



Lines

Rose Garden (Rse)
Portland, Oregon

9 February 2004

Robert Ortega Jr.

rsortegajr@dslextreme.com

slashwrestling-wienerboard

1. Trish Stratus and Chris Jericho v

2. Molly Holly (m) and Matt Hardy (h)

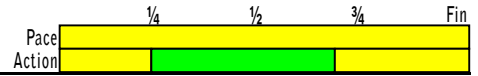
2v2 Mixed Tag

Nice speed shown from off the break, and even more pleasant that it did not tail off at any point. Some good exchanges early and Jericho's continued knee problems stemming from last week combine to make for some effective action in this one. Furthermore, interesting that Christian got involved to help Stratus and Jericho get the win, which provides more effect and intrigue. A good effort from all.

1Raw 4:25:53 55 Mx-1j-Mx-1s-2m-E-1j-2h*1s 12m

VictoryRoll-Pin; Moved well from outset, effect, good close.

MttHardy 6 straight losses
MlyHolly 3 straight losses



1. Ric Flair v 2. Chris Benoit

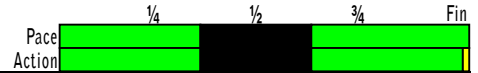
Singles

Liked the methodical and somewhat psychological lead in to this contest. Match ran constantly fair elementally with a slight jump at the end for a nice counter from Flair's figure four into Benoit's finishing crippler crossface. Also enjoyed how the early chops caused Flair to bleed, setting the effect thereafter. Perhaps a little disenchanted that they showed the amount of exhaustion as early as they did, but given the rest of the match, can discount. Worthy.

2Raw 11:19:46 87 Mx-2-1-2-E-1-2-E-1-2-E-1-1-2-E-1-1-2

CripplerCrossface-Submission; Steadily, no lapse, active, out nicely.
\$Commercial Break.

Best of the Night
CrBenoit 6 straight wins



1. Kane v 2. The Hurricane

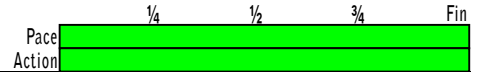
Singles

Short and direct, but not necessarily bad for what existed, especially knowing some other one-minute affairs to earn less. Hurricane actually got in a few reasonable shots early, and while Kane completely took over after, cannot call it patently one-sided. Not going to find many blessings in this, but perhaps Kane can as he gets his first win on the year to match Hurricane's sole win on the year received on Heat the night before.

3Raw 1:15:56 10 (161) Mx-1

Chokeslam-Pin; Succinct, fair for time.

Kane 1st win in 7 tries



1. Rob Van Dam v 2. Booker T v 3. Randy Orton

Triple Threat

Intercontinental Championship-Grade II

Majority of the match was one on one with one disposed of on the outside, but not a bad idea as it was like a short series of singles with all three combinations. Liked the intermittent double teaming on Orton and Van Dam's first rope frog splash midway, but really took to the sinister finish with Orton capitalizing on Van Dam's five star, pushing Van Dam out of the ring and pinning Booker T to cap this one. Nice round.

4Raw 10:49:06 78 2-1-2-1-2-1-3-1-3-3-E-E-1-1-3-3-E-2-1-3 12

FiveStarFrogSplash-Pin; Constant spd., some increase, eased but good finish.



Breakdowns	Matches	4	Interference	1Raw	*Christian
	No Contests	0		2Raw	—
	Total Match Time	27:49 ⁶¹		3Raw	—
	Pct. Of Show	28.69 (97)		4Raw	—

Title Changes None

Match Types	Singles	2
	Tag	1
	Triple Threat	1

Character Notes Perhaps could take Christian's exchange with Stratus as complimentary, but more inclined to see this as either Christian moving in on her or setting Stratus and Jericho up for something.

Notable Matches

Best of the Night	2Raw	87	Ric Flair v Chris Benoit
Worst of the Night	3Raw	10	Kane v The Hurricane

Notable Segments

Best of the Night	S-8	+2.5	Michaels usurps Benoit, signing the WM contract meant for him.
Worst of the Night	S-5	-0.25	Keibler and Miss Jackie declare the diva issue not over.

Show Scoring	Match Contribution Index	37.61
	Segment Contribution Index	49.92
	Overall Show Score	87.53

Assessment Up in both categories this week by virtue of three nice events and a fine Benoit-Triple H-Michaels confrontation. Good outing and Raw looks poised to develop its standing issues further next time out.

Segment by Segment

<p>●GOLDBERG comes out to the ring for a match, but VINCE MCMAHON unexpectedly comes out to the ring; MCMAHON knows GOLDBERG is wondering why he is here and who his next opponent will be, but MCMAHON says he is officially canceling his match, but AUSTIN heads out on the ATV before MCMAHON can explain; AUSTIN wants to know why MCMAHON is on Raw because he has broken two of AUSTIN'S laws because he does not belong in his ring and has passed him off but will let MCMAHON explain himself before he leaves; MCMAHON says he is here because AUSTIN gave a No Way Out ticket to GOLDBERG saying not to do anything AUSTIN would not do, but he knows there is nothing AUSTIN or GOLDBERG would not do, so MCMAHON offers up the voice of consequence and reason in the form of an invitee, PAUL HEYMAN; HEYMAN tells AUSTIN that the legal loophole for BENOIT'S show change was shameful; HEYMAN tells GOLDBERG that he will not allow GOLDBERG to go to No Way Out and ruin the main event that he is accountable to MCMAHON for, but HEYMAN encourages GOLDBERG to use his ticket to watch a superior show, but only to watch a superior show; HEYMAN says GOLDBERG is a big fish in a small pond on Raw, but LESNAR is a shark who would eat him alive; HEYMAN says GOLDBERG will not interfere in the main event else LESNAR will deal with him and after that, the question will be "Who's Goldberg?"; GOLDBERG reiterates that LESNAR is next; HEYMAN objects to GOLDBERG'S words but takes a spear in the process, to which AUSTIN is amused and drinks beer; however, GOLDBERG then tries to spear MCMAHON, and MCMAHON sidesteps it, making GOLDBERG inadvertently hit AUSTIN.</p> <p>●GOLDBERG finds AUSTIN backstage, says it was a mistake though he is not apologizing or sucking up, then wants to know if he can expect a stunner when he turns around because he thought they were cool; AUSTIN says if he stuns GOLDBERG, it will not be a mistake; GOLDBERG says he can live with that.</p> <p>●MCMAHON storms BISCHOFF'S office asking if he saw what happened because of BISCHOFF'S man GOLDBERG who is a lunatic and a time-bomb; MCMAHON tells BISCHOFF to tell GOLDBERG that he is suspended and if GOLDBERG shows at No Way Out, it is on BISCHOFF.</p> <p>●Backstage CHRISTIAN comes up to STRATUS, saying he has been a jerk and maybe jealous, but since STRATUS and JERICHO are friends, there is no reason they cannot be; CHRISTIAN asks if JERICHO is alright; STRATUS replies that he is not and he might have to be out for a couple of weeks but they do not know for sure; CHRISTIAN, before going to check on JERICHO, tells STRATUS she is looking good tonight.</p> <p>●CADE and JINDRAK are marveling over SABLE and TORRIE WILSON'S Playboy issue, when KEIBLER and MISS JACKIE enter the room asking what they have; CADE and JINDRAK tell them they are the hottest in the WWE and Playboy should have picked them and want to know what they will do about this travesty; KEIBLER says though they were not chosen, it is not over and they will show everyone that they are not so bad themselves; MISS JACKIE says they will not take this lying down.</p> <p>●COACHMAN catches up with an entering FOLEY wondering why he is here and if FOLEY thinks he has been embarrassed enough by ORTON; FOLEY says ORTON has embarrassed him by many means but tonight, FOLEY will either embarrass ORTON, cost ORTON his title, or maybe both.</p>	<p>Suspended? Again? Yeesh, though the presence of McMahon and Heyman made it seem like something of note. For anyone looking to add to their Stone Cold law book, try these: \$2.01 Unauthorized ring entry and penalties, and \$4.01 Pissing off the sheriff and penalties thereof.</p> <p>If he can live with the prospect of unconsciousness, more power to him. And yet, this changes <i>nothing</i>.</p>	<p>+0.5</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p>
<p>●TRIPLE H, having watched the match backstage, calls a referee to tell BISCHOFF to get the ring ready because the contract signing for WMXX is next.</p> <p>●BENOIT is still in the ring and BISCHOFF comes out and introduces BENOIT, then TRIPLE H; BISCHOFF seats the two and gives TRIPLE H the contract to sign, which he does; before BENOIT signs, TRIPLE H addresses BENOIT saying he looks calm, confident, and strong but knows that BENOIT is nervous within because he understands BENOIT is at the edge and is about to decide if he should jump, but has to wonder if he will land on his feet or meet his end; TRIPLE H wants BENOIT to imagine the main event at WMXX and the title attached to it, which is why BENOIT came to Raw in the first place; TRIPLE H wants BENOIT to imagine the rush of victory at WMXX as justification of his hard work and it all being worth it; TRIPLE H wants BENOIT to snap out of the dream, because reality is that BENOIT will choke and in the end, he will be alone in the locker room with no adulation, starting at the empty space BENOIT reserved for the title belt, empty just like what is left of BENOIT'S career; TRIPLE H continues that at WMXX, a life of hardship will have been for nothing but says that these opportunities come once in a lifetime and BENOIT should ask if it is worth it all; TRIPLE H reminds BENOIT that he is his reality and tells BENOIT to sign, but no pressure, but as BENOIT begins, MICHAELS comes out; MICHAELS tells BENOIT that he knows this is a big moment and the last thing he wants to do is ruin it, appreciating BENOIT great victory, but MICHAELS assumed BENOIT would take care of it on SmackDown and should have because MICHAELS' issue with TRIPLE H is not over and it eclipses dreams and contract, being ten years in the making and MICHAELS being close to ending it, and MICHAELS wants to end it at WMXX for the title, whether anyone likes it or not; BENOIT says he respects MICHAELS as does the locker room and all the fans and BENOIT would be the last to deny him his issue with TRIPLE H, but it will not be at WMXX because BENOIT will sign and fight TRIPLE H at WMXX; MICHAELS then gives the Sweet Chin Music to BENOIT, then signs the contract where BENOIT would have.</p>	<p>Citing Nicholson in Batman (with changes): "Well Miss [Stratus], another rooster in the hen house. Arguable value: Jindrak and Cade on Raw; remainder: umm . . . no, nothing else. When it doubt, try them all.</p>	<p>+0.5</p> <p>-0.25</p> <p>+0.25</p>
<p>●Post 3Raw KANE attempts to summon his post pyro but fails; with confusion he tries again, and fails; one more, and the third time is a charm and KANE believes all is right but the arena darkens and the menacing video shows, this time saying that "In 34 days, the dead will rise again" and the haunting bell sounds again.</p> <p>●BISCHOFF finds BENOIT who does not want to be bothered but wants to know what its worth; BISCHOFF says BENOIT has every right to be upset, to be there, and to face TRIPLE H via his Rumble win, but the problem is that MICHAELS' name is on the contract; BISCHOFF says he will have his attorneys sort it out and will give BENOIT a match with MICHAELS next week.</p> <p>●TERRI interviews ORTON, asking his thoughts on his triple threat match; ORTON says it is unfair having to defend in this kind of match this close to WMXX saying he need not be pinned; ORTON also says he has to worry about FOLEY, citing FOLEY costing him a win over MICHAELS last week; ORTON believes this is all conspiratorial.</p> <p>●COACHMAN catches up with GOLDBERG, not looking for trouble, and asking what his next move is following suspension, then asking if he will follow Tom Brady to Disneyland; GOLDBERG says regardless of what anyone says, LESNAR is still next.</p> <p>●Video highlights: WWE in Japan.</p> <p>●FOLEY comes out to the ring, saying he is not here to screw up the title match but to explain to everyone that on December 14, 2003, he walked out on a match with ORTON and that ORTON was obsessed with the idea of FOLEY is a coward but such obsessions usually indicated something to hide, citing Jimmy Swaggart and Rush Limbaugh; FOLEY then shows a picture of ORTON in a USMC uniform who was not decorated but went AWOL and turned his back on his country; FOLEY asks ORTON if he was talking about himself when calling FOLEY a coward; FOLEY gives a chance to ORTON to redeem himself at WMXX, where legends are truly made; ORTON appears on screen and wants to know if FOLEY will not back out then says this will happen on ORTON'S terms tonight and calls FOLEY back to catering where ORTON is; FOLEY goes, but is ambushed by FLAIR and BATISTA, the latter which powerbombs FOLEY through a table; ORTON slaps FOLEY for good measure, then gets one last kick in before leaving.</p> <p>●BATISTA and FLAIR come out to celebrate with ORTON, but a weakened FOLEY dares ORTON to take him on; ORTON give FOLEY the RKO outside the ring as BATISTA and FLAIR attack BOOKER T and VAN DAM; EVOLUTION stands triumphant afterwards.</p>	<p>Oh no, Kane is out of MP, he's doomed!</p> <p>Oh yeah, way better than that pesky WM match guarantee.</p> <p>I'm guessing Orton is a distant relative of a Kennedy. If Goldberg does not want to go to Disneyland, I'll take his ticket.</p> <p>—</p> <p>Another Simpson line: "Cool, a ruckus." But a ruckus with a price for Foley.</p> <p>RKO on floor equals ouch.</p>	<p>+0.25</p> <p>+0.25</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>NR</p> <p>+1.0</p> <p>+0.25</p>

Closing Notes

1. Have to cite two funny points of dialog between JR and Lawler tonight; firstly, on Orton: Lawler "He may have a concussion." JR: "Yeah, *that'd* be too bad."
2. And the second: Lawler: "How can you be so prejudiced?" JR: "It isn't easy." A good stock response for everyone, IMO.
3. I may be thinking about it too much, but I still think the Michaels would be contract case is a slam dunk.
4. If Jericho is Lennon, and Stratus is Ono, what is Christian by virtue of his behavior tonight?
5. Foley just could not catch a break. On the other hand, I was busting up at the Orton USMC photo.



PreLine

Centennial Garden Arena (CtG)
Bakersfield, California

For 16 February 2004
slawrestling-wienerboard

1

WWE Raw



SINGLES MATCH with NO SPECIAL STIPULATIONS.

1 Chris Benoit

Aff: WWE Raw

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Vts: 5' 10" - 229
Fin: Crippler Crossface, Missile Headbutt
Stbl: -
Ttl: -

2004	6	6	0	0	100	Stip.	2	2	0	0	60
Singles	2	2	0	0	87	No Stip.	4	4	0	0	100
Tag	2	2	0	0	100	Last 5	5	5	0	0	100
Title	0	0	0	0	-	Msg	0	0	0	0	-

9Feb04- 2Raw	Rse	-	11:19	46	Sg	87	1	2	E	12	2	CrplrCrsfce-S	14.93	W	RicFlair	Active, out nicely 2
2Feb04- 1Raw	ByJ	-	2:45	21	Sg	29	1	2	1	M	1	CrplrCrsfce-S	1.64	W	MarkHenry	Midway settling, mostly fair 2
Previously of the SmackDown roster, officially transferred to Raw on 26Jan04; record as of 26Jan04: (4 4 0 0 100).																
25Jan04- 6RR	WhC	?	?:??	RR#1CtWH/WWE MnEvWMXX-G1	??	1	-	-	-	-	????	-	W	BigShow/KrtAngle/CJericho/RbVanDam/25 Others	???	30
22Jan04- 4SD	Tgt	-	19:15	36	3v2HcpTg	100	1b	12	1	22	1	FU-P	34.07	W	(w JohnCena) BrLesnar/Rhyno/MtMorgan	Dbl kick 2/5, 15/16, with effect 2
8Jan04- 1SD	VB	-	6:20	34	3v1HcpMnRIRmb2Min	66	1	2	1	1	1	Backdrop-E	9.05	W	F.B.I.	Into stride, with effect 2
1Jan04- 3SD	LE	-	6:54	59	3v2HcpTgRumbleEntries	60	2b	1	14	17	2	•CrplrCrsfce-S	8.92	W	(w JohnCena) F.B.I.	Held form, driving 2

2 Shawn Michaels

Aff: WWE Raw

San Antonio, TX
Vts: 6' 01" - 225
Fin: Sweet Chin Music
Stbl: -
Ttl: -

2004	2	1	0	1	50	Stip.	1	0	0	1	-
Singles	2	1	0	1	50	No Stip.	1	1	0	0	50
Tag	0	0	0	0	-	Last 5	2	1	0	1	50
Title	1	0	0	1	-	Msg	0	0	0	0	-

2Feb04- 8Raw	ByJ	-	13:37	81	Sg	50	2	M ²	E	14	2	RollUp-P	10.96	L	RandyOrton	Over settled, little recovery 2	
25Jan04- 5RR	WhC	?	?:??	SgLstMnStndWldHvywgt-G1	??	?	-	-	-	????	-	-	-	Dw	TripleH	???	2

Benoit v. Michaels Analysis

With the looming prospect of a triple threat match for the title at Wrestlemania XX, can see this one as not having a definite conclusion (interference, DQ, etc.). Still, and perhaps it is the optimist within, can see Benoit taking his seventh straight victory on the year. As far as expectation goes, the best efforts of both say a gem, but is it realistic to expect their best here? Probably a reasonable assumption with Benoit, but not so sure with Michaels. Looking at an emotionally driven match after Michaels usurped Benoit's moment. Expecting something good; anything beyond that is gravy.

Expectations

Pace	Steady, some easing
Action	Methodical
Drive	7/8 prospectively
Effect	Vengeful, perhaps
Close	OK/inconclusive?
Range	65 - 90