SMACKDOWN LINES

North Charleston Coliseum
North Charleston, South Carolina

24 January 2002 | **Robert Ortega, Jr.** | **slashwrestling.com**

1. Rob Van Dam v 2. William Regal — Singles

1SD 0:42.31 **05** (10.93) 1-1
FiveStarFrogSplash-Pin; So much found wanting here, especially with the potential apparently there.

Not that I would rather give someone an extra 45 seconds to use in a promo, but it seems all too pointless to give any match less than two minutes. The lack of something substantive, especially so early on, diminishes enthusiasm. Perhaps the short RVD offensive was bearable, but that's reaching far.

1. Rikishi v 2. Bossman — Singles-SpGuestRef
Sp. Guest Referee–Jacqueline

2SD 3:20.10 **45** 2-2-2-1-1
BanzaiDrop-Pin; Both slightly above expectations/par; pacing was stable and action moderate; fair.

Honestly, I was not expecting much before the match. Not that they provided something brilliant, but both did provide something watch-able. Both seemed to provide steady efforts throughout the match. Both had their share of the contest to control and the pace was bearable. Quality was fair. The question: is there room to improve.

1. Tazz and Spike Dudley v 2. Scotty2Hotty and Albert — 2v2Tag — **WWF Tag Team Championship–G1**

3SD 5:16.59 **60** Mx-1t-2a-2s-2s-1t-2s-1t
Tazzmission-Submission; Good action from all four with assault on Spike very methodical; good match.

It's almost safe to drop the "makeshift" label IMHO. Both teams seemed to have developed their chemistries quite well. I like how opponents are using Spike's injury as a focus consistently. Tazz's recent match closings have been worthy and I am still seeing possibilities of improvement from champions and challengers alike. Good deal.

1. Booker T v 2. Stone Cold Steve Austin — Singles — **Entry #1 Contenders Match UndisChmp 28Jan02 RAW**

4SD 9:16.31 **90** Mx-1-2-1-2-1-1-1-E-2-1-2
StoneColdStunner-Pin; Deliberate opening; drive from middle onward; gamely throughout. Strong action.

These two competitors always seem to play out well against each other; this was no exception. The odds seemed to favor Austin from the start but the consistent performances throughout the match made that forgive-able. Would have been nice to see Booker hit his Stunner but no matter. Efforts here are well appreciated. Great.

1. Kane and Big Show v 2. Dudley Boyz with Stacy Keibler — 2v2TagTables

5SD 2:07.65 **30** (01.73) Mx-2x-1s-1k-1s-2b
InadvertantShove-ThroughTable; Might have had value without the awkward finish; lacking overall.

If RAW was any indication, most were probably looking for some internal screw up to heighten tensions between Kane and Show. We got two, but the finish was all too anti-climatic, making the post-match stare-down less effective. The potential was sound, so some disappointment is in order; not the worst but demanding much better.

1. Trish Stratus v 2. Jazz — Singles

6SD 2:09.10 **20** (01.33) 1-2-2
[D]AmbarUsingRopes-FiveCount(TrishStratus); Assault makes champ look necessarily vulnerable, but little value here.

The Jazz-Trish rivalry has been quite bearable for its tenure if not lightly good. Their match at the Rumble was good. But to maintain this as a credible rivalry, the exchanges between the two need to be more balanced, offensively speaking. I like the viciousness of Jazz, but its over-presence is diminishing.

1. Kurt Angle v 2. The Rock — Singles — **Entry #1 Contenders Match UndisChmp 28Jan02 RAW**

7SD 9:22.28 **85** Mx-Mx-2-1-1*1-E-2-2**1
♦Chokeslam-Pin; Expectedly strong contest between these two, but interference draws away quality; still great.

Regardless of winner, the resulting RAW match would have looked promising. Nice to see Angle take the victory here. Similar quality throughout like 4SD, but the interference and finish drew away from this match. Jericho was a good wild card to have at ringside which had a slight added-effect. Great, but still second best tonight.

BREAKDOWNS:

Time: 7 Matches with 0 No contests (30:14.34) about 25.20 % of show time.
Types: 5 Singles (0 Title Matches), 1 Tag (1 Title Match), 1 TagTables

3 instances of interference (1 meaningful); [•] Meaningful interference
7SD *ChrisJericho (2) *Undertaker [•]

Average Match Rating (7 Matches) **47.86**
Extraneous Segment Aggregate **12.00**
Overall Show Score **59.86**

Title Changes: None

BestOfTheNight: 4SD BookerT v StoneColdSteveAustin **90**
WorstOfTheNight: 1SD RobVanDam v WilliamRegal **05**

Turns: None

Show assessment: Good showing only slightly below RAW. The intrigue is there for the next RAW.

RATINGS: I still continue with the system of using pre-match action and post-match to value a contest while giving the primary emphasis to the match itself which includes basic ring psychology, pace, mechanics and execution of move sets and high spots, the finish and its enjoy-ability, and how much the match advances a story line, if there is one to advance. But another element that I must convey is that I let the opening match or two set a baseline and then perform some degree of comparison of later contests to the baseline.

NON-MATCH SEGMENTS AND SCORES

- ●Post1SDEdgeAttack (+1) For psycho character continuity
- ●Vince "Guts" (+1) Twilight Zone demeanor, intriguing on how this relates to "You'll see."
- ●StephCoffeeLillian (0) Pointless on all counts
- ●Steph/HHHExchange (+2) Interesting assessment from both sides.
- ●Rock/Coach Int. (+1) Classic "Rock." The Charleston deal was humorous.
- ●HHH/Sharmell/Christian (+1) HHH as we expect him to be.
- ●Vince "Facts" (+1) At least the speech is consistent.
- ●Flair/Sullivan (+1) Nice retort from Flair.
- ●Post5SD Kane/Show (+1) Builds off previous experience, but will there be quality in the feud?
- ●Vince "End" (0) Ohhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh-kayyyyyyyyyyyy...
- ●Goldust "Memories" (0) A walking psychological study is he.
- ●BillyChuckOnGoldust (0) Try to forget, try to forget...
- ●Angle/Coach Int. (+1) Standard Angle; good.
- ●Vince "Resolve" (0) Can we get to the point, please?!
- ●SCSA/Coach Angle Attack (+1) A prelude to something brilliant on RAW?
- ●Vince "nWo" (+1) The plot thickens, or thins possibly.

CLOSING NOTES:

1. I think these fledgling teams are really coming into their own; they have persisted well.
2. Expectations are deservedly high for the Austin-Angle match on Monday. The end show confrontation was a nice fueling bit.
3. If Vince ever loses his mind in real life, well, at least we all know what to expect, talking to mirrors and such.
4. Since when did coffee become a potent weapon? What has this come to? I will let it slide, but heaven help us if they somehow manage to make a gimmick match out of this.
5. The nWo cometh. But what will come with it? The speculation is already heavy. I will wait, see, then judge.