

THE WEEKLY SLAM MAGAZINE

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NJPW G1 CLIMAX 28

FINALS COVERAGE

SUMMERSLAM PREVIEW

NXT TAKEOVER PREVIEW

PFL 6 COVERAGE

And Much More!

Event Reports

New Japan G1 Climax 28 Finale

By Jack Wannan

After another long, grueling G1 tournament nearly complete, it is time for the finale show. Easily one of the most anticipated shows on the New Japan Pro Wrestling calendar, as well as most people's wrestling calendar's in general. The finalists for this year's G1 Climax were Hiroshi Tanahashi and Kota Ibushi. Below them were eight other matches, one of them being a title defense, in what was a very stacked card. Let's start with the undercard.

Shota Umino, Ayato Yoshida & Yuji Nagata vs. Togi Makabe, Tomoaki Honma & Michael Elgin

A six man match started off the card. Ayato Yoshida, who does not appear on many New Japan cards was touted by the English commentary throughout the match. I found it somewhat surprising how much offense he got in. This was Honma's third match back after his scary injury back in March of 2017. He wrestled the night before defeating three CHAOS members. Makabe hit the King Kong Knee Drop on Yoshida to win the match. I was impressed with the match, especially Umino and Yoshida. Both guys are very young and have tons of potential. Nothing else really stuck out in this match.

Toa Henare vs. Bad Luck Fale

Excluding the main event tonight, of course being the G1 final, this is the only singles match on the card. In a grudge match Toa Henare faced Bad Luck Fale. Much like something Fale would do, Henare attacked Fale as he was still entering the ring. Very early on Fale hit the Grenade and a Bad Luck Fall. Within minutes Henare was squashed. This was a very surprising finish to be quite honest. I thought this was decent storytelling since it showed that Henare is young and still has a lot to learn. Henare was a carcass being carried to the backstage as some in the crowd looked worried.

Takashi Iizuka & Taichi Ishikari w/ Miho Abe vs. YOSHI-HASHI & Hirooki Goto

Taichi and Iizuka were absent for the majority of the G1 tournament, coming back to New Japan to wrestle in this tag match. In the next tag match it was Suzuki-gun versus CHAOS. Taichi Ishikari entered with Miho Abe. Despite having music and a microphone, he was cut off by Takashi Iizuka's music many times. Both Abe and Taichi seemed upset over this. Iizuka did not show up for the most of the entrance, with fans "keeping their heads on a swivel", looking for him. Despite Suzuki-gun having attendance issues, both CHAOS members were on time for the

match. This turned out to be for their detriment. As CHAOS made their entrance, Ishikari jumped them with a chair.

Taichi got the win for his team after a Powerbomb. Of course, he did a beatdown after the match. He also threw Goto's NEVER Openweight title while exiting. My favourite part of this match was Goto's hot tag, which seemed weak at first, but then had some good moves in it.

Hangman Page & Cody vs. David Finlay & Juice Robinson

Cody hasn't been seen since the G1 Special, so it was unexpected when he was announced for this card. Cody, The Young Bucks and many others have been tied up recently with planning the All In event, which is now only days away (so crazy to say that). They face the entertaining duo of David Finlay and Juice Robinson. Juice gave two children his hat and sunglasses while entering. David Finlay is the self proclaimed C Block champion, carrying a very small trophy out with him. Juice has fought most of the G1 with a cast, giving him a significant disadvantage, but is fighting without it tonight.

The match started with very entertaining chain wrestling by Page and Finlay. Juice hit an spectacular looking Crossbody during the match. He tried following it up with his trademarked punches but was stopped. Moments later Juice turned the tables once again and hit a Cannonball in the corner to both Cody and Page. Page hit a Standing Shooting Star Press for a two count. Very impressive for a guy of his physique to be hitting moves like that so seamlessly. Cody mocked Robinson by doing his famous punches. Moments later they were both trading their See-saw-like punches. Cody hit a Disaster Kick, only to be met with a kick in Robinson's style right after. Pulp Friction got reversed into a Piledriver of some sort. Cody got the win from this. The commentary team called this win "unexpected" (I mean, was it?). Cody cut a promo afterwards, telling Juice that Cody is the next US Champion, while holding Juice's belt. This match was very entertaining. The final combinations of moves had me on the edge of my seat. The promo afterwards by Cody did not seem that good.

Taichi Ishimori, Tanga Loa & Tama Tonga vs. Marty Scurll, Nick Jackson & Matt Jackson (NEVER Openweight 6-Man Tag Team Championship Match)

Tanga Loa cut a promo before their match. Very akin to what Taka Michinoku does when managing Zack Sabre Jr. Loa introduces their opponents, asking the ring announcer who they are since he apparently does not know. They are challenging for the NEVER Openweight 6-Man Tag Team Championships. Current champions are Marty Scurll, Nick Jackson & Matt Jackson. This match was only made a title match after the champions declared it as one (and asking for approval from the ringside new President of NJPW). Nick got the hot tag late in the match and went after both Guerrillas of Destiny. Ishimori was kicked out of the ring by both Bucks, while Nick said "see you later buddy". Tama Tonga got hit with a Swanton while being suspended on the ropes. Young Bucks tried a More Bang For Your Buck but Tonga escaped. Tama Tonga hit

Marty Scurll with a Gun Stun out of nowhere, crowning new champions. This came out of nowhere because Scull was fixated on Tonga Loa while Tonga came flying at him.

The mayhem at the end of the match was too fast to cover. It's the aspect of New Japan Pro Wrestling tag matches which makes it most appealing for me. Lot's of fun to watch, and the highlight of the bottom half of the card.

Before our next match it is announced that Wrestle Kingdom 13 will take place on the 4th of January in Tokyo Dome. A logo is presented, and triumphant music is played. I find it comical that it is announced, as if people expected it wouldn't happen this year or something. Although it was nice to see the new logo. Not my favourite one, but still a good logo.

El Desperado, Yoshinobu Kanemaru, Zack Sabre Jr. & Minoru Suzuki w/ Taka Michinoku vs. BUSHI, SANADA, EVIL & Tetsuya Naito

An eight-man tag match was the 6th match of the evening. Taka Michinoku, who was ringside for the match cut a promo beforehand. During the Naito entrance Taka went to the English commentary saying "I can't speak English!" ironically, in English. Right off the bat in this match everyone took a partner and started brawling outside the ring. As you'd expect, Suzuki and Naito were fighting partners. Kanemaru tried to spit liquor in SANADA's face, but he avoided it and put on a Skulls End for the win. Naito and Suzuki brawled after the bell, with Young Lions separating them. I don't know if there has been a Los Ingobernables versus Suzuki-gun tag match that I haven't enjoyed. For months now they have been very easy viewings.

Toru Yano, Jay White & Tomohiro Ishii vs. Yujiro Takahashi w/ Pieter, Chase Owens & Kenny Omega

Kenny Omega, who lost to Kota Ibushi the night before gets an easier night of work as he is in a 6-man tag match, teaming with Owens and Takahashi. They faced Yano, White & Ishii. When Yano was in the ring he was trying to unwrap a turnbuckle but members of the Bullet Club kept blocking him in what was a funny comedy spot. There was another spot where all members of the Bullet Club were doing a circle of submission moves while Pieter danced in the middle. Omega didn't like the distraction, and made her leave the ring. Owens tried for a Package Piledriver but could not lift up Ishii. Ishii got the finish with the Brainbuster onto Chase Owens. Teammates of Owens were being held off at ringside during the pinfall.

Surprisingly, it felt that Jay White was in a background role in this match. I got a similar feeling with Yano, although Yano did get some spots in at the start of the match. After the match Ishii made it obvious that he wants Omega's IWGP Heavyweight Championship.

Pro-Wrestler Sengoku Enbu (Ryusuke Taguchi), KUSHIDA & Rey Mysterio vs. SHO, YOH & Kazuchika Okada

Under Ryusuke Taguchi's new alter ego alias Pro-Wrestler Sengoku Enbu, he made a debut in a 6-man tag match. From what I have gathered online the character that Taguchi is playing in this match is related to a film or something. The biggest name in this match was Rey Mysterio. What surprised me about this match was how much it flew under everyone's radar. Like sure, there was a G1 final and all of that, but it's Rey Mysterio! You would expect a little press about this match. KUSHIDA was riding on a hoverboard of some sort for his entrance. Mysterio came out in a special G1 outfit. Kazuchika Okada's entrance was a little less grand than usual since, as he pointed out on social media, balloons are not allowed in this venue. Okada ordered to start the match against Mysterio. Both KUSHIDA and Taguchi did dives to the outside, leaving YOH and Mysterio in the ring. Mysterio hit a 619 and a Springboard Frog splash for the win. This was a short, easy to digest match. It was placed right before the main event, which is perfectly fitting for it.

Kota Ibushi vs. Hiroshi Tanahashi (G1 Climax 28 Final)

Now that all of the undercard matches have happened, there was only room for one more match. The match that this whole tour revolved around, the G1 Climax Final. In Ibushi's corner was Kenny Omega. The crowd erupted with cheers as the bell rang to begin the match. Early in the match Ibushi did a nasty double stomp on the apron. Ibushi nearly killed Tana with a Piledriver shortly after. It was deadly to watch. Tanahashi put Ibushi into a Boston Crab which really wore him down. He got to the ropes, but not after being in the hold for a long time. Tanahashi did a High Fly Flow off the top rope to outside the ring. Ibushi tried wearing Tana down with strikes but it did nothing for Tana. The two ended up exchanging blows for more than a minute. Ibushi ended it with a vicious clothesline.

With tension in the match continuing to rise, Tanahashi attempted to end it with a Frog splash. Ibushi blocked it with his knees. While still getting up, Ibushi landed a running knee strike, then a Standing Moonsault with Double Knees when landing. Shortly after Ibushi did a German Suplex off the middle rope than a Last Ride for a two count. The crowd absolutely erupted after the kickout. A Straightjacket German Suplex was followed up with an attempted Kamigoye which Tanahashi reversed into a Twist & Shout (twice). Tanahashi hit a High Fly Flow, then a Crossbody, and then a High Fly Flow to win the match. Your 2018 G1 Climax winner is Hiroshi Tanahashi.

This was an absolutely amazing bout. Both wrestlers put absolutely everything out there, and put on what was a suitable finale for what was a great tournament. Katsuyori Shibata, who was in his corner for the match lifted him up onto his shoulders and paraded him around the ring. Tanahashi indulged in the confetti and the celebration that followed the match. This put a wrap on the show.

While the undercard had some matches that did okay or only sort-of delivered, the main event made up for all of it. The end of the tournament was as grand as it could get. It's sad that the

next New Japan show is so far down the road, but at the same time it makes sense as everyone needs to rest up.

PFL 6

By Jack Wannan

Live from Atlantic City, New Jersey, PFL presents it's 6th fight since it's new season format. Starting off the Facebook Live prelims for PFL 6 had major implications. Eddie Gordon faces fellow Middleweight Gasan Umalatov, with the winner being taken out of playoff contention. In Umalatov's corner for this fight was Khabib Nurmagomedov. In Gordon's corner was Matt Serra and Ray Longo. The first round was a feeling out process with a burst of energy in the final 30 seconds. In the final two rounds both fighters fought a composed battle, with Umalatov outplaying him. All three judges gave Umalatov won 30-27 unanimously. Gordon seemed confident up until the moment that the score was announced. This was an obvious closed case before the announcement even came.

My Scorecard:

Fighter	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Gordon	9	9	9	27
Umalatov	10	10	10	30

The second bout went to the ground almost immediately. Andre Lobato was trying repeatedly to get a submission in, but Taylor was avoiding it while landing strikes. The commentary booth did not understand why Taylor repeatedly went for takedowns on a guy who has such good ground game. Taylor had good takedowns in the second, outscoring Lobato who wasn't engaging as much. This fight went the distance with the judges giving Taylor the Unanimous win (30-27, 30-27 & 30-26).

My Scorecard:

Fighter	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Taylor	10	10	10	30
Lobato	9	9	9	27

The next fight is Rex Harris, who defeated Lobato who just fought a few shows ago, facing Shamil Gamzatov. This fight was very close, staying standing for most of the time. Just like the two fights before this one went the whole 15 minutes. Gamzatov stays undefeated after a Unanimous decision (30-27, 30-27 & 29-28).

My Scorecard:

Fighter	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Harris	9	9	10	28
Gamzatov	10	10	9	29

Abus Magomedov faced Anderson Goncalves in the next bout. In the first round Magomedov landed a strong right strike to down Goncalves. The ref rushed over to end the fight while Magomedov was adding a few extra punches to the exchange.

My Scorecard:

Fighter	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Magomedov				
Goncalves				

Continuing with the prelims, Bruno Santos tested his skills against John Howard. Howard fought in a style where he would act all collected but then explode with punched every 20 seconds. Santos took it to the ground with two takedowns in the first round. Howard hit Santos many times in the second round then took him down to the ground. It looked scary for Santos but he recovered. Howard was fighting the clock at the end of round 3 as he had an submission move on Santos. Santos was able to last the final 10 seconds, making the fight go the distance. Bruno Santos picked up his win Unanimously (30-27, 30-27 & 29-28).

My Scorecard:

Fighter	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Santos	10	10	10	30
Howard	9	9	9	27

Jake Shields, who was coming off his main event loss from a months ago is facing Herman Terrado. This was another elimination bout. The first round was close, but went to Shields in my book. The second round was primarily on the ground. Shields got a takedown then stayed in control for the rest of the time. In the final round Shields started to get rocked by some shots while standing. He recovered when he went to the ground. Shields held on for the rest of the round and made it go to decision. The judges all had Shields win 29-28.

My Scorecard:

Fighter	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
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Terrado	9	9	10	28
Shields	10	10	9	29

Carlton Minus comes in as a last moment replacement to face Rick Story in the final preliminary bout. Minus has fought his whole career in Alaska up until now. Story was dominant in the first round, not ever coming close to a finish, but being successful. Story did a takedown and went into full guard seemingly with ease in the second round. When Story slipped in the Rear Naked Choke it put him away. Completely one sided fight.

My Scorecard:

Fighter	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Minus	9			
Story	10			

Starting off the main card on NBCSN was Joao Zeferino versus Yuri Villefort. Zeferino had outstanding ground game in the first round, with his strikes visibly shaking Villefort. Zeferino had a slower second round, exploding in the end of the round. In the third round Zeferino finally put a stop to it with a Rear Naked Choke. After the fight Zeferino talked about how he was battling illness leading up to the fight. His will power to not give up is what powered him on.

My Scorecard:

Fighter	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Zeferino	10	10		
Villefort	9	9		

In the first elimination fight of the main card, Jonatan Westin faced Abubakar Nurmagomedov. In the first round Nurmagomedov was hit below the belt by accident. Luckily he was able to get back into the battle within moments. Nurmagomedov was able to take it to the ground in the first round and land tons of strikes. At the start of round 2 Westin got clipped right before getting taken down. Westin got close to putting in a Triangle Choke but could not succeed with it. With a minute left Westin almost slipped in a submission but Abubakar avoided. Westin had a significant cut on his head throughout the third round. The judges gave Abubakar Nurmagomedov the win via Unanimous Decision (30-27, 30-27 & 29-28). This continued the winning streak for fighters that Khabib Nurmagomedov were cornering this evening.

My Scorecard:

Fighter	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
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Westin	9	9	9	27
Nurmagomedov	10	10	10	30

The next fight is a very interesting one. Jozette Cotton faced Kayla Harrison. Harrison made her debut at PFL 2 winning via submission. It will be interesting to see how she can fair in only her second fight. Harrison called her shot, that being either a KO or a submission in round 1. When Cotton was asked what she predicts, she said she will win in the second round via stoppage. A very good video package about Harrison was played before the fight. Harrison took the fight to the ground, where Cotton didn't want it. Harrison went into full mount with a minute left and started swinging away. Harrison put in an Armbar with 20 seconds to go, but Cotton survived. Kayla brought the fight back to the ground almost immediately in the second round. Kayla seemed less focused on submission moves and more focused on strikes this time around. 15 seconds into the third round Harrison executed another takedown. When Harrison started to really land strikes on top the ref finally put a stop to it. It was impressive how long Cotton was able to stay in the fight.

My Scorecard:

Fighter	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Cotton	8	9		
Harrison	10	10		

Bojan Velickovic faced Magomed Magomedkerimov in the co-main event of the evening. Just like many other fights on this card, Khabib was in the Russian's corner. Magomed got a takedown and put Velickovic in a Guillotine. Somehow he escaped the hold, which was applied tightly. A section of the crowd was rallying behind Magomed. There was a pause for both fighters in this fight as each other them were hit in the groin. The second round was so close, with very entertaining ground game. This fight went the distance in a absolute competition. Khabib's management goes 5-0 tonight.

My Scorecard:

Fighter	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Velickovic	9	10	9	29
Magomedkerimov	10	9	10	28

In the main event of the evening, Paulo Kusch faced Ray Cooper III. 15 seconds into the main event Cooper III floored Kusch with strikes making the ref step in almost immediately. It looked like he landed a strike after the ref intervened, but it didn't connect. The crowd was absolutely

stunned by this stoppage. Cooper III clinched the #1 seed for his weight class with this win. Kusch left the octagon before the official decision. This wrapped up PFL 6.

My Scorecard:

Fighter	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Kusch				
Cooper III				

WWE RAW 8/13/18

By Jack Wannan

With Summerslam only 6 days away, Monday Night RAW and Tuesday's Smackdown Live are the final two shows to get fans ready for the "hottest show of the summer". Whether this show will actually have any effect on Sunday's show will be seen as we go through the show. Let's see the Monday Night RAW from this week.

This week's episode of Monday Night RAW started with a welcome from Michael Cole to Greensboro, North Carolina. Ronda Rousey's music hits and she walks out to the ring. Michael Cole welcomes Renee Young, who is making her commentary debut for RAW. Rousey addresses that Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart passed away today. She talks about how important fathers are to everyone. She tells Natalya to stay strong. A "Nattie" chant breaks out. She then ties what she is saying into how she will beat Alexa Bliss on Sunday. She then brings out Ember Moon, who is facing Bliss next.

Ember Moon vs. Alexa Bliss

Alexa Bliss makes her entrance accompanied by Alicia Fox. Bliss has a microphone, saying that Ronda is a spoiled, overrated rookie. Bliss said that she spoke to Constable Corbin, has because of that been granted security. Four security members walk onstage. Ronda took down all security guards and Alicia Fox. Back from the break, the previously mentioned match actually begins. Ember Moon was closing in on a victory hitting an Eclipse, and going for a pin. The pin was broken up by Alicia Fox, ending the match via DQ. It seems so odd that they are making Ember Moon look like shes better than Alexa Bliss. To me, this did not make sense. But implications aside, the match was pretty entertaining.

Baron Corbin vs. Tyler Breeze

Backstage we see Baron Corbin arguing with Kurt Angle. Apparently Corbin booked a match without getting anyone's approval. Corbin chose Tyler Breeze as his opponent. Michael Cole tells

the broadcast that Corbin has also arranged a match for Finn Balor later on tonight. Something that looks very uncomfortable is the fact that Corbin is fighting in his formal attire that he usually wears. Corbin hit a Deep 6 to get the victory. Corbin brings out Balor's opponent for tonight. His opponents are Jinder Mahal and Kevin Owens. This is seriously all so boring. Nothing interesting is going on here, except a script that was made to burn through the show as much as possible. Just after Balor made his entrance, Kurt Angle came out and added to the match, making it a tag match. Balor's partner was Braun Stroman. Since when did Kurt like Stroman so much? Anyways...

Jinder Mahal & Kevin Owens vs. Finn Balor & Braun Stroman

When Stroman eventually got a hot tag the crowd cheered. There was a good double team spot later on where Stroman slammed Balor onto Mahal. He was not expecting this slam to happen. Finn did a dive to outside the ring onto both Owens and Mahal as we went to commercials. After the break Stroman was on fire. He used Sunil Singh as a weapon when taking Owens down. He hit a Powerslam to end the match. This match had a mind numbingly boring buildup, but at the end of the day it's always fun to watch Stroman fight. The match was fun but maybe went on a little too long. But really, everything does on an episode like this. After the match Corbin beat up Balor after Stroman chased Owens away from the scene.

Ricky Roberts is announced in the ring. It's some guy whos dressed as a country singer, who claims that he is a big fan of Elias. Elias comes out and says something, I don't know. I forgot it basically right after he said it. Bobby Lashley comes out and beats up Ricky Roberts after Ricky smashes a guitar on his back. Alright, I guess. Man, this was bad. Like, what purpose did this have? If any?

Bray Wyatt & Matt Hardy vs. The Revival vs. The B-Team (WWE RAW Tag Team Championship Match)

The undefeated B-Team faced their biggest challenge this week when it came to defending their undefeated streak, and their tag titles. The odds are against them, facing not one but two teams. Mid-way through the match there was a deadly spot, with Dash Wilder and Matt Hardy doing a Suplex off the top rope to the outside onto everyone else. The Revival hit Wyatt with a Shatter Machine, but Curtis Axel capitalized off of it by throwing everyone out of the ring and pinning Wyatt. This was a predictable way to book the match, but still good. B-Team are an entertaining gimmick, for now at least.

Roman Reigns In The Ring

Roman Reigns cuts a promo on Brock Lesnar. He says he will send Brock back to the UFC, name dropping Dana White. Paul Heyman comes out to confront Roman. Heyman tries to offer his business to Roman, doing a whole pitch. Out of nowhere he starts to mace Roman Reigns. After Roman was recovering from this attack, Brock Lesnar came down for an attack of his own. This

was a well played out segment, if it was maybe 10 minutes shorter. I did not expect Brock to attack at the end.

Bobby Roode, Apollo Crews & Titus O'Neil vs. Mojo Rawley & The Authors Of Pain

Okay so this match did not even get entrances, but I guess it's happening. No real reason for any of these guys to be fighting, but whatever. Bobby Roode got the win for his team with a Glorious DDT. That's the segment? Seriously? That was the definition of pointless.

After the commercial break a very nice tribute to Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart was played. He passed away the morning of the show.

Sasha Banks w/ Bayley vs. Ruby Riott w/ Sarah Logan & Liv Morgan

Sasha Banks fought Ruby Riott with their respective supporters at ringside. A lot of this match was during commercials, but one spot that caught my eye was Sasha doing a Suicide Dive to Sarah Logan to the outside, absolutely crashing and burning. Riott did a roll-up for the win, which made the match a little lame. Crowd is dead silent at this point.

Intercontinental Championship Match Contract Signing

Kurt Angle is in the ring for a contract signing. Angle first addresses the attack on Roman Reigns earlier. He says he isn't going to suspend Brock because he wants Roman to beat him up (sounds like a horrible GM to me). Dolph Ziggler and Drew McIntyre's music cut him off. Seth Rollins, who wasn't present at the show so far in the night due to travel issues, showed up unexpectedly for this segment. Seth says that his travel issues weren't his. He brings out Dean Ambrose, who will be in his corner for his fight at Summerslam. A brawl breaks out, with Dean hitting Dirty Deeds on to McIntyre. RAW comes to a conclusion as Seth is signing his contract.

This episode, despite having a fun ending to it, was overall a bad viewing. Too much filler, and segments that dragged for way too long. If I was a viewer who was on the fence for watching Summerslam, this would take all interest away for me.

Smackdown Live 8/14/18

By Jack Wannan

On Monday night, RAW delivered a lackluster show that had its moments. The biggest moment of all was Dean Ambrose's long awaited return. On this week's Smackdown, people possibly look for a better go-home, leaving a good impression heading into Summerslam. Let's look at how the show kicked off.

Smackdown started off with Charlotte, Becky Lynch and Carmella having a “face-to-face-to-face” before their triple threat match on Sunday. Carmella says she is not happy that she is forced to do this segment, but since she is the champ “life is good, baby.” After trash talk between the three, which was lead by Carmella, Paige came out to the ramp. She sets up a tag match including Charlotte and Becky, as Carmella joins the commentary team. This wasn’t a good nor bad segment, but it did show how well Carmella is at cutting promos.

Charlotte & Becky Lynch vs. Mandy Rose & Sonya Deville

The first match of the evening is Charlotte and Becky versus Mandy and Sonya. After a few minutes of messing around Becky Lynch won the match for her team via the Disarmer. This match was consumed by commercials but didn’t have anything that interesting in it anyways.

The program airs a video of The Miz and Maryse announcing that their show “Miz and Mrs” has been renewed for season 2.

The Triple Threat (locals) vs. The Bludgeon Brothers

Up next we get a three-on-two handicap match, with the Smackdown Tag Team Champions facing locals who are called “The Triple Threat.” It feels so odd, or even lazy that this is how The Bludgeon Brothers are being booked on the final show before Summerslam. A squash match? Seriously? It feels like these guys have been doing squash matches for a whole year now. The match never got started since, I don’t know. But they murdered these guys. This felt cheap.

Sanity vs. New Day

In what is quite the matchup for a go-home show, Sanity faced New Day in a 6-man match. When I saw that this match was happening, almost did not believe it. I was pretty excited to see it. It was Kofi Kingston’s birthday. Because of this he got a birthday chant from the crowd. After Kofi hit Trouble In Paradise, he was thrown over the ropes. He went to the top rope right after and did a dive onto two Sanity members outside the ring. Big E impressively lifted up Killian Dain to do the Up Up Down Down, with the help of Xavier Woods. This match was tons of fun. I don’t know how I feel about Sanity losing clean though.

Aiden English vs. Andrade Almas w/ Zelina Vega

Tonight, Aiden English says he fights for Rusev. He faces Almas. Almas made light word of English, winning the match in under a minute. After the match both Vega and Almas cut a promo on Rusev and Lana. They then come out to the stage and say that they will win on Rusev Day.

Throughout the night there was a series of clips showing the kayfabe history between Daniel Bryan and The Miz. These were very well put together. While they probably weren't pleasing for the live crowd, I thought this was a nice bowtie on the build up to this rivalry.

Shelton Benjamin vs. Jeff Hardy

This weekend at Summerslam Jeff Hardy aims to retake his United State Championship from Shinsuke Nakamura. As a big of a warmup, he faces Shelton Benjamin. The match started during the commercial break, with Shelton ahead when we came back. To Benjamin's detriment, Hardy won the match. Almost right after the bell rang, Nakamura came out, charging at a tired Jeff Hardy. Hardy got distracted by Shelton Benjamin, letting Nakamura strike. Hardy reversed a Kinshasa into a Twist Of Fate and a Swanton Bomb. Jeff Hardy got the last laugh heading into Sunday. We see Orton creeping in the curtains watching the segment.

AJ Styles Ending Segment

To end off Smackdown Live, AJ Styles comes to talk to the crowd. He talks about his opponent this Sunday, Samoa Joe. Joe reads a letter that was sent to him from someone in AJ's family. It talks about how he doesn't take care of his family because the title is all he cares about. This seems to upset AJ. If we're being honest, why would you want to cheer for someone like AJ if that was actually someone in his family? This segment made the babyface look like a heel. This ends Smackdown Live for this week.

WWE 205 Live 8/14/18

By Jack Wannan

The show starts with Drake Maverick previewing this week's show. After the usual introduction and all we have our first match. This is the go-home show before Cedric Alexander defends his Cruiserweight Championship against Drew Gulak at Summerslam.

Lio Rush vs. Akira Tozawa

Lio Rush comes out and cuts a promo on the crowd, getting cheap heat by insulting the city. He says that Akira Tozawa, his opponent on this show will "feel the rush." After Tozawa threw Rush around the ring for a minute or so, he attempted to leave the fight. Tozawa brought Rush back into the ring. Tozawa did a dive to the outside, dragging Rush back into the ring for an Octopus Stretch. Rush fought back, finding himself in a winning position minutes later. He shoved Tozawa off the ropes and hit a Frog splash for the win. There was tons of airtime on the splash. It looked spectacular. I don't really know what type of character Rush is supposed to be. Like, he's a heel, and he runs from fights (as seen earlier in the match), and he cheats, but in the end he wins clean? So is he a rule breaker or not?

Hideo Itami vs. Trent Newman (local)

Hideo Itami stomps a local wrestler named Trent Newman in the next match. Itami refused to pin Newman, wanting to get all of his spots in. The referee eventually ended the bout via TKO. He beat up Newman after the match.

Cedric Alexander vs. Gentleman Jack Gallagher

Only days away from his title defense Cedric Alexander fought Gentleman Jack Gallagher. Late into this match Gallagher got a close call with the Gentleman dropkick. The only thing that saved Alexander was that he put his leg on the rope. Gallagher followed it up with an impressive Powerbomb. Alexander hit a Spanish Fly to win the match out of nowhere. The match was decent, but had a bit of a spontaneous finish. After the match Gulak attacked Alexander while he was distracted from beating up Brian Kendrick and Jack Gallagher. Gulak stands atop Alexander as 205 Live goes off air. This wrapped up the final 205 Live before Summerslam.

WWE NXT 8/15/18

By Jack Wannan

With NXT Takeover only three days away, we have a final episode of NXT leading into the show. The show opens with a recap of NXT TV from last week, where the Triple Threat match for Takeover was announced. We also see that Aleister Black was assaulted outside the Full Sail venue. He was previously announced from the triple threat match, making it just Gargano and Ciampa.

The Street Profits vs. The Mighty

The first fight of the evening was The Street Profits against The Mighty (formerly known as TM61). Street Profits had the crowd completely behind them for this match. Montez Ford for The Street Profits got a hot tag, taking out both of The Mighty. He hit a Sunset Flip for a two count. When an attempted roll-up with tights pulled was tried on Ford he turned the tables to win the match. The Street Profits celebrated in the seats afterwards. I thought that this match was very entertaining. The Street Profits are pretty good wrestlers and their glowing personalities make up for whatever is missing in the ring.

Kairi Sane vs. Aliyah

After a short break we saw a backstage conversation between the Undisputed Era. They cut a decent promo. The next match is Kairi Sane facing Aliyah. Sane has a match at NXT Takeover, facing Shayna Baszler for the NXT Women's Championship. Just as the bell was about to ring, Baszler came out to watch the match. Sane seemed visibly disturbed by this. Baszler was on commentary for this match. Sane hit three elbow drops, but did not let Aliyah lose as she wants

to send a message to Baszler. Aliyah eventually tapped out via submission. I'm very excited to see how this match turns out on Saturday. Baszler was a little rough on commentary, seeming to have a little trouble with the improv that it throws at you. That's okay though, improving on that is what NXT is for.

EC3 Confronts The Velveteen Dream

The Velveteen Dream comes out to talk to the crowd. He was discussing his opponent on Saturday, EC3. As he was talking, EC3 himself came out. Velveteen Dream attacked EC3 after quite the discussion. EC3 fought back and won the fight. Didn't seem like a very babyface thing to do, to just attack someone like that.

We now see a full analysis of the attack on Aleister Black attack, trying to find out who did it. This was a very funny segment, showing lots of wrestlers just hanging around the incident. They did not find a definitive answer to who attacked Aleister.

Tyler Bate w/ Trent Seven vs. Roderick Strong w/ Kyle O'Reilly

After another break it is announced that Pete Dunne will defend his United Kingdom Championship against Zack Gibson next week on NXT. The main event for this episode of NXT is Tyler Bate versus Roderick Strong. The match plays as a preview to the tag match between these guys and the other half of their teams. Early in the match Kyle O'Reilly was involved, playing as a distraction, letting Strong get back in control of the match. Tyler Bate did that move where it looks like he's diving out of the ring but he's just bouncing off of the ropes. That move messes with your brain. He followed it up with a clothesline then did an actual dive. He hit a Tyler Driver to win the match. The babyfaces are on top heading into the big show. This was a great preview for the match on Saturday. The competition between these two teams should be really something to watch.

Event Previews

Bellator 204 Preview

On Friday Bellator visits the Stanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls for Bellator 204, headlined by Darrion Caldwell versus Noad Lahat. Below them are 12 other bouts, three of them on the main card. Bellator's format is a change of pace from most promotions, particularly the UFC. A four fight main card that goes two hours, and that's it. Not too long of a show at all. The only part about their setup that detracts interest personally is how they typically do postlims. Most prelims get bumped to postlims after the prelims start 20 minutes late and only get 2 of the 6 undercard fights in. But anyways, from the bottom up let's see what this card has to offer.

The first fight on the prelims is the pro debut for two fighters. Both fighters have had slight experience in the amateur fighting scene. Wyatt Meyer is coming off a win from only two months ago against Andrew Yatskis. He won the fight via Rear Naked Choke. His opponent has a 2-0 amateur record, with his most recent win at LFA 37 with a round 1 stoppage. That's the only real history with these two guys.

The second prelim fight is a battle between a MMA veteran and a guy who's only a few years in. Lloyd McKinney, who has been on and off fighting for over a decade has racked up 12 wins and 5 losses. He has fought around the Minnesota area for years, making numerous appearances at events put on by Driller Promotions and 3 River Throwdown. He faces Robiel Tesfaldet, a fighter who has been fighting since 2015, but has spent the majority of his career up until now doing amateur fights. He ended his amateur career with a 6-1 record. Moving up to the real deal in 2017, he has won twice and lost once. Both of his wins come from LFA prelim bouts.

Despite only being in the sport for 13 months, Romero Cotton is no newcomer to Bellator. His 2-0 record comes solely from his two preliminary victories under Bellator. Looking online it seems that Romero has quite a background in wrestling, doing it throughout college and high school. Very recently MMA-Today.com ran a piece about how he is on a redemption path after having a troubled past. Reading the article, it makes you want to cheer for Cotton and see him succeed. It's a very well written piece by Ryan Thomas. He looks to make his Bellator victories a trio as he faces Willie Whitehead. Willie is a dangerous opponent because of the amount of experience that he has. An 8-0 record in amateur fighting and a 2-2 record professionally. Even though he has a shaky pro record, he has experience on his side. On Friday Willie missed weight for the bout, weighing in at 200 pounds for a Middleweight bout.

The next bout is a clash of two fighters who have stayed loyal to (nearly) one promotion up until now. Tyler Ray, who has a 2-1 record in LFA is facing Seth Bass, who has a 4-2 record, with most bouts coming from Victory FC. He had an impressive 10-0 record before going pro.

Just like Seth Bass, Micah Peatrowsky is also a Victory FC man. Through his pro 2-0 record and 5-0 amateur record Peatrowsky has stayed undefeated. He faces Keith Phathaem, who is in his first pro bout after having a 50/50 amateur record (4-4).

In a Lightweight fight we have a classic "two O's, one's gotta go" situation. 3-0 undefeated Troy Nawrocki faces 6-0 Omar Morales. Morales returns to the octagon after being absent for 1 year and 9 months. Debuting in 2011, his career has been very spread out throughout the years.

The next bout, along with the final two preliminary fights are all in the Welterweight class. With a 8-2 record having many appearances at Titan FC, Demarques Jackson hopes to get his foot in the door of Bellator and defeat Bryce Logan. Bryce Logan is on a 6 fight win streak, having four of those appearances coming from Victory FC.

Kingston, Jamaica born Jason Jackson has the charismatic nickname “The Ass-Kicking Machine” is looking to bounce back after his last fight being a loss over a year ago. Jackson lost on the Dana White Contender Series, losing due to an injury in round 2. He trains out of the Blackzilians gym, just like the previously mentioned Tyler Ray. He faces Jordon Larson, who goes into the fight with a 9-4 pro record. His last victory was against a last minute opponent in Darrius Flowers, after Clarence Jordan fell under weight cut difficulties.

The final preliminary fight is David Michaud versus Corey Davis. Michaud had a short run in the UFC, losing two bouts and winning one. His last fight in the UFC, which was a loss, was against Olivier Aubin-Mercier. Michaud participated in the 16th Ultimate Fighter season, losing on the first episode and not getting picked on a team. Since then he has been fighting under many promotions, Titan and LFA among them. His opponent Corey Davis has had a successful career up until now, being undefeated through his amateur and pro career. His three pro wins have come through Victory FC.

Moving to the main card which will be aired on the Paramount Network, the first TV fight is Ty-wan Claxton versus Cris Lencioni. Claxton has been undefeated 7-0 in his amateur career, and undefeated in his two Bellator performances. His two wins were from striking stoppages. Cris Lencioni has gotten all of his wins via submission moves. He is coming off a loss at Bellator 195 from March, which went the distance. If there is a prediction to make for this fight, it's that it won't go all 15 minutes. During the weigh-ins on Friday, Lencioni missed weight, tipping the scales at 148 pounds.

Coming from the famous Irish SBG camp, James Gallagher looks to win after having bad luck with injuries cancelling bouts for a year now. His last came on the preliminary of Bellator NYC from 14 months ago with a Rear Naked Choke. As a matter of fact, his past three wins have all been Rear Naked Chokes. It must be his favourite way to end a fight, since he has used it 7 times to win a bout. He walks into his fight with Ricky Bandejas with a 7-0 undefeated record. Bandejas has spent his whole pro career fighting for CFFC, picking up 10 wins and 1 loss.

Logan Storley sees himself on the co-main event slot for this card. Before his MMA he started his currently 8-0 undefeated MMA career he was an All American in wrestling. He has been with Bellator since 181, getting one stoppage win and two unanimous decisions. He is set to face AJ Matthews, who has been loyal to Bellator, with a shaky pro record. After losing four times in a row, he saw his first win since 2015 in his January decision victory at Bellator 193.

In the main event of the show, Darrion Caldwell defends his Bantamweight belt against Noad Lahat. He won the belt back in November, beating Eduardo Dantas via decision. He has defended the belt once since then, defeating Leandro Higo at Bellator 195. Noad Lahat has been absent since December, when he beat Jeremiah Labiano at Bellator 188. Before then he lost to Henry Corrales. If Caldwell is able to successfully defend his belt, he will tie himself with Julia Budd for current Bellator Champions with most successful title defenses.

The card isn't anything huge, but Bellator has a lot coming ahead. A champion versus champion fight is booked for September 29, when new Bellator employee Gegard Mousasi faces Rory MacDonald. It will take place at the SAP Center, a bigger venue than usual for Bellator. In October the Bellator Heavyweight Grand Prix carries on with two legends of the sport, Fedor Emelianenko and Chael Sonnen. The Bellator 204 main card starts at 9PM EST, live from the Stanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

NXT Takeover Preview

By Jack Wannan

In recent years the NXT Takeover before Summerslam has created many memories. Some would argue that past Takeovers have outshone the Sunday show. The first time that NXT came to Brooklyn, Sasha Banks and Bayley delivered a Match of The Year contender. The two years after that saw a title change hands in the main event. Shinsuke Nakamura defeated Samoa Joe, and Drew McIntyre defeated Bobby Roode. One of the best parts at looking back at the older shows is to see where these wrestlers are now. Nakamura for example, main evented Takeover two years ago and is now fighting on the Summerslam card defending his US title. NXT is the future of the main roster. Let's see what the roster has to showcase on Saturday.

The five fight card starts with a grudge match. The only grudge match on the card. EC3 faces The Velveteen Dream. It doesn't seem like there is too much of a story behind this match, but the in-ring action should be entertaining. An angle was done on the final episode leading up to the PPV where they confronted each other in the ring. EC3 won the unscheduled beatdown.

After a grudge match the rest of the night has title implications. The tag team champions and members of The Undisputed Era Kyle O'Reilly and Roderick Strong plan to "Shock The System" when UK duo Tyler Bate and Trent Seven A.K.A Moustache Mountain challenge for their belts. These two teams are very familiar with each other as they played hot potato with the belt in June. Moustache Mountain ended the 150+ day reign for The Undisputed Era, winning the belts back at NXT's UK Championship show. The belts were won back only days after on NXT. Moustache Mountain have proven they can do it once, but now they have to do it again. Maybe it was a fluke that they won it once, or maybe they can find success once more.

NXT's new North American Championship sees it's first TakeOver appearance since it was won back in New Orleans in April. Adam Cole, who won the title via a ladder match sees himself facing Ricochet, another man who was vying for the belt that same night. Ricochet was the one who issued the challenge on NXT TV. Despite Cole not being too keen on the idea the match was booked.

The final two matches of the show have lots of backstory to them. In the first one, Kairi Sane looks to become an NXT Women's Champion when she faced Shayna Baszler. The two have met before, with Sane being victorious in that meeting. Sane defeated Baszler to become the

winner of the Mae Young Classic. Since then Baszler became the champion, looking down on Sane and the rest of the roster. Sane fought her way to the rematch after winning a #1 contenders match on NXT TV. In the final week leading up to Takeover Sane tried to intimidate Baszler by beating Aliyah to a pulp. Sane hopes that history will repeat while Baszler hopes to end get the final laugh on their rivalry.

After betrayal in 2017, the long standing rivalry between Tommaso Ciampa and Johnny Gargano has another chapter installed into it on Saturday. Ciampa ditched the tag team called #DIY that he had with Gargano after a loss to The Authors of Pain. Since then Ciampa battled back from injury, making his return at TakeOver in New Orleans, defeating Gargano in an “unsanctioned” bout. He beat him once again at NXT Chicago II. This match wasn’t originally scheduled to be just between these two, but became that way after Aleister Black suffered a groin injury. He was written off of NXT TV last week as footage showed that someone attacked Black on the campus of Full Sail University. After defeating Gargone two times in a row, this fight could be the last chance for Gargano to prove himself

NXT has an exciting lineup Saturday which has potential to put on many quality matches. Personally I am most excited about the tag bout and the women’s bout. The women’s one because I don’t know who will win, and the tag one because it looks like it will be a barnburner. NXT’s fourth time in Brooklyn has potential to be spectacular and if it holds that quality afterwards will be seen tomorrow.

WWE Summerslam Preview

By Jack Wannan

It’s WWE’s biggest event of the summer! If it wasn’t for Wrestlemania, it would most likely be the biggest event of the year. This year it’s certainly a big show. Not necessarily because of the popularity of names on the card, or the hype built around the show, but because of the sheer volume of matches in the lineup. If you plan to watch the pre-show and the main card, you’ll be sitting through 13 matches and an Elias segment. Basically every active roster member that has been up to something recently has something to do on this show. In the main event, Brock Lesnar defends his Universal Championship against Roman Reigns. These two have met on numerous occasions, with the most notable on being at Wrestlemania 31, when Seth Rollins cashed in his Money In The Bank briefcase to beat both men. We’ll get more into that match, but let’s work our way up to it.

The first of the three kickoff matches is The B-Team defending their RAW Tag Team Championships against The Revival. The B-Team are just coming off a defense on Monday in a triple threat match, where they capitalized off of the damage that their opponents were doing to each other. This match really has two outcomes: 1) The B-Team finds a way to just barely squeeze by, in a fluke situation or 2) The Revival take the belts, ending The B-Teams

undefeated run. Personally I feel the safe bet is on The B-Team since WWE have been getting more comfortable with the gimmick in past weeks (theme song, etc).

The second kickoff match is the only mixed tag match on the show. Rusev and Lana hope to win on Rusev Day when they face Andrade “Cien” Almas and Zelina Vega. Andrade was sitting on the bench for quite some time on Smackdown Live until recently he was put into this angle. Despite Vega having matches in the past, this match will be the first time that I’ve seen it. It will be interesting to see how she works with Lana.

205 Live get slight representation on this PPV, like they do every show. Cedric Alexander defends his Cruiserweight Championship against Drew Gulak. Gulak got the last laugh on the most recent episode of 205 Live getting his henchmen to distract Alexander, letting him pick the scraps. Alexander has been champion since Wrestlemania making him have the second longest Cruiserweight Championship reign in history (first place is Neville).

After the three kickoff matches have come and gone, there is 10 more matches. The first one from the Smackdown brand is a grudge match years in the making. Daniel Bryan faces The Miz in what is really a Wrestlemania caliber match. Bryan broke into WWE back when NXT was a game show, with The Miz being his mentor. Their feud was on the backburner for a few years, but then was brought back when Bryan found himself in a managerial position at Smackdown Live. Now that Bryan is out of retirement the petty exchanges between the two will have to be put aside and settled in the ring.

Finn Balor squashes his beef with the power hungry Baron Corbin in a RAW brand fight. Baron Corbin, who likes to now go by the name “Constable Corbin” has not been spared of any criticism by Finn Balor in past weeks. Corbin has used his position of power to mess with Balor.

Shinsuke Nakamura is set to defend his United States Championship from Jeff Hardy on Sunday as well. Nakamura won the belt off of Hardy at Extreme Rules, ending Hardy’s nearly three month reign. Nakamura has shown that he will do anything to win, even if it means bending the rules. Hardy might have to move on to another goal in wrestling if he loses this Sunday.

In the only triple threat match Sunday, Carmella defends her Smackdown Women’s Championship against Becky Lynch and Charlotte Flair. Becky and Charlotte have to put their friendship aside as it’s every woman for themselves. Carmella either has a big advantage or disadvantage heading into the match, depending on which angle they go with. If Lynch and Flair team up, then Carmella will have trouble. If Carmella can capitalize on the two having troubles co-existing, she can win. Personally I feel this match going in favour of Carmella, but there’s no real safe bet.

Another twist was added to the Seth Rollins versus Dolph Ziggler match was added this Monday when it was announced that Dean Ambrose will be cornering Rollins. This evens the odds as Ziggler has had Drew McIntyre by his side for his matches. Ziggler has to defend his Intercontinental Championship in this match.

Similar to what NJPW does with their G1 Briefcase, Braun Stroman will put his Money In The Bank briefcase on the line against Kevin Owens. This rivalry got almost no mentions in the go-home Monday Night RAW. Owens has been toyed with by Stroman for the past few months by destroying his rental car and throwing him off the stage while being in a port-a-potty. It's safe to say that a win for Owens isn't just for the MiTB briefcase.

The Bludgeon Brothers put their Smackdown Tag Team Titles on the line against The New Day. 2015 at Summerslam was where New Day became tag team champions, starting a reign that would last 483 days, making them the longest reigning champs of what is now known as the RAW Tag Team Championships. New Day have a numbers advantage, as they can choose two of the three members to participate in this fight.

In the biggest match for the Smackdown brand, Samoa Joe attempts to dethrone AJ Styles and his WWE Championship reign. Joe and Styles have fought numerous times in the past, mostly outside of WWE. Cagematch.net has 69 fights listed between them, dating back to 2003. However, they haven't met in the ring since 2013. Styles has held the belt since November of 2017. Whether Joe's past experience can play into his success on Sunday will be seen.

Ronda Rousey doesn't fight often, but when she does it's not for nothing. Since her debut at Wrestlemania Ronda has seen success but never gotten a chance to fight for gold. In one of the biggest fights on the card, Ronda will try to take down Alexa Bliss and take her RAW Women's Championship. Bliss has been playing the cowardly gimmick leading up to the fight, throwing security guards and her henchwoman Alicia Fox at Rousey. There will (hopefully) be nothing to use as a distraction on Sunday when it's just the two of them in the ring.

The main event of Summerslam is Roman Reigns versus Brock Lesnar. Lesnar has successfully defended the WWE Universal Championship against Roman, both times in April. Once at the grandest stage Wrestlemania, the other at "The Greatest Royal Rumble". Last year Roman was in a four-way fight with Brock, Samoa Joe and Braun Stroman. This time around there is no except them. Brock has the chance to make it a trilogy of victories over Roman, hopefully ending this rivalry, or Roman will become the new Universal Champion, ending Brock's 16 month reign.

Tons of matches and tons of time for them on Sunday as the Summerslam kickoff starts at 5PM EST on Youtube. The main card starts at 7PM EST and goes for as long as WWE's heart desires.

WWE News

Jim “The Anvil” Neidhart Passes Away

By Jack Wannan

On August 13th, 2018 the unfortunate news was reported that Jim “The Anvil” Neidhart had passed away at age 63. Neidhart began his wrestling career after being released from the Dallas Cowboys NFL team. He moved to Calgary and wrestled for Stampede Wrestling for five years. He was picked up by the WWF in 1985 and worked there until 1991. He teamed with Bret Hart to form The Hart Dynasty, a team that became two time WWF Tag Team Champions. After spending two years working WCW, New Japan and other shows he returned to WWF. In that run the Wrestling Observer Newsletter awarded “Feud Of The Year” to The Hart Foundation vs. Stone Cold Steve Austin. Neidhart is an inductee of the Canadian Wrestling Hall of Fame and the Legends Pro Wrestling Hall of Fame. He had three children, including Natalya Neidhart, who is currently an employee of the WWE. WWE paid tribute to Jim Neidhart on Monday Night, airing a video package put together about him.

Randy Orton Under Investigation For Workplace Misconduct

By Jack Wannan

Veteran WWE employee Randy Orton is currently under investigation by his employers over alleged misconduct in the workplace. Allegations came out in 2012 but have been brought back into the limelight via a thread on [Reddit's](#) wrestling category /r/SquaredCircle. The original story came from MLW podcaster and past WWE writer Court Bauer, who described how Orton would try to shake hands with fellow employees after shoving his hand in his pants. If people were adamant, he would threaten to tell higher ups in the company that you refused to shake hands with him. [F4WOnline](#) reached out to WWE about the allegations, in which they said that they are “looking into the matter.” No further details have been put out on the matter.

Sin Cara Gets Knee Surgery, Provides Updates

By Jack Wannan

Sin Cara has been absent from in-ring action since July 16th, when he faced Andrade “Cien” Almas on the Extreme Rules Pre-Show. Wednesday, [WWE](#) and [Sin Cara](#) both provided updates on his medical status, as he has been absent from the show for a while now. WWE reported that Sin Cara went to a doctor to get his knee checked out recently. They found scar tissue and removed it. Sin Cara posed with Dr. Jeffrey Dugas on Twitter after the surgery was complete. Shortly after [Sin Cara](#) posted a photo with crutches saying that he is on his “first day of recovery”.

Pro Wrestling News

Satoshi Kojima To Return On The 9th

By Jack Wannan

New Japan's Satoshi Kojima is set to return to in-ring action after suffering injury back in January. [NJPW's English](#) Instagram account broke the news Thursday that Kojima will be on the September 9th card, fighting at the Togane Arena in Chiba. In January [New Japan](#) reported that Kojima had suffered a "ruptured ACL" and would of course be out of action because of it. Since then Kojima has stayed active on social media accounts, providing updates throughout his absence from action. Friday afternoon Kojima posted an Instagram photo that when translated said "Training is over ... I received a lot of power from all of you." Kojima's fans who called themselves members of his "Bread Club" look forward to his return.

ROH/NJPW G1 Supercard Sells Out Days After Presale Had Begun

By Jack Wannan

8 months before the actual event, the Madison Square Garden ROH/NJPW event called the "G1 Supercard" has sold out. Pre-sale on Wednesday and Thursday did the most damage for ticket sales, with the rest of the tickets being cleaned up minutes after it became open to the public. The collaboration between Ring Of Honor and New Japan Pro Wrestling promises talent from both promotions to perform under one building.

The event is set to take place during Wrestlemania weekend, the night before Wrestlemania. Assuming that WWE will run a similar schedule than they did this year, the G1 Supercard will presumably be going up against NXT's Takeover show. ROH's show during Wrestlemania weekend have done this for the past two years.

Kushida And Others To Appear At ROH's Death Before Dishonor Events

By Jack Wannan

[Kushida](#) and other NJPW stars have been announced for ROH's two September events in Las Vegas. ROH says farewell to the Sam's Town venue that they have run for many years in Vegas, hosting their two nights in the 9,500 seater Orleans arena. On Tuesday ROH announced that KUSHIDA will be at the TV taping that follows the night after the Death Before Dishonor iPPV.

While no opponent has been announced for KUSHIDA, many of his CHAOS buddies will have their hands tied the night before. At [Death Before Dishonor](#), Cody, The Young Bucks, Marty Scurll and Hangman Page will team up to face Chuckie T, Rocky Romero, Tomohiro Ishii, Trent Barreta and Kazuchika Okada. [Jushin "Thunder" Liger](#) has also been announced to compete that same night. Tickets are still on sale for both the PPV and TV Taping.

Kazuchika Okada To Fight On Friday CMLL Arena Mexico Card

By Jack Wannan

Most NJPW wrestlers that were involved in the G1 tour will take the free time that they are given in the off season. The word "break" isn't in Kazuchika Okada's vocabulary, as he has been booked for a CMLL show on Friday. On the Friday card at Arena Mexico, Okada will team up with Ultimo Guerrero and Negro Casas to face Caristico, Mistico & El Valiente.

MMA News

Glover Teixeira Off UFC Sao Paulo Card Due To Injury

By Jack Wannan

UFC's return to Sao Paulo, Brazil in September is left without a main event for now, after Glover Teixeira has pulled out of the bout due to a shoulder injury. What was set to be a Heavyweight bout between Teixeira and Jimi Manuwa is off the table, Ariel Helwani for [ESPN](#) reports, leaving the card with 11 bouts. Manuwa voiced his displeasure on the cancellation via Twitter, simply tweeting an angry emoji. This is not the first fight issue for this card, with Mark Godbeer pulling out of his fight with Luis Henrique due to injury. Ryan Spann has already committed to step in as a replacement for that fight. While nothing has been put on contract as of yet, [Thiago Santos](#) seems committed to finding himself in the main event.

Bellator 205 Card Sees Two Substitutions

By Jack Wannan

With just over a month until Bellator 205, the main card sees two major changes. The main event, which was originally scheduled to be undefeated AJ McKee Jr. versus Pat Curran is off the table, as Curran has suffered an injury. Replacing him in the 145 weight class fight is John Teixeira. Originally reported by [MMA Junkie](#), the news came Monday afternoon. Another change that came this week was for another main card fight which was scheduled to be between Patricky Freire and Goiti Yamauchi. Teixeira is looking to break his two fight losing

streak, being his only two losses in his career. Both of his losses come by decision. His last win was at Bellator 167 against Justin Lawrence.

[ESPN](#) reported last Friday that due to Yamauchi's injury, he would be replaced by Roger Huerta. Similar to Teixeira, Huerta is coming off a loss at Bellator 196, when Benson Henderson beat him in the second round via submission. This will be his second bout in Bellator since his return to the promotion. He fought for Bellator in the early days, facing Eddie Alvarez at Bellator 33.

UFC Releases Two Veterans Of MMA

By Jack Wannan

UFC has let go of two fighters this week, both after being with the promotion for a fair amount of time. The first of the two was Tom Lawlor, who was still serving a USADA suspension which was issued back in November of 2016. While serving his suspension Lawlor picked up pro wrestling, a form of entertainment that he had been involved with before. Lawlor was vocal during his suspension about how he had asked for a release, but was not granted one.

News was broke via Dave Meltzer on [WrestlingObserver.com](#) on Monday. Lawlor was employed by the UFC for more than a decade, participating in a season of The Ultimate Fighter. He fought in 11 bouts for the UFC, with his most recent one being a loss to Corey Anderson at UFC 196. Outside of the octagon he garnered attention of fans by having a creative personality. Many times he would dress up at weigh-ins, imitating other fighters or personalities within the sport.

The other release by the UFC this week was of Gleison Tibau, another veteran of the sport. Originally reported by [MMAfighting.com](#)'s Guilherme Cruz, Tibau will have to look elsewhere if he wants to continue pursuing MMA. Tibau fought 28 times in the UFC, starting back in 2006 against Nick Diaz. He had recently been on a four fight losing streak which started back in 2015, became four in June.

Fights Added To UFC Cards

By Jack Wannan

Just like every week, there have been many fights added to upcoming UFC cards.

Lucie Pudilova vs. Irene Aldana - UFC 228

Irene Aldana, who was scheduled to fight on UFC 227 against Bethe Correia has been bumped to 228 with a new opponent. UFC announced that Aldana will face Lucie Pudilova on the UFC Fight Pass Early Prelims, presumably finishing the currently 14 fight card. Both fighters are coming off a victory, both via Unanimous decision.

Sean O'Malley vs. Jose Quinonez - UFC 229

Charismatic "Sugar" Sean O'Malley has been put back on assignment, with his next task being Jose Quinonez at UFC 229. The fight was announced by O'Malley himself Monday while on Ariel Helwani's MMA Show. Quinonez has lost two of his nine career bouts, while O'Malley has stayed 10-0, undefeated. O'Malley broke into the UFC through season 1 of Dana White's Tuesday Night Contender Series, being one of the biggest personalities on the show. Since then he has picked up two more wins, both via scorecards. He was sidelined briefly after his last win as he suffered a foot injury that needed surgery.

Quinonez has been on a tear himself as well, being on a four fight win streak with the past three being going all three rounds. The only time that Quinonez has lost in the UFC was back in 2014 when he made his debut. Quinonez looks to improve to five wins in a row and to end O'Malley's undefeated streak on the same night that McGregor challenges Nurmagomedov for a belt that he previously held.

Alan Patrick vs. Scott Holtzman - UFC 229

Adding to the Las Vegas card is Alan Patrick and Scott Holtzman. Reported by [Combate and MMAfighting.com](#), Patrick and Holtzman will battle in the Lightweight division on October 6th at the T-Mobile Arena. UFC has yet to confirm this bout for the lineup.

Bellator Bouts Announced

By Jack Wannan

With a Bellator event this Friday, the promotion has been hot on announcing bouts.

Roy Nelson vs. Sergei Kharitonov - Bellator 207

Sergei Kharitonov and Roy Nelson will both compete in their third Bellator fight against each other at Bellator 207. Before this news was broken by [MMAjunkie](#) there was already another Heavyweight clash between Matt Mitrione and Ryan Bader set as the main event of the evening. That fight is a semi-final of the Bellator Heavyweight Grand Prix. The winner meets the winner of a Fedor vs. Sonnen fight.

Benson Henderson vs. Saad Awad - Bellator 208

Benson Henderson and Saad Awad are set to square off in October at Bellator 208 in the promotions third visit to the state of New York. [MMAjunkie](#) broke the news Tuesday that this fight will go down. Awad's last fight was in June, beating Ryan Couture in a first round stoppage. Henderson is also coming off an impressive performance at Bellator 196 beating

Roger Huerta in the second round through submission. They will be fighting on the same card as the highly anticipated bout between Fedor Emelianenko and Chael Sonnen in the Bellator Heavyweight Grand Prix Semi-finals.

Cheick Kongo vs. Timothy Johnson - Bellator 208

On the same card as the previously mentioned Henderson vs. Awad bout is Cheick Kongo versus Timothy Johnson. The story was broken live on ESPN's Ariel And The Bad Guy talk show. Bellator veteran Cheick Kongo hopes to spoil the welcoming party for Johnson, whose last bout was in the UFC back in February.

Patricio Freire vs. Emmanuel Sanchez - Unnamed Show

Friday afternoon [MMAjunkie](#) reported that Patricio Freire will face Emmanuel Sanchez in a November fight in Israel. Bellator has made two trips to Israel, airing tape delayed shows, and aims to do so once again with two Bellator veterans. While a date is set for the fight, the name/number of the Bellator show is not yet known. Freire recently won the sequel bout against Daniel Weichel after going five rounds. Sanchez is on a four fight win streak, recently getting a first round Triangle Choke finish against Sam Sicilia.

UFC 229 Ticket Prices Announced

By Jack Wannan

The long awaited clash between Khabib Nurmagomedov and Conor McGregor does not come at a cheap price. Tuesday AXS announced the price tiers for tickets to the October bout, with the highest level being a hefty \$2,505. The other ticket prices were \$2,005, \$1,505, \$1,005, \$755, \$555, \$405, \$355, \$305, \$255 and \$205. Tickets go on sale to the general public after five different pre-sales, starting on the 15th and ending the following day. On the 17th the tickets will go public for purchase at 10AM EST. The event goes down at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. The card currently has six fights booked, with the most anticipated one being McGregor versus Nurmagomedov. UFC 229 goes down on October 6, 2018.

Magnus Cedenblad Announces Retirement

By Jack Wannan

Thirty-six year old MMA fighter Magnus Cedenblad announced his retirement last Tuesday. Announced via [Instagram](#), Cedeblad cited the catalyst for his retirement being his injuries. His last fight was in November of 2016, losing to Jack Marshman. Since then he has been tied up with injuries. He was scheduled to face Chris Camozzi at UFC Fight Night in Stockholm, Sweden, but pulled from the card. Cedenblad retires with a record of 14-5, with four of those wins coming from inside the UFC octagon.

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