

= Night of Champions ( 2008 ) =

Night of Champions ( 2008 ) was a professional wrestling pay @-@ per @-@ view event produced by World Wrestling Entertainment ( WWE ) and presented by P & G 's Gillette Fusion Power , which took place on June 29 , 2008 , at the American Airlines Center in Dallas , Texas . It was the first annual event to be promoted solely under the Night of Champions name and the eighth annual event under the Vengeance / Night of Champions chronology . It starred wrestlers from the Raw , SmackDown , and ECW brands . Like the previous year before , every match on the card was contested for a championship ; three were won and five were retained .

The main event was an interpromotional match for the WWE Championship between SmackDown representative , Triple H , and Raw representative , John Cena ; Triple H won the match and retained the championship . The main match was also an interpromotional match for the World Heavyweight Championship between SmackDown representative , Edge , and Raw representative , Batista , which Edge won to retain the championship . The main match from the ECW brand was an interpromotional standard match involving three wrestlers for the ECW Championship , in which ECW representative , Mark Henry , defeated the champion and Raw representative , Kane , and SmackDown representative , The Big Show .

Night of Champions received 273 @,@ 000 pay @-@ per @-@ view buys , and was instrumental in helping WWE increase its pay @-@ per @-@ view revenue by \$ 21 @.@ 9 million compared to the previous year . The professional wrestling section of the Canadian Online Explorer website rated the entire event a 7 out of 10 stars , higher and lower than the 2007 event 's ratings of 5 and 7 @.@ 5 out of 10 ( there were two ratings because two different writers reviewed the show ) .

= = Background = =

The event featured eight professional wrestling matches , performances with pre @-@ determined outcomes between wrestlers with fictional personalities that are portrayed as real , 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 creative staff . The event starred wrestlers from the Raw , SmackDown and ECW brands ? storyline expansions of the promotion where employees are assigned to wrestling brands under the WWE banner . Wrestlers portrayed either a villainous or fan favorite gimmick , as they followed a series of events which generally built tension , leading to a wrestling match .

The main event scripted into Night of Champions on the Raw brand was between Triple H and John Cena over the WWE Championship . At the Royal Rumble , Cena won the Royal Rumble match , a multi @-@ competitor match type in which wrestlers are eliminated until one is left and declared winner , where he earned the right to challenge for the WWE Championship at WrestleMania XXIV . The next night on Raw , Cena stated that he did not want to wait until WrestleMania for a title match , and decided that he wanted to face then champion Randy Orton for the title on that same episode . Orton declined to defend the title on Raw , but proposed to Cena that they could meet at WWE 's next pay @-@ per @-@ view event , No Way Out , in a title match , to which Cena agreed . At the event , Cena defeated Orton by disqualification , but did not win the title because a title can only change hands via pinfall or submission . That same night , Triple H won an Elimination Chamber match , where the ring is surrounded by a steel structure of chain and girders , to earn a title shot at WrestleMania . The night after No Way Out , Cena demanded that he receive a title rematch , following his match with Orton , but Raw General Manager William Regal , a portrayed match maker and rules enforcer , announced that Cena and Orton would be facing each other in a non @-@ title match , with Triple H as the special guest referee , in the main event later that night , with the stipulation that if Cena won , he would join the title match at WrestleMania , making it a standard match involving three wrestlers . Cena won the match , making him part of the main event at WrestleMania . At WrestleMania , Orton defeated Triple H and Cena to retain the title , after pinning Cena . At Backlash , Orton defended the title once again against Cena and Triple H , this time in a Fatal Four @-@ Way Elimination match which also included John " Bradshaw " Layfield . Triple H

won the match after eliminating Orton last to win the title . On the June 2 episode of Raw , Cena faced Jeff Hardy , with the stipulation being that if Cena or Hardy won they would earn a title shot against Triple H at Night of Champions . Cena won the match to challenge Triple H for the title at Night of Champions . Three weeks later , during the fifth annual WWE Draft , a mock sports draft lottery in which wrestlers switched programs , Triple H was drafted to the SmackDown brand . On the June 27 episode of SmackDown , it was revealed that Triple H would still defend the title against Cena .

The main feud on the SmackDown brand was between Edge and Batista over the World Heavyweight Championship . On the June 6 episode of SmackDown , Batista , Funaki , Nunzio , and Colin Delaney defeated Edge , Chavo Guerrero , Curt Hawkins and Zack Ryder in an eight @-@ man tag team match . A stipulation was placed in the match that if Batista 's team won the tag team match , Batista earned a World title match against Edge at Night of Champions . The following week , SmackDown General Manager Vickie Guerrero added a predicament to Batista 's title shot , stating that in order for the title match to occur at Night of Champions , Batista would have to defeat The Great Khali to finalize his title shot . Batista defeated the Great Khali and retained his title shot . On the June 23 episode of Raw , Batista was drafted to the Raw brand as a part of the 2008 WWE Draft . That same night , WWE Chairman Vince McMahon informed Edge that even though Batista was drafted , Edge would still defend the title no matter what the outcome was .

The other predominant title match on the ECW brand was between ECW Champion Kane defending the title against The Big Show and Mark Henry in a standard match involving three wrestlers . At One Night Stand , WWE 's previous pay @-@ per @-@ view event , The Big Show won a five @-@ man Singapore Cane match including CM Punk , Chavo Guerrero , Tommy Dreamer , and John Morrison to earn a title shot against Kane at Night of Champions . On the June 23 episode of Raw , Kane was drafted to the Raw brand , making the ECW title exclusive to the Raw program . During the supplemental draft , Mark Henry was drafted to the ECW brand . It was announced on WWE 's official website that Henry would be added to the title match , making it a Triple Threat match .

Each of the three top title feuds were affected by the 2008 WWE Draft and an additional Supplemental Draft held two days later on WWE 's official website . As a result , each of the world title matches became interpromotional matches between the Raw , SmackDown , and ECW brands with the winner of each match determining the championships for each brand .

= = Event = =

Before the event went live on pay @-@ per @-@ view , Jeff Hardy defeated Montel Vontavious Porter ( MVP ) in a dark match after performing a Swanton bomb .

= = = Preliminary matches = = =

The first televised match was a tag team match for the WWE Tag Team Championship , in which the champions , John Morrison and The Miz defended the title against Finlay and Hornswoggle . The match began with Finlay in the ring as he crotched Morrison on the ring apron . Back in the ring , Morrison performed a dropkick on Finlay . Throughout the match , the Miz and Morrison were in control . Hornswoggle was tagged in the match , which led to him to hit a hurricanrana , stunner and run up from behind the Miz , grabbed his head with one hand and leaped forward to drive Miz 's face into the mat . Back and forth action took place between both teams . The match concluded with Finlay performing the Celtic Cross on Morrison , but the Miz knocked Finlay out of the ring , before he could pin Morrison . Morrison then gained consciousness . He then pushed Hornswoggle off the top ropes and slammed him into the ring mat to gain the win and retain the tag title .

The next match was for the WWE United States Championship , in which Matt Hardy defended the title against Chavo Guerrero accompanied with Bam Neely . Guerrero dominated most of the match and worked on Hardy 's left knee . Neely , who was at ringside , did as well , as he grabbed Hardy 's leg around the ring post at ringside , while Guerrero distracted the referee . Guerrero tried to perform

a Frog splash from the top turnbuckle , but backfired when Hardy moved out of the way . The match ended as Hardy avoided a vertical suplex , dubbed as the Three Amigos . Hardy grabbed Guerrero 's head in a forward position and forcefully pulling it down over his shoulders , which he followed with a cover and a pinfall , thus retaining the WWE United States Championship .

The third match was a Triple Threat match for the ECW Championship , in which Kane defended the title against The Big Show and Mark Henry . The match began with The Big Show and Kane double teaming Henry and focusing on one another . The Big Show tossed Kane over the top rope . That incident saw Trainers and Emergency medical technicians ( EMTs ) attend to Kane at ringside . In the ring , the Big Show was able to get the upper hand over Henry . Kane returned to the match , which saw him perform a flying clothesline on Henry and hit an uppercut on the Big Show . That proceeded with Kane going back and forth splashing Henry and Big Show in the corner before being caught in a bear hug hold by Henry . Kane managed to get out of the hold , which led to both Kane and the Big Show to grab and lift Henry by the throat and slam him down into the mat . Afterwards , Kane performed a superplex on the Big Show off the top rope , but Henry performed a splash . Henry covered Kane for the pinfall victory and thus becoming the new ECW champion .

The match that followed was for the World Tag Team Championship , in which champions Hardcore Holly and Cody Rhodes defended the title against Ted DiBiase and a mystery partner . Before the match got underway , DiBiase grabbed the microphone and said his partner had text messaged him saying that he was running late . DiBiase said he would take Holly and Rhodes in a two @-@ on @-@ one match . The bell rang and the match began with Rhodes and DiBiase in the ring . DiBiase , however , said that he wanted to face Holly in the match . Holly came into the match , but was immediately attacked by Rhodes . This incident saw Rhodes betray Holly and becoming a villain in the process . DiBiase took the microphone and introduced Rhodes as his tag team partner . The match came to an end when DiBiase placed Holly in a cobra clutch hold , a move DiBiase calls the Million Dollar Dream , slamming his head to the mat . DiBiase covered Holly to get the win and thus become World Tag Team champion with Rhodes .

The next match was for the WWE Intercontinental Championship , in which Chris Jericho defended the title against Kofi Kingston . In the beginning of the match , Kingston gained the upper hand over Jericho , as he performed a body @-@ block . Kingston followed this by leaping onto Jericho on the top ring corner . Though , Jericho shoved him to the ring floor . Back in the ring , Jericho followed his assaults by applying an abdominal stretch submission hold , but Kingston escaped the hold . Back and forth action took place between both competitors . Jericho got Kingston in the Walls of Jericho , a submission hold that typically starts with the opponent laying supine on the mat , with the wrestler standing and facing them . As Jericho had the hold locked on , Shawn Michaels ran through the crowd and performed Sweet Chin Music on Lance Cade , who was at ringside . As Jericho witnessed the events , he released the submission hold and tackled Michaels off the ring apron . Kingston took the advantage as he performed a jump kick , a move Kingston calls Trouble in Paradise , pinned Jericho to become the new Intercontinental Champion .

The sixth match was a singles match , in which WWE Women 's Champion Mickie James defended the title against Katie Lea Burchill accompanied with Paul Burchill . The beginning of the match saw back and forth action between both females . Lea controlled the match , after she threw James shoulder @-@ first into the middle turnbuckle and worked on James ' shoulder . Throughout the match , James began to take the advantage over Lea , but was not in successful in doing so . The match concluded when James performed the Mickie DT on Lea , thus winning the match and retaining her title .

= = = Main event matches = = =

The main match was a singles match , in which World Heavyweight Champion Edge defended the title against Batista . For the duration of the match , Batista , who stood at 6 feet 6 inches ( 1 @. @ 98 m ) and weighed 290 pounds ( 130 kg ) , used his body size to his advantage as he squashed , or easily and quickly performed moves on , Edge . Batista grabbed Edge and performed a sidewalk slam , after he threw Edge to the ring corner . The match saw back and forth action between both

Edge and Batista . Edge tried to perform a shoulder block takedown on Batista , but Batista charged towards Edge and hit him in the head . Mid @-@ way through the match , Edge 's associates , Curt Hawkins and Zack Ryder , wheeled General Manager Vickie Guerrero to ringside to witness the match . Edge went for another shoulder takedown , but Batista managed to move out of the way , which saw Edge crash towards the ringpost and Batista performed a sitout powerbomb , a move Batista calls the Batista Bomb . Batista covered Edge , as the referee went for the three count , he was removed from the ring by Vickie . The referee began the 10 count on Edge , who left the ring , but Edge hit the official . Vickie proceeded to call in a new referee to the match ; Chavo Guerrero came out as the new referee . Following the events , Batista lifted Vickie to the ring and threw her directly onto Hawkins , Ryder , and Guerrero , who were at ringside . Edge took advantage of the situation as he hit Batista in the face with the World title belt . Guerrero entered the ring and gave Edge the victory in the match .

The main event was the WWE Championship match , in which Triple H defended the title against John Cena . During the beginning of the match , Triple H and Cena began to outperform one another . Triple H , however , gained the advantage , as he lifted his knee and hit Cena in the face , followed by a facebuster knee smash . Cena took control after he jumped from the top turnbuckle and dropped his leg across the back of Triple H 's head . Cena proceeded by trying to perform a fist drop with theatrics , but Triple H countered as he was able to perform a spinebuster . Triple H regained control in the match , until Cena picked Triple H up and threw him over the top rope , where Triple H landed awkwardly on his left knee . Cena went to the outside and began to work on Triple H 's knee , putting it into the ring post twice . Back in the ring , Cena took the upper hand as he hit a chop block , a shoulder block that targets the back of an opponent 's knee , on Triple H 's knee . Another moment in the match saw Cena apply the STFU on Triple H , 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 , but Triple H escaped the submission hold . Cena tried to lift Triple H onto his shoulder , but Triple H countered as he tucked Cena 's head between his knees and jumped up to slam his head to the mat , a move that Triple H calls the Pedigree . Triple H was not able to cover Cena , as he clutched on to his left knee . Both men were down . Triple H and Cena stood to their feet , leading to Cena to lift Triple H over his shoulders and throwing him down to execute the FU , only to receive a near @-@ fall . The match concluded with Triple H hitting Cena in the midsection , allowing him to execute the Pedigree on Cena . Triple H got the pinfall victory and thus retained his title .

= = Aftermath = =

Following Night of Champions , the Raw brand did not have a top @-@ tier championship belt , as Triple H was drafted to the SmackDown brand and took the WWE title to the program . On the June 30 episode of Raw , Edge made an appearance , causing Batista to show up and beat him down . Shortly afterwards , Edge lost the World Heavyweight title to CM Punk , after Punk cashed in his Money in the Bank contract , making the World title exclusive to the Raw brand , once more . Punk would lose the title at Unforgiven , after he was unable to compete in the title match at the event , following an attack backstage by Randy Orton . The match was won by Chris Jericho , who was named as his replacement . The ECW Championship was made exclusive to the ECW brand , following Mark Henry 's win at the event . Henry , however , lost the title to Matt Hardy at Unforgiven in September . Triple H dropped the WWE title at Survivor Series .

At The Great American Bash , WWE 's following pay @-@ per @-@ view event , John Morrison and The Miz lost the WWE Tag Team titles to Curt Hawkins and Zack Ryder in a Fatal Four @-@ Way match , which also involved the teams of Jesse and Festus and Finlay and Hornswoggle . At the same event , Shelton Benjamin defeated Matt Hardy for the United States Championship and Michelle McCool became the first ever WWE Divas Champion defeating Natalya in the process . At SummerSlam , Mickie James and Kofi Kingston lost their respective titles in an Intergender tag team match to Beth Phoenix and Santino Marella .

### === Reception ===

The American Airlines Center usually can accommodate 20 @, @ 000 , but the capacity was reduced for the event . This event received 273 @, @ 000 pay @-@ per @-@ view buys . Night of Champions helped WWE earn \$ 39 @. @ 8 million in revenue from pay @-@ per @-@ view events versus \$ 17 @. @ 9 million the previous year , which was later confirmed by Linda McMahon , the CEO of WWE , on August 5 , 2008 in a quarterly result . Canadian Online Explorer 's professional wrestling section rated the event seven out of 10 . The rating was higher and lower than the 2007 Vengeance : Night of Champions event with the rating of 5 and 7 @. @ 5 out of 10 ( there were two ratings because two different writers reviewed the show ) . The WWE title match between Triple H and John Cena was rated an 8 out of 10 . Additionally , the ECW title match between Kane , Mark Henry , and The Big Show was rated a 3 out of 10 .

The event was released on DVD on July 29 , 2008 . The DVD was distributed by the label Sony Music Entertainment .

### == Results ==