

Thunder – August 23, 2000: Everybody Hates Disco

Thunder

Date: August 23, 2000

Location: Tulsa Convention Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Attendance: 2,811

Commentators: Stevie Ray, Mike Tenay, Tony Schiavone

We're coming up on Fall Brawl with Nash vs. Booker T. for the title in a match that actually makes sense on paper. They're making Booker out to be a giant killer so a win over Nash should be a good thing for his run. Now of course that brings up the issue of Nash ever doing what makes sense for the company as I'm sure Goldberg can tell you about. Let's get to it.

Chuck Palumbo comes into Cat's office and wants to be in the main event. That's exactly what he gets, as part of a tag match with Kevin Nash against Booker T. and whoever Booker can find (this company LOVES itself some mystery partners). Well at least they're doing something with one of the new guys so points for that. Ms. Jones leaves, saying she has to take care of something.

Kwee Wee vs. Corporal Cajun

Paisley sits in on commentary because managing doesn't mean anything anymore. Cajun gets in some right hands and a dropkick to start but dives into a powerbomb as Kwee Wee's offense continues to surprise. A slam (ok so he's not always great) gets two and it's off to a camel clutch as Kwee Wee (I can't bring myself to use either half of his name) is showing some thinking by working on the back. That goes nowhere and Kwee Wee misses a middle rope legdrop to give Cajun a breather.

Back up and the Corporal does his stupid dancing punches to send Kwee Wee outside. After the Misfits take a chair away, Kwee Wee heads back inside, only to be backdropped right back to the floor. Cajun whips him into the barricade and gets slapped by Paisley for his efforts. Tony: "I'm with you girl." Back in and Cajun gets two off a belly to belly but his

headscissors is countered into a faceplant (think Dalton Castle's Bang A Rang if you're an ROH fan) for the quick pin.

Rating: C. Leave it to WCW to put one of their better young talents with a gimmick that is going to destroy his career. Kwee Wee has been a very nice surprise since he debuted a few weeks back and he's actually making it work in the ring as well. This youth movement is going somewhere and it's nice to see for a change.

Post match Paisley and Gunns get in a brawl because they're women in 2000 WCW and that's all they know how to do.

Back from a break with Paisley and Gunns still fighting until they challenge each other for later.

Ms. Jones comes up to Team Canada and makes Storm vs. Rection vs. Awesome for the US Title tonight. Storm isn't pleased but it goes nowhere.

Here are the Natural Born Thrillers with something to say, starting with Sanders getting in his athletically stacked and genetically jacked lines. They were THIS close to winning the World and Tag Team Titles on Monday but various things got in the way. Cue the Filthy Animals with Konnan making a lot of jokes that are quickly censored. Some hero. Disqo wants Sanders tonight but before we can get an answer, Vito runs in and beats the Thrillers down with his stick ball bat. The Thrillers fight back because it's just a stick but the Animals come in and clear them out.

Booker goes to see how Vito is and winds up getting him as a partner in the main event. That's quite the jump up for Vito.

Sanders (in a different shirt than he was wearing in the ring because WCW's production staff sucks) comes in to see Cat and wants a match with Disqo's career on the line. He even gets all evil by insulting James Brown. That's enough for Cat, but he can't put Disqo's career on the line because of his contract. Then what was the point of this?

Crowbar has candy and flowers for Daffney, but it turns out that she already went out with her secret admirer last night. Of course she can't actually tell Crowbar what his name is but he'll be here later. Crowbar

caves in and says the flowers and candy were from the admirer. Again, this works way too well for what they're doing.

Harris Twins vs. Jung Dragons

So yeah, after nearly killing themselves in that ladder match, this is the Dragons' reward. That sums up WCW so well and it's really sad to see. Ron no sells Yang's dropkick to start so Kaz comes in with a kick off the top to actually stagger the twin. That's about it though as Ron kicks Jamie-san in the face and it's a double H-Bomb for the pin on Yang. I'm sure the Dragons will have another good cruiserweight match soon and look awesome and then this will happen all over again. It says a lot when hooking up with Nidia and becoming a redneck was a huge upgrade for Jamie Noble.

Post match Kaz takes another H-Bomb until Kronik comes out for the save. This brings out Leia Meow to yell at the Dragons and take them to the back.

Skipper says he has Storm's back.

MI Smooth talks to Norman Smiley about their Hardcore Title match. For no apparent reason (save for it makes the joke work), it's going to be I Quit so Norman can give up immediately and lose the title.

Crowbar vs. Reno

Daffney is all happy while Crowbar is depressed. Reno slugs away on him but Crowbar gets in some basic stuff, followed by a legdrop between the legs and a slingshot legdrop for two. Back up and Reno starts working on the arm, including lifting him up in an arm trap suplex. That earns Reno a jawbreaker as this is pretty back and forth so far. As the match is going on, Tony gets word that we'll be having a wedding between David Flair and Miss Hancock on September 11. Oh geez I don't want to know how bad this is going to get.

Reno gets low bridged to the floor but Crowbar flips over after him, only to hold on to the ropes so he can kick Reno in the head and then skin the cat. Well that was cool. A Vader Bomb off the barricade sets up a

Lionsault back inside for two as the match is getting better. Naturally that means it's time to go off the rails as Daffney freaks out because here's her secret admirer....who looks exactly like Crowbar. Daffney runs up and hugs him, distraction Crowbar so Reno can Roll the Dice for the pin.

Rating: C-. Of course. Instead of using one of the several dozen wrestlers on your roster, you bring in someone who looks like Crowbar because it's funny or something. Either that or this is something that happened to Russo when he was a teenager and he needs to find a way to get it out of his system. Almost everything else involving a woman seems to be.

Crowbar gets beaten down until the look-a-like makes the save.

Nash tells Palumbo to take care of Vito and Booker.

Booker and Vito decide to take care of Nash and Palumbo.

Lieutenant Loco tries to get Disco's career on the line as well. I think we've got a running joke here.

Tank Abbott fires 3 Count but makes them his partners in an eight man tag tonight.

This week's sitdown interview is with....Midajah, who is in a neck brace after the attack by Goldberg last week. So this one is in character I guess? She got her start in fitness modeling but didn't want to make her career by taking her clothes off in Playboy. Tenay says she's a small woman in a man's world but Midajah doesn't want to hear it. Tenay: "Yeah I've heard it before. I am woman hear me roar right?"

Midajah talks about saving Tenay from Steiner's attack a few weeks ago but Mike thinks she only did it to keep Steiner from being fined. That's enough for Midajah as she calls Tenay a jerk and ends the interview. Tenay: "Good luck to you and your future in sports entertainment honey. You're going to need it." This really accomplished nothing, as I'm sure you expected. At least it didn't make everyone feel stupid though so it's getting better. Well that and making Tenay look like a jerk, which I'm

sure makes him the face in this scene.

The Natural Born Thrillers jump Booker and Vito...who easily fight them off with stick ball bats. These aren't the brightest rookies.

Norman is really happy about getting to lose the title (why doesn't he just vacate it?) when he runs into the Dark Carnival. Muta hits him in the throat and I'm sure you get the idea here.

3 Count/Tank Abbott vs. Dark Carnival

Before the match, Tank makes the three of them leave so he can sing a bit. Stevie doesn't get the difference between a gigolo and a juggalo. Tank stands in a different corner than his partners as Shane is LAUNCHED across the ring with a release powerbomb. Vampiro kicks Evan in the face so Karagias sends him to the floor for a nice springboard plancha. Everything breaks down and the referee gets misted.

Tank is standing around watching all this happen as the Clowns double team Shannon with a Samoan drop into a guillotine legdrop. Now Tank comes in to start cleaning house, only to have 3 Count beat him down with baseball bats. Muta adds the moonsault for the pin. That's it for Tank (at least in the ring) and I'm actually going to miss him. The guy is such a trainwreck that he's fun to watch.

Skipper is on the phone with someone and says Awesome is in, meaning it's going to be Rection against both of them tonight. Rection overhears.

Booker and Vito are ready for tonight.

Paisley challenges Gunns again. Did they forget already?

Hardcore Title: MI Smooth vs. Norman Smiley

Smiley is defending and this is an I Quit match. The bell rings and Norman lays down but can't speak because of Muta hitting him in the throat. Smooth doesn't get it and "hits" him with some stuff before actually hitting him with some stuff. Norman still can't talk so Smooth pounds on him even more, only to have Smiley start fighting back out of self defense. A low blow with a kendo stick stops Smooth and Norman gets

in his dancing, followed by a few trashcan shots. Smooth runs him over with a clothesline and a running seated senton. Smooth: "SAY I QUIT!" Referee: "What did you say???" Norman retains.

Rating: D. I remember watching this when it aired and yeah it's kind of funny. It's annoying that this is what Norman is stuck doing because they have no idea what else to do with him but at least they're giving us some funny ideas. The problem here though is Norman has to lose the thing eventually and I have a feeling there will be a lot more jokes before we finally get to that point.

Skipper is on the phone again and says Rection took the money, making it Awesome who will be down two on one. As you might expect, Awesome overhears this and is livid.

Now Okerlund is trying to get Disqo's career on the line, offering Viagra as a reward. That goes nowhere so he offers money, only to get thrown out.

Paisley vs. Major Gunns

Tygress is out for commentary but realizes she's here for the wrong match, only to stay anyway. Tygress: "Tony you want to get a little filthy with me later?" It's a catfight to start with Paisley talking a lot of trash. A handspring elbow crushes Gunns in the corner and it's back to the catfight stuff. Gunns gets in a horrible looking slap but Tygress gets on the apron for a forearm, knocking her into a rollup to give Paisley the pin.

The Filthy Animals can't get Disqo's career on the line either. They leave Cat's office and most of the locker room is waiting outside to be disappointed. Again, kind of funny.

Skipper tells Storm that the plan worked. Thanks for clarifying that for us.

Mike Sanders vs. Disqo Inferno

Remember that Disqo's career is NOT on the line. For some reason Disqo sends the Animals to the back before elbowing Sanders out to the floor.

Disqo actually follows up by sending him into the barricade a few times to keep Sanders in trouble. Back in and Sanders grabs a quick hot shot to send Disqo right back to the floor.

Mike slowly pounds away and grabs a suplex for two. He isn't exactly strong on offense yet. Disqo fights up with all of his usual stuff, capped off by the Last Dance. Cue the Thrillers to attack the Animals (standing on the ramp) as Disqo gets two off a DDT. He tries it again, only to get reversed into the 3.0 to give Mike the pin.

Rating: D+. Better match than you would expect here as Disqo is right there in the Kwee Wee camp: a talented in ring guy who never had a chance to be taken seriously because of how stupid his gimmick really was. At least he got in some stuff here and wound up with a pretty nice career despite all those years of being stuck with a comedy character.

Nash yells at Palumbo because the Thrillers screwed up with Vito and Booker. Based on this, I'm thinking they're totally fine.

US Title: Lance Storm vs. General Rection vs. Mike Awesome

Storm is defending, it's one fall to a finish and both challengers think the other is in league with Lance. Before the match, Storm says he may have misjudged us. He was watching some of the political campaigning and there are some lofty goals in this country. Of course, those goals have already been accomplished in Canada. Therefore, the true American Dream (Storm: "If you will.") is to become Canadian.

Mike and Rection get in each others' faces before punching Storm because they're actually smart. After a botched double clothesline, Rection holds Storm's legs for an Awesome Splash. They switch places with Rection hitting a top rope elbow, followed by a pop up sitout powerbomb from Awesome.

Storm manages to stop both in a charge but there goes the referee. Cue Elix Skipper (who was clearly halfway to the ring before the ref got bumped, though it's understandable given how badly Storm was getting destroyed) to low bridge Awesome and knock Rection out with the ring. The Maple Leaf on the unconscious Rection retains the title.

Rating: D+. Dang it WCW, cut this stuff out. They set up a nice little story with Skipper trying to play both guys but getting caught. Ok, that's fine. That's an idea that could go somewhere, especially before a triple threat. Instead of letting this story build up to a pay per view match with both guys thinking the other is evil (like Summerslam 92), they blow it off on the same night in a meaningless three minute match with interference from Skipper.

Stevie goes to be with his brother before this match.

Big Vito/Booker T. vs. Kevin Nash/Chuck Palumbo

Jarrett is on commentary despite not having anything to do with any of these people. Vito comes out first and is promptly beaten down, only to have Booker run in for the save. We officially start with Vito pounding on Palumbo before it's off to Nash who gets some of the same from the stereotypical Italian.

That's enough of that for Nash as he kicks Vito in the face to take over, just like he did on Monday. It's time for Vito to get slowly beaten down as you would expect with Palumbo getting in some good ring time of his own. We get the required tag behind the referee's back, meaning Booker is sent back to the apron. You really would think that would stop happening at some point over the years.

Not that it matters as Vito clotheslines Chuck down and tags out anyway, allowing Booker to come in and pound on Nash. Everything breaks down and Jarrett gets in the ring with the guitar (of course) to go after Booker's knee, just as the Thrillers come in to beat down Vito as the show goes off the air.

Rating: D. This got more time than I was expecting but as soon as Jarrett was out there you knew the ending was going to be screwy. Ok to be fair you knew that as soon as you started watching a WCW show. I'm glad that Palumbo got in some offense but he could have been any of the Thrillers here.

Overall Rating: D. Some of this show's one off ideas worked quite well for some short term comedy but I still have no desire to see much of the

upcoming stuff (oddly enough save for Booker vs. Nash, which could be watchable). These shows are so much easier to sit through when they're treated like wrestling shows (albeit infused with some comedy) instead of all the shooting that Nitro has throughout. It's still not good, but this is much more dull than awful, which I'll take in this case. Oh and no Goldberg in the city where he was born. Nice job guys.

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