

= The Great American Bash (2007) =

The Great American Bash (2007) was the fourth annual Great American Bash professional wrestling pay @-@ per @-@ view event produced by World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) . It was presented by Ziddio and took place on July 22 , 2007 from the HP Pavilion in San Jose , California and featured talent from the Raw , SmackDown ! , and ECW brands .

The main match on the Raw brand was John Cena versus Bobby Lashley for the WWE Championship , which Cena won by pinfall after executing an FU on Lashley from the second rope . The predominant match on the SmackDown ! brand was a Triple Threat match for the World Heavyweight Championship between The Great Khali , Batista and Kane . Khali won the match and retained the title after pinning Kane . The primary match on the ECW brand was John Morrison versus CM Punk for the ECW Championship , which Morrison won by pinfall after hitting Punk with both of his knees . The featured matches on the undercard included Montel Vontavious Porter versus Matt Hardy for the WWE United States Championship and Randy Orton versus Dusty Rhodes in a Texas Bullrope match . This was Dusty Rhodes final match . The event had 229 @,@ 000 buys , up slightly on the 2006 figure of 227 @,@ 000 buys .

= = Background = =

The main feud heading into The Great American Bash on the Raw brand was between John Cena and Bobby Lashley over the WWE Championship . The feud began on the June 11 , 2007 edition of Raw , when Lashley was drafted to the Raw brand and stripped of his ECW Championship . Three weeks later , on the July 2 edition of Raw , a " Beat the Clock " tournament was held to determine Cena 's opponent for the WWE Championship at The Great American Bash . The tournament matches included : Randy Orton versus Jeff Hardy , King Booker versus Val Venis , Mr. Kennedy versus Super Crazy , and Lashley versus Shelton Benjamin . Lashley ended up winning the tournament by defeating Benjamin in less than 5 minutes and therefore becoming the number one contender to the WWE Championship .

The main feud on the SmackDown ! brand was between The Great Khali , Batista , and Kane , with the three battling over the World Heavyweight Championship . At the previous pay @-@ per @-@ view , Vengeance , then @-@ World Heavyweight Champion Edge defeated Batista in a " Last Chance " match to retain the World Heavyweight Championship . On the July 6 edition of SmackDown ! , SmackDown ! General Manager Theodore Long announced that Edge would be defending the World Heavyweight Championship against Kane at The Great American Bash . The next week on SmackDown ! , The Great Khali issued an open challenge for a match at The Great American Bash , which was accepted by Batista . Later that night , Edge legitimately injured his left pectoral muscle after Kane , who was disguised as a character , attacked Edge during his Mardi Gras celebration . On the July 20 edition of SmackDown ! , Edge was forced to vacate the World Heavyweight Championship due to his legit injury . Theodore Long then announced that there would be a 20 @-@ man Battle Royal later that night to determine a new World Heavyweight Champion . Khali ended up winning the Battle Royal by last eliminating Kane and Batista . That same night , Kane faced off against Batista to determine Khali 's opponent for The Great American Bash , which ended in a no @-@ contest after Khali interfered . Long finalized that both Kane and Batista would end up facing Khali for the championship at The Great American Bash .

The main feud on the ECW brand was between John Morrison and CM Punk with the two battling over the ECW Championship . At Vengeance , Morrison (then known as Johnny Nitro) defeated Punk to win the ECW Championship , which was vacant since then @-@ champion Lashley had been drafted to the Raw brand . Nitro was a replacement for Chris Benoit , who was absent due to " personal reasons . " On the June 26 edition of ECW , CM Punk defeated Elijah Burke in a two out of three falls match to once again become the number one contender to the ECW Championship .

= = Event = =

Before the event started , Chuck Palumbo defeated Chris Masters in a dark match .

= = = Preliminary matches = = =

The first match of the event was between Montel Vontavious Porter (MVP) and Matt Hardy for the WWE United States Championship . Hardy was in control early in the match but later MVP took control of the match and focused his attacks on Hardy 's head . MVP delivered a Playmaker to Hardy and pinned him to win the match and retain the United States Championship .

The second match was a Cruiserweight Open match for the WWE Cruiserweight Championship . Chavo Guerrero defended the title against Funaki , Jimmy Wang Yang , Shannon Moore and Jamie Noble . Hornswoggle , who wasn 't booked to be in the match , became a part of the match when he entered the ring as the bell rang . All the cruiserweights were out of the ring except Noble . Hornswoggle , who was under the ring for the match , entered- surprisingly and delivered a Tadpole Splash on Noble . Hornswoggle went on to pin Noble to get the victory and win the Cruiserweight Championship .

The third match was a Singapore Cane on a Pole match between Carlito and Sandman . The rules of the match were that the one who retrieved the cane from the pole was allowed to use the cane . Sandman retrieved the cane , but before he could use it , Carlito delivered a Backstabber and pinned him to win the match .

The fourth match was a Divas match between Candice Michelle and Melina for the WWE Women 's Championship . After a back and forth match , Candice executed a Candy Wrapper on Melina , and pinned her after to retain the title .

The fifth match was between Umaga and Jeff Hardy for the WWE Intercontinental Championship . Hardy started the match attacking Umaga with moves such as dropkicks , inverted mule kicks and a Whisper in the Wind . Hardy had a chance to make the cover , but instead attempted to perform a Swanton Bomb . Umaga avoided the move and charged Hardy in the corner . Umaga then executed a Samoan Spike and pinned Hardy after to win the match .

The sixth match was between John Morrison and CM Punk for the ECW World Championship . Punk was on the verge of winning the match until Morrison left the ring and took the belt . Morrison left the match , but Punk chased , tackled , and pushed him to the ring . Before Punk could attempt a slingshot maneuver , Morrison hit him with both of his knees . Morrison pinned Punk after to win the match and retain the ECW Championship .

= = = Main event matches = = =

The seventh match was a Texas Bullrope match between Randy Orton and Dusty Rhodes . Rhodes started the match by hitting Orton with a series of elbows on Orton 's head . Orton , however , took the advantage after hitting Rhodes ' head several times with the cowbell , which was in the middle of the rope connecting the two men . After a final hit to the head , Orton pinned Rhodes to win the match . After the match , Orton attempted to punt Rhodes in the head , but Rhodes ' son , Cody , made the save .

The eighth match was a Triple Threat match for the World Heavyweight Championship between then World Heavyweight Champion The Great Khali , Batista , and Kane . In the beginning , Khali dominated most of the match , applying a nerve hold on Kane and beating down Batista . Khali also gave both of them separate Chokelslams , which led to both of them leaving the ring . In the outside they both tried to give Khali their separate finishers , Kane tried for the Chokeslam and Batista for the Batista Bomb , but Khali countered them both . Batista and Kane double @-@ teamed Khali after trying to put him down . Kane and Batista sent Khali crashing through an announce table following a double @-@ team spinebuster and chokeslam . While Khali was on the floor , Batista and Kane fought inside the ring , and after dominating for some time after different moves like flying clotheslines from the top rope , Kane delivered his dreaded Chokeslam to Batista , but Batista kicked out at two and a half . Kane then went out to bring in a steel chair to put Batista away , but Batista countered the chair shot headed his way with a swift and strong Spinebuster , and then

Batista gave Kane a massive Batista Bomb . As Batista went for the pinfall , Khali pulled Batista outside the ring and smashed his head into the steel ring steps with a strong Irish Whip on the outside , keeping him down as Khali then went inside the ring and executed a Khali Bomb , or also called the Punjabi Plunge to Kane , who was already down after Batista 's massive Spinebuster and devastating Batista Bomb . Following the Punjabi Plunge , Khali pinned the fallen Kane , who didn 't have enough left in him to kick out , to win the match and retain his World Title .

The main event was between John Cena and Bobby Lashley for the WWE Championship . In the beginning , Lashley performed a series of powerslams and spears to Cena . Cena also applied his STF , however , was unable to win through that . The match also saw Cena give Lashley a Five Knuckle Shuffle . Cena also performed the FU but couldn 't reach Lashley in time . Lashley also delivered a devastating Spear but Cena kicked out . After a back and forth match , Cena performed an FU from the second rope and pinned Lashley to retain his WWE Championship and after the match Cena and Lashley shook hands , this was Bobby Lashley 's final pay @-@ per @-@ view in WWE .

= = Aftermath = =

Montel Vontavious Porter (MVP) and Matt Hardy continued their feud over the WWE United States Championship . Hardy defeated MVP in an arm wrestling contest on August 3 edition of SmackDown ! . On August 18 edition of Saturday Night 's Main Event , Evander Holyfield replaced MVP against Matt Hardy in a boxing match , which Holyfield won . On August 24 edition of SmackDown ! , the two had a basketball challenge which was no contest because they were attacked by Deuce ' n Domino . At SummerSlam , Stone Cold Steve Austin replaced Matt Hardy in a Beer Drinking Contest against MVP which was a no contest because Austin delivered a Stone Cold Stunner to MVP .

John Morrison and CM Punk continued to feud over the ECW Championship . On the July 31 edition of ECW , CM Punk defeated Elijah Burke and Tommy Dreamer in a Triple Threat match to earn a 15 Minutes of Fame match with Morrison the next week . On ECW the following week , Punk defeated Morrison in the 15 Minutes of Fame match he earned the previous week . As a result of winning , Punk became the number one contender to the ECW Championship at SummerSlam . At SummerSlam , Morrison defeated Punk to retain the ECW Championship .

On the July 27 edition of SmackDown ! , Khali had his Championship Celebration which was interrupted by Batista . After Khali fled from the ring , Batista announced that he had challenged Khali to a match for the World Heavyweight Championship match . At SummerSlam , the two faced each other for the World Heavyweight Championship in a match which Batista won by disqualification after Khali hit him with a chair . Since a championship cannot change hands via countout or disqualification , Khali retained the title .

On the July 23 edition of Raw , John Cena teamed with Candice Michelle in a 3 @-@ on @-@ 2 handicap match against Umaga , Lance Cade and Trevor Murdoch . Cena and Candice went on to win the match . After the match , Randy Orton delivered an RKO to Cena . Orton was then made the number one contender to the WWE Championship . The two had a match at SummerSlam for the WWE Championship , which Cena won .

= = Results = =