

= Vengeance : Night of Champions =

Vengeance : Night of Champions was the seventh annual professional wrestling pay @-@ per @-@ view event produced by World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) within its Vengeance / Night of Champions chronology . It featured talent from the Raw , SmackDown , and ECW brands . The event was sponsored by RAW Attitude Energy Drink and took place on June 24 , 2007 , at the Toyota Center in Houston , Texas . Every match on the card was contested for a championship ; two were won and seven were retained . This event was notable for being on the weekend of the Chris Benoit double @-@ murder and suicide case . Benoit , who was originally booked to face CM Punk for the vacant ECW World Championship , legitimately no @-@ showed .

The main event featured the Raw brand . It saw John Cena defend the WWE Championship against Mick Foley , Bobby Lashley , Randy Orton , and King Booker . Cena won the match and retained the WWE Championship after pinning Foley following an FU . The featured match from the SmackDown brand was a " Last Chance match " for the World Heavyweight Championship between Edge and Batista , which Edge won by countout . The primary match from the ECW brand was CM Punk versus Johnny Nitro for the vacant ECW World Championship , which Nitro won by pinfall after performing a corkscrew neckbreaker from the middle rope . The event was supposed to use the Vengeance name but on the June 11th edition of Raw , it was announced that the event would now change its name to Vengeance : Night of Champions where every active WWE titles will be defended .

= = Background = =

The main feud on the Raw brand heading into the event was between John Cena , Bobby Lashley , King Booker , Mick Foley , and Randy Orton over the WWE Championship . The feud began when Lashley was drafted to the Raw brand and stripped of the ECW World Championship . After being stripped of the title , Lashley began to pursue the WWE Championship . On the June 18 episode of Raw , Foley , Orton , Booker , and Lashley all cut promos on why they deserve to be the number @-@ one contender to the WWE Championship . Cena also cut a promo on who he believed deserved to be the number one contender to the championship . Following this , Interim General Manager Jonathan Coachman announced that all five men would compete for the title in a match billed as the " WWE Championship Challenge " at Vengeance .

The main feud heading into Vengeance on the SmackDown brand was between Edge and Batista over the World Heavyweight Championship . Their match stemmed from their Steel cage match at One Night Stand , the pay @-@ per @-@ view three weeks before Vengeance , where Edge won by escaping the cage . On the June 8 episode of SmackDown , WWE Chairman Vince McMahon announced that Edge would be defending the World Heavyweight Championship against Batista in a " Last Chance " match at Vengeance . On the June 22 episode of SmackDown ! , Batista and Ric Flair defeated Edge and Montel Vontavious Porter (MVP) . Midway through the match , Flair and MVP brawled outside the ring , leaving Edge on his own against Batista . Batista gained the pinfall after executing a Batista Bomb on Edge .

The feud between The Hardys (Matt and Jeff) and Lance Cade and Trevor Murdoch began at Backlash . At the event , The Hardys defeated Cade and Murdoch to retain the World Tag Team Championship . At the following event , Judgment Day , Matt and Jeff defeated Cade and Murdoch once again to retain the title .

= = Event = =

= = = Preliminary matches = = =

Before the event aired live on pay @-@ per @-@ view , Super Crazy defeated Carlito in a dark match .

The event began with a video package of the event and its theme , " Night of Champions , " followed by opening pyrotechnics . The first match was between Lance Cade and Trevor Murdoch and The Hardys (Matt and Jeff) for the World Tag Team Championship . Cade and Matt started the match , with Matt in control . The two teams tagged in and out until Cade and Murdoch attempted to walk out of the match , but the Hardys went after them , and brought them back into the ring . Jeff attempted a Swanton Bomb onto Cade , but Murdoch interfered on Cade 's behalf . Matt tried to interfere on Jeff 's behalf , but was stopped by the referee . Murdoch used this as an advantage , and pushed Jeff off the turnbuckle , leading to Cade performing a powerbomb . Cade gained the pinfall on Jeff to win the match and retain the titles .

The second match was between Chavo Guerrero and Jimmy Wang Yang for the WWE Cruiserweight Championship . The match began with Yang and Guerrero locking up , followed by Yang in control through most of the match . After Yang missed a moonsault , Guerrero executed a Gory Bomb . Shortly after , Guerrero performed a Frog Splash on Yang . Afterwards , Guerrero pinned Yang to win the match and retain the Cruiserweight Championship .

The third match was between CM Punk and Johnny Nitro , who subbed in for the absent Chris Benoit (unknown of killing his family at the time) , for the ECW World Championship . The match started off with Punk attempting a crossbody on Nitro . Nitro countered , however , and executed an enzuigiri . Nitro delivered a corkscrew neckbreaker and pinned Punk to win the match to become the new ECW World Champion .

The fourth match was between Santino Marella and Umaga for the WWE Intercontinental Championship . The match began with Umaga in control , squashing Marella . Two minutes into the match , Umaga was punching Marella uncontrollably . The referee disqualified Umaga when he refused to stop after giving a five count , and Marella retained the title . Umaga , following the disqualification , delivered a splash and a Samoan Spike to Sanino .

The fifth match was between Montel Vontavious Porter (MVP) and Ric Flair for the WWE United States Championship . The match started with Flair executing a series of backhand chops to MVP . Flair kept the advantage and applied the figure four leglock . MVP countered , by executing a low blow . MVP then performed the Playmaker and pinned Flair to retain the United States Championship .

The sixth match was an open challenge by Deuce ' n Domino to any tag team for the WWE Tag Team Championship , which was accepted by Jimmy Snuka and Sgt. Slaughter . Snuka and Slaughter controlled most of the match ; however , Deuce ' n Domino got the win after Deuce pinned Snuka . After the match , Deuce ' n Domino attacked Snuka and Slaughter until Tony Garea and Rick Martel came into the ring to assist Snuka and Slaughter .

= = = Main event matches = = =

The seventh match was between Edge and Batista for the World Heavyweight Championship . This was a " Last Chance match " , meaning if Batista lost , he could not get another shot at the World Heavyweight Championship as long as Edge was champion . Batista originally won the match by disqualification after Edge executed a low blow ; however , SmackDown General Manager Theodore Long restarted the match with the stipulation that Edge could lose the title by countout or disqualification . Edge won the match after Batista was counted out , thus retaining the title , and with the match stipulation , Batista would be unable to challenge for the World Heavyweight Championship so as long as Edge was the champion . After the match , in complete frustration , Batista attacked Edge and performed a Batista Bomb on him outside of the ring onto the ground before leaving him with the title .

The eighth match was between Melina and Candice Michelle for the WWE Women 's Championship . After a back and forth match , Michelle executed a spinning heel kick on Melina to gain the victory and win the Women 's Championship .

The main event , billed as the " WWE Championship Challenge , " saw John Cena defending the WWE Championship against King Booker , Bobby Lashley , Mick Foley and Randy Orton . Throughout the match , all five men gained an advantage over one @-@ another at one or more

spots . One spot in the match saw Lashley dive over the top rope onto the other four competitors . Towards the end of the match , Cena executed an FU on Lashley through an announce table . Cena won the match and retained the title after pinning Foley following an FU .

= = Aftermath = =

Chavo Guerrero went on to defend the WWE Cruiserweight Championship in a Cruiserweight Open at The Great American Bash against Jimmy Wang Yang , Jamie Noble , Funaki , and Shannon Moore . Hornswoggle also entered the match at the bell , but immediately escaped the ring and hid under it . With all of the cruiserweights down , with the exception of Noble , Hornswoggle came out from under the ring and delivered a Tadpole Splash to Noble . He pinned him afterwards to win the match and the Cruiserweight Championship . Candice Michelle and Melina continued to feud over the WWE Women 's Championship . The two had a rematch at The Great American Bash for the title . Michelle pinned Melina after delivering a Candy Wrapper to retain the title .

On the July 2 episode of Raw , Umaga defeated Santino Marella in a rematch to capture the WWE Intercontinental Championship . Two weeks later , Jeff Hardy defeated William Regal , Shelton Benjamin , and Santino Marella in a Fatal Four @-@ Way Elimination match to become the number one contender to the Intercontinental Championship . At The Great American Bash , Umaga defeated Hardy to retain the title after the Samoan Spike . That same night , Bobby Lashley won a " Beat the Clock " tournament to become the number @-@ one contender to the WWE Championship . At The Great American Bash , Lashley faced John Cena for the WWE Championship in the main event . Cena retained the title after an FU from the top rope .

On the June 26 episode of ECW on Sci Fi , CM Punk defeated Elijah Burke in a two out of three falls match to become the number one contender to the ECW Championship . At The Great American Bash , Punk faced John Morrison (formerly known as Johnny Nitro) for the ECW Championship . Morrison retained the title after hitting Punk with both of his knees .

On the July 6 episode of SmackDown , Kane was named the number one contender to the World Heavyweight Championship after he appeared as the special guest on Edge 's Cutting Edge segment . Edge held a celebration for himself on the July 13 episode of SmackDown , and was attacked by Kane , who in the process legitimately injured Edge . On the July 20 episode of SmackDown , Edge was forced to vacate the World Heavyweight Championship as a result of his injury . The Great Khali went on to win a 20 @-@ man battle royal to become the new World Heavyweight Champion . At The Great American Bash , Khali defended the title successfully against Kane and Batista in a Triple Threat match .

= = Results = =