

Lucha Underground – November 23, 2016: They're Better Than This

Lucha Underground

Date: November 23, 2016

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

We're in a new stretch for Lucha Underground as Sexy Star dethroned the Monster Matanza last week and became the new Lucha Underground Champion. However there's no rest for the new champ as Johnny Mundo is cashing in his Gift of the Gods Title to get a shot at Star tonight. Let's get to it.

Of course we open with a recap of Aztec Warfare. Also covered is the Black Lotus Tribe vs. Pentagon Dark and the Gift of the Gods Title being cashed in.

The White Rabbit Tribe is here.

Trios Titles: Rabbit Tribe vs. Fenix/Drago/Aerostar

The Rabbit Tribe is Paul London, Mala Suerte (Bad Luck) and Saltador (guy in a checker suit). Basically they're all tripped out on drugs and acting weird. They're also challenging because they're making their debut here and are neither fabulous nor kangaroos. It's a brawl to start as Striker says London's reputation got the team this early title shot. London does a big backwards dive onto the champs as Vampiro suggests getting Striker high for a trip down the rabbit hole.

Back in and Suerte tells his partners to back Fenix up before hopping off the top and running across the ring for a dropkick. Fenix kicks Suerte in the head but crawls over to the wrong corner as the Rabbits changed places. The champs finally get tired of these antics and hit stereo kicks to the Rabbits' heads. They unleash the dives as we see Kobra Moon

watching from the top of Dario's office. Back in and Fenix rolls Saltador up to retain at 5:43.

Rating: C-. Just in case the 1938 different references from the announcers didn't make it clear, the Rabbits are all on drugs and tripping out. I can go for some characters with simple concepts but I can't handle these characters where they beat you over the head with their gimmick time after time. At least they didn't get the titles in their debut.

Moon says she'll make Drago bow.

The Mack congratulates Sexy Star on her win but she politely declines his offer to help against the Worldwide Underground. See, she's all independent and has to prove that she's awesome because of bullying or something.

Dante Fox vs. Killshot

I would have expected this to come a lot later. They talk a lot of trash to start with Killshot not wanting to do this. He's willing to defend himself though and it's a dropkick to put Dante down. A springboard dropkick sends Killshot to the floor and that means a suicide dive. Fox shows off his skills with a shooting star off the apron, only to have Killshot grab a neckbreaker from the apron to the floor.

Back in and the slug it out, which seems to freak Fox out. Fox tries another roll but flips right into a cutter to freak the crowd out. A cross armbreaker is countered and Fox puts him on the top, only to get caught in a Death Valley Driver onto the apron for a sick crash. Selling really isn't a thing around here though as Killshot comes back with something like an inverted fisherman's buster for the pin at 8:15.

Rating: C+. One guy hits the other really hard and then reverse it. Fox is a fun guy and should fit right in around here, much like so many other people who debut with a backstory and just happen to be a fully trained wrestler. Killshot is still one of the better performers in Lucha Underground and this was no exception. He'll be fine after a loss like this.

Johnny Mundo comes in to see Dario and tells him that Angelico has been barred from the building via a restraining order.

After a break, Dario comes back into his office and runs into Black Lotus. She wants Pentagon Dark and gets her wish....in a gauntlet match, including the rest of the women who attacked Dark last week.

Lucha Underground Title: Sexy Star vs. Johnny Mundo

Star is defending as Johnny is cashing in the Gift of the Gods Title, meaning it's officially vacant. Johnny takes her down into a chinlock to start and kicks away for two. A rollup gets two for the champ but she gets caught in something like a YES Lock. Mundo really doesn't seem to be trying here as Star is way beneath him.

Johnny hammers away and puts her in the Tree of Woe for a bit to keep up the destruction. The comeback is knocked away with ease but Star hits a few dropkicks for two. A neckbreaker cuts Star off again though and we hit the chinlock. Star finally gets in a Backstabber for two but a Russian legsweep puts Johnny in control again.

The same comeback and cutoff kills off another minute or so as this is getting boring in a hurry. Johnny misses a baseball slide and gets kicked into the barricade for more false hope. Star stomps away until Johnny steals a fan's crutch. The champ goes over to check on the fan and gets laid out with a brass knuckles shot. Back in and the End of the World changes the title at 11:12.

Rating: D. What a boring match. Star is the most transitional champion in the history of transitional champions and that whole standing up to the bullies idea went less than nowhere. Mundo is a better choice as champion but sweet goodness could they have made this any less interesting? Star never had a chance and they didn't even try to hide it. Really disappointing here but that was the case when Star won the title in the first place.

The fan was Taya of course and the Worldwide Underground celebrates to end the show.

Overall Rating: D+. I know it doesn't sound right to say this but putting the title on Star, even for a week, was a big setback. It was a great last few minutes of Aztec Warfare but egads that was the end of the line for her usefulness on top of the promotion. I stopped caring about her as soon as the title match was announced and the main event made that very clear. Fox vs. Killshot is good but it's the lone bright spot here. Maybe this was just a necessary evil but I really didn't care about anything on here as the energy was just gone.

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