ECW on TNN – June 23, 2000: Maybe They Should Be Canceled

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Date: June 23, 2000 Location: O'Neill Center, Danbury, Connecticut Commentators: Joel Gertner, Joey Styles

We're running out of time before Heat Wave and maybe they could actually bother to start setting things up this week. Or maybe even advancing some stories for a change. Instead, I'd assume we'll be getting more Network vs. ECW because that's the only story they know how to tell anymore. By tell I mean repeat over and over. Let's get to it.

Rob Van Dam and Fonzie are excited about heading to Los Angeles for Heat Wave.

Earlier tonight, New Jack climbed a ladder to get into the rafters and dove onto someone not important enough to name and drive him through a table. An apparently it was Chris Hamrick, which I had to find online. Thanks for taking that big of a bump Chris.

New Jack is ready to go to LA as well because he wants to show us his hometown. He can't wait to get violent in his old stomping grounds.

Opening sequence.

Cyrus is in the arena to yell at Joey because there isn't going to be ECW on TNN tonight. See, there can't be a show because there's no color commentator because Joel is still in the hospital. Joey isn't going to get to put himself over tonight and has ten seconds to produce a commentator or there's no show.

Cue Gertner to chase off Cyrus again but Cyrus runs into Francine. After complimenting her cleavage, he thinks it's time for her to take care of him by beating Gertner up in exchange for saving Justin Credible's title last week. Francine gets inside and rips Joey for being a Catholic (seriously) and having his wife in the crowd.

It's Joel's turn now but he brings out Tommy Dreamer to do his fighting for him. The announcers bail and Francine starts begging off because Justin isn't here tonight. Sexual favors are offered if he'll break his silence since Cyberslam. Nothing is said so Francine slaps him in the jaw, only to have Jazz come in and lay her out. That's your first third of the show by the way.

Tony Mamaluke vs. Chilly Willy

Williy gets caught in an early tornado DDT for two but comes back with a falcon's arrow for the pin in just over a minute.

Guido comes in and lays Chilly out before trying to break the referee's arm. This brings out Balls Mahoney for the big save but he can't drop Big Sal. A middle rope headbutt crushes Balls' ribs so here Mikey Whipwreck with a FLAMING 2×4 for the real save. That thing was lit up too.

Simon and Swinger are in their locker room when the Prodigy and the Prodigette come in to waste time. Cue the Musketeer for more comedy, only to have the Dangerous Alliance come in for the big showdown. Much like everything else tonight, this goes nowhere.

Scotty Anton turns the lights on and off with the Clap. They're ready to take care of Van Dam on Los Angeles and that's about it.

Steve Corino vs. Tajiri

Corino has Jack Victory in his corner and this is a rematch from Hardcore Heaven. We're still not ready to go though as Cyrus comes out AGAIN and tells the referee to cheat for Corino. The referee says no so Cyrus lays him out and brings out Jerry Lynn as guest referee. Cyrus to Corino: "It's just like Montreal. It's in the bag." Feeling out process to start with Corino claiming a pull of the trunks.

With nothing going on, Joel previews what's coming up next in a parody of last week's ending as the video goes into the corner. Instead of Arena Football though, we get EXTREME TEST PATTERNS! Joel: "Will cyan clash with magenta??? TUNE IN TONIGHT!" Funny stuff, as is often the case with Gertner. Tajiri hits a neckbreaker for the first real offense and a neckbreaker. A spinwheel kick puts Corino on the floor and the handspring (not the elbow) sends a chair into Steve's face to draw some blood.

Corino bled like almost no one I've ever seen back then so it's no minor cut. A knee to the head makes the blood even worse and Tajiri baseball slides a chair into Steve's head. Tajiri is nice enough to wipe some blood away but gets suplexed through a table. Is that a traditional Japanese thank you? Corino drops a Bionic Elbow for two and the Network is livid. It's made even worse as Tajiri grabs Steve's crotch and mists Jerry by mistake. Corino gives up to the Octopus Hold but the blind Lynn hits Tajiri by mistake, giving Corino the pin.

Rating: B-. Again that's on the ECW scale because their matches just aren't that good most of the time. The Jerry Lynn stuff is even more of the same nonsense but you have to expect that at this point. Corino could bleed like few others for a cool visual but the story is in the same place it was in a month ago and that's not good at all.

Joey wraps it up by hyping a Chicago house show the next night of the fifth or so time on this show. Oh and Rhino defends the TV Title again Rob Van on free TV just because.

Overall Rating: D-. The main event helped a lot but this was a hue waste of a week. We had a bunch of talking that we've seen before, a match we've seen before and a one minute match that set up Mikey playing with fire. With less than a month to go before the pay per view, they really should be going somewhere instead of doing the same stuff they were doing back in May. This show is flatlining in a hurry and REALLY needs to change before it gets even worse.

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