

= Backlash ( 2004 ) =

Backlash ( 2004 ) was the sixth annual Backlash professional wrestling pay @-@ per @-@ view event produced by World Wrestling Entertainment ( WWE ) . It was presented by Square Enix 's Drakengard . It took place on April 18 , 2004 at the Rexall Place in Edmonton , Alberta and was a Raw brand @-@ exclusive event . This was the first Backlash event held outside the United States .

The main event was a Triple Threat match for the World Heavyweight Championship involving reigning champion Chris Benoit , Triple H , and Shawn Michaels , which Benoit won after forcing Michaels to submit to the sharpshooter . One of the predominant matches on the card was Randy Orton versus Cactus Jack in a Hardcore match for the WWE Intercontinental Championship . Orton won the match and retained the title after pinning Cactus following an RKO . Another primary match on the undercard was Edge versus Kane , which Edge won by pinfall after executing a spear .

= = Background = =

The main feud heading into Backlash was between Chris Benoit , Triple H , and Shawn Michaels over the World Heavyweight Championship . Chris Benoit won the title one month prior at WrestleMania XX when he defeated Michaels and then @-@ champion Triple H in a Triple Threat match . Benoit won the match by forcing Triple H to submit to the Crippler Crossface . The following night on Raw , Benoit and Michaels defeated Evolution ( Randy Orton , Ric Flair , and Batista ) in a 3 @-@ on @-@ 2 Handicap tag team match . Benoit and Michaels won the match after Benoit forced Batista to submit to the Sharpshooter . On March 22 , Triple H was drafted over to the SmackDown ! brand , and Raw General Manager Eric Bischoff announced that Michaels would receive a World title match against Benoit at Backlash . Four days later on the March 25 episode of SmackDown ! , SmackDown ! General Manager Kurt Angle announced that Triple H had been traded back to Raw in exchange for The Dudley Boyz and Booker T. The next week on Raw , Bischoff made the one @-@ on @-@ one World Heavyweight Championship match between champion Chris Benoit and Shawn Michaels , a Triple Threat match also involving Triple H.

The other main match on the card was a Hardcore match for the WWE Intercontinental Championship between Randy Orton and Cactus Jack . Three months prior at the Royal Rumble , after Mick Foley eliminated Orton from the Royal Rumble match , Orton hit Foley with a steel chair , and the two brawled up the ramp and into the back . In March at WrestleMania XX , Evolution ( Orton , Batista , and Ric Flair ) faced off against The Rock ' n ' Sock Connection ( Foley and The Rock ) in a Handicap match . Evolution won the match when Orton pinned Foley after an RKO . Two weeks later , Foley challenged Orton to a Hardcore match for the WWE Intercontinental Championship at Backlash , which Orton accepted that same night .

Another feud heading into the event was between Chris Jericho and Christian and Trish Stratus . At WrestleMania XX , Christian defeated Jericho . After the match , Stratus , Jericho 's on @-@ screen girlfriend at the time , turned on Jericho and joined Christian . On April 5 , Christian announced that he would be teaming up with Stratus to take on Jericho in a Handicap match at Backlash .

= = Event = =

Before the event went live on pay @-@ per @-@ view , Val Venis defeated Matt Hardy in a match taped for Sunday Night Heat . The first match that aired was between Shelton Benjamin and Ric Flair . After back and forth action between the two , Flair attempted to use brass knuckles on Benjamin , though Benjamin splashed Flair from behind . Benjamin then performed a clothesline on Flair off the top rope to get the pin on Flair . Next was a match between Jonathan Coachman and Tajiri . During the match , Garrison Cade interfered on Coachman 's behalf , allowing Coachman to roll @-@ up on Tajiri for the win .

The third match of the event was Chris Jericho versus Christian and Trish Stratus in a Handicap match . Jericho won the match by pinning Christian after throwing him onto Stratus followed by

executing an enzuigiri kick . The match that followed was for the WWE Women 's Championship between Victoria and Lita . The match was evenly controlled by both Victoria and Lita . The match ended when Victoria pinned Lita with an Inside Cradle . After the match , Molly Holly and Gail Kim attacked both Lita and Victoria .

Next was a Hardcore match between Randy Orton and Cactus Jack for the WWE Intercontinental Championship . One spot in the match saw Cactus lie a barbed wire baseball bat between Orton 's legs and perform a leg drop . Cactus continued to use the bat , as he poured gasoline on it and tried to light it on fire . Raw General Manager Eric Bischoff , however , interrupted and informed Cactus that he would be disqualified and the event would end if he lit the bat on fire . Towards the end of the match , Orton managed to execute an RKO on Cactus onto the barbed wire baseball bat . Orton pinned Cactus afterwards to win the match and retain the WWE Intercontinental Championship .

The sixth match was a tag team match in which The Hurricane and Rosey defeated La Résistance ( Robért Conway and Sylvain Grenier ) . After a back and forth match , Hurricane pinned Conway after an Eye of the Hurricane . The match that followed was between Edge and Kane . The match was controlled by Kane , as he focused on Edge 's injured left hand . Edge , however , reversed attacks from Kane , whom he then attempted to spear . Kane was able to dodge the spear , which in turn caused Edge to spear the referee . Edge used his cast to knock Kane out and followed by performing a spear . Edge pinned Kane afterwards for the win .

The main event was a Triple Threat match for the World Heavyweight Championship between Chris Benoit , Shawn Michaels and Triple H. One spot in the match saw Michaels miss a flying bodypress and saw him crash into the Spanish Announcing team 's table . Another included , Triple H assaulting Michaels with a sledgehammer . The last moments in the match saw Michaels submit to the sharpshooter which was applied by Benoit . As a result of the win , Benoit retained the World title .

= = Aftermath = =

On April 19 on Raw , General Manager Eric Bischoff scheduled a World Heavyweight Championship match between Chris Benoit and Shawn Michaels for the May 3 episode of Raw . On the same night , an impromptu team of Benoit and Edge defeated Evolution ( Ric Flair and Batista ) for the World Tag Team Championship , making Benoit a double champion . Two weeks later on Raw , Benoit retained the World Heavyweight title in a scheduled match against Shawn Michaels , after interference by Triple H. On May 10 , a match between Shelton Benjamin and Triple H , resulted in Michaels attacking Triple H. Michaels actions resulted in a suspension from Eric Bischoff . Prior to Raw that night , Bischoff informed Triple H that he would face Benoit for the World title the following week on Raw . The following week , Benoit defeated Triple H to retain the World Heavyweight Championship . Also that night , a Battle Royal took place , in which the winner would go on to face Benoit at Bad Blood for the World title . During the match , Triple H , one of the participants in the match , was eliminated by Michaels , who was not a participant in the match .

On the May 24 episode of Raw , Bischoff lifted Michaels suspension , after Triple H pleaded that Michaels be reinstated . On the same night , Michaels confronted Bischoff wanting to know if he was scheduled in a match with Triple H at Bad Blood . Bischoff assured Michaels , but Triple H attacked Michaels from behind , after Michaels attacked Triple H outside the arena 's parking lot . Bischoff gave orders to Raw superstars to attack Triple H and Michaels , if seen fighting . The roster tried breaking the fight up , but were unsuccessful in doing so . The result of the fight gave Bischoff the authority to schedule a Hell in a Cell match between Triple H and Michaels at Bad Blood . At Bad Blood , Triple H defeated Michaels by pinfall after executing two Pedigrees .

Following Backlash , Lita and Kane were put in angle , which involved Matt Hardy . It saw Hardy attack Kane to an attempt to prevent Kane from harming Lita . In the following weeks on Raw , Kane began repeatedly assaulting Hardy and attempting to seduce Lita . One incident saw Kane kayfabe kidnap Lita and hold her tied up backstage , where he supposedly asked her a " question . " Later that night , Kane won a number one contenders Battle Royal match , in which he received a title shot at Bad Blood . At Bad Blood , Benoit was successful in defending the World Heavyweight title ,

after he pinned Kane with a roll @-@ up .

During a match between Christian and Chris Jericho , Christian defeated Jericho after interference by Tyson Tomko ; Tomko was revealed to be the " problem solver " for Christian and Trish Stratus . The following weeks on Raw , Tomko assaulted Jericho , until May 10 , when Jericho defeated Christian in a Steel Cage match when he made Christian submit to the Walls of Jericho . As a result of the Steel Cage match , Christian suffered a legitimate back injury . After defeating Randy Orton and Batista in a tag team match , Tomko attacked Jericho , in which he powerbombed Jericho through the announcers table . On the June 7 episode of Raw , Bischoff booked a match at Bad Blood between Tomko and Jericho . At Bad Blood , Jericho pinned Tomko , after an Enzuigiri .

= = Results = =