

# 205 Live – January 23, 2018: Here We Go All Over Again

## 205 Live

Date: January 23, 2018

Location: Capitol One Arena, Washington DC

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

Stop me if you've heard this one before, but there's a big change to the Cruiserweight Title situation. In this case, there is no Cruiserweight Champion as Enzo Amore has been stripped of the title and released from the company. There is no word on what's going to happen to the title but for now, Sunday's Cruiserweight Title match is off. Therefore, enjoy another show with little advancement to the top storyline. Let's get to it.

Daniel Bryan informs us that Enzo is no longer champion and gone from the show. He's telling us this because of his connection to the company, mainly through the Cruiserweight Classic. Next week, there will be a General Manager announced and their first action will be to deal with this situation. No word on who that will be (Bryan said him or her).

Opening sequence.

The announcers recap what we just heard.

## Kalisto/Gran Metalik/Lince Dorado vs. TJP/Ariya Daivari/Tony Nese

TJP misses an early swing at Dorado and gets taken to the mat in a headscissors. Back up and Dorado dabs at TJP before taking him down with a single chop. A little arm cranking is enough to send TJP over to Nese, who can't keep up with Metalik from bouncing off the ropes. Nese finally takes him down and sends Metalik into the corner so Daivari can come in to take over.

Nigel asks where Drew Gulak is now that the Zo Train (not named) is over. Fair question actually. It's off to Kalisto with slingshot hilo, followed

by a kick to Daivari's hands (rather than his head) for two. Nese's distraction lets Daivari knock Kalisto off the ropes and out to the floor in a heap. We get to the standard beatdown in the corner, including a belly to back for two from TJP.

Nese comes back in for a chinlock but gets kicked in the head, allowing the ice cold tag to Dorado. I mean the people just did not react at all. A moonsault press gives Dorado two as everything breaks down. Kalisto and Metalik hit stereo flip dives but Dorado misses a shooting star (not a 450 as Nigel says). The Detonation Kick misses though and Dorado's handsprings Stunner ends TJP at 9:12.

**Rating:** C. Pretty standard six man cruiserweight match and there's not much to say about something like that. The three luchadors as a team is fine, but much like everything else on this show, there's not much of a story to go with it. I need something more than an average match to keep my interest, especially when there's very little character work to speak of. Well, outside of TJP crying of course.

Post match TJP yells at his partners but gets shoved down and blamed for the loss.

Drew Gulak, in a suit and standing in front of an American flag, supports a new General Manager but wants it to be someone who will have none of this high flying, chanting, flipping and flopping. They need to be on board with the idea of a Drewtopia. I fully support more Drew Gulak around here, especially in a bigger role.

### Jack Gallagher vs. Hideo Itami

Before the match, Itami says what happened to Brian Kendrick was an accident. He respects Kendrick but not so much with Gallagher. An early kick to the face drops Gallagher in short order but a leather shoe to the ribs slows Itami down as well. An early headlock on the mat doesn't get Gallagher very far as Itami is right back up with more kicks in the corner. With Gallagher draped over the middle rope, Itami goes up for a jumping kick to the back.

Gallagher uses a referee distraction to sneak underneath the ring and

sneak up on Itami, sending him shoulder first into the buckle. Jack bends the arm around his leg and cranks on Itami's hand for good measure. We hit a double wristlock on Itami but a suplex gets Itami out of trouble.

The arm is banged up but Itami is still able to throw a knee, followed by a top rope clothesline for two. The fans are just NOT responding to this and it's kind of sad to see. A spinning fist drops Gallagher into the corner and Itami grabs a dragon sleeper, which he swings into something like a Twist of Fate Stunner with a kick to the head (it's kind of hard to describe) for the pin at 6:23.

**Rating:** C+. Itami needs to pick a finisher already and it needs to be something other than that one, which was more complicated than it needed to be. In theory this should wrap up their feud but since it's 205 Live, we're probably in for another five weeks between these two. At least until Kendrick gets at the latest.

Akira Tozawa thinks he could be a good boss and practices firing someone.

#### Cedric Alexander vs. Mustafa Ali

Cedric says the plan hasn't changed and he'll be champion soon. They shake hands to start but Cedric pulls him back and says he'll be champion. You said that already. Feeling out process to start with Ali's wristlock getting him nowhere. A hurricanrana doesn't work either as Alexander lands on his feet.

Back up and Alexander backflips into his ankle scissors for two, followed by an armbar on the mat. Ali fights up and hits a dropkick into an armbar of his own as they seem to be mirroring each other so far. Alexander breaks that up as well and shoves Ali off a springboard, sending him face first into the apron for a BAD looking crash. That's only good for two so we hit a cross arm choke to keep Ali down inside. Ali gets back up and avoids a charge in the corner, sending Alexander face first into the middle buckle.

The rolling X Factor gives Ali two but his tornado DDT is blocked and reversed into a suplex. That's reversed as well but Ali sends him into the corner. Cedric's springboard Downward Spiral gets two more and

Alexander wins a slugout. Ali is right back up with a running C4 and a wicked tornado DDT gets two. The 054 misses though and it's a Neutralizer into the Lumbar Check to give Cedric the pin at 11:49.

**Rating:** B. That's the kind of match 205 Live has been needed for months now and I'm very glad to be away from the constant Zo Train vs. everyone else story that we've been sitting through for such a long time. This was a lot of fun with both guys working hard and showing how awesome these guys can be if they're allowed to put something together and not sit around waiting on Enzo to do his stupid lines.

They shake hands post match.

**Overall Rating:** B-. Strong main event aside, this was kind of a placeholder show as we wait on the GM. I'm still not sure what the point was in having this show go longer again when you probably could have cut it down to the previous week's length. Last week's shorter run time was a nice touch but the lack of Enzo does even it out. I'm very glad that they've gotten things a little more steady, but I'm not sure how strong this show can be, at least based on past experiences.

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