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1. Ric Flair v 2. Rico

Singles

 1Raw 3:59.10 **39** 1-1-2-2-1-1-2

RoundhouseKick-Pin; Slow start and held similarly, some OK/fair action, balanced but no drive, lightly fair.

The elements of this match were fair at best, but one has to consider if that is a result of a slow start from which this could not totally overcome. That said, this one did eventually hit a fair stride, had one or two spots of added worth and achieved a good balance of control. No kick to lift though and better was possible. Mixed, leaning lower.

1. Test v 2. Booker T

Singles

 2Raw 5:54.53 **70** (00.84) 2-1-1-1-E-2-2-2-1-2

RollUp-Pin; Settled in good, fair pace followed and action was suitable, gradually 1/2, well balanced, gd. close.

This contest based itself well off of a good break which settled into an average pace. The exchanges between these two were pretty well put together with very slight awkwardness to speak of at most. A small set of close falls gave this one that added effect the Lines has come to value and the lack of interference was a plus. Quite good.

1. Lance Storm and Christian v 2. Bubba Ray Dudley and Spike Dudley

2v2Tag

WWE Tag Team Championship-G1

 3Raw 8:32.21 **81** Mx-2b-2s-1c-1s-E-1c-1s-2b-2b-1c

RollUp-Pin; Good early action and held, move steadily, some drive 3/4, balanced and closed nicely.

Have to immediately give remarks to an extraneous element that doubly served. The early set up of the table helped lead in to a momentum run for Storm/Christian and helped set up the finishing series by incapacitating Spike. That aside, match moved well enough to hold interest and the exchanges were above average. Sharp tag contest.

1. Chris Jericho v 2. Rob Van Dam

Singles

WWE Intercontinental Championship-G2

 4Raw 8:45.80 **90** Mx-2-1-2-E-1-1-1-E-2-2-2-1

WallsOfJericho-Submission; Fair pacing mostly, but some good series of action which held, with drive, strong.

This may sound repetitive, but there's that balance again. Held well from the first series to an interesting close. Match did suffer a pace bounce and mild awkwardness which did detract some. Still, Triple H's presence was well integrated for some nice effect (for result and path to Unforgiven), add some drive and good hits, you have the night's best.

1. William Regal v 2. Kane

Singles

 5Raw 2:54.47 **23** (02.60) 1-1-2-2-*

CalledNonContactInterference(Kane); Led in OK, some OK yet tentative action, anticipated interference.

Given the pre-match conversation, the interference and potential was easily foreseeable. Have to reconcile that the finish was trite against the fact that it did held set up a match for Unforgiven. Match commenced fairly but both exchanges and pace seemed a little too off to get into this, even for its short time. Served a purpose, but not to needed form.

1. Triple H v 2. Jeff Hardy

Singles

World Heavyweight Championship-G1

 6Raw 5:42.80 **40** (02.55) 2-2-1-1-2-2-1

SleeperHold-KnockOut; Good break and quick early, some sloppy efforts by Hardy detracted, still held fairly.

The rushing start complemented the setup to this contest well enough, but one would have to be hard pressed to be able to ignore Hardy's considerably off performance here. Might have expected that somewhat from Triple H but not Hardy. Still have to factor in the extraneous (set up, post match and some good elements), making this lightly fair.

BREAKDOWNS: Time: 6 Matches with 0 No contests (35:48:91) about 27.55 % of show time.

Types: 5 Singles (2 Title Matches); 1 Tag (1 Title Match);

 1 instance of interference (1 meaningful); Meaningful interference
5Raw *Test

 Average Match Rating (6 Matches) **47.17**

 Extraneous Segment Aggregate **7.50**

 Overall Show Score **54.67**

BestOfTheNight: 4Raw ChrisJericho v RobVanDam

90

WorstOfTheNight: 5Raw WilliamRegal v Kane

23

Title Changes: ChrisJericho NewWWEIntercontinentalChampion

Turns: Rico officially defects from SmackDown to Raw.

SHOW ASSESSMENT: Good matches surrounded by some that needed more; show helped out with a backstage boost. Overall, the best Raw effort since SummerSlam when they needed the most. For reference: 26Aug02-46:33 2Sep02-47:64 9Sep02-48:33.

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

- Bisch on SD plot, (+1) Not sure Rico worth that much time, Set 1Raw, RVD v ? but like the prospective matches to come. and HHH v ?
- HHH on Unforgiven (+1) Pretty good segment, good retort from with RVD, RVD on Van Dam.
- HHH's "talents", collide
- IOW protest (0) ??????
- Terri INT BookerT (+1) As well as other life tests. Entertaining on match with Test piece.
- More IOW shown (0) Like to the point here, I have my suspicions.
- Terri INT Flair (+0.5) Like that he called HHH on being handed the title

- Coach INT IOW, (+0.5) Expected as much, but I still think this is protest women's leading to what I think it is.
- Bisch good luck to (0) "A few minutes" maybe three? Y2J in match, will meet with IOW
- EMTs have Spike (0) When will Bubba and HHH fight? HHH laughs
- Post4Raw HHH (0) Finally gets his shots in. attacks RVD
- Y2J celebrates (+0.5) IC is a step down from Undisputed but Y2J-Flair at Unfor. whatever makes him happy.
- Jeff Hardy video (+0.5) Good package, I'd say.

- Regal to UnAmer (0) Interference, you know it, I know it. on match with Kane
- Post5Raw melee (+1) But the interference set this up, and it is sets UnAmer v Kane good.
- Bisch meets IOW (+1.5) Suspicions came true. Sets a match Steph/Billy/Chuck for Unforgiven (check CRZ recap for stipulations) and hopefully sets up something long term.
- Steph/Billy/Chuck give 3 min warning to Bischoff chal.
- Rosey/Jamal v Billy chuck at Unf.
- Pre6Raw RVD atk. (+0.5) Ouch!
- Pst6Raw RVD atk. (+0.5) And he is not done yet.

CLOSING NOTES:

1. Maybe it was an audio issue, but I could have sworn that Garcia called test a "Non-American." A small detail but is it too much to ask that she gets that right?
2. Jeff Hardy's outing here may be an anomaly, but I cannot help but think that there may be cause for some concern here. Reading too much into this maybe?
3. Last time I saw a celebration like Jericho was (I think) No Way Out 2000 were Angle beat Jericho and went nuts. Correct me if there has been one more recent.
4. Going on that one, it did look like Van Dam could have kicked half Jericho's teeth in, maybe the champagne numbs the pain, or something? ... well? ... OK, YOU think of something better.
5. So, if you could call it such, it looks like there could be a full blown war between Raw and SmackDown; benefit of the doubt says this should be a good watch.