



Lines

MCI Center (Mci)
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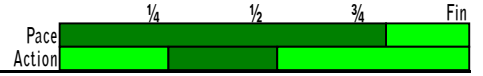
- 1. Basham Brothers w Shaniqua v
- 2. Billy Kidman and Paul London

Singles

WWE Tag Team Championship-Grade I

Pretty basic form in this match. Speed was a little slower than expected for those involved and the action eased a bit midway. But these facts do not detract from a fair remainder of the match, which enjoyed a little drive towards the close. Furthermore, the setup for the finish was OK, even if a little trite, the match was rather balanced, and for a little effect, see London's evasive move to tag in Kidman, prompting the drive herein. Will not dismiss outright.

1SD 3:45⁰³ 28 Mx-2l-1dn-1dg-1dn-2k-1dn
SpikeDDT-Pin; Went on 5/8, mostly fair throughout.



- 1. Jamie Noble w Nidia v 2. Rey Mysterio

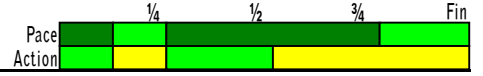
Singles

WWE Cruiserweight Championship-Grade II

With cruiserweights, often expect the pace to hit at least yellow on the grids, but that was not necessary here. The best feature of this contest was the execution of just about every series in this match. Effect was provided by Nidia's outside involvement, and definitely liked her abrupt stop just before running into Mysterio to set up an astounded Noble and a Mysterio victory. Would have been best without the Rumble.

2SD 7:47²⁶ 80 Mx-1-2-1*1-1-E-2-E-2-E-2
SpringboardSenton-Pin; Deliberate lead in, gd execution, 3/4 burst.

RMysterio 5 Straight wins.

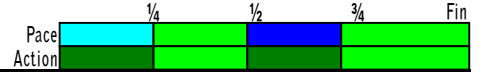


- 1. Brock Lesnar v 2. Orlando Jordan

Singles

Figured match to be around the minute mark with absolutely no offense from Jordan, so was pleasantly surprised to know that Jordan got enough in to hit the momentum line twice. The action was actually considerably better than expected, and while the grid line does not say a lot to that effect, that this could have been in the purple says a lot. Actually outdoes the opening match by a bit.

3SD 4:20⁶⁵ 30 (17²) 1-2-1-1-2-1
BrockLock-Submission; Breaking start, wavering pace, some merit.



Fifteen Entries

15ManRoyalRumble Over TopRope Rule:

#1 Ct. WWE Championship-Grade III

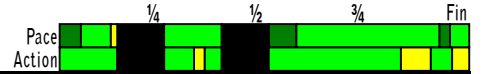
Very well done in execution and a suitable speed throughout, not to mention the loads and loads of effect. It should not be any real wonder that this hits a very high line. Thoroughly enjoyed the one-on-one portion between Guerrero and Angle with its close eliminations to add to the plethora beforehand. Expected Chavo to get involved in this one but glad that he did not do so. Have to recommend that you get a tape of this one. Superb outing.

4SD 36:58²⁷ 123 See Page 3 For Match Chart
FrontSuplexRelease-Elimination; Effective throughout, good series.

See Page 3 For Match Chart
Best of the Night

EGuerrero #1 Ct. forWWE Title
KAngle 3 Straight losses

Rating recorded, but not included in year-to-date bests.



Breakdowns	Matches	4	Interference	1SD	*Nidia
	No Contests	0		2SD	—
	Total Match Time	52:51 ²²		3SD	—
	Pct. Of Show	57.45 (92)		4SD	*JohnCena

Title Changes None.

Match Types	Singles	3
	RoyalRumble	1

Character Notes Nidia has turned on Noble.

Notable Matches

Best of the Night	4SD	123	15 Man Royal Rumble
Worst of the Night	1SD	28	BashamBrothers v BillyKidman/PaulLondon

Notable Segments

Best of the Night	S-1	+ 1.25	Heyman sets a SmackDown Rumble due to Benoit's departure.
Worst of the Night	S-14	-0.25	Vince tells Josh he has a nice smile after chastising question order.

Show Scoring	Match Contribution Index	98.80
	Segment Contribution Index	24.11
	Overall Show Score	122.91

Assessment Have to love a triple digit weekly showing, even if most of the contribution is from a Royal Rumble match. The segments with Dawn Marie were quite entertaining as well. Could not go wrong tonight.

Segment by Segment

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heyman in the ring but he is promptly interrupted by Vince McMahon; Vince said tonight should have been a celebratory night for Benoit and the DC fans, but it is not so because Heyman let Benoit slip away to Raw through a legal loophole, that being the champion the Rumble winner faces is unspecified combined with the fact that Heyman made Benoit's life hell; Heyman offers a rebuttal with "Screw Chris Benoit" alluding to precedent with Vince and Nash/Hall/Hogan/Hart and giving someone else the chance to be the big star; Heyman then proposes a SmackDown Royal Rumble so that someone else may get Benoit's opportunity with Holly and Eddie Guerrero in place of Morgan and Benoit (other 13 superstars in Royal Rumble are also in; winner to face Lesnar at No Way Out); Heyman says Vince can say screw Heyman or make history with vision; Vince agrees with the prospect. 	Precedent is always a good way to win an argument... what am I saying?! Screw that! Rumble! Rumble! Rumble!	+1.25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backstage, Angle questions whether he must pick his own number for the Rumble; Heyman says everyone will pick their own because of the need for legitimacy for the match; Angle tells Dawn Marie that he is dedicating this match to the US Armed Forces, then says Benoit's leaving gives him another chance and that he will win tonight and win at No Way Out; Angle draws his number and immediately bolts from the room. 	Number one, definitely, by the suddenness of his reaction.	+0.25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A trainer examines Chavo's injuries; Chavo Sr. says he cannot believe Eddie did such things to Chavo; Chavo says his wounds will heal but his internal scars will be around forever; Chavo says he will get his revenge on Eddie and when he does, everyone will know who the biggest star is in the Guerrero family. 	Some warped senses of justice and right on that side of the family.	+0.25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eddie enters to draw his entry, asking Dawn Marie to blow on his ball for luck; Eddie says he is feeling lucky; Mystero enters with boxer Jorge Paez; Eddie says he will draw luck from them and will try his hardest; Eddie tells Mystero to win his title defense to make them and the raza proud; Eddie then tells Jorge to check out Dawn Marie. 	Draw luck from whatever source you can; it just might pay off.	+0.25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cena enters to choose his number, checking out Dawn Marie in the process and saying Dawn is fine enough to be lady luck; Cena asks Dawn to pick his ball but Heyman denies this; Cena tells "Captain Buzzkill" to take a seat and then selects his entry ball, but as he leaves Rhyno enters; Rhyno asks how the knee is and says if someone went after it, it would be a shame; Cena tells Rhyno he stinks and tells Heyman to get Rhyno some soap; Rhyno then asks "tootz" for a number. 	If you weren't laughing at that, you weren't awake.	+0.75
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post 2SD Nidia reveals to Noble that she can see and walks out on a furious Noble. 	Noble sees red, methinks.	+0.25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the SD Studios: Rue DeBona goes over the rumor of a tag team pose for Playboy, going over the WWE's history with Playboy. 	—	NR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heyman allows Dawn to pick Show's ball because his hand will not fit and she does; Dawn marvels at the size of Big Show's hands and Big Show confirms the "Chicks dig it big;" Show then vows to win tonight and not get screwed like he did on Sunday. 	Can't see it happening...	+0.25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Josh INT Lesnar about his confrontation with Goldberg at the Rumble which led to Goldberg's elimination; video from Raw is shown where Goldberg says Lesnar is next; Josh asks if Lesnar fears Goldberg; Lesnar says everyone once called him a Goldberg wannabe but Goldberg will never accomplish what Lesnar has and will never be what Lesnar is and that Goldberg is a Lesnar wannabe; Lesnar says he fears none and issues an open challenge (non-title) to anyone and says everyone is lucky that he is at the arena. 	Lesnar presents better rebuttals than some of the Democratic candidates. Ouch for the party.	+0.25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dawn tells Haas and Benjamin to pick their balls; before Benjamin can take liberties with Dawn Marie, Haas reminds him that they are there to pick Rumble entries; Benjamin tells Haas that he took out all the fun; an alarmed stagehand summons Heyman to where Eddie Guerrero has been attacked and is unconscious; Chavo and Chavo Sr. ask what is going on and everyone looks to them; the Chavos deny everything but Mystero attacks them until he is held back; Mystero questions whether Eddie will be OK. 	The Chavos didn't even fight back... but I still think they did it.	+1.0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eddie is loaded into an ambulance which will take him to the hospital. 	He'll be back, I hope.	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footage: Dawn Marie and Rey Mystero visit soldiers at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. 	—	NR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Rumble Footage: The bells of the Undertaker haunt Kane at the Rumble and on Raw. 	—	NR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Josh INT Vince on the occurrences of the bells and the possibility of the Undertaker; Vince says he is not John Edwards and does not communicate with the dead and the last he checked he buried the Undertaker alive; Vince said he thought the question regarded who would win the Rumble so Josh obliges, only for Vince to refuse to answer on the grounds that it should have been asked first; Vince says Josh will be alright because he has a nice smile and all. 	Er... um... yeah... ah... I don't know.	-0.25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angle storms Heyman's office, asking about Eddie's attack; Heyman says Eddie regained consciousness so its OK; Eddie accuses Heyman of putting Chavo in Eddie's place; Heyman says when Eddie's music plays, if he comes out, then fine, but if not then Angle's odds better; Heyman tells Angle to focus because the match is right now. 	In retrospect, maybe Angle should have recommended Chavo for Eddie.	0

Closing Notes

1. It was a close call, but have to go with Benjamin's interaction with Dawn Marie in a previously unseen "playa" mode. Too humorous for my own good.
2. Of course, I would be remiss if I did not give honorable mention to Cena's soap reference. Couldn't stop laughing.
3. But there is more: when the Haas/Benjamin music played back to back, had to like when Tazz asks "Charlie Haas again?"
4. And for another announcer's bit, see their Rumble pick dialog: Cole: "Can I pick two guys?" Tazz: "No, pick one."
5. And finally, how wrong was that match preview graphic with Nidia feeling around blindly? It got some laughs from me, but come on now.

#1 Ct. WWE Championship-Grade III

# Entry	Ring In	Ring Out	Eliminated By	Means of Elimination	Momentum Line
1 Kurt Angle	START	36:57 ⁵³	Eddie Guerrero (4-2/3)	FrontSuplexRelease	—
2 Rhyno	START		1 A-Train (1)	5 ?????	Mx-2-E
3 Charlie Haas	1:38 ²⁸	25:14 ⁹³	Eddie Guerrero (2-1/6)	ForceOverTopRope	3-2-1-3
4 Shelton Benjamin	3:18 ⁹⁵	25:31 ⁷⁵	Kurt Angle (2-1/6)	Clothesline	4,2-3,4-1-3,2-3,4
5 Bradshaw	4:58 ⁶⁷	13:17 ⁵³	Big Show (2)	TopRopeManipulation	Mx-5-§
6 Ernest "The Cat" Miller		2	2 Kurt Angle (1)	ForceOverTopRope	6 [6-1→...]
7 Tajiri	9:11 ⁵⁹	12:57 ⁹⁹	Big Show (1)	Chokeslam	1,7,5-5,3,4
8 Billy Gunn	10:33 ⁸³	26:51 ⁷¹	Eddie Guerrero (3-1/6)	BodyScissors	8-8,4,7-5,8
9 Big Show	12:28 ³¹	23:16 ³⁸	* Rikishi (1/6); KAngle (1-1/6) BGunn (1/6) HHolly (1/6); EGuerrero (1-1/6); CHaas (1/6)	* TandemForceOver TopRope	9→9→9
10 John Cena	14:11 ⁸⁸	22:43 ¹⁵	Big Show (3)	LegChokeForce	10-§
11 Nunzio		3	3 John Cena (1)	FU	7 [... 10→...]
12 A-Train		4	19:25 ⁶⁰ Eddie Guerrero (1)	ShoulderThrow	8 [... 12→...] 9,4,12
13 Eddie Guerrero	19:12 ¹⁹		FINISH WINNER	—	12,9-13→1,13-4,9
14 Rikishi	20:35 ²⁷	28:53 ⁸⁴	KAngle (3-2/3); EGuerrero (3-2/3)	TandemCarryOverTpRp	14,13-14-9,1,3
15 Hardcore Holly	22:00 ⁰⁶	26:00 ⁰⁴	Kurt Angle (3-1/6)	CarryOverTopRope	15,4,3-9→*14,1,8,15,13,3→13,14,3-15-3,14,15,1-13→1→1,15,3-1→8,13→14-E-Mx-1,13→1-1-1 13-E-1-1-E-Mx-13

Superscript Notations

- ¹ Rhyno's elimination, between 14:39⁶⁸ and 18:14⁸⁵ not shown (commercial).
- ² "The Cat's" entry and elimination, between 5:27⁰⁹ and 9:00⁸⁸ not shown (commercial).
- ³ Nunzio's entry and elimination, between 14:39⁶⁸ and 18:14⁸⁵ not shown (commercial).
- ⁴ A-Train's entry, between 14:39⁶⁸ and 18:14⁸⁵ not shown (commercial).
- ⁵ Means of Rhyno's elimination never shown.
- ⁶ Segment shown on replay; occurred between 5:27⁰⁹ and 9:00⁸⁸. Lapses between commercial and segment, and between elimination of "The Cat" and return to show.
- ⁷ Segment shown on replay; occurred between 14:39⁶⁸ and 18:14⁸⁵. Lapses between commercial and segment, and between elimination of Nunzio and return to show.
- ⁸ Segment not shown.

Other Notes

- The following information was gathered from an in-person SmackDown report; can be found at <http://www.liveaudiowrestling.com/wo/news/headlines/default.asp?aID=9514>. Nunzio entered eleventh and A-Train entered twelfth.
- Nunzio eliminated before A-Train's entry.
- A-Train eliminated Rhyno during second commercial break (14:39⁶⁸ — 18:14⁸⁵).

- Eliminations credited depending on number of those involved. Tandem eliminations are worth fractional credits.
- *Interference by John Cena (no elimination credit). Cena assisted six-man effort to remove Big Show. § Commercial breaks.

Rank by Number of Eliminations

13 Eddie Guerrero	4-2/3
1 Kurt Angle	3-2/3
9 Big Show	3
12 A-Train	1
10 John Cena	1
8 Billy Gunn	1/6
3 Charlie Haas	1/6
15 Hardcore Holly	1/6
14 Rikishi	1/6
- Total	14

Rank by Time in Match

1 Kurt Angle	36:57 ⁵³
3 Charlie Haas	23:36 ⁶⁵
4 Shelton Benjamin	22:12 ⁸⁰
13 Eddie Guerrero	17:46 ⁰⁸
8 Billy Gunn	16:17 ⁸⁸
9 Big Show	10:48 ⁰⁷
10 John Cena	8:31 ²⁷
5 Bradshaw	8:18 ⁸⁶
14 Rikishi	8:18 ⁵⁷
15 Hardcore Holly	3:59 ⁹⁸
7 Tajiri	3:46 ⁴⁰
12 A-Train	Indeterminable
6 Ernest "The Cat" Miller	Indeterminable
11 Nunzio	Indeterminable
2 Rhyno	Indeterminable

Order of Elimination

6 Ernest "The Cat" Miller
7 Tajiri
5 Bradshaw
11 Nunzio
2 Rhyno
12 A-Train
10 John Cena
9 Big Show
3 Charlie Haas
4 Shelton Benjamin
15 Hardcore Holly
8 Billy Gunn
14 Rikishi
1 Kurt Angle