

**29 August 2002**
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**1. Edge v 2. Eddie Guerrero**

Singles

**#1 Cont. UndispChmp SingleEliminationSeries Match 1**

 1SD 7:52:61 **82** (0128) 2-1-2-2-E-2-E-1-1-2

FrogSplash-Pin; Broke fast and settled well, with effort evidenced by action, light on pickup, strong.

Nice series opener serving also as a return match from SummerSlam (3SmS, 95). Held a nice speed mostly throughout. Nice to see Eddie continue his strategy off of Sunday and the finish was a clever if not totally ingenious one. A quality match here, which drew interest very well for the show early on. Strong offering.

**1. John Cena v 2. D-Von**

Singles

 2SD 3:55:30 **25** (00:87) 1-2-2-1-1-2

CobraClutchSlam-Pin; Swift in, held lightly, some fair exchange and with balance, but no late drive, subpar.

Where the body of the contest is well off, a late drive is not always necessary to be a good package, but here, it was needed to meet par merits and was absent. Best spot of the match was the fisherman's neckbreaker. Some of the action was sloppy which easily detracted. Set up post match confrontation with Batista, but not much else here.

**1. Rey Mysterio v 2. Rico w Billy Gunn and Chuck Palumbo**

Singles

 3SD 5:32:92 **72** Mx\*1-2-1-2-2-1-2-1

WestCoastPop-Pin; Good back and forth early, progressed steadily, pickup 3/4 into good closing series.

Outright, good marks simply for Rico's performance here. Early elimination of Billy and Chuck was a plus. Mysterio continues a solid match tab with this also. Nice moonsault attempt by Rico midway. Finishing series with Mysterio's key maneuvers was fluid and added to the contest. Quite strong deal overall and looking forward to more from these.

**1. Eddie Guerrero v 2. Rikishi**

Singles

**#1 Cont. UndispChmp SingleEliminationSeries Match 2**

 4SD 5:02:53 **48** 2-1-1-1-1-2

SideKick-Pin; Led in OK, fair/good exchange here, midway steadied somewhat slow, held to finish near par.

Some good merits worth mentioning here. Firstly, Eddie continued his calculating style on Rikishi, which is good. Rikishi responding to this by limping also served well here. Biggest demerit is the lack of match balance; more offense from Rikishi would have been a plus, despite that, match structured well enough to get par marks.

**1. Tajiri w Jamie Noble and Nidia v 2. Shannon Moore w The Hurricane**

Singles

 5SD 6:35:78 **62** Mx-2-1-1-1-1-2-\*2

RollUp-Pin; Out well and settled about 1/2, sensible pace throughout, good efforts there, activity good.

Constantly standing out here were the sharp hits from Tajiri. Additionally, a good outing from Moore to complement Tajiri. Pace held mostly well, however, there was no real late kick and the finish was somewhat abrupt. Match drew interest and managed to hold it OK. Good showing from the cruiserweights here as a whole.

**1. Rikishi v 2. Chris Benoit**

Singles

**#1 Cont. UndispChmp SingleEliminationSeries Match 3**

 6SD 2:21:60 **35** (01:31) 2-E-2-2

CripplerCrossface-Submission; Played well on previous match, match as whole (and brevity of) served purpose.

While match was one sided and short, in context it was good even though not receiving high marks. The match was structured very well, based on the fourth match and the post match assault. The extended crossface was a very nice element. Combined, these merit a stable score that should be well taken.

**1. Brock Lesnar w Paul Heyman v 2. Matt Hardy**

Singles

 7SD 3:39:56 **50** (02:54) 1-1-1-2-1

F5-Pin; Pointed purpose, subpar as a standalone match, but held in context, reasonably enjoyable.

A context match follows another here. Somewhat admire the setup here with Matt wanting his chance to shine. Well he got it, and then he really got it. Fine display by Lesnar here and a standout element was how Brock managed to thwart Hardy at each heartened effort. A good merit for the show if nothing else.

**1. Chris Benoit v 2. Kurt Angle v 3. Undertaker**

TripleThreat

**#1 Contender WWE Undisputed Championship**

 8SD 8:50:08 **91** 1-2-3-1-2-1-2-2-1-3-E-1-2-3-1-1-2-2-3

LastRide-Pin; Out strongly, midway pickup, effortful and with strong spots within, cleared and driving.

Match fought off the assumed handicap given potential for convoluted scenario, and did it quite well. Spots like the german suplex mini-marathon and the double submission contributed nicely. Early tabling of Undertaker allowed Angle and Benoit to perform up to expectations and maybe some more. Not triple digit, but well done. Night's best.

<b>BREAKDOWNS:</b>	Time: 8 Matches with 0 No contests (43:50:38) about 36.53 % of show time.	Average Match Rating (8 Matches)	<b>58.13</b>	BestOfTheNight: 8SD ChrisBenoit v KurtAngle v Undertaker	<b>91</b>
	Types: 7 Singles (0 Title Matches); 1 TripleThreat (0 Title Matches)	Extraneous Segment Aggregate	<b>6.00</b>	WorstOfTheNight: 2SD JohnCena v D-Von	<b>25</b>
	Overall Show Score		<b>64.13</b>		
	4 instance of interference (1 meaningful); <input type="checkbox"/> Meaningful interference	Title Changes: None		Turns: Undertaker defects from Raw to SmackDown.	
	3SD *BillyGunn				
	5SD *JamieNoble				

Show assessment: An absolutely fine amount of wrestling, with substantial quality, and some complimentary backstage occurrences. A well done SmackDown to bounce back from a non-expectation meeting Raw.

**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.

<b>NON-MATCH SEGMENTS AND SCORES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●StephSetsTourney for No.1 Contender (+1) A good way to go here, methinks. Hopefully the matches suit the stakes.</li> <li>●Hardy wants in Rikishi into series (+0.5) Like the desire, but I doubt he gets his wish.</li> <li>●Post2SD Batista assaults D-Von (+0.5) Monstrous he is. Now it is definitely official.</li> <li>●Holly wants in (0) Not going to happen..</li> <li>●Steph talks to ?? (+1) Now Matt should know better than that.</li> <li>●Matt wants Brock He gets that "first step" as it were, though.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Lloyd INT Rikishi on series/Brock Guerrero retorts (+0.5) Valid point by Eddie, him first, then maybe Brock..</li> <li>●Post4SD Benoit Guerrero assault Rikishi (+0.5) Something tells me..</li> <li>●Benoit into series (+0.5) Yep, he is in, and tis a good thing.</li> <li>●Lloyd INT Angle (+0.5) Another good entry.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Funaki wants to INT Brock/Heyman "Mattitude" (+0.5) Funaki deals the laughs and Matt is trying to start something here, will it work?</li> <li>●Post7SD Brock dominates Hardy (0) Not quite yet.</li> <li>●DawnMarie has Contract of ??? (0) And this would be..?</li> <li>●??? into series final (0) Not a bad choice I suppose.</li> <li>●??? is Undertaker</li> </ul>
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**CLOSING NOTES:**

1. Don't know if you saw them in your area, but there were nice short promos for Mysterio (to get interest for coming match) and Benoit (entrance theme and persona).
2. Anyone catch Cole high fiving Noble and giving the thumbs up to Undertaker? Maybe no point to that, I just find it odd.
3. Angle continues the verbal roast on Mysterio with a fine dwarf line, see CRZ transcription for details.
4. Another oddity comes to mind here, not a single tag match here (Twilight Zone theme here, which is apropos given its coming rebirth on UPN).
5. I actually do not have another real comment, so just pretend that anything I would have written in the five slot was witty and so on and so forth.