

= Armageddon (2006) =

Armageddon (2006) was a professional wrestling pay @-@ per @-@ view event produced by World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) and presented by Activision 's Call of Duty 3 , which took place on December 17 , 2006 , at the Richmond Coliseum in Richmond , Virginia . The event starred wrestlers from the SmackDown ! brand .

The main event was a tag team match , in which the team of Batista and John Cena defeated the team of King Booker and Finlay . Two featured bouts were scheduled on the undercard , including The Undertaker versus Mr. Kennedy , in a match where the objective was to place an opponent in a hearse located on the entrance stage and drive them out of the arena , which Undertaker won . The other match was an Inferno match featuring wrestlers attempting to set the opponent on fire with flames surrounding the ring . Kane defeated Montel Vontavious Porter .

The event grossed over \$ 423 @,@ 500 in ticket sales from an attendance of 8 @,@ 200 . Canadian Online Explorer 's professional wrestling section rated the WWE Tag Team Championship match a nine out of ten stars , the highest match rating . The event was released on DVD on January 16 , 2007 by Sony Music Entertainment . The DVD reached second on Billboard 's DVD Sales Chart for recreational sports during the week of February 18 , 2007 , and it dropped to the tenth spot the following week .

= = Background = =

Armageddon (2006) was the seventh annual Armageddon event . Eight professional wrestling matches , were featured on the event 's card .

The leading staged rivalry written into the event was between Batista and King Booker . At Survivor Series , WWE 's November pay @-@ per @-@ view event , Batista defeated Booker to win the World Heavyweight Championship . On the December 1 , 2006 episode of SmackDown ! , one of WWE 's primary television programs , King Booker and Finlay both demanded a match against Batista for the World Heavyweight Championship . General Manager Theodore Long , a portrayed match maker and rules enforcer , announced that Booker and Finlay would instead form a tag team to compete against Batista and a partner of his choice at Armageddon . Later that night , Batista announced that his partner would be WWE Champion John Cena , a member of the Raw brand . The following week on an episode of SmackDown ! , Batista defeated Finlay by disqualification after Booker interfered on Finlay 's behalf . On the December 15 episode of SmackDown ! , Cena defeated Finlay after lifting Finlay up on his shoulders and slamming him to the mat , a move that Cena dubbed the FU .

The secondary rivalry was between The Undertaker and Mr. Kennedy . On the September 8 , 2006 episode of SmackDown ! , Kennedy announced that he was looking for a new opponent , one that he had never faced before . Long informed Kennedy that he knew a SmackDown ! superstar that had never faced Kennedy , The Undertaker . A match was made between the two for No Mercy , in which Kennedy defeated Undertaker by disqualification . At Survivor Series , Kennedy once again defeated Undertaker in a First Blood match . On the December 1 episode of SmackDown ! , Undertaker fought Montel Vontavious Porter (MVP) in a match where neither wrestler won . During the match , MVP was scripted to attempt escaping from the ring , but Kennedy caught him during the process and tried to throw him back into the ring . MVP instead threw Kennedy in . Undertaker then kicked Kennedy in the face , and Kane attacked MVP at ringside . The following week as Kennedy was in the ring , the hearse , appearing to have nobody in the driver 's seat , drove into the arena ; suddenly , The Undertaker appeared from the back of the hearse , as Kennedy sprung from the ring . Later that night , Kane defeated Kennedy by disqualification after MVP interfered on Kennedy 's behalf . On the December 15 episode of SmackDown ! , The Undertaker and Kane teamed together to face Kennedy and MVP in a tag team match , which ended in neither team winning . Kennedy knocked Kane down in the aisle and jumped into the driver 's seat of the hearse that had been at ringside for the match , and threatened to run him over with it however the Undertaker appeared in the passenger side seat scaring Kennedy off .

= = Event = =

= = = Preliminary matches = = =

The first match to air live was between Kane and MVP in an Inferno match . The only way to win an Inferno match is by throwing one 's opponent into a fire that surrounds the ring on all four sides . This match was the first time that the Inferno match had been used on pay @-@ per @-@ view in more than seven years . At the start of the match , MVP attempted to leave the ring , but was unable to as the flames surrounding the ring prevented him . Kane kicked MVP in the head and threw him into the ring corner . MVP escaped the ring and was unable to go past the fire , so he returned to the ring and was continuously knocked down by Kane . The finish of the match saw Kane grab MVP and force him backwards into the fire . MVP 's costume caught on fire as he ran to the entrance ramp . MVP fell to the floor as WWE workers put out the flames with fire extinguishers .

The following match featured Paul London and Brian Kendrick , William Regal and Dave Taylor , MNM (Joey Mercury , and Johnny Nitro) , and The Hardys (Matt and Jeff) in a four @-@ team ladder match for the WWE Tag Team Championship . In this match , the only way to win and capture the titles was by climbing a ladder and releasing the championship belts that were suspended above the ring . Towards the end of the match , while MNM and The Hardys were out of the ring , Regal and Taylor attempted to climb the ladder , but Kendrick managed to knock the pair off . Kendrick fought off Regal and Taylor as London climbed the ladder and captured the titles to win the match for his team and retain the championships . During the match , Mercury suffered a legitimate nose injury after being hit by a ladder .

I happened to be looking up , so it hit me in the throat . But Mercury was looking straight at it and it hit him square in the nose and the orbital bone . It really could have been any one of us . I was just lucky that the ladder hit him first .

I 'll always remember [the match] for what we did to Joey Mercury 's face . After the seesaw , I remember hearing him yell , " I 'm bleeding , " and it was like someone went to a sink and turned the faucet on . It was gruesome .

The third match was a standard wrestling match between The Boogeyman and The Miz . The Boogeyman controlled the majority of the match and eventually won by pinfall after a Falling Chokebomb .

The next match featured Chris Benoit versus Chavo Guerrero (accompanied by Vickie Guerrero) for the United States Championship . Before the bell rang to start the match , Chavo tried to attack Benoit , but as the match began , Benoit retaliated by rushing and hitting Guerrero with his forearm , a move called the clothesline . Benoit and Guerrero wrestled inconclusively until Benoit covered Chavo to try to pin him . Chavo managed to place his foot on top of the bottom rope , which forced Benoit to break the pin per official wrestling match rules . While Guerrero was lying on his stomach , Benoit held Guerrero 's face back and legs back , stretching his body , and made Chavo tapped out to retain the championship and win the match .

The fifth match was the encounter of Gregory Helms and Jimmy Wang Yang for the WWE Cruiserweight Championship . Helms performed a swinging neckbreaker on Yang , a move where Helms grabbed Yang 's neck under his armpit and turned around to slam him onto the mat . Yang retaliated , but Helms quickly moved back into the power position and pinned Yang to retain the championship . Helms was bleeding from the mouth as he left the ring .

= = = Main event matches = = =

The following match was a Last Ride match between The Undertaker and Mr. Kennedy , where the only way to win was by throwing one 's opponent into a hearse and driving it out of the arena . During the beginning of the match , The Undertaker tossed Kennedy into steel steps on the side of the ring and then onto the commentator 's announcing table . The Undertaker then threw Kennedy

into the ring apron , which is the apron covering the area under the ring . Kennedy and The Undertaker wrestled inconclusively until The Undertaker tossed Kennedy on top of the roof of the hearse . The Undertaker then grabbed and lifted Kennedy by the throat and slammed him down onto the roof of the car . After that , The Undertaker grabbed Kennedy and gave him a Tombstone Piledriver onto the roof of the hearse . As he was still in control of the match , The Undertaker threw Kennedy into the hearse and drove it out of the arena to win the match .

After the Last Ride match , Jillian Hall , Layla El , Ashley Massaro , and Kristal Marshall all took part in a " Naughty or Nice " contest , a lingerie contest , where the Diva with the loudest fan reaction would win . The host of the contest was Santa Claus (portrayed by Big Dick Johnson , otherwise Christopher DeJoseph) . Johnson declared all four of the Divas as the winners and proceeded to take off his Santa costume and dance to music being played in the arena .

The main event was the tag team match between John Cena and Batista versus the team of King Booker and Finlay . Batista wrestled the match with his left arm taped up due to a previous injury . Both teams wrestlers inconclusively until Cena grabbed Finlay 's face and bent it back , stretching Finlay 's body , a submission move that Cena dubbed the STFU . Finlay broke the submission hold , and The Little Bastard ran into the ring . Little Bastard attempted to kick Cena , but accidentally kicked himself in his head when Cena moved out of the way . Then , Booker tried to kick Batista , but Batista moved out of the way , and Booker accidentally hit Finlay . Batista then lifted and sat Booker onto his shoulders and slammed him down onto the mat , a move he dubbed the Batista Bomb . Batista pinned Booker to earn the victory for his team .

= = Aftermath = =

On the December 22 , 2006 episode of SmackDown ! , King Booker and Finlay demanded a rematch against Batista and John Cena . General Manager Theodore Long informed the pair that they would instead be facing Kane and The Undertaker later that night in a match , which Kane and The Undertaker won . At the Royal Rumble , the Royal Rumble match was held , where the winner is the final person left in the ring after the other twenty nine wrestlers are eliminated by being thrown over the top ring rope . The Undertaker won the Royal Rumble match to earn a title shot at WrestleMania 23 . At WrestleMania , he defeated Batista to win the World Heavyweight Championship and maintain his WrestleMania undefeated streak .

Chris Benoit continued to feud with Chavo Guerrero over the WWE United States Championship . On the December 22 , 2006 episode of SmackDown ! , Benoit defeated Guerrero in a rematch for the title , with Vickie Guerrero accompanying Chavo to ringside . Benoit won the match by disqualification when Vickie hit Benoit in the head with the championship belt . On the January 12 , 2007 episode of SmackDown ! , Mr. Kennedy defeated Chris Benoit in a standard match , with help from Chavo Guerrero . The following week , Benoit defeated Chavo yet again with the championship on the line .

The feuds between Kane and Montel Vontavious Porter (MVP) , and The Undertaker and Mr. Kennedy did not continue after the event . On the January 5 , 2007 , episode of SmackDown ! , Kennedy set the time to beat in the " Beat the Clock " sprint , a tournament based on the time wrestlers win matches , to become the new number one contender for the World Heavyweight Championship . On the January 12 episode of SmackDown ! , Kennedy won the " Beat the Clock " sprint by preventing The Undertaker from winning his match and from beating Kennedy 's time . At the Royal Rumble , Batista defeated Kennedy to retain the title . The feuds between Gregory Helms and Jimmy Wang Yang , and The Boogeyman and The Miz also did not continue , as Helms was put into a rivalry with The Boogeyman . Yang was put into a temporary rivalry with Tatanka .

= = = Reception = = =

The Richmond Coliseum has a maximum capacity of 13 @, @ 000 , but that was reduced for the 2006 Armageddon . The event grossed over \$ 423 @, @ 500 in ticket sales from an attendance of 8 @, @ 200 . Canadian Online Explorer 's professional wrestling section rated the WWE Tag Team

Championship match a nine out of ten stars , the highest match rating . The United States Championship , Cruiserweight Championship , and Last Ride matches all received seven out of ten stars . The main event match received a five and a half stars out of ten rating .

The event was released on DVD on January 16 , 2007 , by Sony Music Entertainment . The DVD reached second on Billboard 's DVD Sales Chart for recreational sports during the week of February 18 , 2007 , and it dropped to the tenth spot the following week . It remained on the chart 's " top ten " for two consecutive weeks until the week of March 4 , 2007 , when it ranked 17th .

= = Results = =