



Cubed Circle Newsletter #236 – Soon...

We (Ben) are back again this week for the penultimate late/exam edition of the newsletter with a look at all of the news from the week, Cody Rhodes' todo list meme, NXT conspiracies, Mid-South from '82, and much more!

– Ryan Clingman, *Cubed Circle Newsletter Editor*

The Pro-Wres Digest for May 29th – June 4th

Ben Carass

Top Stories:

With the NXT TakeOver event on 8/6 being entitled “The End,” some crazy nut-jobs managed to work themselves into a shoot by taking the name literally and somehow the insane idea that the entire NXT brand was coming to an end became a legitimate concern. These tinfoil hatters were sent further into meltdown when the TakeOver: Brooklyn show was removed from the Ticketmaster website on Monday and the event also mysteriously vanished from the WWE.com listings as well. Dave Meltzer of [F4Wonline](#) noted on 31/5 that WWE informed them Ticketmaster were updating the page with new information and logos and that the show is definitely still on. Meltzer also reported that there were even performers in NXT who were concerned about the brand potentially being shutdown because they hadn't been told anything. What a bunch of suckers. It should be noted that the TakeOver: Brooklyn show has been listed on the Barclay's Centre [website](#) the entire time during this debacle. TakeOver: Brooklyn is (still) set to kick-off three straight nights at the Barclay's Centre on 20/8, with SummerSlam the following night and RAW on 22/8. TakeOver: The End is next week on 8/6 from Full Sail and, as if this even needs explaining, “the End” is a reference to the blow-off cage match between Samoa Joe & Finn Balor. Here's the card:

- * NXT Championship, Steel Cage Match: Samoa Joe (C) vs. Finn Balor.
- * NXT Women's Championship: Asuka (C) vs. Nia Jax.
- * NXT Tag Team Championship: American Alpha (C) vs. The Revival.
- * Shinsuke Nakamura vs. Austin Aries.
- * Andrade “Cien” Almas vs. Tye Dillinger

As it stands, Jimmy Snuka will not stand trial for the 1983 murder of Nancy Argentino. Judge Kelly Banach ruled on 1/6, after listening to four days of testimony, that the 73 year-old Snuka was not mentally competent and unable to properly defend himself of the charges. Banach said she found Snuka “vacant” and “leadable,” and noted that an attorney who would let Snuka take the stand

could be accused of being ineffective council. The prosecution argued Snuka was faking his dementia, but Banach disagreed and stated, "I don't believe he's faking it. I don't think he's smart enough to fake it." After her ruling, Banach also denied a motion by the Chief Deputy District Attorney Charles Gallagher for Snuka to be involuntarily committed to a mental health facility for 60 days. Gallagher's entire case was built around the assertion that Snuka's dementia was being greatly exaggerated and he even brought in a forensic psychiatrist, Dr John O'Brien, as an "expert" witness who actually stated in a courtroom in 2016 that Snuka never sustained a single concussion during 40 years as a professional wrestler. Snuka's defense attorney, Robert Kirwan, held up Snuka's autobiography – also being used as a prosecution exhibit – and showed the Judge Banach the picture on the cover of Snuka performing the Superfly Splash. "You do that over and over again... you're going to get your bell rung a few times," Kirwan argued. Judge Banach also granted a request from Kirwan, after he revealed that Snuka and his wife Carole had lost their house due to financial problems, for Snuka to move to Florida and live with his son while on bail. The case will be reviewed in six months time on December 2nd, when Snuka will be back in court for another assessment of his mental state. Obviously Snuka isn't going to get any better, so the cycle of case reviews could continue every six months until the prosecution either drop the case or Snuka makes a medically impossible recovery. (Quotes taken from Laurie Mason Schroeder and Dale Shoemaker's story from The Morning Call: Read more at, mcall.com).

In some old man yells at cloud news, Vader didn't like a gif of the opening acrobatic sequence of the Will Ospreay/Ricochet match from 27/5 at Korakuen Hall. Vader [Tweeted](#), "Blatant acrobatics, no story, is there anything done in this video that relates to winning. You could get two high school gymnasts and put on a show." Thus began a futile debate that is in fact still going on right now between those who agreed with Vader about those damn kids and their flips, and the others who



don't have one fixed idea of what pro wrestling should be. Ospreay didn't take too kindly to the criticism and went on a re-Tweeting spree of memes people had made about the situation. Ospreay even went so far as to perform a Vader Bomb during the 29/5 New Japan show, which did nothing to dispel the idea that he was gotten to. The controversy that Vader sparked led to names such as [Steve Austin](#), [Jim Ross](#) and [Chris Jericho](#) weighing in on the match and they were virtually unanimous in praising the

performance both men put on. Jim Cornette predictably buried the match on his [MLW](#) podcast this week and did his usual stuck in the 80's routine about it not looking like a real fight and "exposing the business." Corny did hold back a little however, as he noted that Ospreay & Ricochet were, "not complete embarrassments like Omega or the d*ck guy." Since everyone under the sun has had some kind of cool take on the match, I might as well throw my two cents in. It was Will Ospreay vs. Ricochet in a main event at Korakuen Hall during the BOSJ tournament; what the hell were people expecting? Sure they could have sold a little more, but you can say that for virtually any match in 2016. The match was excellent, but I am already sick of hearing everybody overreacting on both sides of the argument.



Cody Rhodes sent out a Tweet on 28/5 teasing his return to the ring with a list of names he would like to wrestle. Adam Cole, Dalton Castle, Kurt Angle, Chris Hero, Mike Bennett, Moose, Pat Buck, Young Bucks, Trevor Lee, Katsuyori Shibata & Roderick Strong were all on the list, so too was, "Personal Ring Announcer," which is likely a hint that his wife Eden could become a part of his act on the independent scene. Cody's first match since leaving WWE was announced on 31/5 for Northeast Wrestling on August 25th in Wiappingers Falls, NY, against Kurt Angle.

Since the Goldberg commercial for WWE 2K17 aired on RAW, as you would expect there has been a bunch of speculation online about whether he will end up returning to WWE for a match at some point. In recent years, stars who were not under WWE contract were included in the annual video games (Brock Lesnar, Ultimate Warrior & Sting) and subsequently all ended up getting a WWE deal out of it. Dave Meltzer noted in the Observer that the deal took "several years to pull together, with the hold up on Vince McMahon's side," as Goldberg left the company on bad terms in 2004 after the infamous match with Lesnar at WrestleMania XX. Speaking of Lesnar, there was a "Suplex City" sign in the Goldberg commercial, which was no doubt put there to get people talking and it obviously has worked.

Japan:

Hiroshi Tanahashi is officially off the big Dominion show on 19/6 at Osaka Jo Hall. Tanahashi was scheduled to challenge Kenny Omega for the IWGP IC title in the first ever Ladder Match in New Japan, however his shoulder injury has not healed well enough. Tanahashi came out at the Korakuen Hall show on 3/6 and apologised to the fans for being unable to compete in the Ladder Match. He said that the doctors told him it would be two more months before he was ready, but Tana said he was aiming to be back for the G1. Omega came out which led to the Bullet Club attacking Tanahashi. Michael Elgin, Tanahashi's semi-regular tag partner, will now face Omega in the Ladder Match at Dominion on 19/6.

The finals of the Best of the Super Juniors tournament are next week on 7/6 in Sendai. Day 12 is on 5/6 in Takasaki and Day 13 is 6/6, also in Sendai. Here are the current standings (as of 4/6).

A Block:

- * Ryusuke Taguchi (4-2 = 8 points)
- * Kushida (4-2 = 8 points)
- * Matt Sydal (4-2 = 8 points)
- * Kyle O'Reilly (4-2 = 8 points)
- * Rocky Romero (3-3 = 6 points)
- * Bushi (3-3 = 6 points)
- * David Finlay (1-5 = 2 points)
- * Gedo (1-5 = 2 points)

B Block:

- * Ricochet (4-1 = 8 points)
- * Volador Jr (3-2 = 6 points)
- * Jushin "Thunder" Liger (3-2 = 6 points)
- * Will Ospreay (2-3 = 4 points)
- * Bobby Fish (2-3 = 4 points)
- * Chase Owens (2-3 = 4 points)
- * Barreta (2-3 = 4 points)
- * Tiger Mask (2-3 = 4 points)

NOAH ran the Edion Arena in Osaka on 28/5 for the Great Voyage 2016 and only drew 1,923 fans – not a bad number for a NOAH show although at times the 8,000 seat arena sounded completely empty. There were some decent moments on the three hour and fifty minute show, the highlight being **Go Shiozaki** defeating **Takashi Sugiura** for the GHC Heavyweight title in 31:24, however, like the NOAH product as a whole the rest of the show struggled to feel even remotely relevant. (8)



Shiozaki & Sugiura had an excellent main event and the crowd were up by the end, but in true NOAH style the match went a little too long and would have been helped with at least five minutes being shaved off. **Shiozaki** busted open **Sugiura's** chest very early on with some brutal chops. **Sugiura** hit a Hangman Neckbreaker on the floor to start the heat and he beat up **Shiozaki** for a good ten minutes. **Shiozaki** came back briefly but **Sugiura** cut him off and worked over the back. **Shiozaki** eventually

hit an insane Plancha over the top; **Sugiura** failed to catch him, causing **Go** to smash his head into the barricade and crash hard on the floor. **Shiozaki** no-sold nearly dying and they did some heated fighting spirit exchanges. **Sugiura** kicked out of the Go Flasher, the Limit Break and multiple Go-Arm Lariats. **Shiozaki** hit one big final Lariat and got the pin at 31:24 (****). **Shelton Benjamin** came out afterwards and stepped up as **Shiozaki's** first challenger. Somehow I don't think that is going to help bring the houses up. (7) Semi-final saw **Naomichi Marufuji & Toru Yano** beat **Lance Archer & Davey Boy Smith Jr** for the GHC Tag Team titles in a solid 17:53 match. **Marufuji** pinned **Archer** with his Ko-Oh Knee (*** ½). (6) **Yoshinobu Kanemaru** retained the GHC Jr Heavyweight title over **Hitoshi Kumano** in 14:49 with the Touch-Out DDT; match was

fine, crowd weren't really into **Kumano** (***). (5) **Daisuke Harada & Atsushi Kotoge** retained the GHC Jr Tag titles over **Kenoh & Hajime Ohara** in 19:47. As usual, these two teams had a very good match, however I never need to see it again. **Jado & Gedo** showed up post-match, as did **Taka & Taichi** and they all agreed to a three-way for the Jr Tag titles. (*** ¾). (4) **Shelton X Benjamin** beat **Maybach Taniguchi** via Count-Out in 21:53; match actually was pretty good until the finish. **Shelton** hit a huge dive off the post into the crowd then Powerbombed **Taniguchi** over the top rope through a table for the Count-Out. Why Shelton couldn't pin Taniguchi when they were setting him up for Shiozaki is beyond me (*** ¼). (3) **Minoru Suzuki & Takashi Iizuka** beat **Katsuhiko Nakajima & Masa Kitamiya** in 11:01 when **Suzuki** pinned **Kitamiya** with the Gotch Piledriver (** ¼). (2) **Taichi, El Desperado & TAKA Michinoku** over **Taiji Ishimori, Genba Hirayanagi & Captain NOAH** when **Taichi** pinned **Genba** with the Last Ride (**). (1) **Muhammed Yone, Quiet Storm & Akitoshi Saito** beat **Yoshinari Ogawa, Shiro Tomoyose & Kaito Kiyomiya** in 6:38 when **Storm** pinned **Tomoyose** with the 50cm Arm Lariat (**).

In more NOAH news, they announced the card for their Emerald Spirits show at Korakuen Hall on 12/6. Top three matches are:

- * GHC Jr Heavyweight Tag Team Championship Three-way: Daisuke Harada & Atsushi Kotoge (C) vs. Gedo & Jado vs. Taichi & TAKA Michinoku.
- * GHC Tag Team Championship: Naomichi Marufuji & Toru Yano (C) vs. Lance Archer & Davey Boy Smith Jr.
- * GHC Heavyweight Championship: Go Shiozaki (C) vs. Shelton X Benjamin.

NOAH will also be holding a qualifying tournament for the Super J-Cup, which begins on 20/7. The tourney will feature 12 participants in three separate blocks under single elimination rules and will produce three winning competitors who will advance to the Super J-Cup. The qualifying tournament begins at Shinjuku Face on 16/6 and the entrants are: Taiji Ishimori, Kaito Kiyomiya, Yoshinari Ogawa, Hitoshi Kumano, Daisuke Harada, Shiro Tomoyose, Hajime Ohara, Andy Dalton, Genba Hirayanagi, Captain NOAH, Kenoh & Atsushi Kotoge.



At the DDT show on 29/5 at Korakuen Hall in front of 1,633 fans, Konosuke Takeshita became the youngest KO-D Openweight Champion when he beat Daisuke Sasaki on his 21st birthday in 24:42 with the Corss Arm German Suplex. Also on the show, Team Dream Futures (Keisuke Ishii, Shigehiro Irie & Soma Takao) wrestled their 100th, and final, match as a team and retained the KO-D 6 Man titles over Harashima, Akito & Yasu Urano. After the match they relinquished the belts and thanked the fans for supporting them through all 100 matches. LiLiCo upset Super Sasadango Machine to win the DDT Extreme Championship in 7:05. Before the match, LiLiCo hijacked Sasadango's PowerPoint presentation and said she needed to hit him hard enough to make him sink just like the Titanic after hitting the iceberg. She added that she wanted to turn the match into the movie Titanic. Sasadango had Makoto Oishi in his corner to stop Mizuki Watase interfering on LiLiCo's behalf and Oishi taped Watase to the ring post. "My Heart Will Go On" played during the match, causing LiLiCo & Watase to

do the Titanic pose together in the corner. Finish saw her counter Sasadango's Lehmann Shock with a Titanic Yoshi Tonic to get the pin. Terry Funk and Nosawa Rongai were announced to compete at the big Peter Pan 2016 show at Sumo Hall on August 28th.

Terry Funk vs. Nosawa has also been booked for the Tokyo Gurentai show at Shinjuku Face on 25/8, three days before the two will appear on DDT's Peter Pan show.

Mexico:

The follow-up to the break up Los Ingobernables saw Pierroth challenge La Mascara to a mask vs mask match prior to the main event of the CMLL Arena Mexico show on 27/5. La Mascara, Shocker & Terrible beat Maximo Sexy, Mistico & Stuka Jr (who replaced the injured Dragon Lee), but before the match Dragon Lee came out and apologised for not wrestling. La Mascara showed up and kicked Lee in his bad knee and Pierroth made the save. Pierroth declared he was still a rudo, but noted he was the father of Dragon Lee, Rush & Mistico and challenged La Mascara to put his mask on the line. Mascara appeared to agree to the match, however nothing was made official, and he also unmasked Mistico after the rudos were victories in the main event. [Cubs Fan](#) noted that the plan appears to be for Mascara to go through Pierroth before getting to a big program with Rush. Cubs also speculated that this could be the end of Pierroth if they actually go with the mask match.

Toryumon Mexico ran Arena Mexico on 28/5 for DragonMania XI. Main event saw Caristico, Marco Corleone, Octagon & Ultimo Dragon beat Fuerza Guerrera, Mephisto, Rey Bucanero & Tiger Ali. The only other real noteworthy thing on the show was Jun Akiyama over Yohei Nakajima in the semi-main event.

The Lucha World Cup iPPV [site](#) went up this week and both shows (3/6 & 5/6) will be available for \$19.



REST IN PEACE, CHAMP

Ratings:

RAW on 30/5 with the return of John Cena did a 2.19 rating with 3,222,000 viewers. It tied the lowest all-time seasonal low rating record, but due to an above average viewers per home the total audience number saved them from total embarrassment. 8 pm did 3,280,000. 9 pm did 3,320,000 and 10pm did 3,008,000.

TNA iMPACT on 31/5 did 346,000 viewers, down slightly from 359,000 last week.

Lucha Underground on 1/6 did 151,000 viewers, with 111,000 for the first airing and 40,000 for the replay. That's down 17% from last week's 182,000 combined viewers.

SmackDown on 2/6 did a 1.59 rating with 2,169,000 viewers, up from the 1.57 and 2,112,000 last week.

RAW Ramblings – May 30th 2016

Resch Centre: Green Bay, WI.

Ben Carass.



Aside from one segment and one match, the Memorial Day 2016 edition of Monday Night RAW was an utter abortion of a television program and it turned out to be a strong contender for the worst show of the year. With game seven of the NBA Playoffs and the first game of the Stanley Cup as competition, they waved the white flag of surrender and rolled over to have their belly tickled. The only thing that saved the show from being the worst RAW of all-time was a brilliantly executed heel turn of **AJ Styles** and the old **Horsemen** beat-down with the **Club** laying out **John Cena**. You could argue that it is way too early for them to turn **Styles**, and I would agree, but the company needs viable top heels and they have made it abundantly clear that turning **Roman Reigns** is out of the question. It is also a lot easier to get a stable over at a main event level as a heel act than as babyfaces, although **Anderson & Gallows** attacked the **New Day** on the show as well, so they still have one foot firmly planted in the mid-card.

John Cena returned at the top of the third hour, which was just about half-time in the NBA Play-offs. He cut a “USA, A-OK” promo then talked about the **New Era** and declared the future would have to go through him. **AJ Styles** came out to a massive reaction and the crowd went back-and-forth with dueling chants for at least a solid two minutes; it was a really cool moment. **Styles** put **Cena** over for working harder than anyone else then said he wanted to be the first to welcome him back and offered him a handshake. **Cena** accepted, but **Karl Anderson & Luke Gallows** interrupted. **Gallows** accused **AJ** of kissing **Cena's** ass and **Anderson** added they were there to kick ass, not kiss it. **Styles & Cena** stood together ready to fight, but when **Cena** turned around to throw his shirt into the crowd **AJ** laid him out with a right hand and the **Club** put the boots to **Cena**. It was so great and got some legitimate heat. The **Club** went to leave, however **Styles** ran down to the ring four times to attack **Cena** some more. **Gallows** yelled that it was the “real **AJ Styles**” and **Styles** said, “You're welcome, world” before he headed to the back. – On this wretched show, this was legitimately one of the best angles WWE have done in years. You might have to go all the way back to **Mark Henry's** phony retirement and turn on **Cena** in 2013 to find something that they pulled off as well as this. Hopefully, **Vince & Kevin Dunn** were listening to the reaction that **Styles** got before the turn, because there is simply no way anyone can deny that the WWE fans have in fact accepted **AJ Styles** as a legitimate main event star. Everything they did last week with the **Club** made sense and they payoff of **Styles** turning on **Cena** was simply perfect. There will be plenty of time in the future to complain about **Styles** potentially losing a feud to **John Cena**, which has helped absolutely nobody since maybe **Edge**. But for now we should just be happy that they managed to shoot a great angle to set up a match that even six months ago nobody thought would ever happen.



Main event was a trios match with the six guys in the Money in the Bank match; there was no mention of a seventh participant, so they might have changed their minds and made it a six-way. **Dean Ambrose, Sami Zayn & Cesaro** beat **Kevin Owens, Chris Jericho & Alberto Del Rio** in a good 18 minute TV match, although it was nothing worth going out of your way to see. **Ambrose** pinned **Owens** with the Dirty Deeds, because it was **Owens'** turn to get pinned this week. They shot some backstage skits earlier in the show to set the match up. The babyfaces were in one locker room and **Cesaro & Ambrose** made fun of Canadians right in front of **Sami**, while the heels were

in another locker room and **Jericho** decided that **Owens** had started to get on his nerves. – It didn't really do a much to build Money in the Bank, but as noted they pretty much gave up on this show expect for the **Cena** segment.



The state of the rest of this show. It opened with **Shane & Stephanie** coming out and they talked about SmackDown going live in July and the brand split. **New Day** showed up and wanted to know if they were going to be split up during the draft. **Shane** said nothing was off the table. Eventually, **New Day** challenged the **McMahon's** to dance and **Shane** busted out some embarrassing dad moves. **Steph** refused at first, but she stepped up and was about to start her dance when the **Vaudevillains**, of all people, interrupted. This led to **New Day vs. the Vaudes** in a non-title match, which ended in a DQ 8:53 when **Anderson & Gallows** attacked **New Day**. The **Vaudevillains** stepped aside to let the **Club** continue the attack on **Big E** and they put him down with the Magic Killer. – If this leads to **Anderson & Gallows** becoming strong Tag champs then I'm all for it, but the last thing the **Good Brothers** need is to be involved in a comedy mid-card feud while they are also rubbing shoulders with **Styles & Cena**.

What they did with **Roman Reigns & Seth Rollins** was absolutely pitiful. **Reigns** was out at the top of the second hour; he did his annoying, “the guy,” catchphrase and was of course booed. **Rollins** came out on the stage and stood there with a mic, not saying anything for about a minute; it died a death. **Rollins** teased running down to get in the ring a bunch of times; it went on and on forever. Some fans chanted, “boring” but most of them just sat there in silence. That was the whole segment. It was mind-numbingly horrendous.

The Mire: Apollo Crews & Big Show became buddies in a backstage skit; **Show** told him not to back down to the bully, **Sheamus**. The **Usos** squashed **Breezango** in 1:40; **Goldust & Truth** were on commentary and were insufferably annoying. **Golden Truth** beat up **Breezango** afterwards. Awful. **Rusev** squashed **Zack Ryder** in a non-title match in 2:35 with the Accolade. **Titus O'Neil** came out afterwards to challenge **Rusev** for the US title; **Titus!** I'm glad **Rusev** isn't going to be slain by **Cena** again, but **Titus O'Neil?!** Jeez. The **Shining Stars** did a vignette in front of a green-screen; they still like Puerto Rico. They recapped the awful **Charlotte/Ric Flair** angle from last week then aired footage of **Stephanie** delivering an epic burial to **Charlotte**. **Steph** called her a



“waste of talent.” It was completely counter-productive. Maybe they are going to do a match with **Steph & Charlotte**, but I doubt it. **Enzo Amore & Big Cass** beat the **Dudley Boyz** in 9:20 with the Rocket Launcher. Match was fine; **Enzo** was the star of the show at this point with his pre-match promo. **Dana Brooke** beat **Natalya** in 1:20 after **Charlotte** distracted **Nattie**. **Becky Lynch** ran out to save **Nattie** from a beat-down from the heels. Sucked. **Jo-Jo** interviewed **Dolph Ziggler** about his “technical wrestling” match with **Baron Corbin**. **Ziggler** tried to copy **Chris Jericho's** 1004 holds promo from WCW and failed epically. **Ziggler** wore some goofy amateur head gear and used a mouth-guard. The bell rang and **Ziggler** gave **Corbin** a low-blow for the DQ at 0:30; **Ziggler** got on the mic and said even though he was DQ'd, **Corbin** was still the loser of the match. They aired a deal of **Maryse** introducing the **Miz**, who was away filming the

Marine 5. **Miz** said he would keep us updated every week while he is filming the movie. Oh goodie.

So, about that brand split...

Mid-South Wrestling (TV #163)

October 23rd 1982

Irish McNeil Boys Club: Shreveport, LA.

Ben Carass.



Boyd Pierce opened the show and ran down the card; **Boyd** also promised some exciting matches and “interesting” interviews. **Bob Roop** was back as our special guest colour commentator and he claimed he interrupted his vacation because the “hundred million people or-so” that watch Mid-South every week deserved to see one of their greatest ever former champions.

Mr Wrestling II vs. “Hangman” Harris. – **Wrestling II** over in 4:13. Match was dull and plodding. **Roop** put **Two** over for his win over the **Grappler** last week and said he had never seen **Two** get flustered or “blown-up” during a match. **Two** did some Arm-Ringers and **Roop** pointed out that **Two** was grabbing **Harris'** thumb to make him flip over, because **Harris** would have had his thumb broken if he didn't go with the momentum. **Two** won with his famous Knee Lift and a nice bridging Belly-to-Back Suplex.

Back with **Boyd & Roop** at the desk. **Boyd** talked about “**Hacksaw**” **Duggan** beating “**Iron**” **Mike Sharpe** for the Louisiana Heavyweight title last week and they showed the finish of the match. **Roop** brought up that he knew what it was like to win a title and congratulated **Duggan** on behalf of the heels' union.

Ted DiBiase (North American Heavyweight Champion) & “Hacksaw” Duggan (Louisiana Heavyweight Champion) vs. Ted Allen & Marty Lunde. – **DiBiase & Duggan** over in 4:03. **Boyd & Roop** hyped the big Loser Leaves Mid-South Tag Title match next week with **DiBiase & Duggan** challenging **JYD & Mr Olympia**. **Roop** explained that it would be a No DQ match and the loser of the fall had to leave Mid-South for 60 days. **Roop** noted that all the champions were in the match and if any of the singles champs were to be pinned then they would also be stripped of their title because of the 30 day defence rule. Match was a basic squash for **DiBiase & Duggan**, who worked over **Allen & Lunde** with ease. They didn't take a single bump for the jobbers and got the win when **Duggan** pinned **Lunde** with his flying NFL headbutt. – Really effective stuff heading into the big Tag Title showdown next week, with **DiBiase & Duggan** looking like strong challengers. Just in case you are wondering, the full stipulations for the match next week are: No DQ, Loser of the Fall Must Leave Mid-South for 60 Days, Tag Team Championship Match. However, the added jeopardy comes with all the singles champions being in the match too. In addition to being suspended for 60 days, **DiBiase** (North American), **Duggan** (Louisiana) & **Olympia** (Mississippi) are all at danger of having their belts stripped if they get pinned next week. We're coming up on one full year of covering the Mid-South TV product and the Tag Title match next week is certainly is one of the biggest things **Watts & Co.** have promoted on TV over the past 11 months.

Kamala w/Friday vs. Bob Stabler. – **Kamala** over in 1:18. Usual **Kamala** squash; he slapped his belly and did some stomps and kicks. **Kamala** got the win with three big Splashes to the back. During **Kamala's** pre-match ritual, **Roop** went on a tangent about the crowds in Houston had “doubled or tripled” in size since the Mid-South TV show started airing in that market. You hear that, **Boesch**? The good ol' boys from Oklahoma saved your little Texas town!

Non-Title Match: JYD & Mr Olympia (Mid-South Tag Tea Champions) vs. The Grapplers. – **JYD & Olympia** over in 4:23. **Roop** noted that **JYD & Olympia** had a tougher match with the **Graps** than what **DiBiase & Duggan** went through earlier. Faces shone early. **Olympia** took the **Graps** over with a nice Headlock/Head-Scissors combo. **JYD** cleaned house with some Headbutts, but **Grappler #1** sent **Olympia's** shoulder into the turnbuckle to start the heat. **Graps** made some frequent tags and worked over the shoulder. **Grappler #2** missed an Elbow Drop and **JYD** ran wild off the hot tag on both heels. Finish saw all four men in the ring and **JYD** hit **Grappler #2** with the Thump for the pin while **Olympia** fought off **Grappler #1**. – Good little TV match, with a bigger win for the champions than what the challengers pulled off earlier. As noted before, my beloved **Grapplers** are on their way out of the territory so it's no surprise that they were used to get the champs over for their big defence next week.

Vladic Smirnoff w/Skandor Akbar vs. Tim Horner. – **Smirnoff** over in 4:09. **Boyd** hyped the big

Superdome Show on Thanksgiving Night and said their would be a lot of new talent coming in for the show, including, **Mil Mascaras, Chavo Guerrero, Gino Hernandez & Tony Atlas**. Match sucked; **Smirnoff** at least didn't take a bump this week for his jobber. I Imagine **Watts** probably chewed him out for his weak showing in his debut. **Smirnoff** won with a Backbreaker that looked terrible.

“Iron” Mike Sharpe vs. Vinnie Romeo. – **Sharpe** over in 2:23. **Boyd** talked about **Bill Watts** bringing 50 children from an orphanage in Laneville, TX next week as special guests. **Roop** said that was nice of **Watts**, but added that he wouldn't do anything like that. Match was basically a deal to give **Sharpe** some heat back after losing the Louisiana title last week and he won easily with a big Lariat.



Kelly Kiniski vs. Jesse Barr. – **Kiniski** over in 5:35. These young lads just went out and did some basic wrestling and had quite a good little match; nobody really cared though. Finish saw **Kiniski** win with a Flapjack that **Barr** took right on his head. **Boyd** gave a final hard sell for the big Tag Title match next week and noted that the entire hour of TV would be dedicated to the match. **Roop** said he might have to interrupt his vacation again just so he can watch next week. As the match went on, **Roop** noted that the pace was slowing down then told a preposterous story about wrestling a “400 pound” Russian in the Olympics. **Roop** claimed he was so tired that he had no option but to Suplex the 400 pounder and beat him. This of course never happened. **Roop** did actually compete for the US at the 1968 Summer Olympics in the Men's Heavyweight Division at Greco-Roman Wrestling, and did in fact face the Russian, **Anatoly Roshchin** on October 25th 1968 in Mexico City. **Roshchin** certainly wasn't 400lbs (more like 220lbs) and **Roop** didn't beat him with a Suplex either, as **Roshchin**, who went on to win the Silver medal, downed **Roop** for the fall in 2:48. Still, it made for a nice story I suppose.

Ted DiBiase & “Hacksaw” Duggan invaded the commentary position and **DiBiase** cut a great heel promo about the match next week. **DiBiase** said the fans had seen **JYD** or **Mr Olympia** for the last

time and said there was no way that Mid-South could screw them out of the belts again. **Duggan** said they loved No DQ matches and **DiBiase** added that he would personally buy **JYD** or **Olympia** a set of luggage when the are sent packing. **Boyd** wrapped up the show and told everybody to tune in next week for the big showdown.

There wasn't much to this show at all really. It was all about hyping up the huge Tag Team title match next week. The challengers **DiBiase & Duggan** looked strong in a squash, while the champs had a tougher match against the **Grapplers** and looked even better. Pretty much everything else was forgettable and irrelevant, but by putting all their effort into selling one match it undoubtedly made it seem like a huge deal.



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