

= Judgment Day (2008) =

Judgment Day (2008) was a professional wrestling pay @-@ per @-@ view event produced by World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) and sponsored by Lionsgate 's Rambo , which took place on May 18 , 2008 , at the Qwest Center Omaha in Omaha , Nebraska . It was the tenth annual Judgment Day event and starred wrestlers from the Raw , SmackDown , and ECW brands .

The show 's seven matches showcased prominent WWE wrestlers , who acted out the franchise 's stories in and out of the ring . The main event featured Raw wrestlers in a Steel Cage match , a match in a ring surrounded by four walls of mesh metal . In this match , WWE Champion Triple H defeated Randy Orton to retain his title . In SmackDown 's main match , The Undertaker defeated Edge by countout , but did not win the vacant World Heavyweight Championship because in WWE , a championship cannot change hands via countout or disqualification . While in ECW 's prime match , WWE Tag Team Champions John Morrison and The Miz defeated ECW Champion Kane and CM Punk to retain the titles . From the six scheduled bouts on the undercard , two received less promotion than the others ; these bouts included in two respective singles matches , Shawn Michaels defeating Chris Jericho and John Cena defeating John " Bradshaw " Layfield (JBL) .

Judgment Day received 252 @,@ 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 6 out of 10 , higher than the 2007 event , which was marked " as an average show " .

= = Background = =

Judgment Day provided the culmination of various scripted plots and storylines . A month before the event , several professional wrestling matches and scripted plots were played out on WWE programming (Raw , Friday Night SmackDown ! , and ECW on Sci Fi) to create feuds between various wrestlers , casting them as villains and heroes . Raw , SmackDown , and ECW were also the names of WWE 's televised brands ? a storyline division in which WWE assigned its employees to a specific program , thus each brand promoted distinct matches .

The main event scripted into Judgment Day on the Raw brand featured WWE Champion Triple H defending the title against Randy Orton in a match where the ring was surrounded by walls of steel , dubbed as a Steel cage match . The buildup to the match began after Backlash , WWE 's previous pay @-@ per @-@ view event , where Triple H last eliminated Orton in a Fatal Four @-@ Way Elimination match , also involving John Cena and John " Bradshaw " Layfield (JBL) , to win the WWE Championship . The following night on an episode of Raw , one of WWE 's primary television programs , authority figure William Regal , a portrayed match maker and rules enforcer , stopped a title match between Orton and Triple H , and booked the two in a Steel cage match at Judgment Day for the WWE Championship .

One of the featured preliminary matches on the SmackDown brand was between The Undertaker versus Edge for the vacant World Heavyweight Championship . At Backlash , the Undertaker defeated Edge to retain the title by forcing him to submit to the gogoplata , a chokehold move that causes opponents to spit blood (scripted) from their mouths . On the May 2 episode of SmackDown , authority figure Vickie Guerrero stripped the title from the Undertaker , after claiming the gogoplata was an illegal submission hold and she did it to protect the other wrestlers . The following week , Guerrero booked Undertaker in a match for the vacant title at Judgment Day against Edge , who last eliminated Batista in a battle royal , an elimination style match where the last person in the ring is the winner , to become the number one contender .

Another featured preliminary match involved Shawn Michaels and Chris Jericho in a singles match . At Backlash , Michaels defeated Batista (with Jericho as the special guest referee) in an Interpromotional match . During the match , Michaels countered a Batista Bomb attempt , a powerbomb move in which the wrestler drops into a sitting position as they slam their opponent down to the mat , and appeared to have legitimately injured his left knee . On the April 28 episode of Raw , Jericho claimed that Michaels faked his knee injury to allow him to defeat Batista at Backlash ,

a claim that Michaels denied . The following week , it was announced that Jericho would face Michaels in a singles match at Judgment Day . On the May 12 episode of Raw , Jericho offered his apologies to Michaels for accusing him of feigning an injury , as well as giving Michaels the opportunity to back out of their match . Michaels revealed that he did indeed fake his knee injury . Four days later , on the May 16 episode of SmackDown , Batista commented that he would hurt Michaels , scripted into the storyline , for faking his injury .

One more rivalry from the Raw brand was between John Cena and JBL . In the Fatal Four @-@ Way Elimination match at Backlash , Cena eliminated JBL by making him submit to 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 . On the April 28 episode of Raw , JBL challenged Cena to a singles match at Judgment Day , which was made official on WWE 's website .

The Divas rivalry from the Raw brand was between Mickie James , Beth Phoenix , and Melina over James ' WWE Women 's Championship . It was on the April 14 edition of Raw that James defeated Phoenix to win her fourth Women 's Championship . Phoenix received her title rematch on the May 5 edition of Raw , but she was defeated after Melina accidentally struck Phoenix with her boot . The following week on Raw , Phoenix and Melina were defeated by James and Maria after Phoenix abandoned Melina due to being accidentally knocked off the ring apron by her partner . Melina would turn face after the match due to being attacked by Phoenix in a backstage segment .

= = Event = =

Before Judgment Day aired live on pay @-@ per @-@ view , Hardcore Holly and Cody Rhodes defeated Santino Marella and Carlito in a dark match to retain the World Tag Team Championship .

= = = Preliminary matches = = =

The first televised match was between John Cena and John " Bradshaw " Layfield (JBL) . JBL dominated most of the match , as he began to work on Cena 's surgically @-@ repaired right pectoral muscle . Mid @-@ way in the match , it saw Cena try to lift JBL from the mat into the air for a powerbomb , a move in which an opponent is lifted up and then slammed back @-@ first down to the mat , but Cena collapsed and could not execute the move . JBL controlled most of the match , as Cena tried to avoid JBL 's assaults . JBL also applied numerous submission maneuvers on Cena . JBL performed the Clothesline from Hell on Cena . JBL went for another Clothesline from Hell , Cena avoided the move and lifted JBL onto his shoulders and slammed him down to the mat , a finishing move Cena calls the FU , to get the pinfall victory over JBL .

The next match was for the WWE Tag Team Championship , in which the champions , John Morrison and The Miz , defended the title against Kane and CM Punk . The match began with Kane and Punk in control for the majority of the match . Back and forth action took place between both teams . Punk was tagged in the match , which led to him performing a high knee on Morrison , as well as performing a bulldog . Outside the ring , Kane chokeslammed the Miz , causing Punk to get distracted . Morrison took the advantage as he was able to perform the Moonlight Drive and pin Punk to retain the tag title .

The match that followed was between Shawn Michaels and Chris Jericho . The start of the match saw Michaels and Jericho exchange several near @-@ falls attempts before Michaels applied a modified figure four leglock , which Jericho broke free . Jericho applied 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 , though Michaels grabbed the bottom rope , causing Jericho to break the hold . Jericho attempted to perform the submission move once more , but Michaels caught Jericho and countered it into a straddle pin to take the win . After the match , both men shook hands .

The fourth match was a standard match involving three wrestlers , dubbed as a triple threat match , for the WWE Women 's Championship , in which Mickie James defended the title against Beth Phoenix and Melina . The match began with James attempting a roll @-@ up on Melina for a near @-@ fall , though Phoenix performed a clothesline on James . Mid @-@ way in the match , James

performed a splash , from the top rope , on Phoenix for a near @-@ fall . A spot in the match saw Phoenix try to perform a backbreaker , in which she placed both James and Melina on top of her shoulders , though Phoenix did not execute the move , as Melina managed to break free from the hold and throw Phoenix out of the ring . The match concluded when James performed the Mickie ? DT on Melina , thus winning the match and retaining her title .

= = = Main event matches = = =

The next match was for the vacant World Heavyweight Championship between The Undertaker and Edge . The match went in and out of the ring early on , with both competitors throwing each other out of the ring . The Undertaker instinctively tried to apply the triangle choke hold on Edge , but the referee made him break the hold . Edge then tried to do one of the Undertaker 's moves , Old school , but the Undertaker counter the move . Mid @-@ way in the match , Edge 's associates , Curt Hawkins and Zack Ryder , distracted the Undertaker after performing an Old school on Edge . This distraction led Edge to remove the top turnbuckle padding . Back and forth action was seen between the two individuals . As the top turnbuckle was exposed , the Undertaker threw Edge face first onto the top turnbuckle . As the Undertaker ran off the ropes , Edge caught him with a shoulder block takedown for a close two count . Afterwards , the Undertaker clotheslined Edge to the outside of the ring , then he rolled to the floor to follow . Undertaker took Edge over the guardrail to the front row with a clothesline while the referee began the 10 count . Both men struggled back to the floor before the Undertaker grabbed Edge into the guardrail at the eight count . He then rolled into the ring and beat the 10 count to win the match by countout and the belt .

The sixth match was between Montel Vontavious Porter (MVP) and Jeff Hardy . MVP quickly beat down Hardy and dominated early in the match . Hardy tried to come back with a mule kick from the corner , but MVP moved out of the way , leading Hardy to crash the mat face first . MVP controlled most of the match , until Hardy finally had some offense with a double foot kick in the corner . With the upper hand , Hardy performed a Swanton bomb on MVP , but MVP moved out of the way . MVP tried to perform a running big boot , but Hardy countered into a drop toe hold . The match ended with Hardy winning the match , after performing the Whisper in the Wind , a move performed by executing a backflip from the top turnbuckle , then spinning 180 ° , landing on a fallen opponent back @-@ first .

The main event was the Steel cage match for the WWE Championship , in which Triple H defended the title against Randy Orton . During the beginning of the match , Triple H gained the advantage over Orton , as he lifted his knee and hit Orton in the mouth , thus Orton coming up bleeding from the mouth . Orton came back with a kick to the gut before starting his prolonged attack and bolting for the cage door to be open , but Triple H prevented him from escaping . Triple H took control as he took out Orton 's knee with a chop block , a shoulder block that targets the back of an opponent 's knee , and applied on a figure four leglock . After Orton broke the hold , he crawled across to the cage door to escape , but Triple H grabbed him back inside . But , on the way back in , Orton managed to grab a steel chair that was on the ring floor . Orton tried to hit Triple H with the chair , but Triple H managed to avoid being hit . Triple H grabbed the chair to hit Orton with it , but Orton hit him in the groaning area . Orton followed this with a chair shot to Triple H 's back and performed a DDT , a move in which the wrestler falls down or backwards to drive a held opponent 's head into the mat . Throughout the match , Orton tried escaping from the cage , but was not in successful in doing so , as Triple H dragged him back in each time . The match came to an end when Orton tried to hit a running punt on Triple H 's head , however , Triple H grabbed the chair and hit Orton face first . Triple H followed up by tucking Orton 's head between his knees and jumping up to slam his head to the mat , a move that Triple H calls the Pedigree . Triple H covered Orton for the pinfall victory , and thus retaining his title .

= = Aftermath = =

The next night on Raw , William Regal announced that the episode 's main event would be a tag

team match pitting Triple H and John Cena against Randy Orton and JBL , in which if Orton and JBL were to win , Regal stated that they could choose any kind of extreme singles rematches against Triple H and John Cena at WWE 's next pay @-@ per @-@ view event , " One Night Stand " , and creating the same stipulation that if Triple H and Cena were to win , they would face each other for the WWE Championship in an extreme match of William Regal 's choosing . Orton and JBL won the match . Orton chose a match in which the wrestler who was unable to respond to a ten count by the referee would lose , against Triple H. JBL picked a First Blood match , in which to win a wrestler has to make his opponent bleed , against Cena . At One Night Stand , both men lost in their rematches . During the event , Orton legitimately broke his collarbone in his match with Triple H. The storyline between Shawn Michaels and Batista continued , as Batista defeated Chris Jericho to earn the right to face Michaels in a Stretcher match , a match where the objective is to place the opponent on a stretcher at ringside and move it across a line located on the entrance ramp , at One Night Stand . At the event , Batista defeated Michaels in the match , thus ending their rivalry .

At One Night Stand , The Big Show defeated CM Punk , Chavo Guerrero , Tommy Dreamer and John Morrison in a five @-@ man Singapore Cane match to earn an ECW Championship match against Kane at Night of Champions . During the supplemental draft , a mock sports draft lottery in which wrestlers switched program 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 . At Night of Champions , Henry defeated Kane and Big Show to win the ECW Championship . Henry , however , was booked to lose the title to Matt Hardy at Unforgiven in September .

The Undertaker and Edge continued their feud over the next several weeks . Though , a predicament insured on the May 23 episode of SmackDown , when Vickie Guerrero announced that The Undertaker would face Edge once more for the vacant World Heavyweight Championship in a Tables , Ladders , and Chairs match (TLC) at One Night Stand with the stipulation that if The Undertaker were to lose , he would be forced to leave the WWE . At the June event , Edge defeated The Undertaker with the help of his accomplices , Curt Hawkins and Zack Ryder , in the TLC match to win the vacant World title and The Undertaker was forced to leave the company , written into the storyline . On the July 25 episode of SmackDown , Guerrero reinstated The Undertaker , after learning of Edge 's infidelity with their wedding planner , Guerrero and Edge were in a scripted relationship , and in retaliation she scheduled The Undertaker and Edge in a Hell in a Cell match , a ring surrounded by a steel structure of metal , at SummerSlam . At SummerSlam , The Undertaker defeated Edge .

= = = Reception = = =

The Qwest Center Omaha had a maximum capacity of 17 @,@ 000 , but the capacity was reduced for the event . This event received 252 @,@ 000 pay @-@ per @-@ view buys . Judgment Day 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 6 out of 10 . The rating was higher than the Judgment Day 2007 event , which was marked as an average show that maintained the recent WWE philosophy of wrestling over ridiculousness . The standard match between Shawn Michaels and Chris Jericho was rated an 8 out of 10 . Additionally , the matches of JBL versus John Cena and MVP versus Jeff Hardy were rated 5 out of 10 .

The event was released on DVD on June 17 , 2008 . The DVD was distributed by the label , Sony Music Entertainment .

= = Results = =