

= Backlash (2007) =

Backlash (2007) was a professional wrestling pay @-@ per @-@ view event produced by World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) , which took place on April 29 , 2007 , at the Philips Arena in Atlanta , Georgia . Following WrestleMania , all pay @-@ per @-@ views became tri @-@ branded . It was the ninth annual event under the Backlash name and starred talent from Raw , SmackDown ! , and ECW .

The main match on the Raw brand was a Fatal Four @-@ Way match for the WWE Championship involving champion John Cena , Randy Orton , Edge , and Shawn Michaels . Cena won the match and retained the championship after pinning Orton . The primary match on the SmackDown ! brand was a Last Man Standing match for the World Heavyweight Championship between The Undertaker and Batista , which ended in a no @-@ contest after both men failed get to their feet before the referee counted to ten . The featured match on the ECW brand was Bobby Lashley versus Team McMahon (Umaga , Vince and Shane McMahon) in a Handicap match for the ECW World Championship . Vince won the title and the match for his team after pinning Lashley .

= = Background = =

The main event scripted into Backlash on the Raw brand was a Fatal Four Way match for the WWE Championship , a standard match involving four wrestlers between John Cena , Edge , Shawn Michaels and Randy Orton . At the Royal Rumble in January , Michaels was one of the final two participants in the Royal Rumble match , a multi @-@ competitor match type in which wrestlers are eliminated until one is left and declared winner before being eliminated by The Undertaker . On the February 5 , 2007 episode of Raw , Michaels earned the right to become the number @-@ one contender to the WWE Championship at WrestleMania after defeating Edge and Orton in a Triple Threat match , a standard match involving three wrestlers . At WrestleMania , Cena defeated Michaels to retain the WWE Championship , after wrapping his arm around the neck of Michaels in a sleeper hold , a submission referred to as an STFU . On the April 9 episode of Raw , a standard match between Michaels and Orton to determine the number @-@ one contender to the WWE Championship ended in a no contest , after both men 's shoulders were on the mat while they were pinning one another . Later that night , during Edge 's talk show , " The Cutting Edge " , Edge claimed that General Manager Jonathan Coachman , a portrayed match maker and rules enforcer had named him the number @-@ one contender to the WWE title . Honorary General Manager Michael Pena , from the Make @-@ a @-@ Wish Foundation , however , announced that Michaels , Orton , and Edge would face Cena for the title at Backlash in a Fatal Four @-@ Way match , a standard match involving four wrestlers .

Another rivalry leading up to the event was between The Undertaker and Batista over the World Heavyweight Championship . At the Royal Rumble in January , The Undertaker won the 2007 Royal Rumble match . As a result , he was given the right to a title match at WrestleMania for any of WWE 's three major championships (ECW World , World Heavyweight , or WWE) . On the February 5 episode of Raw , Undertaker teased all three World Champions (Bobby Lashley , Batista , and John Cena) . Undertaker then chose World Heavyweight Champion Batista as his opponent to face at WrestleMania 23 . At WrestleMania , The Undertaker defeated Batista to win the World Heavyweight Championship to extend his WrestleMania undefeated streak to 15 @-@ 0 . Their rivalry , however , did not end , as General Manager Theodore Long booked a Last Man Standing match ? a match where the first person unable to respond to a ten count by the referee lost ? between The Undertaker and Batista at Backlash .

The main rivalry on the ECW brand was between Bobby Lashley and Team McMahon (Umaga , Vince and Shane McMahon) , in which Lashley and Vince were feuding over the ECW World Championship . The rivalry started on the February 26 episode of Raw , when Lashley was selected by Donald Trump to compete at WrestleMania 23 . Lashley was selected to compete against Vince 's representative , Umaga , in Hair vs. Hair match , a match in which the loser or the loser 's representative would have to get his head shaved bald . At WrestleMania , Lashley defeated Umaga

, and after the match , Trump and Lashley shaved Vince 's head bald . On the April 9 episode of Raw , Shane challenged Lashley to a Hair vs. Title match for the ECW World Championship . Shane got himself intentionally disqualified , but did not get his head shaved . After the match , Umaga and Vince and Shane attacked Lashley . After the beating , Vince announced that Lashley would have to defend the ECW World Championship against Team McMahon at Backlash in a three @-@ on @-@ one Handicap match , a match consisting of one team of wrestlers facing off against a team of wrestlers with numerical superiority such as three against two , or three against one .

= = Event = =

= = = Preliminary matches = = =

Before the event aired live on pay @-@ per @-@ view , Carlito defeated Johnny Nitro in a dark match . The first match of the event was The Hardys (Matt and Jeff) versus Lance Cade and Trevor Murdoch for the World Tag Team Championship . Cade and Murdoch controlled a majority of the match ; however , The Hardys won the bout when Matt pinned Murdoch after a Twist Of Fate , which was followed by Jeff Hardy 's Swanton Bomb .

The match that followed was Melina versus Mickie James for the WWE Women 's Championship . The match was short lived , as Melina performed an Inverted DDT upon Mickie James and pinned her to retain the WWE Women 's Championship . The third match was between Chris Benoit and Montel Vontavious Porter for the WWE United States Championship . Benoit and MVP struggled throughout the match , attempting to gain the upper hand . In the end , Benoit pinned MVP after a series of counters from both superstars , culminating in a small package to win the match and retain the WWE United States Championship .

= = = Main event matches = = =

The three @-@ on @-@ one Handicap ECW World Championship match between champion Bobby Lashley and Team McMahon (Umaga , Vince and Shane McMahon) was next . Near the end of the match , Shane hit Lashley with the title belt , which was followed by Umaga landing a top rope splash to Lashley . Umaga then tagged in Vince , who attempted to pin Lashley . Lashley , however , kicked out . Vince then tagged in Umaga , who once again executed a diving splash on Lashley . After being tagged in again , Vince pinned Lashley to win the ECW World Championship and the match for his team .

The following match was a Last Man Standing Match for the World Heavyweight Championship between The Undertaker and Batista . One spot in the match saw Undertaker perform a leg drop on Batista and through an announce table . Towards the end of the match , the two fought up the entrance ramp , where Batista gave a spear to The Undertaker off the stage . Neither man was able to get to their feet before the referee counted to ten ; as a result , the match was declared a draw . Due to WWE regulations , a title can not change hands in a Last Man Standing match via a draw , so The Undertaker retained his title .

Next was the main event , which saw John Cena defend the WWE Championship against Edge , Randy Orton , and Shawn Michaels in a Fatal Four @-@ Way match . During the opening minutes of the match , Michaels performed a moonsault from the top turnbuckle onto Cena , Edge , and Orton outside the ring . Near the end of the match , Orton attempted to RKO Cena . Cena , however , pushed Orton into Edge , which made Edge execute a Spear to Orton . Cena then performed an FU to Edge . When Cena turned around , Michaels superkicked Cena . When Cena fell , he landed on Orton and the referee counted the pinfall . Cena won the match and retained the WWE Championship .

= = Aftermath = =

Lance Cade and Trevor Murdoch continued their rivalry with The Hardys until the two teams had a rematch at Judgment Day for the World Tag Team Championship , which The Hardys won . Chris Benoit and Montel Vontavious Porter also continued their rivalry for the WWE United States Championship , which led to a best 2 out of 3 falls match at Judgment Day , which Porter won .

On the May 11 episode of SmackDown ! , The Undertaker defended the World Heavyweight Championship against Batista in a Steel cage match , a match fought within a cage formed by placing four sheets of mesh metal around , in , or against the edges of a wrestling ring . Both men escaped the steel cage at the same time , and The Undertaker was therefore declared still the champion . After the match , Mark Henry returned and attacked The Undertaker . Edge , who was scripted to beat Mr. Kennedy on the May 7 episode of Raw to win the Money in the Bank contract , cashed in his opportunity and defeated The Undertaker to win the World Heavyweight Championship .

Team McMahon 's feud with Bobby Lashley continued as Mr. McMahon gave Lashley a rematch at Judgment Day , which was another three @-@ on @-@ one Handicap match for the ECW World Championship . At Judgment Day , Lashley won the match , but Vince said that Lashley had not beaten him , as Lashley had pinned Shane instead , so Lashley was not awarded the belt . The rivalry continued until One Night Stand , where Lashley challenged Vince to a match where there is no disqualifications or countouts , dubbed a Street Fight . Lashley won the match and the ECW World Championship , and their rivalry ended .

= = Results = =