



SMACKDOWN! LINES

Staples Center
Los Angeles, California

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slashwrestling.com

1. The Rock v 2. Booker T

Singles

1SD 4:27.98 40 (30.78) 2-2-E-1-2-1

ThePeople'sElbow-Pin; Action fairly good despite an off-moderate pace, but match seemed hollow at times.

Expected more from these two (3Jan02 was better, though not a great match itself). Match seemed to slow considerably a few times which detracted from the enjoyment. I somewhat like Booker challenging top level competitors, but two straight losses (three if you count the tag match against the APA) are damaging to his standing. Subpar.

1. William Regal and Dudley Boyz v 2. Rikishi and Rob Van Dam and Edge

3v3Tag

2SD 5:07.19 70 (01.75) Mx-2e-1r-1b-1d-E-2r-2r-1b

DudleyDeathDrop-Pin; Mostly balanced match and active throughout; not glaringly strong, but drawing.

Only missing part of balance was Rob Van Dam, who had only a trace amount of "legal man" offense. Exchanges were pretty good to watch and match seemed fluid enough to hold interest. The finish, a 3D on Rikishi, was a nice note to end on. No other added-effect to take note of, but match had most merit of any on the night.

1. Maven w Al Snow v 2. Undertaker

HardcoreSingles

WWF Hardcore Championship-G3

3SD 5:33.98 10 2*2**2*1

◆RockBottom-Pin; Mismatch prompts expected interference; excessive interference considerably disfigures match.

Had to expect that Snow would interfere given the rules, but his continuous assisting of Maven to escape, in addition to attacking the Undertaker seriously marred this contest. One or the other may not have done this. Rock's interference advances a feud. Win should have been under better circumstances. Not single digit, but very light merit.

1. Kurt Angle and Chris Jericho v 2. Triple H

2v1Handicap

4SD 6:41.69 53 (27.43) 2-1x-1a-1j-1a-1j-2-2-2-1a

AngleSlam(OntoChair)-Pin; Fair efforts from all three but exchanges lacked that desired extra edge; about par.

Liked the fact that Triple H was getting his shots in on both, sometimes simultaneously. Because of the handicap nature, I figured Triple H would pull out for the win so the finish was somewhat unexpected. Offensive trades were what one might visually expect but simply did not seem to have any of the impact that they have had in other matches.

BREAKDOWNS: Time: 4 Matches with 0 No contests (21:50.84) about 18.21 % of show time.

Types: 2 Singles (1 Title Match), 1 Tag (0 Title Matches), 1 2v1-Handicap

4 instances of interference (1 meaningful); Meaningful interference

3SD *ASnow (3) *TheRock

Average Match Rating (4 Matches) 43.25

Extraneous Segment Aggregate 0.00

Overall Show Score 43.25

Title Changes: Maven New WWFHardcoreChampion

BestOfTheNight: 2SD WilliamRegal and DudleyBoyz v Rikishi RobVanDam and Edge 70

WorstOfTheNight: 3SD Maven v Undertaker 10

Turns: None

Show assessment: If you watched this whole thing, you had company stock, or patience, or a column to write, or only UPN on your TV.

RATINGS: I still continue with the system of using pre-match action and post-match to value a contest while giving the primary emphasis to the match itself which includes basic ring psychology, pace, mechanics and execution of move sets and high spots, the finish and its enjoy-ability, and how much the match advances a story line, if there is one to advance. But another element that I must convey is that I let the opening match or two set a baseline and then perform some degree of comparison of later contests to the baseline.

NON-MATCH SEGMENTS AND SCORES

●RockCallsOutUT Gets BookerT (0) Looks familiar, only it involved HHH
●Steph and HHH with Doctor (-2) We do not need this.
●Angle on HHH/Steph baby. (-1) Or this...
●Post2SD Regal/Edge (+1) This could stay because it advances a semi-worthy feud.

●Y2J/SassoAsSCSA/ (+1) Apparently, imitation isn't so flattering.
SCSA
●SnowMotivates (0) Having the car ready, good idea. Telling Maven, Sort of Maven and showing less confidence, bad idea.
●Y2J/Flair (+0.5) Sets 4SD. Flair, literalist extraordinaire.
●Posedown (0) I have no idea why Stacy attacked
TornieStcy/BillyChck Tornie. Do you?
●Vince/HHH (+0) Smart HHH, just give him a reason.

●Coach/RockINT (+1) One painful tombstone, one point.
UT Assaults Chokeslam too frequent for point.
●Rock to Hospital (0) Etcetera etcetera...
●Post4SDY2J/Steph (0) People are saying miscarriage this, or something like that regarding Stephanie. Does the WWF really want to make them right?
HHHSaves, Angle StrikesBoth

CLOSING NOTES:

1. It isn't as if we have been given screwy title changes before, but none quite as lacking of solid premise as tonight's. Oh wait, I forgot the Arquette fiasco. So, how long does Maven retain?
2. Remember, if you speak first and call out your current arch rival, you will get Booker T, possibly even if you are Booker T.
3. Love that tombstone piledriver. Especially on a car. Especially when it scars. Sounds like a Dr. Seuss "Sam I am" bit doesn't it?
4. Speaking of doctors, their job is to heal people (see Benoit, Triple H) not annoy people (see me).
5. And I thought this last RAW was nearly a throwaway show.