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1. Spike Dudley v 2. Booker T w Test

Singles

1SD 3:12.18 20 2-2-2-1

CounterBridgeOffSuperplex-Pin; Extremely disproportionate momentum given end result. Lack of balance detracts.

Most of the rating here is because of Booker T's offense and the unanticipated result. However, for as surprising as the pin came, it seemed too reaching in nature to be believe-able. Additionally, lack of offense from Spike detracted considerably. Perhaps a strong balance is imminent switching from singles to tag on Sunday? We'll know soon.

1. APA v 2. Billy Gunn and Chuck Palumbo

2v2Tag

2SD 2:07.37 25 (11.24) 1b-1b-1f-Mx-2b

◆StrikeWithWeightLoadedBox-Pin; Match exchanges did have a semi-fair merit but screwy finish is destructive.

For the potential of antics and action in this pairing, even the benefit of the doubt gives this low overall marks. Biggest detractor was the finish. A loaded box of chocolates? This doesn't bear well with me. Maybe the off-finish would have passed after a little more action, but that is left to speculation. Markedly low rate, but still not worst of night.

1. Val Venis v 2. William Regal

Singles

3SD 1:00.41 07 1-2

FacePunch(BrassKnuckles)-Pin; Rushed sequence disappointing given somewhat good display to start. Quite weak.

Best merit, if not only merit of the match was Regal's continued use of the knuckles, confirming his already solidified shady persona. The early action my have had some merit but the lack of time did not allow any extension. Better possible based on the early burst. Pointedly worst of the night.

1. Goldust v 2. Tajiri w Torrie Wilson

Singles

4SD 2:01.67 30 Mx-Mx-1-1

CurtainCall-Pin; Lack of expected interference a plus, but only very light drive and suffers from lack of time.

Would have liked to see more from Tajiri. He had his share of the dueling early on, but did not demonstrate anything memorable in the second half. Score here justified mostly as an improvement over the previous three events of the night, but not by much. Like the previous, a lack of time will only allow so much development.

1. Chris Jericho v 2. Kane

Singles

5SD 1:47.24 40 (00.83) 2-1-2-1

▣Beltshot(Kane); Lack of time hurts, but the light exchange was fair and purpose served by means of finish.

I admire how the finish, though not a pin, served Jericho's apparent apprehension of encountering Austin. It did not work, but the concept was there. A little fair exchange within and the prospect of quite better between these two is assumed. Match logically placed better as a conclusion to the first half of the show.

1. Undertaker and Kurt Angle v 2. Maven and Triple H

2v2Tag

6SD 9:05.47 80 (27.57) 1u-2h-1a-2h-2m-1a-1u-1u-E-2h-E-1a-Mx-1h

▣Chairshot(MavenAndTripleH); Match structure akin to handicap as intended, finish good to set up confrontation.

Points for Maven's short lived yet sound offensive on Angle. Mostly Triple H battling both Angle and Undertaker giving the semblance of a handicap match which served intent. Action good from all four for their individual ring time. Possible that DQ finish serves more than decisive pin as it leaves something open ended for the PPV.

BREAKDOWNS:	Time: 6 Matches with 0 No contests (19:14.34) about 16.03 % of show time.	Average Match Rating (6 Matches)	33.66	BestOfTheNight: 6SD Undertaker and KurtAngle v Maven and TripleH	80
	Types: 4 Singles (0 Title Matches); 2 Tag (0 Title Matches)	Extraneous Segment Aggregate	10.00	WorstOfTheNight: 3SD ValVenis v WilliamRegal	07
		Overall Show Score	43.66		

0 instances of interference (0 meaningful); Meaningful interference

Title Changes: None

Turns: None

Show assessment: Only a trace above RAW with many of the matches marred by lack of time. Redemption will only be found in a strong No Way Out.

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

- VinceStephOnRAW (0) So we are all pathological liars now?
- BookerTTestOn1SD (+0.5) The joke was trite yet a little funny.
- Godfather2For1 (-1) Get this off my TV.
- FlairSummonsY2J (+1) 50% owner. 100% demanding of Y2J.
- FlairY2J OnRAW (+2) Ego precedes his chance for escape.
- BillyChuckValentine (+0.5) Good that it continues gimmick, but it is near that switch to plain annoying.
- SCSADebraArrive (0) And he does not look to happy.
- SCSAIsAnAddict (+1.5) Addicted to championships and alcohol.
- Pre3SDVenis (-1) Where do they find these women?
- Post3SD Coach/Regal/Edge (+1) They fight more out of the ring than they do in the ring it seems.
- Y2JAustinAndBeer (+1) I knew SCSA wouldn't let him drink it.
- Flair/Dudleyz/ChristianStorm (+1) Christian as Tantrum Man. Latest arch-nemesis to The Hurricane maybe?
- Post4SDRVDGoldust (+1) Here he comes to save the day!
- AustinStalksY2J (+0.5) He's-a-waiting for Jericho..
- Post5SDAustinY2J (+0.5) ...to finish his match, and then...it's on Collision
- VinceStephOn (0) Lack of Rock, only until No Way Out. Surprise/UT
- Post6SDFlair/UT/ (+2) I kinda like the stay of beating concept so as to let the nWo deal with Flair. SurpriseStephIsRef AtNoWayOut

CLOSING NOTES:

1. DirecTV my be showing the PPV, but they do not get off my hit list until I see at least six months of good behavior (i.e. a free subscription and their allegiance only to me), at which point I place it on probation.
2. Steph is ref, HHH is royally screwed, and unless some hero referee (Hebner) or other source of counterbalance enters (Linda McMahon, etc), I am not amused.
3. Maven had a nice short outing tonight. I would say he got a fairly good grade in Weapons 203- Announcers' Area With Emphasis on Announce Tables; Professor U. Taker.
4. Be honest, am I really expecting too much to want the WWF to tack on an extra minute to each match as of recent? And would a simple, not so screwy finish really kill them?
5. If there is one thing to note going into Sunday, the last two No Way Out PPV's have had worthy match of the year candidates (CactusJack v TripleH 2000 and Austin v TripleH 2001). Some matches on the card have that promise.