



SMACKDOWN! LINES

Freeman Coliseum
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Robert Ortega, Jr.

rsortegajr@yahoo.com

slashwrestling.com

1. Rob Van Dam v 2. Goldust

HardcoreSingles

WWF Hardcore Championship-G3

1SD 2:51:73 32 (04:58) 1-2-1-2-1*2

RollUp-Pin; Some good yet sporadic action with finish somewhat predictable; light drive to close, borderline merit.

So ends RVD's winning endeavors at seven; Goldust, conversely, hits his fourth straight victory. Some fair exchanges from both with RVD on the higher merit. Interference serves an end but possibly not up to the cost of a conclusive finish. Late drive worth a little something but given past two matches, expected a little more time and action.

1. Tajiri w Torrie Wilson v 2. Booker T

Singles

2SD 2:29:98 62 1-2-1-1-2

AxeKick-Pin; Good presentation under short time span; pace was fair and action surprisingly had balance.

Expected Booker to dominate beforehand, so the fact that Tajiri got as much offense as he did was very welcome. A little mixed on the premise of the match but this can be overlooked. Mechanics were sound enough and the pace was well suited and steady throughout. Both competitors pick up a somewhat good match figure in an off matchup.

1. Maven and Al Snow v 2. Undertaker

2v1 Handicap

3SD 3:16:62 25 (01:37) 2-1s-2-2-2

TCB-Submission; Light on the exchanges amidst dominance; pace suffered little but action not to standard.

A few worthy pieces include Snow's early offensive and Maven's short burst mid-match. Would have liked to see a better amount of continued double teaming to establish a visible threat. Pace wasn't forced slow fortunately although it was a bit below par. A more varied offense wanted from Maven but then he would need more ring time for it.

1. Chris Jericho v 2. Kane

Singles

4SD 2:57:67 53 2-2-1-2*1

Lionsault-Pin; Interference well placed with some fair to good action under a slow condition; better still needed.

Liked a few spots like Jericho countering Kane off the top rope. Pace seemingly slow here, more so on Kane's end of the match. Not a great improvement of their last singles confrontation (14Feb02, 40). Sizeable merits for the interference which was logically placed if trying to build an Angle-Kane match at X8. Better possible. Next time?

1. Stacy Keibler v 2. Lita

Singles

5SD 0:42:66 02 1-2

180SidewalkSlam-Pin; Thin offense, short time, and lack of buildup to pin yield few merits if any; throw-away.

The roundhouse kick and odd finisher were the high marks of the match but that honestly says almost nothing. In fact, the only possible basis for awarding a non-zero score here was for the competitors trying, and even that might be a stretch as I saw no vigor in their expressions (see Keibler as she tries to whip Lita at about the 3/4 mark).

1. Scott Hall v 2. The Rock

Singles

6SD 4:32:45 45 (02:48) 2-1*1-1-E-2*

◆VariableAssault-NoContest; Some fair exchange but interference really counterproductive to match quality.

Par exchange to start off the match but have to consider the down time caused by Hogan and Nash's interference. Deduct that and really don't have much of a match to give merit to. A little merit to Hall who was fair in the ring tonight, but will need to make a good jump in class to do well at X8. Fair contest at best; much more desired.

BREAKDOWNS: Time: 6 Matches with 1 No contest (16:51:10) about 14.04 % of show time.

Types: 4 Singles (0 Title Matches); 1 2v1 Handicap (0 Title Matches)
1 HardcoreSingles (1 Title Match)

3 instances of interference (2 meaningful); Meaningful interference

1SD *WilliamRegal

6SD *HollywoodHulkHogan (2, 2nd)

Average Match Rating (6 Matches) 36.50

Extraneous Segment Aggregate 7.50

Overall Show Score 44.00

Title Changes: None

BestOfTheNight: 2SD Tajiri v BookerT

WorstOfTheNight: 5SD StacyKeibler v Lita

Turns: None

SPECIAL NOTE: For purposes of standardizing disqualifications and no contests, a referee's call of the final bell will be a requisite; changes 4Feb02 match between TripleH and BookerT from W-L to NC.

Show assessment: Down from RAW and recent shows haven't been the most compelling by any stretch of the imagination. WWF will need a dream run in the stretch to Wrestlemania to recover.

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

●Flair At UTs Door (+0.5) I think he's trying to tell you something.
●Flair accepts, UT (+1.5) And I think it is "yes." Nice will answer later counter-psychology by UT.
●HHH/Steph on car, (-1) Just kill her Triple H, no one would convict you. We know what's coming here.
●Regal At (0) Like the professional he is... Commentary
●Jericho/Steph and HHH's first robe (0) The champ and the tramp again.

●Post2SD Edge/BookerT
●Rock Returns On WM/ nWo
●UT/Flair on WM Brawl in crowd
●Post4SDKane/Angle
●Post4SD HHH/ Jericho Steph

(+1) I guess Edge's hand didn't tell him to do the Spinarooni. Match imminent?
(+2) Morat if you dare to aim, shoot to kill because second chances aren't guaranteed.
(+1) Call me crazy but that's the most unique form of begging I've ever seen.
(+0.5) Another imminent match at X8?
(+0.5) His robe, but those aren't his belts... yet.

●Flair Arrested
●Kane/Angle in Parking Lot
●Post5SD Lita/ Stacy/Jazz
●Coach/Steph/HHH 1/2 a Corvette
●Post6SD SCSA/ nWoVince on RAW

(0) Wasn't their a disclaimer on the ticket?
(+0.5) Parking lots, if history has shown anything, are not good for the good guys.
(0) Nice work on that DDT Jazz and may I say you are looking as pissed as usual.
(+1) For the end line delivered by Triple H. Which half to take? Just too hard a choice.
(0) 3v2 handicap match set. nWo has to win if WM matches are to have meaning.

CLOSING NOTES:

- The high pitched sound waves emitted by Stephanie would probably work better than defibrillators on a dying man, if only for the reason that the man would have the motivation to awaken, smack her a couple of times, then pass on.
- From some online posts on the matter, we may have a collectively good reason to fear for Lucy's (HHH's dog) life; no this is not beneath the WWF unfortunately.
- I used to think only Looney Tunes characters slapped themselves senseless, and then Ric Flair came along...
- How, you may ask, did I give the best marks to a Tajiri-BookerT match? I am just as surprised as you are, but it is the one I can make the best case for so I am sticking with it.
- I have my doubts on the 3v2 match on RAW, including but not limited to, will it even be a real match?