



Lines

Gund Arena (Gnd)  
Cleveland, Ohio

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Robert Ortega Jr.

rsortegajr@dslextreme.com

slashwrestling-wienerboard

- 1. Rikishi and Scotty 2 Hotty v
- 2. Basham Brothers w Shaniqua

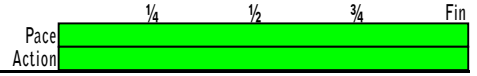
2v2 Tag

WWE Tag Team Championship-Grade I

Pretty straightforward and steady throughout this title contest. No lapses is always a plus. A few notables to like in this one such as Hotty's repeated drives toward his corner to tag out, only to be continuously thwarted. Liked that match did not settle when Hotty was finally able to tag Rikishi, and match enjoyed a little kick thereafter. Not the finest of tag matches, but a healthy figure to start a tag title reign.

1SD 5:12<sup>16</sup> 50 (322) 1x-1s-2dg-2dn-2dg-2dn-2dg-1r\*2dg-1r 12dg  
SamoanDrop-Pin; Steadily fair throughout, some kick 3/4.

Title Change



- 1. Big Show v 2. Billy Gunn

Singles

WWE United States Championship-Grade II

Another one of those matches where the amount of time given yields absurdly little. With the low amount of action, have to wonder why this could not be condensed to about five minutes and been given amore forward pace setting. Only real noteworthy action came from Show taking the wind out of Gunn only to nearly crush him by standing on his chest at about the 3/4 mark. Hard to accept this offering. Scary that the mid-thirties rating may be generous, no?

2SD 12:15<sup>41</sup> 34 1-1-2-1-§-1-1-1-1-1-2-1  
CradleBackSlam-Pin; Slow start, tailed, late recovery insufficient.  
§Commercial Break.

BGunn 3 straight losses



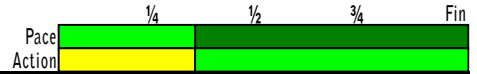
- 1. Jamie Noble v 2. Billy Kidman

Singles

Not quite to the level of speed expected from cruiserweights and perhaps it should concern that such comment has been repeated a few times on recent shows. That notwithstanding, elementally fair for the limited time it had. Liked Noble's continuous focus on Kidman's knee, especially when Kidman's knee was wrapped over the top of the turnbuckle. Expected Nidia to be involved somehow, and said involvement, throwing Noble's money into the crowd, was somewhat funny.

3SD 3:00<sup>66</sup> 28 Mx-2-1-E-1-2  
BKBomb-Pin; Fair in and steadied, some effect to action.

JNoble 3 straight losses



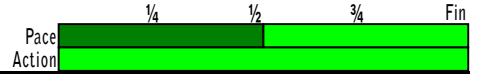
- 1. Rey Mysterio v
- 2. Chavo Guerrero Sr. w Chavo Guerrero

Singles

Not much to speak of here, primarily because this was so succinct. Pretty standard form with Guerrero Sr. taking the first half only to succumb to Mysterio in the second despite Guerrero's outside presence. Not much to read into it, but found it amusing that Guerrero bailed on Guerrero Sr. just as the six-one-nine was about to hit. Probably also of some amusement that this was not totally far off in quality from a certain twelve minute match earlier in the show.

4SD 1:59<sup>84</sup> 20 2-2-1\*1  
SixOneNine-Pin; Succinct, standard.

RMysterio 6 straight wins



- 1. Kurt Angle v 2. Hardcore Holly

Singles

Primary problem that kept this from a stronger figure was the inherent lack of balance of control in this one. On the plus side, a few things in this one counteract that fact somewhat. Firstly, have to note Angle's extremely painful looking dive into the ringpost for good effect, which was played on a little down the line. Second, liked the finishing series with Angle persisting with the Anklelock to the end. Could have been better, but a solid number, and best of the night.

5SD 14:12<sup>40</sup> 80 Mx-Mx-Mx-2-E-1-2-§-2-2-2-E-1-2-2-2-1-1  
Anklelock-Submission; OK lead in, good finishing series, more balance desired.  
§Commercial Break.

Best of the night  
HHolly 3 straight losses



<b>Breakdowns</b>	Matches	5	<b>Interference</b>	1SD	*Shaniqua	<b>Title Changes</b>	Rikishi and Scotty 2 Hotty–New WWE Tag Team Champions.
	No Contests	0		2SD	—		
	Total Match Time	36:40 <sup>47</sup>		3SD	—		
	Pct. Of Show	39.86 (92)		4SD	*Chavo Guerrero		
				5SD	—		
<b>Match Types</b>	Singles	4				<b>Character Notes</b>	None.
	Tag	1					

### Notable Matches

Best of the Night	5SD	<b>80</b>	Kurt Angle v Hardcore Holly
Worst of the Night	4SD	<b>20</b>	Rey Mysterio v Chavo Guerrero Sr.

### Notable Segments

Best of the Night	S-5	<b>+ 3.25</b>	Eddie cites what he has overcome and says Lesnar is just an obstacle.
Worst of the Night	S-11	<b>0</b>	Heyman makes yet another reference to "costume malfunctions."

<b>Show Scoring</b>	Match Contribution Index	33.45	<b>Assessment</b>	Quite the step down from the last SmackDown overall, but a nice step up in the segment contribution keeps this from being a greater drop in class that Raw suffered on Monday. Fairly good all things considered, but could have used some better matches in the middle.
	Segment Contribution Index	55.13		
	Overall Show Score	88.58		

### Segment by Segment

●HEYMAN is in the ring and welcome everyone to the show; says that last week he turned a negative (BENOIT'S departure) into a positive, a Royal Rumble; HEYMAN says he has made SmackDown into a land of opportunity and EDDIE GUERRERO took advantage of it and will fact LESNAR at No Way Out; HEYMAN vows not to rest on that and vows to produce again tonight because later tonight, he will announce the number one contender for the WWE title at WMXX; HEYMAN says for those in the locker room, this is opportunity, because those wrestling tonight can impress the man who makes that choice; HEYMAN says GMs like BISCHOFF would stay out all night talking but not HEYMAN because he know time is money and it is time for the first match tonight which is for the WWE Tag titles.	Just lining up the contenders are we? Well, cannot accuse Heyman of being unorganized.	0
●Video package: the prelude to the Rumble, GUERRERO'S mysterious injury, and triumphant performance in the Rumble match.	—	NR
●DAWN MARIE goes to CENA'S locker room and CENA hits on her some more before HEYMAN interrupts; HEYMAN asks about his knee and if CENA reads the papers; HEYMAN cites an FCC crackdown on things like Howard Stern and the Super Bowl and says he is similarly committed to vigorous broadcast standards and America's children to which CENA tells him to not reproduce, which is fine because HEYMAN gets little tail and CENA is about to steal it anyway; HEYMAN orders DAWN MARIE away from CENA and says those kinds of comments that hang over HEYMAN'S head and with that, he cannot allow CENA out to the ring with a live microphone; HEYMAN benches CENA but invites him to stay around for the announcement of the number one contender for the WWE title at WMXX because CENA should find it interesting.	What can we say? Chicks did the rap.	+0.5
●Backstage, CHAVO and CHAVO SR. cite to HEYMAN last week when MYSTERIO accused them of attacking EDDIE GUERRERO but they had nothing to do with it and HEYMAN believes them; CHAVO says if he had a problem with MYSTERIO, he would tell him to his face and is starting to have a problem just the same with MYSTERIO having a video and his face on the cover of SmackDown magazine wearing a mask; CHAVO said he should be on the cover and does not hide behind a mask because he is proud of his heritage; HEYMAN sees where they are coming from and sets a cruiserweight title match between CHAVO and MYSTERIO at No Way Out; CHAVO says that when he wins, he will take MYSTERIO'S mask and CHAVO SR. says after that, he will give MYSTERIO the spanking his mother should have given him; HEYMAN then decides to make a match between CHAVO SR. and MYSTERIO tonight; CHAVO SR. begins to protest, but CHAVO says they, he means, CHAVO SR. can beat MYSTERIO; CHAVO SR. acquiesces.	Watch the seamless transition on Chavo Sr. from man seeing the vision to Mr. Hesitant extraordinaire. Too funny.	+0.25
●COLE introduces EDDIE GUERRERO, who overcame the odds by being attacked to unconsciousness and coming back to win the SmackDown Royal Rumble; EDDIE comes out to the ring and COLE congratulates EDDIE on his win last week and his title shot and asks about EDDIE'S chances, but before EDDIE can really respond, LESNAR comes out to the ring; LESNAR congratulates EDDIE on beating 14 superstars, but LESNAR was not one of them, and LESNAR has beaten HOGAN, FLAIR, THE ROCK, and ANGLE, and the point is that LESNAR fears no one, not GOLDBERG, not EDDIE; LESNAR says he opens the door to GOLDBERG to witness his victory over EDDIE; EDDIE says that it is quite a resume that LESNAR has and if EDDIE had that he would not fear EDDIE; EDDIE says he does not have that, and all he has going for him is that every obstacle that has been placed in front of him has been overcome and it was not done by listening to people like LESNAR; EDDIE cites overcoming his smaller stature in wrestling, his personal demons, and getting back his children; EDDIE says voices like LESNAR'S have been in his head all his life saying what he cannot do; EDDIE says that by the grace of God, he has overcome it all because all he does is picture people like LESNAR in his mind and hearing those adverse voices and that all EDDIE sees in LESNAR is his next obstacle; EDDIE says LESNAR will be facing all the battle and fire in EDDIE, in other words, Latino Heat; LESNAR says that the demons and people were right and that EDDIE is no one; EDDIE attacks LESNAR, forces him out of the ring, and tries on LESNAR'S championship belt for size.	Powerful, powerful stuff from Eddie. Lots of high rating segments as of recent. It's all a wonderful dream, and I will kill whoever wakes me up. You have been warned. That is all. Oh yeah, I believe Eddie has a truly legitimate chance at winning this one.	+3.25
●Video: the phenomena of lightning and fog plague KANE during his match against GOLDBERG.	—	NR
●NOBLE complains to HEYMAN about NIDIA throwing his money into the stands; NOBLE says he has given money and fur to her and if NIDIA wants to mess with NOBLE it should be in the ring and asks HEYMAN to grant NOBLE the match; HEYMAN sets NOBLE and NIDIA at No Way Out.	Why? That's all I ask.	0
●Music Video: "Crossing Borders" - Rey Mysterio from the WWE Originals soundtrack.	Not spectacular, but not bad.	NR
●From the previous Raw: AUSTIN gives GOLDBERG a front row ticket for No Way Out.	—	NR
●From the SD Studios: RUE DuBONA confirms that WILSON and SABLE will be the WWE's model tag team in Playboy and introduces a preview thereof.	—	NR
●DAWN MARIE asks HEYMAN if he has made his decision; HEYMAN says he can feel DAWN'S heartbeat through her chest and not to have a costume malfunction or mess up HEYMAN'S hair because after the next match, HEYMAN will announce his decision.	Yet more citations to Jackson and Timberlake v. clothing. Enough!	0
●Post 5SD HEYMAN comes out to the ring and says the moment of truth has arrived and says he is glad ANGLE is out there already, but BIG SHOW stops HEYMAN before he can announce it; BIG SHOW says he assumes ANGLE is out to congratulate BIG SHOW; SHOW pleads his case for the contendership as he is the US Champion who defended successfully tonight, and dominated the Rumble, then says people will spend hard earned money to see SHOW because the people love him; ANGLE chimes in with his case, saying he was the last man eliminated in the SmackDown Rumble, deserves the shot, and challenges SHOW to any athletic contest to prove such, but warns SHOW that pie eating contests do not count; SHOW says he eats pieces of crap like ANGLE for breakfast to which ANGLE, of course, capitalizes; HEYMAN separates the parties and says both have the passion and likes it so at No Way Out, ANGLE will face SHOW for the shot, but before he can conclude the thought, CENA interrupts to make his case; CENA raps that SHOW trying to claim MVP status but is worth nothing; on ANGLE, CENA raps that he will rip of ANGLE'S title shot faster than Janet Jackson's top was; SHOW and ANGLE are so infuriated that they order HEYMAN to put CENA in the match; CENA says leaving him out is like taking LeBron James out of the All-Star Game; HEYMAN, under pressure, stops CENA and agrees to a triple threat match between CENA, ANGLE, and SHOW; CENA says he is not done with HEYMAN, and seeing as they are in Cleveland, CENA will give HEYMAN a "Cleveland Steamer."	Do I get to decide these kinds of cases when I become a judge? No? Oh, well I guess I am happy enough just viewing and laughing.	+1.5

### Closing Notes

- Should have mentioned it on Monday, but I like that WWE Bottom Line. Makes the show more official and ESPN like, for lack of a better description.
- Tazz claims that "Wherever SmackDown goes, it's SmackDown country." That's some country. How long would it take to fly across that particular land mass?
- Tazz's and Cole's "Who Are You?" rendition equal guaranteed laughs, at least if you are me and easily amused (terms definitely used synonymously here).
- Maybe my expectations are out of whack, but Lesnar's Spanish enunciation really did not do it for me in his congratulatory line to Guerrero.
- For your statement that sounds stupid when isolated (a term used by many political assassins), see Cole when he said "It's the Big Show, but is it the Big Show?"