

Impact Wrestling – March 1, 2018: If You Can't Figure This Out...



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Impact Wrestling

Date: March 1, 2018

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Josh Matthews, Sonjay Dutt

It's the week before the big Crossroads show and that means it's time to build things up a bit. Next week's main event will see Austin Aries defending the World Title against Johnny Impact in what could be an awesome match. Other than that though we're likely in for more build towards Abyss vs. Kongo Kong, because that's what we need to see. Let's get to it.

[Need a recap? Here's last week's review.](#)

The opening video looks at Ethan Carter III and Tyrus reuniting and then splitting up in very short order. That's the smart move considering Carter is leaving.

Opening sequence.

Ethan Carter III vs. Tyrus

Carter runs his mouth (as is his custom) and is promptly shoved out to the floor. Back in and Carter gets shoved outside again as Josh talks about all the other companies they'll be visiting soon. Carter stalls a lot, including messing with a fan's phone, before going back in to have his arm cranked.

Chops and running clotheslines have no effect on Tyrus and it's Carter

being crushed in the corner. A charge misses though and Carter gets in a few shots to the back. Carter's middle rope ax handle drops Tyrus and we hit the cravate. Tyrus shrugs it off and hits a corner splash before hitting his own 1%er. The Tongan Death Grip slam is enough to end Carter at 8:13.

Rating: D+. Assuming this is it for Carter, I'll give this one a break with him leaving the company for blacker and yellower pastures. It's certainly a better way to have him go out than having Dixie Carter grab his foot and beg him to stay. I'm not sure on Tyrus being the one to get the rub but it's better than having Carter just leave.

Joseph Park is going to fight Kongo Kong tonight on his own, but neither he nor his family seems to give him much of a chance.

OVE and Sami Callihan say this is no longer fun and games. Violence takes place tonight.

Josh and Sonjay are in a studio to preview the rest of the show. Better than them saying they're ringside every week.

El Hijo de Fantasma vs. Braxton Sutter

Hijo's Latin American Championship isn't on the line and there's no entrance for Sutter. Hijo shoulders him down to start as Josh plugs the network, featuring a bunch of names that aren't around anymore. Some clotheslines put Fantasma down for two but the chinlock doesn't last very long. A backbreaker gives Fantasma two and a jumping superkick puts Sutter on the floor for the hard suicide dive. Back in and Sutter powerbombs him for two with his feet on the ropes. Not that it matters as Fantasma's Thrill of the Hunt (Samoan Driver) is good for the pin at 5:14.

Rating: C-. This felt like angle advancement more than anything else as Fantasma is now a big deal around here because he's a big deal in AAA. Sutter on the other hand...what happened? He and Allie should have been moved up several notches last year off the wedding angle but instead we're here, seeing him losing in five minutes. I'm sure this was the best possible use for him though.

Post match Sutter yells about how Allie isn't here because she ruins lives. He's the biggest star in the company...and cue Brian Cage to wreck Sutter in short order.

Matt Sydal wants to share his spiritual adviser with the world.

Sydal is ready to win the X-Division Title next week but Taiji Ishimori comes in with his own scroll, asking if Sydal will make it title for title. No answer is given.

Kongo Kong vs. Joseph Park

Park goes after him but gets dropped with a single shot to the chest. Kong hammers away in the corner and Park's headbutt knocks himself down. The top rope splash puts Park away at 2:14.

Post match Jimmy Jacobs gets in while Kong chokes Park. They still want Abyss and this is just getting started.

The Cult of Lee is having a party when the Mumbai Cats come in. After making fun of the masked men and not letting them have a drink, Konnan comes in to wonder why the Cult of Lee isn't doing cartwheels in Wonder Woman bikinis. They say Konnan is here before and if you don't know what's coming, you haven't been watching wrestling long. LAX throws Lee and Konley into the pool.

Alberto El Patron should be #1 contender. Well to be fair he hasn't had a World Title match in like two weeks at this point.

Rosemary vs. Hania

Rosemary wastes no time in hammering away at the chest and gets two off a clothesline. A very early Red Wedding attempt is broken up but Rosemary is right back up with her figure four neck lock over the ropes. Hania gets dropped with a dropkick and a t-bone suplex for two. A spear into the Red Wedding is good for the pin on Hania at 3:13. Total squash.

Rating: D. Odds are that's it for Hania and other than a look, I'm not sure what else she had to offer. This was complete destruction with Hania getting in absolutely nothing, which should tell you that she's either

done or not exactly thought of in the first place. Rosemary getting back towards the title is a good idea though and she should be going after the title in short order.

Post match Rosemary says Hania was just a puppy and now it's time to bring the Knockouts Title back to the shadow. Rosemary dubs herself the Alpha B**** but here's the returning Taya Valkyrie to disagree. Taya says the only truth in that is the B**** part but it should be Taya's, not Alpha. They both go to the apron but Taya jumps her from behind. The Road to Valhalla on the ramp drops Rosemary.

This week's classic clip: Eddie Edwards wins the World Title from Bobby Lashley.

We get a somewhat creepy video on Laurel Van Ness' rocky road, including her near wedding to Braxton Sutter, going crazy, nearly marrying Grado, and now her commitment ceremony to the Knockouts Title.

KM, the minister for the ceremony, brings the title, with a bow tie, to the ring. Laurel comes out in a dress with the lipstick being all over the place as usual. She wants him to get to the good part, meaning the objections. Cue Braxton, now in a neck brace, to interrupt. He was dropped on his head earlier and Laurel flashed before his eyes. A year ago, he made a huge mistake when he left her at the altar. He proposes, but she screams NO over and over. KM: "EPIC FAIL BRO!" Laurel asks for more objections and even shouts a request for them. Cue Allie, in a black body suit which isn't really necessary as she's sneaking in, to jump Laurel and ruin the ceremony.

The announcers preview next week's show.

Video on Austin Aries vs. Johnny Impact for the World Title next week.

Sami Callihan vs. Eddie Edwards

Eddie sends him outside for the suicide dive five seconds in but Sami rolls back in to hit one of his own eleven seconds in. Eddie hits another though and we get to thirty seconds on the replays. Some chops rock Sami and OVE is ejected for a distraction. Sami gets in an apron kick to the

face though and we take a break. Back with Eddie fighting out of a chinlock and chopping away, but getting caught in a piledriver on the apron. Since this is a regular TV match though, Sami doesn't even bother to cover.

Eddie fights out of something like a standing Crossface and kicks Sami in the face to catch him on top. A superplex brings Sami back down for no cover as Eddie can't follow up. The Backpack Stunner gets two but Sami is right back with the running knee in the corner. A slingshot suplex neckbreaker gives Sami two and an exchange of kicks to the head puts both guys down. Sami loads up a powerbomb but Eddie backdrops into a cradle for the pin at 15:04.

Rating: C+. I liked this better than most Sami matches as it actually felt like a match. I'm still not sure why Sami and OVE are going after Lashley and Eddie but I'm guessing it's something to do with the team being insane. Eddie winning makes sense as it's not like a member of the team losing a singles match to a former World Champion is a huge blow.

Callihan gives him a double underhook shoulder breaker and we cut to the back where OVE beats up Lashley. Back in the arena, Sami puts a chair on Eddie's chest and hits it with a baseball bat...but the bat keeps going and HITS EDDIE IN THE FACE (with a sickening sound) to end the show. That shot to the face wasn't planned, mainly because it's about as dangerous of a thing as you could have done.

Overall Rating: C. You can see where they're going with a lot of stuff and they set up next week's show well enough. The World Title match didn't need a ton of hype as that's big enough on its own standing. The wrestling wasn't anything great here but at least we're getting towards the big show. If that works, then this doesn't matter nearly as much. Pretty standard buildup show here and I can settle for that.

Results

Tyrus b. Ethan Carter III – Tongan Death Grip slam

El Hijo de Fantasma b. Braxton Sutter – The Thrill of the Hunt

Kongo Kong b. Joseph Park – Top rope splash

Rosemary b. Hania – Red Wedding

Eddie Edwards b. Sami Callihan – Rollup

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