



### **Cubed Circle Newsletter – Brock Lesnar's A Mean Moose**

We have a very fun edition of the newsletter for everyone this week, as Ben looks at all of the major news stories from the week including the build to Brock Lesnar's UFC 200 bout against Mark Hunt, Moose's signing with TNA, the Super J Cup line-up, ratings, and more. Plus, Leslie Lee III talks to Dave Prazak about what he looks for as a promoter, his first joshi match, feeling vindicated, his favourite SHIMMER event, and much more!

*– Ryan Clingman, Cubed Circle Newsletter Editor*

### **The Pro-Wres Digest for July 3<sup>rd</sup> – July 9<sup>th</sup>.**

*Ben Carass.*

#### **Top Stories:**



By the time most of you are reading this, Brock Lesnar will have fought at UFC 200 against Mark Hunt and we will have a pretty good idea what condition he will be in for his potential SummerSlam match. The Lesnar/Hunt fight became the de-facto main event on what was supposed to be the biggest UFC ever when it came out on 6/7 that Jon Jones had failed a USADA drugs test and his Light Heavyweight title unification fight with Daniel Cormier was cancelled. A panicked UFC presumably threw a shed load of money at a way past his prime Anderson Silva to step in for a non-title fight with Cormier and they made a political move by putting Miesha Tate vs. Amanda

Nunes in the actual main event. Even so, there can be little argument that with Conor McGregor and later Jones pulled from UFC 200, the biggest draw and the fight with the most interest from casual fans was Lesnar vs. Hunt. WWE did absolutely nothing to promote the fact that Lesnar would be fighting in the weeks leading up to UFC 200 and Stephanie McMahon even stated in an interview with [Business Insider](#) that the WWE were, “not supporting the fight necessarily.” Some other gems from Stephanie's interview included claims that the UFC is not a competitor for WWE and the hilarious statement that UFC can't make stars because they lose credibility if they fail to win a fight. On 30/6, Brock responded in typical Brock Lesnar fashion when he told [MMAFighting.com](#), “I don't care what she says.” When asked whether he thought a loss to Hunt would affect his drawing power in WWE, Lesnar stated: “I really don't give a sh\*t.”

On RAW this week, the WWE hyped that Lesnar's opponent for SummerSlam would be announced on Thursday's SmackDown show, presumably because they didn't want to waste announcing the match on a holiday RAW that nobody watched. Although, SmackDown is not exactly doing great numbers every week either. Eventually Randy Orton was revealed to be Lesnar's SummerSlam opponent, however it wasn't as straight forward as a simple announcement being made on a TV show. At the SmackDown tapings on 5/7 in Toledo, OH, there was no announcement made to the live crowd which suggested there would be a pre-tape edited into the show for television. With SmackDown airing on Wednesday nights in Canada, WWE decided not to spoil their own surprise and left the announcement of Randy Orton off the Canadian version of the show. It is worth noting that talk of Randy Orton being Brock's opponent had been widespread for a few days and Dave Meltzer even spoke about Orton being the guy on the 4/7 Observer Radio. The funny thing is that after SmackDown in Canada, the show Aftermath airs on Sports Net 360 – basically a weak panel show with guests talking about the show that just aired – and they openly talked about Randy Orton being Lesnar's opponent.

Lesnar & Orton were in Ohio Valley together in 2000/01 and have never been involved in a major program with each other. They had a handful of singles matches during the early stages of their careers, the first being a dark match during a Sunday Night Heat taping in Wichita, KS on 30/11/01. They also worked each other at Madison Square Garden on 15/1/02, which was also a dark match for Heat. They met again at a house show in Ontario, Canada on 8/3/02 and their last match was on the SmackDown tapings from Green Bay, WI on 3/09/02. At 36 years-old with a bad neck and a history of injuries, you can certainly question the decision to put Orton in there with Lesnar.

With reports of his ROH contract expiring on June 19<sup>th</sup>, it looked like Quinn “Moose” Ojinnaka had one foot out the door and was on the verge of being offered a developmental deal with the WWE. Two weeks ago, Dave Meltzer reported in the Observer that, subject to medicals, Moose was expected to be brought into the Performance Centre as part of the new class of recruits in September. Last week Meltzer updated the story and noted that “things had changed” with Moose and the WWE, most likely due to Ojinnaka's 2009 domestic violence allegation which caused him to be suspended from the NFL for one game. On 6/7, MLW [reported](#) via Twitter that Moose had signed a multi-year deal with TNA, however a few hours later they [Tweeted](#) that Moose had told them he had an offer from TNA but had not yet made a decision on whether to sign.

On Impact this week, TNA aired the outlandishly wacky blow-off to the Hardy Boyz feud with the much talked about Final Deletion. Part WCW mini-movie, part Lucha Underground skit, the Final Deletion felt like what the Ganryujima Island Death Match would have been like if Inoki & Saito took a bunch of acid beforehand, or if Onita were even more out of his mind during the Jungle Death Match with Tiger Jeet Singh. It's easy to say “you'll either love it or hate it” when it comes to something like this, however I found myself in the middle of the spectrum and didn't have a

particularly strong opinion one way or the other. I certainly didn't think the Final Deletion was the greatest thing in the history of the business like many others, nor did I believe that Matt & Jeff killed the fictitious last remaining piece of credibility the business had left. In the end it came down to a few key points for me: Did the segment work in terms of producing entertaining television? Most certainly, yes. Would all the hype and buzz, which TNA have severely lacked for years, translate to more viewers for Impact? TNA did their highest rating ever on Pop TV this week with 410,000, so that would be another tentative yes – the big test will come next week to see if they can sustain the interest. And finally, can more stuff like this be done in the future and if so will it actually be a benefit for TNA?



This is where it gets kind of tricky. There will undoubtedly be all kinds of copycat segments from other promotions – WWE is apparently going to try and one-up the Final Deletion by having the New Day face the Wyatt Family in some kind of Wyatt Compound match, so Broken Matt's opus is already starting to have an effect. TNA will inevitably try something similar in the future, as they legitimately received more publicity for anything they have done in years, and they could always do a sequel or nine if they can tie down the Hardys to contracts. The problem they face is that the Final Deletion worked as a one-off special attraction type deal and turning every major feud into a series of absurd mini-movies would surely result in overkill. Lucha Underground already have the market cornered for ridiculous pro wrestling television shows and, as ludicrous as it may sound, they actually present all their spacemen, dragons, pumas, monsters and dead guys with the utmost sincerity. The Final Deletion on the other-hand was directed, shot, acted and presented like a parody of a parody and it essentially came off like Matt & Jeff Hardy entertaining themselves in their backyard. I'm sure the Final Deletion will live on as a post-ironic cult favourite, however I have to believe that with TNA's record of blithering incompetence they will fail to turn the exploits of Broken Matt & Brother Nero into a long-term positive for the company. Just remember the last time TNA tried something “outside the box,” James Storm tried to murder Mickie James by pushing her onto a railroad track.

### **Indie Scene:**

Revolution Pro are running their big annual Summer Sizzler show at York Hall on 10/7 and I will be attending the show, so hopefully we have a report of some kind up in the next couple of weeks. The card is pretty stacked and features the first UK appearance of Katsuyori Shibata, plus the return of Tomohiro Ishii to these shores. Here's the full line-up:

- \* Undisputed British Heavyweight Championship: Zack Sabre Jr (C) vs. Katsuyori Shibata.
- \* Matt Sydal vs. Big Damo.
- \* Marty Scurll vs. “Speedball” Mike Bailey.
- \* Undisputed British Cruiserweight Championship: Pete Dunne (C) vs. Will Ospreay.
- \* Tomohiro Ishii vs. Josh Bodom.
- \* Moose vs. Sha Samuels.
- \* Undisputed British Tag Team Championship: Joel Redman & Charlie Garrett () vs. The British Young Bloods vs. The Legion of Lords vs. Johnny Storm & Jody Fleisch.

ROH [announced](#) this week they will be returning to the UK to promote their own shows for the first time in nearly a decade in November. The dates for the “Reach for the Sky Tour” are 18/11, 19// & 20/11 however no venue or host cities have been announced yet. For the past two years, ROH has run joint shows in November with Preston City Wrestling in the UK, billed as the Supershow of Honor, and 2016 will be no different, with [Supershow of Honor III](#) taking place over three shows on 25/11 & 26/11 in Preston, England.

### **Japan:**

New Japan ran the final Kizuna Road show on 3/7 in Iwate and the main event saw Katsuyori Shibata retain the NEVER Openweight Championship over Tomoaki Honma in 16:25 with the PK. Semi-final was a big Choas vs. Los Ingobernables de Japon elimination eight-man tag, with Kazuchika Okada, Hirooki Goto, Yoshi-Hashi & Will Ospreay beating Tetsuya Naito, Sanada, Evil & Bushi in 20:00 when Ospreay pinned Bushi with the Os Cutter. There was also a title switch on the show, as the worthless NEVER Trios titles changed hands yet again, as Satoshi Kojima, Ricochet & Matt Sydal beat Kenny Omega & The Young Bucks in 15:20 when Sydal downed Matt Jackson with the Shooting Star Press.

Jay Lethal will be coming in towards the end of the G1 tour for the Ryogoku shows and will be slotted into Los Ingobernables de Japon, following up on Lethal “joining” LIJ back in February. On 12/8 Lethal will be part of a big LIJ vs. Bullet Club match, as he teams with Tetsuya Naito, Evil & Bushi against Kenny Omega, Tanga Loa, Yujiro Takahashi & Adam Page. On 13/8 it will be Lethal, Bushi & Sanada against Hiroshi Tanahashi, Kushia & Satoshi Kojima. New Japan also announced that the Briscoe Brothers will defend the IWGP Tag Team titles against Yujiro Takahashi & Adam Page on the final night of the G1 at Sumo Hall on 14/8.

Pro Wrestling NOAH's representatives in the 2016 Super J-Cup were decided at Korakuen Hall on 5/7. Taiji Ishimori beat Yoshinari Ogawa in 10:30 with the 450 Splash in the first qualifying match. Kenoh downed Genba Hirayanagi in 7:59 with the Rago in the second qualifier and Daisuke Harada beat Hajime Ohara in 13:48 with a German Suplex in the third. Ishimori, Kenoh & Harada join six other outsiders in the Super J-Cup: Yuma Aoyagi (All Japan), Eita (Dragon Gate), Kaji Tomato (K-Dojo), Gurukun Mask (Ryukyu Dragon), Taichi & Yoshinobu Kanemaru (Suzuki Gun), which leaves seven spots open for New Japan, ROH & CMLL talent. Main event of the 5/7 Korakuen show had Naomichi Marufuji & Toru Yano retaining the GHC Tag Team titles over Minoru Suzuki & Takashi Iizuka in 20:30. Afterwards, Katsuhiko Nakajima & Masa Kitamiya came out and challenged Yano & Marufuji for the titles, which is noteworthy as Nakajima, Yano & Marufuji are all representing NOAH in the G1 this year. Nakajima & Kitamiya, awesomely named The Aggression, will challenge Yano & Marufuji on 16/7 at Korakuen Hall, just two days before the opening night of G1 in Hokkaido.



NOAH will also be running the tenth annual NTV G+ Cup Contention Junior Heavyweight Tag League, starting on 16/7 at Korakuen Hall and running for five nights with the final on 30/7 back at Korakuen. The field of teams is one single block and all six teams will face each other over the course of the five shows. Here are the teams:

- \* Daisuke Harada & Atsushi Kotoge.
- \* Kenoh & Hajime Ohara.
- \* Taiji Ishimori & ACH.
- \* Genba Hiryanagi & Captain NOAH.
- \* Yoshinobu Kanemaru & El Desperado.
- \* Hitoshi Kumano & Andy Dalton.

The main event of the final night on 30/7 at Korakuen sees Go Shiozaki defending the GHC Heavyweight championship against the former champion Takashi Sugiura.

Tatsumi Fujinami's Dradition promotion held a special show in honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mitsuya Nagai's debut on 4/7 at Korakuen Hall. Nagai teamed with Kenso in the main event and beat Masakatsu Funaki & Kengo Mashimo in 19:26 when Nagai pinned Mashimo with the Hyper Knee Kuuga. There was a big celebration afterwards involving Nagai's family and original trainer Satoru Sayama. Tatsumi Fujinami & Jun Akiyama each presented Nagai with a bouquet of flowers and Nagai made a speech about not knowing how many years he had left but said he would continue to compete as long as he could have memorable matches for the fans. Fujinami & Akiyama also worked on the show and beat Yoshiaki Fujiwara & Hiro Saito in 7:46 when Akiyama pinned Saito with an Exploder. Tajiri over Leona in 13:41 with the Buzzsaw Kick is the only other result worth mentioning. Check out [puroresuspirit.net](http://puroresuspirit.net) for more.

Nagai's story is quite interesting, as he started training at Sayama's Super Tiger Gym while still at high school and tried to get a spot in All Japan, however Giant Baba insisted that he finish school first. After graduating he fell under the tutelage of Akira Maeda while training at the UWF dojo and ultimately followed Maeda to RINGS after the UWF folded in 1990. He tried his hand at kickboxing in 1997, but gave up after a year with a meager record of 0-6-1. Nagai left RINGS shortly after a famous [incident](#) following his loss to Maeda in the World Mega Battle Tournament on January 27<sup>th</sup> 1998, which saw Maeda slap Nagai in the face. A brief stint in Yuki Ishikawa's Battlearts finally led him to his original goal of working for All Japan in 2000 over a decade after trying to join the company as a teenager. Nagai was also brought into New Japan as part of Tadao Yasuda's Makai Club in 2003 during the peak of the Inokism era, but the less said about that the better.

## **Mexico:**

Sexy Star appeared without her mask alongside her husband, boxer Jhonny Gonzalez, at a Promociones del Pueblo boxing show at Arena Coliseo on 2/7. Sexy (Dulce Garcia), 34, announced that she is going to become a professional female boxer, however no fight date or opponent were given. [Cubsfan](#) noted that while some places are reporting it as an “unmasking,” Sexy had appeared at many boxing events over the last few years without her mask and this was just the first time she actually got in the ring. AAA, whom Sexy had an acrimonious split from in March this year, own the rights to the Sexy Star name and she changed her name to Sexy Ducle on [Twitter](#), although it is unclear what name she will be using when she has her first boxing match. Both [Cubsfan](#) and [Dave Meltzer](#) stated that Sexy appears to be staying with Lucha Underground until at least until season four and she will almost certainly still be wrestling under her mask.

This weeks Lucha Underground was the first week of Ultima Lucha Dos and the show was built around the 4 A Unique Opportunity Tournament. The Mack beat Cage in the first semi-final and Son of Havoc downed Texano Jr in the second; both matches were stunt-filled spectacles. Havoc went on to beat Mack in the final and Dario Cueto came out with Black Lotus to offer Havoc his unique opportunity. Dario gave Havoc a choice between two briefcases, one with \$250k inside and the other containing a contract for a LU Championship match. Havoc picked the title shot, however Dario booked him in another match and said Havoc was fighting for the title shot and his opponent would get the \$250,000 if he won. Famous B showed up and revealed Dr Wanger Jr as his new client and Wagner beat Havoc clean in a short match with the Wagner Driver. Ultima Lucha Dos continues for the next two weeks (13/7 & 20/7) and here are the remaining matches:

- \* Lucha Underground Championship: Matanza Cueto (C) vs. Pentagon Jr.
- \* Lucha Underground Trios Championship: Johnny Mundo & Jack Evans, PJ Black (C) vs. Aerostar, Fenix & Drago.
- \* Rey Mysterio vs. Prince Puma
- \* Gift of the Gods Championship: Night Claw vs. Daga vs. Marty the Moth vs. Killshot vs. Siniestro de la Muerte vs. Mariposa vs. Sexy Star.
- \* Death Match: King Cuerno vs. Mil Muertes.
- \* Taya vs. Ivelisse.
- \* Dragon Azteca Jr. vs. Black Lotus.

### **Ratings:**

RAW on 4/7 did a predictably low number, however all things considered it could have been much worse. The show did a 1.87 rating with 2,658,000 viewers, way down from the 2.21 and 3,093,000 from last week. 8pm did 2,660,000 viewers. 9pm did 2,670,000 and 10pm did 2,640,000.

TNA iMPACT on 5/7 did 410,000 viewers for the Final Deletion show, up from the 322,000 last week. That's the biggest number Impact have ever done on PopTV.

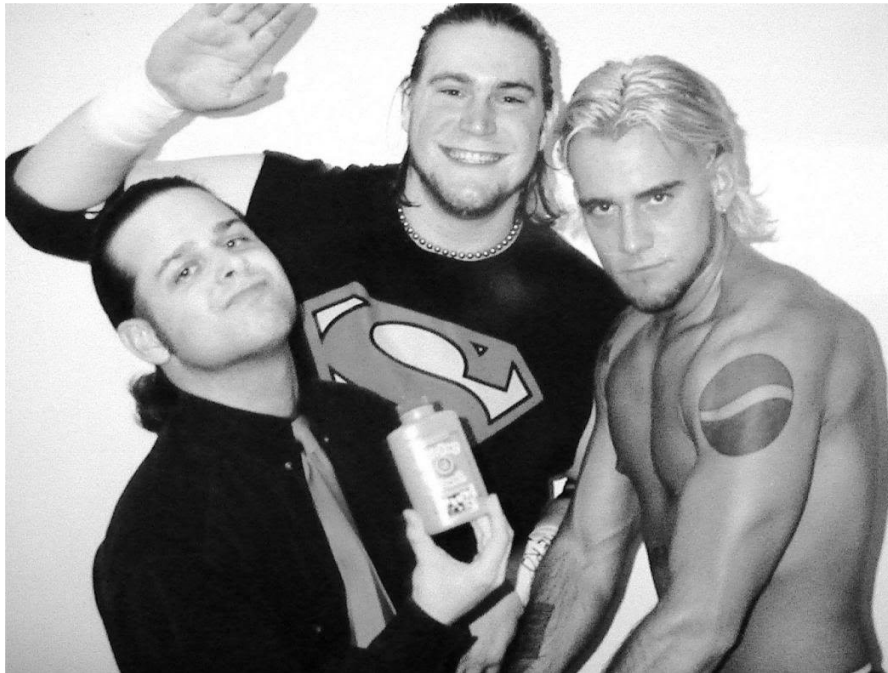
Lucha Underground on 6/7 did a combined 143,000 viewers. Part one of the Ultima Lucha Dos show did 104,000 for the first run airing, down slightly from 116,000 last week, however the replay did just 39,000, way down from last week's 103,000.

SmackDown on 7/7 did 2,241,000 viewers, up 161,000 from the 2,080,000 the show did last week.

## **An Interview with Dave Prazak**

*Leslie Lee III*

### **Dave Prazak**



*Dave Prazak, Chris Hero, and CM Punk circa 2001-2002.*

Dave Prazak has spent the past 20 years in the wrestling business, and still hasn't gotten enough: "I'm on the road in Middle-of-Nowhere, Iowa," he said when I called him up two weeks ago, "I'm doing commentary for an Arik Cannon F1RST Wrestling Wrestlepalooza. Doesn't WWE own the copyright for all the ECW names? I hope they don't find out," he joked.

From IWA Mid-South where he managed the likes of CM Punk and Colt Cabana, to Ring of Honor where he handled commentary duties for their TV show, Prazak has been ubiquitous in the wrestling scene. Prazak has done a lot in his two decades in wrestling, but his most impactful contribution was that of owner and promoter of SHIMMER: Women Athletes.

Now in its 11th year, SHIMMER has run 85 shows featuring the top female wrestlers from across the world. I talked to Dave about his career, how women's wrestling has changed, and the future of SHIMMER.

#### **On why he is still in the wrestling business:**

Laughing Because I'm an idiot? It's not like we're wildly successful or anything. Because I've got nothing better to do is probably the real answer. Because I got into it and this is all I've done with my life, that's a sad state of affairs isn't it? I just got involved and I've been doing it for over 20 years now.

#### **On watching his first Joshi match:**

The AJW tape was one of the Manami Toyota Kyoko Inoue matches. I was just blown away because they were f\*\*\*\*\*g phenomenal. I appreciated that that was the best women's wrestling I'd

ever seen. That was a completely different style than what anybody in North America was doing."

I thought "Why can't women's wrestling here be promoted in the same way, presented in the same way as in Japan?" It just didn't make sense to me. Because, not all of the North American female wrestlers suck. People might have had that idea in their heads because they hadn't seen it happen very often on WWF television at the time because they weren't promoted as anything to be taken seriously or athletically.

### **On his contribution to wrestling:**



*First and current Heart of SHIMMER champion, Nicole Savoy. Courtesy Kristine Roper.*

I wanted my contribution to the independent wrestling world to be unique to what most people were doing. If you look at the independent wrestling scene, you see a lot of the same people wrestling on the same shows with the same style. Because whether it's a PWG show or an AAW show, the best workers travel everywhere. I wanted to do something different.

If I'm going to run my own shows I don't want to just be another fake PWG or another fake AAW, I want to do something that's somewhat different and build an audience. At the time we started doing this there wasn't necessarily anyone doing the serious-style women promotion in North America. ECCW Supergirls had just started and they had done one Chickfight in California. There were other people who wanted to do it at the same time.

### **On how things have changed in women's wrestling since he started SHIMMER:**

In the past 10, 11 years everything has evolved towards kind of what I envisioned SHIMMER to be. Compare women's wrestling from 2003-2004 to what it is now, it's completely different everywhere. There isn't a promotion that treats women as jokes or a sideshow.

WWE made the right move hiring Del Rey to train all their girls, and Sarah Stock now. The entire women's scene, Lucha Underground, TNA, women are promoted better than they were 12 years ago. I'm happy to still do my part on the independent scene, and use some of the wrestlers before they get signed. But if they do, hopefully them being on television leads to people wanting to buy the old footage. That's my place in the wrestling world, running shows that turn out good talent that's going to leave.



### **On feeling vindicated:**

It's good to see that like men who are on the top shows, the top women are also getting booked everywhere, whether it's a regular show or an all-women's show they're getting more ring time than any of the female wrestlers were 12 years ago either.

In 2001, how many female wrestlers were being flown anywhere to do an indie show? Like never, and they'd have probably needed some television exposure to help draw. But now, Candace LeRae is flying all over the world every weekend because she's awesome. It's good to see that she's not alone.

### **On SHIMMER now:**



*Rhia 'O Reilly. Photo courtesy Kristine Roper.*

SHIMMER is more about storylines than we ever had. Portia Perez is booking so it has more actual booking involved. When I was largely formatting the shows with Allison it was based on my perception of how All Japan was booked. Based on wins the people who win work up the ladder, the people who lose are lower on the ladder; people with big winning percentages get title shots. We shied away from doing any real storylines that would be long-term because I was always worried that someone was going to get signed and leave, before they could come back and finish the story. I didn't want to do a big angle that would lead to a big feud that was never going to get blown off.

So that's largely why it had to be self-contained in one weekend. Doing that you really limit the creative possibilities for a wrestling product. Good matches only take you so far. Anybody who watches wrestling for the story, you weren't getting story. And Portia Perez has way better ideas

than I do.

### **On booking with Portia Perez:**



*Yumi Ohka. Photo courtesy Kristine Roper.*

I basically just give her guidelines. We'll discuss where we want to go with certain people and there are certain matches I have in mind that I want to try to work in, we'll try to formulate a story where the match makes sense in that particular spot. We'll end the weekend with something that could be considered a blow off match of a feud, but there's still some room for it not being completely resolved yet and can be continued on the next show if everyone is healthy and not under contract somewhere.

I'm much happier with the shows that we've done in the past two years than any of the super early stuff, because those were just matches for the sake of matches. I realize how booking wise it needed more.

### **On what promoters want:**

We want control over you, we want to control everything. Most promoters want to do things their way. You want it presented a certain way, if one little thing goes wrong you get pissed.

I think you'd find similar things with a filmmaker who wants control of every part of his movie. He wants things shot the right way; he wants to make sure he casts the right actor. If you have a vision in mind for the show you want to present, whether it's a movie, or a TV show, or a pro wrestling's show you want it done the right way. If something goes wrong you get frustrated, trust me that happens a lot.

**On his favorite SHIMMER show of the first 80:**

The Dallas show we did. 80. It was a tournament show and it wasn't in front of our regular audience but I think everybody on that show did very well in terms of their performance. The show was built around Candace LeRae, Nicole Savoy, Heidi Lovelace, so that three girls who have not really been main-eventers on our show get elevated to that level.

**On the future of SHIMMER:**



I've been in independent wrestling my entire career, I'm about building up the indies as much as possible because it's what I've always done. I'm happy envisioning 10 years from now I'm the crotchety old dude running women's shows in Chicago still, trying to find the next Nicole Savoy or whatever. I like the indies that have been plugging along for 20 years, that's my goal.



**RAW Ramblings – July 4<sup>th</sup> 2016**  
**Nationwide Arena: Columbus, OH**  
*Ben Carass.*

On July 4<sup>th</sup> 1776, thirteen colonies declared their independence from the British Empire and 240 years later we were subjected to one of the most insignificant and worthless professional wrestling television shows in history. Thank you very much Adams, Jefferson, Franklin, Sherman & Livingston. The only thing of any note on RAW this week was the announcement of **Enzo Amore & Big Cass** being moved up to team with **John Cena** against the **Club** at BattleGround. The fact that they are doing a six-man at the next PPV would suggest that the **Cena/Styles** rematch is set for SummerSlam, which is actually some relatively smart booking for once from this company.



**Cena** was out at the top of the third hour, I guess to try and prevent a complete ratings capitulation, and he called out the **Club**. **Styles, Anderson & Gallows** showed up on the stage and they cut a promo about how beating up **John Cena** was their favourite thing to do on the holidays. **The Club** eventually surrounded **Cena** in the ring, when **Enzo & Cass** made the save and they cleaned house with **Cena** to stand tall. It was an interesting move, as based on recent TV the **Usos** would have been the most obvious choice to team with **Cena** against the **Club**. The problem with the **Usos** is that due to their association with **Roman Reigns** they have started to receive some backlash from the fans and it would have been a tough sell for people to cheer **Cena & the Usos** over the **Club**. At least now **Cena's** partners are actually over as babyfaces and there should be enough experienced workers to help **Enzo & Cass** through their first real big time match. Earlier on the show, **Enzo & Cass** squashed the **Social Outcasts (Bo Dallas & Curtis Axel)** in 2:05 with the Rocket Launcher. **The Outcasts** were dressed as Minutemen or something and **Enzo** did a promo beforehand where he rattled off every single US president in order.

Main event was a 16-man elimination tag, which I'm sure had nothing to do with the CMLL 16-man tag match only three days prior, with **Team USA vs. The Multi-National Alliance**. The State of **Team USA**, my god: **Big Show, Apollo Crews, Zack Ryder, The Dudley Boyz, Mark Henry, Jack Swagger & Kane** beat **Chris Jericho, Cesaro, Alberto Del Rio, Kevin Owens, Sami Zayn,**

**Sheamus & The Lucha Dragons** in 22:15. Match was booked hilariously poorly, with **Kevin Owens** getting DQ'd for hitting his own partner, **Sami Zayn**, with a chair. **Kane** then hit **Owens** with the chair and was DQ'd too then he Chokeslammed **Zayn** and **Apollo** pinned **Sami**. It came down to **Big Show & Ryder vs. Sheamus** and the finish saw **Ryder** get the win with the Ruff Ryder. Best spot of the match was **Mark Henry** going up for **Kevin Owen's** Pop-up Powerbomb.

They did some basic stuff with the WWE Championship program. **Dean Ambrose** beat the **Miz** in a nothing Champion vs. Champion match in 9:50 with the Dirty Deeds DDT. **Ambrose** went to leave, but **Seth Rollins** came out for his match and **Ambrose** decided to join the announcers on commentary. **Rollins** beat **Dolph Ziggler** with the Pedigree in a decent 11:05 match. Afterwards, **Rollins** stood on the announce table and gloated about his win; he also said **Roman Reigns** should not be in the BattleGround three-way again. **Ambrose** ended up hitting the Dirty Deeds on the table and stood tall with the belt.



A **Wyatt Family** promo aired and they invited the **New Day** to come to their compound. Later on, **New Day** came out and **Big E & Kofi** made incest jokes about the **Wyatts**. **The Wyatts** appeared on the screen and talked about positivity vs. fear. **Xavier Woods** ended up walking out on **Big E & Kofi** because they didn't understand how serious the situation was and he said that the **New Day** might not be able to survive. **JBL** used the offensive "**Owen Hart** voice" when **Xavier** walked out, which made the whole segment a failure.

**Leftovers:** Show opened with a five minute food-fight in the back. Everyone on the roster was involved, except the real main eventers like **Cena**, **the Club**, **Ambrose & Rollins** of course. **Heath Slater** got choke slammed through a table by **Kane & Big Show**. **Kevin Owens** hid under a table and thought he got away with not getting involved, however a mystery assailant hit him in the face with a pie; we never found out who threw the pie either. **Rusev** retained the US title over **Titus O'Neil** clean with the Accolade in the opener in 5:40; **Titus** came out dressed like Uncle Sam and was destroyed once again. **Charlotte & Dana Brooke** were out and **Charlotte** cut a promo on **Sasha Banks**; **Sasha** showed up and she cut a promo of her own which led to a brawl and **Sasha** hitting the **Banks Statement** on **Charlotte**, but **Dana** pulled her out of the ring. Both women's



promos were not good and the brawl was even worse. **Vickie Guerrero** was our returning GM this week and she came out on the stage to audition for the role of SmackDown GM. She did her “Excuse me” line and shrieked on for a while. Security eventually showed up and carter her away.



In the back, **Vickie** pleaded with **Dolph Ziggler** for help but **Dolph** said he didn't know her and security took her away. **Dolph** was on the phone and noted to whoever he was talking to that he “lost again,” but added that he, “tried hard.” **Goldust & R-Truth** downed the **Vaudevillains** in 1:25; **Breezeango** were watching at ringside. **Becky Lynch** beat **Summer Rae** in 2:55 with the Disarmer. **Shane & Stephanie McMahon** were nowhere to be seen on the show, presumably so they can pull the old **Hogan** trick of showing up next week when the ratings are back to normal.

### Next Week's Newsletter

In next week's newsletter Paul Cooke gives an overview of his PWO Greatest Wrestler Ever experience and the final rankings, we discuss the tricky subject of reviewing comedy matches, RevPro, and much more!



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