



### Cubed Circle Newsletter

This week's newsletter is probably the last solo newsletter for a while. What does that mean? Well we will leave that for the end of this section. This week's newsletter covers RAW 1001, Impact, NXT, an updated list of the top matches of 2012 and a preview for the month of August. You can subscribe to the newsletter via email by emailing [subscriptions@cubedcirclewrestling.com](mailto:subscriptions@cubedcirclewrestling.com) with your details or visit [cubedcirclewrestling.com](http://cubedcirclewrestling.com). The Cubed Circle Newsletter also has a Facebook page available at [facebook.com/CubedCircleNewsletter](http://facebook.com/CubedCircleNewsletter).

Since the inception of the newsletter it has been a one man team, I have been able to cover a lot of the major weekly shows like RAW, Impact and NXT, but have failed to cover things like ROH on SBG and SmackDown for months now. It is because of this that Ben Carass will be writing a SmackDown and ROH report each week for the newsletter beginning next week.

### **WWE RAW 1001 July 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 Cincinnati, Ohio**

#### Overall Show Thoughts

This was what everyone expected from the move to three hours. The segments were drawn out and even some of the matches like Marella/Del Rio went too to a very large extent. Replays were shown of everything multiple times, which became annoying after a while, although it was a clear result of the move to three hours. Some good did come from the move though and it was mostly in the places that were expected. The Sheamus/Bryan match benefited to a very large extent from the move and both men put on a really great TV match. The progress made with the slow burn Punk turn was good for the most part, although the three way is a terribly weak "mainevent" for Summer Slam. The show dragged after the second hour as expected, which wasn't only worrying for this show, but for the shows that are going to follow over the next few weeks.

The show opened up with footage of the fire that was caused by a pyrotechnics rehearsal before the show. They also aired a recap of RAW 1000, the same one that was shown on NXT.

CM Punk came out to open the show. He said that everyone in the lockerroom always wants their WrestleMania moment, but last week he had a RAW moment. He said that it was a RAW moment that was bigger than most Mania moments. He was uncomfortable with the way that RAW went off the air and it left a sour taste in his mouth. RAW last week ended with Jerry Lawler saying that Punk turned his back on the WWE Universe. Punk rolled out of the ring, placed the title on the announce desk and he said that he was used to overly dramatic hyperbole on commentary. He wanted to know how Lawler could say such a thing. He said if anyone turned their back it was Lawler, because Rock was not the WWE champion, not the WWE universe and he



was just a delusional, larger than life and charismatic movie star who showed him no respect. That was something that no one should do. He interrupted Punk

something that no one should ever do and when he went into his shtick with Bryan he ignored Punk. He then graced Punk with the announcement that he would face Punk at Mania and acted like he could just take the title from Punk. He was lucky that Punk never injured him right then and there he said. He said at the end of the night Dwayne did what he does best, he tried to make RAW 1000 all about him and that was when he showed Rock the man he would be dealing with come the Royal Rumble. It was not a popularity contest and not ballet it was the WWE and he is its champion. He said that he never had a response from the Rock, which was strange because when he was feuding with Cena he wouldn't shut up, but Punk said that he knew exactly what Rock finding his silence meant. When it came to Lawler and his agenda he could say what he did or didn't do to Cena, it ended with the way it should be with the spotlight on the WWE champion the best wrestler in the world. Big Show came out.

Punk asked for Show's music to be turned off. Punk asked if he was there to steal the spotlight. Show said it wasn't hard to do, he said the focus was on Punk, but history would show that it was all about Big Show, because he was the one that made Cena the first man to cash in and lose. He said that he knocked Cena out and Punk still couldn't beat Cena – he would have tapped out if he never interfered. The only reason that he was still champion was because of the Big Show. He said that Cena vowed that Show wouldn't win the Money in the Bank and he vowed that Cena wouldn't cash in successfully. He vowed he would be the WWE champion. Punk listed Show's loses and said that the only one winning there was him. Cena ran down.

He went straight after the Big Show, but he rolled out of the ring. Lawler pointed out that the spotlight was stolen from Punk again. AJ was welcomed out. She came out wearing a suit. She announced the main event as Big Show vs. John Cena and the winner would face CM Punk at Summer Slam for the WWE championship.

Lawler said that it was Punk's story and he was sticking to it, but he didn't agree. Cole then asked fans to send tweets saying what they thought about Punk's promo. Bryan went to knock at AJ's door, but decided not to.

#### 1. Alberto Del Rio vs. Santino Marella

Suffice to say we have seen this match before and the funniest part is that every time the US champion is defeated. Del Rio took Marella down with a hard shot and landed some stomps to the gut of Marella. Marella fought back with a few strikes, but he was taken back down with another stop. Del Rio landed a kick to the gut, but Marella began to make a comeback dropkicking Del Rio off of the apron. After the break Del Rio was once again in control. The extra hour obviously made a huge difference to the length of this match. Marella landed a backdrop driver and unloaded on Del Rio. Marella was running wild, but when he landed the splits Del Rio took him down with a kick. Del Rio dropped to his knee for no reason while Marella put on the cobra, this led to Del Rio landing a kick and locking in the cross armbreaker for the win.

After the match Del Rio cut a promo saying that he just destroyed the United States champion like nothing. He said that Marella, Sheamus and the people were beneath him. He said if it was not a World Title match he would not compete, so starting that night he would not compete until Summer Slam, which is actually a pretty darn great gimmick.

Bryan was tempted to knock at AJ's door again, but failed to do so once again.

Vicky interrupted Brodus Clay's entrance saying that it was a disgrace. She said that they should step aside and she started to dance terribly. This led to Damien Sandow coming out. He said that he was a martyr for the people. They showed footage of the DX reunion and Sandow attacked Clay straight afterwards. He clipped the leg of Clay and landed some knees. Sandow snapped Clay's chain in half and posed in the middle of the ring. This will probably lead to a program for both Clay and Sandow, which I am fine with – they are doing the same thing with Ryback and Mahal. However having these two in a program together probably won't help either of them.

They showed a recap of RAW from two weeks ago with the Jericho and Ziggler confrontation. They followed it with clips from SmackDown from this week where Ziggler was going to cash in the briefcase and was interrupted by Jericho. Bryan finally opened the door backstage. AJ offered him a handshake and Bryan asked if she was insane. She told him to shut up and said that she was his boss. She said that she saw Bryan with some people in white suits backstage and Bryan just wanted to have her committed. I am happy that they wrapped that up. Bryan said that they were his friends – his groomsmen. She told him to relax, because she put him in a match that night with Sheamus. He wanted to know if it was for the title, but she chanted no in the most irritating way possible.

They aired a recap of the Lesnar segment from last week. Cole said that the fans got to choose what type of match it was going to be on twitter basically the options were falls count anywhere, street fight and no holds barred, so it didn't really matter either way. Cole said that it was a world title match in a mistake. Sheamus was interviewed

backstage on what type of match he wanted. He said he didn't know and he was happy that the fans got to choose, because he didn't have a pretty face. He said the rougher the better and asked Josh Matthews if he was alright.

## 2. Street Fight

Sheamus vs. Daniel Bryan

Bryan said that he wanted all of the people to stop chanting yes, because he was the only one that was allowed to chant it. Of course the fans chanted yes and Bryan freaked out and chanted no. A street fight was actually the heavy favourite gaining 73% post of vote.

Bryan landed some yes kicks, Sheamus fought back landing a backbreaker for two. Bryan landed a drop toe-hold into the bottom turnbuckle and followed it with a boot to the head. Bryan stretched the arm of Sheamus and Sheamus fought back with some strikes, knocking Bryan to the ground. Sheamus landed some knees to the head of Bryan who rolled to the outside. Bryan was thrown into the barricade. Bryan landed a kick on the entrance way, but he was back bodydropped onto the steel. Sheamus pushed Bryan into the WWE sign head first, but Bryan slid off of the shoulders and landed some yes kicks. He then landed a baseball slide knocking Sheamus off the ramp. He followed it with a flying knee off the ramp. After the break Bryan was stretching the arm of Sheamus. Sheamus landed some shots, but Bryan took him down with a knee to the gut and dropkick knocking Sheamus to the outside. Bryan went for a crossbody off of the apron, but Sheamus countered it into a fall away slam into the barricade. Sheamus landed some of the clubbing blows on the barricade and suplexed Bryan straight over. Sheamus grabbed a chair and kendo stick from under the ring, but Bryan threw them both to the outside. Sheamus slid to the outside, but he was caught with some shots with the kendo stick. Bryan wedged the chair in the turnbuckle and went for a shot with the cane, but Sheamus blocked it and landed some shots of his own. Sheamus went for a big shot, but he was dropkicked into the chair by Bryan. Bryan grabbed another chair on the outside, but Sheamus pulled it away from Bryan and landed a shot. Sheamus got Bryan up on his shoulder near the steps, but he was sent shoulder first into the post. Sheamus was sent into the barricade hard by Bryan and Bryan and Sheamus fought over the cane. This led to Sheamus setting up white noise on the steps. Bryan slid off, but he was caught with a brogue kick and Bryan landed on the steps allowing for Sheamus to grab the pinfall.



They aired a small clip on the Punk promo from earlier in the night and it was proclaimed that they would show the entire thing after the break. After the break they returned and Bryan was going crazy on the mat. He said that he had hurt his neck and he wasn't going



Heath Slater came out. He watched the recap from last week. He said now that the legends had gone back to the retirement home he could get his career back on track. He challenged any current superstar to come and lose to him, out came Randy Orton, which actually made a ton of sense given the whole Legend Killer gimmick. Plus he got a really big pop.

#### 4. Randy Orton vs. Heath Slater

Slater unloaded on Orton in the corner multiple times, which almost led to a DQ in a bizarre turn of events. Orton landed some clotheslines and a powerslam followed by a draping DDT. Orton then landed an RKO for the win.

Bryan was backstage. He was still complaining about his neck. He was speaking to a psyche evaluator; he said that everyone else was crazy. He was asked a whole bunch of questions, all the answers were yes, the question of whether or not AJ dumped him at the alter came up and he began to scream yes with extreme vigour.

#### 5. Chris Jericho & Christian vs. Dolf Ziggler & Miz

Ziggler and Christian started off. Ziggler taunted and Christian responded with a slap. Miz was tagged in and Christian unloaded on the Miz. This led to Christian quickly rolling out and tagging in Ziggler. However Jericho and Miz were quickly tagged in. Jericho dropped an elbow for the count of two and landed some chops in the corner. Ziggler was tagged back in and he and Jericho had an exchange. Jericho took Ziggler down with a chop from the top. Both Miz and Ziggler were thrown to the outside, which allowed Christian to land a body press onto both of them. After the break Miz was in control, but Jericho got a quick roll up for two. Miz locked in a headlock, but Jericho fought out of it landing a back suplex. Jericho finally made the tag to Christian who ran wild. He landed an elbow from the top and went for the killswitch, but Christian countered and got a sunset flip for two. Miz was knocked off the apron,



but this allowed Ziggler to land a dropkick for two. Miz was tagged back in, landing a big boot for two. Miz catapulted Christian throat first into the bottom rope and locked in a headlock. Miz was thrown to the outside by Christian who was about to

make the tag to Jericho, but Jericho was pulled off the apron by Miz. This led to Ziggler being tagged back in, landing a standing elbow drop for two. Ziggler did a hand stand in the middle of a headlock (which I always find stupid). Christian attempted to fight back, but he was taken back down by Ziggler who missed a fameasser, in a pretty strange botched spot. Ziggler went for it again, but Christian reversed it and landed a powerbomb. Christian finally made the tag to Jericho who ran

wild on Miz. He dropkicked Ziggler off of the apron and landed a lionsault on Miz. However the pin was broken up by Ziggler, Christian landed a spear on Ziggler, but he was thrown into the post shoulder first by Miz. Jericho went for the Walls of Jericho, but Miz countered. Miz went for the skull crushing finale, but Jericho countered due to a cheap shot from Christian, which allowed Jericho to land the Code Breaker for the win. Straight after the match Ziggler attacked Jericho from behind with the briefcase.

There was another psych evaluation skit. This time Bryan was shown some ink-blots, the first few were normal, but when they were all on the table it looked like a goat face – this was actually pretty clever. Bryan said that he wasn't an oompa loompa or a goat face, if he was any type of goat he was the greatest of all time. Bryan wanted to know if Sheen put the evaluator up to it, Bryan said that if he was watching he was the one that was winning. Some more tOuts were shown, they were bad, but they definitely weren't as bad as the first set.

#### 6. Tensai vs. Tyson Kidd

Kidd landed some shots to the legs and an enzuigiri, but he was taken down with a shoulder block and splash in the corner. Tensai landed a catapult against the second rope. The crowd chanted Albert as Tensai locked in a nerve hold. Kidd had a small cut on his head. He fought out of the nerve hold and landed a big enzuigiri followed by a big neckbreaker from the top for two. Tensai caught him with the tree slam and back senton for the win. After the match Tensai beat Kidd down. This led to the referee overturning the decision. Since Tensai couldn't beat down Kidd so he slapped Sekimoto and threw him out of the ring.

The evaluator said that Bryan was bitter and had an obsession with Charlie Sheen among other things. However he declared Bryan sane. He left the room and the room suddenly turned red which was so goofy and Kane came in saying he was Bryan's anger management therapist. He then threw Bryan into the wall. Another recap was shown of the Lesnar segment from last week.

#### 7. John Cena vs. Big Show

CM Punk was on commentary. Big Show knocked Cena down to the mat. He landed a



big shot to the gut and a chop to the chest. Show missed the big chest slap in the corner and he dived onto the back of the Big Show locking in a headlock. Cena dived off of the top, he was caught, but he went back to the

headlock. Big Show finally dropped to his knees and Show began to fade. He finally dropped to the mat, Cena made the cover, but Show kicked out at two. After the break Cena made a comeback. Cena went for a shoulder block, but he ran straight into the Big Show who knocked him down. Big Show yelled at CM Punk saying he was too small to stop him. Show screamed that it was easy and ran into a boot of Cena. Cena landed a bulldog and began to unload on the Big Show, however he was caught in a bear hug. Cena landed an elbow to the head of the Big Show, which led to Big Show falling on top of Cena for the count of two. Big Show went for the chokeslam, but Cena countered it into a DDT. Big Show landed a side slam and went to the top. He went for the Banzai Drop, but Cena moved and knocked Show down with a shoulder block and back suplex. The crowd was really into it. He landed the five knuckle shuffle, but Big Show landed the chokeslam for two. Big Show threw Cena back into the ring, but then threw him out once again. Big Show was pushed into the ring post, Cena ran at him, Cena was sent flying into Punk. Both Punk and Cena were down, but Cena made it in at nine. Show taunted for the knockout, but Cena got him up for the AA. However Punk attacked Cena from behind knocking both men down. He landed a kick on the Big Show and looked around the ring.



He grabbed a microphone and he said that the winner of the contest was nobody, because they were both losers. As CM Punk walked to the back, AJ came out and said that

Punk was wrong they were both winners. Punk would defend against Punk and Big Show in a triple threat match. Punk came back out and said that AJ couldn't do that to him he was the WWE champion and he screamed "show me respect".

I am really not a big fan of this triple threat match, not only is a straight up match between Cena and Punk stronger, but adding Big Show to the mix may actually water down the turn. It's not even like it makes sense story or match quality wise, however that seems to be the direction that they are going in.

### **WWE NXT August 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 (Taped: July 14<sup>th</sup> 2012) Orlando, Florida**

#### **Overall Show Thoughts**

This was a fun hour of pro wrestling TV as NXT almost always is. The Gold Rush Tournament is a really good idea, as it will give the matches on the show some meaning. The mainevent was really good and Rhodes, Saxton, Regal and Ross did a



great job of putting the title over. I wasn't a big fan of the Diaz match. I just don't think that she's ready for the position. I was impressed by Langston, he is green, but he seems to have potential. All in all a very fun show.

The show opened up with Dusty Rhodes. He explained the importance of a championship and said that NXT needed wrestlers to dream the dream of being a champion. He said that it would be a Gold Rush tournament with eight men vying for the position to be champion. The participants are: Ricky Steamboat, Bo Dallas, Seth Rollins, Leo Kruger, Michael McGillicutty, Justin Gabriel, Drew McIntyre and Jinder Mahal. He said that the tournament as "he exclusively named" would begin right then and there. I liked the subtle comedy, playing on the Gold Rush Tournament from RAW in 2005. The idea of a NXT champion could really work, especially because they have their own venue and tapings.

### 1. Gold Rush Tournament Match Leo Kruger vs. Richie Steamboat

Steamboat got a quick rollup for two. Both men locked up following another pinning predicament and Kruger slapped Steamboat. This led to a chase around the ring, which culminated in Kruger cutting Steamboat off in the ring. However Steamboat landed some chops, which sent Kruger to the outside. Steamboat landed some shots in the turnbuckle once Kruger made his way back into the ring. Kruger was whipped into the turnbuckle, but he hid behind the referee selling the knee. This led to a cheap shot from Kruger, followed by an elbow and some shots wearing Steamboat down on the mat. Kruger taunted and landed a snap suplex. Kruger followed it with a fist drop and cravat, which Regal described as the equivalent of dying a thousand deaths. Steamboat came off of the ropes, but he was caught with a big spinebuster for two. Kruger went for a sleeper hold, Steamboat fought out, but he was taken down with some shots to the head. Steamboat caught Kruger with a boot to the head and some chops. He was cut off with a knee to the gut, but he landed some more chops and a big back bodydrop. Steamboat caught Kruger with an elbow and went to the top rope, where he caught Kruger with a dropkick for the count of two. Kruger locked in the sleeper hold, Steamboat began to fade, but he fought back and made it to the ropes. Kruger landed some more knees to the back and Steamboat caught him with a sling blade for the win. The finish came very abruptly, but the match was a fun open to the tournament. I would have liked to have seen Kruger win, just to see him meet Gabriel in the finals, but it was not to be and I am fine with that.

### 2. Big E. Langston vs. Adam Mercer

Langston landed some vicious knees to the gut and some backbreakers over the knee, one after another holding on. Langston followed those with some big shoulders in the corner and a big lunging shoulder. Mercer landed a few jaw breakers, but he was caught with a shot to the gut and a running shoulder block. Langston finished the match with the Big Ending (he starts off in the Emerald Flowsion position and drops down into a cutter). Langston was really impressive and although he is still green, I feel that he would be a better fit for the position than Ryback.

### 3. Raquel Diaz vs. Audrey Marie

Diaz's stage art like entrance is still so cheesy and forced. Marie grabbed a headlock, but Diaz fought back with a shot to the gut and she hung Marie up on the top rope. Diaz locked in some kind of headlock and forced Marie to the mat. Marie clipped the leg and got a quick pin, but Diaz landed the same sloppy drop toe-hold from last week and scraped Marie's face across the mat. Diaz got a bridging pin for the count of two and went for the Gory Special. Marie got off in a very sloppy spot which resulted in loud you can't wrestle chants. She then landed the Gory Special to finish off an awful match. After the match Diaz wrote an L on the head of Marie.

Paige was asked her thoughts on Diaz. Paige mumbled a few words and walked off.

#### 4. Hunico & Camacho vs. Jason Jordan & Mike Dalton

Jordan and Hunico started off, while Regal retold the nose biting story again. Jordan got a front facelock and tagged in Dalton. Dalton got a pin for the count of two, but he was caught with a chop from Hunico followed by a dropkick for two. Camacho was tagged in and he landed some shots in his corner. Hunico was tagged in and shot in with a springboard dropkick to the face of Dalton in the corner. Dalton attempted to fight back, but he was cut off by Hunico. Hunico locked in a headlock and tagged Camacho back in. He landed a release butterfly suplex. Hunico and Camacho landed a really big double team, but Jordan broke the pin up. Hunico and Camacho landed some shots behind the referees back. Hunico threw Dalton at Camacho in for a powerbomb, but he got a hurricanrana pin for the win. It was nice to see a new team get the win, hopefully they follow it up.

#### 5. Gold Rush Tournament Match Seth Rollins vs. Drew McIntyre

Regal and Ross put the NXT championship over really hard. McIntyre landed some clubbing blows to the back, Rollins fought back with some kicks, but he was taken down by McIntyre. McIntyre landed a shot to the gut, but Rollins caught him with a dropkick and hurricanrana. Rollins landed a leg lariat sending McIntyre to the outside; this led to McIntyre rolling underneath the ring. Rollins attempted to pull him out, but he was caught with a boot from McIntyre. McIntyre pulled back on the neck of Rollins and stomped on the arm. McIntyre landed a backsuplex for the count of two. After the break McIntyre was in control, landing a knee to the gut of Rollins. McIntyre landed some shots in the corner, but Rollins fought back with some shots of his own. However he was taken down by McIntyre again, he attempted to roll to the outside clutching the arm, but he was followed by McIntyre who slammed his arm into the apron. McIntyre was caught with a spike DDT with one arm from Rollins who began to land chops and strikes on McIntyre. Rollins landed an enzuigiri and clotheslined McIntyre over the top rope landing a topé suicida (still selling the arm mind you). Rollins began to stomp and landed a flying forearm, but he was caught with a big clothesline for two. Rollins dived off of the top rope, but he was caught with a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker. McIntyre landed some shoulders in the corner and a boot to the face of Rollins. Rollins was perched on the top rope by McIntyre, but Rollins struck him down and went for the phoenix splash. McIntyre moved, but Rollins rolled through. McIntyre went for a knee in the corner, but Rollins moved and McIntyre hung himself up on the rope. This led to Rollins landing Fade to Black for

the win. This was a fun way to cap off the show, it made the title feel like something worth fighting for and the finishing sequence was really good.

## **TNA Impact August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012 Orlando, Florida**

### Overall Show Thoughts

I thoroughly enjoyed this edition of Impact, even though Claire Lynch and Aces & Eights played a part in the show, the show wasn't oversaturated with beat downs or bad promos. The tag team match that started the show off was really good and told the exact story that needed to be told in order to build to the Heavyweight and X Division Title matches. The intrigue with Storm was a little over done, although the main event where everyone came out was done pretty well. It wasn't the greatest show in the world, but there was still some really good stuff on the show that made it worth watching.

The show opened up with King, Aries, Roode and Ion brawling before their match. They brawled back and forth until Aries landed an axe handle onto Roode who was on the outside to start the match.

#### 1. Austin Aries & Kenny King vs. Bobby Roode & Zema Ion

Ion took advantage of a Roode distraction, but King and Aries soon landed a double aeroplane spin coupled with a dropkick. This led to some double teams from Aries and King. Aries was the legal man and the crowd got behind him. King was tagged back in and he landed some chops on Ion, coupled with some shoulders in the corner for the count of two. Aries shot in with a slingshot corkscrew elbow drop and King



flew in with a shot to the knee. King went for something, Ion slid off and King was distracted by Roode. Ion accidentally hit his own partner, but when King went to take advantage he was pulled to the outside, where Ion landed a corkscrew pescado. Back in the ring Ion got a two count and tagged in Roode

who spat in the face of Aries who attempted to make it in, but could not. The crowd got behind King, while Roode picked King apart landing a suplex and knees to the leg and chest. Roode elbowed Aries off of the apron, which resulted in Hebner being distracted, however he did not see the tag to Ion. No one reacted. After the break King pushed Ion off of the top rope, but King was in turn pushed off of the top rope by Roode. Roode landed some stomps on King and Ion was tagged back in. The fans got behind King who was caught in a front face lock, but he was able to land a leg trap release northern lights suplex. King made the tag to Aries, but the referee never saw

the tag, this allowed Ion and Roode to double team King once again. However, King began to make a second comeback landing a big enzuigiri on Ion after knocking Roode off the apron. King went for the cover instead of the tag, but Aries caught Roode with a missile dropkick and a topé suicida. King then landed the F5 into the sitout slam for the win.

This was a really great TV tag match. It built to Hardcore Justice in so many ways, it built to King and not only that but when King finally got the win some of the fans were literally jumping up and down. It told your classic tag team story to a tee and got just enough time.

The standard Impact recap was shown. Sting came out. He said there were so many questions, but he said someone always has the scoop and he wanted to get down to the bottom of it. He called out James Storm who came out. Sting said that he didn't believe Roode last week, but he said he had compelling footage. They aired a clip of last week's match where Storm was not attacked. He then showed the mainevent run in with the Aces and Eights exiting the ring, but not touching Storm. Sting said he wanted Storm to convince him that he wasn't behind the Aces & Eights. Storm said that he had been contacted by so many people asking him the same question, but he said what he saw were cowards fleeing the ring, because he was going to kick their asses. He said that he had never needed anyone to fight his battles. He said he came to Sting because he knew that he could hold his head up high. He said that he was jumped from behind nine months ago by Angle, but he didn't complain. He beat the greatest wrestler of all time (Kurt Angle) three out of four times with one time being for the world championship and he didn't need a damn soul to do it. This led to Angle coming out.

Angle said that he was sorry to come out there but he heard his name. Angle said that he saw Storm on top of the world and he saw him quit and comeback. Angle said he didn't understand Storm's motives. Storm called him out last week, but he was attacked by Aces and Eights and Storm benefitted by that (he actually didn't). Angle said they never touched him last week. He said that eight grown men ran from one man. He said that he wanted any of the Aces and Eights if they were there to come to the party that night and Sting said that he would be at ringside himself. Angle said that he was going to make Storm tap out and he left. Storm said that they would see and he looked on. This was a well performed segment.

They showed some of AJ Styles' tweets from Australia. They then aired a recap of Lynch's allegations. Daniels and Kazarian were backstage, they went on about how low Styles went because he fled the country. Daniels said that they would throw Lynch a proper baby shower. It was then announced that the winners of the BFG gimmick matches at hardcore justice would get twenty points. The matches are Samoa Joe, Daniels, Kurt Angle and AJ Styles in a ladder match, a fall count anywhere match between Mr. Anderson, Pope, Magnus and Rob Van Dam and a tables match between James Storm, Bully Ray, Robbie E and Jeff Hardy.

## 2. Bully Ray vs. Robbie E

Bully Ray said that he was talking to Storm. He said he had never trusted Storm and he had been there six years. He said he would be at ringside during the mainevent.

Robbie T laid Ray out with a cheap shot before the match. Ray kicked out before one in all of the pinning predicaments and landed some big slaps and an ace crusher for the win and seven points.

Hebner was shown giving Rayne gifts backstage, she said that she kissed him because she loved him and not for anything else. Gail Kim interrupted, but Rayne said that Hebner was a professional and he would call the match right down the middle.

### 3. Number One Contender's Match

Gail Kim vs. Tara vs. Mickie James vs. Madison Rayne

Gail Kim threw Tara over the top rope and James took Rayne down with a hurricanrana. James was cut off by Kim with a clothesline and Rayne laid Tara out with a neckbreaker for the count of two. Kim went for a pin of her own, but Tara kicked out. Tara began to make a comeback and Kim was pulled out by James, however she was thrown into the steps really hard by Kim. Kim broke up a pin in the ring and took Tara down with a clothesline. Rayne locked in a camel clutch on Tara and James, who was trying to get back in was kicked out. Rayne attempted to whip Kim into Tara, but she was sent shoulder first into the post and to the outside. Rayne landed a kick, but James landed a neckbreaker for two. Kim covered James for another nearfall and Kim landed a backbreaker on James. Tara came in with a slingshot leg drop on Kim for the count of two. Tara landed a body slam on Tara, but she was hung up by Rayne. However, Rayne was pulled down by James and Kim followed Tara to the top. Rayne landed a kick on James and Kim landed a big superplex on Tara. This resulted in Tessmacher (who was on commentary at the time) saying that it [the superplex] could only happen in the Knockout's division, which was really stupid. Rayne distracted Hebner from counting Kim's pin which led to a conflict. Kim was thrown to the floor by James who landed a few clotheslines. James landed a backbreaker which she herself bumped for and then kipped up. She went to the top, but was pushed off by Kim. Tara landed the Widow's peak on Kim, the pin was broken up by Rayne and Tara got a cradle, but Hebner declared Rayne the winner.

Roode was backstage; he said that he told everyone from day one that Storm was the leader of Aces and Eights. So he said that if Angle and Sting would be out there he would too. Aries came by after Roode left and said that he would be out there too. Sting was backstage with Brooke Hogan; he wanted to know how Hogan was doing. Brooke said that he couldn't get up and for the first time in her life she had to take care of him. Sting wanted to know if Brooke would cope under pressure. Brooke replied by saying "I don't know why they are picking on us", which was an odd way of phrasing it. She said that the Aces and Eights were capable of anything and they could get her next. Sting said it was wartime and he didn't know if it would spill out into the Knockout's division. A guy then ran in with an envelope containing the dead man's hand. This led to both of them leaving the room.

ODB and Young were backstage. She said they had to defend the tag titles, Young couldn't believe that Hogan had children because he "looks so young". ODB said that Brooke has a problem with Young holding the titles, which Young used as an

opportunity to plug his fishing show. He said that the belts would never be together again at the same time and then they couldn't defend them so he ran off with his belt.

#### 4. Chavo Guerrero vs. Kid Kash

They started with an athletic exchange, but Kash took Guerrero down with a shoulder block. Guerrero grabbed a hold on the arm, but Kash fought back with some shots. Guerrero landed some European uppercuts and was taken down with a clothesline from Kash who landed some shots to the face. He was dragged off of Guerrero by the



referee, which allowed Guerrero to get a few shots in, but Kash landed a big spinebuster. The crowd was really behind Guerrero and when Kash went for a moonsault Guerrero got the knees up. Guerrero

began to make him comeback landing a flying head scissors and a dropkick for two. Guerrero landed a slingshot giro and went for something, but he was distracted by Gunner. Kash went for a brainbuster, but Guerrero landed the three amigos and went to the top rope. Guerrero then landed the frog splash for the win.

Dixie was interviewed on the Claire Lynch situation. She said that she was also a victim of black mail, she had an opinion, but it was time for Styles to step up. Daniels and Kazarian were shown preparing their gifts. Angle was backstage with Wes Briscoe son of (Gerald Briscoe), he said that he wanted to be a wrestler and he wanted



Angle to put a word in with Hogan. Devon and Garrett came by and basically said that they wanted to be at ringside too, because they didn't want a third run-in.

Daniels and Kazarian were in the ring. Kazarian said that Styles wasn't there because he was in Australia promoting TNA and possibly impregnating somebody. They said that because they were stand-up gentlemen they wanted to do the right thing and they brought Lynch in, who was just conveniently sitting at ringside. They said they were going to do what AJ and his redneck family should have done. Daniels said that he had two beautiful children and he knows that it is a

very important time. They said that AJ was treating her like scum and they wanted to be there because AJ was not. They opened some boxes for her and asked her to open some of them. There were some AJ action figures and replica belts, together with more merchandise. They pulled out a doll dressed like Styles. Lynch then looked into the camera and said that the baby was coming and she told him to do the right thing and walked off. So I guess her bad acting has turned into her gimmick.

Park was backstage. He said that he stood up for himself and his firm “Park Park & Park) had gained some clients in the form of some TNA superstars. He said that they even taught him some of the lingo. He approached Sting who he was really happy to meet and said that he didn’t want to kayfabe him, but he offered him legal representation. Sting said that he was covered, but he didn’t mind that he took on TNA talent. Sting wanted to know about the black hole slam, saying that it was textbook. He wanted to know if Park was kayfabeing him (they were almost using a kayfabe version of the word kayfabe by pronouncing in kay-fab.) Park then took a picture with Sting, some comedy that probably went over most people’s heads.

## 5. Kurt Angle vs. James Storm

Wes Briscoe was shown sitting at ringside. Storm knocked Angle to the mat with a shoulder block. The crowd chanted USA, which was pretty strange since both men are American. Both men exchanged holds to duelling chants. Sting made his way to the ring. Storm locked in an armlock and Angle worked his way to his feet. Devon and



Garrett Bischoff made their way down to the ring, as Storm took Angle down with a Thesz press. However, Angle fought back with some strikes and a boot to the throat. Storm fought back with some shots of

his own, but Angle responded with a release belly to belly suplex. Ray made his way out. After the break Storm landed a neckbreaker and he was thrown to the outside by Angle. Back from another commercial break and Storm brought Angle in with a draping DDT. Roode made his way out next, followed by Aries. Storm and Angle exchanged strikes and Storm landed an enzuigiri. Storm went for a lariat, but Angle began to land the rolling German suplexes. Angle caught Storm with a boot to the face for the count of two, Angle locked in the ankle lock, but Storm fought out and landed an Angle slam. Angle teed off on Storm, Storm went for a code breaker, but Angle caught him in an ankle lock. Angle had it in for a ridiculous amount of time without dropping down. Storm finally landed a kick to get his way out of the ankle

lock and landed a super kick for the win. After the match Angle and Storm hugged and Angle raised Storm's hand.

Storm got on the mic and called the Aces and Eights out saying everyone was there. No one showed up. He called them out again, but no one came out. Roode got on the mic and said there were no Aces and Eights because Storm didn't need them and he said that he was guilty as charged. He said that the whole world knew it he was guilty. Ray approached Storm from behind, which led to Storm striking Ray and Aries and Roode went at it to close off the show.

### **Bits & Pieces**

#### Top Matches of 2012

1. Davey Richards vs. Michael Elgin ROH 2012/03/31 \*\*\*\*\*
2. Kazuchika Okada vs. Tetsuya Naito NJPW 2012/03/04 \*\*\*\*\* ½
3. Undertaker vs. Triple H Hell in a Cell WWE WrestleMania 28 2012/04/01 \*\*\*\*\* ½
4. **Bobby Roode vs. Austin Aries Destination X 2012/07/08 \*\*\*\* ½**
5. Hiroshi Tanahashi vs. Hirooki Goto NJPW 2012/04/08 \*\*\*\*\* ¼
6. Suwama vs. Taiyo Kea AJPW 2012/05/07 \*\*\*\*\* ¼
7. CM Punk vs. Daniel Bryan WWE Over the Limit 2012/05/20 \*\*\*\*\* ¼
8. Kazuchika Okada vs. Hirooki Goto NJPW 2012/05/03 \*\*\*\* ¼
9. SUWAMA vs. Daisuke Sekimoto AJPW 2012/01/02 \*\*\*\*\* ¼
10. Brock Lesnar vs. John Cena WWE Extreme Rules 2012/04/29 \*\*\*\*\* ¼
11. Jun Akiyama vs. Keiji Muto AJPW 2012/03/20 \*\*\*\*\* ¼
12. Hiroshi Tanahashi vs. Tetsuya Naito 2012/04/05 \*\*\*\*\* ¼
13. **AJ Styles vs. Christopher Daniels Last Man Standing Destination X 2012/07/08 \*\*\*\* ¼**
14. **Adam Cole vs. Kyle 'O Reilly Hybrid Rules ROH Best in the World 2012/06/24 \*\*\*\* ¼**
15. **CM Punk vs. Daniel Bryan NO DQ WWE Money in the Bank 2012/07/15 \*\*\*\* ¼**
16. Sheamus vs. Daniel Bryan 2/3 Falls WWE Extreme Rules 2012/04/29 \*\*\*\*\* ¼
17. Jun Akiyama vs. Takao Omori AJPW 2012/02/03 \*\*\*\*\* ¼
18. Kazuchika Okada, Shinsuke Nakamura, Tomohiro Ishii & YOSHI-HASHI vs. Hirooki Goto, Hiroshi Tanahashi, Tama Tonga & Tetsuya Naito NJPW 2012/06/06 \*\*\*\*\* ¼
19. Prince Devitt vs. Low Ki NJPW 2012/05/03 \*\*\*\*\* ¼
20. Katsuhiko Nakajima vs. Shingo Takagi Diamond Ring 2012/02/11 \*\*\*\*\* ¼
21. Kenny Omega vs. Kaz Hayashi AJPW 2012/02/03 \*\*\*\*\* ¼
22. CM Punk vs. Chris Jericho Chicago Street Fight WWE Extreme Rules 2012/04/29 \*\*\*\* ¼
23. Davey Richards vs. Eddie Edwards ROH Final Battle 2011/12/23 \*\*\*\* ¼
24. CM Punk vs. Chris Jericho WWE WrestleMania 28 2012/04/01 \*\*\*\*\*
25. Hiroshi Tanahashi vs. Kazuchika Okada NJPW 2012/02/12 \*\*\*\*\*
26. **Hiroshi Tanahashi vs. Togi Makabe We Are Pro Wrestling Love 2012/07/01 \*\*\*\***
27. **Jun Akiyama vs. Taiyo Kea We Are Pro Wrestling Love 2012/07/01 \*\*\*\***



28. Go Shiozaki, Seiya Sanada & Tetsuya Naito vs. Hiroshi Tanahashi, Suwama & Takeshi Morishima AJPW/NJPW/NOAH All Together 2 2012/02/19 \*\*\*\*
29. SUWAMA vs. Taiyo Kea AJPW 2012/05/07 \*\*\*\*
30. La Sombra vs. Valador Jr. NJPW Fantastica Mania 2012/01/22 \*\*\*\*
31. Manami Toyota, Hanako Nakamori & Sawako Shimono vs. Aja Kong, Mio Shirai & Tsubasa Kuragaki Chikara JoshiMania Night 3 2011/12/04 \*\*\*\*
32. Ayako Hamada vs. Sara Del Rey Chikara JoshiMania Night 3 2011/12/04 \*\*\*\*
33. Kenta Kobashi & Jun Akiyama vs. Kensuke Sasaki & Mitsuhiro Kitanomiya Diamond Ring 2012/02/11 \*\*\*\*
34. Christopher Daniels & Kazarian vs. Kurt Angle & AJ Styles TNA Slammiversary 2012/06/11 \*\*\*\*
- 35. Ryusuke Taguchi vs. Low Ki NJPW BOSJ Finals 2012/06/10 \*\*\*\***
36. Prince Devitt vs. PAC NJPW 2012/06/06 \*\*\*\*
37. Hiroshi Tanahashi & Tetsuya Naito vs. Masato Tanaka & Yujiro Takahashi NJPW 2012/05/03 \*\*\*\*
38. Kenny Omega vs. Shuji Kondo AJPW 2012/03/30 \*\*\*\*
39. Akira Tozawa vs. Masaaki Mochizuki DGUSA 2012/03/30 \*\*\*\*
40. Karl Anderson vs. Shinsuke Nakamura 2012/04/05 \*\*\*\*
41. Davey Richards vs. Kevin Steen ROH Border Wars 2012/05/12 \*\*\*\*
42. CM Punk vs. Alberto Del Rio vs. The Miz TLC Match WWE TLC 2011/12/18 \*\*\*\*
43. Masato Tanaka vs. Tomoaki Honma NJPW 2011/12/23 \*\*\*\*
44. Kevin Steen vs. El Generico Last Man Standing ROH 2012/03/30 \*\*\*\*
- 45. Kevin Steen vs. Davey Richards ROH Best in the World 2012/06/24 \*\*\*\***
46. El Generico vs. Kota Ibushi DDT 2012/05/04 \*\*\*\*
- 47. Kurt Angle vs. Samoa Joe Destination X 2012/07/08 \*\*\* ¾**
48. Akiyama & Takao Omori vs. Keiji Muto & Kenta Kobashi AJPW/NJPW/NOAH All Together 2 2012/02/19 \*\*\* ¾
49. Kazuchika Okada, Shinsuke Nakamura, YOSHI-HASHI & Tomohiro Ishii vs. Hiroshi Tanahashi, Hirooki Goto, Tetsuya Naito & Tama Tonga NJPW 2012/05/27
50. Hiroshi Tanahashi vs. Karl Anderson NJPW 2012/04/08 \*\*\* ¾
- 51. RAW Money in the Bank Ladder Match WWE Money in the Bank 2012 \*\*\* ¾**
52. Kevin Steen vs. Steve Corino No DQ Match ROH Final Battle 2011/12/23 \*\*\* ¾
53. Hiroshi Tanahashi vs. Minoru Suzuki NJPW 2011/01/04 \*\*\* ¾
54. Yuji Nagata vs. Masayuki Kono Cage Match AJPW 2012/03/20 \*\*\* ¾
55. Hikaru Shida vs. Yuzuki Aikawa Bull Nakano Produce Empress 2011/01/08 \*\*\* ¾
56. Tsubasa Kuragaki vs. Sara Del Rey Chikara Joshimania Night 2 2011/12/03 \*\*\* ¾
57. Daisuke Sekimoto & Yuji Okabayashi vs. Suwama & Takumi Soya AJPW 2012/03/30 \*\*\* ¾
58. Sheamus vs. Chris Jericho vs. Randy Orton vs. Alberto Del Rio WWE Over the Limit 2012/05/20 \*\*\* ¾
59. Tetsuya Naito vs. Satoshi Kojima 2012/04/01 \*\*\* ¾
60. Masato Yoshino & Ricochet vs. Johnny Gargano & Chuck Taylor DGUSA 2012/03/30 \*\*\* ¾

61. Low Ki, Akira Tozawa & BxB Hulk vs. Pac, Ricochet & Masaaki Mochizuki  
DGUSA 2012/03/31 \*\*\* ¾
62. Dark Cuervo & Dark Ozz vs. Takao Omori & Manabu Soya AJPW  
2012/03/20 \*\*\* ¾

### **Pro Wrestling Schedule for August 2012**

- ROH Boiling Point Saturday August 11<sup>th</sup> 2012 on iPPV

This show is headlined by ROH champion Kevin Steen facing off against Chikara champion Eddie Kingston. Other matches include The Briscoes vs. Jimmy Jacobs/Steve Corino, Jay Lethal vs. Tommaso Ciampa in a 2/3 falls match, Eddie Edwards & Sara Del Ray vs. Mike Bennett & Maria Kanellis, Roderick Strong vs. Mike Mondo and Michael Elgin vs. Charlie Haas.

- CZW Tangled Web V August 11<sup>th</sup> 2012 on iPPV

The iPPV is headlined by a Tangled Web Deathmatch between CZW owner DJ Hyde and Matt Tremont.

- TNA Hardcore Justice 2012 Sunday August 12<sup>th</sup> 2012 on PPV

Live from Orlando Florida on PPV, headlined by Austin Aries vs. Bobby Roode for the TNA Heavyweight Championship. Other matches include a four way ladder match between AJ Styles, Kurt Angle, Christopher Daniels and Samoa Joe, James Storm, Bully Ray, Robbie E and Jeff Hardy in a tables match, Pope, Rob Van Dam, Mr. Anderson and Magnus in a falls count anywhere match and Miss Tessmacher defending the Knockouts Title against Madison Rayne. Other potential matches include Zema Ion vs. Kenny King and a tag team match involving Chavo Guerrero.

- WWE Summer Slam August 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 on PPV

A show headlined by Brock Lesnar/Triple H and a three-way between CM Punk, Big Show and John Cena. Other matches include Sheamus vs. Alberto Del Rio for the World Heavyweight Title.

Other major shows that are not going to be put out on PPV include: Chikara *Shoot a Crooked Arrow* in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 18<sup>th</sup> and Chikara *The Ring of Wax* in Indianapolis, Indiana on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

New Japan's annual G1 tournament is taking place this month and is set to run from August 1<sup>st</sup> through August 12<sup>th</sup>. All Japan Pro Wrestling is running shows on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Pro Wrestling NOAH is set to run their *Shiny Navigation* shows on August 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> with a charity show on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

AAA will be running their biggest show of the year, Triplemania XX on August 5<sup>th</sup> 2012 debuting in the Ciudad de México arena. The show is headlined by AAA heavyweight champion El Mesías defending against Perro Aguayo, Jr. The other big

match on the card is a Lucha de Apuesta mask match between Dr. Wagner Jr. and Máscara Año 2000, Jr.

### **Next Week's Issue**

Next week we cover RAW 1002, NXT, the G1, the go-home show for Hardcore Justice 2012, Smackdown, ROH and more!

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