

# New Column: The Lesnar Error

Looking back at Brock's second WWE run and breaking down all of the mistakes and problems with it so far. <http://www.wrestlingrumors.net/kbs-review-lesnar-error/33412/>

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## 2014 Awards: Show of the Year

We'll wrap it up with another few horses race.

To begin with, I have to skip the ROH shows because I didn't see most of them. I've heard they were good to really good, but I haven't seen them.

We'll start things off with a show that gets a lot of hate: the Royal Rumble. Unfortunately the only thing people remember about this show is the really questionable ending, along with the crowd's reaction to it. What they forget is a great opener between Bryan and Wyatt, Brock Lesnar just DESTROYING Big Show and not even going down from the KO Punch and a good Cena vs. Orton match that the fans didn't want to see.

What people also forget is a good Rumble for about 95% of the match before Mysterio's music hit. Those last three or so minutes crippled what was going to be a good to very good match with Reigns breaking what was seen as a fairly untouchable record and some other entertaining parts. All people remember about it is no Bryan and Batista winning though and that ruins the memory of an otherwise great show.

Before we head down to developmental, I have to at least mention the post Wrestlemania Raw. It didn't have the best wrestling, but the moments on that show carried it to greatness. You have the fans singing JOHN CENA SUCKS to the tune of his theme song to get the show going. That alone should tell you that we're in for something special. Rob Van Dam returned, Rusev had his real debut, Warrior had his incredible farewell

promo, Paige debuted and won the title and Shield turned face to end the show. The wrestling wasn't great, but it was such a fun show that it warrants a mention.

That brings us to NXT, which set one heck of a standard this year with the Takeover shows. We'll start at the beginning with the beginning at Arrival. This was back when we didn't know what was coming with these shows and had our minds blown. Cesaro vs. Zayn was a classic and showed what Zayn and this promotion in general were capable of. You couple that with a really good ladder match main event where Adrian Neville took the title from Bo Dallas. This show would be up there for surprise of the year but it's worth mentioning here too.

Now we get to the big shows, including Takeover: R-Evolution which blew the doors, roof, windows and pretty much everything else off the house. The show went from Kevin Owens being somehow even better than we were expecting to Finn Balor being a freaky dragon thing to Charlotte and Sasha Banks continuing the tradition of great women's matches on these shows. Somehow that all paled in comparison to the main event though, as Sami Zayn defeated Adrian Neville for the NXT Title in my Match of the Year. Couple all that with the excellent surprise ending of Owens turning on Zayn and you have one of the best shows of the year.

I think the winner should be obvious at this point. When WWE actually puts an effort into the big shows, they know how to hit them out of the park. Well this year, they put a lot of effort into Wrestlemania XXX and the show was one of the best of all time. After an excellent pre-show match for the Tag Team Titles, Hulk Hogan, Steve Austin and The Rock appeared in the ring at the same time. I remember saying to a fan next to me that I could go home now and get my money's worth.

This was followed by some excellent music video packages for the major matches, Daniel Bryan having the performance of a lifetime, Cesaro having what should have been a career changing performance, an incredible entrance for Bray Wyatt and the Streak coming to an end. What else could you possibly ask for from a major show? It was outstanding stuff and one of the best shows I've ever seen.

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# 2014 Awards: Worst Match of the Year

Again, we might as well just name this after one of the Divas.

The problem with this award is how do you define bad. What makes a match worse than another? I mean, if a match lasts a minute and is horrible, is that worse than a match that lasts ten minutes but is just a hair higher quality? Is a match worse if it bombs on a big stage than if it's a nothing match on some random TV show? For me, the lengths plays a role. I'd much rather sit through an atrocious four minute match than some 14:34 disaster that exists to promote a reality show.

In case you find that very specific, I think you can tell where I'm going. For me, this belongs to the Divas elimination match at Survivor Series 2014. This match went on FOREVER and featured more botches than a Sin Cara highlight reel. It's clear that most of these girls could barely survive on a taped show so the solution was to throw them out there in front of the world? I know they need ring time, but make sure they know what they're doing before they're on the freaking Survivor Series.

To keep this from being short, here are a few other common answers that I didn't select for one reason or another.

A popular pick is Undertaker vs. Lesnar, but I can't call a match with that kind of historical significance that elicited that powerful of a reaction (more on that later) the Worst Match of the Year. Yeah it was horrible with Brock's head not even coming close to the mat on the Tombstone, but I can forgive a lot of that with the Undertaker being injured early in the match.

Brock vs. Cena was much more of an angle than a match. Yeah it was a squash, but tell me you weren't freaking out watching that. That made Lesnar look stronger than ever and blew my mind as I was watching it. I

actually shouted NO WAY at my screen when he hit the F5 30 seconds in. It may have been dull, but it certainly got a response.

The last match I keep seeing was Orton vs. Cena at the Royal Rumble, which is much more bizarre than bad. It's no masterpiece but it's far from horrible. They know each other incredibly well and the fans really calm down after the first two or three minutes. It was much more an example of the fans rejecting something rather than it actually being bad. They even threw something new out there with the stealing finishers. It's something I NEVER want to see again, but it's certainly not the worst.

That Divas tag though is just a disaster. Cameron is somehow getting worse in the ring and dragging down the talented girls. Can't we just have Naomi being the female Shelton Benjamin and Paige doing all her awesome stuff while Natalya and Alicia are in the background being passable? No, instead we have to watch the girls botch everything and then talk about how hard they work to get here and gain respect or whatever the latest Diva creed that Stephanie has come up with is.

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## **2014 Awards: Feud Of The Year**

These were supposed to start on Sunday but as anyone who frequents my site knows, I can't keep track of anything to save my life. I'll be catching up with four awards today and then do one a day every day until the end of the year. We'll start with one of the more popular ones with Feud of the Year. This year isn't one of the stronger set of choices as there were some good feuds but nothing that felt really epic. One of the first options that comes to mind is Ambrose vs. Rollins, who had some AMAZING promos and good but not great brawls. The ending here hurts it as it was more about Wyatt being introduced for no apparent reason than the feud itself.

This can be done perfectly (see 1997 with Undertaker vs. Kane), but Wyatt came out of nowhere and the match was nowhere near HBK vs. Undertaker in the Cell. This is probably the clubhouse leader but not by much.

Shield vs. Evolution was good and the matches were excellent but I'm not sure I'd call it the best of the year. It felt more like a way to turn Rollins heel and end the Shield than to have a big moment, which is fine but a bit anti-climactic. That's kind of a running problem this year and something we'll see again.

The same is true for the Wyatts vs. Shield. They had what might be the Match of the Year at Elimination Chamber but the feud just kind of stopped instead of having a big conclusion. I'd put Shield vs. Evolution ahead of this as it actually had a conclusion, albeit not a great one.

AJ Lee vs. Paige deserves some appreciation due to making the Divas Title actually matter, but it went on so long that it really stopped meaning anything to me after awhile.

TNA actually makes the list with the Wolves vs. Hardys vs. Team 3D and their outstanding series, but I'm not sure it was so much a feud as much as a rivalry. There was never a personal issue between the teams and that hurts it to me. That being said, there's a case that they had the best series of matches all year, including Shield.

That really leaves us with one option, which while short met every issue that I listed here. Of course it's Bryan vs. the Authority, which was a rollercoaster of emotion with the fans screaming for what they wanted until it FINALLY delivered in one of the best one night performances you'll ever see at Wrestlemania XXX. They set the stage and gave us the payoff with some great matches. What else can you really ask for in a feud? Yeah it was short in this year, but it ran about eight months from beginning to end. The moment Bryan made

Batista tap was worth everything and the energy in the Super Dome that night was amazing.

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## **Thought of the Day: The Legend of Brock Lesnar**

As you may have heard, Paul Heyman's client Brock Lesnar conquered the Undertaker's Streak at Wrestlemania, becoming the 1 in 21-1. Since then, Brock has been seen once on WWE TV and.... That is the most brilliant thing WWE could have done with him. For the last three months, Paul Heyman has reminded us of Brock Lesnar. We've heard of him doing the impossible and being the monster that even the Undertaker couldn't stop. As time has gone on, that's the image that people have gotten in their heads: Brock Lesnar as an unstoppable beast that destroyed the Undertaker without breaking a sweat, instead of Brock Lesnar having a war with Undertaker and barely beating him. The longer you know that he's lurking, the bigger an impact his return makes. They're building up his mystique and that's the best thing they could have done.

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# WWE Stock Drops 45%

The business world continues to make me chuckle. A few notes/thoughts. 1. WWE stock is \$2 higher than it was at this time last year.

2. About a month or two ago the stock was at I believe an all time high. Stop acting like stock prices are set in stone.

3. Wrestlemania, the Wrestlemania DVD, and the Network going international are coming this year. Methinks that might spark the stocks a bit, seeing as how they do every year.

4. I don't understand how the deal getting them \$40 million more than they had last year can be seen as a bad thing. True it's not as good as they expected, but under no circumstances can gaining \$40 million be seen as a bad thing.

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## Daniel Bryan Needs A New Dealer

He's kind of lost in the shuffle. Watching the Daniel Bryan documentary on the Network (worth checking out if you have an hour to kill) and it becomes obvious that he's kind of lost right now. The problem at the end of the day is we got the big moment at Wrestlemania and now everything has changed. Yeah he's still a big deal and incredibly over, but we hit the big point that everyone was waiting for. The match with Kane will be good and the story is rather good, but it's not the top story. He's proven that he's worthy of being a top guy and will be for a long time, but it's kind of hard to go anywhere after that huge story we just finished up.

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# Wrestlemania Gets Over 1,000,000 Views

With a number of buys that would usually make Vince want to jump off a building. The show did under 400,000 regular buys but with the 660k+ that it did on the Network, the show set a record for most people viewing the show, according to WWE. That was the plan, and it's not even taking international buys into account yet. That's a VERY good result for WWE.

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## Thought of the Day: WWE And Posterity

This is one of those things that WWE is just flat out better at than anyone else. Ever since last week, I can't get that Monster song from the Daniel Bryan vs. HHH video out of my head. I threw the video package for Bryan vs. HHH up on Youtube and my goodness is it amazing. The same can be said of the Cena vs. Wyatt video and Lesnar vs. Undertaker. WWE has an incredible production team that puts together the best recap videos I've ever seen. Ten years from now, new fans are going to be able to watch those videos and hear everything they need to know about these feuds.

It's something very important when it comes to the future. Looking back at old WCW, TNA and even a lot of old WWF shows, there is almost zero explanation for why a lot of matches are taking place. It's just assumed that the fans have watched



most of the shows and know the backstory. That's not very bright and makes it hard for new fans to jump in. I know not every company can afford that kind of production, but I've seen good recap videos made for an e-fed with a budget of \$0, oddly enough done by the same band that plays Monsters. It can be done and it can be done well, and when it is, it's something very valuable.

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# Impact Wrestling – April 10, 2014: Copying Wrestlemania Isn't A Bad Idea

## Impact Wrestling

Date: April 10, 2014

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Tazz

Dixie Carter is back tonight. Let's all just take a minute to prepare ourselves for this. You can almost feel the power struggle starting from here. Officially she still has some power in TNA as she runs the behind the scenes stuff as opposed to MVP running the on camera stuff. Tonight is all about her wrath, which means it's time for some bad acting. Let's get to it.

We open with an In Memory graphic for Warrior.

Dixie Carter arrives and has something planned for tonight.

There's a ten man gauntlet tonight for the title shot at Sacrifice.

MVP says Magnus successfully defended his title against three men last week but tonight he finds out his next challenger. Samoa Joe won't be one of the entrants because he's "not available."

### Gauntlet Match

It's basically a ten man Royal Rumble. James Storm is #1 and Gunner is #2 and of course the brawl is on in the aisle. They get inside with Gunner avoiding a middle rope ax handle and taking him into the corner for a stomping. Storm is in even more trouble until Bobby Roode comes in at #3 to give him a breather. Beer Money reunites for a bit but Gunner shrugs off the ten rams into the top turnbuckle. Bully Ray is #4 and cleans house as you would expect him to. A double suplex has no effect though and he clotheslines Beer Money down.

Gunner and Ray load up What's Up to Storm but Roode makes the save Ethan Carter III comes in at #5 to give the heels an advantage. Ray shrugs everything off and chops away but Roode punches him down in the corner. No one has been eliminated yet. Carter and Roode try to toss Ray until Bobby Lashley is in at #6. The big man cleans house and hammers on all the heels until Gunner, Ray and Bobby have a three way standoff. That goes nowhere and they keep beating up the villains.

Abyss is #7 and cleans house but Ray tries to toss him. Magnus comes out for commentary as we take a break. Back with Sanada having entered and Eric Young entering at I believe #9. No eliminations yet. Everyone fights against the ropes and teases a few eliminations but no one is really close. Willow is #10 and we get a showdown with Carter. A Twisting Stunner has Carter in trouble as Spud wheelchairs down to ringside, only to pop up and pull Willow down for the elimination.

Abyss chokeslams Sanada and throws him out but walks into a spear from Lashley. Roode throws the bald Bobby out though, only to get tossed by Ray. We're down to Ray, Gunner, Storm, Carter, Abyss and Young. Ray is about to go off on Carter but Roode trips him up, allowing Carter to

throw him out and get us down to five. Storm nails a superkick to Gunner and easily throws him out.

The three heels team up on Young but he skins the cat and eliminates Carter on the way back in. Abyss lays him out again though and the double teaming continues. Eric trips both of them up though and actually hits the top rope elbow on Abyss. Storm takes him right back down with the Backstabber though, followed by an Orton Elevated DDT. The Last Call misses though and Young throws him out. Abyss hits Shock Treatment on Eric but can't get him out. Young fights back with some right hands and an ax handle, followed by a clothesline for the win and title shot at 26:21.

**Rating:** D+. ERIC YOUNG? This is the guy they're giving a title match to? Not Gunner, Ray, Joe, or ANYONE ELSE??? They have like five PPVs a year and the guy who was doing a Dr. Frankenstein gimmick earlier in the year is getting one of the main event slots? He's more bearable when he's serious but my goodness this matches my head hurt.

Eric calls out MVP post match. The boss comes out after a break and Eric says he does a great job. Young isn't a doctor but since this is live TV, anything can happen. What MVP just saw was Eric earning a title shot. This is live TV though and Eric is feeling crazy. He wants his title shot TONIGHT. MVP asks if he's sure and says it's on. Magnus says that's fine because everything abides by his rules. MVP says there are no Magnus Rules in effect, meaning the title changes hands on a countout or DQ and Abyss is banned from ringside. If anyone interferes, they're fired on the spot.

Spud, in a jacket that looks like it was involved in an explosion at a paint factory, has a surprise party for Dixie. She tells him to tone it down and accuses Spud of selling her down the river. Dixie leaves but as Spud follows her out, Willow invades the room and cleans house.

Angelina Love vs. ODB vs. Gail Kim vs. Brittany

The winner gets Madison at Sacrifice for the title. It's a brawl to start with the girls pairing off in the corners. Gail and Angelina start double teaming Brittany but get in an argument over who gets the pin. Brittany fights back and cleans house until ODB comes back in and runs everyone over. Angelina takes a Bronco Buster but Gail kicks ODB down. Brittany hits a handspring moonsault for no cover on ODB but walks into a Downward Spiral from Love. Eat Defeat doesn't work and Velvet sprays hairspray in Gail's eyes, setting up a Brogue Kick from Angelina for the pin at 4:37.

**Rating:** D+. Well that was...obvious. Angelina has been feuding with Madison for weeks now so the match at the PPV is the logical progression of the story. It wasn't anything to see but Brittany got to show off a little bit. I'm still not wild on the Beautiful People reunion as we've covered just about everything they can do.

Dixie comes in to see MVP and mocks some of the stuff he's done lately. Apparently MVP stands for Massive Violation of Power. She says all of this is because of one disgruntled wrestler and she'll take care of him tonight. Dixie wants him in the front row for her moment tonight.

Robbie E.'s flight is canceled but MVP thinks Jesse and Zema should defend the titles against the Wolves tonight unless Robbie can make it here by bell time.

We recap Eric getting a title shot tonight.

Magnus thinks Eric is making a huge mistake.

Here's Dixie for her big moment. She immediately calls out Bully, drawing a WE DON'T LIKE YOU chant. Ray comes out and the fans want him to put Dixie through a table. He thanks her for being around this week but Dixie talks about Roode suckering him into an attack a few weeks ago. Dixie rubs it in that Roode put Ray through three tables last week before ranting about him costing her the company.

Ray says this is the fans' company and the wrestlers' company but never Dixie's company. They talk over each other a lot until Dixie says she wants her money back for Ray not doing his job. Ray says he's spent it on a new car and at Rick's Cabaret in New York. "You'd like it. They've got a lot of wine, women and song. A lot of women actually."

Ray loads up his catchphrase but Dixie slaps the mic out of his hand. She's from DALLAS, TEXAS and is responsible for every check that comes out of the company. Dixie slaps him in the face but Roode jumps Ray from behind. They load up a table but Ray fights back, only to have Roode bail from a powerbomb. Ray stares Dixie down and we take a break.

Post break Magnus wants to know what Dixie is doing. She says she's going to her hotel, having a glass of wine and going to bed. Magnus calls her a typical woman and Dixie yells about him having an insurance policy before leaving.

#### Tag Team Titles: Wolves vs. Zema Ion/Jesse Godderz

The Wolves are challenging. Eddie chops Jesse to start but Davey (now with a blond mohawk on top of his regular hair) makes a blind tag and double teams Jesse down. Zema snaps Davey's throat across the top rope to give the champions control. The Wolves send the champions outside and hit stereo suicide dives to take them down again.

Back inside and Jesse slips in a knee from the apron to stagger Eddie, only to have him catch both of them in a hurricanrana at the same time. Hot tag brings in Davey to clean house with kicks and suplexes. A missile dropkick gets two on Godderz and the toss into the kick looks to get the pin, but Robbie E. runs in for the DQ at 3:43.

**Rating:** C-. Not bad here but this time the ending was somewhat in doubt. I actually thought they might change the titles here, which would have been a bit too early with the PPV coming up in a few weeks. The Wolves are the best team in the company and having them chase the titles for a

few months is a good idea.

Christy is going to shock us with something about Samuel Shaw tonight. She wants to talk to him in the ring about commitment.

Here's Christy to the ring to invite Samuel for a chat. She insists that he's not creepy and says this whole thing is complicated. Shaw says he's the love of her life and she agrees. Christy asks if he trusts her and she rubs her hands over his face. She wants to know if Shaw would go anywhere she asks him to go but he just slowly rips off his glove. Christy makes some rather suggestive noises and tells him to close his eyes.

A van with the words Psychiatric Services shows up on screen and of course Anderson pops out. He comes into the arena and rubs his hands behind Shaw's back before laying him out with a Mic Check. The fans chant funny farm and Anderson chucks him over the top. He crawls towards Christy but Anderson chucks him into the van in the back. Shaw pops out and runs away though, making this whole segment pretty worthless.

Willow blames Carter and Spud for costing him the gauntlet match and wants a handicap match next week.

Impact is coming to New York City in June.

TNA World Title: Eric Young vs. Magnus

Eh why not. It worked at Wrestlemania XXX. Young scores with a quick dropkick and flips over the corner before strutting down the apron. Apparently Young has a bad arm coming into this to really hammer in the similarities. Magnus avoids a charge into the corner and sends Eric out to the floor with a big running knee. Back in and Eric sends Magnus to the floor, only to get nailed as he tries a suicide dive.

Magnus sends him into the steps and we take a break. Back with the champion getting two off a gutwrench suplex and we hit a sleeper on Young. Eric is quickly out of the hold but gets caught in a camel clutch to work on the back as well as the bad arm. Young powers up into an electric chair and both guys are down. Back up and some forearms and a clothesline drop Magnus. The arm seems fine at the moment. Eric tries a wheelbarrow slam into a neckbreaker but mostly drops Magnus on the way down.

The top rope elbow gets two and Magnus nails the Michinoku Driver for the same. He brings the belt into the ring but the referee takes it away. Young loads up a Death Valley Driver but gets hit low for two. Magnus is livid and gets caught in a crucifix for two. Eric comes back with a piledriver for the pin and the title at 13:05.

**Rating:** C. Eric Young is the TNA World Champion. Yes it's a blatant ripoff of Daniel Bryan on Sunday, but Eric Young hasn't earned the spot like Bryan has. He's a comedy guy that has kept a job for a long time. That doesn't mean he should be the World Champion. I'm assuming this doesn't make it past Sacrifice, but I've only been able to tolerate Young for this many years. Having him as World Champion is too far for me.

**Overall Rating:** C. The ending just doesn't do it for me as I've already explained. The rest of the show wasn't bad, but this is the kind of show you need to build up to. I get that they needed to do everything in one night, but let us know in advance that this is coming. The Dixie stuff didn't do anything for me but it's probably continuing over the next few weeks. The wrestling was ok tonight but this is a very questionable way to use a story like this.

## Results

Eric Young won a gauntlet match last eliminating Abyss

Angelina Love b. Brittany, ODB and Gail Kim – Bicycle kick to Kim

Wolves b. Zema Ion/Jesse Godderz via DQ when Robbie E. interfered

Eric Young b. Magnus – Piledriver

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