

WRESTLING

CUBED CIRCLE NEWSLETTER ISSUE
#234 MAY 22ND 2016

Cubed Circle Newsletter 234 – Walker Knee Lifts His Aneurysm

We (Ben) are back again this week, and late as always (me). In this week's issue we look at most of the biggest news stories for the week in wrestling, including the successful heart surgery of Mr Wrestling II, Stephanie McMahon's book deal, possible Los Ingobernables break-up in Mexico, Zack Sabre injury, his PWG replacement, and much more! Plus, Mid-South from 1982 and the Extreme Rules go-home show.

– Ryan Clingman, *Cubed Circle Newsletter Editor*

The Pro-Wres Digest for May 14th – May 21st.

Ben Carass.

Top Stories:

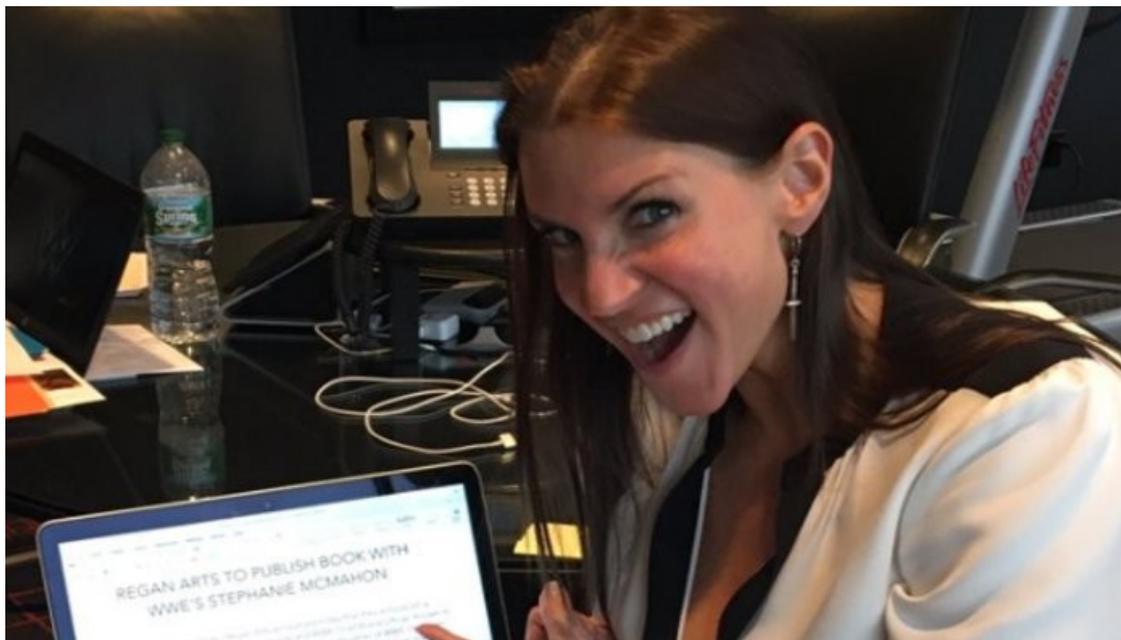
Johnny Walker, the legendary Mr Wrestling II, underwent surgery to repair an aortic aneurysm on 15/5. The last word from his son Robert was that the surgery couldn't have gone any better and the 81 year-old Walker was recovering in the ICU for a couple of days. Here's Robert Walker's full statement from 15/5:

"Thank you everyone so much for your thoughts and prayers. The doctor came out of surgery and explained that everything went extremely well and couldn't have gone any better. Dad is in the ICU recovery for the next few days and should have him up and moving soon. As you may or may not know, an aneurysm on the aorta is a ticking time bomb and could rupture at any minute. He now has dodged a second bullet with this one, as this is the second one for him. Mom is really watching over him and we are truly blessed. Thanks again to all."



Walker made a full recovery from open heart bypass surgery in 2010, so with any luck Mr Wrestling II should be up and throwing Knee Lifts in no time. Walker was famously the favourite wrestler of former President Jimmy Carter and his mother, Miss Lillian Carter. Walker even received an invited to Lillian's house and was driven there by the Secret Service. They reportedly spoke for over two hours on a range of subjects and Miss Carter's only reference to Walker's mask was that he could remove it if he felt more comfortable. Of course, Walker kept his mask on and politely

declined. – For the full story, and plenty more Mr Wrestling II tales, check out [this](#) great piece by [Mike Mooneyham](#) for the Post and Courier in 2011. [EDITOR'S NOTE: Allan Blackstock and Kris Zellner posted a fantastic Wrestling II podcast earlier this year.]



Stephanie McMahon announced this week that she is working on her “memoirs,” which will be released on September 27th – my birthday, so you all know what to get me – and Dave Meltzer [reported](#) it will cost \$26.95 through Regan Arts. Judith Regal, CEO of Regal Arts, came out with the most hilarious and farcical corporate jargon to promote the book. Get a load of this:

"Stephanie McMahon is one of the great visionaries behind the continuing success of WWE, and has navigated the entertaining, treacherous and awe-inspiring world of Superstars, egos and drama with style, tremendous skill and dynamite feminine force."

Vince McMahon sold 2,191,894 Class B shares of his WWE stock on 16/5 for an estimated \$36,165,921 (before tax). That leaves Vince with 37,080,747 Class B shares, which is 48.8% of the company. The gimmick is that Class B shares can only be held by a McMahon and if they are sold they automatically become Class A shares. Class B shares have 10 votes per share while Class A only has one vote per share. According to [Mookie Ghana](#), as of February 2016 only four people held about 42 million Class B shares, with 420 million voting rights. Where as there were only 7,916 holders of about 33 million Class A common stock shares, with 33 millions voting share. Basically, the McMahons will remain controlling interest in the company no matter what.

There's no word on a title yet, however on 11/5 WWE filed the trademark, “Lady Balls.” Maybe they are planning on debuting some kind of new wacky character, however (and this is pure speculation) it could very well be a working title for Ms McMahon's courageous and trailblazing life-story.

Emma is the latest performer to be stricken by the WWE injury plague. She suffered a back injury during a tag match with Lana against Becky Lynch & Sasha Banks at a house show in New Mexico on 8/5. After an MRI they discovered that Emma had ruptured a disc in her back and needed surgery to fix it.

AJ Styles didn't work last weekend's house shows due to an ankle injury. There was no word on how serious the injury was and it is possible they pulled Styles from the shows as a precautionary measure with Extreme Rules only a week away at that point. Styles didn't wrestle on RAW or SmackDown this week, however he did some physical stuff and appeared to move around fine.

Japan:

IWGP Heavyweight champion Tetsuya Naito was hospitalised on Friday 13/5 due to suffering from a high fever. Naito managed to pull through and worked the ROH/NJPW War of the Worlds the next night on 14/5 at Terminal 5 in New York City and reportedly still managed to have the best match of the night when he beat ACH in a non-title match.

Two ROH/New Japan stars that weren't quite as lucky as Naito were Matt & Nick Jackson, both of whom were injured at the ROH TV tapings in Toronto on 11/5. Nick went down with a broken rib during a Elite vs. Tanahashi, Elgin & Yoshitatsu match and Matt broke his hand at some point during the same show. Matt worked the 14/5 show in New York and teamed with Adam Cole against Jay Lethal & Roderick Strong and Okada & Ishii, however Nick missed the final night of the War of the Worlds tour and was also pulled from the Best of the Super Juniors tournament. The forgotten member of the Bullet Club, Chase Owens, will take Nick's spot in the B Block and Matt's spot in the A Block went to David Finlay. Here's the updated card for the BOSJ opening night at Korakuen on 21/5:

- * Satoshi Kojima, Volador Jr. & Bobby Fish vs. Tomohiro Ishii, Trent Baretta & Will Ospreay.
- * Yuji Nagata, Manabu Nakanishi, Jushin Liger & Tiger Mask vs. Katsuyori Shibata, Juice Robinson, Jay White & ???.
- * Hiroshi Tanahashi, Yoshitatsu, Captain New Japan & Ricochet vs. Kenny Omega, Bad Luck Fale, Yujiro Takahashi & Chase Owens.
- * Kazuchika Okada, Hirooki Goto & Yoshi-Hashi vs. Tetsuya Naito, Seiya Sanada & Evil.
- * BOSJ A BLOCK: Gedo vs. Bushi.
- * BOSJ A BLOCK: Rocky Romero vs. David Finlay.
- * BOSJ A BLOCK: Ryusuke Taguchi vs. Matt Sydal.
- * BOSJ A BLOCK Kushida vs. Kyle O'Reilly.

Minoru Suzuki held a press conference in Tokyo on 16/5 and announced the full card for the Suzuki-Gun show at Korakuen Hall on 18/6. The show will take place one day after Suzuki's 48th birthday on 17/6 and will feature a special commemorative birthday battle royal. The match is mostly full of NOAH guys, however MMA fighter Ryo Kawamura and female wrestler Hiroyo Matsumoto, who works at Suzuki's Piledriver store in Harajuku, will both be entrants in the special battle royal. Suzuki laughed at the idea of Matsumoto beating up men in the match.

- * **Minoru Suzuki 48th Birthday Commemoration Royal Rumble:** Muhammad Yone, Quiet Storm, Akitoshi Saito, Taiji Ishimori, Yoshinari Ogawa, Hitoshi Kumano, Shiro Tomoyose, Kaito Kiyomiya, Ryo Kawamura & Hiroyo Matsumoto.
- * **Four-Way Tag Match:** Yoshinobu Kanemaru & El Desperado vs. Daisuke Harada & Atsushi Kotoge vs. Kenoh & Hajime Ohara vs. Genba Hirayanagi & Captain NOAH.
- * **6 Man Tag Match:** Shelton "X" Benjamin, Taichi & TAKA Michinoku vs. Togi Makabe, Tomoaki Honma & Ryusuke Taguchi.
- * **Survival Three-Way Tag Match:** Lance Archer & Davey Boy Smith Jr. vs. Go Shiozaki & Maybach Taniguchi vs. Katsuhiko Nakajima & Masa Kitamiya.
- * **Main Event Six-Man Tag Match:** Minoru Suzuki, Takashi Sugiura & Takashi Iizuka vs.

Naomichi Marufuji, Toru Yano & Kazushi Sakuraba.

Kenta Kobashi's Fortune Dream 3 show on 14/6 at Korakuen Hall added two new matches to the card this week. Jun Akiyama will face the son of Tatsumi Fujinami, Leona in a singles match, and Ultimo Dragon, Minoru Tanaka & Shinjiro Otani vs. Isami Kodaka, Shiori Asahi & Fujita "Jr" Hayato was also announced for the card. Previously announced:

- * Special Talk Battle: Kenta Kobashi vs Kensuke Sasaki.
- * Hiroyo Matsumoto vs. Kairi Hojo.
- * Go Shiozaki & Yuji Okabayashi vs. Daisuke Sekimoto & Yuji Hino.
- * Shuji Ishikawa & Katsuhiko Nakajima vs. Kohei Sato & Maybach Taniguchi.

A huge match has been announced for the Wrestle-1 show on August 11th in Yokohama, as three years after the All Japan split Keiji Mutoh & Jun Akiyama will face off on opposite sides of a six-man tag match. The last time Mutoh & Akiyama shared the ring was for Kenta Kobashi's retirement match in May 2013, however the last time they were on opponents was on March 20th 2013 in All Japan when Mutoh, Hiroshi Yamato & Takao Omori beat Akiyama, Go Shiozaki & Atsushi Aoki. The 11/8 match was set up during a Wrestle-1 show at Korakuen Hall on 4/5 when Akiyama made a surprise appearance and challenged Mutoh to a match. No partners have been announced for either team as of yet. Mutoh also announced the winner of the Wrestle-1 Grand Prix, a 16 man single elimination tournament starting on 15/6 at Shinjuku Face, would receive a shot at the Wrestle-1 Championship on the 11/8 show in Yokohama. Kai is the current Wrestle-1 champion, however he is set to defend the title before 11/8 at Korakuen Hall on 6/8 against Shotaro Ashino.

FMW ran Shinkiba 1st RING in Tokyo on 14/5 and the war with UWF continued with Team FMW: Atsushi Onita, Raijin Yaguchi, NOSAWA Rongai & Hideki Hosaka beating Team UWF: Yoshihiro Takayama, Mitsuya Nagai, Alexander Otsukda & Daisuke Ikeda in the main event which went 13 minutes. Semi-final saw Takuma Sano & Takaku Fuke (UWF) over Ricky Fuji & Tomohiko Hashimoto (FMW) in 10:44, leaving both promotions with one win each on the night.

Mexico:

Los Ingobernables appear to be in the process of breaking up. La Mascara, Rush & Pierroth lost to Rey Bucanero, Shocker & Terrible on 13/5 and teased dissension throughout the match. Afterwards, Rush & his father Pierroth attacked Mascara and Rush declared that he, Sombra & Mascara were blood brothers but said that Mascara played to the crowd too much. Rush said he was going with his actual blood, Pierroth and claimed they were the new Los Ingobernables, however Mascara stated in a backstage interview that the group was finished. Rush also surprisingly lost to Marco Corleone in the main event of the 16/5 show at Arena Puebla in 7:32; Rush was DQ'd in the second fall but was pinned in the third. Cubs Fan seems to think that CMLL are trying to keep Rush happy in order to stop from going elsewhere and giving him a big singles run against all of his friends appears to be their plan. Cubs also speculated that Rush could be "checking items off his CMLL bucket list," similar to the way La Sombra went out by getting to work a very short deal with his friend Rush. It certainly doesn't mean Rush is going anywhere, although it will be an interesting situation to keep an eye on.

Dragon Lee returned from his knee injury on the CMLL Arena Mexico show on 17/5 and typically did a bunch of crazy dives. Lee teamed with Blue Panther & Guerrero Maya Jr against Bobby Z, Mephisto & Vangellys and bizarrely – although this is Mexico – lost the third fall clean to a Bobby Z dropkick.

AAA announced the third women's team for the Lucha World Cup. **Team Canada** will be made up of Taya, KC Spinelli & Cherry Bomb. There is still one more women's team to be announced, that being Team USA. **Team Japan** is Aja Kong, Yuki Miyazaki, Natsu Sumire and **Team Mexico** is Lady Apache, Mary Apache & Faby Apache. Currently, only four of the eight men's teamed have been announced. **Team NOAH**: Taiji Ishimori, Naomichi Marufuji & Maybach Taniguchi. **Team Zero-One**: Akebono, Ikuto Hidaka & Masato Tanaka. **Team AAA**: El Texano Jr., Pentagon Jr. & Psycho Clown. **Team Mexican Leyendas**: Canek, La Parka & Blue Demon Jr. Rey Mysterio Jr will captain an International team, however his partners have not been announced yet. Team Lucha Underground & Team TNA are also still unknown at this point.

Misc:

Zack Sabre Jr was hurt while working a match against Big Daddy Walter for WXW in Germany on 13/5. Sabre suffered a nasty gash on his arm and had to be taken to hospital to get stitched up. The injury was severe enough to cause Sabre to pull out of the PWG "Prince" show on 20/5, where he was scheduled to defend the PWG title for the first time against Michael Elgin. Sabre also had to cancel his date for PWX Wrestling in North Carolina on 21/5. Kamaitachi will replace Sabre on the PWG show and will face Michael Elgin.

The [Observer](#) this week noted that Cedric Alexander is finished with ROH and is expected to be a part of the WWE Global Cruiserweight Classic. Alexander was announced for the next Evolve double-shot weekend in Florida on June 10/11, so it was pretty clear at that point that he would not be going back to ROH.

TNA [announced](#) that Tigre Uno had re-signed with the company this week. Unfortunately for Tigre and the rest of the TNA crew, Pop TV cancelled the Saturday morning replay of iMPACT after only four weeks of it airing in that time slot.

Chikara are running their second tour of the UK starting on 20/5, following last year's four shows they ran in conjunction with the Wolverhampton based Fight Club Pro. This year's tour will be seven dates across the UK and will once again feature both Chikara & Fight Club Pro talent.

William Regal announced on WWE's Facebook page that the Samoa Joe/Finn Balor NXT title match on 8/6 would be the first cage match in NXT history.

Speaking of NXT, we've got some highlights from the TV tapings held on 19/5 at Full Sail. Manny Andrade worked a dark match under the new name Andrade "Cien" Almas and beat Tino Sabbatelli. Johnny Gargano & Tommaso Ciampa beat TM61 (Nick Miller & Shane Thorn) – the former TMDK and Adrienne Reese (Athena) beat Nikki Storm. In terms of storyline, they set up Nia Jax as the #1 contender for Asuka by putting Jax over Carmella & Alexa Bliss in a three-way. Later on, they did a contract signing and Jax ended up laying Asuka out with a Powerbomb. Austin Aries & Shinsuke Nakamura was booked for the next Takeover on 8/6. Interestingly, Samoa Joe, Finn Balor & Shinsuke Nakamura didn't work any matches for the TV shows, however they were on the show in the dark main event slot, as Balor & Nakamura beat Joe & Tye Dillinger when Nakamura pinned Joe.

Here's the final card for WWE Extreme Rules this Sunday from the Prudential Centre in Newark, NJ.

* **WWE World Heavyweight Championship Extreme Rules Match:** Roman Reigns (c) vs. AJ Styles

* **WWE IC Four-way:** The Miz (c) vs. Cesaro vs. Kevin Owens vs. Sami Zayn

* **WWE United States Championship:** Kalisto (c) vs. Rusev

* **WWE Tag Team Championship:** New Day (c) vs. The Vaudevillains

* **WWE Women's Championship Submission Match:** Charlotte (c) vs. Natalya

* **Asylum Match:** Dean Ambrose vs. Chris Jericho

* **Texas Tornado:** Karl Anderson & Luke Gallows vs. The Usos

* **No DQ:** Baron Corbin vs. Dolph Ziggler

Ratings:

RAW on 16/5 did a 2.26 rating with 3,174,000 viewers, virtually the same as what they did last week only with 57,000 less viewers. 8pm did 3,376,000. 9pm did 3,302,000 and 10pm dropped massively to 2,894,000 up against the NBA Play-offs.

TNA iMPACT on 17/5 did 311,000, up from the 280,000 they did last week.

Lucha Underground on 18/5 did a total 164,000 viewers; 127,000 for the first run and 37,000 for the replay. That's down from the combined 177,000 last week, however the median viewer age was the youngest all season at 48.7.

SmackDown on 19/5 did a 1.62 rating with 2,295,000 viewers, up slightly from the 1.59 and 2,262,000 last week.

RAW Ramblings – May 16th 2016

Greensboro Coliseum: Greensboro, NC.

Ben Carass.



The go-home RAW for Extreme Rules was a pretty inconsistent show. The first 45 minutes or-so

were perfectly fine, but things went off the rails for about an hour until **Karl Anderson & Luke Gallows** wrestled the **Usos** in a very good TV match and we got the usual **Club/Family** brawl to set up **Styles/Reigns** on Sunday. After that it was more nonsense and meaningless stuff until the main event segment which was a contract signing for the **Charlotte/Natalya** Women's title match. Thankfully nobodies dead family member was brought up this time, although they did manage to make the story entirely about **Stephanie McMahon** and not the two women fighting for the title.

Show opened with **AJ Styles** cutting an in-ring promo. Said he headlined the Tokyo Dome in front of “60,000” people and won championships all over the world then noted that he didn't need **the Club's** help to beat **Reigns** at the PPV. **Reigns** showed up and was booed; he told **Styles** that everything he had accomplished meant nothing until he won THE championship. They bantered back and forth then while **Anderson & Gallows** made their entrance, the **Usos** sneaked into the ring and stood next to **Reigns**. **Styles** turned into a punch from **Reigns** and rolled outside; **Anderson & Gallows** held **AJ** back and **Roman** held up the title. Later, just before the top of the third hour, the **Usos** wrestled **Anderson & Gallows** for the thousandth time. **Usos** won in 13:00. Even though we've seen the match a bunch of times, it really picked up after the hot tag and **Jey Uso** hit a dive to both guys on the floor. They did some near-falls and the finish saw the **Usos** hit a pair of Superkicks on both **Good Brothers** then **Jimmy** pinned **Anderson** with the **Superfly** Splash. Afterwards, **the Club & the Family** got into a brawl; **Reigns** hit **Styles** in his bad back with a chair and took out the **Good Brothers**. **Styles** came back and nailed **Reigns** with the chair then gave him the **Styles Clash** onto the chair and stood tall. – **Anderson & Gallows** lose again; typical WWE idiotic booking. The stuff with **Styles & Reigns** was fine, although they made it blatantly clear that **Styles** is losing and they pretty much told viewers to expect a bunch of interference in the Extreme Rules match.



They set up the IC title Four-way with some good stuff. Opener was **Sami Zayn vs. Cesaro**; **Kevin Owens & Miz** were on commentary and **Owens** buried **Miz** like a hero. Match ended in a no-contest at 1:40 when **Owens & Miz** hit the ring and everybody brawled. **Shane McMahon** came out to book the **Teddy Long** Tag Team Special and paired **Zayn** with **Cesaro** and **Owens** with **Miz**. “He's the worst one!!!” **Owens** yelled. **Stephanie** showed up and said he had a better idea and changed the match to **Owens & Zayn vs. Cesaro & Miz**. **Shane** agreed that it was a better idea, because even he is not smarter than **Stephanie**. Match was fun; **Owens** yelled at **Zayn** the whole time. **Cesaro** went for the Giant Swing but **Miz** tagged in a dumped **Cesaro** out. **Miz** set up for the Swing on **Zayn**, but **Cesaro** came back and laid **Miz** out with his own Skull Crushing Finale. **Owens** dragged **Cesaro** out and **Zayn** pinned **Miz** with the Yakuza kick in 11:20. **Owens** blind-sided **Zayn** after the match and demanded the referee raised his hand; “I won too!” **Owens** declared. What a great man.

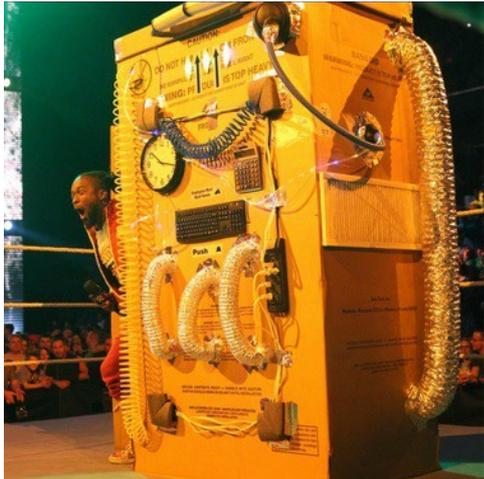
Dean Ambrose & Chris Jericho's match at Extreme Rules is now an Asylum Match, which is basically a Clockwork Orange House of Fun match. **Ambrose** was out for a promo and was all serious about **Jericho** smashing the plant on his head and tying him up in a straitjacket on SmackDown. **Jericho** interrupted and told **Ambrose** he owed him \$15,000 for the jacket he ruined. They argued about who was the craziest then the cage lowered while some corny dramatic music played. There were a bunch of goofy weapons hanging above cage, including another plant, a straitjacket and a fire extinguisher. The lame music continued to play while **Ambrose** explained that **Shane** said he could have any kind of match he wanted and he stated that **Jericho** would never be the same again. – Segment was corny and the feud overall has been pretty silly, but these two should still pull off a good match even with all the ridiculous gimmicks thrown in.



Main event segment was the Women's contract signing – of course **Shane & Stephanie** were both out there. **Natalya** signed the contract first then **Charlotte** rambled on forever and managed to make the Greenboro crowd boo her. **Shane** told **Charlotte** to sign, but she and **Flair** looked at the contract and were not happy. **Shane** said there was an added stip that if **Flair** showed up at all during the match then **Charlotte** would be stripped of the title. **Flair** got hot and called **Stephanie**, “the worst businesswoman off all-time”, probably not a good move. **Charlotte** eventually signed then **Flair** challenged **Shane** to a fight, however **Shane** refused to fight him because he had too much respect for him. **Stephanie** said he didn't respect **Flair** and slapped him in the face; **Flair** of course took a huge bump. The fans actually chanted, “**Stephanie**” and **Nattie** put **Charlotte** in the Sharpshooter then she stood tall to close the show. – It's nice that they put the women in the main event segment, but this was clearly all about **Stephanie McMahon** getting herself over in the Carolinas at **Ric Flair** expense.

Miscellaneous: Primo & Epico debuted as the **Shining Stars** and it was clear from the moment they came out that this gimmick is utter death. They said the ring was their island; nobody cared at all. They beat **John Skyler & Corey Hollis** from NXT in 1:45; **Skyler & Hollis** were given different names for some inexplicable reason. **Shining Stars** won with their finish, called the Shining Star, which is basically the Total Elimination. **Dana Brooke** beat **Becky Lynch** in 3:45 by reversing a roll-up; the announcers acknowledged that **Emma** would be out for a while due to her back injury. The same **Darren Young/Bob Backlund** vignette aired from SmackDown; **Backlund** didn't understand what a smart phone was and made **Young** do some squats. **Dudley Boyz** met with **Shane & Steph** in the office and asked for an easy match against some local guys. **Steph** said that is not how things are done in the New Era, despite the fact that is exactly what happened in the

Colon's match. **Shane** booked one of the **Dudleys** against **Big Cass** instead. **Big Cass** beat **D-Von**



1:00 with the East River Crossing. Before the match, **Cass** made fun of the **Dudleys** and did an **Urkel** impression. It sucked. After FIVE MONTHS of the **R-Truth & Goldust** storyline, they finally teamed up...and lost. They actually went to the trouble of making a video montage of all the stupid **Goldust/Truth** stuff. **Tyler Breeze & Fandango** (whom they called **Breeze-Ango**) beat the **Golden Truth** in 2:15 after **Truth** kicked **Goldust** by mistake. In the back. **Truth & Goldust** agreed to keep teaming; **Breeze & Fandango** showed up and called them the “Golden Girls.” – Wretched.

There was a **New Day** segment involving a time machine, which was **Big E** pointed out was just a giant cardboard box. They did a bit where **Kofi** came out of the time machine to his old “SOS” music and he spoke with his Jamaican accent. **Big E & Xavier** pulled him back inside the time machine and **Kofi** said that he wanted to stay because 2009 was his best year. They went even further back in time to the “bygone era” and the screen went black & white. **The Vaudevillains** showed up and attacked **New Day** and destroyed their time machine. **Alberto Del Rio** pinned **Kalisto** with the Backstabber in a needlessly long 11:05 match during the third hour. During the match, **Rusev** beat up **Sin Cara** in the back and dragged him out to ringside. This distracted the US champ and he lost like a chump. **Rusev** put **Kalisto** in the **Accolade** afterwards.

Mid-South Wrestling (TV #162)

October 16th 1982

Irish McNeil Boys Club: Shreveport, LA.

Ben Carass.

Boyd Pierce & Bill Watts opened the show from the desk; **Boyd** was wearing a plain navy blue suit which was positively tame compared to the usual monstrosities he wore. He hyped **Mr Olympia vs. Ted DiBiase** in a Champion vs. Champion match, plus a battle of the masked men(!) with **Mr Wrestling II vs. The Grappler**. **Boyd** also put over a Louisiana title match with **Mike Sharpe** defending against “**Hacksaw**” **Duggan** and footage over **Chavo Guerrero** in action from Tokyo. **Watts** did a hard sell for the Superdome show on Thanksgiving night and listed all the stars who would be coming to the Mid-South area very soon: **Mil Mascaras, Gino Hernandez & Tony Atlas** were the names he dropped. **Watts** threw to a video of **Chavo Guerrero** challenging for the “World’s Junior Heavyweight Championship” against “**Kenji Kimura.**” He didn’t give a date for the match and said that the commentary would remain, “in the Japanese,” however he noted that **Paul Boesch** from Houston added a few comments here and there.

What we actually got were clips of **Chavo Guerrero** challenging **Kengo Kimura** for the NWA International Junior Heavyweight Championship from New Japan Pro Wrestling on November 3rd 1980 – nearly two years earlier. **Kimura** naturally looked great in the highlights and hit a beautiful Back Suplex and a pair of lovely Piledrivers. Finish saw **Kimura** go for a Plancha, but **Chavo** moved and **Kimura** took a brutal bump on the floor. **Chavo** got back in the ring and won the title via count-out; **Paul Boesch** noted that winning a title meant the same if it happened in Tokyo or Texas. Back with **Watts & Boyd**; **Watts** put **Chavo** over by saying even though he was a Junior he wrestled like a Heavyweight then hilariously compared him to **Danny Hodge**. **Watts** also explained that titles could change hands via count-out in Japan. – It’s always fun to see tapes from Japan, even

if they are nearly two years out of date. **Watts** must have just called **Paul Boesch** and asked him to send him some footage of **Chavo** in action, as the tape clearly aired on Houston Wrestling first. At this point in 1982, **Chavo** was actually working for All Japan as part of the Giant Series tour and wouldn't show up in Mid-South for another month on Thanksgiving night at the Superdome.



Buck Robely & Tim Horner vs. Ted Allen & Marty Lunde. – **Robley & Horner** over in 3:36. As we've noted before, **Marty Lunde** is in fact a young **Arn Anderson** working under his real name as a young enhancement guy. **Watts** talked about the University of Oklahoma beating the Texas Longhorns and congratulated coach **Barry Switzer**, who would go on to coach the Dallas Cowboys and took them to the Superbowl championship in 1995. **Watts** noted that “**Dr Death**” **Steve Williams** was a key part in the victory and ran most of the yardage for OU. Match was a basic squash for the babyfaces. Everyone in the match looked better than **Robley** though, especially **Allen & Lunde**. **Robley** pinned **Allen** with his loaded Forearm pad Elbow Drop.

Kamala w/Friday vs. Jesse Barr. – **Kamala** over in 1:19. **Watts** speculated that **Kamala** would one day want a shot at the **JYD**, because everyone that comes to Mid-South at some point wanted a piece of the **Dog**. **Kamala** tossed **Barr** all over the place and killed him quickly with a couple of splashes to the back. **Watts** called **Kamala's** belly slapping a “macabre, comical type of situation,” but he added that his opponents certainly didn't find anything funny about it. – I said last week that **Barr** should have been the first opponent for the **Mongolian Stomper** instead of **Mike Bond**, and **Barr** vindicated that statement by taking a tremendous ass-kicking here.

Non-Title, Champion vs. Champion: Ted DiBiase (North American Heavyweight Champion) vs. Mr Olympia (Mississippi Heavyweight & Mid-South Tag Team Champion.) – **DiBiase** over in 5:23. **Olympia** started off hot with a Dropkick then after an awesome criss-cross, he got a near-fall with a Flying Crossbody. Story of the match was **Olympia** being one step ahead of **DiBiase**, who tried to use **Olympia's** own holds against him, including the Sleeper and a Crossbody off the second rope, but **Olympia** countered every time. **DiBiase** went for his Figure Four, but **Olympia** countered that too and got a near-fall with **DiBiase's** own Powerslam. When **DiBiase** kicked out,

Olympia landed on top of the referee **Alfred Neeley**, which gave **DiBiase** just enough time to load up his black glove of doom and he KO'd **Olympia** with a right hand. **DiBiase** put **Olympia** in his own Sleeper hold to win the match and **Watts** made sure to point out that **DiBiase** loaded up his glove. – This was as basic as a match between two big stars gets, but it was absolutely great. The story was easy enough for everybody to follow and the finish gave a real sense that **DiBiase & Duggan** could cheat their way to the Tag Titles in two weeks when they face **JYD & Olympia**.



Mr Wrestling II vs. The Grappler. – **Wrestling II** over in 5:05. **Two** controlled early and sent **Grappler** over the top onto the apron with an Atomic Drop. **Grappler** cut **Two** off with a right hand and worked him over for the heat. **Grappler** went after **Two's** mask and **Two** fired up with some big forearm smashes. **Two** set up for his running Knee Lift, but **Grappler** moved and **Two** smashed his knee into the turnbuckle. **Watts** went crazy and said it was the first mistake we'd seen **Mr Wrestling II** make on television! **Grappler** didn't go after the leg for some reason – probably because **Two** was going over – and hit **Two** with some Knee Lifts to the arm. **Grappler** worked on the arm, but **Two** countered his Shoulder Breaker and running **Fujiwara Armbar** – which **Watts** finally gave a name for after all these months, “the **Grappler Twist**.” **Grappler** avoided a Knee Lift, but **Two** caught him with a Back Suplex then drilled him with the big Knee Lift to get the win. Afterwards, **Grappler** went after **Two**, but **Two** sent him packing like a chump and stood tall. – Match was okay, but the way they teased and built towards **Two** finally hitting the Knee Lift was great. **Wrestling II** was booked in such a superior manner to the **Grapplers** over the course of their feud that the poor old **Graps** had to leave the territory and head south to San Antonio. Don't worry though, the **Graps** would land on their orthopaedic boot wearing feet, as they would appear on the first ever episode of Southwest Championship Wrestling on the USA Network on December 5th 1982.

Louisiana Heavyweight Championship: “Iron” Mike Sharpe (C) vs. “Hacksaw” Duggan. – **Duggan** became the new champion at 4:57. Match was pretty much what you would expect from these two: clunky and awkward. They botched up a Canadian Backbreaker at one point and the only reason they didn't both collapse in a heap is because they were too close to the ropes. Finish saw **Sharpe** go for a Piledriver, but **Duggan** countered then **Sharpe** missed a shoulder tackle in the corner and **Duggan** pinned him with his NFL Flying Headbutt. – This wasn't great, but I'll take **Duggan** in 1982 as the third singles champion over **Sharpe** any day. Surprisingly, there was a group

of four young women in the crowd who were very upset that **Sharpe** lost the title. I never pictured **Sharpe** as being over with the girls, but clearly he did all right for himself.



Vladic Smirnoff w/Skandor Akbar vs. Vinnie Romeo. – **Smirnoff** over in 2:38. **Resser Bowden** introduced **Smirnoff** as Akbar's, "new protégée." **Watts** was clearly not too high on the guy because we didn't get any hype like with **Kamala** or the **Mongolian Stomper**. Also, unlike **Kamala** or **Stomper**, **Smirnoff** actually sold a little for his jobber and even took a bump, which didn't help establish him as a new monster to fear. **Smirnoff** won with a backbreaker; it was no good. – **Smirnoff** wouldn't last long in Mid-South, as **Skandor Akbar** would soon be heading to Dallas for his famous run in World Class, so there wasn't much use for a phony Russian with no heel manager. **Smirnoff** would go on to become **Kortsia Korchenko** in Memphis, Georgia & the Central States and most famously of all was part of the huge angle in 1986 in the UWF when the Russians buried **Bill Watts** under the Soviet flag.

The Grappler #2 vs. Bob Stabler. – **Grappler #2** over in 1:16. **Watts** hyped **Hiro Matsuda & Yoshiaki Yatsu** in tag team action in two weeks. **Watts** also noted that the **Duggan & DiBiase vs. JYD & Mr Olympia** Tag Title match was in two weeks and the loser of the fall would have to leave Mid-South. **Grappler #2** won with a flying clothesline off the second rope.

Back at the desk with **Boyd & Watts** to wrap up the show. They talked about the big Tag Title match in two weeks and said someone was leaving town. **Boyd** hyped **JYD** in action next week and **Watts** noted that **Bob Roop** would be back as the guest commentator. **Boyd** said that **Roop** had great insight as a colour commentator, but stated that they received "cards and letters" every week from people who loved **Watts** and thought he was the best commentator in the world. Maybe **Boyd** was angling for a bonus this week to go buy some more hideous suits.

This was a huge show in terms of setting things up for the future and it is clear that there was a conscious decision to ramp up the booking with the big Superdome card only a month away. The



clip of **Chavo** beating **Kimura** was cool and helped get him over as a big deal for his debut at the Superdome. **DiBiase & Mr Olympia** had a great TV match that built to the Tag Title match in two weeks perfectly and things would continue on to the Superdome. **Duggan** winning the Louisiana title was noteworthy and positioned him as one of the top heels as they headed towards Thanksgiving night. The show was also notable for other reasons, as it was the beginning of the end for some of the top acts in the territory. **The Grapplers & Skandor Akbar** would not be around too much longer and the same goes for **Kamala**, who would famously follow **Akbar** to World Class in early 1983. Not only was this a very strong episode of Mid-South TV in terms of product quality, but it also could be seen as historically important due to the shift in the direction of the promotion that began with this show.



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