

In The Trenches: AEW Revolution Quick Thoughts



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SCU vs. The Dark Order (The Buy In):

This was a fine tag match mostly serving to progressing the storyline. Who is the Exhalted One? Well, rumors pointed to Matt Hardy, but his contract is not up until tomorrow. The delete is not free. Colt Cobana got a nice pop and Chris Daniels did a nice tease coming to the defense of his SCU partners.

Dustin Rhodes vs. Jake Hager:

For some reason, this match didn't really get into second gear for me. Chalk it up to it being Jake Hager's first match in a long time (last match was August 24th, 2019). They tried to get some stakes with Hager's wife being at ringside. It just went a little longer than it should have. With this being a hoss battle, both guys just needed to get their power spots in and make for a quick, impactful match. The placement of the match didn't really help matters either.

Ok with Hager getting the submission to keep his status as the Inner Circle's enforcer going.

Darby Allin vs. Sammy Guevara

This is the match that they should have started Revolution with. The good thing about Darby Allin's character is that you can play off botches that might possibly occur. The missed dive on the outside just mixed into the story of the match. Good job for commentary to note that.

The 620 table spot was one of the craziest of the night and both men were able to show their athleticism. One of the strengths of this Revolution card was that there are so many different styles of wrestlers. This was the match to kick the pay-per-view into another gear.

Young Bucks vs. Hangman Page and Kenny Omega (AEW Tag Team Titles):

I wasn't really surprised that The Bucks got booed here. The crux of the story was really about Hangman Page making a name for himself. He was going to be "the guy" at the inception of AEW and fell short. He also tried to leave The Elite, but then the tag team w/ Omega happened. You have to give credit on how AEW has completely rehabbed Hangman's character to become a crowd favorite.

Both teams worked well together with the personal story woven in. Added some wrinkles like Matt's back troubles, Marty's Crossface chicken wing, and even a Motor City Machine Guns spot.

This match really picked up in the middle where The Bucks turned up being heel-ish. (Golden Trigger, anyone?) Matt was willing to win at all costs and while Nick was hesitant at first, but bought it as they got more aggressive. Page and Omega capitalized and the tag titles elude The Bucks again. The interactions between Page and Matt were really good. Maybe they result to a singles match between the two on Dynamite.

Page teased turning on Omega and I think that's eventually going to be the money match at DoN 2. I expect there to be a rematch down the road. The Bucks have to atone for going to a dark place on search of winning the belts they think they should have. Will The Elite split? How about Kenny Omega and the week he's had? Had a very good match with PAC on Dynamite and added to one of the best matches in AEW's short history.

Kris Statlander vs. Nyla Rose (AEW Women's Title):

This was a tough match following the previous tag, but Kris and Nyla did the best they could. The crowd started to get into it towards the middle being behind Statlander. Did a good job contrasting Statlander's agility and Rose's power. The finish was good enough to protect Statlander playing off going for the corner spot one too many times. There's no doubt that there will be a rematch down the line. For right now, you need to establish a dominate reign for Rose.

Cody vs. MJF:

(A little fun fact. Downstait, the band in Cody's entrance has done the themes for The Miz and Dolph Ziggler). Cody matches seem to fall within their own realm when it

comes to AEW shows. They are going to always have an old school feel. Baby face fighting from underneath before making a big comeback.

This was no different as MJF targeted Cody's arm and the broken toe. (Cody was really fighting with one boot out there.) MJF was the one to have color instead of Cody, for once. While there were some spots involving Wardlow, Brandi, and Arn—I'm glad they kept them to a minimum.

Yes MJF needed to win. Cody is a big enough baby face to take the loss and MJF is one of the biggest heels that AEW has. A funny part about the finish is the ref letting Cody use the belt, but MJF using a sneaky tactic to get the win. I wonder where Cody goes from here. He's lost another big match during a pay-per-view and endured all those stipulations for MJF to outsmart him.

PAC vs. Orange Cassidy:

This was a perfect choice to be the “cool down” match going into the main event. Orange Cassidy was able to do all his comedy stuff within pulling off some moves of his own. PAC played the cocky, overpowering heel role well and helped make OC look great. You actually thought that Cassidy was going to get the win.

Only complaint would be with the interference from the Lucha Bros. I know that they and Best Friends have a long-standing feud, but it looked like they were going out of their way to protect Cassidy. The match already did that. Even with that considered, very entertaining match.

Chris Jericho vs. Jon Moxley (AEW Championship):

Nice that both of these men were undefeated in singles matches during their AEW tenure up to this point. I thought, ok, Santana and Ortiz are at ringside with Jericho. Why does that matter to Moxley? He's fought all of the Inner Circle with five other men at one point of their feud. There were some points of this match that felt a little slow, but it was the brawl that it need to be.

He's Moxley two belts! What are they going to do with the IWGP US title? This was the right call. Jericho did a great job as the first AEW Champion for 180+ days. Moxley is their top baby face and you have to strike when the iron is hot. Who is going to be the heel that steps up; MJF or a new face in Lance Archer? Maybe PAC? Time will tell.

Listen. AEW has been getting better at making compelling storylines and trying to show off the uniqueness of their brand. For not having a major show since November, Revolution mostly delivered on the promise that AEW has something to offer to the

wrestling collective. I'm genuinely interested to see Dynamite on Wednesday. On to Double Or Nothing 2!

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