

= December to Dismember (2006) =

December to Dismember (2006) was a professional wrestling pay @-@ per @-@ view event produced by World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) , which took place on December 3 , 2006 , at the James Brown Arena in Augusta , Georgia . Professional wrestling is a type of sports entertainment in which theatrical events are combined with a competitive sport . The buildup to the matches and the scenarios that took place before , during , and after the event , were planned by WWE 's script writers . The event starred wrestlers from the ECW brand : storyline expansions of the promotion where employees are assigned to wrestling brands under the WWE banner . Despite it being an ECW brand pay @-@ per @-@ view , wrestlers from the Raw and SmackDown ! brands also worked on the pay @-@ per @-@ view . Its name was derived from the December to Dismember event held by the original Extreme Championship Wrestling in 1995 .

The main attraction on the event card was an Extreme Elimination Chamber match for the ECW World Championship . It featured wrestlers fighting in a ring surrounded by a steel structure of chain and girders . The six participants were defending champion Big Show , Bobby Lashley , Rob Van Dam , Hardcore Holly , CM Punk and Test . Lashley won the match and the ECW World Championship after pinning Big Show following a spear . The featured bout on the undercard was a tag team bout between The Hardys (real @-@ life brothers Matt and Jeff) and MNM (Joey Mercury and Johnny Nitro) , in which The Hardys were victorious .

The event had an attendance of 4 @,@ 800 and received about 90 @,@ 000 pay @-@ per @-@ view buys , with 55 @,@ 000 of them domestic buys ? the lowest buyrate in WWE history until the introduction of the WWE Network in 2014 . Although it was scheduled to be held again in 2007 , the show was canceled after all pay @-@ per @-@ view events became tri @-@ branded , which meant that there would be pay @-@ per @-@ view events with the entire roster on two consecutive weeks .

= = Background = =

Outside of the weekly ECW on Sci Fi broadcast , one of WWE 's primary television programs , the pay @-@ per @-@ view received little buildup on both Raw and SmackDown ! television shows , as WWE concentrated more on advertising the Survivor Series pay @-@ per @-@ view that aired one week prior to December to Dismember . At this time , the main storyline on the Raw brand featured tag teams , D @-@ Generation X and Rated @-@ RKO , and the SmackDown ! brand 's main storyline featured Batista and World Heavyweight Champion King Booker . The buildup for December to Dismember began in the middle of October . (six weeks before the event occurred) This was the only ECW brand exclusive pay @-@ per @-@ view WWE produced before the decision was made to have all three brands featured on future pay @-@ per @-@ views .

The main event at December to Dismember featured an Extreme Elimination Chamber match for the ECW Championship . On the October 24 , 2006 episode of ECW , Rob Van Dam defeated the ECW World Champion , Big Show for the second consecutive time . Per the stipulation , if Van Dam were to defeat the Big Show again , in a ladder match , he could then choose a time to face the Big Show for the ECW Championship . Van Dam chose to have his title shot at the December to Dismember pay @-@ per @-@ view . Authority figure , Paul Heyman , authorized Van Dam 's decision and added him to the Extreme Elimination Chamber contest for the ECW Championship along with Big Show and four other ECW superstars . The remaining four participants for the Extreme Elimination Chamber match were decided through standard singles matches . The first person to qualify for the match was Sabu , who defeated Kevin Thorn on the October 31 , 2006 episode of ECW . The following week , CM Punk and Test qualified by defeating Mike Knox and Tommy Dreamer , respectively . The final place was to be given to Hardcore Holly in a contract signing segment on the November 14 , 2006 episode of ECW . As Holly was making his way to the ring , Bobby Lashley , a wrestler from the SmackDown ! brand , attacked Holly and signed his contract himself to gain the sixth and final place in the Extreme Elimination Chamber . Although the six spots in the bout were filled , Heyman announced a Extreme Rules match , between Van Dam

and Holly , on the November 21 , 2006 episode of ECW . If Holly were to defeat Van Dam he would take his place in the Extreme Elimination Chamber ; Van Dam however , won the match and cemented his place in the Extreme Elimination Chamber . Van Dam continued gaining momentum going into December to Dismember pay @-@ per @-@ view , as he , along with team members Sabu , Lashley , John Cena and Kane defeated the team of Big Show , Test , Umaga , Finlay and Montel Vontavious Porter in a 5 @-@ on @-@ 5 , elimination tag team match , at the Survivor Series pay @-@ per @-@ view . On the final episode of ECW , before December to Dismember , Van Dam defeated Sabu . Later in the show , CM Punk faced Test , but both men were counted out in their bout . In the main event , Big Show was disqualified in his match against Lashley as Test and Heyman 's Security Force (Doug and Danny Basham) assaulted Lashley .

The other main rivalry heading into December to Dismember was between the Hardy Boyz and MNM (Joey Mercury , Johnny Nitro and Melina) . Unlike the Extreme Elimination Chamber rivalry , this one did not include ECW superstars and only featured members of the Raw and SmackDown ! brands , making the pay @-@ per @-@ view non @-@ exclusive to ECW , spanning all three WWE brands . The buildup to the match between them began when Nitro and Jeff Hardy started to feud over the Intercontinental Championship on Raw . The two competed in several different types of matches , including a ladder match . The Hardy Boyz had just teamed up for the first time since 2002 , when they defeated Tony Mamaluke and Little Guido Maritato on an episode of ECW . At Survivor Series , The Hardy Boyz , along with D @-@ Generation X and CM Punk defeated the team of Nitro , Rated @-@ RKO (Edge and Randy Orton) , Mike Knox and Gregory Helms in a traditional Survivor Series team elimination match . The next day at the December to Dismember press conference , The Hardy Boyz announced an open challenge for the pay @-@ per @-@ view . Later that night on Raw , Nitro accepted the challenge , announcing the return of Mercury and the " one night only " reformation of MNM . On the following episode of ECW , MNM attacked The Hardy Boyz after they defeated Elijah Burke and Sylvester Terkay . Meanwhile , Voodoo Kin Mafia , a tag team from the Total Nonstop Action Wrestling (TNA) promotion , issued a statement via the TNA website stating that they had accepted The Hardy Boyz open challenge for December to Dismember . However , Voodoo Kin Mafia did not turn up at the event , and WWE never acknowledged their challenge . Only two matches were officially announced for the pay @-@ per @-@ view before it aired .

= = Event = =

Before the event went live on pay @-@ per @-@ view , Stevie Richards defeated René Duprée in a dark match , a non @-@ televised match used to generate excitement in the crowd .

= = Preliminary matches = =

The first match that aired was the tag team encounter between MNM and The Hardy Boyz . After a back and forth match , which lasted over 20 minutes , MNM performed a flapjack DDT on Jeff , a move that sees an opponent get pushed upwards in air by the tag team and then is driven into the mat onto his own head . During a pinfall attempt , Matt Hardy made the save and performed a double neckbreaker on both members of MNM . Jeff then performed a Swanton bomb onto Nitro and made the winning pin . Next was Matt Striker versus Balls Mahoney in a " Striker 's Rules " match , a match with " no gouging of the eyes , no pulling of the hair , no maneuvers off the top rope and , most importantly , no foul language " . Mahoney won the match after he performed a spinebuster and pinned Striker for the victory .

After the match between Balls Mahoney and Matt Striker , Sabu was depicted as being injured backstage and unable to compete in the Extreme Elimination Chamber match . In reality , however , it was rumored that Sabu had animosity surrounding him backstage and was said to be uninterested at television tapings . Rumors evolved stating that WWE viewed Sabu as being " useless " in normal matches and that he could only perform in matches that included " stunts and tables and they [WWE] don 't respect him because of that " . This was reportedly part of the reason he had been

scripted to be easily defeated by Umaga on an episode of Raw a few weeks earlier . WWE chairman Vince McMahon wanted to put Holly in Sabu 's place , so Lashley would have more villains to overcome . Heyman was legitimately unhappy with the decision , saying that Sabu 's high @-@ flying wrestling would be " the ideal showcase " inside the Extreme Elimination Chamber . The fans inside the James Brown Arena chanted " bullshit " during the segment .

In the second tag @-@ team match of the night , Elijah Burke and Sylvester Terkay defeated F.B.I. members Little Guido Maritato and Tony Mamaluke . Burke pinned Mamaluke after performing a Forward Russian legsweep on him and gaining the pinfall . After the match , Terkay performed a Muscle Buster on Maritato . During this match , the fans inside the James Brown Arena chanted " TNA , TNA " (a reference to WWE 's rival professional wrestling promotion , as well as two of their performers utilizing moves used by TNA wrestlers , Jeff Jarrett and Samoa Joe , respectively) . A standard match between Daivari and Tommy Dreamer followed with The Great Khali accompanying Daivari to the ring but was ejected from ringside early on for interfering . After Daivari won the match using a roll @-@ up , Khali came back out to the ring and grabbed Dreamer by the neck and gave him a chokebomb . EMTs came out to help Dreamer get up , but he ended up getting up on his own and headed backstage .

The next match of the night was an intergender tag team match , with Kevin Thorn and Ariel against Mike Knox and Kelly Kelly . Before the match began , Kelly Kelly was shown wishing CM Punk , her on @-@ screen crush , luck for the main event . The end of the match came when Knox abandoned Kelly Kelly in the ring and Ariel performed a legsweep , a variation of a takedown , on Kelly Kelly before covering her for the win . Following the match , Ariel and Thorn attempted to attack Kelly Kelly , before The Sandman interrupted and hit Thorn repeatedly with a kendo stick .

= = = Main event match = = =

The main event was the Extreme Elimination Chamber for the ECW World Championship . After a segment earlier in the event showed an injured Sabu was unable to compete in the match , it was decided that Hardcore Holly would take his spot in the ECW Championship match . Before the match began , Paul Heyman announced the rules of the match and explained that each superstar had a weapon with them in each of their pods . Before entering the ring , Heyman had a conversation backstage with Big Show , that was unseen by television viewers , with him revealing that for the first time in his professional career he was not motivated to give the promo . Rob Van Dam and Hardcore Holly were the first superstars to begin the match and one of the other four competitors were then released from their pod every five minutes afterward . The first person to be released from his pod was CM Punk , who entered the match with a steel chair in hand . Test then followed , five minutes after him , with a crowbar . Punk was the first eliminated from the match , after Van Dam performed a Five Star Frog Splash from the top turnbuckle and covered him for the 3 @-@ count . Moments later , Test charged and hit Holly in the head with a big boot and eliminated him with a pin . Van Dam was the third person eliminated , after Test delivered a diving elbow drop from the top of a pod and pinned him . When it was Bobby Lashley 's turn his pod wouldn 't open , he could not exit it because Heyman 's Security Force had bolted the door shut . Lashley then used the table that was with him to smash through the pod , allowing him to escape . He then hit Test with a spear and then eliminated him with a pinfall . The defending ECW Champion , Big Show , was the final man to exit his pod and had a baseball bat wrapped in barbed wire in tow . Lashley was able to block Big Show 's swing of the barbed wire bat with a folding chair and then threw him into the pod , causing him to bleed . Lashley managed to reverse a chokeslam from the Big Show into a DDT and then landed a spear and gained the last pinfall to win the match and become the new ECW Champion .

= = Aftermath = =

Not long after December to Dismember , Big Show was offered a long @-@ term contract extension by WWE , reported to be around \$ 1 million a year . He declined the offer , however ,

reasoning he was burned out and hurting physically . On the first episode of ECW to air after December to Dismember , Show and Lashley would compete in a rematch for the ECW Championship . The Big Show lost , thus ending their storyline feud , and he announced his retirement from wrestling .

After the storyline feud with Big Show ended , Lashley entered a short program with Rob Van Dam , which led to Van Dam earning a title match on the January 2 , 2007 episode of ECW . The match between the two ended in a No Contest after Test interfered during the bout . Test 's interference led to a storyline with the champion , leading to a title match at the Royal Rumble , which Lashley won .

= = = Reception = = =

Less than 24 hours after the pay @-@ per @-@ view , WWE announced on their official website that Vince McMahon had sent Heyman home , citing " slumping television ratings and a disgruntled talent roster as causes for Mr. Heyman 's dismissal " . Heyman and McMahon clashed on the plane to the North Charleston Coliseum and after a producers ' meeting , Heyman was escorted from the Coliseum and sent home . He was also immediately pulled from ECW 's creative team after the altercation . McMahon was attempting to put the blame on Heyman for the poorly received pay @-@ per @-@ view , and after a meeting with Vince and Stephanie McMahon , Heyman legitimately left World Wrestling Entertainment but remained under contract . Heyman was against the decision of Lashley being booked to win the ECW Championship , and instead wanted to have CM Punk win it , a decision McMahon disliked . This situation was cited by Punk in his controversial shoot promo in 2011 , in which he referred to the idea as one in which " Heyman saw something in [Punk] that nobody else wanted to admit . " In an early 2008 interview with The Sun , Heyman gave more details on how he would have booked the Extreme Elimination Chamber main @-@ event , which included having Punk enter first and quickly eliminating Big Show via submission . According to the interview , McMahon nixed the idea , but Big Show liked the direction Heyman was heading , and was eager for the opportunity to " make " a rising star like Punk . He also stated that he kept going to McMahon on the night of the pay @-@ per @-@ view to say that " The people are going to throw this back in our face " . Upset at how the event turned out , Tommy Dreamer and Stevie Richards both asked after the event to be released from their contracts . Both requests were refused by McMahon and WWE 's Vice President of Talent Relations John Laurinaitis .

Balls Mahoney gave an interview in 2015 to The Pay @-@ per @-@ Viewists and said that he was not allowed to use his finisher which he pitched to use from the second rope so as the bend the " Strikers rules ' stipulation . He also said that the match was so bad that he lost any desire to watch wrestling as a fan .

Critics had a negative reaction to the pay @-@ per @-@ view , with the only match that received praise being the Hardy Boyz versus MNM tag team match . Slam ! Sports rated the pay @-@ per @-@ view 4 out of 10 stars , stating , " the two matches that were promoted saved this thing from being a debacle " . In the 2006 Wrestling Observer Newsletter awards , the event was voted the " worst major wrestling show of the year " .

= = Results = =

= = = Elimination Chamber entrances and eliminations = = =