



Lines

Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall (BwH) Atlantic City, New Jersey

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slashwrestling-wienerboard

1. John Cena v 2. Rhyno

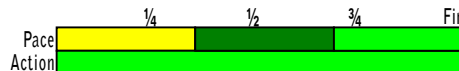
Singles

Generally fair elementally on the whole. Interesting to see Cena as dominant as he was today although that is arguably to give him credibility heading into Wrestlemania for his US Title shot. On that note, this match did well enough to serve that purpose. For time, could have used a little more speed, but for structural purposes, probably served well to ease up midway and kick on at the three quarter mark. For humor value, that shoe pumping has not gotten old yet.

1SD 2:56⁴⁰ 30 Mx-1-E-2-1-1

FU-Pin; Breaking, settled and up to close, for purpose.

JohnCena 4 straight wins



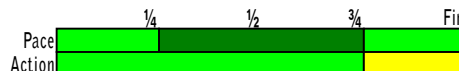
1. Rey Mysterio v 2. Jamie Noble

Singles

Always open to a match that generally goes back and forth, so that was an immediate plus for this one. On the down side, did not see much speed for the majority of the match which is especially disconcerting when one knows that all involved are capable. Because this set up the eight man tag, can argue to discount that lack of speed as necessity for saving it for the bigger match, but not entirely inclined to do so. Can take note that their last with the most similar conditions, back at the Rumble, produced similarly.

2SD 4:02¹⁷ 39 Mx-2-1-Mx-2-E-Mx-1***

*♦LegTrip-NoContest; Settled for the majority, some good spots.



1. Rey Mysterio and Billy Kidman and Ultimo Dragon and Funaki v

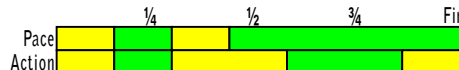
2. Jamie Noble and Tajiri and Akio and Sakoda

4v4 Tag

Particularly liked the continuous use of the ever devious diversion into a handicap attack by Noble, Tajiri, Akio, and Sakoda. Good opening series involving some worthy execution from Dragon. Liked the string of control in the middle of the match. Perhaps waited a bit too long to move toward the finish, but the finish was mostly worth it no less, seeing Chavo Sr. and Chavo on the outside in a failed diversion attempt of their own. Nice outing, especially given how convoluted these can be.

3SD 7:04⁰⁵ 75 1u-1k-Mx-2t-2a-2s-2n-2n-E-1m-E-1m*1m 12n

Hurricanrana-Pin; Early speed, good movement, good action overall.



1. Eddie Guerrero v

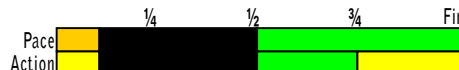
2. Shelton Benjamin w Charlie Haas

Singles

First series was really strong here. Problematically though, with the dismissal for Haas from ringside, match lapsed leading into the break and the speed never got back to that form. That said, however, liked the ingenuity with the belt, with Haas getting it to Benjamin, only to see it dropkicked in his face by Guerrero, which itself was followed by a theatrical performance from Guerrero. A good contribution from effect alone, just wish there was a bit more from the basics.

4SD 9:28⁸⁴ 60 Mx*2-1-Ø-\$-1-E-2-2-1-2-1-1FrogSplash-Pin; In strongly, settled adversely some, end series with effect.
\$Commercial Break.

EGuerrero 7 straight undef. (2 NC)



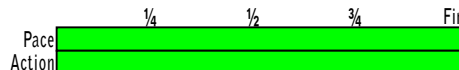
1. Big Show v 2. John Walters and Nick Beely

2v1 Handicap

Not a bad demonstration of pure dominance by the Big Show here, although some might challenge that because of who his opponents were. Straight power throughout. Particularly liked that cobra clutching choke lift before Show closed it out with his chokeslam on Walters. Obviously difficult to find anything outside of that mentioned, but sometimes have to take what is there and be happy when a match has something there to begin with.

5SD 1:05²¹ 07 1-112w

Chokeslam-Pin; Dominance effect, ran course for purpose.



1. Scotty 2 Hotty and Rikishi v 2. Basham Brothers

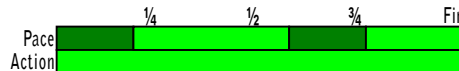
2v2 Tag

Mostly fair on the basics and generally what you would expect from these two teams. Went against each other in similar conditions in early of last month, but this one is a drop off that one, primarily because of the lack of control balance here. A few good points to note here. First, liked Scotty's continuous slides to prevent himself from being pushed off the ropes. Also, liked the justice as the Bashams attempted another switch, but directly failed altogether. Some value.

6SD 5:14⁴⁷ 45 2dg-1s-2dn-2dn-2dg-2dn-2dn-E-1r 12dg

SavantKick-Pin; Mostly fair elementally, some effect.

DgBasham 4 straight losses



Breakdowns	Matches	6	Interference	1SD	—	Title Changes	None.
	No Contests	1		2SD	*Akio□*Tajiri*Sakoda		
	Total Match Time	29:51 ¹⁴		3SD	*Chavo Guerrero		
	Pct. Of Show	32.10 (93)		4SD	*Charlie Haas		
Match Types	Singles	3		5SD	—	Character Notes	None.
	Tag	2		6SD	—		
	Handicap	1					

Notable Matches

Best of the Night	3SD	75	RMystrio/BKIdman/UtDragon/Funaki v JNoble/Tajiri/Akio/Sakoda
Worst of the Night	5SD	07	Big Show v John Walters and Nick Beely

Notable Segments

Best of the Night	S-21	+ 2.25	The SmackDown locker room stages a mutiny.
Worst of the Night	S-13	NR	Sable and Wilson attend the Playboy 50th anniversary party.

Show Scoring	Match Contribution Index	30.28	Assessment	Thinking about this as a show meant to drive Wrestlemania interest, perhaps it is most important to see how well the segments did overall.
	Segment Contribution Index	45.27		Many segments proved to be of some worth, which is a good sign. Also, two nice ring efforts cannot hurt. Perhaps not the most optimal Pre-
	Overall Show Score	75.55		Wrestlemania SmackDown, but one that easily did its job.

Segment by Segment

●Pre 1SD JOHN CENA raps about BIG SHOW'S ice cream chasing habits, self-marking, gambling follies, and why CENA is the one to bet on at Wrestlemania.	Have to love rap summations.	+0.25
●DAWN MARIE leads various stars to PAUL HEYMAN'S office, explaining to them that he has called a general staff meeting.	Er. Isn't that lovely. Hmm?	0
●HEYMAN addresses the SmackDown locker room; he says many do not agree with his fight with EDDIE GUERRERO, but he did it for vision, and that love him or hate him, he is good for SmackDown, which provides for the superstars and their families; HEYMAN says STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN wants to stop them from having what SmackDown gives them and he wants to enter their house tonight to get his ATV; he says BROCK LESNAR had no right to take it but is one of them, and love him or hate him, he is their leader and a Raw superstar wants to invade where he does not belong; HEYMAN says he will not take it and implores all to help him lest he threaten their jobs; he concludes by saying that LESNAR will lead them all out to the ring and HEYMAN will give the word to teach AUSTIN not to mess with the locker room's SmackDown.	I have to admit, Heyman can truly be a good orator, especially with the right subject matter.	+1.0
●AUSTIN'S truck, empty, is sighted in the parking lot.	And I'll bet it did not drive itself.	0
●Video Package: WWE Hall of Fall inductees to be.	—	NR
●Pre 2SD CHAVO GUERRERO and CHAVO GUERRERO SR. join the commentary team at ringside.	Welcome additions, to be sure.	0
●Post 2SD After TAJIRI, AKIO, SAKODA, BILLY KIDMAN, ULTIMO DRAGON, and FUNAKI join the fray, the referee orders the match be restarted as an eight man tag.	Hey now, a real WM preview! Kind of.	0
●Post 3SD CHAVO GUERRERO and REY MYSTERIO stare down each other until SHANNON MOORE and NUNZIO join the fray, completing the Cruiserweight Open field.	That's what melees are all about.	+0.25
●HEYMAN greets CHUCK PALUMBO and JOHNNY STAMBOI who assure HEYMAN they have his back; HEYMAN says they have SmackDown's back; HEYMAN receives a radio call that AUSTIN has been sighted; HEYMAN orders the assistant on the radio not to lose him.	Because no protection is complete without the Italian mob.	0
●Video Recap: EDDIE GUERRERO accidentally injures DAWN MARIE; KURT ANGLE speaks to GUERRERO'S disgrace; GUERRERO must fight HEYMAN in a match with a handcuff stipulation; while handcuffed, ANGLE reveals he is not at home, but in the arena, and assaults a handcuffed GUERRERO.	—	NR
●Pre 4SD EDDIE GUERRERO comes out to the ring, calling the belt his "little friend"; he addresses ANGLE as people say ANGLE is not there but GUERRERO is not buying it and GUERRERO calls him out so ANGLE may have his chance to get rid of EDDIE GUERRERO and save SmackDown from the only WWE Champion who encourages lying, cheating, and stealing; GUERRERO says this is also ANGLE'S chance to play hero, but that ANGLE does not have the courage and that he is all talk; GUERRERO says ANGLE does not walk the walk and is not fooling anyone; GUERRERO dares ANGLE, saying he is a bad influence and ANGLE can makes things right; GUERRERO says he is not surprised, and now it is time for ANGLE to put up or shut up at Wrestlemania XX as ANGLE promised to save the WWE, but GUERRERO promises after he wins at Wrestlemania, he will lie, still, and cheat more than ever, then closes with "Viva la Raza!"	That's some platform you have there for increased lying, cheating, and stealing. Guerrero for president!	+1.5
●Post 4SD ANGLE appears at the entrance, complete with the cold, menacing, and psychotic look that he sported last week, also gesturing that the title is his.	OK, this guy is officially my nightmare.	+0.5
●Video recap: SABLE and TORRIE WILSON attend the fiftieth anniversary celebration of Playboy in Las Vegas; the two speak of their Wrestlemania match.	—	NR
●HEYMAN gets a status report over the radio and is enraged to learn that his lookout has lost sight of AUSTIN; HEYMAN then greets ORLANDO JORDAN, wondering if JORDAN will do what is right for SmackDown; JORDAN says he will, but has respect for AUSTIN, he disrespects SmackDown, so JORDAN can choose between respecting AUSTIN or his career.	More credit, as a good executive should, Heyman lays it all out for his employee.	+0.25
●Post 5SD CENA attacks and bests BIG SHOW, then raises the US Championship and drops it and leaves the ring as BIG SHOW reenters.	It will be the picture at WM, says I.	+0.5
●HEYMAN says all of SmackDown thanks the lookout; HEYMAN runs into the A.P.A., assuming they are guarding the door; HEYMAN says he put the A.P.A. in the fatal four way tag title match because it is good for SmackDown and not just so they could get back at the BASHAMS; HEYMAN says he knows they will do what is good for SmackDown; FAAROOQ says they got this and BRADSHAW says he can question a lot about the A.P.A., but never its loyalty to SmackDown.	Or their drinking habits and tolerances.	+0.5
●Video Recap: The history between GOLDBERG and LESNAR from the Rumble, to No Way Out, and leading to Wrestlemania XX.	—	NR
●In the parking lot, AUSTIN'S truck is gone.	I'll give you one guess.	0
●Video Recap: KANE has an eerie encounter with a casket, an urn, a dark arena, and a levitating ring on Raw.	—	NR
●MICHAEL COLE, TAZZ, JONATHAN COACHMAN, and JIM ROSS run down their respective Wrestlemania XX offerings.	—	NR
●HEYMAN leads the SmackDown locker room out to the arena and he takes his place in the ring as the superstars line the entrance ramp, soldier-style; HEYMAN says AUSTIN does not belong here, as he is from Raw and is determined to raise hell tonight; HEYMAN says the is another here who is the leader and personification of SmackDown, and then introduces LESNAR, who comes out to the ring on AUSTIN'S ATV; LESNAR says he is in his ring tonight, SmackDown's ring, as the most dominant athlete that the company has ever seen and all superstars will account for that; LESNAR says the ATV is his and that AUSTIN said he was coming to deliver knuckle sandwiches, to which LESNAR says there are a lot for AUSTIN to deliver; LESNAR dares AUSTIN to come out to the ring; AUSTIN comes out to the ring in his truck and confronts the SmackDown roster, taking his place in the middle of many superstars; HEYMAN gives the superstars marching orders but they do not respond and let him pass; for a moment BIG SHOW stands in AUSTIN'S way, seemingly ready to stop him, but BIG SHOW tells AUSTIN to go get HEYMAN and LESNAR, then leads the locker room to the back; AUSTIN retakes the ATV, drawing LESNAR out of the ring, then AUSTIN and LESNAR collide with AUSTIN going the better of the two, then proceeding to stun HEYMAN; LESNAR tries another F5 on AUSTIN, but this time AUSTIN counters and tries for the Stunner, but LESNAR escapes and flees; AUSTIN loads his ATV onto his pickup truck and calls for beer.	An apropos Marvin the Martian line for Heyman: "Now let's have no more mutiny!" Actually, I thought this scheme was done rather well, and now I cannot wait to learn the repercussions, especially those regarding those who pledged support to the right thing for SmackDown.	+2.25

Closing Notes

- Always enjoy John Cena's interactions with the fans like tonight's with Cena taking a "Will You Marry Me?" sign and saying yes to the camera, and with Cena pumping a fan's shoes as he does with his own.
- Very funny line from Tazz regarding Angle's supposed whereabouts last week: "Satellite what? Satellite backstage?"
- Did Sable just call it the twentieth anniversary? Come on, at least know what event you are going to!
- Awesome personal moment when Big Show gave Austin his blessing to go after Heyman and Lesnar. "Woo-hoo!" said I.
- Wrestlemania time (in three days at least)! Do I really have to say anything else?!