



Lines

Madison Square Garden (Msg)
New York City, New York

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the-w.com

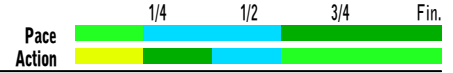
1. Edge v. 2. Chris Benoit

Singles

Good from the outset with the early counters and the five German Suplexes. Match very expressive on its purpose leading to the announcement of the last man standing match for Backlash. Biggest gripe might be the slightly tailing speed midway, but it was so slight and that being all there is, match becomes an easy recommendation, even with the No Contest conclusion.

1Rw 5:09¹⁶ 63 (:0112) Mx-2-E-1-2-1-2-1-Mx
ForcedSeparation-NoContest; Active, with purpose.

Best of the Night

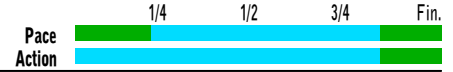


1. William Regal and Tajiri v. 2. The Heart Throbs

2v2 Tag

If you can overlook the very strange mannerisms of Antonio and Romeo and go straight to the elements, fair match on the whole. Perhaps can argue that the Heart Throbs got a bit more offense that they should have. A bit funny to see Antonio mocking Tajiri early on. Liked the running escape and tag by Regal as opposed to drawing it out with a referee's count. Mixed feelings.

2Rw 4:40²² 39 2a-Mx-2r-1t-1r-2r-2a-2r-2a-1t ↓ 2r
SidewayFlipRollUpFromBehind-Pin; Ran steadily, held.

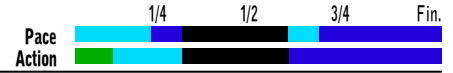


1. Muhammad Hassan w Khosrow Daivari v.

Singles

Interesting to see Hussan take the defeat, albeit not by pinfall, leaving that undefeated streak open, possibly only until Backlash. Points for Daivari pulling out Hassan early, prevent Michaels from building momentum too quickly. Mostly a no-frills match, save for the finishing series which set up the grand save by Hogan. The interest is there, now they just need to deliver at Backlash.

3Rw 10:04⁹⁸ 55 (:0172) 2*Mx-2-1-2*1-2|| 2-1-1-Mx-E-2*1*
Ⓧ*Stomping(ShawnMichaels); Settled in, light movement late, with some effect.
|| Commercial Break.

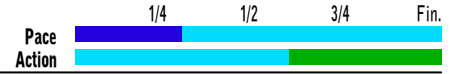


1. Simon Dean v. 2. Shelton Benjamin

Singles

Actually pretty amusing to see Dean work in his workout ways into his execution. See the push ups with the pin for a good example. Match had a light move late. Some issue with the lack of balance here, figuring Benjamin would have had some more control of this one. Expected Benjamin to take this one, and some effect recognized with Jericho's presence on the outside.

4Rw 3:17⁷⁸ 26 (:1972) 1-1-1-2
ExploderPowerslam-Pin; Eased start, up slightly rest.



1. Triple H w Ric Flair v. 2. Jim Ross

Singles No Disqualification

The question right off the bat: who didn't at least smile when Ross tried to clock Triple H early on? Have to merit what was from Ross' crimson mask to Batista's late arrival to save the day. Quite humorous having Batista ordering the referee to count the finish. Expected this to be slow going and light with half-minutes between strikes and got that here, but for eleven plus, that still does not bring this out of zero.

5Rw 11:32¹⁸ -0 ⊗-⊗-1-1-1-1-1*1-1**2
*Chairshot-AssistedPin; Served its purpose.



Breakdowns	Matches	5
	No Contests	1
	Total Match Time	*31:44:42
	Pct. of Show	33.59 (94.50)
Match Types	Singles	4 (0 Title)
	Tag	1 (0 Title)

Interference	1Rw -
	2Rw -
	3Rw *Khosrow Daivari (4) #4th
	4Rw -
	5Rw *Jerry Lawler *Batista (2) #2nd

Title Changes None.

Character Notes None.

* Time Excludes Commercials (Used for Contribution Index)
‡ Denotes Key Interference

Notable Matches

Best of the Night	1Rw	63	Edge v. Chris Benoit
Worst of the Night	5Rw	-0	Triple H v. Jim Ross

Notable Segments

Best of the Night	S10	1.00	Hogan and Michaels stand tall after Hogan dispatches Hussen and Daivari.
Worst of the Night	S04	0.00	Viscera tries to put the moves on Stratus.

Show Scoring	Match Contribution Index	14.85
	Segment Contribution Index	31.25
	Overall Show Score	46.10

Assessment Though the contribution isn't much, two reasonably good matches and got some good stuff from the segments. Still, a couple of steps down from the last two outings, so harder to recommend overall, but will do so after consideration.

Segment By Segment

●S01 ● In ERIC BISCHOFF'S office, JIM ROSS wants to have his match with TRIPLE H cancelled. BISCHOFF, however, raises the stakes, making it a No Disqualification match, but allows ROSS to have BATISTA at ringside since TRIPLE H will have RIC FLAIR at ringside.	Does that ever work? Ever?	0.00
●S02 ● Backstage, STACY KEIBLER, CHRISTY HEMME, CANDACE MICHELLE, MARIA, and VICTORIA are looking at a Divas Magazine when a still fighting EDGE and CHRIS BENOIT barge in, forcing the divas to flee. As personnel tries to restrain the two, BISCHOFF enters, saying if they want it, they got it: a last man standing match, then threatens the two with suspensions for the rest of the year if they don't back off right then.	Hello! That'll work, that'll work nicely.	+1.00
●S03 ● TRISH STRATUS comes to the ring. She says she wants to make a fresh start with LITA and so she calls LITA out. A crutch-bearing LITA obliges. STRATUS says first that she is not doing this because of last week's incident with KANE, but because of some soul-searching. STRATUS tells the crowd not to call LITA a slut. She continues by reminding them of their history together and says she is sorry for what she has done. She concludes by saying she respects LITA, but not the crowd, that LITA is like a sister to her, and that she loves her. She asks if LITA will accept her apology. LITA responds, saying its very sweet that STRATUS has made LITA'S life a living hell this last year, but that STRATUS is right about the history, which compels her not to believe STRATUS and not accept her apology. LITA says payback is a bitch, like STRATUS. KANE emerges while LITA hits STRATUS with a crutch. STRATUS flees. KANE is about to chokeslam her when VISCERA intervenes and destroys KANE. VISCERA then carries off STRATUS toward the backstage area.	So, just so we have this right, that was a no on the apology. Insofar as the Matt chants, that was brutal, yet somehow hilarious. And, um, Viscera?	+0.25
●S04 ● Backstage, STRATUS praises VISCERA for the pain inflicted on KANE and thanks him. VISCERA said he was glad to be of service, but he will be more glad when STRATUS services him pursuant to the deal they made. He mentions going out next week. STRATUS says it is about business, but VISCERA likes mixing business with pleasure. STRATUS is reluctant until VISCERA tries to rescind. STRATUS wants to take it slow and VISCERA agrees and leaves, but not before stealing a kiss.	Yes, there is something more disturbing that Kane kissing Lita.	0.00
●S05 ● Post 2Rw, THE HEART THROBS attack WILLIAM REGAL and TAJIRI, hitting a double Russian Leg Sweep on the latter.	That might leave a mark.	0.00
●S06 ● WWE Rewind: Last week, TRIPLE H destroys both ROSEY and THE HURRICANE.	—	NR
●S07 ● Backstage, MIKE CHIODA tells ROSS that he does not know where BATISTA is. ROSS said he has calls everyone. CHIODA tells him he is sure BATISTA will show.	Ever the optimist that Chioda.	0.00
●S08 ● FLAIR and TRIPLE H are watching the monitor. FLAIR asks what they will do about BATISTA. TRIPLE H said he called the limo company that BATISTA would be using and TRIPLE H says he is sure that BATISTA is on the ride of his life right now.	Ever the schemer that Triple H.	+0.25
●S09 ● Backstage, TODD GRISHAM interviews MUHAMMAD HUSSAN with KHOSROW DAIVARI about challenging SHAWN MICHAELS tonight. He says it would be satisfying seeing how DAIVARI dispatched MICHAELS last week easily. He says it would be fitting to do it in the most evil city in the world, where everyone looks at him with suspicion, even though he is an American too. GRISHAM asks about MICHAELS' request for HULK HOGAN as a partner. HUSSAN says that the only one who didn't hear MICHAELS whine for help was HOGAN and HOGAN would not hear the call because he is selfish like all Americans and that no one can save MICHAELS at Backlash or tonight for that matter.	And so he seals his own fate with those words.	+0.25
●S10 ● WWE Slam of the Week: Last week, HUSSAN'S interference allows for the upset victory of DAIVARI over MICHAELS.	—	NR
●S11 ● Post 3Rw, DAIVARI and HUSSAN attack MICHAELS and hang-choke him with the ring ropes until HOGAN arrives to dispatch the assailants. The standing duo do the classic HOGAN poses for the crowd.	Fun stuff, fun stuff.	+1.00
●S12 ● CHRIS "THE MASTERPIECE" MASTERS comes out for his Masterlock challenge with \$1000 at stake. He says he hears about the toughness of New Yorkers and wants to find out if it's true. After insulting a few would be opponents, he selects ROMAN. The rules are laid out and the hold is applied, but ROMAN fails to break the hold.	How many weeks until someone lasts more than ten seconds?	0.00
●S13 ● Pre 4Rw, SIMON DEAN is about to introduce his Simon System until SHELTON BENJAMIN interrupts, emerging for his match with DEAN. Before that, however, CHRIS JERICHO emerges, saying he wanted to say it is official and that at Backlash, they will face off for the Intercontinental Championship and so for good faith and good will, tonight JERICHO would serenade BENJAMIN with Fozzy's new single, accompanied by lead guitarist RICH WARD. JERICHO sings "Shelton is a little bitch."	Give that man the Grammy.	+0.50
●S14 ● SmackDown rebound: KURT ANGLE defeats EDDIE GUERRERO in the WWE Championship series with help from accidental interference from REY MYSTERIO, widening the chasm between GUERRERO and MYSTERIO.	—	NR
●S15 ● CHRISTIAN, accompanied by TYSON TOMKO, comes to the ring. He says that he expected more from his New York City Christian Coalition after hearing the ovation for HOGAN earlier, and asks if HOGAN beat BENOIT like he did. He said he is not mad and will not go GARY SHEFFIELD on them, but he wants the proper respect. At this time, VINCE MCMAHON comes out to the ring, telling CHRISTIAN he cannot stand people who come out to talk yet say nothing and asks if CHRISTIAN knows why this is his first appearance since the Rumble. CHRISTIAN thinks it is to congratulate him for his win against BENOIT. MCMAHON says STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN was right, that CHRISTIAN is a Creepy Little Bastard. CHRISTIAN cuts off MCMAHON, thinking this is about the Diva Search. MCMAHON says if he does that again, he will be unemployed. MCMAHON announces the return of the WWE Draft Lottery in about one month, with no exceptions. CHRISTIAN says it is a good idea what with him being held back on Raw and that if he faced JOHN CENA, he would beat 'Marky Mark.' MCMAHON asks if CHRISTIAN thinks he is a main eventer. CHRISTIAN says yes. MCMAHON gives it to him, next week on Raw, against BATISTA.	I like it, I like it indeed, although it does make my record keeping a bit more difficult at times.	+0.50
●S16 ● JONATHAN COACHMAN and JERRY LAWLER run down the Backlash card.	—	NR
●S17 ● Backstage, GRISHAM interviews TRIPLE H, asking about the match with BATISTA at Backlash. He asks if he believes the Pedigree will be all it takes. TRIPLE H says it is not belief, but fact. TRIPLE H calls the Pedigree the end, and tonight, ROSS will find out, and that BATISTA knows it, and he knows it. TRIPLE H says for the non-believers, they should see a certain package, a video reel replete with Pedigrees to the WWE's finest to win title after title.	Well, video has never lied to me before.	+0.25
●S18 ● Post 5Rw, BATISTA raises an extremely weary ROSS' arm in triumph.	Somehow I think this one will linger in Triple H's mind into next week.	0.00

Closing Notes

- The reactions of Regal and Tajiri to the mannerisms of The Heart Throbs, priceless.
- Triple H: 'Need I say more?' I'm guessing the majority of people would have you say less, in perpetuity throughout the universe forever and ever.
- 'Captain Unemployed' ... doesn't have the same ring to it.
- The Masterpiece: again, love the entrance, but need a better contribution from this guy.
- I said it before but Viscera? Someone help me out here...