

205 Live – April 18, 2017: A Scheduling Error

205 Live

Date: April 18, 2017

Location: KFC Yum! Center, Louisville, Kentucky

Commentators: Corey Graves, Tom Phillips

For once, we're actually addressing one of the major problems around here as TJ Perkins has become a third major name in the division. Perkins has also turned heel, which gives Austin Aries something to do as he gets ready for his Cruiserweight Title shot against Neville. Let's get to it.

I was in the arena for this show.

We open with a recap of Neville getting inside TJ Perkins' head and turning him to the dark side in his feud against Austin Aries.

Opening sequence.

Akira Tozawa vs. Tony Nese

Feeling out process to start until Tozawa is sent outside. That only seems to tick him off so he scares Nese out to the floor as things slow down a bit. Back in and Nese elbows him in the face to take over for the first time. We're off to an early neck crank and here's Brian Kendrick. A suplex sets up another chinlock but Tozawa knees his way out of a second suplex.

Tozawa sends him outside again for another suicide dive but gets sent throat first into the ropes to slow him down. With the referee distracted, Kendrick tries a kick to the head. Thankfully the referee actually catches him and says no, allowing Tozawa to grab a rollup for the pin at 6:02.

Rating: C. I'm liking the Kendrick vs. Tozawa feud but they're reaching a point where it's just continuing for the sake of continuing. Adding Nese to the mix could help things out a bit as you can only have the two of them fight for so long before it stops

doing anything for anyone. Good little match here though with the ending making sense.

Nese isn't cool with that and decks Kendrick. Tozawa says that's lesson #3: always have eyes in the back of your head.

Here's Rich Swann for a chat (complete with an unnecessary bell) about giving Alicia Fox all the gifts. This brings out Noam Dar and Alicia Fox (with separate entrances) with the latter saying that she thought Dar was the future face of 205 Live. He's young and talented but then she saw the other side of him: he's annoying, his cologne smells terrible and he thinks he can cook ("Just not in every room."). She's been using him and if she hears that ALICIA F00000X one more time, she's going to snap.

Fox tells him to get out of here before switching her attention to Swann. She thanks him for the gifts, which Swann says all game from the heart. Now Swann wants to give her what she deserves. Cedric Alexander is one of Swann's best friends and she broke his heart. There's a word for people like Fox but Swann won't say it. The world knows what she is though and that's his real gift. Fox SNAPS over the WHAT treatment and screams a lot, which she really does very well.

Mustafa Ali vs. Ariya Daivari

Earlier today, Ariya Daivari arrived in a very nice car. So he's rich now. Ali grabs the arm but Daivari looks disgusted by being touched. Some flips don't get Mustafa very far so he sends Ali outside for a flip dive over the ropes. Back in and Daivari grabs a belly to back suplex onto the apron, followed by a spinebuster for two.

Ali comes back with some knees to the ribs and a dropkick....but we've got feedback. Cue Drew Gulak with a bullhorn to shout "I AM NOT LYING! NO HIGH FLYING!" The distraction lets Daivari pull Ali off the top and hit a hammerlock clothesline (the Rainmaker, which is still just a clothesline) for the pin at 6:50.

Rating: D+. I've watched this match twice now and I really didn't

remember a thing of it until Gulak came out. It's a very forgettable match as Daivari continues to become more and more of a stereotype, which is almost never a good thing. The match isn't even bad and it helps set up Gulak vs. Ali but there's nothing to remember here.

Gulak says he sees a bright future around here and has nothing against Ali but his style needs to change.

TJ Perkins vs. Austin Aries

Perkins bails to the floor to start so Aries has a seat in the ring. Back in and it's already time for the armdrags into the armbar as it seems they have a lot of time here. Perkins reverses into the headscissors and, of course, dabs. The threat of a Last Chancery puts TJ outside again but Aries gets crotched on top to slow things down again. A dropkick gets two with TJ putting one foot on the chest for a dabbing cover.

Now it's off to something like a standing figure four with a butterfly lock on the arms. Perkins misses a standing flip splash though and gets dropped by an ST0. A side slam gives Aries two but it's too early for the 450. Aries jams his knee on the landing and there's the kneebar. It's only the first attempt though and Aries makes the rope. Aries slugs away but gets caught in a strike rush.

The discus Fivearm misses and they botch the double chickenwing gutbuster, basically turning it into a low blow for two instead. Now the forearm connects to set up the 450 but Perkins gets his feet on the ropes. The Last Chancery (with Aries crossing his legs to avoid putting pressure on the bad knee) sends TJ to the ropes again and Aries isn't sure what to do. The Detonation Kick doesn't work so Aries claps his hands around TJ's ears, setting up the Fivearm for the pin at 11:48.

Rating: B-. Perkins is rapidly improving with this heel character and his in-ring work has gotten better too. I'm not wild on having him lose here but at least it was in a match with some time that went back and forth instead of being mostly one sided. Good main event here and Aries looks strong going into the pay per view.

Post match here's Neville for the brawl with Aries and it's a quick Last Chancery. Perkins makes the save though and the double beatdown ensues. Neville grabs the Rings of Saturn with TJ taunting Aries to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. I know you hear it a lot but the scheduling of this show really, really hurts it. Smackdown ended it at 10pm and by 10:15, the arena was probably 1/3 empty. By the time the show ended, it was probably close to 1/3 full. This show was entertaining but the fans just do not care to stick around and watch it. Move it before Smackdown and just air it on tape delay. I really don't know why the show MUST go on at 10pm but that's what WWE seems to go with and it doesn't seem to be changing anytime soon.

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