

WWE Smackdown TV report

By Ryan Mulligan

WWE Friday Night SmackDown! Report 10/10/08
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Line of the night, courtesy of Vickie Guerrero: "I can still hear the crunching sounds of my vertebrae compressing!"

This past Sunday at "No Mercy," the Big Show experimented with brain-punching, causing the Dead Man to be even more so. Elsewhere, Triple H narrowly escaped with his WWE Championship, as Jeff Hardy once again fell just short of his destiny. This week on "SmackDown," Festus finds love, Brie Bella takes teleporting to a new level, and Kizarny.

EXCUSE ME~! Newly wheelchair-prone Vickie Guerrero is in the ring with Chavo. She says that the Undertaker's Tombstone two weeks ago forced her to return to her "hideous" wheelchair and to reapply her "pathetic" neck-brace. The crowd doesn't feel like letting her talk, and so she responds with the most epic growl of an "EXCUSE ME~!" ever. She says that at "No Mercy" she got her revenge on Taker, and so, as a reward, she's giving The Big Show a WWE Championship match against Triple H tonight. The Big Show enters with smiles aplenty. He says that Taker will never be the same and forces us to watch the same ppv footage that opened the show. Hopefully we don't see it as often as the "Unforgiven" footage. He then goes on to expound the virtues of the Power of the Punch and promises to become champion tonight. However, he gets cut off by Vladimir Kozlov, who does the "Cut the promo in Russian and then do my own English translation" gimmick, which amounts to him challenging the winner of tonight's title match. The Big Show responds by saying that even though the people hate him, at least he's an American, to which the crowd begins chanting, "USA!" The segment ends here. I'm not sure why they had Kozlov come out here, considering the extent to which he made his presence felt later in the show. I'm also not a fan of having heels interrupt heels. I'm just sayin'.

Brie Bella vs. Natalya (with Victoria)

Brie opens the match with a Thesz press of all things, which leads to some catfighting on the mat. She slips on the ropes in the corner, but still manages to hit some semblance of a crossbody for a two-count. Natalya fights back with a McGuinness-esque spinning lariat. Brie bails to the floor and tries to scoot under the ring, but this time Victoria goes with her. Victoria emerges with a spooked look on her face, at which point Hornswoggle peeks his head out and lunges himself at her to a good pop. Swoggle chases Victoria away. Brie comes out on one side of the ring, but then goes back under and almost immediately comes out on the other side! Natalya looks confused and consequently falls victim to a crucifix to give "Brie" the victory. The Hornswoggle dynamic added a fresh twist to this highly intriguing storyline. I kind of wish this angle was taking place in TNA, though. Then we could have a battle royal where the first person to get under the ring wins. Winner: Brie Bella

Backstage, R. Truth reminds Funaki that he's "SmackDown's Number One Announcer." Indeed. Things get whacky when Funaki has trouble saying, "What's Up?" Funaki then informs Truth that his first name is "Kung," his middle name is "Fu" and his last name is "Naki." "Kung Fu Naki."

Get it? This leads to Truth singing hilarious puns on the name to the tune of "Kung-Fu Fighting." Why would someone go by a combination of their middle name and their last name? Are we completely abandoning all forms of logic now?

In his locker room, HHH is getting his text on, but is having trouble deciding between Shawn Michaels and Steve Austin for the special referee for the Chris Jercho vs. Batista match at "Cyber Sunday." Jeff Hardy takes a seat next to him. Good friends/better enemies. He wishes Triple H luck in his match tonight, but then goes all Kozlov on his ass and says he's challenging the winner too. I'd hold off on Hardy winning the title. I can't think of anything I'd rather see in WWE than Hardy winning the title at "WrestleMania." Who's with me? Anything not involving Festus, I mean.

Non-Title Match: U.S. Heavyweight Champion Shelton Benjamin vs. R. Truth
Truth's awesome entrance now includes fan participation. Little kids shouting "What's up???" into microphones? A million buys. I've decided I'm going to stop mentioning the Gold Standard pre-match promos until he says something interesting. That's a challenge. Shelton opens the match with clubbing blows in the corner, before tossing Truth outside and ramming him into the barricade. Back inside, Truth starts unleashing some plunder of his own. In a neat spot, Truth tries to shoot Shelton into the ropes, but Shelton baseball slides and cuts back on Truth with a clothesline. A long headlock leads to a back-suplex from Truth. The corkscrew flying forearm follows for two. Shelton gets in a backbreaker to regain control. He hits a headbutt on the mat. Shades of the late JYD. At this point, the match abruptly ends when Truth gets a roll-up of sorts to secure the three-count. That was a "blink and you missed it" finish that I would've liked to have seen a replay of. No dice. They've done really well with this feud so far, with Truth getting his second non-title victory over Shelton here, and presumably setting him up for an upcoming shot at the title.

Winner: R. Truth

Jeff Hardy vs. MVP

Gregory Helms checks in during MVP's entrance and gets in a quasi-burial line about MVP failing a lot recently. Don't worry, though. The losing streak is an angle. JR informs us during this match that if MVP can secure the victory he'll earn a mysterious "Incentive Bonus." I love the idea of a pro wrestling contract awarding money based on victories. My assumption is that he'll never win a match again and will consequently go broke and start working a homeless gimmick. MVP goes wild with pin-attempts early on, but Hardy cuts off his momentum with a sit-out gourdbuster. He then goes for a hilariously premature Swanton, which MVP rolls out of the ring to avoid.

After a break, Hardy mule kicks MVP, but gets kicked in the gut while attempting the descending dropkick in the corner. At this point, Jeff Hardy becomes YOUR Charismatic-Enigma-in-peril. MVP hooks in a seated abdominal stretch. He hits some headbutts to Hardy's midsection on the mat and then goes for a cover. Dude, seriously? He channels the spirit of Triple Hach and hits a face-buster for two. It's too bad he didn't go for the Pedigree next. Hardy eventually hits the Whisper in the Wind, followed by a standard-variety dropkick and two of the descending variety to regain control of the match. Actually, he's on his way to victory, as the Swanton soon after ends this one. Hardy starts celebrating, but gets interrupted by Kozlov. Hardy goes for a crossbody off the middle turnbuckle and winds up getting headbutted in the chest. KOZLOV'D~!

Winner: Jeff Hardy

Kizarny.

Jesse, Festus and The Colons vs. Kurt Hawkins, Zack Ryder, Kenny Dykstra and Ryan Braddock
BISCUITS AND GRAVY!!! The lovely and talented Maria is YOUR special guest ring-announcer for this match; a circumstance which plants the seeds for perhaps the greatest angle of my lifetime, as comatose Festus appears to be smitten with the young lass, endearingly gazing at her with love-struck eyes. Well, okay, he's staring at her the way he stares at anything in that state, but work with me here. The Colons are billed and announced as "Primo and Carlito," but it's a little late for that. Helms pops up again to bury the heel team. The culmination of this angle should be Helms being confronted by everyone he's ever talked smack about, and the segment should end with a push-kick. Festus freaks at the bell, but the heels all bail. Carlito hits a quebrada on Ryder, but the heels gain control in the corner and take over the match, exchanging quick tags and using rather pedestrian offense to keep Carlito grounded. He eventually fights out of a headlock from Dykstra with a jawbreaker. He hits a hurrancanrana and makes the hot tag to Festus, who comes in with bear-paws aplenty. He kills Dykstra with the Flying Biscuit and a big boot to the face, but Braddock breaks up the pin-attempt. Carlito runs in and takes Braddock to the outside, while Primo and Jesse launch themselves at the former Edgeheads on the floor with stereo tope suicidas. This leaves Dykstra in the unfortunate position of being prey for Festus, who finishes him off with the fireman's carry flapjack. After the bell rings, comatose Festus again swoons over Maria, who does the "Giant eyes to show I'm confused and possibly a little scared, but quite willing to bang this guy anyway" routine.
 Winners: Jesse, Festus and The Colons

Handicapped Match: The Great Khali (with Runjin Singh) vs. Three Unnamed Jobbers
 Singh gets on the mic before the match and shows us the footage of the now-infamous "Tallywhacker Incident." Khali has challenged Johnny Knoxville to appear Monday on "Raw." If Knoxville gets in trouble, look for Chief Roberts to make the save. Khali scare-poses two of the geeks out of the ring and gives the one who decides to stick around the **HEADCHOP OF IMMENSE PERIL AND CERTAIN DOOM~!** which is enough to end this classic. Singh then informs us that Khali will be presenting another installment of the "Kiss Cam" and he looks on the TitanTron for a suitable victim. He's not interested in the first two, pretty chicks, but instead decides on a third, who's, well, not. When she gets in the ring, Singh actually asks her, "How much do you weigh?" to which she responds, "A lot." Seriously. Khali hesitates but eventually kisses her. There's a lot of potential for a goofy, babyface version of Khali, but they need to work to his strengths. First of all, he should come to the ring accompanied by a goat instead of Singh. He should also dance and cut promos on inanimate objects.
 Winner: The Great Khali

It's official: next week on "SmackDown" it will be Jeff Hardy vs. Vladimir Kozlov! Kozlov responds to the news by stating, "Next week I crush Jeff Hardy. Next week I break him in half." There needs to be a segment where Kozlov just walks around backstage push-kicking everyone. Preferably down staircases.

WWE Champion Triple H vs. The Big Show
 The Big Show begins the match by tossing HHH over the corner to the outside. Point taken. Once outside, however, he rams his own shoulder into the ring-post. Triple H gets headbutted off the apron, but hangs up Show on the top rope soon after. Show decimates The Game with a sidewalk slam, as we go to a poorly-timed break.

We're back, and Show has got the Cerebral Assassin in a Khali-esque neck vice. During the break, Show gorilla pressed Triple H. I hate when they show you something you'd want to see as it happens that

happened during a commercial. HHH gets leg-dropped for a two-count. Show fails twice in a row, first missing with a Flying Asshole and then eating HHH's boots on a corner charge. The Game applies a sleeper, which eventually leads to him being somewhat gingerly dropped to the mat. Show misses an elbow drop, and Triple H connects with a facebuster. He goes for the Pedigree, but Show counters that and hits a variation of Emerald Frosion. That's a finish in Japan. Show goes for the death blow, but HHH avoids it. What he doesn't avoid, however, is a chokeslam. Show then goes for the death blow to the back of Triple H's head, but before he can connect, a GONG goes off, and the lights go out. When they come back on, THE UNDERTAKER is in the ring. He kicks Show to the floor. The lights go out again and when they come back on Taker shows up next to Show in the aisle-way. They brawl to the back, with Taker getting the better of the exchanges. HHH looks on from the ring, when who should make his presence felt, but Vladimir Kozlov! The two warriors engage in a slugfest in the ring. The Game goes for the Pedigree, but Kozlov shoves him off, and Triple H runs right into a headbutt to the chest. KOZLOV'D~! Jeff Hardy runs out to make the save, but he gets harshly shoulderblocked down as well! The faces then unite, however, and HHH punches Kozlov out of the ring. Another "USA!" chant breaks out. HHH stares down Kozlov, when all of a sudden Hardy levels him with a Twist of Fate! That receives a mixed reaction. The show ends with Hardy and Kozlov staring each other down. Winner by Disqualification: The Big Show

This was a typically entertaining episode of "SmackDown." We didn't get any great matches, but the angles and feuds they're building have all been strong. The Kozlov-push became epic this week, as they're now seemingly building towards a three-way between him, Hardy and Triple H at "Cyber Sunday." With neither of the two faces thus far able to get the better of Kozlov, he's been protected to the extent where he should be a legitimate threat to the title in the fans' eyes at the ppv. I wouldn't have minded an appearance by THE Brian Kendrick, though. Or even Big Zek. I'm also hoping for the in-ring debut of Eve Torres next week. Fingers crossed on that one.