



Lines

Target Center (Tgt)
Minneapolis, Minnesota

22 January 2004

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slashwrestling-wienerboard

1. Rey Mysterio v

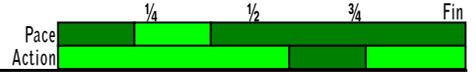
2. Chuck Palumbo w Nunzio and Johnny Stamboli

Singles

Not as much speed as one might expect for a Mysterio match, but have to expect it to come down without a cruiserweight counterpart. The exchanges were at least fair, and Mysterio had enough good counters, including his finishing sunset flip counter, to provide some effect in this one. Furthermore, a little drive just before the three-quarter mark helped this one out. With some value.

1SD 5:1508 42 2-Mx*2-2-E-Mx-1-2-1
SunsetFlip-PinUsingClothing; Early pace gain, steadied, held fairly.

RMysterio 3 Straight wins
CPalumbo 4 Straight losses



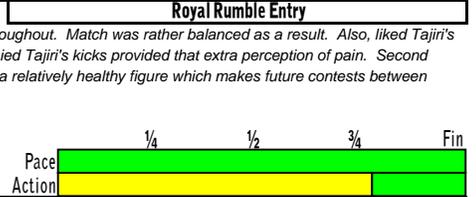
1. Tajiri v 2. Billy Kidman

Singles

Always enjoy match where the momentum runs back and forth throughout. Match was rather balanced as a result. Also, liked Tajiri's continuous focus on Kidman's arm and those pops that accompanied Tajiri's kicks provided that extra perception of pain. Second shortest match of the night, but irrespective of that, match earned a relatively healthy figure which makes future contests between these two worth looking forward to.

2SD 2:3680 30 Mx-1-2-1-2-1
BuzzsawKick-PinUsingClothing; Effective action, moved well throughout.

Tajiri earns Rumble entry



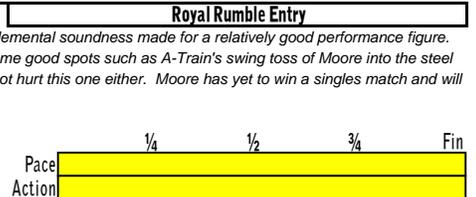
1. A-Train v 2. Shannon Moore

Singles

Much like the previous contest, where short, but again where its elemental soundness made for a relatively good performance figure. Match enjoyed a swift break, and was spaced well enough with some good spots such as A-Train's swing toss of Moore into the steel steps. Miller's interference did not boost this, but honestly, it did not hurt this one either. Moore has yet to win a singles match and will seemingly do so on a return to the cruiserweight ranks.

3SD 1:4116 19 Mx-1-1
Derailer-Pin; Short, elementally good, without lapse.

A-Train earns Rumble entry
SMoore 3 Straight losses



1. John Cena and Chris Benoit v

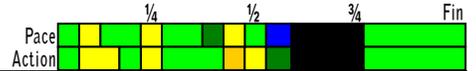
2. Brock Lesnar and Rhyno and Matt Morgan w Paul Heyman

3v2 Handicap

Good on the grids, and factoring that over the length of this one, it is not surprising that this merited the year's second triple digit rating. Could have done without Lesnar's desertion, but that it setup a run in by Holly is logical and makes any detraction almost moot. More balance in match control arguably would have sent this to the 110s, but given the handicap nature, can understand why it was not so. Cena and Benoit remain on winning streaks, but at least one (theoretically) has to end come Sunday.

4SD 19:1536 100 0-1b-1c-2m-2r-Mx-1c-1b-2r-2l-1c-2l-E-2r-2l-E-1b-1b-E-E-0*0-0-2r-2m-2r-E-2r-2m-E-1c-2r-1c
FU-Pin; Dbl kick 2/5, 15/16, held well overall, with effect
\$ Commercial Break.

Best of the Night
JCena 4 Straight wins
CBenoit 3 Straight wins



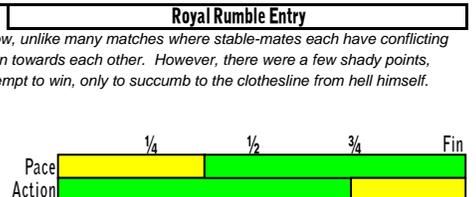
1. Bradshaw v 2. Akio v 3. Sakoda

Triple Threat

Yet another on the night with the short but healthy trend. Liked how, unlike many matches where stable-mates each have conflicting interests, Akio and Sakoda never really showed outright dissension towards each other. However, there were a few shady points, such as where Akio set Sakoda up for Bradshaw's wrath in an attempt to win, only to succumb to the clothesline from hell himself. Continued match streaks for all three.

5SD 2:4674 31 (075) Mx-1-2-2,3-3-2-1
ClotheslineFromHell-Pin; Settled fairly, good series overall.

Bradshaw earns Rumble entry
Bradshaw 3 Straight wins
Akio 3 Straight losses
Sakoda 3 Straight losses



1. Eddie Guerrero and Kurt Angle v

2. Chavo Guerrero and Chavo Guerrero Sr.

2v2 Tag

Good efforts from all four involved in this one. The Chavo factions efforts kept the family feud quite compelling and Chavo Jr's. use of the frog splash on Eddie to finish the match was a nice cap before taking the rivalry to the Pay Per View level. Good finish effect with Angle getting blinded only to accidentally (or was it?) deliver the Angle slam to Eddie. Not the best tonight, but this will make the match tabs look all the better.

6SD 9:0384 78 Mx-1a-Mx-1a-1g-2g-2gs-2g-2gs-2g-E-1a-1g-2gs-2g
FrogSplash-Pin; Light in, up to form, good kick 3/4.

EGuerrero 3 Straight losses



Breakdowns	Matches	6
	No Contests	0
	Total Match Time	40:38 ⁹⁸
	Pct. Of Show	43.95 (92.5)
Match Types	Singles	3
	Tag	1
	TripleThreat	1
	Handicap	1

Interference	1SD	*JohnnyStamboli
	2SD	—
	3SD	—
	4SD	*HardcoreHolly
	5SD	—
	6SD	—

Title Changes None.

Character Notes None.

Notable Matches

Best of the Night	4SD	100	JnCena and ChrisBenoit v BrLesnar and Rhyno and MattMorgan
Worst of the Night	3SD	19	A-Train v ShannonMoore

Notable Segments

Best of the Night	S-22	+ 1.5	Angle wants Eddie to check his emotions before the main event.
Worst of the Night	S-22	+ / - 0	"The Cat" dances on the stage, distracts A-Train insufficiently.

Show Scoring

Match Contribution Index	58.37
Segment Contribution Index	22.77
Overall Show Score	81.14

Assessment

Up off of last week's effort, primarily due to an increase of match contribution, for which a triple digit match helps. Ranks third out of four SmackDown shows so far, but a nice effort no less.

Segment by Segment

●Pre SD Video Package: War of the Guerreros begins, escalates with the involvement of Chavo Guerrero Sr.	—	NR
●Post 1SD FBI attacks Mysterio, Noble comes down to the ring and pays off the FBI for their hench-work. Noble taunts Mysterio and poses with the title.	Money well spent . . .	+0.25
●Josh INT Heyman, Heyman says there is no more respect for authority, the English language, or Heyman thanks to Cena and Benoit, but it changes tonight; Heyman looks to the leadership of McMahon, bringing wrestling to new heights, versus Benoit and Cena, who appeal to the lowest common denominator with "thuggery" and hip-hop; Heyman says that he will take SmackDown to first class levels, and stop Benoit and Cena; sets Benoit and Cena against Rhyno, Morgan, Heyman, and Lesnar for which Heyman will be ringside to witness the destruction.	Well Heyman, I think George Carlin would disagree with you about the so called destruction of the English language; I do too, to a limited extent.	0
●Chavo says he and Chavo Sr. are the original Los Guerreros and has nothing to do with Eddie. Angle interjects, but Chavo Sr. says to stay out of their business. Angle says it became his business when Chavo Sr. lied to him about apologizing last week, saying they have no family values to boot; Chavo says Angle knows nothing about being held down by their own family; Angle says he had four older brothers who were bigger and stronger, but Angle did not turn on them, instead he won a gold medal for his country; Angle says Chavo and Chavo Sr. had a chance to make it right and that he and Eddie will make Chavo and Chavo Sr. learn their lesson tonight in the ring.	Angle: master technician and persuasive orator . . .	+0.75
●Backstage, Show tells Lesnar to stop shadowing him; Lesnar denies this, says he wants to discuss their match; Show says Lesnar follows him everywhere and the restraining order was for Show and Show needs time alone to think about tonight and the Rumble, saying when Show wins, he is coming for the title; Lesnar says he does not like following Show but is only there to protect Show in case the cops fail; Show questions what Lesnar will do about Holly if Holly breaks Lesnar's neck, which is possible because Holly has nothing to lose; Show says if that were to happen, all that would mean is a different opponent for Show.	Good points argued by Show; he must be secretly sitting in on my professor's research and writing classes..	+0.25
●Pre 3SD Dawn Marie says because Heyman is an Equal Opportunity Employer, the winner of 3SD will advance to the Royal Rumble, sets A-Train versus Shannon Moore, who has beaten A-Train before.	And how does that equate to equal-opportunity?	0
●Mid 3SD Ernest "The Cat" Miller dances his way onto the stage, distracting A-Train; Cole says "The Cat" is in the Rumble.	Ohhh-kayyyy?	0
●Backstage, Heyman prepares his team for the handicap match, saying his special chair is being prepared so Heyman could watch the destruction; Heyman asks where Show is and Lesnar says Show is in his locker room, hiding out with his cop buddies; Heyman says Show is getting psyched up, that the match is next, and that "It's Show Time!"	You have been quite wrong recently, so I wouldn't bank on this Heyman.	0
●Video Package: History of Lesnar and Holly; Lesnar breaks Holly's neck on 12Sep02, Holly's return solely to repay the favor.	—	NR
●Pre 4SD Stagehands set up the special chair, which is a lifeguard chair; Cena comes out, raps about Heyman and the soap incident last week, saying that Heyman made the match, and taunting Heyman's connection with Show and Lesnar, and that tonight is like the Rumble because he beats off everyone who keeps coming after him; Show's entrance is cued, but it is seen that he is trapped in his locker room by a forklift; commercial cut; after commercial, Show is still trapped, so Heyman reminds Lesnar that this is his hometown; Lesnar acquiesces and the match commences as a 3v2 Handicap.	Cena's rap just did not have the value that his previous raps have, but still OK nonetheless.	+0.25
●Mid 4SD Lesnar begins to leave the match, but Holly attacks him while Lesnar is fleeing; while officials have Holly restrained, Lesnar gets in a retributive shot.	That's what he gets for desertion.	0
●Post 4SD Benoit saves Cena from an attack by Morgan and clears him and Rhyno out; Cena and Benoit decide to tip the chair, placing Heyman in the ring, but before Benoit and Cena can get to him, Show finally emerges and annihilates them both; Show and Heyman stand triumphant.	His destruction shall consume them all; but probably not at the Rumble.	+0.25
●Best of Billy Gunn count-down: Moment No. 1: Gunn is engaged to be Palumbo's partner for life; media citations thereof; Gunn iterates that the publicity was incredible; Gunn says he can do that which he sets his mind to, runs over his accomplishments, and claims he will win the Rumble and go on to be the WWE Champion.	Arguable, but would not have put that at number one.	NR
●From the desk of Ross and Lawler: Raw presents its offerings for the Royal Rumble.	—	NR
●Angle comes up to Eddie, asking if Eddie is ready; Angle says he has seen Eddie's look, that Eddie thinks it is time for revenge by Chavo's destruction, but Angle says you get revenge by winning; Angle knows Eddie's emotions are high after a betrayal and an attack, but also says that the only reason that Eddie has not been a WWE Champion is because Eddie has not controlled his "Latino Heat;" Angle concludes that if Eddie wants to destroy Chavo at the Rumble, it is his business, but tonight, they go by Angle's rules, which involves focusing on winning, saying that such is what helped him to be the champion and that the same will allow him to win the Rumble and be the champion again come Wrestlemania.	Hey, who am I to argue with the Angle plan to success? The results are evident.	+1.5
●Post 6SD the victorious Chavos leave a fuming Eddie in the ring.	If rage was power, California could have used Eddie to solve our energy shortages when Davis was in office.	0

Closing Notes

1. The dejected look on Heyman's face after Cena and Benoit foiled him again was priceless. Just cannot win nowadays can you Heyman?
2. When Angle was lecturing the Chavos on family values, the kiss to his gold medals was just one of those things that lets you know that the segment has the Angle seal of quality.
3. First thing that came to my mind when Noble paid off the FBI was a Simpsons segment: Sound: Knock! Knock Homer: Who is it? ?????. Hired goons... Homer: Hired goons?
4. So "The Cat" is in the Rumble. "By what means?" I ask. Oh well, his momma will be so proud.
5. Who honestly considers a lifeguard chair special? Tazz had it right though when he said of Heyman "Thank God he's wearing a shirt."