

= Over the Limit (2010) =

Over the Limit (2010) was a professional wrestling pay @-@ per @-@ view event produced by World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) and presented by Axe Hair , which took place on May 23 , 2010 at the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit , Michigan . It was the first event promoted under the Over the Limit name .

Nine matches took place at the event , eight of which were broadcast live on pay @-@ per @-@ view . In the main event from the Raw brand , John Cena faced Batista for the WWE Championship , while The Big Show versus World Heavyweight Champion Jack Swagger was the main event from the SmackDown brand . Matches on the undercard included Randy Orton against Edge , CM Punk facing Rey Mysterio , and Drew McIntyre defending the WWE Intercontinental Championship against Kofi Kingston . Other championships defended at the event were the WWE Divas Championship and the Unified WWE Tag Team Championship .

The event drew 197 @,@ 000 pay @-@ per @-@ view buys , and was attended live by 11 @,@ 000 people . Reviews for the event were generally negative , with reviewers criticizing the endings of the matches , stoppages for blood , and predictable match results . Five wrestlers sustained legitimate injuries during the course of the show .

= = Background = =

Over the Limit involved different wrestlers from scripted feuds , plots , and storylines that played out on WWE 's television programs . Wrestlers portrayed a villain or a hero as they followed a series of events that built tension , and culminated into a wrestling match or series of matches .

The main feud from the Raw brand heading into Over the Limit was between John Cena and Batista over the WWE Championship , and had been going on for several months . Cena retained the WWE Championship against Batista at the Extreme Rules pay @-@ per @-@ view in a Last Man Standing match , by taping Batista 's ankles to the ringpost to ensure he could not stand up by the count of ten . The next night on Raw , Batista defeated Randy Orton and Sheamus to become the number one contender to the championship and earn a rematch against Cena . On the May 3 episode of Raw , they competed in a Beat the Clock challenge to determine the stipulation for their match . Batista defeated Daniel Bryan in 5 : 06 , but Cena defeated Wade Barrett in 4 : 32 to win the challenge and the right to name the stipulation . The following week , Cena announced that the match would be an " I Quit " match .

The predominant feud from the SmackDown brand was between Jack Swagger and Big Show , over Swagger 's World Heavyweight Championship . As part of the 2010 WWE Draft , Big Show was drafted to SmackDown , where he was named the number one contender upon his debut on April 30 . Over the next several weeks , Big Show chokeslammed Swagger through the announce table , and interrupted a promo on the May 14 episode of SmackDown , in which Swagger was boasting about his accomplishments . As part of the segment , Big Show destroyed Swagger 's trophies and memorabilia . The following week , Big Show mocked Swagger in promos throughout the show and distracted Swagger during Swagger 's match with Kofi Kingston , allowing Kingston to win .

As part of the 2010 WWE Draft on April 26 , Edge was drafted to the Raw brand . Later that night , Edge interfered in a match to determine the number one contender to the WWE Championship , spearing Randy Orton and preventing Orton from receiving a WWE Championship match . The following week , Edge hosted an edition of his talk show , The Cutting Edge , with Orton as his special guest . During the show , Edge justified his actions by saying he was trying to make an impact , and attempted to convince Orton to reform Rated @-@ RKO , their former tag team . Instead Orton attacked Edge . The following week , Orton defeated Edge and Ted DiBiase in a handicap match , which led to " Pick Your Poison " matches on the May 17 episode of Raw , where Edge and Orton picked each other 's opponents for the night . Edge faced The Undertaker , and lost intentionally by countout , while Orton faced Jack Swagger , and lost by disqualification when Edge interfered .

The rivalry between Rey Mysterio and CM Punk was continued from several previous pay @-@ per

@-@ views . After months of feuding , Mysterio challenged Punk to a Straight Edge Society Pledge vs. Hair match at Over the Limit . Had Punk won , Mysterio would have joined the Straight Edge Society , Punk 's faction which promoted the straight edge lifestyle . Had Mysterio won however , Punk agreed to have his head shaved . On May 14 , Mysterio and Punk faced each other in a singles match , but the Straight Edge Society (Luke Gallows , Serena , and a mystery masked man) interfered and attacked Mysterio . The following week , Mysterio interrupted an initiation ceremony , in which Punk was shaving the heads of three men to induct them into the Straight Edge Society , and mocked Punk , claiming everyone would be laughing at Punk when he was shaved bald at Over the Limit . Later that night , Mysterio teamed with Montel Vontavious Porter to defeat Punk and Gallows in a tag team match .

Another feud was over the WWE Intercontinental Championship between the defending champion Drew McIntyre and Kofi Kingston . SmackDown General Manager Theodore Long stripped McIntyre of the championship and fired him for repeatedly attacking Matt Hardy . Long set up a tournament to determine the new champion , in which Christian and Kingston qualified for the final by defeating Cody Rhodes and Dolph Ziggler . The following week , on the May 14 episode of SmackDown , Kingston defeated Christian to win the tournament and the championship . Immediately following the match , however , McIntyre presented Long with a letter from the WWE Chairman Vince McMahon , which stated that McIntyre had been reinstated to the roster and was still recognized as the Intercontinental Champion . As a result , WWE 's official website announced that McIntyre would defend the championship against tournament winner Kingston .

The team of Chris Jericho and The Miz had begun feuding with The Hart Dynasty (Tyson Kidd and David Hart Smith) over the Unified WWE Tag Team Championship . The Miz 's feud with The Hart Dynasty had begun while The Miz was one @-@ half of the Unified Tag Team Champions with Big Show . During the Draft episode of Raw , The Hart Dynasty defeated The Miz and Big Show to win the championship , which led to Big Show turning on The Miz . The following week , The Miz and Jericho , another former tag team partner of Big Show , teamed up to attack The Hart Dynasty . Jericho went on to defeat Smith to earn a championship match for himself and The Miz at Over the Limit .

After WrestleMania XXVI , Ted DiBiase had debuted a new gimmick of an arrogant millionaire , similar to his father (Ted DiBiase , Sr.) ' s old gimmick . On the April 5 episode of Raw , DiBiase was given possession of the Million Dollar Championship and access to a trust fund by his father . DiBiase then began looking for a " Virgil " , a manservant like his father used to have . He offered the position to R @-@ Truth , who refused , leading to a feud between the two . After losing a match to John Morrison , DiBiase attacked him , prompting R @-@ Truth to interfere and save Morrison . In retaliation , DiBiase paid The Colóns to attack R @-@ Truth the following week .

In the only women 's match scheduled on the card , Eve defended the WWE Divas Championship against the former champion , Maryse . Eve had won the championship on the April 12 episode of Raw , and in the weeks that followed she was attacked by Maryse , who was attempting to get revenge .

= = Event = =

Prior to the pay @-@ per @-@ view , Montel Vontavious Porter defeated Chavo Guerrero in a dark match .

= = = Preliminary matches = = =

The first match that aired as part of the pay @-@ per @-@ view was Drew McIntyre defending his Intercontinental Championship against Kofi Kingston . Kingston took the early advantage , by performing a suicide dive to the outside of the ring on McIntyre . McIntyre threw Kingston in the ringpost , and went on the offense . Kingston was able to counter McIntyre 's " Future Shock " DDT , and perform his finishing move , the S.O.S , to pin McIntyre for the victory and the championship . Following the match , McIntyre demanded that Teddy Long go out to the ring and reverse the

decision , but instead McIntyre was attacked by Matt Hardy , who McIntyre had attacked on several occasions in the prior weeks .

The next match was a singles match between Ted DiBiase , who was accompanied by Virgil , and R @-@ Truth . In the early stages of the match , Virgil caused a distraction , allowing DiBiase to take the advantage by performing a reverse neckbreaker and throwing R @-@ Truth into the barricade at ringside . R @-@ Truth was able to counter a move from the top rope , and went on to win the match by utilising his " Lie Detector " finishing move (a corkscrew flying forearm smash) .

The third match on the card was a Straight Edge Society pledge vs. hair match , between CM Punk and Rey Mysterio . For this match , the other Straight Edge Society members (Serena and Luke Gallows) were banned from ringside . Early on in the match , Punk threw Mysterio headfirst out of the ring into the barber chair at ringside . Punk had suffered a cut to the head prior to the exchange , and while Mysterio was on the floor , the match was halted so that the blood could be cleaned up . While Punk 's wound was being attended , he dropkicked Mysterio , who was on the ring apron , and began attacking him on the floor to restart the match . After Mysterio missed a splash from the top rope , Punk went to pin him , but Mysterio was able to perform a crucifix cradle on Punk for the victory . The other Straight Edge Society members attacked Mysterio after the match , but he was saved by Kane , which allowed Mysterio to handcuff Punk to the ring ropes and shave his head .

A tag team match for the Unified Tag Team Championship followed , between the champions The Hart Dynasty (Tyson Kidd and David Hart Smith) , who were accompanied by their manager Natalya , and the team of Chris Jericho and The Miz . The Hart Dynasty took the early advantage , but Jericho and The Miz were able to isolate both Smith and Kidd in the ring at different points in the match , wearing them down . Natalya interfered by tripping up Jericho while The Miz had the referee distracted . The Hart Dynasty were able to capitalise , and performed the Hart Attack on The Miz for the pinfall victory .

The fifth match was between Edge and Randy Orton . Edge took early control of the match by driving Orton into the barricade outside the ring . Orton was able to recover , and performed a rope hung DDT on Edge . While setting up for his finishing move , the RKO , Orton appeared to injure his arm , and went outside the ring in an attempt to recover . Edge followed him , trying to perform the spear , but Orton was able to avoid it , and Edge hit the barricade . Neither man was able to return to the ring before the count of ten , and as a result , the match ended in a double countout .

= = = Main event matches = = =

The first main event match of the night was between the World Heavyweight Champion Jack Swagger and his challenger , Big Show . Big Show dominated the match , with Swagger getting very little offense . As a result , Swagger got frustrated and hit Big Show with the World Heavyweight Championship title belt , and was disqualified . After the match , Swagger attacked Big Show with a steel chair , but Big Show was able to stop him with a chokeslam . Big Show then performed his knockout punch on Swagger , before leaving the area .

The penultimate match on the card saw Eve defend the WWE Divas Championship against Maryse . Maryse took the early advantage , but when she threw Eve outside the ring , and attempted to kick her , she kicked the ringpost instead , allowing Eve to take control with a series of dropkicks . Eve performed a standing moonsault and a sunset flip for a near @-@ fall . Maryse countered a rolling senton splash attempt by Eve and went for her finishing move , the French Kiss ; that was countered by Eve for the pin , who retained her championship .

The main event was John Cena versus Batista for the WWE Championship in an " I Quit " match , where the object of the match is to force an opponent to say " I Quit " . As the bell rang to signal the start of the match Batista gave Cena the chance to quit immediately , but Cena refused and hit Batista with the microphone . Despite this , Batista was able to take control , and locked in a submission hold , but Cena refused to say " I quit " . Cena eventually countered the move into his own submission hold , the STF , and Batista passed out . As he had not said the words " I Quit " however , he had to be revived so the match could continue . Batista fought back , and was able to powerslam Cena through the announce table . As Cena was bleeding , the match was briefly halted

so his wound could receive attention . The two fought into the crowd before ending up near the entrance ramp , with Batista hitting Cena with a steel chair . On the entrance stage , Batista got into a car , which had been placed on the stage for decoration , and attempted to run over Cena . Cena avoided it , and was able to pull Batista out of the car and slam him onto it . Cena performed his Attitude Adjustment on Batista onto the car , but when Batista refused to quit , Cena went for the move again . Batista quit , making Cena the winner , but Cena performed the Attitude Adjustment again anyway , sending Batista through the stage to the floor . As Cena was celebrating retaining the championship , he was attacked by Sheamus to end the show .

= = Aftermath = =

During the event , five wrestlers suffered legitimate injuries . Randy Orton dislocated his shoulder while Ted DiBiase suffered a concussion , and although they both appeared on Raw the following night , they did not wrestle . CM Punk required 13 staples to close the wound in his forehead he sustained during his match with Mysterio . Batista suffered a back and tailbone injury during his match with John Cena , who himself suffered a laceration and lost a tooth .

On the episode of Raw following Over the Limit , Bret Hart was announced as the new Raw General Manager . During Batista 's promo at the beginning of the show , Hart interrupted and told him that if he wanted a rematch against Cena , he would have to qualify for the fatal four @-@ way match at the Fatal 4 @-@ Way pay @-@ per @-@ view in June . Batista refused to wrestle , citing his injuries , and as a result Hart awarded the match to his opponent Orton by forfeit . Following Hart 's decision , Batista quit WWE . This storyline was put in place as Batista was legitimately leaving WWE to pursue acting and a career in mixed martial arts .

Apart from Orton qualifying via forfeit , the other qualifying matches for the WWE Championship fatal four @-@ way match saw Sheamus defeat Mark Henry and Edge defeat Jericho and Cena in a triple threat match .

On the May 28 episode of SmackDown , SmackDown General Manager Teddy Long announced a fatal four @-@ way match for the World Heavyweight Championship would be taking place at the Fatal 4 @-@ Way pay @-@ per @-@ view . As the defending champion Jack Swagger automatically was part of the match , and as a result of his win by disqualification , Big Show received automatic entry . Later in the show , both The Undertaker and CM Punk qualified for the match as well , by defeating Rey Mysterio and Kane respectively . During his qualification match against Kane , Punk wore a mask to the ring in order to hide his newly @-@ shaven head . During his match with Mysterio , The Undertaker suffered a concussion , broken orbital bone and broken nose and the following week , was deemed unable to participate in the match . WWE replaced him in the match by devising a storyline in which The Undertaker was found in a " vegetative state " by his on @-@ screen half brother Kane on the following episode of SmackDown . That same broadcast , a battle royal to decide who would replace The Undertaker at the Fatal 4 @-@ Way pay @-@ per @-@ view was won by Rey Mysterio .

At the beginning of the May 28 episode of SmackDown , Drew McIntyre made Teddy Long read out a letter from the WWE Chairman Vince McMahon , which stated that as a result of attacking McIntyre at Over the Limit , Matt Hardy had been suspended without pay until further notice . On the same episode , McIntyre simultaneously continued his feud with Kofi Kingston by teaming with Jack Swagger in a loss to Kingston and The Big Show .

= = = Reception = = =

The event received generally negative reviews . Writing for Canadian Online Explorer 's wrestling section , Matt Bishop derided the show , calling it " one of the worst WWE pay @-@ per @-@ view events in a long time " and awarded the show 5 @.@ 5 out of ten . The Sun writer Rob McNichol called the show " one of the oddest WWE PPVs in recent history " and awarded the show six out of ten .

Most of the negative comments centered around the following World Heavyweight Championship

match , which ended in disqualification immediately following a double countout in the preceding Orton @-@ Edge match due to injury . McNichol described it " a weak ending in a normal show " , but especially when the Orton @-@ Edge match " had ended in such circumstances " . Bishop agreed , only awarding the match 2 @.@ 5 out of ten and said that the match " hurt the show in a big , big way " . Kevin Eck of The Baltimore Sun also criticized the booking of the finish , remarking that " Swagger came off looking like anything but a credible champion " . Wrestling journalist Dave Meltzer also criticized the World Heavyweight Championship match , remarking that it was " almost an insult as a PPV main event " . Bishop stated that the show was " hampered by several stoppages for blood " and a predictable ending to the main event between Cena and Batista . McNichol also criticized the main event as " overbooked and excessive " , while Eck remarked that it had a " predictable result " .

Despite the generally negative reviews , the Mysterio @-@ Punk match was highly praised . McNichol touted it as " the highlight of the night " and praised the wrestlers involved for a " terrific closing sequence " . Bishop awarded the match 8 @.@ 5 out of ten , and stated it was one of two matches , along with the Tag Team Championship bout , that were not " underwhelming in every aspect " . Eck agreed , calling the Punk @-@ Mysterio match the " most compelling match on the card " and stated that the Tag Team Championship match was " well @-@ worked " .

11 @,@ 000 people attended Over the Limit at the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit , resulting in a gate of approximately \$ 675 @,@ 000 . In August 2010 , WWE reported that the event had received 197 @,@ 000 pay @-@ per @-@ view buys . The DVD of the event contained extras including a match between Bret Hart and The Miz for the WWE United States Championship and several promos from the weeks preceding the event .

= = Results = =