

= SummerSlam (2003) =

SummerSlam (2003) was a professional wrestling pay @-@ per @-@ view event produced by World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) and presented by Stacker 2 's YJ Stinger . It took place on August 24 , 2003 , at the America West Arena in Phoenix , Arizona . It was the 16th annual SummerSlam event and starred wrestlers from the Raw and SmackDown ! brands .

Nine professional wrestling matches were set on the event 's supercard , a scheduling of multiple high @-@ level matches . The first main event was an Elimination Chamber match , in which World Heavyweight Champion Triple H defeated Chris Jericho , Goldberg , Kevin Nash , Randy Orton , and Shawn Michaels to retain his championship . In the other main event , defending WWE Champion Kurt Angle defeated Brock Lesnar in a standard wrestling match . The undercard included Kane defeating Rob Van Dam in a No Holds Barred match , and Eddie Guerrero defending his United States Championship against Chris Benoit , Rhyno and Tajiri .

The event marked the second time the Elimination Chamber format was used by WWE ; the first was at Survivor Series 2002 . SummerSlam (2003) grossed over \$ 715 @,@ 000 ticket sales from an attendance of 16 @,@ 113 and received about 415 @,@ 000 pay @-@ per @-@ view buys , more than the following year 's event . This event helped WWE increase its pay @-@ per @-@ view revenue by \$ 6 @.@ 2 million from the previous year .

= = Storylines = =

The professional wrestling matches at SummerSlam featured professional wrestlers performing as characters in scripted events pre @-@ determined by the hosting promotion , World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) . Storylines between the characters were produced on WWE 's weekly television shows Raw and SmackDown ! with the Raw and SmackDown ! brands ? storyline divisions in which WWE assigned its employees to different programs .

In the first main event of SummerSlam wrestlers from the Raw brand competed in an Elimination Chamber match , in which the ring is surrounded by a steel structure of chain and girders . The match was contested for the World Heavyweight Championship , in which Triple H defended the title against Chris Jericho , Goldberg , Kevin Nash , Randy Orton , and Shawn Michaels . The buildup to the match began on July 22 , 2003 , when during the SummerSlam press conference , the authority figure Eric Bischoff , announced that Triple H would defend the championship against Goldberg in a standard wrestling match at the event . On August 4 , 2003 during a television episode of Raw , Bischoff changed the stipulations of the match to No disqualification regulations . Later during the episode , another authority figure , Steve Austin , altered Bischoff ? s announcement , stating that the championship would be contested in an Elimination Chamber match , with Triple H defending his title against Goldberg , Chris Jericho , Kevin Nash , Randy Orton , and Shawn Michaels . Six days before SummerSlam , during an episode of Raw on August 18 , 2003 , the rivalry among the six competitors intensified during a promotional interview segment , in which each participant in the Elimination Chamber discussed the match and taunted the other wrestlers . During the show 's main event , in which Orton wrestled Goldberg , Nash interfered in the match and attacked Goldberg . Michaels then came down to the ring , but as he was about to hit Triple H with the World Heavyweight Championship belt , Jericho ran into the ring and hit Michaels with a chair .

The second main event resulted from events on SmackDown ! , WWE 's other main television program . In the match , Kurt Angle defended his WWE Championship against Brock Lesnar . The build @-@ up to the match began on July 31 , 2003 on an episode of SmackDown ! . During an interview promotion in the ring , Lesnar challenged Angle to a rematch of their bout at Vengeance , WWE 's previous pay @-@ per @-@ view event . The WWE Chairman , Vince McMahon , decided that Lesnar would have to earn his rematch by competing in a steel cage match against McMahon himself , and would take place on SmackDown ! the following week , with Angle officiating as a special guest referee . The Steel Cage match resulted in neither wrestler winning the match , after McMahon and Lesnar attacked Angle . On August 14 , 2003 during an episode of SmackDown ! , McMahon announced that Angle would defend the championship against Lesnar at SummerSlam .

In a preliminary match involving wrestlers from the Raw brand , Rob Van Dam wrestled Kane under No disqualification regulations . The events leading up to this match began on the June 23 , 2003 edition of Raw , when Kane took his mask off and exposed his face in front of RVD and the crowd after he lost to Triple H during a World Heavyweight Championship match . Then , on July 7 , 2003 , when Kane attacked Van Dam backstage during an episode of Raw . The following week on an episode of Raw , Eric Bischoff granted Van Dam a standard match against Kane , which took place the following week on Raw and ended in neither wrestler winning the match . On August 4 , 2003 , Shane McMahon , the son of Mr. McMahon , scheduled a No Disqualification match between the two wrestlers for SummerSlam .

In another preliminary match , wrestlers from the SmackDown ! brand competed in a match between four wrestlers for the WWE United States Championship : Eddie Guerrero defended the title against Chris Benoit , Rhyno , and Tajiri . The buildup to the match began with two different rivalries , one between Guerrero and Tajiri , and the other between Benoit and Rhyno . On August 7 , 2003 during an episode of SmackDown ! , Guerrero and Benoit wrestled in a standard match . However , during the match , Rhyno and Tajiri interfered , resulting in neither wrestler winning the match . Sgt. Slaughter , a WWE official , scheduled a tag team match between the team of Guerrero and Benoit and the team of Rhyno and Tajiri , which Guerrero and Benoit won . The following week on an episode of SmackDown ! , a SummerSlam advertisement announced that Guerrero would defend the WWE United States Championship against Benoit , Rhyno , and Tajiri .

= = Event = =

Before the event began and aired live on pay @-@ per @-@ view , an episode of Sunday Night Heat , one of WWE 's secondary television programs , was shown live . The first scheduled match was Matt Hardy versus Zach Gowen . Gowen , however , was unable to participate in the match due to legit injuries he sustained on the August 21 , 2003 episode of SmackDown ! . As a result , Hardy was declared the winner via forfeit . The other scheduled match for Sunday Night Heat was a standard match for the WWE Cruiserweight Championship , in which Rey Mysterio defended the title against Shannon Moore . Mysterio defeated Moore via pinfall to retain the title after he performed a 619 on Moore .

= = = Preliminary matches = = =

After Sunday Night Heat , the pay @-@ per @-@ view event began with a tag team match for the World Tag Team Championship . The champions , La Résistance (René Duprée and Sylvain Grenier) , defended their titles against The Dudley Boyz (Bubba Ray and D @-@ Von) . Throughout the match , both teams performed many offensive maneuvers , though The Dudley Boyz were able to gain the upper hand when they executed a 3D on Duprée . As D @-@ Von covered Duprée , Rob Conway , who was disguised as a cameraman , hit D @-@ Von with a camera while the referee was distracted . Duprée then covered D @-@ Von for a successful pinfall to retain the championship .

The following match pitted The Undertaker against A @-@ Train in a standard match . In the early stages both competitors wrestled inconclusively before The Undertaker gained the advantage . He attempted to lift A @-@ Train Tombstone piledriver . A @-@ Train countered it , in the process knocking the referee down . He attempted to take advantage of the situation by trying to hit The Undertaker with a chair . The Undertaker , however , countered the attack with his boot , causing the chair to hit A @-@ Train in the face . The Undertaker then chokeslam A @-@ Train and , since the referee had recuperated , covered his opponent for the pinfall .

The third contest had Shane McMahon against Eric Bischoff in a standard match . McMahon and Bischoff began by brawling on the arena ramp , as Jonathan Coachman appeared from the backstage area and hit McMahon with a folding chair . Bischoff grabbed a microphone and announced that the match would be contested under no disqualification , falls count anywhere regulations ; as a result , Bischoff could not be disqualified for Coachman 's interference .

Coachman and Bischoff performed double @-@ team attacks on McMahon until Steve Austin interfered by performing a Stone Cold Stunners on Coachman and Bischoff . After Austin 's interference , McMahon positioned Bischoff on the television commentators ' table , performed a Leap of Faith onto Bischoff 's chest , thereby breaking the table and covered Bischoff for the pinfall .

The next match involved four wrestlers from the Smackdown ! brand in a match for the WWE United States Championship ; Eddie Guerrero defended the title against Chris Benoit , Rhyno , and Tajiri . The match began with Guerrero wrestling with Tajiri , while Benoit wrestled with Rhyno . During the encounter Guerrero applied a Lasso From El Paso on Tajiri , while Benoit employed a Crippler Crossface on Rhyno . Afterwards , Tajiri applied a Tarantula on Benoit . The hold distracted the referee , which allowed Guerrero to hit Rhyno with the United States Championship belt . Tajiri then attempted to hit Benoit with a Buzzsaw Kick , but Benoit countered the maneuver by lifting and sitting Tajiri onto his shoulders . Tajiri , however , countered by tossing both himself and Benoit over the top rope onto the arena floor . Capitalizing on the situation , Guerrero then performed a Frog splash on Rhyno , after which he scored the pinfall , thus retaining the WWE United States Championship .

= = = Main event matches = = =

The fifth match was the main event from the SmackDown brand , a standard match for the WWE Championship , in which Kurt Angle defended the title against Brock Lesnar . At the beginning of the match , Lesnar tried to walk away from the ring , but Angle brought him back . There , Angle performed many offensive maneuvers , including DDT and Angle Slam . He then applied an ankle lock on Lesnar . During this tussle , Lesnar countered the hold but knocked down the referee . Angle applied a guillotine choke on Lesnar , which brought Lesnar down onto his knees and allowed Angle to perform another ankle lock . Mr. McMahon , who had accompanied Lesnar to the ring , came into the ring and hit Angle 's back with a folding chair to break the submission hold . Because the referee was incapacitated , Lesnar was not disqualified for the interference . Afterwards , Lesnar twice attempted to lift Angle onto his F @-@ 5 . During the second attempt , however , Angle countered the throw into another ankle lock , which forced Lesnar to submit . As a result , Angle retained the WWE Championship .

In a preliminary match from the Raw brand , Kane faced Rob Van Dam in a No Disqualification match . Both wrestlers used a ladder to their advantage early in the match . After Kane used the ladder on Van Dam , he attempted to hit Van Dam with a flying clothesline . However , Van Dam moved out of the way and Kane landed on the arena barricade . Van Dam performed a variation of a rolling thunder on Kane using a folding chair . Following this , Van Dam attempted to hit Kane with a Van Daminator with a chair , but Kane rolled out of the ring to avoid the attack . Van Dam then attempted an aerial technique from inside the ring towards Kane , but Kane caught Van Dam in mid @-@ air and executed a tombstone piledriver , after which he covered Van Dam for the pinfall .

The main event from the Raw brand was the Elimination Chamber match for the World Heavyweight Championship , in which Triple H defended the title against Chris Jericho , Goldberg , Kevin Nash , Randy Orton , and Shawn Michaels . The match began with Jericho and Michaels in the ring , while Goldberg , Nash , Orton , and Triple H were locked in the chambers . Michaels and Jericho wrestled , with neither of them gaining the advantage over the other . Orton and Nash were the third and fourth entrants into the match , respectively . Nash was the first wrestler eliminated from the match after Michaels executed a superkick and Chris Jericho covered him for a pinfall . Triple H and Goldberg were the fifth and sixth entrants . Michaels performed another superkick on Triple H as soon as he exited his chamber , and as a result , Triple H was knocked back into his chamber . As soon as Goldberg entered the match , he performed a spear for a pinfall to eliminate Orton . Next , Goldberg performed a Jackhammer on Michaels and Jericho , eliminating both via pinfall . This left Goldberg alone with Triple H , who at the time had remained inside the chamber . Goldberg performed a spear on him through the glass of the chamber , in the process pushing him out of the chamber . Ric Flair , who was managing both Triple H and Orton , then handed Triple H a sledgehammer . Goldberg attempted another spear on Triple H , who countered

the maneuver by hitting Goldberg with the sledgehammer and covered him for the pinfall . Triple H therefore retained the World Heavyweight Championship .

= = Aftermath = =

During an episode of Raw after SummerSlam , Goldberg challenged Triple H to another match for the World Heavyweight Championship . This match took place at the Unforgiven pay @-@ per @-@ view on September 21 , 2003 with a stipulation that , should he lose , Goldberg would retire from WWE . Goldberg defeated Triple H to become the new champion . After SummerSlam Kurt Angle focused his attention on The Undertaker , whom he wrestled in a match for the WWE Championship during an episode of SmackDown ! on September 4 , 2003 . During the match , Lesnar attacked both wrestlers with a folding chair , leading to an Iron Man match between Angle and Lesnar . Lesnar won five falls during the match , while Angle won four , and as a result Lesnar won the title .

The rivalry between Kane and Rob Van Dam stopped , as Kane engaged in a feud against Shane McMahon . In a scenario on the August 25 , 2003 episode of Raw , Kane attempted to throw McMahon into a dumpster that was set on fire , but McMahon avoided it and threw Kane into the dumpster . On September 8 , 2003 during an episode of Raw , Eric Bischoff scheduled a Last Man Standing match between Kane and McMahon for Unforgiven . In that match , Kane defeated McMahon after McMahon was unable to respond to a ten count . After SummerSlam , Eddie Guerrero began a rivalry with John Cena over the WWE United States Championship . Guerrero retained the championship in two title defenses that took place on SmackDown ! . Guerrero then engaged in a feud with Big Show . At No Mercy , Big Show defeated Guerrero via pinfall to win the WWE United States Championship .

= = = Reception = = =

The America West Arena has a maximum capacity of 19 @,@ 000 , but that was reduced for SummerSlam 2003 . The event grossed over \$ 715 @,@ 000 in ticket sales from an attendance of 16 @,@ 113 , the maximum allowed . This was later confirmed by Linda McMahon , WWE CEO , in a press release on August 26 , 2003 . The event resulted in 415 @,@ 000 pay @-@ per @-@ view buys (a 0 @.@ 88 pay @-@ per @-@ view buyrate) . The promotion 's pay @-@ per @-@ view revenue was \$ 24 @.@ 7 million .

Canadian Online Explorer 's professional wrestling section rated the entire event a 7 out of 10 stars . The rating was higher than the SummerSlam event in 2004 , which was rated a 5 out of 10 stars . The Elimination Chamber main event match from the Raw brand was rated an 8 @.@ 5 out of 10 stars , with an additional rating of 1 out of 10 stars for the process in which the match ended . The SmackDown ! brand 's main event , a standard match for the WWE Championship , was rated a 9 out of 10 stars , a better reception than the Raw brand 's main event . Wade Keller reviewed the event for the Pro Wrestling Torch . He rated the Angle @-@ Lesnar match 4 @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half out of 5 stars , declaring it an " excellent match " . The Elimination Chamber match received a rating of 3 stars . The event was released on DVD on September 23 , 2003 by Sony Music Entertainment .

= = Results = =

= = = Elimination Chamber entrances and eliminations = = =