

205 Live – That's What You Have to Expect

205 Live

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Location: Air Canada Center, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Corey Graves

We're north of the boarder this time around and the big story is TJP vs. Rich Swann, who have been having "friendly" competitions for weeks now. This week though it's a little less friendly as they're facing off in the main event. There's likely some more about the Cruiserweight Title match but I'm sure we'll be getting development on the 205 Live exclusive stories as well. Let's get to it.

We open with a long recap of TJP vs. Swann with TJP talking about how Swann can't handle losing, including in the Cruiserweight Classic. Swann beat him a few weeks back and TJP has gotten a bit more sinister since then as he tries to get things even.

Opening sequence.

Tony Nese vs. Cedric Alexander

Nese does his long posing entrance on the ring again and the counting abs thing is starting to grow on me. Hang on a second as Nese needs to pose some more. Cedric takes him down with a leg trip and kicks Nese away, setting up a dropkick and his own bicep pose. Alexander sends him outside for a dive but gets caught in a gutbuster back inside.

Tony ties him in the Tree of Woe for the crunch kicks to the ribs, which is becoming one of my favorite spots. We hit a bodyscissors to stay on Cedric's ribs for a bit, only to have Alexander fight up with an enziguri. The springboard clothesline gets two on Nese and a fan starts chanting boring. Nese ducks a clothesline and nips up, only to eat an elbow to the jaw. They fight over a rollup until Tony grabs the trunks for the pin at 7:24.

Rating: C+. Nese has grown on me in recent weeks and the gimmick is getting better and better every time he's out there. He's a perfectly acceptable power heel, which isn't something you have many of out here. On top of that you have Alexander, who continues to be one of the most naturally smooth wrestlers around here and I still don't know why he's not in bigger matches.

Post match Nese says you saw the difference between a great athlete and a premiere athlete. This sounds like they're setting up something more going forward.

Brian Kendrick doesn't think much of Jack Gallagher attacking him last week as it only proves that Gallagher is a fake. Besides, all that matters is he won. Gallagher comes in from behind and beats the heck out of Kendrick again.

Noam Dar vs. Mark Thomas

Before the match, Dar says he's been watching Thomas for years, which just seems to confuse Thomas. Somehow Thomas is still chasing the dream, which Dar can't relate to because he's a WWE superstar at 24. Thomas punches him down to start and Dar needs a breather on the floor. Back in and Dar unloads on him with shots to the back and a European uppercut. The running enziguri (Nova Roller) ends Thomas at 1:51. Just a squash.

Corey Graves brings out Akira Tozawa for a sitdown interview. Before he can answer any questions though, here's Neville to say this should be his interview. Neville isn't happy with his old friend Corey trying to hype his match without talking to the hype himself. Tozawa isn't competition for the King of the Cruiserweights but he takes off his tie. He asks Neville what he thinks he's doing before dropping Neville with a shot to the head. Neville bails before Tozawa can try the top rope backsplash. That's fine with Tozawa who decks Neville again for good measure. This was perfectly acceptable.

TJP vs. Rich Swann

Swann is back in his old trunks. TJP takes him to the mat to start but gets headlocked for his efforts. Back up and they trade flips over the

other before catching stereo kicks to the ribs. Swann chops him down again and gets in a clothesline to put TJP on the floor, setting up a corkscrew dive from the middle rope.

Back in and we hit the hammerlock on TJP as the fans chant for Graves for some reason. A pair of suplexes give TJP two and he grabs a bow and arrow hold for some extra punishment to the back. It's back to an armbar and that BORING chant starts up again. That goes nowhere so they both miss middle rope dives but Swann is able to catch him with a dropkick to knock TJP off the ropes.

Swann's double underhook is countered into the kneebar but Rich is right next to the ropes. A kick to the head sets up a standing moonsault for two and Rich is getting frustrated. The Phoenix Splash misses though and Swann winds up on TJP's shoulders for an electric chair into the corner. The Detonation Kick ends Swann at 10:29.

Rating: B-. Nice match here and that electric chair looked great. TJP winning clean is interesting and likely sets up one more match as Swann won the initial match. These are two of the better talents in the division and I'm liking TJP mostly being a heel again. It naturally suits him and that's what the show needs at this point.

Post match TJP gets in Swann's face to brag about the win before doing Swann's dance. After some replays, TJP catches up to him in the back and asks what's wrong. Swann isn't cool with that victory celebration and is starting to know who TJP really is.

Overall Rating: C+. The show has found its groove but at the same time, it's not exactly the most entertaining thing in the world. The best thing I can say about 205 Live is that it's not the worst show in the world and that's really not a good place to be. It's no secret that this show doesn't need to exist and that's not a good thing. I'd be surprised if the show is around in another few months and that's probably for the better.

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