Kendrick Lamar stuns crowd

By Solé Scott
Editor-in-Chief

Kendrick Lamar reigns supreme as the best rapper of today's generation as he headlined the 2025 Super Bowl Halftime Show as the first rapper.

The Cesar Superdome on Sunday, Feb.9 was filled with excitement as Lamar opened up the highly anticipated show with a snippet of "GNX".

The track list consisted of 11 songs including "HUMBLE.", "Not Like Us" and "DNA" to name a few.

During the performance, a dancer on stage held up a Sudanese and Palestinian flag in support for Gaza.

The man was shortly tackled by security and led away, yet that was not the only one to make an appearance.

There were so many creative symbolisms such as the dancers creating the American Flag with their outfits yet was split down the middle.

This showcases the current state in which America is in.

Actor Samuel L. Jackson portrayed Uncle Sam for the 13-minute performance.

Another surprise that gagged me was tennis legend Serena Williams crip walking.

Williams used to crip walk at Wimbledon and was ridiculed by the media. She dated Drake as well and Lamar used her to add more salt to the wound.

The massive shade Lamar threw at Drake when he said, "I want to perform their favorite song, but you know they like to sue." as he teased the highly sought after track "Not Like Us."

Lamar as headliner caused controversy and chaos on social media as haters did not believe he should have been chosen.

Lil Wayne famously spoke out against the decision as he believed he should have had the opportunity because the Super Bowl would be held in his hometown of New Orleans.

"The Super Bowl was ripped away from me, but this mother****ing moment right here? They can't take that," Wayne said.

There were speculations that Lamar would bring a special guest, and that guest would be no other than Lil Wayne.

Unsurprisingly, Lamar did not bring out bitter Lil Wayne and instead brought out longtime collaborator SZA.

Nostalgia bloomed when SZA and Lamar performed "All the Stars."

There were other surprises such as the crowd once again loudly singing "a minor" lyric just as they did at the Grammys.

Following the broadcast, Lamar currently has the number one album (GNX) and number one song ("Not Like Us") on Apple Music and iTunes.

No matter what anyone's opinions are about the Drake and Kendrick beef, this night showed who the true MVP is as "GAME OVER" lit up in the stands at the end, which ultimately put a nail in his coffin.

This is for the culture and if you did not like it then respectfully, it is not meant for you.



PHOTO | INSTAGRAM

Kendrick Lamar performing at the Super Bowl Halftime Show.

Royal Rumble delivers thrills

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor



PHOTO | INSTAGRAM

Jey Uso eliminating John Cena to win the Men's Royal Rumble match.

The 2025 WWE Royal Rumble provided a mixed bag of excitement, from surprise returns to some underwhelming matches.

On Feb. 1, the Royal Rumble premium live event was streamed on Peacock, being a must-see for any wrestling fans.

The Women's Royal Rumble match kicked off the show. It was packed with familiar faces, some surprising returns and new talents looking to make their mark.

One of the biggest moments came when Alexa Bliss made her long-awaited return after a two-year hiatus.

This moment was the highlight of this match. It was not expected by anyone, but the moment was short lived as she was eliminated rather quickly.

Another highlight was the return of Nikki Bella, who entered at number 30, adding a dose of nostalgia to the match.

The NXT women's roster, as expected, contributed fresh energy to the match, with some standout performances from the developmental stars like Lash Legend, Roxanne Perez and others.

The legend Trish Stratus made a surprise return to the ring, which had fans roaring with excitement.

Charlotte Flair's return was another huge moment, especially after her extended absence due to injury.

She, along with Nia Jax and Roxanne Perez, made it to the top three, but the match never reached the highs it could have. Flair won the Women's Rumble, which felt unnecessary.

She is already a decorated 14-time world champion, and she just returned from injury to get a shot at the title again.

Despite the surprise appearances, the match itself lacked the intensity that the 2024 Women's Rumble match had. It was by far one of the biggest disappointments of the night for avid fans.

The much-anticipated 2-out-of-3 falls tag team match between Johnny Gargano and Tommaso Ciampa, DIY and the Motor City Machine Guns was hyped as a must-watch.

The initial action was crisp and exciting, with both teams bringing their signature styles to the match. However, things took a turn when the Street Profits interrupted, helping DIY score the win.

The interference left fans disappointed, as the finish felt abrupt and cheapened what could have been a classic encounter of four talented wrestlers.

The ladder match between Kevin Owens and Cody Rhodes for the Undisputed WWE Championship was an absolute highlight of the night.

Towards the latter part of the match, Owens hit Rhodes with a Michigan Buster through a ladder off the top rope. But Rhodes was able to shortly follow up with an Alabama Slam off the announcer's table.

In the end, Rhodes retained his title after a brutal contest, solidifying his spot as one of WWE's top champions.

The Men's Royal Rumble match followed the ladder match and started strong, with Rey Mysterio and Penta kicking things off.

Influencer IShowSpeed also made a cameo entry, but got completely annihilated by Intercontinental Champion, Bron Breakker.

While the Men's Rumble match had its share of legendary returns like AJ Styles and John Cena, the second half of the match grew stale and the action felt repetitive.

One of the most shocking moments came when Logan Paul entered at number 30. It just felt like a waste for fans, who would have preferred a bigger star enter at the highly coveted 30 spot.

Things heated up at the end of the match when CM Punk eliminated both Seth Rollins and Roman Reigns before being ousted by Logan Paul.

The brawl outside of the ring from Rollins, Punk and Reigns was amazing. This spot is definitely setting up a potential trip threat match at the Elimination Chamber, or at WrestleMania.

As the final three arrived—Logan Paul, Jey Uso and John Cena—the excitement was palpable.

Ultimately, Jey Uso emerged victorious, claiming the win in a dramatic finish against John Cena, that will indefinitely set up intriguing future storylines for WrestleMania.

As WWE looks ahead to the road to WrestleMania, it is unclear which direction Jey Uso will go. Most fans are assuming that he will choose Gunther in the main event of WrestleMania. While other fans are angry at the fact that John Cena was unable to win this match.

Nike opens the vault

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

Nike strikes again. The Nike Air Foamposite One "Galaxy," originally released in 2012, remains one of the most iconic and influential sneakers in the history of sneaker culture; until Feb. 15.

These rare shoes are expected to be re-released to the public, completely diminishing the value and the unique stories pairs from 2012 have.

Beyond just being a flashy, attention-grabbing shoe, the Galaxy Foamposites embody the evolution of the early 2010's sneaker culture, its intersection with fashion and the rise of limited-edition releases.

The importance of this sneaker cannot be overstated, as it helped redefine what it meant to be part of the sneakerhead community, while also pushing the boundaries of sneaker design.

The first thing that stands out about the Galaxy Foamposites is their bold, out-of-this-world design. The shoe's eye-catching "Galaxy" print, which features swirling nebulae and starry motifs, was a massive departure from the usual design aesthetics of the time.

One of the key elements of the Galaxy Foamposites' original releases importance was its release strategy.

Nike dropped the shoes in a limited run, making them highly exclusive and immediately elevating their status. At the time, Nike had been dabbling with the concept of "limited releases" to generate buzz, but the Galaxy Foamposites represented one of the first times a sneaker brand used scarcity so effectively.

With only a limited number available, the demand skyrocketed, creating an aura of exclusivity that intensified the sneakerhead frenzy.

The hype surrounding the release was unprecedented, with lines wrapping around stores, online orders crashing Nike's website, police officers in riot gear, people trading astronomical things such as used cars for them and other crazy things.

In many ways, the Galaxy Foamposites were a precursor to the current state of sneaker culture, where scarcity and hype drive much of the demand for high-end sneakers. So why bring it back?

Nike is capitalizing on the hype these shoes have by brining them back. The only benefit to these re-releasing is that people who have dreamed of having them are now going to be able to snag a pair for significantly less prices than the original.

But will the quality, release and other aspects that made this shoe what it is in history be the same? Absolutely not.

The Galaxy Foamposites is a touchstone in sneaker history, representing the peak of an era where sneakers were not just functional, but cultural artifacts.

Bringing these back from the vault shows that Nike does not care about the culture built around sneakers, and rather just the dollar signs attached to the sales they are going to get from this release.

The original feeling and craze of this release can never be replicated, which makes this new release very underwhelming and probably going to be something that most new aged sneaker fanatics will never be able to understand.

These are the opinions of the Southern News Editoral Staff

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