



Cubed Circle Newsletter 192 – Jay Lethal's Big Win, PWG From Out of Nowhere & More!

In this week's newsletter we return to discuss not only this week's WWE television programming, RAW and NXT, but also a Ring of Honor pay-per-view from a few weeks ago, a PWG show from the beginning of the year, and Mid-South TV from 1981!

– Ryan Clingman, *Cubed Circle Newsletter Editor*

Playing Catch-up – Part I: PWG 'From Out of Nowhere' and ROH 'Best in the World'

As some readers may know, the first semester holidays began but a couple of weeks ago, meaning that I have approximately two more weeks to catch up on all of the pro-wres I missed both before and during exams. What I hope to do over the following two weeks is publish opinions in each week's newsletter covering, briefly and in general, what I watched that week in terms of newer material. Originally, this was a project meant to get underway last week, but the Tsuruta/Misawa piece that I had a lot of fun writing got in the way of that. This week we will be taking a look at Ring of Honor's 'Best in the World' internet-pay-per-view, as well as PWG's 'From Out of Nowhere'.

Ring of Honor: Best in the World June 19th 2015, Terminal 5, New York, New York

Ryan Clingman

Terms such as "biggest match in the history of [insert company name]" are popular on two platforms, the first being the forever-home of hyperbole, the internet and its forums, and the other WWE's television, which continuously pushes the latest forgettable match as supposedly the "biggest" or "most important" in company history. What people in both of these two sets lack is a sense of long-term context, through which to view a particular match or show – or, in the case of the WWE, an inability to effectively sell a story outside of the repeated use of now diluted terms, such as "greatest match ever" or "biggest rematch in WWE history".

Whilst such terms may be misused more often than not, there are occasions when the conservative use of such phrases for a long time, followed by build to a specific show or match can pull off – as was the case with Mayweather/Pacquiao but a few months ago. Ring of Honor, on its many orders of magnitude smaller stage, attempted to create a similar atmosphere when building to Jay Lethal versus Jay Briscoe at their 2015 'Best in the World' event in New York.

The show itself was an entertaining and easy to sit through three or so hours. With a single exception, none of the pre-mainevent content was blow-away by any means, however. Roderick Strong carried Michael Elgin and Moose to a respectable three-way, reDragon and The Addiction

had what would have sounded like an outstanding ladder match in theory, but one that was inevitably disjointed in practice, and War Machine defeated C&C Wrestle Factory. The aforementioned exception was the Bullet Club versus Kingdom trios match with AJ Styles & The Young Bucks placed opposite Adam Cole, Mike Bennett & Matt Taven. Comprising much of the match was the standard Young Back fair, albeit entertaining as always. But, the addition of AJ Styles, coupled with a crowd highly anticipating the Bullet Club, this trios match was inevitably very good.

Regardless of the undercard, it was the main event that decided whether 'Best in the World' was worth the valuable words spent on it. The answer as to whether it was worth such strong build is, however, not as well defined as one would think – the answer will depend on your status as a viewer. For someone who follows and enjoys the current product, watching it on a weekly basis for a prolonged period, Jay versus Jay, with Lethal finally crowned World Champion would have meant a great deal. For those that came for the work and aren't incredibly into the current product, then perhaps Lethal/Briscoe was somewhat of a let down. Understanding what the champion versus champion match was heading in, ultimately placed me on neutral ground. The show was good, and so was the main event, in fact the main event was great on a wrestling front, more over they put everything they could have into the match making it the best it could be. None the less, the resultant match lacked a degree of intensity that would have endeared it to me as either a match of the year candidate or, better yet, one of the best matches in Ring of Honor history.

The scene of Lethal standing tall with both titles, coupled with what was at the very least a good match, one that went close to half an hour and featured most of what I could have personally expected, ignoring any "biggest match in Ring of Honor history" promotion, Lethal/Briscoe was very good. Not only this, but Lethal, at least in my mind, is a far better champion and representative for the company than Briscoe, who I haven't understood the appeal of since 2012. Was it a match as good as the main event of the first 'Best in the World' show, Davey Richards versus Eddie Edwards for the World Title? No. But, it was an entertaining main event outing, one that didn't feel cheap or forced, and for those that are emotionally invested in the product, perhaps it was worthy of its promotional title – the majority of those in the arena most seemed to think so. That is, at least how it came across on video.

Pro-Wrestling Guerrilla: From Out of Nowhere, February 27th, 2015, Reseda California

Southern California's darling, Pro-Wrestling Guerrilla, in its first show of 2015, 'From Out of Nowhere', housed one of the better openers of the year thus far in the PWG debut of "Speed Ball" Mike Bailey, opposite Biff Busick. Bailey doesn't have a very unique look or physical attributes, at least on first site. Aesthetically he wouldn't look out of place as a double for Player Dos, or as an additional member of 3.0. He wrestles barefoot and walked out in a gi looking indie-rific and out of place amongst the pedigree of American indies in PWG. However, as a performer he is far from average, and with all due respect to 3.0 and the Smash Brothers, he possesses a working style far more dynamic and versatile.

He worked with Busick, who is one of the better workers on the indies, but even so he impressed with unique offence, big bumps, strong fire, and believable selling when needed. Bailey consequently submitted to Busick via rear-naked choke, but not before putting on not only one of the better PWG or pro-wrestling openers of the year, but what may finish as a top 15 level match in match of the year polls, at least pre-G1 Climax.

Elsewhere on the card Chris Hero and Drew Gulak worked an expectedly good mat battle, one that

a couple of fans attempted to heckle before being swiftly reprimanded by the majority of the fans in Reseda. There did exist a strange slow count, which the crowd did not take kindly too, and this unfortunately deflated the match somewhat. Gulak's offence, in comparison with Hero's, also looked far less crisp and defined, which is okay given Gulak's slick mat work and the nature of style battles of this sort. I would, regardless, like to see Gulak improve in that regard, as he is otherwise fairly close to the model of a complete worker in the 2015 indies. .



Matt Sydal and Ricochet followed in what was obviously a match of a completely different sort to what preceded it. Due to what can be less than optimal Reseda audio, the words of a heckler were muffled and near unintelligible. Still, it was quite clearly audible in the building, as both men stopped their early work, and a large portion of the audience showered the ill-fated heckler with expletives, insults, and general ridicule. The fans later broke out in an "Ayahuasca" chant in reference to Sydal speaking of the brew in an interview with Colt Cabana on 'The Art of Wrestling' podcast. Ricochet pinned Sydal, but not before Sydal landed a meteora to the outside, which for the sake of his knees, I hope was a unique occurrence. Whilst by no means spectacular, the frantic work, crowd interplay, and playful attitude of both men made this a fun outing.

What was a little too playful for my tastes was the Young Bucks versus Ethan Page & Josh Alexander tag that followed, however. The Bucks pointed out Dave Meltzer sitting in the front row, and proclaimed that they were his favourite tag team and the best in the world. Sadly, we didn't get

a Dave Meltzer run-in. What followed was a wacky spotfest that I didn't, for the most part, find all too entertaining. The fans chanting for the Meltzer Driver whilst Dave himself was in attendance, which resulted in the Bucks signalling to Meltzer before landing the spectacular move for the win.

Finally, in the main event, Roderick Strong defended his PWG title against the impressive rookie, Trevor Lee. They attempted to work a big-match style championship bout, and it worked. The match was far from Strong's best performance of the year thus far, and given the already impressive talents of Trevor Lee, I wouldn't expect it to be his best either. Regardless, both men worked hard and presented a very good main event, and most probably the second best match on the show behind the opener. Perhaps even more importantly, Strong challenged Zack Sabre Jr. in the post-match for 'Don't Swat the Technique' in what should be a great match – one that we will most probably cover next week.

Star Ratings:

ROH June 19th 2015:

Jay Briscoe vs. Jay Lethal ***** ¼

The Addiction vs. reDragon *** ½

The Young Bucks & AJ Styles vs. Adam Cole, Matt Taven & Mike Bennett *** ¾

Roderick Strong vs. Michael Elgin vs. Moose ** ¾

C&C Wrestle Factory vs. War Machine ** ½

PWG February 27th 2015:

Mike Bailey vs. Biff Busick ***** ½

Drew Gulak vs. Chris Hero *** ¾

Ricochet vs. Matt Sydal *** ½

Young Bucks vs. Ethan Page & Josh Alexander: ** ¼

Roderick Strong vs. Trevor Lee *** ¾

Next week we will be looking at New Japan's Dominion Show, PWG's 'Don't Sweat the Technique', and some 1990 FMW.

RAW Ramblings – June 29th 2015.

Verizon Centre: Washington, D.C.

Ben Carass.

RAW was a bizarre show this week. It wasn't great, however it certainly wasn't an absolute abomination like last week's sorry excuse for a TV show. There was some good and bad stuff, one unbelievably terrible segment and one incredible match that was so much better than everything else on the show that there is no other place to start than talking about that.

John Cena's US title open challenge was, once again, the best thing about Monday Night RAW. It's funny that people still complain about **Cena** being over-pushed and a bad worker, because the latter is simply not true at all and the former may have been the case for the last ten years or so, but now **Cena** is elevating mid-carders on a weekly basis by having blow-away matches and making it look like these guys are seconds away from beating him for the title. **Kevin Owens** came out and they teased he would be the one to answer the open challenge; he of course did not. Instead, **Owens** brought out **Cesaro**, who was over like a huge babyface, and he proceeded to have one of the best

TV matches of the year with **Cena**. They went 20 minutes and worked it like a big PPV match: hitting a bunch of big moves and doing a ton of kick-outs. **Owens** was on commentary and, just like in NXT, he berated and embarrassed the clueless announcers at every opportunity. The crowd were just going crazy for the match; **Cena** got insanely high for **Cesaro's** pop-up uppercut. **Cesaro** gave **Cena** the giant swing then applied the Sharpshooter as a tribute to **Tyson Kidd**. **Owens** hit the ring and just like **Neville/Cena**, he cost the challenger the match just as it appeared **Cena** was done for. **Owens** gave both men pop-up powerbombs then said nobody was going to take the US title from **Cena** but him. Even though they did a DQ, it didn't take away from the match at all and it was actually a pretty smart finish. It gave **Cesaro** some much needed credibility and set up a potential **Owens/Cesaro** program for after BattleGround, whether **Owens** is the US champ or not. **Vince McMahon** would have to be even crazier than we all think he is if he doesn't do anything with **Cesaro** after this performance.



The main event storyline was the usual **Authority**-centric deal, however **HHH & Stephanie** weren't on the show for whatever reason. The opening segment was 18 minutes of sheer wackiness that was at least something different than the usual drivel they give **Rollins** to spew out. Gimmick was that **Rollins** kissed **Kane** and **J&J's** asses, including **Jamie Noble** who couldn't get a week off after **Lesnar** broke three of his ribs last week, by giving them all a bunch of gifts. First they all received Apple watches then **Kane** was presented with an all-expenses paid Hawaiian vacation. This is where things got wacky, as a Hula girl and a dude with a ukulele came out to some Island music. **Rollins** said he saw **J&J** arrive in a rental car, so he had a brand new red Cadillac drive into the arena while game show music played and a blonde woman, who was NOT **Noelle Foley**, came out and modelled the car. It was so wacky! **Noble & Mercury** were overjoyed with their new ride and proceeded to act like little kids, honking the horn and climbing out of the sunroof. So, in the midst of all this goofiness, **Rollins** announced that the main event would be himself and **Kane** vs. **Dean Ambrose & Roman Reigns** in a No DQ match. The match wasn't much; **Reigns** got a nice shine spot where he Superman punched everyone to death. Finish saw **Bray Wyatt**, who cut a rambling promo earlier on **Reigns**, show up after a lights-out spot and he attacked **Reigns** which allowed **Rollins** to pin **Ambrose** with the Pedigree. After the match, the **Authority** beat down

Reigns FOREVER. **Reigns** would make fighting comebacks like **Lesnar** did last week, however the crowd lost interest every time the Authority cut him off. Finally, **Rollins** finished him off with a pedigree, however the overrun segment wasn't done and **Bray Wyatt** came back to give **Reigns** Sister Abigail to close the show. It's cool that they are finally getting some real heat on the heels, but everything with WWE is just so long and drawn out when it doesn't need to be. The beating could have been 5 minutes shorter and it would have still achieved the same goal. What about **J&J's** expensive sports car you ask? Well, nothing happened to it at all. Hopefully **Brock Lesnar** will come back and F5 it off the stage or something next week.



Other Notes: **Big Show** beat **Mark Henry** in 1:20; **Ryback** took out **Show** afterwards but **Miz** appeared and attacked **Ryback** then ran away. That led to **Ryback** beating **Miz** via COUNT-OUT in 5 minutes when **Miz** did the old heel walk-out deal. This IC title program is just death. **Paige** beat **Alicia Fox** w/**The Bellas** in a shockingly decent 9:53 match, which even the crowd got into. Why **Paige** beat one of the **Bella's** allies when the story is she needs to find people to help her overcome the odds is beyond me. The **Prime Time Players & Lucha Dragons** downed **New Day & Bo Dallas** in 14:25; it felt like we had seen this match a million times and it went WAY too long. It was total time filler and **Titus** pinned the man facing **Brock Lesnar** on July 4th, **Kofi Kingston**, which by the way they never bothered to mention. We got a “**Lana & Dolph Ziggler** Go Public” segment. It was utterly embarrassing. **Ziggler** acted like a tool, **Lana** said **Rusev** treated her badly, blah-blah-blah. **Rusev & Summer Rae** came out; **Rusev** told **Lana** she was like, “kissing a cold fish” and **Summer** slapped her. We then got a catfight on a WWE show in 2015, with **Lana & Summer** rolling around pulling hair and such. It sucked. To make things worse, while **Lana** was cutting her promo the fans gave her the “What?” treatment. A couple of months ago she was going to be the hottest female in the company and now they have completely cut her legs off. Way to go WWE. **Sheamus** beat **Neville** at 12:45 of a solid match which wasn't helped by being booked so late on in the show. The announcers hyped **Sheamus vs. Randy Orton** at BattleGround; for the second week **Orton** wasn't at TV as he is on vacation until after the Japan trip. **King Barrett** squashed **Jack Swagger** in 1:20. Nobody cared at all.

If for whatever reason you can't find enough good wrestling to watch, and I find such an idea laughable in 2015, then you should check out the **Cena/Cesaro** match. The opening segment is

worth a look if you are in the mood for some off-the-wall wackiness but everything else is pretty much skippable. This was essentially the go-home show for the July 4th show from Sumo Hall, although you wouldn't have known that unless you were paying serious attention. There was barely any mention of **Balor vs. Owens** besides a throwaway line here and there, no awesome video packages or anything, they didn't announce **Brock Lesnar's** opponent, nor **Cena's**, or **Jericho's**, or anybody's for that matter. The show is scheduled for a two hour block on the WWE Network live at 5:30am ET, however on WWE.com the show is listed as a 6:00pm start time in Tokyo, which means either somebody messed something up or they will be joining the show half an hour in. Joey Styles tweeted that the show would be shown in its entirety, however take that with a grain of salt because often the goofs at WWE.com have no idea what the actual plan is when it comes to the product. At the time of writing this, the card is as follows:



Brock Lesnar vs. Kofi Kingston
NXT Title: Kevin Owens vs. Finn Balor
Neville vs. Chris Jericho
John Cena & Dolph Ziggler vs. King Barrett & Kane
Divas Title: Nikki Bella vs. Paige vs. Naomi
Cesaro vs. Diego
The Lucha Dragons vs. The New Day

*It should be a fun little show. **Balor & Owens** could, and probably should, be match of the night. But if **Jericho** is motivated then his match with **Neville** ought to be good and **Brock Lesnar** murdering **Kofi Kingston** can't be anything but great. I expect they will do a better job of hyping up the show on this week's **NXT** than they did here on **RAW**.*

RAW Ratings for June 29th 2015

Ryan Clingman

The June 29th edition of Monday Night RAW dropped to a year-low this week drawing a 2.51 rating

and averaging 3.462 million viewers over three hours (3.46 with a weighted overrun). Another negative was the third and final hour dropping significantly lower overall than the other three, with the second hour once again claiming first place. It was the least watched non-holiday non-football show since 1997. The fact that RAW has been falling viewership-wise since the move to three hours is, as everyone already knows, a major negative, and one that may in the future be looked upon as a big mistake, if audience erosion continues.

Hourly breakdown in millions of viewers:

20:00-21:00: 3.362 (18-49: 1.37)

21:00-22:00: 3.544 (18-49: 1.45)

22:00-23:07: 3.482 (18-49: 1.40)

As always, thanks to @Weffe for his 18-49 ratings contributions.

WWE NXT – July 1st 2015

Full Sail University: Winter Park, FL.

Ben Carass.

Vaudevillains vs. Scott Dawson & Dash Wilder. – **Vaudevillains** over in 3:30. **Byron Saxton** started off by talking about how the tag division in NXT had never been hotter, which is a complete and utter lie. If anything, the tag team scene is one of the major weaknesses of the NXT product; it took me way longer than it should have to remember that **Blake & Murphy** were even the champions. Match was basic and not very interesting. **Vaudevillains** are suddenly babyfaces and they worked accordingly, with **Gotch** selling and **English** making the comeback. Finish saw **English** hit **Wilder** with a neckbreaker and **Gotch** made the pin.



The announcers hyped the July 4th Tokyo show then they aired footage of **Devin** with **Becky Lynch** at the performance centre. **Becky** gave an update on her injury and said he sprained her hip flexor at Takover. She said it would take a couple of weeks to heal and she would come back and go after the

NXT Women's title.

Baron Corbin vs. Tucker Knight. –Corbin won with his finish in 0:45. Old school Corbin squash. Fans still hated him. I don't know where they are going with Corbin at the minute, it feels like they are just treading water with the guy.

An awesome video promoting the Sumo Hall show aired, which is more than they did on RAW to hype the show. Enzo & Cass and the Vaudevillains were arguing in William Regal's office. Regal yelled at them to shut up and announced the teams would wrestle next week in a #1 contenders match. Enzo & Cass left to get ready for Carmella's match and Gotch said they would show them, "What men do."

Part III of the Finn Balor documentary aired. It was all about his time in NXT and his transformation from Prince Devitt to Finn Balor. They showed his debut and Balor talked about merging the names of Finn McCool, a mythical Irish hero, who battled with a one-eyed demon king, Balor. Devitt also noted that his dad's name was "Finton" and is referred to as "Finn." Matt Bloom said Devitt didn't have to learn "moves", but need to understand how to work in front of the camers, despite doing so for years and years. HHH showed Balor how to not look at the camera during his entrance, because they were "making movies." They aired footage from the recent European tour and Balor wrestling in Ireland; he beat Neville. Balor talked about the body paint was about being able to show a more aggressive side of his naturally introverted personality and we got lots of clips of him killing people. Balor talked about saying goodbye to all his friends in Japan and how he never thought he would go back and they managed to splice in a promo of Balor talking about challenging Kevin Owens for the NXT title. It ended with a typical WWE montage set to uplifting music that always closes out these documentary deals. – These have been the highlight of the last couple of weeks of NXT TV and all three parts are now up on the Network in one video, so I suggest you check it out if you haven't already seen it.



Footage of Eva Marie working out with a random girl in the ring aired. William Regal and Sara Del Rey were watching on. Rich Brennan said we would have to wait to see if Eva impresses Regal and makes it to NXT. Something tells me she will make it.

Emma w/ Dana Brooke vs. Carmella. – **Emma** via submission at 4:16. **Carmella** cut her usual promo about being the hottest chick in the ring; she wasn't nearly over as she is without **Enzo & Cass**, who didn't bother coming out even though they told **Regal** they had to leave for this!

Carmella still isn't very good, but she has improved enough to be merely inoffensively bad. **Emma** was as solid as ever and fed for **Carmella's** comeback like a pro. **Carmella** did the Staten Island Shuffle, which I still love, but **Emma** quickly hooked her in the Muta-lock and tapped her out like a goof. – Somebody needs to teach **Carmella** how to time her goofy babyface fire-up dance, because here it cost her the match.

Bull Dempsey was beating up a vending machine because it wouldn't give him any food. **Drake Younger** pleaded with **Bull** to stop then **William Regal** showed up. **Bull** had chocolate around his mouth, which **Regal** wiped off and tasted, seriously he wiped chocolate off his face and ate it. **Regal** told **Bull** to get his act together or he would be sent packing. – This gimmick is the absolute dirt worst. Poor **Bull**.

Jason Jordan was with **Devin** after losing to **Enzo & Big Cass** last week. **Chad Gable** showed up with a “**Dave Schultz** 1984 Champ” t-shirt and told **Jordan** he would be ready to be his partner when **Jordan** smartened up. – A month later and this storyline is still stupid.

Tyler Breeze vs. Tye Dillinger. – **Breeze** over in 2:45. I think **Breeze** is supposed to be a babyface now, because he certainly worked as one here. **Breeze** sold for **Dillinger** for most of the match then made a comeback and did the old Shawn Michaels hurricanrana into some mounted punches. **Breeze** hit the Beauty Shot for the finish. – I don't get all these phantom turns. Maybe **Breeze** will be back to being a heel soon enough, because if it is one thing NXT needs, especially with **Kevin Owens** being called-up to the main roster, is more main event heels.

Emma & Dana Brooke were in the locker room. **Sasha Banks** walked in and challenged the two heels. **Emma & Dana** said it was 2-on-1 and **Sasha** wouldn't be able to find a partner because she didn't have any friends. – So I guess that's another phantom turn, since **Sasha** was a heel last time I checked.

Samoa Joe & Finn Balor vs. Kevin Owens (NXT Champion) & Rhino. – **Joe & Balor** over in 9:30. It started out as TNA 2007 with **Joe & Rhino** pounding on each other. **Owens** worked over **Balor** for the majority of the heat and the announcers hyped July 4th. **Owens** did three of **John Cena's** five moves of doom but **Balor** countered the AA and made the tag. **Joe** ran wild on **Rhino** then gave **Owens** the ST-**Joe**. They did a really long, really awesome finishing sequence: **Balor** went for the double stomp on **Owens**, but **Joe** picked **Owens** up and went for the Muscle Buster. **Rhino** distracted **Joe** and **Owens** planted him with the Pop-up Powerbomb then went for the AA on **Balor**, who countered again but **Owens** countered a reverse Bloody Sunday. **Owens** landed a superkick and **Balor** fired back with a Pele for a nice double-down. **Rhino** went for the gore on **Balor** but hit **Owens** by mistake and **Balor** took him out with a dropkick. **Balor** then hit **Owens** with a running corner dropkick and pinned the NXT champ with the double foot stomp off the top. – A really fun match, especially down the stretch and even though **Balor** pinned **Owens**, I'm still confident he will win the title in Tokyo. After all, NXT is usually booked way better than the main roster shows.

Balor celebrated and the announcers hype the July 4th special and speculated whether **Balor** could beat **Owens** again with the belt on the line.

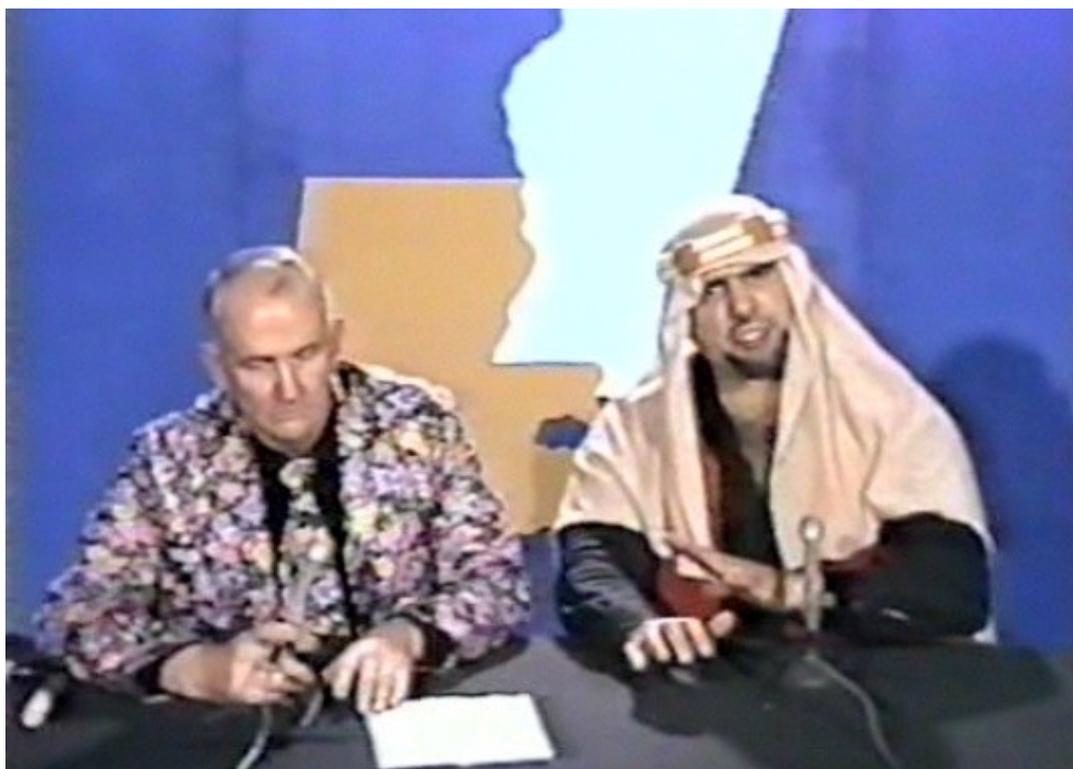
*As predicted, they did way more to hype up the “Beast in the East” show here than on RAW. The **Balor** specials have been great and the main event was really good too. Not much else on the show stood out, although the update from **Becky Lynch** was a nice touch. If you plan on watching the July 4th show, and I don’t know why you wouldn’t, you should probably check out this episode for some solid build and a fun main event.*

Mid-South Wrestling (TV #127)

February 11th 1982

Irish McNeil Boys Club: Shreveport, LA.

Ben Carass.



Boyd Pierce and the devious **Skandor Akbar** opened the show from the announce table. **Boyd** called **Akbar** a, “Gangster!” for stealing the contracts of the **Samoans** away from **Ernie Ladd**. **Akbar** stated that **Ladd** was responsible for the “disappearance” of the **Iron Sheik** from Mid-South and he got his revenge by luring the **Samoans** away from **Ladd**. They showed the fantastic angle from last week with **One Man Gang** coming out to “break” **Ladd’s** leg; **Boyd** asked about the identity of **Gang**, however **Akbar** once again refused to divulge that information, although **Akbar** did refer to **Gang** as a, “One Man Wrecking Crew.” **Boyd** played the straight-laced announcer tremendously and called **Akbar** out on how the **Samoans** won the Tag Team titles then they showed the footage from last week with **Akbar** throwing fire at **JYD**. **Akbar** talked about building an army with HIS **Samoans** and One Man Wrecking Crew and **Boyd Pierce** heaped sympathy on former Tag champ **Mike George**, by stating that he was injured and could not make any money to feed his family! – This was a rare, long promo open for Mid-South TV and it took up the entire opening segment, although it was a smart idea recapping the big angle and title switch from last week.

Non-Title Match: The Samoans (Mid-South Tag Team Champs) w/Skandor Akbar vs. Rick Ferrara & Bill Ash. – Total squash for the **Samoans** in 2:24. The champs killed **Ash** and once again **Boyd Pierce**, who was now on his own on commentary, talked about **Akbar** taking food off **George’s** plate. **Sika** pinned **Ferrara** with the Samoan drop.

Paul Orndorff vs. Brian Blair. – Orndorff over in 6:30. **Boyd** informed us that these two guys were old friends from their time in Florida and the usually deceitful **Orndorff** actually shook hands with **Blair** at the start of the match. Story of the match was simple: It started out as a fair athletic contest between two guys that respected each other, however the face, **Blair**, got the better of the exchanges and eventually **Orndorff** resorted to a punch to the stomach to get the advantage. Both men spilled over the top, which didn't really result in anything other than I guess teasing a DQ. Finish saw **Orndorff** get the pin after a **Tenzan**-style Calf Branding knee off the ropes to the arm of **Blair**.



Louisiana Heavyweight Championship: JYD (C) vs. Bob Roop. – **JYD** retained in about 6 minutes of TV time. **JYD** was all fired up after what happened last week and threw a bunch of punches which **Roop** wanted no part of and he took a break on the floor. **Boyd** covered for the **Dog's** terrible in-ring work by saying he got the job done even though it didn't look pretty. **Roop** got his foot tangled up in the ropes and they paused for a commercial break. Afterwards, we were back at the desk with **Boyd** and he said the match ended during the break! They rolled the footage of the finish and **Paul Orndorff** ran down to interfere, however he nailed his buddy **Roop** by accident. **JYD** hit the Big Thump on **Roop** then slammed **Orndorff** onto **Roop**; **Bob Orton Jr.** then hit the ring but the **Dog** press slammed him over the top onto **Orndorff** then pinned **Roop** with a forearm smash. – This was so wacky. It was like the few times WWE had a couple of nothing matches end during commercial breaks on RAW as a way to push the App exclusive content, however this was a main event featuring the biggest name in the territory! On the plus side, **JYD** looked like Superman by foiling the heels plan to screw him out of the title.

Back with **Boyd**, who talked about **Mr Olympia** winning the Mississippi title from **Bob Orton Jr.** and the **Samoans** capturing the Tag belts last week. **Boyd** pointed out that **JYD** had put an end to the streak of champions losing and titles changing hands on TV.

Ted Dibiase (North American Heavyweight Champ) & Mr Olympia (Mississippi Heavyweight Champ) vs. Ed Wiskowski & Bob Orton Jr. – **Dibiase & Olympia** over in 4:48. The two

babyface champions school the heels with some teamwork early on. **Orton** grabbed **Dibiase's** hair to get a brief advantage, however the faces worked together again to get back on top. It broke down with all four men brawling in the ring; **Olympia** put **Wiskowski** out with the Sleeper and **Dibiase** countered **Orton's** piledriver then sent him over the top behind the referee's back and leaped on the unconscious **Wiskowski** to get the pin. – The finish looked all kinds of wacky in 2015, but it worked here in 1982 and the fans went nuts for the triumphant faces. Wrestling used to be so much simpler.

Ron Cheatham vs. Frank Monte. – TV time limit draw in 2:50. This was a stand-by jobber match and even **Boyd Pierce** wasn't really interested, as he spent the entire time hyping **Dusty Rhodes** and **Dick Murdoch** for next week's show. Either **Boyd** was mistaken or something went wrong, because **Murdoch** was not in fact on next week's show at all. The geeks did stuff; nobody cared at all. **Boyd** rambled until the time was up, but at least he recapped what happened on the show.



After last week's exception storytelling and booking, this show was completely weak in comparison. The best thing was probably the **JYD** match and that is saying something, but **Dog** was booked like a real top babyface, so at least that was good. Things pick up a little next week with **Dusty Rhodes**, who never fails to entertain in one way or another, and a shockingly decent tag match with **JYD & Mr Olympia vs. The Grappler & Bob Sweetan!** I should probably note that once again there is a gap in the Mid-South archives and after next week's show we'll be skipping ahead two weeks to March 11th. I'm not exactly sure what the deal is with the missing episodes, but since the Universal Wrestling Archive doesn't have any of them for sale I'm guessing they are lost forever, or at least until the transmission from 1982 travels far enough out into space that another intelligent life form is able to record them and bring them to Earth as a peace offering. I wouldn't hold your breath though.

Bits & Pieces

In what is very much a “I can't believe this exists” internet deal, there now exists two fantastic twitter accounts, @ShinAsBeaches and @OkadaAsIceCream. They juxtapose pictures of Shinsuke Nakamura and Kazuchika with beaches and ice-cream respectfully based on the colour-scheme of the photo.

Next Week's Issue

We have a big issue planned for next week covering New Japan's Dominion show, WWE's Japanese house show, PWG's critically acclaimed 'Don't Sweat the Technique', RAW, NXT, the ratings, and more!

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