off to the hometown heel in Layla who distracts the referee so Michelle can pull Nattie onto the floor.

Back in and Natalya supelxes both chicks at once but her back is hurt in the process. Michelle blasts her in said back on the floor, but Natalya shoves Michelle over the barricade. They all brawl at ringside for a bit before Natalya and Michelle head into the ring. McCool gets rammed into Layla and the Sharpshooter gives Natalya the title.

**Rating:** D. Here's this whole feud in a nutshell: Natalya beat up Layla, then Natalya beat up Michelle, then Natalya beat up both of them at once. This wasn't much of a match but it's the kind of breather that you have to give the fans before you get to the big stuff later on. Laycool would be around for a few more months, but once they split they fell off the face of the planet all of a sudden.

Beth Phoenix returns to save Nattie from a double beatdown. This would set up a Divas tables match next month.

We recap Kane vs. Edge. Kane beat Taker in the Cell (Today is November 6, 2012 and that match is the last time Smackdown main evented a PPV to date) when Paul Bearer shocked no one and turned on Taker. Edge got this shot by uh.....tall. I think he just got the shot because he was on a hot streak. Edge also kidnapped Bearer and tortured him and I don't think has returned him yet.

#### Smackdown World Title: Edge vs. Kane

Kane is defending here. Edge wheels out with an empty wheelchair to mess with Kane a bit more. Kane tries a quick chokeslam but Edge punches out of it. Kane sends him to the floor and Edge wheels the chair around a bit more to make Kane mad. A baseball slide sends Kane into the barricade before we head back inside where the Canadian takes out the Spaniard's leg. He wraps the leg around the post and lays on it for a bit to make sure we don't get excited.

Kane gets in an uppercut to take over and slugs away slowly. The Big Bald chokes away and yells about Bearer a bit as the fans aren't really thrilled by this stuff. Granted I question how many fans know Smackdown exists still so it's a fair problem to have. To really mix things up, Kane puts on a cravate and yells even more. A low dropkick gets two for the champion and it's back to the trusty cravate. Edge finally gets up and hits a cross body off the top for two.

Kane slugs him down but Edge dropkicks him out of the air on the top rope clothesline attempt. A side slam gets two for Kane and he goes up again. Edge makes the stop but gets crotched and clotheslined down for two. Something resembling a DDT puts Kane down but Edge's spear hits boot. There's the chokeslam for two so Kane tries the Tombstone. Edge slips down the back and spears Kane down for the pin and no title, because all four shoulders were down and it's a draw. Yep, that's really what they did.

**Rating:** F+. The ending until the cover wasn't bad, but other than that this was dull, slow and horrible. These two just did not work well together at all, so of course they had another title match on PPV. Horrible match here as Kane just stood around and held Edge by the neck for LONG stretches of time. Kane would accidentally kill Paul Bearer soon after this. Don't ask.

Kane beats up Edge post match. Edge comes back and puts Kane in the wheelchair and sends him through part of the barricade.

Barrett tells Cena if he doesn't help him tonight, Cena is gone. Apparently Nexus started in this building. Cena says he knows what he's going to do.



### Tag Titles: Nexus vs. Vladimir Kozlov/Santino Marella

Slater and Gabriel are the champions here and have Harris/McGillicutty/Otunga with them. Santino and Slater start things off and Marella gets to use some of the martial arts that Kozlov has been teaching him. Off to Gabriel and Kozlov who tags himself in. Remember that two years ago, Kozlov was in the world title match against HHH and now he's here. That's quite the fall. Gabriel dives at Kozlov and gets caught in a kind of spinebuster to give the challengers control.

Gabriel gets in a kick to take Koz down and Slater drops a knee for two. Back to Justin for a cravate and then a front facelock. Kozlov is about to get to Santino when Slater draws Cobra Man in. That's some good old school tag stuff there and it's awesome. Slater hooks a front facelock of his own but it's a hot tag to Santino. He hits all of his usual stuff and loads up the Cobra, but the other members of Nexus distract him (not that hard really) and Slater hits the sleeper drop for the pin to retain.

**Rating:** D+. Nothing to see here that wouldn't be on Raw on any given week. The tag titles were absolutely nothing at this point but then again that could go for any show for a good six year stretch or so. It makes the current tag team resurgence look more impressive as they took it from nowhere to something decent, which is a big deal. The match here was fine but it was another breather for the fans.

Post match the challengers get beaten down again and the Anonymous Raw GM says if Nexus interferes in the world title match, they're suspended indefinitely.

We recap Orton vs. Barrett. Barrett got the title shot I believe through winning NXT and got Cena to join Nexus through winning at HIAC. Cena hates it and somehow he gets to be the guest referee tonight. If he screws Orton over, he won't be able to live with himself, but if he doesn't screw Orton over, Barrett will fire him. This gets the music video treatment of course.

### Raw World Title: Wade Barrett vs. Randy Orton

Oh and you can only win by pin or submission. Feeling out process to

start with Orton grabbing a headlock. A shoulder puts Barrett down and Orton fires away elbows and uppercuts in the corner. Cena finally does something and it's correct procedure, but the fans boo because it's against Orton. He goes the same thing to Barrett and Orton hits a dropkick to take over.

We head to the floor where Barrett hits a kick to the ribs to take over. Orton gets sent into the steps and punched down back in the ring. Barrett covers and gets a fair one count. We hit the chinlock for a good while until Orton fights back with his usual comeback stuff. The backbreaker gets two and Orton glares at Cena. Barrett gets in an uppercut and hits a top rope elbow for two.

Barrett hits his pumphandle slam for two and now Barrett glares at Cena too. This is pretty dull stuff so far. Wasteland is countered and there's a Boss Man Slam (called a Black Hole Slam by Striker) for another close two. The fans do the usual pro/anti Cena chants as Orton hits the Elevated DDT. Barrett gets in a knee to the head and Wasteland hits, but Orton grabs the rope at two. I do love how the idea that Barrett could just win the title on his own is a completely non-factor. Barrett shoves Cena so Cena shoves him back, right into the RK0 and the clean pin to fire Cena. Striker: "Cena's free!" Cole: "Cena's fired." Striker: "Oh."

**Rating:** D. This barely worked as the focus was entirely on Cena and the match was really dull for the most part. It was someone hitting a move that would be lucky to get two and then glaring at Cena when they didn't get a pin off of it. Cena was "fired" as a result, but would of course be back on PPV the next month. I don't think he ever missed a Raw. I like the moment with him counting the pin because that's him being himself which is the essence of Cena's character, but the match sucked.

Cena has no idea what to do post match. Nexus runs in and gets beaten down by the Super Best Friends. Cena hands Orton the title to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** D+. The main events sucked but the first half or so of this was fine. The problem with the main event here is the same problem that brought down the whole Nexus angle: Barrett never won the title.

Without that, Nexus and Barrett in particular weren't really big threats but rather guys that annoyed Cena for a few months until he beat them all. Besides, the next night Miz cashed in and won the title after Cena cost Barrett another title shot. This show isn't really worth seeing but it's not horrible.

### Ratings Comparison

Daniel Bryan vs. Ted DiBiase

Original: B

Redo: C+

John Morrison vs. Sheamus

Original: B

Redo: B-

Dolph Ziggler vs. Kaval

Original: B-

Redo: C-

Team Mystério vs. Team Del Rio

Original: B-

Redo: B-

Natalya vs. Laycool

Original: D+

Redo: D

Kane vs. Edge

Original: D

Redo: F+

Nexus vs. Santino Marella/Vladimir Kozlov

Original: D

Redo: D+

Randy Orton vs. Wade Barrett

Original: D+

Redo: D

Overall Rating

Original: B

Redo: D+

I liked this one WAY better on first viewing. Then again I didn't know what was coming for Nexus back then.

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

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2011/11/19/history-of-survivor-series-count-up-2010-when-did-orton-and-barrett-get-good/>

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# On This Day: November 6, 2012 – Smackdown 2012: An Irishman, An Englishman And A Giant Walk Into A Pub

## Smackdown

Date: November 6, 2012

Location: LG Arena, Birmingham, England

Commentators: Michael Cole, John Bradshaw Layfield

This is one of those cockamamie live Smackdowns that almost no one watches because there's no reason to care about Smackdown. The main event for tonight is Del Rio vs. Orton, because we need it hammered into our heads that we wasted our time watching the three Barrett vs. Orton matches. Other than that there's nothing announced for this week. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap from last night with the Survivor Series elimination match being shifted around.

Here's Sheamus in the ring to open things up. Apparently there was an incident in a pub last night and we've got footage of it. It shows Regal, Sheamus and Big Show in a pub and a brawl breaks out. Show destroys Sheamus using various furniture. Back in the arena, Sheamus tells Cole to get out of the ring. He doesn't respect Show because of Regal getting attacked in the pub, so Sheamus wants to fight right now. Not for the title, but just to fight.

Instead Show pops up on screen and calls Sheamus an ungrateful ginger. Show held back in the pub but at Survivor Series Show is going to go at Sheamus full speed. Sheamus calls him out again but here's Barrett instead. Barrett says that Sheamus already has to face him on Main Event so don't even worry about Big Show tonight. Sweet goodness just make the tag match already. Sheamus calls him to the ring again but Barrett leaves.

Barrett is in the back post match and Booker makes the tag match. Why do they bother having these ten minute openings when that's the match announced every time? Seriously, that's good TV time being totally wasted on pandering when you know the outcome the second the names are mentioned. It's Sheamus/Regal vs. Show/Barrett if that's not clear.

#### Intercontinental Title: The Miz vs. Kofi Kingston

Kofi is defending. Now remember: Miz has lost three straight times to Kofi but he got a pin in a tag match. That pin after a Show punch was apparently enough to convince Booker to give us this match. The first thing said during this match is that Kofi has Miz's number. They're not even hiding that there's no reason to believe Miz can win here. The ropes seem extra loose here for some reason.

After a headlock by the champion he hits a monkey flip and clothesline to put Miz on the floor. A baseball slide misses for Kofi and Miz puts him on the barricade. Kofi is fine with that and walks the barricade like Jeff Hardy used to do, hitting a clothesline to take Miz down. Back in and Miz drops Kofi out of the corner and might have hurt the champ's knee. We take a break and come back with Miz getting two off something we didn't see.

Miz holds onto the ankle in a hold that really doesn't look like it hurts. During the break Miz dropped Lofi's knee on the steps and back live a dropkick to said knee gets two. Miz hooks a weird kind of standing Figure Four before going to the mat with a generic leg lock. Kofi's solution? Kick him in the face. Why overcomplicate things? Kofi fights back and hits the Boom Drop but Trouble in Paradise is countered. The Finale is countered into a series of rollups before Miz hooks a half crab. Kofi goes up again but gets crotchted. Miz's superplex attempt is blocked and Kofi hits a top rope cross body to retain at 11:29.

**Rating:** C+. We get it: Kofi can beat Miz. Now why did we need to see this for a fourth time? I've heard the plan is to move Miz to the main event again, so the solution is to have him lose FOUR TIMES? The lack of drama hurts this, as the announcers kept harping on the 3-0 that Kofi has been since this feud started. Not a bad match but it was beating a dead horse.

Post match Miz offers a handshake (you read that right) but Kofi dropkicks him to the floor. Jerk.

### Prime Time Players vs. Sin Cara/Rey Mysterio

Young vs. Cara to start with Darren taking control. Titus adds his power stuff before it's back to Young with a cravate. Titus breaks up a hot tag for a second before an enziguri from Cara lets him tag Mysterio. Rey speeds things up and rana Titus into 619 position, only to have Darren break it up. Titus grabs a charging Rey and hits the Clash of the Titus for the pin at 3:13.

**Rating:** D+. At least with this feud that keeps going the teams are alternating wins. Titus and Young have charisma to them where they're fun to watch. Mysterio and Cara are going to be popular no matter what they do, so there's nothing for them to lose here. This was short but it was competitive enough to not be terrible.

Post match Striker tries to interview the Players, but the Players interview themselves with every answer being millions of dollars. They make Striker say it too but he's not so enthusiastic. They try to get Striker to do the millions of dollars dance but he gets whistled at for having no rhythm and a bad mustache. The Players do the dance instead.

As this is being written, Linda McMahon has officially lost her race in the Senate.

We recap the Cena/AJ/Vickie stuff from last night and by recap, I mean show the whole thing. We're going to get MORE footage on Raw. Good grief  
END THIS STUPID STORY ALREADY!

Booker and Teddy talk about the tag match tonight with Teddy saying that he made a lot of tag matches too. This turns into Booker implying Teddy is sucking up to him. Oh wait Booker is just kidding.

### Big Show/Wade Barrett vs. William Regal/Sheamus

After the break, we look at the video from earlier again in case someone forgot it. BIG pop for Regal. Sheamus chases the heels to the floor before the match starts and we stall a lot. Show wants to start with

Regal but both guys tag to bring in Barrett vs. Sheamus. It's their usual power brawling stuff to start with Sheamus finally getting two off a clothesline. Off to Regal in his one piece women's swimsuit for his usual hard stuff to Barrett's chest. Sheamus hits the slingshot shoulder for two.

Show yells at the referee a lot and it's back to Regal, who gets a pop on his second tag instead of the first. Regal gets his legs swept out from under him and Big Show comes in to pound him down. The heels double team the home country guy but Regal keeps fighting back. Show shoulders him right back down and puts on a nerve hold as we take a break. Back with Barrett still working over Regal before bringing Show back in.

Show works on Regal's arm and Regal yells a lot while having an EVIL look on his face. I think JBL said that the Souvenir has been changed to the Bull Hammer now. I wouldn't be complaining about the name change. Barrett hooks a front facelock but Regal shakes him off. That and a forearm to Barrett's face are enough to make the tag to Sheamus who fires off a bunch of ax handles to drop Show. The top rope shoulder looks to set up the Brogue Kick but a Barrett distraction allows Show to spear Sheamus down. Off to Regal who fires on Show with everything he's got, but the WMD knocks him silly for the pin at about 14:00.

**Rating:** C-. This was your standard main event tag match for the hometown audience. I'm kind of glad they didn't have Regal get a win over either of these guys because it would have been silly to have a guy never on the show get a win over a top guy. If this were a house show it would have been fine but on TV Regal losing was the right call.

We recap the food fight last week with Orton and Del Rio.

Del Rio doesn't have much to say but Rosa wishes him luck.

We get the Brad Maddox segment from Raw. This one is clipped though.

Orton says he's crazy and doesn't mind being called names by Del Rio.

Alberto Del Rio vs. Randy Orton

This is falls count anywhere and anything goes, since I guess Hardcore is



on the not cool list of terms now. We come back from a break but WAIT, before the match we have to look at some SyFy show to fill in more time so we don't have a 25 minute main event. Here's Alberto, but here's ANOTHER recap before the bell can ring. If anything goes here, why doesn't Ricardo come in and help Alberto?

He hands Del Rio a chair but Orton knocks it away from Alberto. The chair gets wedged between the top and middle rope in the corner but Orton dropkicks Del Rio to the floor. Alberto sends him into the barricade and has to escape the Elevated DDT. They head into the crowd with Randy giving chase. Del Rio whips him into some big metal cases. They head into the concourse and we take a break.

Back with the brawl continuing in the back before they head into the arena again. Del Rio drapes him over a barricade and hits a knee lift for two. They fight back up the steps with Orton pounding him in the head. A cameraman goes down as we go to a flat area where Del Rio hits a superkick and a chair shot for two. We take another break and come back with Del Rio having steps placed in the ring. Orton fights back and they go to the floor by the stage where Orton backdrops Del Rio from the floor to the ramp for two.

Ricardo tries to choke Randy a bit and is immediately shrugged off. Orton throws Ricardo into the British phone booth on the stage and pounds on him a bit. It's about time some of those props up there were used. Orton hits the clotheslines back in the ring and sends Del Rio into the chair that Alberto set up earlier. Del Rio sends Orton to the apron but Orton comes back with a headbutt.

There's a table set up at ringside but Orton can't suplex Bertie through it. Instead Alberto hits an enzugri to send Randy through it VERY slowly. That gets two on the floor and Alberto grabs a mic. He says he's the new Apex Predator of the WWE and there's the armbreaker. Apparently rope breaks don't count here (yet they count in the Cell I believe) so Orton has to hit Del Rio in the head with the mic to escape. Alberto sends him shoulder first into the post and pulls the steps into position. Del Rio tries an Elevated DDT onto those steps but Randy escapes and it's the RKO onto the steps for the pin at 21:45.

**Rating:** B. For a main event on free TV, this was a solid hardcore match. Does Orton ever lose matches with rules like this one had? They beat on each other really well with Orton getting the better of it for the most part, but Alberto didn't look bad at all. Hopefully this ends the feud like traditional storytelling would dictate.

Josh's line to close the show: "Who is the Apex Predator of the WWE?" SO WHAT WAS THE POINT OF THIS FREAKING MATCH??? Orton just beat him in a brutal match but we're still not sure? And they wonder why no one is interested in their stories anymore.

**Overall Rating:** C. The main event was good but the rest of the show was only ok. The real problem here is that Smackdown adds absolutely nothing to WWE anymore. It's a lot of matches you different versions of on Raw and a big tag match that doesn't mean anything outside of England. On top of that you get long recaps from Raw and that's it. Seriously, what else is there on Smackdown? Oh there's that wacky Teddy and Booker bantering.

This show is worthless anymore and the rating is going to bomb with the election being tight at the moment. But hey, when you have a ton of bad stuff on Raw, the solution is to just air it again right? Tonight's episode did not need to be on Tuesday and it's not going to mean anything, as these feuds are the same ones you get on Raw. Why the WWE thinks people want to see them again on Tuesday/Friday is beyond me, but what do I know?

### Results

Kofi Kingston b. The Miz – Cross Body

Prime Time Players b. Sin Cara/Rey Mysterio – Clash of the Titus to Rey

Big Show/Wade Barrett b. Sheamus/William Regal – WMD to Regal

Randy Orton b. Alberto Del Rio – RKO onto steel steps

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# **On This Day: October 31, 2011 – Monday Night Raw: The Greatest Raw Of All Time**

## **Monday Night Raw**

Date: October 31, 2011

Location: Philips Arena, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

Guest Stars; The Muppets

I'm not going to lie: I'm a diehard Muppets fan. I'm going to absolutely lose it when they come out and I don't care who knows about it. As for the show, I really don't care as it's going to pale in comparison to all of the stuff with them. Henry vs. Punk is happening tonight and if Punk wins, he gets the shot at Del Rio in New York. Let's get to it.

We open with Rock on satellite from earlier today. This is his response to Cena's request for Rock to be his tag partner. Rock is pretty calm here. He says they both represent a generation and Rock (with some gray in his beard) says no. Why would he join up with the Fruit Loop Troop when Cena has been going after Rock for years?

However, the people started talking about how Rock had to do this. With that, he listened to the people and in that sense, Cena's wish is coming true and at Survivor Series they'll be a team for one night only. Also though, Rock is doing this so that Cena can witness what is waiting for him at Wrestlemania.

The match is on.

Cena vs. Miz later.

## CM Punk vs. Mark Henry

We get some exclusive footage from Vengeance, which is just the ring collapsing. They showed this on Smackdown ads last week but it's called "never before seen". So they don't even watch Raw anymore? Before the match starts here's Johnny Ace who says that if Punk can beat Henry he gets the shot at Del Rio. They probably needed to tell the live crowd that.

Punk tries to fight down the monster but gets caught in a powerslam for two. Punk sends him into the corner and hits a slingshot clothesline and the Macho Elbow for two. Alberto and Ricardo come down with Alberto giving Ricardo some specific instructions. Ricardo comes in and attacks Henry who shoves him off. That isn't a DQ so Ricardo comes in with a shoe and that's enough for the DQ at 2:35. That fits in the story so I can't complain here.

Punk beats on Ricardo a bit and throws him in for the Slam.

THE MUPPETS ARE NEXT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In two weeks, it's the return of Rock to Raw. What is this, his third return special in 9 months?

HERE THEY ARE!! It's Kermit and Miss Piggy and I can't stop smiling. They come up from behind a stage and are kind of cheered. Piggy calls herself the original Diva and that brings out Vickie and Dolph. Swagger says it ain't easy being a plate of frog legs and a ham sandwich. Kermit tries to play peacemaker and says they don't want trouble from Swagger and his mother. Piggy and Vickie get into a shoving match and here's Santino to a pop. He announces himself vs. Swagger later but Swagger closes Kermit's mouth for him. Kermit faints from a lack of air.

Santino says there will be no Dolph in Jack's corner tonight because he has to face Ryder. Kermit and Piggy say WOO WOO WOO You Know It.

Here's Kelly for no apparent reason in...some kind of costume. She has a cowboy hat and a sword. Kelly kisses Kermit and Piggy is MAD. There's a Divas costume battle royal next.

### Battle Royal

They're all in costumes and I'm not going to list off what they're all in. Eve is Robin, the Bellas rule all as Mario and Luigi. AJ is a chick from Mortal Kombat. The match of course is junk as are most battle royals. Natalya is in there as...some kind of queen I guess. Kaitlyn is Dog the Bounty Hunter and is out.

We're down to Nattie, Kelly, the Bellas and Eve. Eve beats up both Bellas and Alicia is in this still too. There go the twins after a Stinkface from Kelly. Natalya tries a cover out of instinct which Beth got on Eve for earlier. There goes Alicia as well as Kelly, but Eve dumps Nattie for the win at 2:45. She's #1 contender now.

The good chicks stand down the evil ones and the bad ones leave.

OFF TO MUPPET LABS!!! Bunsen Honeydew has a potion for Santino and sends Beaker after him. Beaky runs into Christian instead and the Canadian steals the potion, pouring it out. Sheamus pops up behind Beaker who now has his head stuck inside his shirt. Christian leaves and Sheamus fixes Beaker. Beaker talks to Sheamus....who says he can't make the family reunion, but tell Aunt Teresa he says high. Sheamus fixes Beaker's hair to look like his.

### Air Boom vs. Cody Rhodes/Wade Barrett

The bell rings after a break. Bourne vs. Rhodes starts us off

but it's off to Kofi about ten seconds in. Kofi hits kind of a spinning pendulum kick in the corner but gets taken down by Rhodes kicking the rope on a springboard. Off to Barrett (in dark gray instead of black) who hits a Bossman Slam and then a chinlock. Barrett actually throws some punches and it's back to Kofi. Kofi is beaten on for a bit until it's a hot tag to Bourne. He speeds things way up and counters Wasteland into a DDT for two. Everything breaks down and Kofi is sent to the floor. Bourne gets caught in Wasteland and we're done at 5:22.

**Rating:** C-. I don't get that at all. What is the point in having the champions lose clean again to a thrown together heel combination? The match wasn't horrible, but why did they need to lose twice like that? I don't understand at all and it's book like this that makes the tag division and champions in general look weak.

Post match Christian comes out for some reason to help beat down Kofi but Sheamus makes the save and kicks Cody's head off.

STATLER AND WALDORF ARE IN THE BALCONY!!!! Statler does the WHAT chant to annoy Waldorf.

Punk comes in to see Ace, who he makes fun of. Ace says Punk can have the title match, if he can convince Alberto to give him one.

Brodus Clay is here next week.

### Alberto Del Rio vs. Big Show

Show pounds away in the corner and Del Rio is in trouble early on. It's domination for the first few minutes with Del Rio only managing a few kicks to the legs. Show misses a charge but hits a clothesline to keep his momentum. Alberto grabs a sleeper which shifts into a chinlock. Show breaks it up and we head to the floor where Show pounds away on him. The bald one misses a charge into the barricade and Del Rio misses an

enziguri which is sold anyway.

Alberto hooks a front facelock back in the ring but Show throws him off with relative ease. Both guys are down now. For some reason, Del Rio wants to slug it out with Show as they're on their knees. Somehow Show is knocked down for two but he easily shoves out of it. Shoe sends him to the floor again and we take a break. Back with Del Rio working on the leg as this is needing to end soon. Speaking of that, Del Rio is sent to the floor and when he comes back in, he walks into the punch for the pin clean at 14:00. Another champion loses.

**Rating:** C-. The psychology was there for the most part but parts of this were way boring. Show is a guy you have to wrestle a certain way which I think Alberto did here for the most part. Not a bad match, but it needed to have about three and a half minutes cut out of it for the match to work.

Post match here's Punk while Del Rio is still out cold. He pours water on Del Rio to take him up. Punk wants a clean answer and says before he gets that answer, Punk is going to put on the Anaconda Vice. There's the hold and Del Rio agrees to the match. His mic goes out again but Punk shouts into the other one that HE SAID YES.

FOZZIE AND GONZO ARE IN THE BACK!!! They talk about how big the guys are and Gonzo says he could be a champion if he tried. Team Vickie comes up and pulls Gonzo's arms through his shirt to tie him up, saying stay out of Ziggler's match later. Gonzo is cool with it and Fozzie isn't sure what to say.

Muppet Movie promo. Oh yes.

Animal is the guest time keeper for the next match. He's as crazy looking as ever.

Jack Swagger vs. Santino Marella

Swagger beats him down quickly and does pushups on Santino's

back. The fans want Ryder. Swagger grabs the ankle lock but Santino rolls through it. Here's Beaker with the energy drink to give to Santino. He winds up spitting it into Swagger's face for the rollup pin at 2:37. Harmless fun.

### Zack Ryder vs. Dolph Ziggler

This is non-title. Basic start with a missile dropkick missing and we head to the floor. Dolph is put down and we take a break. Back with Ziggler in control, working on the neck. A neckbreaker puts Ryder down and Dolph nips up. Ryder catches him in a slingshot and they slug it out. A flapjack puts Ziggler down and here's the Broski Boot for two.

Ryder gets a double knee to Ziggler's chest in the corner for the pin but Ziggler's foot was on the rope. The bell rings but it gets waved off due to the feet. Zack chases him around the ring but Vickie interferes. A superkick puts Ryder down but he avoids the Zig Zag. The Rough Ryder pins Ziggler clean at 8:54.

**Rating:** C. Do they know if they want Ryder or Ryan to take the title off Ziggler yet? It's really unclear at times but maybe that's the point. You do have to give them credit for giving Ryder a push due to his crowd reactions lately. Not a horrible match, but they need to either have him win the title or move him on to something else.

We recap HHH/Nash from last week. It's 10:47 and we have Miz vs. Cena and Cole's Challenge to go. Doesn't Nash have a contract already? Why would he need another one? HHH will be out five weeks and Nash has been re-signed.

Cole gets on the announce table and says Ross isn't here tonight due to something regarding his bowels. Yeah yeah here we go again. Adult diaper jokes are made and the Challenge is moved to next week due to having too much on the show I guess.

Statler and Waldorf make fun of Cole but the laugh isn't quite



right.

Miss Piggy is rubbing Morrison's abs and Morrison isn't sure what to make of this. She hits on him but Morrison says he has a friend for her. It's Horny, who now has a Piggy tattoo on his ankle. He kisses her but gets karate chopped for his efforts. Kermit comes up and Horny is in love. Cody comes in and bags Kermit. SOMEBODY SHOOT THAT MAN!!!

So yeah, no Cole vs. Ross tonight despite it being pushed harder than anything most of the week.

### John Cena vs. The Miz

Statler and Waldorf make fun of Miz a bit. This has easily been the weakest part of the Muppet part of the show. We go to a break before the bell...at 10:55. The bell rings after 11pm so this is going to be short. Totally basic match so far and we're over five minutes into it. There's just nothing to say because they're flying through it for the sake of time. Miz hits some of his basic stuff until Cena fires back with a big running clothesline which gets two. Cena hits a superplex for two and we head to the floor. A guy in a Scream mask hits Cena and back in the ring...it means nothing as the STF ends this at 9:00.

**Rating:** C-. Hard to fault them here because they had to rush things and the match didn't mean much at all. Cena is always good for a quick one though, even though this would have fit better at a house show more than on Raw. For a main event though, especially for a fun show like this, I can't fault it much.

Post match the Scream guy comes in again and takes an AA. It's Truth.

**Overall Rating:** B. Ok now that's likely high because of the Muppet involvement but they're my reviews so who cares? The Muppets fall squarely under the category of "if you don't like

this at least a tiny bit, you have no soul.” This was designed to be a fun show and that’s exactly what it was. Rock/Cena was officially set up, the traditional Survivor Series match was planned and that’s all that needed to happen. The Muppets were fun and that’s all there is to this show.

### Results

Mark Henry b. CM Punk via DQ when Ricardo Rodriguez interfered  
Eve Torres won a battle royal last eliminating Natalya  
Wade Barrett/Cody Rhodes b. Air Boom – Wasteland to Bourne  
Big Show b. Alberto Del Rio – WMD  
Santino Marella b. Jack Swagger – Rollup  
Zack Ryder b. Dolph Ziggler – Rough Ryder  
John Cena b. The Miz – STF

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# Summerslam Count-Up – 2011: A Screwed Ending Isn't A Bad Thing

## Summerslam 2011

Date: August 14, 2011

Location: Staples Center, Los Angeles, California

Attendance: 17,404

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler, Booker T

This year has been all about the rise of CM Punk. In June he sat on the stage and ripped into John Cena and the WWE in general, leading up to the world title match at Money in the Bank in Chicago. Punk won the title in a masterpiece and then left the company as champion. Cena won the title from Rey Mysterio on Raw, but Punk came back with his title. Tonight it's champion vs. champion for the undisputed title. Oh and Christian vs. Orton in the blowoff to the underrated feud of the year. Let's get to it.

Adam Jones, some guitarist from Tool, plays the Star Spangled Banner. WE WANT MAN MOUNTAIN ROCK!

The opening video is about how Summerslam being where dreams are made. We shift to a shot of dominoes falling over. Punk talks about being the first domino being knocked over and starting a revolution. HHH is guest referee tonight because what would a major match be without him?

The theme song this year is Bright Lights Bigger City by Cee Lo Green. I usually don't care for him but it fits the show well.

The Miz/Alberto Del Rio/R-Truth vs. Kofi Kingston/John Morrison/Rey Mysterio

Cole IMMEDIATELY freaks out over Miz being on Summerslam. Miz keeps talking about how awesome he is until Truth cuts him off. This was when Truth was insane so he complains about things that start with the letter S, like spiders, Summerslam, Cee Loo Green and Conspiracy. Del Rio is the

Raw MITB winner. The fans are WAY into Del Rio here for some reason. Mysterio gets a title shot at Punk or Cena tomorrow on Raw. Miz and Kofi get things going and the fans are actually behind Miz as well. Kofi hits a nice monkey flip followed by a dropkick before bringing in Morrison.

A double clothesline puts Miz down and the good guys do stereo nips in a nice visual. Off to Truth who is tackled by Morrison but comes back with right hands to the face. Truth sends Morrison to the floor as the announcers talk about wigs. Thankfully Booker is there to get us back to the action by shouting BACK TO THE ACTION! Miz comes in with a kick to the head and puts on a chinlock, only to have Morrison kick him in the head to escape.

Kofi comes flying in off the hot tag and cleans house with his barrage of high flying offense including a cross body to Miz for two. The Boom Drop gets two and everything breaks down. Kofi gets two off the SOS but Del Rio breaks up the pin. Miz hits a kind of Diamond Cutter face plant for two and it's Kofi in trouble from the boots of R-Truth. Del Rio comes in with a belly to back suplex and mocks Kofi's Trouble in Paradise hand slap.

Kofi kicks him away but Miz breaks up a hot tag bid. Cole lists off Miz's high school accomplishments as Kofi flips out of a sunset flip and stomps on Miz's ribs to put him down. Hot tag brings in Rey to face Truth who does his usual backflip/splits sequence, only to have Rey kick him in the head. Del Rio breaks up a double 619 so only Truth takes the kick. Kofi dives on Miz and Rey hits a top rope splash on Truth for the pin.

**Rating:** B-. Take six guys, give them ten minutes and let them have fun. It's an idea as old as time and it's still used to this day because it still works. The good guys can fire up any crowd with their high spots and the fans were into the match as a result. As mentioned earlier, Summerslam is great at having good openers and this was no exception.

Johnny Ace wants an apology from Punk over a kick to the head on Monday. Punk gives an over the top apology and Ace walks away. Punk turns around to see Stephanie who wishes him good luck. He makes fun of Vince and she wishes both Cena and Punk good luck. "But I'm just Vince's clueless

daughter right?" Punk: "Yeah pretty much." She offers him a handshake but he knows where it's been.

We recap Sheamus vs. Mark Henry. Henry is just starting the Hall of Pain run and has been destroying everyone in sight and breaking a lot of limbs. He stood tall in the ring until Sheamus came out and said three simple words: I'll fight him. It turned Sheamus face and made him very popular due to the simple idea of standing up to a bully. THIS is how you book Sheamus: have him in there against some monster and taking a good fight to him, not slumming it with Damien Sandow and winning each match with ease.

### Mark Henry vs. Sheamus

Henry takes him down with a clothesline to start but Sheamus comes right back with right hands. The pale one pounds away and actually knocks Henry down to his knees, only to be thrown to the floor. Henry EASILY throws Sheamus through the ropes and hits a splash for two. A running crotch attack crushes Sheamus' neck but he's in the ropes before the count starts.

A backbreaker puts Sheamus down and it's off to an Argentinean backbreaker to complete the set. Sheamus powers out, only to be sent chest first into the corner. Henry misses a Vader Bomb though and Sheamus has a breather. A series of ax handles to the chest and head put Henry down followed by the forearms in the ropes. They clothesline each other down and we get a breather.

Back up and Mark runs into a boot in the corner, allowing Sheamus to go up for the top rope shoulder, good for two. The Brogue Kick misses though and a clothesline puts Sheamus down. Sheamus slips out of the World's Strongest Slam and there's the Brogue Kick to knock Henry to the outside. Sheamus follows him to the floor but Henry drives him into the post and through the barricade in a great crash, allowing Mark to beat the count for a countout win.

**Rating:** C+. This was another simple formula: take two big power brawlers and let them beat the tar out of each other for nearly the minutes. It's also a smart ending as Sheamus gets to stay strong but Henry gets another

win. Sheamus would get a countout win I believe at the next PPV so it evened out. Good, fun brawl here.

World Heavyweight Champion Christian says his match with Orton will be an epic summer blockbuster. He'll be like Harry Potter, making magic at every turn. Orton will be like Cowboys and Aliens: a flashy flop. That movie was good though.

Trailer for Killer Elite which is probably sponsoring the show or something.

Here's Cee Lo Green for the mini concert. He looks like he's in big sparkly pajamas but the song isn't bad so I'm not complaining much. The fans aren't moving at all for this but the vocals are pretty bad so I can barely hear a word he's saying. Now he throws in his bigger hit Forget You, complete with Divas in red dancing behind him.

Now here's a Slim Jim ad. I'm sure the fans are LOVING this stuff.

Now a 7-11 commercial. My goodness get to something else.

#### Divas Title: Kelly Kelly vs. Beth Phoenix

I could go for a Slurpee. Back to 7-11 it is! Kelly is defending. Beth and Natalya are the Divas of Doom here and don't like the Barbies like Eve and Kelly. Kelly and those AWESOME little shorts of hers go after Beth and we get the screaming headscissors. Beth is knocked off the apron and Kelly dives off the middle rope to knock her to the floor. Back in and Kelly flips out of the corner and Beth clotheslines her down.

Kelly gets dropped throat first on the top rope for two Eve plays cheerleader. This is a lot of standing around with Beth glaring down at Kelly before hitting a running Umaga shot in the corner. We hit the chinlock followed by the second over the shoulder backbreaker of the night. Kelly finally slips out and hits a quick neckbreaker to put both of them down.

Beth sends her into the Tree of Woe for no follow up before getting two off a side slam. Kelly gets in a knee to the face and goes nuts on Beth, only to have the handspring elbow countered. The Glam Slam is countered

into a victory roll for the pin, just like every time Kelly beat Phoenix.

**Rating:** D+. All things considered, this was something resembling a miracle. The match was nothing of note but Kelly actually didn't embarrass herself out there. She got WAY better over the years, but at the end of the day she was out there because of how good she looked in those tiny shorts. It also says a lot that less than two years later only Natalya is left from this match.

Stephanie leaves Cena's locker room for some reason.

Truth and...Jimmy Hart of all people talk about a c-o-n-spiarcy. Jimmy offers to manage him and Truth seems interested before he realizes that Hart is...LITTLE JIMMY! Truth looks over to see Ron Artest (Metta World Peace) and his daughter in a worthless cameo.

BUY TWIX!

#### Wade Barrett vs. Daniel Bryan

I like Barret's End of Days theme a lot better than the God Save the Queen one now. This is MITB fallout as Bryan knocked Barrett off to win the case. Bryan has some slow music which isn't all that bad, but soon he would go to Flight of the Valkyries which works far better for him. Bryan is rocking the white trunks with red trim here which are pretty awesome. Feeling out process to start with Barrett punching Bryan down to stop the wrestling part of the match.

Daniel takes it to the mat and spins out of a wristlock before dropkicking Wade down. Cole says Barrett is a submission master as Bryan does the AJ Styles drop down into a dropkick, right down to the same overblown drop down. Back up and Bryan hooks a dragon screw leg whip and a running dropkick in the corner for two. Another kick to the chest gets two and Bryan backflips over Barrett, only to charge into the Winds of Change for two. A slingshot belly to back backbreaker gets two for Wade and we hit a reverse chinlock.

Back up and Bryan hits a running clothesline but Wade comes back with a big running forearm to the face. Wade puts Bryan in the ropes and kicks

him out to the floor before hooking a chinlock. The hold doesn't last long again but Bryan ducks a boot and crotches Barrett on the top. A dropkick puts him on the floor and there's the flying knee off the apron. Back in again and the missile dropkick gets a close two for the American.

Bryan escapes a pumphandle slam and fires off more kicks to the chest for two. Wade ducks a clothesline and hits a big boot to the face for two but Wasteland is countered into the guillotine choke. Barrett goes down and there's the LeBell Lock but Wade gets into the ropes for the break. Daniel loads up a superplex but Barrett crotches him on the top rope. A middle rope clothesline takes Bryan off the ropes and Wasteland is good for the 100% clean pin.

**Rating:** B+. I REALLY liked this for one reason: it was a good wrestling match. It's a basic story of one guy wanting revenge for a loss in a big match, it had a good story in the ring with a striker against a technical guy and the action was good. Wade Barrett is a guy who can go in the ring but he's the ultimate jobber to the stars and I have no idea why when he can do this.

We recap Randy Orton vs. Christian. Christian won the title at Extreme Rules but Orton came over to Smackdown to replace Edge as the top guy. Orton won the title on his first night on the show, ending Christian's title reign in less than a week. Christian wanted one more match, turning heel in the process.

Orton beat him again, but Christian some how got one more match and if Orton got disqualified, he would lose the title. For once, that actually worked and Christian won the title. Tonight, it's the final match with no holds barred. These matches kept getting better and better and if Punk vs. Cena hadn't happened it would have run away with feud of the year.

#### Smackdown World Title: Christian vs. Randy Orton

Before the match, Christian brings out Edge to be in his corner to a HUGE ovation. After a full entrance, Edge says that he'll never be cleared to wrestle again. When he first left, that made him happy because he was able to pass the torch to Christian. Edge didn't think it was fair that Christian had to defend the title five days after a ladder match and



Christian complained too.

Then he complained more and more and more and more. Then he wanted rematch after rematch and FINALLY he won the title back....but he did it by disqualification. Yeah Edge did some bad things, but he did it with style. He didn't hide behind lawyers and clipboards. Somewhere along the line Christian became a parody of himself. Edge didn't know Christian would ever be like this, and that's not good. Edge drops the mic, walks out, Christian freaks, and here's Randy.

Remember this is no holds barred. Orton takes him into the corner and stomps him down before hitting a quick clothesline. Christian rakes the eyes and gets a quick one count off a middle rope elbow to the face. A backdrop puts Christian down and Randy stomps away but the champion chokes away on the ropes. Orton loads up the Elevated DDT but gets backdropped to the floor. Really back and forth so far.

Orton sends him head first into the barricade and loads up the announce table. The RK0 is blocked and Christian grabs the belt before sprinting into the crowd. Randy catches up with him and stomps Christian down onto the concrete before heading back to ringside. Back in and Orton rains down right hands in the corner. Christian avoids a charge and sends Orton's famously bad shoulder into the post to take over. The champion brings in a kendo stick to choke away before getting two off a back elbow.

Christian busts out a spinebuster for two and goes to the middle rope, only to be dropkicked out of the air. The powerslam puts Christian down again and now Randy gets the kendo stick. Instead of swinging though he catches Christian's dropkick into a jackknife cover for two followed by the Thesz Press. Christian escapes the Elevated DDT into a Killswitch attempt but Orton counters into the backbreaker for two. The idea of this feud was that they knew each other so well and they would add another move to the string of counters every match. It was awesome.

Orton can't hit the Punt but has to send Christian face first into the post to avoid getting crotched against the steel. Randy pulls out a pair of tables and slides one into the ring, only to have Christian drive him

into the apron. Christian sets up the other table on the floor and they head inside where Orton superplexes him onto (not through as the table hasn't been set up yet) the table for two. The table is set up in the corner but Christian counters the whip into the reverse DDT for no cover. Instead he loads up the spear but Orton jumps over and tries the RKO, only to be sent over the top and out to the floor.

Christian goes after him but is sent knees first into the steps to put him down again. Orton takes forever to set up the steps but gets sent face first into the steel again. Christian loads up the other announce table and blasts Orton in the head with the announce table. The champion tries an RKO through the table but gets caught in the real thing to destroy the table instead. Back in and Christian hits a quick Killswitch for two and Christian is furious.

The champion brings in a pair of chairs for the Conchairto but spits on Orton, causing Randy to move away. Now it's Randy with the chair, cracking it over Christian's back and knocking him off the apron through the table. Orton throws in some steps and trashcans before catching a charging Christian in a powerslam through the table in the corner.

Some HARD kendo stick shots to the back have Christian in even more trouble and the Elevated DDT crushes a trashcan. Christian tries one more rush but his sunset flip out of the corner is countered into the RKO (same move that gave Orton the title in the first place) onto the steps for the pin and the title.

**Rating:** A-. Much like the Undertaker vs. Edge Cell match a few years earlier, this was the perfect way to blow off a feud with Orton being the definitive winner. This feud did a great job of building upon itself with the extended sequences carrying over from match to match and building a deep psychology. Great match here and the whole feud is worth checking out.

Video on Axxess.

We recap Punk vs. Cena. As mentioned, Punk left with the title at Money in the Bank so there was a tournament held to crown a new champion. Mystério won but lost the title to Cena the same night. Punk came out and

held up his own belt, meaning we had two champions. This all happened in two weeks when it could have went on for months. The entire match is summed up with one idea: Cena doesn't know if he can beat Punk. HHH is the new boss and is the guest referee tonight for no reason anyone not named HHH can figure out.

#### Raw World Title: John Cena vs. CM Punk

Punk has more or less been turned face by the will of the crowd alone. Feeling out process to start with Punk grabbing a headlock and SHOUTING spots into Cena's ear. Cena easily takes him down to the mat and slaps on a headlock. That gets him nowhere so Punk gets up and we have a quick staredown. Cena grabs a single leg and slaps on an armbar followed by a chinlock. Back up and Punk hits a quick leg lariat before hooking a chinlock of his own with a bodyscissors.

Cena powers out and hooks a quick fisherman's suplex before hooking another chinlock. The fans chant Fruity Pebbles and WE WANT ICE CREAM as Punk gets up a quick big boot to the jaw. HHH hasn't been a factor so far. A few knees to the ribs and a headbutt to the shoulder set up another bodyscissors from Punk as we're barely in second gear nearly eight minutes into the match. Cena escapes again and they fight over a suplex off the apron. Neither guy can go anywhere so Punk kicks Cena in the head to knock him outside.

Back in again and Punk cranks on a neck lock but Cena stands up and suplexes out of it. Cena tries to speed things up but the shoulder block is caught by a knee to the head for two. The running knee in the corner misses and now Cena can initiate the finishing sequence, only to have Punk hit a knee to break up the Shuffle. CM tries a kick but gets caught in the STF, only to get to the ropes and counter the ProtoBomb into a downward spiral and a Koji Clutch.

Cena rolls out and puts on the STF but Punk slips in an arm to block most of the pressure before countering into the Anaconda Vice. Cena rolls out of THAT and tries the STF again but Punk crawls out before it goes on full. AWESOME sequence there as the gear has shifted hard. Punk backdrops him to the floor and hits the suicide dive but he bumps his own head in

the process. HHH starts counting and gets to nine before going to the floor and throwing both guys back inside.

They slug it out back in the ring but Cena can't hit the AA. Instead he busts out a GREAT dropkick and hits the Shuffle. The AA is countered again into a sunset flip for two followed by the high kick for two more. Cena escapes the GTS and hits a corner splash (?!?) and a sitout powerslam (that's more like it) for two. The top rope Fameasser doesn't get to launch as Punk hits the running knee to the head and the bulldog off the top for two.

Punk loads up another springboard but gets caught in the STF to put him in real trouble. He finally gets to the rope and pops up for a GTS attempt, only to be countered into the AA for a close two. The top rope Fameasser misses again and Punk grabs a quick GTS for two more. HHH still hasn't been a major factor other than throwing both guys in. The Macho Elbow gets two and Cena goes into straight brawling mode but gets caught by another knee to the chin. GTS #2 connects and the three goes down but Cena's foot was on the ropes before two.

**Rating:** B+. The match is good with that sequence in the middle being a big highlight but there's one major problem for this match: it's the sequel to Money in the Bank. That's doomed so many matches over the years and while it didn't sink this one, it certainly slowed it down a lot. Still though, good stuff here and definitely worthy of a major PPV main event.

Punk takes a victory lap around the ring but won't shake HHH's hand. The Game doesn't seem too mad about it and raises Punk's hand as the winner. HHH leaves, CM Punk poses, and KEVIN NASH comes in through the crowd and lays out Punk with a Jackknife. Cue Alberto Del Rio, briefcase in hand.

Raw World Title: Alberto Del Rio vs. CM Punk

Kick to the head, Del Rio wins the title to end the show. This would turn into one of the stupidest and most ridiculous stories ever with Nash showing a text asking him to lay out Punk but it turned out he sent it to himself for one more moment in the limelight after a big fan reaction at the Royal Rumble. The end result of all this: HHH beating Nash and Punk.

**Overall Rating:** A. This is a GREAT show with some awesome matches and some great drama at the end. Now to be fair no one knew what the drama would lead to, but it blew my mind when I watched it at first. The rest of the show is awesome though with the worst match being the Divas. If the biggest torture I have to go through all night is looking at Kelly in those shorts and Eve looking gorgeous all dressed up, so be it. Great show here and well worth seeing.

### Ratings Comparison

Kofi Kingston/John Morrison/Rey Mysterio vs. Alberto Del Rio/The Miz/R-Truth

Original: B-

Redo: B-

Sheamus vs. Mark Henry

Original: C

Redo: C+

Beth Phoenix vs. Kelly Kelly

Original: C+

Redo: D+

Wade Barrett vs. Daniel Bryan

Original: B

Redo: B+

Randy Orton vs. Christian

Original: B+

Redo: A-

CM Punk vs. John Cena

Original: A+

Redo: B+

CM Punk vs. Alberto Del Rio

Original: N/A

Redo: N/A

Overall Rating

Original: A+

Redo: A

Ok the main event isn't THAT good. I think we're firmly at the point where my ratings are about the same for most matches.

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

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2011/08/14/summerslam-2011-that-was-i-need-a-cigarette/>

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up my new book of Complete 2001 Monday Night Raw Reviews at Amazon for just \$4 at:

And check out my Amazon author page with wrestling book as low as \$4 at:

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## On This Day: June 7, 2010 –

# Monday Night Raw: The Winds Of Nexus

## Monday Night Raw

Date: June 7, 2010

Location: American Airlines Arena, Miami, Florida

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

Guest Hosts: Cast of A-Team

It's Viewer's Choice tonight so we get three hours and both brands. That's always fun if nothing else and I have begged for this to be a TV special instead of a PPV like Taboo Tuesday or Cyber Sunday for the better part of ever so I'm happy here. Let's get to it.

We open with Bret and Teddy Long in the ring, talking about tonight's show. Bret wants to talk about Orton. Of course that means cue Orton with his arm in a sling. He wants Edge tonight and if he doesn't get him he'll go find him. So if he doesn't get him he'll go get him? Yeah...that makes sense. Edge of course comes out and that's the Viewer's Choice main event. Oh in case I forgot, tonight is Viewer's Choice. The options are a debate, a sit up contest, or an arm behind the back match.

Now it's time to have our first actual vote which is for Jericho vs. Show. The options are Over the Rope Challenge, Submission Match and Body Slam Challenge. It's one of those shows I guess.

Striker has the results. He's actually good in a roll like this.

Over the Rope Challenge: 11%

Submission Match: 41%

Body Slam Challenge: 48%

Big Show vs. Chris Jericho

To be fair, there are at least two options that were possible there so that's better than nothing. Show pulls Jericho up from the floor to the ring BY THE HAIR. FREAKING OW MAN. Jericho works on the arm for no apparent reason. He then tries a cross body and Show ends it easily. He throws on the Colossal Clutch and Jericho taps. And of course he throws him over the top too. That's kind of funny I guess.

**Rating:** D. This wasn't much of a match at all, but it did the job. Wait no it really didn't as nothing at all was accomplished here. Jericho is feuding with Truth...kind of, and Show is going for the world title. What was the point here? Yeah this was actually bad.

Up next the Hart Dynasty vs. YOUR PICK. It's either the Usos, the Dudebusters or Khali and Horny. That...could actually go a few ways.

Usos: 36%

Dudebusters: 10%

Great Khali/Hornswoggle: 54%

NO FREAKING WAY this is legit. NO WAY.

Hart Dynasty vs. Great Khali/Hornswoggle

I'm fairly sure this is non-title. Khali and Kidd start us off as for one of the first times, Natalya looks great to me. Tadpole Splash misses thank goodness. Horny gets pinned in like 8 seconds. Oh this was stupid. The Usos run out and get beaten up for the first time. The Harts needed that one.

**Rating:** N/A. This was barely a match at all. The good thing to come out of this though is that the Harts now look actually credible against the Usos which is the most important part of this I think. If nothing else they look like they would have a fighting chance in a match against them which I'd bet happens at the PPV. Yeah I know that's a fairly safe bet but you make a ton of money that way in the long run.



Lawler says something is wrong and leaves. Ok then.

We recap the Taker is dead thing which is at least elevating Kane for once.

The guest hosts come out and there's just one of them. He says there's a great show coming. Ok then.

Lawler is in the back and the other two guest hosts in fake mustaches are in character and say that Lawler wanted to hire them. SOMEONE STOLE HIS CROWN! They leave and run into the Bellas who they refuse to break character for. This is actually working for me.

### Santino Marella vs. Vladimir Kozlov

The choices are Match, Arm Wrestling or Dance-Off. Hmm I wonder what's going to win.

Match: 9%

Arm Wrestling: 7%

Dance-Off: 84%

Oh did you expect it to be anything else? Santino says he used to be a Backstreet Boy. Santino's isn't that funny or special. Kozlov does something similar to a robot. He's actually not terrible. Ok this is sort of funny. Ok it's VERY funny. They dance a bit afterwards and Santino gets slammed. Find a video of Kozlov dancing. It had me dying of laughter.

The Divas are in the back and they're going to have a match next. The choices are 6 on 6 tag, Battle Royal or Champion vs. Champion. Wow those are actual wrestling matches.

Lawler is back.

6 on 6 Tag: 11%

Battle Royal: 73%

Champion vs. Champion: 16%

## Divas Battle Royal

Again, I can live with this. Also it's only 8:56 so we should step it up a bit soon enough. There isn't much you can say here. Ah apparently going through the ropes counts too. Rosa is out. Tiffany is put out by Laycool. The same goes for Kelly. Gail hits a SWEET hurricanrana as nothing of note is going on. Gail and Alicia who have a match on Superstars are both out as are the Bellas. Laycool vs. Eve and Maryse are the final four. Make that Maryse, Eve and Jillian who I didn't notice at all. Eve is out which is surprising. Jillian says they can be co-winners but Maryse throws her out. Boring but the girls looked good so there we are.

**Rating:** C-. Battle royals are hard to rate but this worked fine for what it was. It was about having hot women in small outfits fighting each other. In that sense it was a success. This is also a good idea as the less talented wrestlers are allowed to not have to actually, you know, wrestle. Maryse winning was a nice surprise also.

Sheamus and Kane have a staredown in the back. I'd like to watch that. He accuses Sheamus with some bad acting. Kane says he hopes to see him real soon.

WHO SHOULD SHEAMUS FACE? Kane, Mark Henry or Evan Bourne. HMM! I wonder who it'll be!!!

Kane: 88%

Mark Henry: 3%

Evan Bourne: 9%

## Sheamus vs. Kane

Yeah this works. I love big men fighting. Sheamus beats him up for awhile. We take a break. Sheamus is still beating him up. Kane starts beating him up for awhile. Chokeslam is blocked twice, Sheamus takes over again. Seriously that's all that's happened and it's taken nearly 8 minutes. Chokeslam hits but

Sheamus rolls to the floor and he just takes the count out. Eh that makes sense I guess and Kane looked very strong here.

**Rating:** C-. Very smart booking here as both guys get to look strong as well as giving us a decent match. Again it's not particularly good but it did the right thing. Sheamus needs to stay strong going into the PPV and Kane needs to look strong going into the big angle he's in. If he plays his cards right he could get to job to the world champion out of this which is a step up for him.

Edge vs. Orton in the behind the back thing.

Cena vs. Swagger, Mysterio or Punk later. That actually could be any of them.

We look at Wade Barrett who is indeed the best guy for that show. And here's Wade Barrett. He's asked what it's like to win NXT. He says you wouldn't ask a genius about passing a grade school exam. GREAT LINE. He says in one week he's going to do something that's never been accomplished before.

DiBiase and Virgil are in the back. I never get over saying that. The A-Team guys are here and accuse DiBiase of taking the crown. IRS IS HERE, WEARING THE CROWN! Apparently the crown was taken for not paying back taxes. There's a gas attack and the heels wear masks while the faces are out cold. Ok then.

Miz and Truth have a tag match next and you get to pick their partners. Here are the options.

R-Truth: Christian, MVP, John Morrison

Miz: Zach Ryder, Dolph Ziggler, William Regal

R-Truth/??? Vs. The Miz/???

A REALLY annoying fan keeps chanting MVP for Truth's partner.

Christian: 29%

MVP: 17%

John Morrison: 54%

That's rather telling, and THANK YOU for not being MVP.

Dolph Ziggler: 38%

William Regal: 17%

Zach Ryder: 45%

Well he has the best music I guess. Weird team if nothing else. Morrison is back as he hits all of his big kicks, but in a rather short match, Miz hits the Skull Crushing Finale (GREAT one too as Morrison's head just bounced off the mat) on Morrison to get the pin. He signals that he wants the belt back. Liking the young four guys being out there.

**Rating:** D+. Not bad here but it was really too short to get anything going. Is there a point to bringing Morrison back to job him out though? I really fail to see the point to that but if nothing else it fuels the Miz/Truth thing which I guess is just starting now. I still don't get the Morrison losing thing though.

Bret and Edge talk for a bit in the back and Kane accuses Bret of attacking Taker. Interesting little thing: Taker has NEVER beaten Bret clean.

### Edge vs. Randy Orton

Remember that Edge will have an arm behind his back. Edge's left arm is behind his back but Orton's right arm is in a sling. Ok then. After about a minute Edge pulls the rope off and stomps on Orton's arm. This gets the DQ. He goes for a spear but Orton gets a kick up to block it. Edge gets a chair and hits Orton in the arm with it.

**Rating:** N/A. This was an angle rather than a match but it opens a very interesting door as it's now possible that Orton is out of the PPV match. This was a great idea and it came off

rather well.

Cena and Bourne are talking in the back. Savannah comes up and asks Cena how he feels about the main event tonight. He says his life has been hectic and tonight the people make the pick and it's their opinions that matter the most. The crowd is rather pro-Cena to say the least.

The A-Team guy wakes up...and MEAN FREAKING GENE IS WITH HIM! Gene makes fun of Josh Matthews who is right behind him.

Drew McIntyre vs. ???

The options are:

Yoshi Tatsu: 4%

Goldust: 8%

Mystery Opponent (does Matt Hardy poses): 88%

And it's....actually Matt Hardy???? WOW. Drew says the match isn't happening because of the suspension. Teddy comes out and says that he's suspended from Smackdown, not Raw. Matt punches the tar out of him and never lets up. I like this angle actually. You can't beat an old fashioned grudge match. Drew misses a charge and hits the post which POPS. Twist of Fate ends this clean in like 90 seconds. Post match he slams Drew's head into the mat and keeps beating him down. Matt pulls some of his hair out. This was impressive for Hardy.

**Rating:** D. Uh...what was that? We build Drew vs. Matt up for weeks and him inside of 3 minutes clean? What was the point of that? Wasn't Drew supposed to be getting a mammoth push and now he's jobbing to Hardy in what could have been a decent PPV match? It fits but it's just rather odd.

BA Baracus (Rampage Jackson) is in the back tied up and Virgil, IRS and DiBiase say they're taking him to the ring. I like this actually.

Back from break and we're in the ring. DiBiase says that he

has a price, including him. Apparently someone wants BA...and it's.....RODDY PIPER??? What the heck? HUGE Roddy chant. Oh that's right Piper feuded with Mr. T. WAY back in the day. Piper has a hat on for no apparent reason. He's ticked off because he doesn't want more hype over the A-Team again. He says it's time for a fight and here's the other A-Team guy along with Mean Gene and Dusty Rhodes on a golf cart.

Jackson breaks the handcuffs and it's on! Jackson can actually fight of course so this is a massive beatdown. Dusty thinks he's Murdoch from A-Team and plugs the movie.....IF YOU WILL. This worked in the weirdest way you can possibly imagine, but it did in fact work. Oh and Lawler gets the crown back.

Next week's host is the star of Royal Pains which Big Show is guest starring on soon. See what happens when you have RELEVANT hosts?

Josh is with the three options for Cena's opponent. Rey says to be the top dog, you have to go after the top dog. Yeah that's not at all like To be the man you've gotta beat the man. Swagger says it should be champion vs. champion. Punk just makes fun of Matthews and asks why Cena should get to fight Punk.

Here's Cena and it's only twenty minutes until eleven. That's a good sign of a long match.

Jack Swagger: 23%

Rey Mysterio: 32%

CM Punk: 45%

### John Cena vs. CM Punk

As a Punk fan, this works. Immediately Cena goes for the mask as you would expect. Punk is wearing camo tights. That's just odd. The fans pop for Cena like a cherry but then chant you can't wrestle. Odd crowd. Gallows cheats to get us to even and we go to a break. We come back and Cena starts taking over and

goes for the 5 Knuckle Shuffle....and here's Wade Barrett. Then all 7 other rookies show up and beat the tar out of the SES. Then they all get in the ring....and beat up Cena. What is going on here. AND THEY THEY BEAT UP STRIKER! AND LAWLER! Cole, of course, runs.

This is actually really cool. They turn over the announce tables and are all wreaking havoc. Security gets beaten up and they punch the announcer. They're tearing the mat off the ring. Justin Roberts is getting choked out by Bryan. They're destroying the arena. The ropes are torn up. Now they're back to Cena. The ropes are literally falling apart, you can see the wood that is under the ring mat and they're all clotheslining Cena.

Punk even tries to fight them and he gets beaten down. This is AWESOME by the way. Danielson yells at Cena that he's better than Cena and spits in his face. Barrett hits his finisher on Cena, Gabriel hits the 450 on him. They're all heel here in case you didn't get the idea. They leave with Punk and Gallows out cold on the floor. This was original NWO level of insanity and one of the coolest endings to a Raw I've seen in forever. Also with there being 8 of them, that's one heck of a force to fight off. Cena goes out on a stretcher but does the thumbs up as he leaves.

**Rating:** A+. The match was decent, but the angle was absolutely incredible. If nothing else it lasted longer than the Slammys match they had where Punk lost in like 2 minutes. I'm still in awe over the NXT thing which is saying a lot as it's 7am at this point.

**Overall Rating:** B+. I've heard a lot of negative things about this show since it aired, but this was a very successful show to me. Angles were advanced, feuds were partially ended and the ending blew my mind. I've been watching Raw since it debuted and this is easily one of the best endings I've ever seen. NO ONE would have called this and it came off perfectly.

Good show overall and the ending was amazing beyond belief.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up my new book on the History of Starrcade from Amazon for just \$4 at:

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## The WWE Writers Are Really Lazy

Here's the latest proof: – On the May 17th edition of WWE Main Event, Sin Cara made his in ring return and defeated IC Champion Wade Barrett in a non-title match. Sin Cara was then supposed to challenge for the title on the May 24th edition of WWE Main Event, but the match never happened. With WWE looking to run Barrett vs. Miz vs. Fandango, it appears that Sin Cara has simply been left out of the mix.

So to clarify, they have seven hours a week of television to fill but they can't fit in a seven minute Barrett victory over Sin Cara to close this story out? It's THAT complicated for them to work on two things at once, one of which is a one off match?

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# **Wrestlemania 29 Preview: Pre-Show – Intercontinental Title: The Miz vs. Wade Barrett**

What better place to start a preview than with the match that starts before the actual show? I'm still not entirely sure what these guys are fighting over. I'd assume it was the movies they were in, but it's not like that's been mentioned for two weeks or so. Barrett has been champion for months now and at times I forget he even has the belt since he loses so many non-title matches, including one to Miz a few weeks ago on Raw. The idea is supposed to be that Miz is some kind of Figure Four master or whatever, even though he's used the move for like three months and has only been decent at it for about two of those, so look for a lot of Figure Four attempts.

There's a reason this match is going to be on the pre-show. Not many people are interested in seeing it, it's not going to be much in terms of quality, the title means next to nothing, we saw this match two weeks ago, and Barrett is a lame champion. I'll go with Miz to win here to give the fans something to "care" about, even though not many people care about him at all.

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## **Smackdown – July 15, 2011 –**

# More Solid Stuff, As Always

## Smackdown

Date: July 15, 2011

Location: Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville, Connecticut

Commentators: Michael Cole, Booker T, Josh Matthews

It's the final show before Money in the Bank and everything is pretty much set in stone at this point. The MITB match itself is a pretty open field but I'd look for Sheamus, Barrett or Rhodes to win it (what a limb I'm going out on with those picks). Probably just some last minute pushes for the show here as expected. Let's get to it.

Do you know your enemy? Mine is a bad internet connection. And popcorn costing \$7 at a theater.

Orton vs. Kane tonight.

DiBiase gets a shot at Jackson too.

Josh is in the ring and brings out the dude that hears voices in his head. Orton says he won't get disqualified and that he thinks this is a cheap attempt by Christian to try to steal the title. Christian pops up on screen and says that clause was his lawyers' idea. He has a gift for Orton which is a portrait of Christian standing over Orton with the title. Orton says that isn't going to work to make him mad.

Christian starts talking about Orton's family, namely Bob Orton Jr., who was only a glorified sidekick. His dad is in the Hall of Fame in the wing with guys like Drew Carey and the other cheap jokes. He's in the HOF to keep Randy happy. Orton says come say that to his face, which Christian says he'll do once he wins the title on Sunday. He calls Orton pathetic and Orton calls Christian a pathetic excuse for a man and a superstar. After Sunday, Christian will be exposed as a

flash in the pan that needed Edge to help him win the title for five days. Simple segment but the emotion was there.

Video on Show vs. Henry which I think is the same one from Raw. They face off tonight. Not a match, just a face off.

### Intercontinental Title: Ezekiel Jackson vs. Ted DiBiase

New ring announcer tonight who looks a bit better in a blue dress than Chimmel does. DiBiase hits Jackson and that doesn't go well for him. Out to the floor as Booker rambles about his Fave Five as is his custom. Jackson is rammed into the post which gets two in the ring. Cody is watching and the referee, the former Nunzio, is really loud here.

DiBiase takes over and throws on a chinlock. The following clothesline is countered by Jackson. How has no one else ever countered that? Apparently Ted has blown all of his money and it's implied that it was on Maryse. Here come the slams but DiBiase counters into a Dream Street attempt but Jackson shrugs it off and slams Ted again. Rack doesn't work but the second attempt does with the submission coming at 3:45.

**Rating:** C. See, this is what Jackson needs more of: wins where he gets in some trouble but eventually uses the power game to make his comeback and set up his finishing stuff. Nothing fancy here and it worked just fine. Also helps when he actually, you know, wins his matches instead of losing them.

Most of the MITB people are in matches later.

Ted is in the back and Cody says he'll bag him if Ted loses again.

### Daniel Bryan vs. Cody Rhodes

We get a quick recap video of this feud during the introductions. It's almost shot like its from the mind of a crazy person so it looks really cool. Ok make that a long one. Bryan hammers him into the corner to start us off and he escapes an Alabama Slam attempt. LeBell Lock doesn't work and Cole puts a bag on and imitates Booker. Ok that was kind of funny.

Rhodes takes over for a bit but Bryan sends him to the floor and takes over with a dive. We take a break and come back in the ring with Cody in control. Cody throws on a half crab which doesn't last long. Like you can put a submission on Bryan. Cody works over the ribs as the fans keep coming in and out of this one. Booker gets asked about being in a MITB match and somehow he starts talking about Daniel Bryan. Apparently it's too brutal to talk about. I give up.

Anyway it's back to the half crab as the announcers totally ignore the match other than Josh when he can get a word in edgewise. Bryan fires back with some forearms and a leg lariat/running kick for two. Some light Cody chants start up. Not we're talking about Booker being a drum major. Alabama Slam gets two and the commentary is really starting to get old. Talk about MITB or ANYTHING of importance, but drop the bickering.

Cody tries Cross Rhodes but Bryan climbs the ropes to get behind Cody. Bryan gets put on the top but kicks Cody away and manages to grab the LeBell Lock while on the ropes. That gets broken up of course so Bryan settles for the missile dropkick for a long two. Running dropkick in the corner puts Cody down again. They both go up and Bryan gets crotched badly. That positioning allows the Beautiful Disaster to end this at 7:29 shown of 10:59.

**Rating:** B. I liked this one a lot actually. Cody can be really good when he gets some time and Bryan of course is capable of having a good match with anyone. This has been a

pretty solid mini feud and I'd like to see it get a title involved. Good stuff here and a rather fun TV match indeed.

Teddy is on the phone talking about getting protection or something. A referee comes in and Teddy tells him that if there's any physicality in the Big Show/Mark Henry showdown, their PPV match is off. The referee leaves and Teddy talks about gambling a lot. This seems to be a running theme with him. Kane comes in to thank Teddy for giving him a match with Orton as he requested. Kane isn't happy because he's starting to feel human instead of like a monster. Teddy says if it makes him feel any better, he's scaring Teddy right now. Kane says if Teddy was really scared, Teddy wouldn't be able to tell him.

Jinder and Khali are in a photo shoot and Jinder isn't happy with the photographer paying attention to Khali. They both yell at him and that's about it.

Christian is looking at Orton's bus and there's spray paint on the side talking about Christian being the uncrowned champion. He says he'll find out who did this.

### Sheamus vs. Sin Cara

This should be interesting. Wade Barrett is on commentary here. The match starts after a break. Cara takes over to start with his high flying stuff. Barrett admits that the Corre was a disaster. Sheamus can't get anything going as Cara gets an armdrag out of the corner. And let's talk about the Fave Five because it's been a full 4 minutes since we did. Apparently Booker sees some of himself in Sheamus. Uh...ok?

We talk about the drum major stuff as it's kind of interesting to see how long they can go without actually talking about the match. Barrett is talking about how he's going to win as

Sheamus gets a running knee lift while Cara is draped in the ropes. Off to a cravate as we're probably two minutes without talking about the match now. Now let's look at Booker and Barrett talking because the match isn't important I guess.

Josh finally mentions Cara being grounded here, which apparently has NEVER happened to him before. Honestly, is there something in the water in the announcers' water cooler? Cara sends him to the floor and Sheamus may have hurt his knee. Back in Sheamus catches Cara in a dive and hits a fallaway slam for no cover. He loads up the High Cross but Cara counters into a rana for the surprise pin at 6:00.

**Rating:** C+. Not a great match but by far and away Cara's biggest win to date in WWE. I'm rather surprised that they would have Sheamus lose here but it looked like a fluke win which is probably the best way to have it happen. It doesn't really hurt Sheamus as he had Cara beaten but took too much time to end him, which is good for both guys.

Barrett takes Sheamus down post match and hits Wasteland. He looks weird in a collared shirt and slacks.

Christian is in the casino with a wallet. Naturally it belongs to Orton and it's time to gamble with the \$1000 he finds in there. He says Orton is going to need the money for anger management and his daughter's college. Christian puts it all on 1 in a game of roulette and loses it of course. Christian says Orton's luck just ran out. I liked this as it was something outside of the ordinary which you hardly ever see anymore in promos. Just having something different in the background makes it more interesting.

Time for the showdown which is just the two big guys talking. Teddy moderates it for lack of a better term. Henry isn't going to come farther from the stage though because he can't hold his temper well enough apparently. They talk about pain and how it's Show's problem apparently.

Show says everyone has been waiting for Henry to wake up and Show finally did it. Henry asks if Show thinks bigger is better. Without waiting for an answer, he says stronger and meaner are better. Both guys say the other has no idea what they're capable of. Teddy has to stop a fight and says we'll see who wins Sunday. I still don't get the appeal of this feud. Scratch that. I get the appeal, but I just don't care about Mark Henry at all.

#### Rosa Mendes vs. Kelly Kelly

Non title here. I have absolutely no idea what to talk about here. Match is over and there's just nothing to say. Kelly wins with the K2 at 1:49. The majority of the match was spent talking about jobs Rosa has had. Nothing else to say at all. Oh and Alicia was at ringside and did nothing at all.

Johnny Curtis pulls an elephant out of a bag which is supposed to be a cat. Apparently it's the big elephant in the room. They're really running out of ideas aren't they?

#### Justin Gabriel vs. Heath Slater

Both guys have their own music now. Slater says he's tired of being held back and that he'll show he's better tonight. Nice technical stuff to start as they know each other really well. The crowd doesn't seem to care at all but you can't have everything I guess. Gabriel starts fighting back but can't hit the 450. Cole runs his mouth some more as Slater misses a moonsault. The 450 hits and we're done at 2:52. Well Slater looks like nothing now.

Video on Punk vs. Cena, which is the same from NXT.

#### Randy Orton vs. Kane

For some reason I've wanted to see a proper feud between these two for years. Just seems like it would be good. Orton hammers away to start which doesn't really work. Christian is on the stage. Kane hammers away as he is known to do. The clothesline hits and he calls for the chokeslam about 75 seconds into this. Orton counters with right hands but he can't take Kane down. He manages to get the powerslam and the elevated DDT. RK0 is countered and Orton sees Christian, allowing Kane to send him to the floor. Christian throws a drink at Randy and runs into the crowd. It's enough for the count out at 2:58 though.

Orton chases after Christian and gets him near Kane and the beatdown is on. Kane doesn't like Christian though and chases him off. Orton pops up and hits the RK0 on Kane but Christian hits a spear and pounds on Randy. Christian gets a chair but Orton gets it away from him as the Canadian runs. Kane takes a chair shot. Make that a lot of them. Orton goes all bugged eyed on Christian to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B+. Good show but it was a step behind what the others have been recently. That being said, they had some good matches and a story going throughout the show. Also they had some nice build for the PPV so maybe it wasn't all that bad of a show. It's not as good as some others they've done, but still for a go home show, this was really pretty good.

### Results

Ezekiel Jackson b. Ted DiBiase – Torture Rack

Cody Rhodes b. Daniel Bryan – Beautiful Disaster

Sin Cara b. Sheamus – Hurricanrana into a pin

Kelly Kelly b. Rosa Mendes – K2

Justin Gabriel b. Heath Slater – 450 Splash



Kane b. Randy Orton via countout