



Lines

Giant Center (GtC) Hershey, Pennsylvania

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slashwrestling-wienerboard

1. Chris Jericho and Rob Van Dam v

2. Evolution (Randy Orton and Batista and Ric Flair)

3v2 Handicap

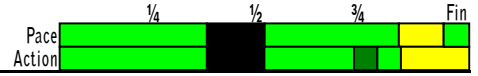
Aside from the negligent lapse in action quality late in the match, this contest held together quite nicely over the extended duration. For effect, it was interesting to see the good guys use bad guy tactics and liked when the "sharks" surrounded Van Dam midway. Match was finely balanced and that was likely attributable to the unexpected amount of momentum that Jericho and Van Dam got in the first half. Raw deservedly gets its first triple digit match of the year.

1Raw 17:13⁵⁶ 102 Mx-1j-2f-2o-1j-1v-1v-1v-1v-2o-1v-E-8-2f-2o-2o-2b-2f-Mx-2o-2o-2f-E-1j-1j-2b

◆RKO-Pin; Lengthily sound, boosting 7/8 kick. § Commercial Break.

CJericho 3 Straight losses
RbVanDam 3 Straight losses

RFlair 3 Straight wins
Batista 4 Straight wins



1. Victoria and Lita w Steven Richards v

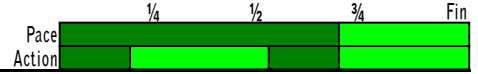
2. Molly Holly and Jazz w Theodore Long

2v2 Tag

Have to first cite the somewhat awkward nature of some of the execution, which detracted a little. But once that is set aside, match actually came off alright for the most part. For effect and a little humor, have to look at Victoria's "Let me in! Let me in! Let me in!" early on. Lita's headscissor takedowns seem to be coming off at an odder angle since her return but still seem effective enough. Best rating for all involved on the year to date.

2Raw 5:50²⁰ 46 Mx-1l-2j-1v-2j-2j-E-1l-1v-E-1v

SmallPackage-Pin; Leading start, into stride 1/4, closed fairly, some effect.



1. Kane v 2. Bubba Ray Dudley

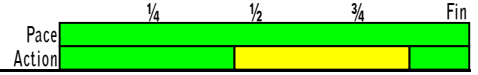
Singles

Another rage induced disqualification for Kane, but since it continues to serve his character, cannot really find fault in it. Actually amazed that Dudley got in as much offense as he did and that said, the action and speed were quite sound even though this was quite short. Liked how Kane retreated early only to draw out and trap Dudley. Value for time if nothing else which is sometimes all one can ask for.

3Raw 2:20⁵⁹ 25 2-1-2-Mx-2-1

@SteelStepStrike(BubbaRayDudley); Good break, moved well, expected finish.

Kane 4 Straight losses



1. Rob Conway w Rene Dupree v

2. Rico w Miss Jackie

Singles

Another in the series of elementally sound matches for Raw tonight. Obviously, there is effect to be derived not only from Rico's eccentricities, but also Miss Jackie's liberties taken to set up the finish, of which one should be actually amazed that it got on screen. Liked that each got his share of offense. Could have done without Dupree's interference but that is negligible in the overall picture.

4Raw 3:22⁰⁹ 41 Mx-1*1-2-2

RoundhouseKick-Pin; With speed, action held, balanced.



1. Jonathan Coachman w M. Henry and T. Long v
2. Goldberg

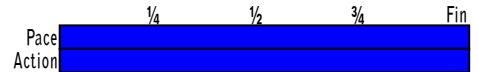
Singles No Disqualification

While generally having to account for who the match was supposed to be between, will also account for the action between Henry and Goldberg, which barely keeps the elements of the weak zone. Still, even that was mostly one-sided and the premise of it all lends no value or credibility. Given that set of facts, have to assign the zero mark, but just because it is the standard of the Lines, it should not deter you from finding value where you can.

5Raw 4:24⁷² -0 *2

Jackhammer-Pin; Outside involvement throughout, cannot credit.

First zero match of year



Breakdowns	Matches	5
	No Contests	0
	Total Match Time	33:11 ¹⁶
	Pct. Of Show	35.12 (94.5)

Interference	1Raw	—
	2Raw	—
	3Raw	—
	4Raw	*Rene Dupree
	5Raw	*Mark Henry

Title Changes None

Match Types	Singles	3
	Tag	1
	Handicap	1

Character Notes Looks like Christian is getting ready to fully turn on Jericho. Furthermore, Jericho was in a complete fan-favorite mode tonight.

Notable Matches

Best of the Night	1Raw	102 Chris Jericho and Rob Van Dam v Evolution (Orton, Batista, Flair)
Worst of the Night	5Raw	-0 Jonathan Coachman v Goldberg

Notable Segments

Best of the Night	S-11	+ 3.75 Foley returns to his dark depths and attacks Orton.
Worst of the Night	S-7	+ /-0 Keibler comes out to congratulate Miss Jackie after 4Raw.

Show Scoring	Match Contribution Index	41.63
	Segment Contribution Index	85.52
	Overall Show Score	127.15

Assessment A triple digit showing from Raw highlighted by a superb Foley promo and a superb opening match. That it rates this highly even with a zero match should speak greatly for this outing.

Segment by Segment

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jericho out to ring, saying he would normally be angry that Benoit won the Rumble but he is on SD and this is "Raw is Jericho" and that the title shot is open; because he was the last Raw entry in the Rumble and because of his earned Survivor Series favor, he wants the shot tonight so he can win and, mocking Howard Dean, defend it in many states en route to WMXX in New York; Bischoff comes out and comprehends the request and grants it but says Jericho might want to reserve his favor because there is a slated match between Stratus and Kane; Bischoff is not proud that Jericho was last because still, SD has won the Rumble for the last two years which is unacceptable; without Jericho saying anything, Bischoff concludes Jericho will choose to save Stratus and cancels the match, but says because Jericho and Van Dam failed to get the job done, they would have to face Batista, Flair, and Orton; Orton being the man who should have won the Rumble. 	I wonder if this qualifies as duress or necessity under the Stone Cold code of law.	+0.75
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Orton complains the Bischoff, saying he was supposed to win but Foley foiled that and an all Evolution WMXX; Orton goes on to say he is that good and wants license to beat Foley up on the rumor that he is coming tonight and Bischoff accommodates this; Austin interjects and says Foley will show tonight because Austin invited him, but says Orton can try to beat on Foley only after Foley has had a chance to respond to Orton's advertisements about Foley's cowardice. 	Nice to see that the Stone Cold code has the element of equal time.	+0.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stratus visits Jericho backstage, asking about his condition and thanking him for saving her; Jericho says it is the least he can do after what they have been through; Stratus says she is glad they know how they feel about each other and they can be good close friends; Jericho agrees that such is all he wants, but does so tentatively; Stratus says she will not help Jericho get chicks like Christian; Christian enters and Stratus leaves; Christian criticizes Jericho saving Stratus and Jericho asks where Christian was during his match; Christian and Jericho argue about each trying to eliminate the other at the Rumble; Christian then says he was trying to smooth things over with Bischoff for Jericho and says they have a Tag Title contendership match next week but questions whether his head is in the game and says this is not "The OC." 	The friend trap. Now what are going to do Jericho? And as far as Christian goes, I'd keep my eye on him next week if I were you.	+0.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Triple H comes out and says that at the Rumble, he and Michaels fought long and hard for the title and though Michaels said it might come down to one second, Michaels could not stand up when the second came and thus, Triple H remains the champion; Michaels comes out and Triple H asks what it will take to stop Michaels, to which Michaels replies that they have not even gotten started yet; Austin comes out on the ATV, saying it was a shame their match was a draw because the champion retains and he then likens the match to the Texas Chainsaw Massacre; Austin thinks Michaels deserves a rematch but cannot give it to him because he is meant to enforce the law, that being that the Rumble winner faces the champion at WMXX and Benoit won, not Michaels; Austin then invites out the Rumble winner and Benoit emerges; Benoit says he knows they did not expect to see him; Benoit goes on to say that they fought hard for the title last night and he did to and for 18 years has fought to be the best and that after 62 minutes and 29 other competitors, he now has the chance to fight the best; finally, he says whether it is Triple H or Michaels, at WMXX Benoit will fulfill his destiny and be the World Heavyweight Champion. 	(Insert Looney Tunes confusion spasms and incoherent babble here). Good stuff, but <i>huh</i> ?!	+1.25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Post 3Raw D-Von tries to save Bubba Ray but falls to a tombstone from Kane; before Kane can light the posts, the haunting bells of the Undertaker echo forth and the Titantron shows a series of images from a graveyard, to Kane, to the Undertaker, to serpents, to the buried alive match; Kane is confused and flees the ring. 	Ooh! Menacing, isn't it?	+0.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bischoff tells Heyman that he knew nothing of Benoit's appearance and that Austin tells him nothing before acting, but if Benoit wants to come to Raw because of its superiority, Bischoff will not stop him; Heyman says he is onto the game that Bischoff and Austin were in on, commending them for the best good-cop-bad-cop ever, but tells Bischoff to lawyer up because Heyman will sue; Coach enters and asks about what is happening and Bischoff says Heyman threatened suit because of Benoit; Coach says to watch out lest Heyman beat him up, citing their scuffle at the Rumble, prompting Coach to laugh; Bischoff is not amused and makes the match of Goldberg and Coach, which is no-disqualification. 	You should know better than that Coach.	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Post 4Raw Keibler comes out the congratulate Miss Jackie. 	Umm...yeah...OK... (?)	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Video: Lesnar encounters Goldberg at the Rumble, leading to Goldberg's demise. 	—	NR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pre 5Raw Coach pleads for Bischoff to rescind the match, saying he is sorry and that he has been superkicked, 3D'ed, and manhandled at the Rumble; Coach says this is unfair and no one wants to see that match; Henry and Long emerge; Long says it is unfair that Bischoff is taking out his problems on the black man ("haterizin"), that it is pathetic that can order around blacks and expect whatever they want, then offers Henry in Coach's corner; Coach accepts his help. 	I'll bet the term haterizin' does not appear in the Stone Cold code.	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Post 5Raw Goldberg declares that regardless of what show Lesnar is on, he is next. 	Another crossing of the chasm?	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Foley comes out and says an explanation for his actions is in order, but to do so, one must understand what got Foley to where he has been; he cites the accolades he has been given such as courage and heart, but more in play was hatred and a deep dark place of the heart to which he could channel things from himself though not humanly possible; Foley says that such was good when he was active; Foley compares this to Pete Rose who had similar anger to do great things when he played but that Rose remained angry and has become sad and Foley does not want such for himself; Foley says he was happy after letting go and that his mistake was accepting the match with Orton because he knew he was not willing or able to return to his darkness and hate and that Orton took advantage of that to make Foley's life difficult; Foley says that though Orton might be mad at Foley because of the Rumble, Orton owes Foley and Foley calls him out, without Evolution; Orton comes out and asks what Foley wants from him; Foley asks Orton to spit in his face again but Orton is confused; Foley taunts Orton until he complies; then Foley turns the other cheek and tells Orton to do it again; a crazed Foley says his children have done worse to him so it is no big deal and the same would go for the words except that people were starting to believe what Orton was saying, and the idea the Orton is a hardcore legend is ridiculous; Foley says when Orton spits on Foley, he spits on his legacy, name, and the business he loves which is unacceptable; Foley has made himself bleed at this point and says the time and place for hatred is here and now and attacks Orton; Batista and Flair save Orton, but when they go check on him, Foley gets a chair and drives all three of them off; Foley proceeds to maniacally hit himself with that chair. 	A truly impressive promo. Find a way to see this as soon as you can. This is like the advanced course for all prospective wrestlers. I mean, this is what aspiring wrestlers should cite to when writing their dissertations as to what they aspire to do in their promos.	+3.75

Closing Notes

1. Your logic of the night comes from Foley, who likely was right in saying whoever came up with the "sticks and stones" adage was never called "Orton's bitch" on TV.
2. The Undertaker promos: loving it; the sinister nature of it all is being conveyed really well I think.
3. Regarding the liberties taken by Miss Jackie in the fourth, all I can say is I never expected that to happen. But I guess such is the promise of a live show.
4. The number of recent tombstones is also something unexpected; can it be returning fully? I know, probably wishful thinking but still... please, please, please, please.
5. For as much as Theodore Long has annoyed me, I must say his little celebratory dance while Henry was handling Goldberg was pretty funny.