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WWE returns to WKU's Diddle Arena in August

By **DRAKE KIZER** dkizer@bgdailynews.com Jul 5, 2019

WWE stars Bayley (from left), Roman Reigns and Kofi Kingston are slated to appear at Western Kentucky University's E.A. Diddle Arena on Aug. 3 as part of the WWE Live SummerSlam Heatwave Tour.

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Professional wrestling fans will be in for a treat Aug. 3 as the WWE Live SummerSlam Heatwave Tour makes a stop at Western Kentucky University's E.A. Diddle Arena. The event's bell time is slated for 7:30 p.m.

WWE champion Kofi Kingston will defend his title against rival Dolph Ziggler in an “epic main event,” according to a commercial promoting the event. Roman Reigns and Drew McIntyre are also scheduled for battle.

SmackDown women’s champion Bayley, WWE women’s tag team champions The IIconics and Charlotte Flair were advertised for the event in a WWE news release, while Elias, Asuka, intercontinental champion Finn Bálor and The New Day are featured in the TV commercial.

The New Day are five-time tag team champions and hold the record as the longest-reigning team in WWE history. Current WWE champion Kingston is a member of the fun-loving collective alongside Big E and Xavier Woods.

Big E, a former intercontinental and NXT champion in singles competition, told the Daily News the WWE does “200-plus shows a year,” but the fans that pack Diddle Arena are “always great” to WWE’s cast of characters.

“One of the highlights of coming to Bowling Green is just the way our fans take to what we do,” Big E said. “Our product is incredible, so to see that kind of fervor, that energy, that passion is really incredible.”

WWE last visited Bowling Green in April 2018, when former WWE champion AJ Styles successfully defended his title against nemesis Shinsuke Nakamura in the main event that night.

Kingston and Woods, Big E’s New Day teammates, competed for the SmackDown tag team championships against The Bludgeon Brothers and The Usos at WWE’s last Diddle Arena event, but the unit came up just short.

Big E said he and Woods are now “eying” those titles since Kingston is busy defending his WWE championship. To Big E, the duo doesn’t need to change their approach to defeat Daniel Bryan and Rowan, the current titleholders.

“When I was at (the University of) Iowa, we had this thing called ‘Break the Rock’ and sometimes you don’t break the rock on the first blow,” Big E said. “You have to strike it and you strike it and you show up to work every day. You show up and prepare and you do the things that you need to do to win and you know, it might take the 10,000th strike to break the rock, but believe you me, we’re going to break that rock.”

The live event will take place just eight days before SummerSlam, which Big E said was WWE’s “second biggest event of the year” behind WrestleMania. The New Day will aim to pick up victories in order to stay on track for the event.

“You want to go in with the most momentum possible,” Big E said. “You want to make sure that you’re feeling good, that you’re moving well, that everything is connected so, you know, that’s the time to be your very best.”

Tickets for the Diddle Arena show are on sale at ticketmaster.com and at the venue box office. They are available at a wide variety of price points – \$95, \$65, \$50, \$35, \$25 and \$15. Additional fees may apply, and the talent advertised for the show is also subject to change.

“I always tell people, you can bring everyone from your little ones to your big ones and everyone in between,” Big E said. “It’s the greatest value in entertainment, and tickets are still available. It’s one thing to watch it on TV, it’s another to be there up close and personal and interact with all your favorite stars. Make sure to be there.”

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