



Lines

NEC Arena (Nec)
Birmingham, England, United Kingdom

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the-w.com

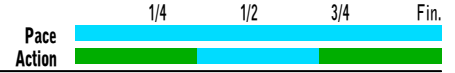
1. Chris Jericho v. 2. Sylvain Grenier w Rob Conway

Singles

Match kept to task with a pretty even pace and while the middle third declined slightly a bit in the action front, it did pick back up toward the finish. Liked Grenier's mockery of Jericho's 'cmon baby' pin and the springboard dropkick to Conway on the outside was placed well enough. Succinct, but sound enough that one shouldn't be able to argue too much about this one.

1Rw 3:00⁷¹ 28 2-2-1-1

WallsOfJericho-Submission; Evenly and direct, some kick.



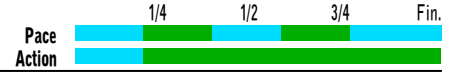
1. William Regal and Tajiri v. 2. Muhammad Hassan and Khosrow Daivari

2v2 Tag

Sheer merits on the elements in this no frills contest. Match had something of a late drive though hard to measure its effect coming in an evenly moving contest. A surprise, yet not a surprise, that Daivari and Hassan took this one over the hometown hero, but it being a non-title match, it has its logical place heading into Backlash this Sunday. Worth a very fair mark.

2Rw 5:11¹⁵ 51 1r-1x-1t-Mx-1r-2h-2d-2h-2d-E-1t-2d ↓ 1t

TopRopeLegdrop-Pin; Steadily through, actively sound.



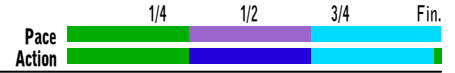
1. Edge v. 2. Val Venis

Singles

Loved the Hogan ear gesture almost right out of the gate. Match ran well enough for its opening minute, but suffered from too much settling in the next for a three minute plus affair. Got back up to form for the close though. Also liked the countered Money Shot and the countered Spear in the finishing series. For its merits though, the middle segment was very detrimental to the overall outlook.

3Rw 3:14²⁰ 23 (:06¹⁶) 1-1-2-Mx-1

Spear-Pin; Light drive late, too lapsed midway.



1. Christian w Triple H v. 2. Batista
Sp. Guest Ref: Jonathan Coachman

Singles Special Guest Referee

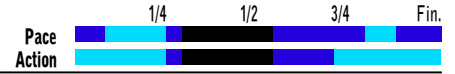
For as much as you can merit, never fond of five instances of interference, four of which belonged to Triple H, and while it was to be expected, it does not make it worth acceptance. Add to that Coachman's continuous chicanery and the figure looks to drop at least a few points. At the very least, the earliest and latest minutes were relatively untouched. Easy to accept for its purpose, but have to imagine whether there was a better means.

4Rw 12:32⁵³ 63 (:02²⁸) Mx-2-2-2*E*1 || 1*1**1-2-2-2

BatistaBomb-Pin; Wavering pace, action with pace.

|| Commercial Break.

Best of the Night



Breakdowns	Matches	4	Interference	1Rw	-	Title Changes	None.
	No Contests	0		2Rw	-		
	Total Match Time	*20:56 ³¹		3Rw	-		
	Pct. of Show	22.16 (94.50)		4Rw	*Triple H (3) *Ric Flair *Triple H		

Match Types	Singles	3 (0 Title)
	Tag	1 (0 Title)

Character Notes None.

* Time Excludes Commercials (Used for Contribution Index)

Notable Matches

Best of the Night	4Rw	63	Christian v. Batista
Worst of the Night	3Rw	23	Edge v. Val Venis

Notable Segments

Best of the Night	S12	2.00	Michaels and Hogan interviewed by Mean Gene in re: Backlash.
Worst of the Night	S09	0.00	Maria interviews Lita about Kane and Viscera this Sunday.

Show Scoring	Match Contribution Index	15.45	Assessment	Light contribution from the matches, but hard pressed not to find value from the comedy with Stratus and Viscera, Christian in general, or with Hogan, Michaels, and Okerlund. A plus.
	Segment Contribution Index	52.54		
	Overall Show Score	67.99		

Segment By Segment

<p>●S01 ● BATISTA comes to the ring, recognizing he is in England, but says he is here to honor a great man whose accomplishments often go unrecognized and who in one night, did what it took BATISTA two years to do, which is beat TRIPLE H, and so he introduces JIM ROSS, who comes to the ring. BATISTA says ROSS deserves the chants, that they all knew that he was the best announcer in history, but he had wrestling skills unbeknownst to us all. BATISTA says it takes guts to face TRIPLE H, but ROSS did it like a man, and BATISTA leads a "J.R." chant until TRIPLE H interrupts, saying that's enough. BATISTA says it's a real surprise TRIPLE H broke up the good time, but then says he wonders what took TRIPLE H so long. TRIPLE H tries to talk about Backlash, but BATISTA says since ROSS beat TRIPLE H last week, ROSS is the number one contender, and that TRIPLE H does not deserve a shot. TRIPLE H tries to remind all of who he is, but BATISTA reminds him with footage from last week of ROSS pinning TRIPLE H. BATISTA asks for the footage to be cued again, and his wish is granted. TRIPLE H looks ready to collide with BATISTA and nears the ring and BATISTA readies himself, but TRIPLE H backs off, saying at Backlash BATISTA'S ass is his. BATISTA says at Backlash, the title will still be his.</p>	Humiliating replays: is there any better way to completely torment and piss off your opponent?	+0.25
<p>●S02 ● Last Week on Raw: VISCERA attacks KANE on behalf of the terroized TRISH STRATUS, mentioning a quid-pro-quo arrangement.</p>	—	NR
<p>●S03 ● STRATUS is waiting for VISCERA at The Brasshouse restaurant. She is excited that he is late and is about to leave, but he shows right behind her. VISCERA said he was at the drugstore to pick up protection, then asks the Maitre'D for a romantic table for two.</p>	And you thought Kane and Lita together was disturbing?	+0.25
<p>●S04 ● Post 1Rw, LA RESISTANCE attacks CHRIS JERICHO but SHELTON BENJAMIN fends them both off, to which JERICHO is confused. JERICHO gives BENJAMIN a slight shove to which BENJAMIN delivers a T-Bone Suplex on JERICHO.</p>	Works for me...	+0.50
<p>●S05 ● At The Brasshouse, VISCERA compliments STRATUS' hair, and STRATUS tries to compliment him. She says it was great how he took out KANE under her orders. The waiter calls for their orders and STRATUS orders in a mock-British accent. VISCERA says he is glad for this arrangement because food gets him in the mood. STRATUS remarks that he must be the horniest guy on the planet. VISCERA decides to order a page of food.</p>	Oh this is comedy...	+0.50
<p>●S06 ● Backstage, CHRISTIAN and TYSON TOMKO remark that this is a big night and the former tells the latter to stick to the plan. RIC FLAIR busts is, saying TRIPLE H is mad and so the job is to take out BATISTA tonight so TRIPLE H can pedigree him. CHRISTIAN tells FLAIR that TRIPLE H is going to do nothing because it is his night tonight. CHRISTIAN tells FLAIR to tell TRIPLE H that he should get transferred to SmackDown so he can beat MICHAEL COLE. The two are going to collide when CHRISTIAN has TOMKO escort FLAIR out.</p>	Well played line in re: SD and Cole.	+0.75
<p>●S07 ● Video Footage: Fans wait in line for Backlash tickets in Manchester, New Hampshire.</p>	—	NR
<p>●S08 ● CHRISTIAN and TOMKO come to the ring. The former says historically Canadians are smarter than Brits so he will talk slowly, then insults the fans' teeth. He reminds us that he told VINCE MCMAHON that he deserved to be in the main event and that he will prove it. He says that despite TRIPLE H'S problems hitting the Pedigree on BATISTA, he will beat BATISTA with the Unprettier. He says that regardless of what brand he is with next month, he will carry the torch. KANE then comes to the ring. TOMKO attacks and CHRISTIAN flees. KANE gets the upperhand and chokeslams TOMKO.</p>	I'm guessing the plan is off now?	0.00
<p>●S09 ● Backstage MARIA interviews LITA about KANE'S focus in avenging what happened last week. LITA says it is about beating VISCERA at Backlash and STRATUS getting what she deserves.</p>	As someone has once put it: 'Short...inoffensive.'	0.00
<p>●S10 ● CHRISTIAN goes to TRIPLE H'S dressing room, telling a sentry of sorts to warn him of anyone approaching. FLAIR answers. CHRISTIAN says he wants to return his jacket. FLAIR asks about TOMKO. CHRISTIAN apologizes for TOMKO and says they should discuss FLAIR'S idea. FLAIR goes back in while CHRISTIAN waits outside. TRIPLE H emerges. TRIPLE H has CHRISTIAN enter to talk business.</p>	Is this Plan B or Plan A recycled?	+0.50
<p>●S11 ● CHRIS "THE MASTERPIECE" MASTERS comes out for his Masterlock challenge with 1000 British Pounds at stake. He says that last week at the Garden, he put \$1000 on the line and no one succeeded. After insulting a few would be challengers, he selects one, ANDY BAKER. BAKER fails to break the hold.</p>	Someone break it, please.	0.00
<p>●S12 ● JONATHAN COACHMAN says that everyone is awaiting Backlash and that history will be made as MUHAMMAD HASSAN and KHOSROW DAIVARI will take on HULK HOGAN and SHAWN MICHAELS, the latter of which is his guest. COACHMAN says that two of the biggest egos in the history of the WWE have joined, but that there is a pool going to see when it will all break down and he has three minutes. MICHAELS says they have big egos because they have done it all. MICHAELS takes over the interview, tossing COACHMAN, and he introduces HOGAN. HOGAN wants this done right, so he brings in MEAN GENE OKERLUND, who asks about their match with HASSAN and DAIVARI. MICHAELS said he looked for a partner in the locker room, but he needed one with the same drive and passion as him, asking what he was going to do in the process. HOGAN says that the calls for one more match hooked him. HOGAN says their opponents are the epitome of negativity. He says this match is a dream come true for him, then asks "whatcha gonna do?"</p>	Classic, fun promo, enough said.	+2.00
<p>●S13 ● CHRISTY HEMME leads out divas CANDACE MICHELLE, MARIA, and STACY KEIBLER to the ring. HEMME introduces the girls from the DAILY STAR. KEIBLER says they are here for a party for WILLIAM REGAL as his autobiography is to be released soon. MICHELLE introduces REGAL and TAJIRI and they come out. REGAL expresses his thanks to the fans and the WWE, but wants to get right to the party, which is interrupted by HASSAN and DAIVARI. HASSAN calls this pathetic, insulting the divas and the fans. He says he is not surprised because the English have always followed the American culture, just as it follows HOGAN and MICHAELS. HASSAN says they will beat the tag champions tonight to prove that their Backlash opponents have no chance. REGAL obliges.</p>	What can I say? Divas dig Brits with Bios and Belts.	+0.50
<p>●S14 ● Post 2Rw, REGAL tries to gain the upper hand on DAIVARI and HASSAN, but is quickly stopped.</p>	I'd take the side exit you two...	0.00
<p>●S15 ● At The Brasshouse, STRATUS asks what "VISCERA" means and he replies 'inner organs' but he compliments his outer organs. STRATUS tries to offer up HEMME in her place. VISCERA wants to dance with STRATUS and shows off his moves, breaking some plates in the process.</p>	'And if I can obtain for you these animals?' - Apu, <i>The Simpsons</i>	+0.50
<p>●S16 ● Post 3Rw, EDGE continues the assault on VAL VENIS and is successful. However, CHRIS BENOIT emerges and hits the triple German Suplexes on EDGE, who flees.</p>	Who says either will be standing?	+0.25
<p>●S17 ● Backstage, COACHMAN berates his publicist for his getting tossed from his own interview when CHRISTIAN, TRIPLE H, and FLAIR enter. TRIPLE H gives him a referee's shirt and tells him he will be ref, with TRIPLE H as the problem solver for CHRISTIAN, and with FLAIR as guest timekeeper. COACHMAN likes the idea but calls for permission. TRIPLE H reminds him of his lack of patience for announcers and says the only permission needed is TRIPLE H'S.</p>	Gotta love this power in absentia...	0.00
<p>●S18 ● At The Brasshouse VISCERA says dinner is over and STRATUS knows what that means. VISCERA gargles with Listerine. STRATUS reminds VISCERA that KANE is after her. She says she needs VISCERA to destroy KANE and until it is done, they will not do anything. VISCERA says he understands but asks for an advance. STRATUS obliges by opening her blouse.</p>	Welcome to career advancement Viscera.	+0.50
<p>●S19 ● WWE Slam of the Week: BATISTA helps ROSS defeat TRIPLE H.</p>	—	NR
<p>●S20 ● Post 4Rw, TRIPLE H attacks BATISTA and BATISTA is able to fend him off for a time, but TRIPLE H eventually is able to hit the Pedigree on BATISTA, who struggles to rise, but is unable to do so.</p>	Different picture Sunday, I hope.	+0.25

Closing Notes

- Surprisingly, Batista pulls off the look with JR's hat pretty well.
- Regal was having too much fun with the crowd's reaction volume. That was hilarious in and of itself.
- Batista has them play the footage of JR defeating Triple H twice. Imagine what TIVO can do for him.
- Jonathan Coachman, Transatlantic target for humiliation extraordinaire.
- Anyone else rioting with Viscera's continued moves on Stratus, especially with the dance moves? Awesomely funny stuff actually.