

205 Live – February 6, 2018: What The Tournament Needed

205 Live

Date: February 6, 2018

Location: Sprint Center, Kansas City, Missouri

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

We'll continue the tournament this week with two more second round matches. The whole thing started last week with new General Manager Drake Maverick starting the tournament and bringing in some outside names to fill in the brackets. That's the case this week as well with Roderick Strong making his 205 Live debut. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Maverick's debut and last week's first round matches.

Opening sequence.

Cruiserweight Title Tournament First Round: Kalisto vs. Lince Dorado

They shake hands to start and it's time to go, though they're rather intense as they let go. Dorado takes him to the mat before trading some fast armdrags. A double flip up gives us a standoff and the fans know what they're in for. Back up and Kalisto is thrown into the air, only to land on on Dorado's shoulders. Well of course he does.

Dorado shoves him off but charges into a pair of knees in the corner. Kalisto sends him outside for a suicide dive into the announcers' table but Dorado is right back up with a running flip dive. Back in and Dorado starts in on a reverse chinlock before we hit a chinlock. Dorado takes too much time going up though and has to bail out, allowing Kalisto to score with a superkick.

They head up top and of course that means a super hurricanrana to bring Kalisto back down. Dorado is impressing me here and that's not something that happens too often. Kalisto is right back up with the springboard

corkscrew body block for two, followed by a super victory roll for the same. The rolling kick to the head is blocked though and Dorado is right back with the handspring Stunner (The Golden Rewind. Ehhhhhhh not feeling that one.).

The shooting star press crushes Kalisto but he's smart enough to roll to the floor. Back in and the Salida Del Sol connects but Dorado grabs the rope at the last second. You know, like at two. Kalisto is back up and tries a reverse hurricanrana but Dorado just kind of slides over Kalisto's back. Not that it matters as the Salida Del Sol sends Kalisto to the second round at 11:35.

Rating: B. This is the kind of stuff the tournament needed to have and it's easily the best I've ever seen from Dorado. They were flying all over the place here and looking awesome in the process, especially the Salida Del Sol. That's one of the best finishers in the entire company today and it's very cool to see him advance like this. Let us see what he can do against a better opponent. Or on the main roster with Dorado against the Bar.

Long video on Roderick Strong, which I believe first aired back on NXT. His family fell apart when he was a kid and now he uses wrestling to keep things together. He also has a family of his own and they mean the world to him.

Mustafa Ali photo bombs Cedric Alexander. Cedric: "Everybody's ok until their lumbar gets checked!"

TJP reads Tweets and says this time it's about him instead of everyone else.

Next week: Mark Andrews vs. Akira Tozawa in a first round match.

Video on Andrews, who is quite the high flier.

Tozawa thinks he'll win and asks a backstage worker for his opinion. The backstage guy likes Andrews so Tozawa fires him.

Tony Nese and Drew Gulak comes in to see Maverick and Drake isn't pleased with either of them. Drew is a goof and Tony has abs. The train has left

the station though and next week it's the two of them in the first round of the tournament. One of them needs to step up to the plate. Mavericks' delivery continues to be a very strong point.

Cruiserweight Title Tournament First Round: Hideo Itami vs. Roderick Strong

Itami headscissors him to the mat to start but has to flip out of a bow and arrow hold. The half nelson backbreaker doesn't work on Itami and we're already on a headlock to slow Strong down. Itami is right back up with some kicks to the head, including a middle rope kick to the back of the head for two.

The tornado DDT into the guillotine is broken up though and Strong stays on the back, as is his custom. A pumphandle backbreaker gives Strong two (Strong: "COME ON KENTA! COME ON HIDEO!"), followed by a dropkick for the same. Strong misses a charge into the corner though and a DDT takes him down. Itami scores with Sami Zayn's Helluva Kick and a top rope clothesline for two each.

It's Strong's turn for a big move so an Angle Slam takes Itami down. A trip to the floor sees Itami's back bouncing off the barricade as Strong certainly has a target. Back in and Itami grabs a quick Falcon Arrow for two, followed by a running hip attack with Strong hung on the ropes. The jumping knee is countered into a failed Strong Hold attempt. This time Itami reverses into the very modified Rings of Saturn, sending Strong bailing to the ropes.

A gutbuster into the Cloud 9 (a spinning belly to back faceplant) gives Strong two more but Itami takes him up. That means a super Falcon Arrow (more like a superplex with a bit of a spin) for another near fall, followed by the running hesitation dropkick. Back up and Strong scores with the jumping knee to the face. The End of Heartache (suplex into a backbreaker) sends Strong to the next round at 17:02.

Rating: B+. These guys were beating each other up out there and that's the kind of match they needed to have. Strong is starting to figure out how to work the WWE style and he might be better off on the main roster full time rather than being down in NXT. There's only so much he's going

to get out of it and we seem to have passed that point. Itami....I really don't know anymore. It never quite worked down in NXT and I'm not exactly seeing it clicking here. The talent is there but for some reason it's not coming out, which just happens sometimes. What he's doing isn't working though and that needs to change.

Overall Rating: A-. This tournament has done wonders for 205 Live and I've been liking it more and more in several weeks. The Cruiserweight Classic was built up so well because it was an all action show. We spent over a year watching 205 Live try to be half action and half story and while I do like the stories, the action takes it to far higher levels. I'm genuinely interested in seeing who the final four entrants are going to be and I haven't had that kind of curiosity around this show since it debuted. Keep this stuff up and 205 Live will be one of the best WWE shows going.

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