



Cubed Circle Newsletter 197 – G1 Climax 2015 Continues & Heyman Money Promos

In this week's issue, Ben Carass returns with a look at RAW from Monday with a money promo from Heyman and a four-star match, plus nights six and seven of the G1, with what may very well be the match of the year, NXT, and more!

The featured image is courtesy Kevin Wilson, and his puroresu website, puroresucentral.com!

– Ryan Clingman, *Cubed Circle Newsletter*, Editor

RAW Ramblings – August 3rd 2015.

SAP Centre: San Jose, CA.

Ben Carass.

Once again there was very little build towards SummerSlam on RAW and with only two more weeks of TV there is only one official match signed, however luckily for WWE they employ a man by the name of **Paul Heyman**, who honestly should be tasked with selling every PPV because there is nobody better at making people want to see a show in 2015 than **Heyman**. All things considered, RAW was a pretty good show; of course in the three hour era there is always going to be some useless filler clogging up the show, but generally this week's episode was considerably better than the endless drivel we have been subjected to for months.

Let's start with **Paul Heyman** since he was incredible. **Paul** came out just before the top of the third hour and recapped the **Lesnar/Taker** feud since BattleGround. **Brock** came out to a huge babyface reaction and tossed the steel steps into the ring then proceeded to stand on them like an Olympian on the gold medal podium. If anyone else would have tried this, they would have looked unbelievably goofy, but then again they are not **Brock Lesnar**. **Heyman** told a story about **Undertaker** calling **Vince** and begging for a rematch with **Lesnar** at WrestleMania 31, but **Vince** nixed that idea because even the evil billionaire knew what would happen to poor old **Undi**. So, **Taker** went rogue and attacked **Brock** at BattleGround, which forced the WWE's hand into booking the match at SummerSlam and **Heyman** dubbed the rematch, "too big for WrestleMania."

Like a true old-school pro, **Heyman** worked in the date of SummerSlam and said **Brock** put **Taker** in the hospital last time they faced each other, however this time **Taker** would need his Last Rites. Then, this small Jewish man proceeded to deliver, in Latin, the Last Rites Sacrament and was virtually blown up by the time he had finished his master class of a promo. **Brock** did nothing apart from stand on the steps, probably earning \$30,000 for doing so, but it was absolutely worth it. Show opened with a really great tribute to **Roddy Piper**, with the roster on the stage for the ten bell salute and a tremendous video package; there were a couple of still shots of **Hulk Hogan**, but they

refrained from showing any actual footage of **Hogan** during his big run with **Piper** in 85. After the tributes, it was back to the typical formula with **Seth Rollins** cutting his customary 15 minute opening segment promo. He bragged about breaking **Cena's** nose and such; fans chanted, "thank you **Rollins**." The point of it was that **Rollins** challenged **Cena** to a Title vs. Title match at SummerSlam and since **Cena** wasn't there to do his US title challenge, **Rollins** issued a WWE title open challenge, however his opponent couldn't be over 6ft and 200lbs. It ended up being **Neville** and, in a surprise to no one, he had a fantastic 13 minute match with **Rollins**. Seriously, you should go out of your way to see this, because the crowd were white hot for the near-falls and when **Neville** hit the Red Arrow every single sole in the building thought they were going to see a title change. **Rollins** got his foot on the rope to break the count at 2.99999999, but still there were some people who didn't realise and were celebrating a title switch for a few moments. Finish saw **Rollins** avoid a second Red Arrow and hit the Pedigree for the clean pin, however **Neville** gained a hell of a lot here. Kind of like how he did when he had **Cena** beat for the US title only to be screwed out of it by **Kevin Owens**, but unless WWE follow up with something then **Neville** will once again quickly lose all the momentum he built up here. Great match, check it out! (****)



Main event was a fun six-man which saw **Roman Reigns, Dean Ambrose & Randy Orton** beat **Bray Wyatt, Luke Harper & Sheamus** in 16:55. It was your typical WWE six-man: not much happened early, the faces sold, then everyone took turns at hitting MOVEZ! Although, the parade of finishers here was really great and **Reigns** shone by going crazy and Superman punching everyone. After enough moves had been hit, **Reigns** pinned **Sheamus** with a spear. They did a decent job of hyping up the match throughout the night with backstage promos and such: **Reigns & Ambrose** used some of **Piper's** old lines about kicking ass and chewing bubble-gum then **Sheamus** somehow found **Bray Wyatt's** secret compound and joined in with **Bray & Harper's** promo. It was kind of wacky, but the good kind of pro-wrestling wacky. – The word now is that **Sting** will not be working SummerSlam, so I guess it will just be **Reigns & Ambrose vs. Wyatt & Harper** and an **Orton vs. Sheamus** rematch is a virtual lock, but as noted, nothing was officially announced.

There was an enjoyable **Miz** TV segment; yes, you read that right. **Kevin Owens & Cesaro** were the guests, so that should explain a lot right there. It wasn't really different from the normal talk-

show segments with guys talking and insulting each other, but the performers involved somehow managed to make it feel less contrived than usual. Even **Miz** was great at encouraging the two to fight and making excited faces like a child on Christmas morning. **Cesaro** challenged **Owens** to a fight, but **Owens** said he only fought for a price and that wasn't here on **Miz TV**. **Owens** went to leave but he shoved **Miz** into **Cesaro** then went for the powerbomb; **Cesaro** turned it around then went for the giant swing and **Owens** managed to escape to safety. – **Owens/Cesaro** in Brooklyn should be all kinds of great and could easily be match of the night.



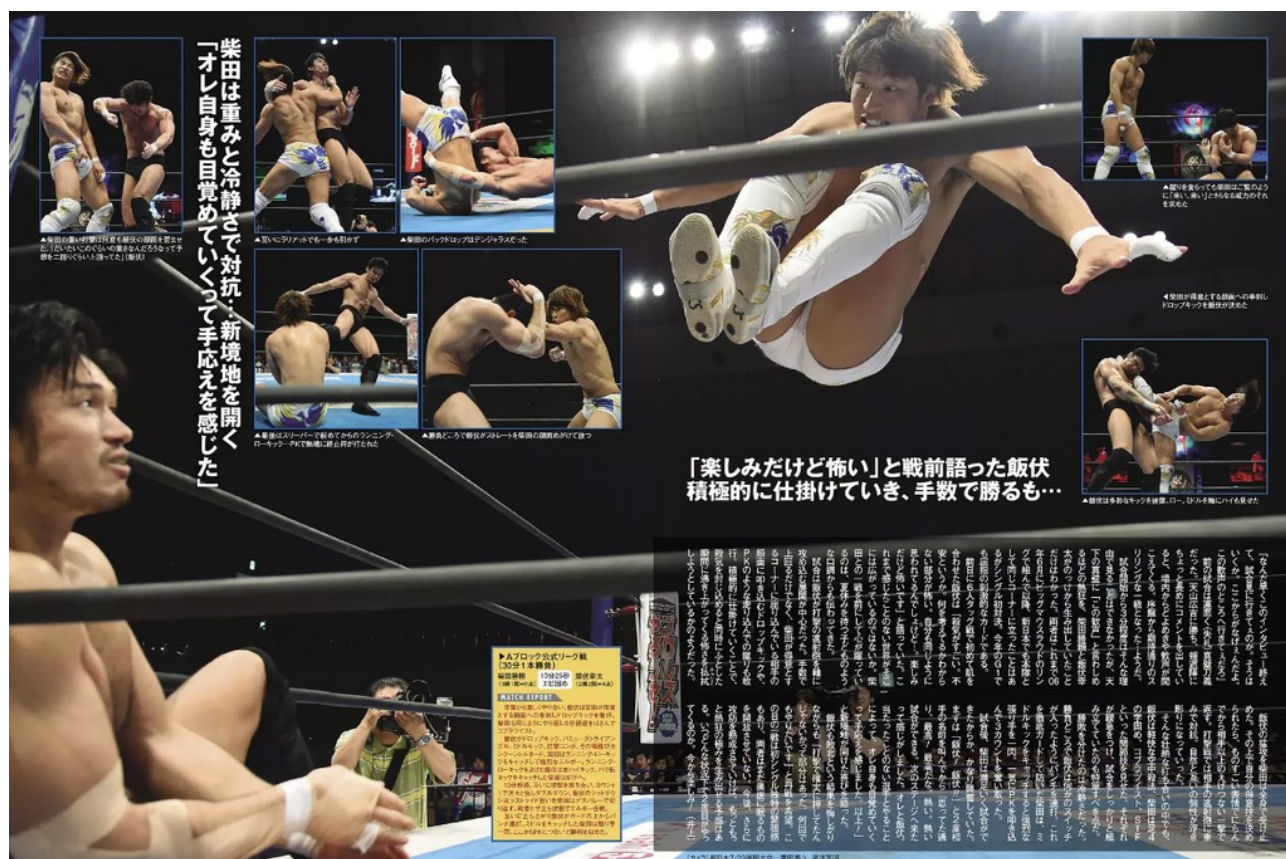
Other segments: Lucha Dragons & Los Matadores over New Day (Kofi & Big E) & The Ascension in 8:05. **PTPs** were on commentary again and were nowhere near as entertaining as the first time they were out there. **Kofi** pinned **Kalisto** of all people with the Trouble in Paradise. So we got the same chaotic, nobody getting over tag team title feud for the third week in a row. **Charlotte & Becky Lynch** beat **The Bellas** in a solid 13:15 match at the top of the second hour. **Charlotte, Becky & Paige** are now called the “**Submission Sorority**.” – Give it a few days before you Google that. **Charlotte** tapped **Nikki** with the Figure Eight. **Team BAD** did a backstage promo and **Naomi** said they were tougher than **Ronda Rousey**! They also showed post-fight footage from **UFC 190** with **Rousey’s** promo about how **Roddy Piper** allowed her to use the “**Rowdy**” nickname. As **Dave Meltzer** has noted thousands of times, nothing appears on **WWE** by accident. I guess they are still kissing-up to **Ronda** and trying to get her to work **Mania 32**, even though the person they should be trying to schmooze is **Dana White**, who just last weekend had some less than positive things to say about **WWE**. On a side note, it appeared that **Daniel Cormier** was sat in the front row on the hard camera side, but **WWE** didn't bother to show him on **TV**, I guess because **Stephanie** can't relate to the 205lbs male champion. **Rusev w/Hot Summer** squashed **Mark Henry** in 2 minutes with his jumping superkick and gave him another after the match, so it looks like they are trying to get that over as another finish for **Rusev**. **JBL** had some visual aides to help explain to all the idiots watching that they are fools for buying **SummerSlam** on traditional **PPV**. He had a card with “\$54.99” and said you would be stupid for paying that much then he pulled out another card with “\$9.99” on it to shill the Network. – Incredible. **WWE** thinks its fans are so dumb that they need cue cards to work out that \$9.99 is cheaper than \$54.99. **King Barrett** downed **Zack Ryder** in 1:55. **Paige** beat **Naomi** in 7:28 with the Scorpion Cross Lock; it was an acceptable match but the crowd were dead by this point of the show. **Steven Amell** from the **TV series “Arrow”** (a man I have never

heard of and a show I have never seen) is coming to RAW next week to call out Stardust. Whoopee!

NJPW G1 Climax Nights Six & Seven: Ibushi and Shibata Tear the House Down

Ryan Clingman

As is discussed later, I didn't make as much progress into my G1 backlog as I would have liked, with that said, there does exist a solution to this problem, which is elaborated upon later. More importantly, last week's seventh night of the 25th annual G1 Climax tournament produced one of the better matches of the entire year, and perhaps, arguably, the very best.



Courtesy: puroresucentral.com

Kota Ibushi and Katsuyori Shibata demonstrated on July 29th in Fukuoka that, as they have shown for the last couple of years, they can modify their styles to complement those of others as well as anyone else in the promotion. Ibushi, much like in his match with Nakamura, employed mimicry to take Shibata to his limit. Kota pulled off Shibata's forearms in the corner, and even laid it in with a super stiff flying dropkick. Perhaps the match's most memorable sequence, was a series of one-counts and no selling. When planning the spot both men clearly knew when exactly to stop, as had the series continued any longer, it may have very well descended into the realm of parody, and unintentional comedy. Thankfully, not only did they end the exchange at the right moment, but they continued on, not in the way of the stereotypical mid-2000s indie match, but rather to a peak in match intensity of far greater magnitude than even the nearfall sequence. An additional testament to the match's quality is also the fact that despite taking place in a lesser Fukuoka arena, a region that has become notorious for sub-par reactions over recent years, even in larger arenas, Fukuoka Convention Centre was almost rumbling for two of the most talented performers in the world at present.

Elsewhere on the night six and seven cards were very good matches featuring the likes of Karl Anderson and Tomohiro Ishii, Hirooko Goto and Tomoaki Honma, and Tetsuya Naito versus AJ Styles. The latter match is of particular note-worthy, as Tetsuya Naito upset AJ Styles pushing himself into one of the top A Block positions as of night seven. Unfortunately, Shinsuke Nakamura, as noted last week, suffered an elbow injury, and was therefore unable to work Michael Elgin in Oita. He didn't work the undercard on the seventh night either, but luckily returned on the eighth evening. He is expected to progress as expected, although booking may very well have been adjusted to compensate for his forfeit loss to Michael Elgin, unless, of course, Elgin was originally booked to win, a notion I find near unfathomable.

I wasn't all too optimistic on the fate of this year's G1 last week, at least in comparison to other years, but they feel, at least in my view, to have accumulated momentum heading into the eighth night, and will hopefully capitalize on that leading into the all important final ambitious stretch in Tokyo.

NJPW G1 Climax 25 July 28th 2015 Night 6
Beppu B-Con Plaza, Beppu, Oita

Ryan Clingman

We are doing the reports a little differently this week, as I have noticed that I haven't been able to stay as up to date as I would like. We have thus decided to skip the undercard on most of the B-shows in order to concentrate and make steadier progress on the main tournament. There was one fewer G1 match on this card, as Nakamura was out due to injury, and as a consequence lost via forfeit to Elgin.



Courtesy: puroresucentral.com

Yujiro Takahashi (0-2) started the G1 portion of the show off with Yujiro Nagata (1-1). Yujiro didn't have a special entrance of any sort, such was the nature of this show. However, there were at least multiple cameras at ringside, even if there was no commentary feed.. Cody Hall beat Nagata on the outside, leading to work over Nagata's arm, and the heat. Nagata fired up, although his comeback was dull, as was the rest of the match, and most of Yujiro's G1 thus far. Nagata caught on from Elgin to scream Takahashi's name. There was a tried ref bump, and a low-blow from Yujiro for a count of two. Takahashi won with his spinning side slam, as one could discern from about the match's mid-way point. (** ¼)

Hirooki Goto (1-1) versus Tomoaki Honma (0-2). Match-ups such as these are great, but it is unfortunate that they couldn't take place in Tokyo or Osaka, where they would go from great to legendary. Still, they worked

hard here, as most everyone would have expected. They traded some big forearms early,. Honma, later on, kicked out of a giant lariat at one, before being dropped with a neck breaker. Goto went for the Shouten, but was rolled up for two. A headbutt exchange of death followed before Honma was

pinned with the Shouten Kai. This was as good a match as these two probably could have had in this building; they should probably be rematched in Osaka or Tokyo at some point. (***) ¾)

Karl Anderson (2-0) versus Tomohiro Ishii (2-0). Anderson, like Yujiro earlier, was accompanied to the ring by Cody Hall. One of the better Anderson exchanges of the last year followed. The match then slowed down to a calm, steady pace, with Anderson working Ishii over. Ishii sold his knee like death. He then sold his shoulder to the degree that his arm was quivering. Ishii kicked out of the neck breaker gun stun for one of the bigger reactions of the night, a lariat, and a double down. Anderson attempted a headbutt, but crumbled at Ishii's feet. Ishii then brought Anderson's win streak to an end, and kept his alive with a brain buster, in the best match of the night up until this point. (***) ¾)

Kazuchika Okada (3-0) stood opposite a super over Satoshi Kojima (1-1) in the next B-Block bout. Kojima was even angrier in this match than in his Ishii match from the second night, taking Okada to the outside and laying it in with lariats and forearms. Regardless, Kojima was beloved by this Oita crowd. Kojima conquered Okada fairly easily in a forearm battle and landed his lariat in the corner. Kojima set up for a lariat, but Okada collapsed selling his shoulder before he could land it. Like Anderson and Nagata before him, Kojima yelled Okada's name. Kojima dodged a Rainmaker and collapsed at Okada's feet, throwing chest slaps. They sold exhaustion, but Okada popped up with a Rainmaker after dodging a Kojima lariat for the win. (***) ½)

NJPW G1 Climax 25 July 29th 2015 Night 7
Fukuoka Convention Centre, Fukuoka, Fukuoka
Ryan Clingman

Night seven was another show featuring multiple camera and no commentary. A big note from the undercard was that Honma pinned YOSHI-HASHI with the Kokeshi, and in the post-match, Honma, Elgin, and Ishii got in a three-way forearm battle of death! Gedo once again took Nakamura's place in a tag teaming with Okada opposite Goto and Liger.

Kicking off night seven in the realm of the G1 was Toru Yano (1-2) versus Doc Gallows (1-2). Yano looked like a mess with a black eye and bandage on his head, His antics filled the match's early minutes with Yano complaining to the referee and Gallows yelling "this is bulls*** buddy". Anderson, Tonga, and Hall put the boots to Yano on the floor, which this crowd did not at all approve of. Tremendous comedy ensued with Yano backing off from Gallows, apologizing, before grabbing Doc's ears. Anderson held Yano in the ring, they landed their double team, and the referee counted the pin. (***) ¼)

Hiro Yoshi Tenzan (1-2) vs. Togi Makabe (1-2) was next. Makabe clobbered at Tenzan's plastered head, seemingly determined to bust him open. Makabe pinned Tenzan with the King Kong Knee drop. (***) ¾)

In what should have been a main event at Korakuen, Sumo Hall, Sendai, Hiroshima, or the Body Maker, Shibata and Ibushi went at it in what will likely finish as my second favourite match of the year. These two have magical chemistry, with Shibata catching Ibushi with an uppercut of doom to the floor. Ibushi avoided a flying boot from Shibata and intercepted with a boot of his own. Ibushi stole Shibata's corner forearm flurry, which fired Shibata up.. Ibushi stood up to a Shibata mauling, but was face washed to death. Ibushi landed a big dropkick and moonsault to the floor. Ibushi landed kicks to the chest, Shibata called for more, and Ibushi kicked him as hard as possible and landed a Phoenix splash. Shibata connected with a giant forearm, and then caught one of Ibushi's peles and locked in an STF. There was an insane flurry of non-selling and one counts.. Ibushi killed

Shibata with a lariat for two. A war of forearms ensued. Ibushi then took the PK for the win in what was far and away the best G1 match thus far, and a strong match of the year contender (**** ¾)

Bad Luck Fale (2-1) took on Hiroshima Tanahashi (2-1) in the next match. They showed the Captain on commentary, so clearly it is just the New Japan World feed that doesn't get the commentary feed for these smaller shows. Fale out-powered Tanahashi early. We had ref bumps and general shenanigans, which got some good heat. Fale nearly slipped when landing his big splash from the top that put Tanahashi away. (***)

Tetsuya Naito (2-1) and AJ Styles (2-1) was our main event. Styles mocked Naito for getting undressed in the ring and was the babyface tonight. Naito stood over Styles hand raised to the ceiling and eye pulled open, for some good heat. Styles escaped the Koji Clutch with a foot on the rope, but Naito only broke at three. Naito in another upset put Styles away with his standing sliced bread! This was nowhere close to as good as their G1 outing last year, but still a very fun main event – *** ½. Naito attacked Red Shoes in the post match. Landing a basement dropkick for good measure!

WWE NXT – August 5th 2015

Full Sail University: Winter Park, FL.

Ben Carass.



After several weeks of trudging along with perfectly adequate, but by no means exciting shows, we got a really strong episode of NXT this week with lots of build towards Takeover: Brooklyn.

Charlotte vs. Bayley. – **Bayley** over in 9:12. This was a very good women's match; not at the level of some of the Takeover matches, however it was miles above the "Diva's revolution" action we get on RAW. Part of that is obviously down to the NXT crowd being receptive and already on board with the girls working serious matches unlike on the main roster, where the RAW crowds have yet to fully comprehend a 12 minute women's match. They worked a total babyface match; **Bayley** tried a dropkick through the ring post, like **Sami Zayn's** DDT, but it didn't look very good at all. Lots of back-and-forth, 50/50 action. **Bayley** landed a Frankensteiner off the top for a near-fall then **Charlotte** came back with a spear for another. **Charlotte** kicked out of the Belly-to-Bayley and a

German, which the crowd went nuts for. Finish saw **Bayley** hit a super Belly-to-Bayley for the clean pin. Post-match, **Bayley** gave a little girl in the front row one of her headbands and the girl was almost in tears; the cynical side of me tends to think the sweet little girl was a plant, although it probably wasn't. – Really great stuff all around.

Michael Cole did a sit-down interview with **Kevin Owens**. Unlike **Cole's** usual waste of time dot com deals, this was actually great. **Owens** was a tremendous ass and said he needed the NXT title because it reminded him of what he did to **Sami Zayn**. **Owens** speculated that **William Regal** may not be completely partial after what happened at the contract signing and claimed that there could be another Montreal Screwjob in Brooklyn! So, in order to prevent a screwjob **Owens** requested a ladder match. **Cole** asked **Owens** if he really believed he could beat **Finn Balor** and **Owens** walked out on the interview. – This was fantastic. **Owens** bringing up **Sami Zayn** was smart and it keeps their feud alive while at the same time hyping up the rematch with **Balor**.

We got a **Bull-Fit** vignette; **Bull** couldn't do a 185lb bench press and it said "to be continued..." **Baron Corbin vs. Steve Cutler**. – **Corbin** squash in 0:23. You know the deal: fans hated **Corbin** and he won with his move. Yawn.

Bayley was in **Regal's** office and she asked for a women's title match. **Regal** said she deserved it, but there was also someone else worthy of a title shot so he booked **Bayley vs. Becky Lynch** in a #1 contenders match next week with the winner getting **Sasha Banks** in Brooklyn.

Tyler Breeze vs. Aaron Solo. – Squash for **Breeze** in 0:55. **Breeze** complained about his level of competition and won easily with the Beauty Shot. **Regal** came out and told **Breeze** he had "scoured the earth" to find him an opponent at Takeover. **Regal** announced that it would be **Jushin "Thunder" Liger** and the crowd were almost in stunned silence at first then they started a "Holy Sh*t" chant. Then they aired an awesome video package on **Liger**, with lots of WCW & New Japan footage.

An **Uhaa Nation** vignette aired with shots of him working out in the ring and such. At the end it revealed his new WWE name, which is **Apollo Crews**. – I hate that WWE now just takes two famous names and melds them together: Apollo Creed & Terry Crews. Still, I suppose it is better than Uhaa Nation.

Byron Saxton conducted a sit-down interview with **Finn Balor**. **Balor** talked about coming into NXT with **Kevin Owens** and said they used to be friends but **Owens** had changed. He said he had been talking to **Sami Zayn** and **Sami** had helped him prepare for the rematch with **Owens**. **Saxton** brought up that **Owens** had asked for a ladder match and **Balor** told him that it didn't matter what kind of match it was, he would prove that Tokyo wasn't a fluke. **Byron** asked if the Demon would show up in Brooklyn and **Balor** said **Owens** would find out on the night. – Another good promo setting up the Takeover main event and again **Sami Zayn's** name came up, which is just good, basic storytelling.

The Hype Bros vs. Scott Dawson & Dash Wilder. – **Hype Bros** over in 3:35. Basic tag: **Ryder** sold for the heat, **Mojo** ran wild and looked terrible. Finish saw them win with their assisted Ruff Ryder. Afterwards, **Dawson & Wilder** jumped them and laid out **Ryder** with their awesome Shatter Machine move. – The **Hype Bros** have go-away heat with me; they are just so unlikeable. **Dawson & Wilder** are a really good, solid team, however neither of them has any chance of making out of developmental.

The **Vaudevillains** were in **Regal's** office. They were angry about **Alexa Bliss** slapping them last week but told **Regal** they didn't do anything to her because they were chivalrous gentlemen. **Regal** gave them a rematch with **Blake & Murphy** at Takeover and told them to find a way to "curtail" **Alexa**. – If they do not add **Enzo & Cass** to the tag team title match in BROOKLYN, then they have lost their minds.

We got part II of the **Bull-Fit** skit. He eventually did the bench press then with the encouragement of a bunch of geeks, including **Drake Younger**, **Bull** managed to flip a tire and everybody cheered. **Samoa Joe vs. Rhyno**. – **Joe** over in 9:01. They had a "mean guy" match, which was pretty decent, although it felt kind of plodding at some points. **Joe** landed a tope early; they slammed into each other and threw a bunch of clobbering strikes. **Rhyno** used a spinebuster for a near-fall then **Joe** came back with an STO for a double-down. **Joe** came back with some of his signature spots but **Rhyno** cut him off with a TKO for another near-fall. **Joe** landed a **Nakamura**-style jumping kick off the ropes then **Rhyno** delivered a belly-to-belly and set up for the Gore. **Joe** countered and applied the rear naked choke, but **Rhyno** escaped and went for a move off the top. **Joe** cut him off and hit the muscle buster to get the win.



This show is worth an hour of your time. The women's match was very good and the main event was fun if you like big guys pounding on each other, and honestly who doesn't? The **Owens & Balor** stuff was also great and the prospect of a ladder match in Brooklyn is mouth-watering. Overall, a very strong show.

Next Week's Issue

In next week's issue we hope to progress to, at the very least, the 10th night of the G1 Climax, plus coverage of RAW on the Road to SummerSlam, NXT, Mid-South with the return of Ernie Ladd, RAW ratings, and more!

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