

205 Live – March 13, 2018: The Sign of a Great Tournament



IMG Credit: WWE

205 Live

Date: March 13, 2018

Location: Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Indianapolis, Indiana

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

It's time to send someone to Wrestlemania. With four weeks left before the big show, we have two semifinal matches to get through before we know the finals of the Cruiserweight Title tournament. Tonight we have Cedric Alexander vs. Roderick Strong, which has the potential to be a heck of a showdown. Let's get to it.

Here's last week's episode if you need a recap.

The opening recap gives us a recap to open up, including a preview of tonight's semifinal.

Opening sequence.

[Hideo Itami/Akira Tozawa vs. Lince Dorado/Gran Metalik](#)

The build towards the Cruiserweight Tag Team Titles continues. Dorado and

Tozawa start things off and they actually go technical early on. It's too early for Tozawa to hit the big kick so Dorado shoulders him down and dances a bit. Stereo dropkicks give us a standoff until Dorado's second attempt works a bit better. Metalik comes in and gets caught in a hurricanrana before it's off to Itami for some missed kicks.

Dorado actually gets the better of a strike off with Itami until Hideo takes his head off with a kick to the face. It's time to get even more aggressive as Itami takes down his knee pad, only to do his reverse kick to the face of a downed Dorado. That's such an arrogant looking move and it works so well. Tozawa's missile dropkick gets two but he and Dorado kick each other in the face for a double knockout.

The hot tag brings in Metalik to clean house, including a reverse Sling Blade to drop Itami. With Metalik on the apron and leaning through the ropes, Dorado hits a great looking springboard to the floor. Metalik's springboard bangs up his knee though and Itami grabs his Twisting Stunner for the pin at 8:08.

Rating: C+. I'm still not sure on having a tag division but it could be an option if they build up some actual teams. Lucha House Party and the resident Japanese team are a good start but you need more than two or three teams to fight over titles. This was good enough with some of the dives looking awesome, but nothing that hasn't been done before.

Post match Itami and Dorado nearly get in a fight but Kalisto and Tozawa break things up.

Video on Roderick Strong, featuring a lot of the same clips from his introduction videos in NXT. He's ready to face anyone of any style.

Jack Gallagher vs. Murphy Myers

Drake Maverick is on commentary. Jack actually lets him go up against the ropes to start before calmly snapping into Murphy's arm. A few forearms and an enziguri actually stagger Gallagher but he catches Myers in the ring skirt and hammers away. The headbutt ends Murphy at 2:38.

Video on Cedric Alexander, who has earned the right to be here after

coming up short in a chase for the title before. He can do anything and nothing will stop him.

Mustafa Ali is in a dark hallway with a shadow approaching from behind. He talks about Drew Gulak attacking Mark Andrews after the match was over but Ali isn't scared of the bully. The shadow reaches him and the interview cuts off. These things have certainly been different and in this case they've made him stand out very well.

Cruiserweight Title Tournament Semifinals: Roderick Strong vs. Cedric Alexander

Neither can maintain a front facelock to start and they roll into a standoff. Strong gets two off a dropkick as Ali is watching in the back. A backdrop nearly sends Strong onto his feet but he's fine enough to break up a springboard to send Cedric face first into the turnbuckle. Cedric seems to come up favoring his ribs so Strong grabs a seated abdominal stretch.

Back up and Cedric tries the handspring enziguri but Strong is waiting on him with a dropkick for a sweet counter. It's off to a chinlock with Strong shouting that no one wants Cedric to be champion. Now that's just cruel, yet also good trash talk at the same time. Cedric gets back up and hits a kick to the face, followed by a springboard cutter to send Strong outside. The springboard clothesline gets two more and something like a Michinoku Driver is good for the same.

Another springboard is countered into a backbreaker attempt but Cedric counters that into a crucifix for two. Strong isn't going to be denied though and gets the first backbreaker to take over again. Back up and a quick Neutralizer sets up the Lumbar Check...for two as Strong gets to the ropes. I don't recall anyone ever surviving that, which makes the escape so much better. Why doesn't WWE get that concept elsewhere?

They head to the apron with Strong slapping on a Torture Rack but throwing Cedric BACK FIRST ONTO THE BUCKLE in a scary looking crash. That's not enough for a countout so Strong grabs a top rope superplex, giving Cedric that great lost look on the impact. That's still not enough for the win so Strong knees him in the face and grabs End of Heartache

for two with Cedric getting a boot on the ropes.

One heck of an elbow to the face drops Strong but Cedric can't follow up. It's time for the slugout but Strong can't get the Stronghold. He can get another jumping knee to the face, only to get small packaged go send Cedric to Wrestlemania at 14:57. The shocked look on Cedric's face is a great plus.

Rating: B+. These two were beating the heck out of each other and you bought the idea that they were both willing to do anything they could to get the win. I had a blast with this and Cedric is more than worthy of going to Wrestlemania. That's the mark of a great tournament: you could see anyone winning, and that's been the case with the final four. Great match here and one of the best ever on 205 Live.

They look at each other in a sign of respect. Strong leaves and Cedric says he earned this. Every morning he wakes up with his four year old daughter telling him he's a champion. At Wrestlemania, that becomes reality. More good stuff on the mic here as I want to see Cedric win the title. That's hard to do, especially with how low level the title really is. Well done indeed.

Overall Rating: B. That main event is more than enough to carry the show but you can also see some stories being added to the show. You can only go so far on the tournament alone so having something new, including the possibility of Gallagher vs. Maverick, gives me some hope for the future. Good show here, as 205 Live continues to rock.

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