

= Vengeance (2006) =

Vengeance (2006) was a professional wrestling pay @-@ per @-@ view event produced by World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) , which took place on June 25 , 2006 , at the Charlotte Bobcats Arena in Charlotte , North Carolina . It was the sixth annual Vengeance event . Eight professional wrestling matches were featured on the event 's card . 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 Raw brand : a storyline expansion of the promotion where employees are assigned to a wrestling brand under the WWE banner .

The card featured eight televised matches , including two main events which resulted in Rob Van Dam defeating Edge to retain the WWE Championship and D @-@ Generation X (DX) (Triple H and Shawn Michaels) defeating Spirit Squad (Kenny , Johnny , Mitch , Nicky , and Mikey) in a 5 @-@ on @-@ 2 Handicap match . One bout was featured on the undercard . In which John Cena defeated Sabu in an Extreme lumberjack match , which featured superstars from the Raw and ECW brands at ringside .

Vengeance grossed over \$ 400 @,@ 000 in ticket sales from an attendance of 6 @,@ 800 and received 320 @,@ 000 pay @-@ per @-@ view buys , which helped WWE increase its pay @-@ per @-@ view revenue by \$ 21 @.@ 6 million compared to the previous year . When the event was released on DVD , it reached the number one position on Billboard 's DVD Sales Chart . The professional wrestling section of the Canadian Online Explorer website rated the entire event a 6 @.@ 5 out 10 stars , higher than the 2005 event rating of 6 out 10 .

= = Background = =

The event featured eight professional wrestling matches with different wrestlers involved in pre @-@ existing scripted feuds , plots and storylines . Wrestlers were portrayed as either villains or fan favorites as they followed a series of tension @-@ building events , which culminated in a wrestling match or series of matches . All wrestlers belonged to the Raw brand ? a storyline division in which WWE assigned its employees to a different program , the other two being SmackDown ! and ECW .

The main rivalry heading into Vengeance was between WWE Champion and ECW World Champion Rob Van Dam who defending the WWE Championship against Edge in a singles match . The buildup to the match began on the television premiere of ECW on Sci Fi , in which Van Dam was awarded the ECW World Heavyweight Championship (which later become simply known as ECW World Championship) by Paul Heyman , thus making Van Dam a double champion , by holding both the ECW and WWE Championships . Van Dam 's celebration was then interrupted by Edge and his girlfriend Lita . Edge , who was number one contender for the title , informed Van Dam that they both had a lot in common , referring to them being both Money in the Bank winners and successfully becoming WWE Champions . Edge concluded with giving Van Dam some kind words , in which afterwards he performed a Spear on Van Dam . On the June 19 episode of Raw , in retaliation Van Dam attacked Edge , moments after winning a match against Ric Flair . On June 20 episode of ECW , Rob Van Dam and Kurt Angle defeated Edge and Randy Orton in a tag team match when Van Dam pinned Edge after Five Star Frog Splash .

Another predominant rivalry scripted into Vengeance was between D @-@ Generation X (DX) Triple H and Shawn Michaels versus the Spirit Squad (Kenny , Johnny , Mitch , Nicky , and Mikey) in a 5 @-@ on @-@ 2 Handicap match consisting of one team of wrestlers facing off against a team of wrestlers with numerical superiority such as five against two . The buildup to the match began after Backlash , Raw 's previous pay @-@ per @-@ view event , where The McMahons (Vince and Shane) defeated Michaels and " God " in a tag team match , with help from the Spirit Squad in a no disqualification match , a match where neither wrestler can be disqualified , allowing for weapons and outside interference . Throughout the weeks on Raw , Michaels got revenge on both Vince McMahon and the Spirit Squad , until the May 22 episode of Raw , where the Spirit Squad were scripted to injure Michaels ' left knee . Then , by orders of McMahon , Triple H was to " break Michaels ' skull " , with a sledgehammer . Triple H failed to do what McMahon ordered and instead

attacked the Spirit Squad , thus turning into a fan favorite . Two weeks later , McMahon booked Triple H in a gauntlet match , consisting of two wrestlers beginning the match , and replacing whenever one is eliminated , with the last person standing being named the winner , against the Spirit Squad . In the match , Kenny grabbed a steel chair and inserted the chair on Triple H 's left knee , similar to what the group did to Michaels . Mitch , who was the only member not participating in the match , was thrown out from the backstage curtain by Michaels . Following this , he joined Triple H in the ring as they began to beat down the four members of the group . This saw Michaels and Triple H reform D @-@ Generation X since their teased reunion in 2002 . That same night , McMahon scheduled the Spirit Squad and D @-@ Generation X in a 5 @-@ on @-@ 2 handicap tag team match . On the June 19 episode of Raw , DX marked their return , when the duo humiliated the Spirit Squad as DX dumped green slime onto the group and embarrassed the team afterwards , by beating them .

One of the featured matches was between John Cena versus Sabu in an Extreme lumberjack match , a standard match with the exception that the ring is surrounded by a group of wrestlers not directly involved in it and competed under hardcore rules . On the television debut of ECW on Sci Fi on June 13 , a brawl broke out between Rob Van Dam and Edge . Edge , who stormed through the ECW crowd , was attacked by Cena , who cost Cena the WWE Championship at ECW 's One Night Stand , and written into the storyline , sought revenge against Edge . Following the attack , Cena went to ringside where he knocked ECW Representative Paul Heyman unconscious , after Heyman awarded the pinfall win to Van Dam at One Night Stand . Following the attack , Heyman announced that all ECW superstars would be at Raw the following week . The following week on Raw , Heyman appeared alongside ECW superstar , Balls Mahoney , who was booked to face Cena in a singles match . The match was won by Cena after he made Mahoney submit . After the match , Cena was attacked by ECW superstar Sabu , who in the premiere of ECW on Sci Fi won a 10 @-@ man Extreme Battle Royal , a multi @-@ competitor match type in which wrestlers are eliminated until one is left and declared winner , where the winner would face Cena at Vengeance in a singles match . Sabu assaulted Cena in which he performed a leg drop on Cena , diving onto him and putting Cena through the Raw announcers ' table . The following night on an episode of ECW on Sci Fi , Cena showed up in the ECW locker room , where he challenged Sabu to an Extreme lumberjack match , for which Sabu accepted .

= = Event = =

Before the event went live on pay @-@ per @-@ view , Val Venis defeated Rob Conway in a dark match .

= = Preliminary matches = =

The first televised match was a standard wrestling match between Randy Orton and Kurt Angle . In the early stages both competitors took the advantage over one another . Angle controlled most of the match , as Orton tried to avoid Angle 's assaults . Angle tried to perform a suplex on Orton off the ring apron , but did not perform the move . This was followed by Angle performing a belly to back suplex on Orton on the outside ring floor . Mid @-@ way in the match , Orton attempted to perform an RKO by jumping and grabbing Angle 's head to drive it over his shoulders , but he countered by pushing Orton to the turnbuckle . Orton took the padding off the turnbuckle , leaving it exposed . Following this , Angle began performing a series of belly to back waist lock suplexes on Orton . Angle then applied the ankle lock hold . Orton , however , flipped over and sent Angle face @-@ first into the exposed turnbuckle . As he turned around , Orton performed the RKO , and covered Angle to gain the pinfall victory .

The next match was between Umaga and Eugene . Before the match got underway , Eugene invited Jim Duggan , Doink the Clown , and Kamala down to ringside . Umaga , who stood at 6 feet 4 inches (1 @. @ 93 m) and weighed 350 pounds (160 kg) , used his body size to his advantage as he squashed , or easily and quickly performed moves on , Eugene . The match concluded with

Umaga performing the Samoan Spike , a high speed thumb thrust to the throat of Eugene . Umaga pinned Eugene to win the match . After the match , Umaga attacked Jim Duggan and Doink the Clown .

The next match that followed was a Two out of three falls match , a match where not one , but two , decisions have to be won by a wrestler before the match is officially over , between Mick Foley and Ric Flair . Foley gained the advantage after he bended Flair forward and hooked each arm behind Flair 's back , tucked his head under one of Foley 's arms , and then fell back to pull Flair down flat on his face . Foley then began to taunt Flair and took out Mr. Socko , a dirty sock puppet , dressed like Flair . Foley controlled most of the match , until he attempted to apply the figure four leglock , a signature move of Flair 's , but Flair countered it with an inside cradle over Foley to win the first fall . The second match began , frustrated in losing the first match , Foley grabbed a trash can from under the ring and brought it to the ring to hit Flair with it . But , Flair avoided being hit , as he tripped Foley to apply the figure four leglock . The result of the match , saw Foley get disqualified when he hit Flair with the trash can . The referee awarded the win to Flair . After the match , Foley attacked Flair with a barb @-@ wired bat , leaving Flair busted open .

The fourth match was a standard match involving three wrestlers , termed as a Triple Threat match , for the WWE Intercontinental Championship , in which champion Shelton Benjamin defended the title against Carlito and Johnny Nitro . The match began with Carlito performing a springboard moonsault from the ring apron hitting both Nitro and Benjamin in the process . A spot in the match saw Carlito set up Nitro in a Tree of Woe , a move in which a wrestler suspends his opponent upside down on a turnbuckle , with the opponent 's back being up against it , Carlito stood on the turnbuckle , in which Benjamin followed by jumping up with Carlito . Nitro lifted Benjamin on his shoulders and threw him down , while Benjamin dropped Carlito , making both men hit the mat . Later in the match , Carlito performed a backcracker on Benjamin . Nitro , who was thrown out of the ring , returned and removed Carlito from making the cover on Benjamin . He instead covered Benjamin for the pinfall victory , thus becoming the new Intercontinental champion .

= = = Main event matches = = =

The first main match was for the WWE Championship , in which champion Rob Van Dam defended the title against Edge accompanied with Lita . In the beginning of the match , Edge performed a sunset flip powerbomb on Van Dam outside the ring . Van Dam , however , managed to execute a crossbody on Edge inside the ring , resulting in the two landing on the outside of the ring floor . Both men took the upper hand in the match , until Van Dam was scripted to knock the referee unconscious . Edge took advantage , as Lita gave him the title . Edge tried to hit Van Dam with the title , but Van Dam dodged the hit as he performed a spinning kick on the title , resulting in hitting Edge 's face . Edge , however , got the advantage as he attempted to perform a shoulder block takedown on Van Dam , while Lita propped a chair on a ring corner . Edge went for the shoulder block takedown , but Van Dam moved out of the way , resulting in Edge to crash head @-@ first onto the chair . Capitalizing on the situation , Van Dam then performed a body splash from the top turnbuckle on Edge , which he followed with a cover and a pinfall , thus retaining the WWE Championship .

The sixth match was a singles match between Kane versus Impostor Kane . The match began with Impostor Kane executing a sidewalk slam on Kane , a move in which a wrestler stands side @-@ to @-@ side and slightly behind with the opponent , and reaches around the opponent 's torso with his near arm across the opponent 's chest and under both arms and places the other arm under the victim 's legs . The Impostor tried to grab and lift Kane by the throat and slam him down into the mat , termed as a chokeslam , but Kane countered with driving Impostor Kane 's head onto the wrestling mat . The match concluded with Impostor Kane performing a chokeslam on Kane and pinning him for the pinfall victory .

The seventh match was the Extreme lumberjack match between Sabu and John Cena . Before the match began , the ECW and Raw superstars made their way to ringside to take their place as lumberjacks . The match quickly began with Cena throwing Sabu out of the ring onto the Raw

lumberjacks , in which they assaulted Sabu and threw him back in the ring . Sabu would later get the upper hand and throw Cena out onto the ECW lumberjacks , at ringside . Throughout the match , Sabu took the advantage over Cena as he performed a somersault leg drop , driving a steel chair onto Cena 's face . Cena got the upper hand when he was able to counter a flying crossbody attempt by Sabu . Mid @-@ way in the match , the ECW and Raw lumberjacks started brawling at ringside . At ringside , the ECW lumberjacks began their assault on Cena , after he was hit with a steel chair by Sabu . They laid his head on a table , in which Sabu attempted to perform a high @-@ flying maneuver . The Raw superstars , however , gave Cena the upper hand to hit Sabu with a kendo stick in mid @-@ air . Back in the ring , Cena lifted Sabu over his shoulders and threw him down on a table that was at ringside to execute the FU . Following this , Sabu was thrown back into the ring where Cena applied the STFU , a move in which the wrestler wraps his arm around the neck of the opponent in a sleeper hold instead of pulling back on the head of the opponent , in which Sabu submitted to and giving Cena the win .

The last match on the card was the five @-@ on @-@ two handicap match between D @-@ Generation X (DX) versus the Spirit Squad . During the beginning of the match , Michaels quickly took control of Mitch , before tagging in Triple H. Johnny was tagged in the match , after encouragement from his team , to face off against Triple H. The match was then controlled by the Spirit Squad , after Johnny performed an enzuigiri on Michaels . Nicky , who was tagged in , distracted the referee , allowing the other squad members to pull Michaels out of the ring and hit Michaels with a steel chair . Back in the ring , the assault continued , as each member took the upper hand over him . Michaels came back after countering a double team maneuver and drove both Nicky and Mikey 's heads to the mat . Michaels then tagged Triple H into the match . The match concluded with Triple H performing a Pedigree and Michaels performed Sweet Chin Music . Both Triple H and Michaels got the pinfall victory respectively over the Spirit Squad . After the match , the three remaining members tried to attack DX , but were unsuccessful in doing so .

= = Aftermath = =

On the July 3 episode of Raw , a triple threat match was booked between Rob Van Dam , Edge , and John Cena for the WWE title , after Van Dam made the stipulation . Edge , as part of scripted events , defeated both Van Dam and Cena to become the new WWE champion , after pinning Van Dam . The following night on ECW on Sci Fi , Van Dam lost the ECW title to The Big Show , after the Big Show received assistance from Paul Heyman , who declined to make the three @-@ count for Van Dam , but instead gave the pinfall to the Big Show . Later on WWE 's official website , it was announced that Heyman suspended Van Dam for 30 days without giving a reason . This angle was written after WWE suspended Van Dam for his recent drug possession arrest .

The following month at Saturday Night 's Main Event , a title match was scheduled between Edge and Cena . Cena won the match by disqualification , after Lita interfered on behalf of Edge . A singles match was booked between Edge and Cena for the WWE title at Summerslam , with the stipulation that if Edge disqualified himself , he would have lost the WWE title . At SummerSlam , Edge retained the title after he hit Cena with a pair of brass knuckles , this occurred when the referee was not looking .

In a July episode of Saturday Night 's Main Event , DX defeated the Spirit Squad in a 5 @-@ on @-@ 2 Elimination match . The McMahons (Vince and Shane) continued their feud with DX , as they became frustrated with DX 's antics . McMahon scheduled a tag team match , where he would team up with Shane to take on DX at SummerSlam in August . Before the match got underway at SummerSlam , the Spirit Squad , Mr. Kennedy , William Regal , Finlay , and The Big Show all interfered on behalf of the McMahons . DX , however , won the match .

= = = Reception = = =

The Charlotte Bobcats Arena usually can accommodate 20 @,@ 000 , but the capacity was reduced for the event . This event grossed over \$ 400 @,@ 000 from an approximate attendance of

6 @, @ 800 ? the maximum allowed . It also received 320 @, @ 000 pay @-@ per @-@ view buys . Vengeance helped WWE earn \$ 21 @. @ 6 million in revenue from pay @-@ per @-@ view events versus \$ 19 @. @ 9 million the previous year , which was later confirmed by Linda McMahon , the CEO of WWE , on August 31 , 2006 in a quarterly result . The event received positive reviews . Canadian Online Explorer 's professional wrestling section rated the event 6 @. @ 5 out of 10 . The rating was higher than the Vengeance 2005 event which was rated 6 out 10 . The WWE title , Intercontinental title , and 5 @-@ on @-@ 2 handicap match were all rated an 8 out of 10 . Additionally , the singles match between Kane and Impostor Kane was rated a 3 out 10 .

The event was released on DVD on July 25 , 2006 . The DVD was distributed by the label Sony Music Entertainment . The DVD ranked number one on Billboard 's DVD Sales Chart for recreational sports during the week of August 19 , 2006 , although falling thereafter . It remained in the chart for three months , until the week of November 4 , 2006 , when it ranked 17th .

= = Results = =