

Mixed Match Challenge – February 13, 2018: I Think They Explained That On Gilmore Girls

Mixed Match Challenge

Date: February 13, 2018

Location: Rabobank Arena, Bakersfield, California

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves, Beth Phoenix

It's week...I'm not even sure at this point. Five maybe? Anyway tonight it's the husband and wife duo of Rusev/Lana vs. Elias/Bayley in a match that seems like it would have a much better build than execution. The last few matches have been a lot of fun so hopefully the trend continues tonight. Let's get to it.

We open with Elias and Bayley in the ring, of course both holding guitars. They introduce themselves (Bayley gets a bigger reaction as Cole AGAIN calls Elias the WWE's Bob Dylan) but get cut off by their opponents.

We see some clips of Rusev teaching Lana to break boards.

First Round: Lana/Rusev vs. Bayley/Elias

Rusev, in a singlet for a very odd look, sings the Lana song from last week before we're ready to get going. Elias has banged up ribs after last night's string bass attack at the hands (get them) of Braun Strowman. With Big E. and Carmella live chatting the show in the back, the men start things off but the women come in after twenty seconds and no contact.

Lana seems scared of Bayley but takes her down for some right hands. A slam sends Lana scurrying to the floor where she grabs a guitar. Rusev calms her down but drops the guitar, freaking Elias out in the process.

Back in and it's off to the men with the fans being rather pleased at the latest Rusev Day. Rusev wants a test of strength but Elias elbows him in the face for two instead. A knee drop gets the same as the announcers discuss the definition of a troubadour. I think they explained that on Gilmore Girls once.

Rusev is right back up with a charge into the corner as the announcers read and react to Facebook comments. Elias slips out of the Accolade but gets suplexed down, allowing the double tag to the partners. Lana knees Bayley in the back and keeps control, including a shot to the neck for two.

The announcers are STUNNED at Lana beating Bayley up this much and a seated crossface chickenwing keeps Bayley in trouble. That's enough to get Bayley all fired up and she snaps Lana's throat across the ropes. Bayley hammers away in the corner but a distraction breaks up the super Bayley to Belly. Instead, Lana pulls her face first into the buckle and gets the upset pin at 9:37.

Rating: D+. I really wasn't feeling this one as Bayley was barely a factor and Elias as a face (or at least neutral) is kind of weird. They needed to keep Rusev and Lana involved and Elias is red hot at the moment so of course, Bayley gets to take the fall. A countout or DQ would have made more sense, but I don't think there's a lot of thought being put into these matches.

Rusev says he knew it and declares today a Ravishing Rusev Day.

Charlotte and Bobby Roode are ready to prove that they're the team to beat. They might be actually.

Nia Jax and Apollo Crews aren't impressed. She won't join Titus Worldwide though.

One more replay takes us out.

Overall Rating: D. This was pretty easily the weakest of the shows so far, which is quite disappointing when the last few weeks have put the show on a roll. There wasn't much chemistry between Elias and Bayley (not

surprising) and Lana winning (apparently her first win in WWE, which is almost amazing) was treated as a much bigger deal than the team advancing. Hopefully this is just a one off slip, which would be quite the relief.

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