

On This Day: February 6, 1990 – Clash of the Champions #10: WCW Takes A U-Turn

Clash of the Champions 10: Texas Shootout

Date: February 6, 1990

Location: Memorial Coliseum, Corpus Christi, Texas

Attendance: 3,000

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jim Cornette

We're getting ready for the WrestleWar PPV and there's one moment on this show that totally altered that PPV as well as arguably the next three and a half years of WCW as well as a legend's career but we'll get to that later. Also on this show...uh...oh you get to see Foley at 24 years old against Mil Mascaras in a match he talks about in his book. Oh and Undertaker is on this show about 8 months before he became Undertaker. Let's get to it.

The opening video looks like a bad arcade game where you have what appear to be cardboard cutouts of wrestlers being shot in windows of a saloon. It's going to be one of those shows isn't it? Cornette gets two talk for two and a half hours so he couldn't be happier.

Terry Funk has a live mic in Texas to do interviews at ringside. This cannot be good under any circumstances.

Gordon Solie is doing backstage interviews and has the Road Warriors here, about four months before they bailed to WWF. They don't like the Skyscrapers.

Oliver Humperdink does the intro for Samoan Savage (Tama from the Islanders). He comes out to something like the Halloween theme. These interviews are very, and I mean EXACTLY like ones you would see on a SNME.

Steve Williams puts a dummy in an ambulance and says to the hospital while Bad to the Bone plays in the background. This is going to be a LONG night isn't it?

Samoan Savage vs. Steve Williams

Oliver Humperdink is listed as the Big Kahuna here. Are you serious? Williams goes right at him in the corner and the brawl is on. The Samoan runs away which is probably the right thing for him to do at this point. Williams fires off right hands and slams that fat man. How did he used to be pretty slim just a few years prior to this? He finally drills a clothesline to take Williams down and get a breath of air.

Humperdink does some weak choking as Williams has been sent to the floor. There's a house band for no apparent reason called the Tough Guys. Woman is here for no apparent reason again. That sounds like a running theme for tonight. Nitron, Woman's usual muscle, isn't here tonight for some reason that the announcers don't know either.

Time for the chinlock to go on because we have to do that. Cornette makes Mexican jokes as he has been known to do once or twice a minute. Williams fights up with no real trouble but walks into a powerslam for two. That's almost too interesting though so it's back to the nerve hold. Sunset flip doesn't work for Dr. Death but hitting him in the head doesn't work for Savage. Back to the chinlock as Cornette thinks there should be a Samoan contingent to balance things out.

Williams is sent to the floor and Humperdink gets in a shot which stuns him a bit. So let me get this straight. A right from Humperdink can sent Williams reeling a bit but at the same time a straight downward shot by the Samoan has no effect? Why is Humperdink the manager again? Anyway a top rope splash misses for the Savage so Williams walks around with him in a slam for awhile. Williams gets a backslide of all things and we're done.

Rating: C-. For a battle of power men there it was just ok. This would be Williams' last match actually as he was supposed to beat Luger for the US Title at WrestleWar but something happened to change that and he left for Japan as a result. Not much of a match but it's an opener with Tama as a competitor. What were you expecting?

The Tough Guys play for a bit for no apparent reason.

Terry Funk is here to talk to the Horsemen (faces at this point) who he says will be hard to stop in 1990. In this case it's Flair (world champion, shocking I know), Arn, Ole and Sting. Yes that Sting. Ole gets in Funk's face for talking too much. Well no one ever accused Ole of being all that smart. Flair says they're going to make a statement through their spokesman Ole.

Ole, the great spokesman, has his back to the camera. This is about Sting apparently, because he's fired. Ole and Arn have been brought back by Flair to get rid of Sting, who is in trouble for wanting the world title. Sting wasn't taken out yet because Sting saved Flair. Ole offers him a chance to live if he turns down the title shot and has two hours to do that. Sting says not a chance so Ole says the same thing. Sting finally gets a chance to say something but it's a classic Horsemen beatdown. This isn't the big moment that I was referring to.

Mod Squad vs. Brian Pillman/Tom Zenk

The Mod Squad is a weak heel tag team made of Basher and Spike. Pillman and Spike (I think) start us off. He's the skinnier one if nothing else. Pillman can throw a great dropkick. Off to Zenk and the arm work begins. Basher comes in and that goes about as well. Cornette and Ross really don't seem all that interested in this match and I can't say I blame them.

Brian beats on Basher for awhile and Zenk adds an enziguiri for

two. Double teaming doesn't work on Zenk as Pillman gets a double slingshot clothesline to take both Mods down. Apparently the Midnight Express want to reelect Marian Berry. Ok then. Spike gets a face jam to Pillman to take over as Cornette makes various jokes.

We talk about Sting and Flair some more because the match is rather boring. Double teaming by the Squad as Pillman doesn't even have the Bengal tights here. Off to a chinlock and then another one by the other Mod dude. This match is taking far too long as there hasn't been anything of note. Cornette disputes the idea that he loves the fans as Pillman gets an elbow to Basher but can't tag out. Crucifix gets two for Brian but Spike misses a top rope elbow, hot tag Zenk, house is cleaned, cross body ends Basher.

Rating: D. How in the world was this a ten minute match? It should have been something like three but we had to fill in time I guess. Z-Man and Pillman would win the US Tag Titles less than a week after this so there was no way they were going to lose here. Just WAY too long for what they had going on here.

Cactus Jack Manson vs. Mil Mascaras

It's Foley before he meant anything at all. Nice heat on his introduction though. Foley BLASTED Mascaras in his book over this match so let's see how bad it is. Cornette says Mascaras is most popular in Japan for some reason. We get to a bow and arrow almost immediately as Mascaras makes Foley look like an idiot, which to be fair is fine because Foley is a far smaller deal at this point.

Test of strength goes to Mascaras and headscissors a go-go. Cactus gets sent to the floor and falls over a chair, landing on his back. JR: "A breakfast room at a honeymoon hotel isn't as empty as Cactus Jack's head." Jack hammers away and Mascaras ignores it, hooking what can only be called a

Liontamer for a bit.

Here's a great example of the no selling complaints. As you know, one of Foley's signature moves is the elbow off the apron. He hits a backbreaker on the floor and Mascaras never actually goes all the way to the ground. Foley sets for the elbow but there's no Mascaras, as instead he's snuck into the ring and dropkicks Foley to the floor where he bangs his head on the concrete. That was one of his signature moves for a long time, and people wonder why he can barely move. Anyway a top rope cross body ends this.

Rating: D. Match was weak, but I totally see Foley's point with the no selling thing. I mean dude, shake your head a little bit after a punch at least. You're in the midcard for a one off appearance. You're not quite Hulk Hogan here. The backbreaker thing was pitiful too. Jack took awhile to set up the elbow which I'd guess was supposed to be the spot for the plunge, but at the same time you can't even hit the ground? Foley isn't the only one to complain about this, so it's not just a personal grudge.

Missy Hyatt hypes that she's the new co-host of the Main Event.

The Tough Guys perform and Cactus Jack beats them up. That's a perk. He and the drummer, an AWA guy named JT Southern, get into it a bit and that went nowhere.

Norman the Lunatic, more famous as Bastian Booger, is a crazy man here. As in he was in a straightjacket most of the time. Here he wants hot dogs or something and is told it's falls count anywhere against Kevin Sullivan.

Norman the Lunatic vs. Kevin Sullivan

Before the match we get a video of Norman at a zoo, petting pigs. In the arena he's in a cowboy outfit and hands out valentines to the fans. This was one of those concept

characters if you get the idea. Sullivan jumps him and we go to the floor almost immediately. Back at this point, companies could sponsor parts of the ring, meaning Sullivan is sent into the Roos' post.

Norman does that seated splash of his for no cover. A middle rope splash misses though and we're back to the floor again. Sullivan actually SLAMS Norman in an impressive and surprising spot. There goes Norman's shirt which means we have to see something rather unpleasant. A "belly to back suplex" (looked like a Russian leg sweep) gets two. Cornette: "This Norman is so stupid that mind readers only charge him half price."

Sullivan dominates him for a good while and there's nothing of note. I guess they're afraid of trying to let Sullivan work a regular match which I can't blame them for. Back in for you guessed it, more brawling/pounding by Sullivan. Norman makes a comeback and knocks Sullivan through the ropes to the outside. Up the aisle they go and the ramps is huge. Backdrop gets two for Sullivan. Into the back and they go into the women's restroom where sound effects are used sans video. Sullivan is knocked out of the room as Norman has a toilet seat in hand. Apparently the pin happened off camera. At least it's over.

Rating: D. This was junk of course and the ending hurts it even worse. No word on why they were fighting but I'd assume it was some kind of bully thing as that has infected even the past. Better go found a charity to help fight it. How do those work anyway? Do you accept donations to pay bullies off? Norman would stick around for awhile and do nothing of note before he became a trucker for some reason.

Funk is here for his talk show segment known as Funk's Grill with Luger as his guest. They like each other and Luger says Sting should turn down the shot because Luger would get the shot otherwise. The fans want Sting but Luger says you have the Total Package right now. This goes absolutely nowhere.

Road Warriors vs. Skyscrapers

Skyscrapers are Mean Mark (Undertaker) Callous and Dangerous Dan (Spivey) Spivey and have Teddy Long with them. Spivey beats on Hawk a bit but Hawk runs him over because he's...uh Hawk I guess. Animal and Callous comes in. I'll do what I can to not call him Taker but it's not easy. He's 6'9, has red hair and is 24 here. Animal no sells his offense but that's typical for Animal.

Callous MOVES out there, missing a cross body of all things but it's off to Spivey and Hawk again. Hawk charges but hits the post and the beating is on. We get what would become known as Old School to Hawk. It's so weird to think that Taker and Foley were 8 years away from having one of the most brutal matches of all time. Taker counters a clothesline into a Fujiwara armbar which only lasts a few seconds.

Old School doesn't work a second time and it's off to Animal and Spivey. Everything breaks down and the Skyscrapers double team Animal for a bit until he backflips out of a double suplex. Hawk comes back in and it's Doomsday Device for Spivey. Callous comes off the top with a chair and everything breaks down and it's finally thrown out as Hawk takes a spike Piledriver. The Road Warriors get a big beatdown laid on them.

Rating: C-. For Taker being this young guy out there it's very cool to see. Other than that it's just a brawl which is ok but they've had it a few times already tonight which is a bit of an issue. Either way it's not a terrible match but at the same time it got a bit annoying throughout. Eh it's TV so I can't complain that much.

Back from a break and they replay the Warriors getting beaten down.

Gordon Solie still can't get an interview with Sting. He does have Brian Pillman though, who says Sting is losing his mind.

Doom say they're going to win the tag titles.

Tag Titles: Doom vs. Steiner Brothers

This is masks vs. titles despite everyone knowing who Doom is. It's Butch Reed and Ron Simmons, as in two of the three black wrestlers in the whole company. Sounds bad but it's true. Reed rants for a bit before Simmons starts with Scott. It's power vs. power here and the voice of Ron Simmons is unmistakable. Scott makes Simmons look like an idiot and it's off to Reed (Doom #2).

Doom is sent to the floor as this is all Scott so far. Scott wants the mask already but Reed gets out just in case. The fans chant for Sting as Rick comes in. The basic idea of this match is Doom gets mad, a Steiner runs them around the ring a bit, suplex takes the Doom guy down, start over. Back off to the far bigger Simmons who pounds Scotty down a bit. Scott plays Ricky Morton for a bit as the beating is on.

People didn't go for as many covers back in the day. Very interesting change in the times indeed. BIG spinebuster gets two for Reed but he picks him up. Scott grabs a backslide for two and a Piledriver gets the same. Sunset flip gets two on Reed but Scott can't make the tag. There's a Frankensteiner out of nowhere and it's off to Rick. He manages to rip the mask off and it's Butch Reed. Rick rolls up Reed a second later to end it.

Rating: D+. Yeah amazingly enough, this was boring. This whole show has been that way because the matches have been going far longer than they should have. The masks were pretty pointless here so it's not like the titles were ever in any real jeopardy. Weak match in a running theme for tonight.

Apparently if Simmons doesn't unmask he's suspended. If his identity is supposed to be a secret, how could they suspend him? Either way he unmasks and Ross' reaction of "It's Ron Simmons" is almost funny it's so anti-climactic.

We see Sting getting destroyed again.

The Horsemen are like yeah we're awesome.

Ric Flair/Ole Anderson/Arn Anderson vs. Dragonmaster/Great Muta/Buzz Sawyer

The ones you haven't heard of other than Muta is called the J-Tex Corporation and had been feuding with the Horsemen. They're heel now though so this is heel vs. heel in a cage. Dragonmaster is a guy that was known as Kendo Nagasaki who you'll hear of every once in awhile. There are more than one of him though so it might be a bit confusing.

Sawyer (that guy was NUTS) stars with Anderson. The fans are cheering for J-Tex, which would be like cheering for Vickie Guerrero today. The Horsemen hammer on Sawyer with Flair and he exchanging shots. Off to Ole as Cornette rants about Sting a lot. Dragonmaster hammers away and is cheered loudly. Muta comes in and the place pops HARD. He and Arn go at it and it's handspring elbow time. And here's Sting.

Sting charges the cage and the roof is blown off the place. He climbs up the side of it and hammers on Flair over the cage wall but is dragged down by security and other wrestlers. He gets up the aisle but charges again, this time not being able to get at Flair. Sting hops down as the match is more or less forgotten about. Sawyer misses a splash off the top of the cage and Sting appears to have hurt his leg. What wasn't known at the time is that Sting had ripped some ligaments apart and wouldn't wrestle for six months, meaning the title match was off. As for the match, everything breaks down and Arn pins Dragonmaster with a DDT.

Rating: D. Match sucked but it wasn't the point at all. As I'd assume you figured out, Sting's injury was the big deal here, as it completely changed the company and took all of the heat away from him because it was Luger that got the title shot and Flair held the title another six months instead of giving it

to the young lion known as Sting. Either way, weak match to end a bad show.

Flair and Sting "fight" (remember Sting has one leg) in the aisle to end the show.

Overall Rating: D-. Well Sting vs. Flair is made, but at the same time that match fell apart completely due to Flair's egging him on for the second time there. Anyway, not a good show in the slightest but at the same time...yeah this was terrible. There's no other way around it. The matches went on WAY too long and at the same time they weren't that good. Weak show to put it mildly and I'm glad it's over.

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