

Thunder – September 27, 2000: He's Getting Away With It

Thunder

Date: September 27, 2000

Location: First Union Arena, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Stevie Ray, Tony Schiavone, Mike Tenay

I know we've been living in a Vince Russo world but now we're living in a world with Vince Russo as the WCW World Champion. Hopefully he isn't on the show as much this week but you can feel the recaps coming from here. It's probably too early to start setting up Halloween Havoc so tonight might be a stand alone show. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Monday's mess of a show.

Apparently it's not clear who the champion is. Of course it's not.

Disqo vs. Konnan

Before the match, Disqo fires the Filthy Animals and brags about having a new partner. They start very slowly and it's pretty clear we're waiting on the partner to come in. Konnan takes over but gets sent outside, allowing a bald Alex Wright to beat on him for a bit. Back in and the Chartbuster gives Disqo the easy pin.

Rey and Juvy run in for the save.

Mike Sanders takes over Cat's office and has a note saying it's ok. No word on who signed it but Sanders having a note to permit it is funny for some reason.

After a break, the Thrillers are all in Cat's office as Sanders seems to be in charge tonight. His first decision: the Hardcore Title is vacated and WE'RE HAVING A TOURNAMENT!

Scott Steiner beats up security and the Disqo Duck. Of course you know this means war.

Here's Jeff Jarrett for a chat. He gets right to the point: Monday proved that Sting just doesn't have it anymore and is WAY past his prime. That brings him to Lex Luger (yes Luger, not the Total Package) who just happens to be in the crowd tonight. Luger is sorry for what he did on Monday because he shouldn't have helped Russo. No word yet on why he helped Russo in the first place or why he regrets it but I guess that's subtext. This brings out General Rection, who says he forgives Luger. Cue Lance Storm to go after Rection and it's a brawl to set up a tag match (likely with a side of swerve) for later.

The announcers talk for a bit.

Post break, Luger says he doesn't work here but he'll be in a match tonight. That's some fast clearance from the legal department.

The Thrillers are celebrating winning the Tag Team Titles. Leia Meow comes in and is basically ignored.

Juventud Guerrera wants a best of five series against Rey Mysterio for the #1 contendership. Didn't he win that clean last week?

Hardcore Title Tournament Semi-Finals: Sgt. AWOL vs. Johnny the Bull

If we're doing a four man tournament, couldn't we just have a fourway and get it over with instead? It's a stick battle to start because we didn't get enough of it with Johnny vs. Vito on Monday. Johnny gets put in a garbage can and beaten on even more, which means it's already table time. AWOL shrugs off a shot from Johnny and chokeslams him through the table for the fast win.

Post match Scott Steiner comes out to beat up AWOL (your potential future champion) before yelling about Goldberg. Stevie doesn't like Booker being brought up so he shoves Steiner, earning himself a pipe shot to the back.

Stevie is being checked on by a trainer but wants Steiner tonight.

It's time for the Lava Lamp Lounge with special guest Midajah. I'm sure there's some kind of Russo issue as he books a talk show with only women where a man loses everything he has every single week. Awesome starts hitting on Midajah until he finds out that Steiner is still here (so even

he doesn't watch the show). There's no monitor in the back though, meaning Steiner can't watch.

That brings Awesome closer but also brings out Leia Meow for some reason, triggering a catfight. Awesome gets hit low and the set is destroyed again. Security breaks it up and Awesome is relieved that he still has his crystal ball....which he immediately drops. It doesn't break or anything but he does drop it.

Crowbar asks Jimmy Hart where Daffney is (when you need information, you go to Jimmy Hart). Apparently she and Ozzie are going to Australia before the rest of the company shows up there in a few weeks.

Steiner will fight Stevie later.

If you go to WCW.com, you can get an exclusive interview with Jim Duggan. It sounds better than This Week in WCW Motorsports.

Konnor has taken over for Stevie on commentary.

Tag Team Titles: Jim Duggan/Elix Skipper vs. Mark Jindrak/Sean O'Haire

Jindrak and O'Haire are defending of course. Before the match, Duggan yells at the fans (and Gunns, who he tells to "shut up woman") for having no honor. It's a brawl to start as the fans chant for the champs by default. Skipper and Jindrak officially get things going with Mark ducking an early clothesline and bringing in O'Haire for a double throw. Back up and Elix tries a Matrix move but gets his head taken off by a clothesline.

Jindrak misses his no hands Lionsault and it's off to Duggan for some big right hands. We hit the chinlock on Mark before Skipper comes in again for a chinlock of his own. Elix's missile dropkick puts Mark down and Skipper lands on his feet. It's really impressive until you remember that Koko B. Ware could do the same thing. Duggan chokes away and we're in the third chinlock. Gunns breaks up a 2x4 shot though and crotches Elix on top, which draws out Sgt. AWOL to chokeslam Skipper down. Duggan goes after him in the aisle and a torture rack neckbreaker into the Seanton Bomb retains the title.

Rating: D. Those chinlocks in the middle took everything out of this match and made it dull stuff for the most part. Team Canada vs. the Thrillers gets to keep going as Russo continues his love of stable wars and likely tries to keep recreating DX vs. the Nation. I mean, the Canadians vs. the military guys is exactly the same as Rock vs. HHH right?

During the break, Sanders got annoyed at Elix Skipper for some reason. Here's his reward.

Kronik vs. Elix Skipper

Skipper is smart enough to lay on the mat so Kronik walks away, only to try a dive onto Adams. So much for the Canadian educational system. A brief pummeling leads to the Meltdown, the full nelson slam and High Times to complete the squash. I have no idea what the point of this was but it ate up a few minutes.

Storm is annoyed that he wasn't allowed to help Skipper. I really hope they're not teasing a face turn for the Canadians.

Rey Mysterio vs. Juventud Guerrera

This is the second match in the best of five series with Guerrera up 1-0. Tygress is on commentary as the guys shake hands to start. Feeling out process to start as neither of them are sure of where to go. Rey takes over with an armdrag and a drop toehold into something like an STF. You don't often see him do something like that, especially since I didn't think he was tall enough to pull it off. La Majistral gets two for Rey and he monkey flips Juvy into the ropes, which sends Guerrera out to the floor. The referee drops out to check on him and the match is stopped due to an injury.

The worst part: the fans boo the match being stopped. This could be due to one of two things. First off could be that they're annoyed that a match was stopped and have no sympathy for what seems like a legitimate injury. If so, screw them. On the other hand though, could it be that they're so used to something screwy going on that they were annoyed at a swerve and just wanted to see what they thought was likely going to be

the only good match of the show? If that's the case, I can more than sympathize.

This Week in WCW Motorsports. Maybe I was wrong about that Duggan interview.

We look at Juvy hitting the ropes again and it really was a hard landing. A knee injury of some sort wouldn't surprise me.

Hardcore Title Tournament Semi-Finals: Crowbar vs. Reno

Crowbar has taped up ribs so Reno goes right after them as he likely should. A trashcan lid to the ribs has Crowbar in trouble but he grabs a northern lights suplex for a quick two. Reno goes right back to the ribs so Crowbar pelts a trashcan at him. The ribs are good enough for Crowbar to score with the slingshot legdrop before hitting Reno with a baseball bat. I'm not sure what it says when the spot that made Sting the biggest star in the promotion is now just a transitional move.

They head over to the announcers' table but Crowbar takes WAY too much time setting it up. Since Reno is kind of a goon though, Crowbar still puts him on top and hits a nice dive over the top to crush both Reno and the table again. The referee is counting both guys for whatever reason. If you're counting, shouldn't you be disqualifying them for all of the weapons? Even when they stop following the rules they don't make sense. Reno throws him back in and grabs a t-bone suplex. Cue Johnny the Bull to trip Crowbar and set up the Roll of the Dice for the pin.

Rating: D+. This got some more time to make up for the previous match going short and there's nothing wrong with that. I'm still not wild on the Hardcore Title existing in the first place, but at the same time at least Crowbar is getting some TV time. He's been one of the highlights of this year and it's a shame that the Daffney storyline keeps getting put on hold.

Mike Awesome runs out for the save post match.

Mike Awesome says he can help Crowbar with his "chick problems". Is that still a thing?

This week's sitdown interview is with Vince Russo, complete with title belt and a neck brace. Apparently there's some question as to who is champion but Russo says he's the one here with the belt because he left the cage first. Russo isn't an athlete or a sports entertainer but on Monday, he showed that at any given time, he can walk into a ring with anyone and walk out champion. However, he's done competing and he'll make his decision with the title on Monday.

Russo certainly isn't afraid of Goldberg and he'll deal with him on Monday too. As for Monday, Ric Flair better stay away or Russo will drop a bombshell on the entire Flair family. Ric knows what it is and he knows what's best for him. Tenay asks about Luger but Russo had no idea about what happened. Russo doesn't like these questions so Monday, Tenay is going to fight.

So yeah Russo is a top heel, the World Champion and getting to laugh at everyone. Now in a normal wrestling company, this would lead to people beating him up and humiliating him to get their revenge and send the fans home happy. However, we're not in a normal wrestling company because we're in Vince Russo's WCW, where Russo gets to be champion, smirk, and probably sleep with Stacy Keibler. Now why would I want to watch something like that? I'm not sure of course, but I'm not as smart as Vince Russo.

Reno and the Thrillers celebrate.

Luger and Rection say they'll win.

Scott Steiner vs. Stevie Ray

Stevie is in jeans. Steiner throws him to the floor to start and whips Stevie into the barricade before taking him back inside for the bicep elbow. A t-bone suplex and a backbreaker allow Steiner to do some push-ups as this is a squash so far. Stevie pops back up with a bicycle kick but has to catch Midajah's cross body. Scott's low blow and a pipe shot set up the Recliner for the submission to end this in a hurry.

General Rection/Lex Luger vs. Lance Storm/Jeff Jarrett

Non-sanctioned while still being on a WCW show and in a WCW ring. The Canadian national anthem goes on for a good while tonight, likely due to filling in more time. It's a brawl to start and all four head outside until Luger brings Jarrett back inside for a gorilla press and some clotheslines.

We settle down to an actual match with Jarrett putting Luger in a sleeper until a quick suplex breaks it up. Off to Storm for some stomping before Jeff comes back in and promptly runs into a double clothesline. It's off to Rection vs. Storm with the General taking over. Luger holds Lance down for the moonsault....and turns on Rection because of course. A torture rack from Luger sets up the Maple Leaf from Storm for the submission.

Rating: D. Nothing main event here but at least we all get to fill in the SWERVE box on our WCW Bingo card. It really is kind of amazing that Luger is still the exact same boring guy that he was when we last saw him several months ago. You would think he would have some fire in there somewhere but he really is just a guy with muscles doing a move here and there.

Overall Rating: D. Another not great show here and unfortunately it's turning into a modern day Smackdown where you get a token title match every now and then but the general message is "tune in Monday if you want to see anything happen." The Russo stuff was nowhere near as bad this time but putting Tenay in the ring on Monday made my eyes roll. As I've mentioned a time or two: not everything has to be an angle and not everyone has to be a character. This wasn't the worst show by any stretch but just nothing to see here.

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