

Coachella is irrelevant



Coachella 2025, which was held at the Empire Polo Club in Indio, California.

By Solé Scott
Editor-in-Chief

If you are broke, then you knew to stay home during this year’s Coachella.

First things first, when did Coachella get so expensive and why is the lineup this year serving dust?

The only saving grace this year was Megan Thee Stallion, Glorilla and Lady Gaga.

Weekend one this year was April 11-13 and weekend two was April 18-20.

This annual music festival started way back in 1999 and has grown dramatically in the last 26 years. The only problem is the dying culture of attendees.

In the last few years this festival has been geared towards music lovers who took a weekend trip to Indio, California to see and hear underground artists and even mainstream artists.

There were no boho outfits and flower crowns anywhere in sight. Yet, there were boots, skirts, bikinis tops, rhinestones, cowboy hats and half naked men and women. There clearly was not a proper theme nor were there any outfits that reflected on the festival.

Now, all we see are opportunists, aka influencers, infesting the event weekend one. There was never a VIP option or secret speakeasies around.

General admission starts at \$600 without tax and parking, camping and other fees included. This is a humongous jump

from 1999 where a ticket cost \$50.

Food prices are outrageous as one Nashville hot chicken sandwich is \$25, three small tacos for \$20, a Michelin caviar burger for \$150, a slice of pizza is \$12, chicken tenders and fries for \$17 and one hot dog is \$13.75.

The lines to use the restroom and take a shower are insane to watch. No one should be waiting for two and a half hours at the crack of dawn to take a 5-10-minute shower.

All women should be washing their hair before stepping foot on the campground and all women should stop taking an everything shower. All of this would slim down then.

The best headliner performer this year was Lady Gaga who had to remind the world of her legendary status.

Lady Gaga put on an amazing performance filled with visuals, vocals and dancing throughout her two-hour set.

The next good headliner was Green Day who brought nostalgia and fellow Gen X’s from around the country world to rock out in the desert.

I will not lie and say I watched Post Malone’s set. Then again, he is not my cup of tea as he used my culture’s music to propel him to country music and completely change his aesthetic. I haven’t seen any TikTok’s of his set nor have I seen really anyone speak about it.

To be real, next year Tyla and Megan Thee Stallion and Benson

Boone should headline Coachella since their stage presence was out of this world.

Megan Thee Stallion performed her hits songs and the intense choreography that reminded me of Beyoncé. She also brought out Queen Latifah and Ciara.

Tyla and her breath of fresh air music and style is something that has been missing in music for a while. I do not like the comparison to Rihanna and hopefully her headlining will squash those thoughts.

Benson Boone is an artist I do not listen to at all, yet I strangely enjoyed his set. His magnificent front and back flips separated him from other artists. His vocals were tremendous as he was a gymnast the whole set. Also, he covered Queen’s Bohemian Rhapsody and Brian May during the song was out of this world.

Lastly, Charli XCX had all the beats out late Saturday night. The best part in my opinion was Billie Eilish who performed their hit remix song “Guess” which marks the second time they performed live together. I also, loved the part of camera zooming into models Quen Blackwell, Gabriette and Alex Consani doing the apple dance as Kylie Jenner hides with Timothée Chalamet’s behind.

I no longer have a desire to go to Coachella and feel as though I missed the glory days of 2007-2018. I am still crying that I missed Amy Winehouse and Beyoncé.

WrestleMania was intense

Saturday night: Rollins triumphs in main event

By Jay’Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

WrestleMania weekend kicked off with the now former World Heavyweight Champion Gunther going against Jey Uso.

They had a decent match with Jey Uso claiming his first World Heavyweight Championship title victory.

This match was kind of boring since Gunther is an overrated talent. With no real character or gimmick, he just seemed lackluster going against Uso who the most popular wrestler in the company is arguably.

With Uso “yeeting” his way to victory, fans are now looking forward to how his title reign will play out and if his popularity within the company will continue to flourish.

One of the night’s most jaw-dropping performances came from Jacob Fatu, who remains unpinned after outlasting LA Knight in a dramatic match for the United States Championship.

Filled with top-rope chaos, including Knight landing his finishing move, the BFT, on Fatu in mid-air during a moonsault attempt, Fatu

still survived it all, pulling out a win after three- consecutive top-rope moonsaults.

The WWE Women’s Champion Tiffany Stratton retained her title by defeating Charlotte Flair. The buildup for this match was arguably one of the better lead ups to any match on the two-night card.

When Stratton called Flair lonely and husbandless after having three divorces in an unscripted promo earlier in the month, fans were immediately buzzing about this bout being amazing. And it was pure cinema to watch.

Flair being the veteran talent here, she dominated most of the match. However, Stratton won using her Prettiest Moonsault Ever finishing maneuver to retain her title and her spot as one of the better women talents the company has to offer.

Saturday night’s main event match was Roman Reigns vs. CM Punk vs. Seth Rollins in an action-packed brutal no-disqualification triple threat match.

The real-life beef between Rollins and

Punk has been dramatized for wrestling fans since Punks return at Survivor Series in 2023 and this matchup did not disappoint. Also including Reigns in the mix made it even better.

Punk, in his first-ever Mania main event, entered with Paul Heyman by his side.

The action throughout this match intensified with near-falls, announcer table crashes and a stunning betrayal. Heyman teased loyalty to Punk and then turned on Punk, acted to be loyal to Reigns, only to low-blow Reigns and hand Rollins a chair.

Rollins capitalized, stomping Reigns and pinning him as Heyman shockingly pledged allegiance to Rollins.

Fans did not expect this at all since Punk and Reigns are notorious for being “Paul Heyman Guys” during their careers.

WrestleMania Saturday delivered a mix of spectacle, surprise and a glimpse into WWE’s international future since they announced the acquisition of Lucha Libre AAA Worldwide.

Sunday night: Historic night for John Cena



John Cena with the WWE Championship after defeating Cody Rhodes.

By Jay’Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

Sunday night of WrestleMania kicked off with a triple threat match for the Women’s World Championship.

Iyo Sky successfully defended her title against powerhouses Bianca Belair and Rhea Ripley.

The clash of styles made for a dynamic showdown, with Sky showcasing her trademark aerial finesse, while Belair and Ripley relied on raw power to dominate the ring.

The crowd erupted with chants of “This is awesome” as the action intensified. Belair whipped Ripley with her signature braid, then landed a K.O.D. on her. Just as Belair went for the pin, Sky launched herself from the top rope, connecting with a perfectly timed moonsault to steal the win and retain her title.

The Intercontinental Championship match delivered on all fronts with relentless pace, countless near falls and creative sequences that kept the audience on edge.

The bout took a chaotic turn when Carlito interfered, costing Penta the win. Only to then be speared through the announce table by Bron Breaker.

With momentum shifting rapidly, Dominik Mysterio seized the moment. After hitting a 619 on Breaker, Finn Bálor followed with a devastating Coup de Grâce.

Mysterio then

capitalized with a perfectly executed frog splash to pin Bálor and claim the Intercontinental Championship, marking his first WrestleMania victory and singles title win.

Randy Orton stepped into his 20th WrestleMania expecting a tough challenge—but no one could have predicted the surprise that awaited him.

In a jaw-dropping moment, TNA World Champion Joe Hendry made his WrestleMania debut as Orton’s mystery opponent, sending shockwaves through the crowd.

As Hendry’s catchphrase goes “Say his name and he appears,” and he did. WrestleMania believed in Hendry.

In a quick finish, Orton delivered an RKO out of nowhere, beating Hendry.

After the match, Orton showed respect by raising Hendry’s hand in a symbolic passing-of-the-torch moment, only to hit Hendry with a second RKO out of nowhere, reminding everyone that the Apex Predator never truly lets his guard down.

Becky Lynch made a surprising return after a year-long absence, partnering with Lyra Valkyria to challenge Liv Morgan and Raquel Rodriguez for the Women’s Tag Team Championship.

Despite a slow start, Lynch and Valkyria claimed victory, with Valkyria now holding both the Women’s Intercontinental and Tag Team titles.

However, the decision to have the new team

win could undermine Morgan and Rodriguez’s momentum. It just does not make sense to give the championships to someone who already holds one and to someone who just returned.

Morgan and Rodriguez deserved this win to maintain their dominance over the roster.

In a stunning and chaotic main event at WrestleMania, John Cena wrestled his final WrestleMania match, embracing his full heel persona against undisputed WWE Champion Cody Rhodes.

The slow-burning bout erupted with high-risk spots, including a top-rope Attitude Adjustment and a dramatic STF sequence.

Travis Scott came out and pulled the referee mid-count and interfering with the matchup, siding with Cena.

Cody Rhodes then delivered a crossroads to Scott. Cena low-blowed Rhodes and struck him with the title, nearly stealing the win. But Rhodes kicked out at 2.9, igniting the loudest reaction of the night.

However, despite Rhodes’s ability to try and retain the title, Cena was able to defeat him to capture his record breaking 17-time WWE Championship victory.

Fans are now left envisioning the match ups for Cena during his final run with championship gold strapped around his waist.

These are the opinions of the Southern News Editorial Staff

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