

205 Live – July 24, 2018: Step Up



IMG Credit: WWE

205 Live

Date: July 24, 2018

Location: Ford Center, Evansville, Indiana

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph, Percy Watson

Things are starting to pick up around here as the title is actually being defended a bit more regularly. Tonight we'll be finding out the new #1 contender to Cedric Alexander's Cruiserweight Title in a four way match. I'll certainly take it over another tournament and hopefully we get the right choice for the winner. Let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

Drake Maverick hypes up the main event and introduces the four participants: TJP, Drew Gulak, Mustafa Ali and Hideo Itami.

Opening sequence.

The announcers, with Maverick sitting in on commentary, discuss the four way.

Akira Tozawa vs. Jack Gallagher

Gallagher gets technical to start so Tozawa kicks him in the chest and

drops the backslash. The announcers grill Maverick about his choices for the four way as the commentary turns into something like a State of 205 Live Address. With Gallagher on the floor, Tozawa tries a baseball slide but gets caught in the ring skirt so Gallagher can pound away from behind. Back in and we hit the neck crank but let's cut away from that to look at Maverick. Gallagher switches to a nasty armbar as Nigel and Maverick get a little testy over Nigel asking so many questions.

A stomp to the bent arm lets Gallagher parade around the ring a bit so Tozawa snaps off a kick to the head. The threat of a backslash sends Gallagher outside so Tozawa follows with the suicide headbutt. A Black Widow has Gallagher in trouble so he spins out into a slam for a break. Tozawa gets caught on the top but is fine enough to shove Gallagher off, setting up the top rope backslash for the pin at 7:32.

Rating: B-. Nigel and Maverick were the more interesting part here with Maverick being a rather good talker who comes off as professional and proper in everything he says. The needling from Nigel was enough to get something out of Maverick and they stayed in the area of what was going on in the ring. It's amazing how everyone but Raw can pull that off.

Post match Tozawa says he wants a rematch with Rush and Maverick says he'll see what he can do.

TJP is glad that Maverick finally figured out the obvious and put him back in the main event. The Cruiserweight Title is coming home, but first it's time for a nap.

Itami shouts in Japanese before saying Cedric won't survive again.

Lince Dorado/Kalisto vs. Ryan DePolo/Chris Robinson

This was supposed to be Tony Nese/Buddy Murphy but Nese can't be here for "outside circumstances". Hang on though as the masked guys have shirts to hand out. Dorado jumps over DePolo a few times to start and there's a Bronco Buster to really have him in trouble. The Tower of Lucha keeps DePolo down and there's a kick to the head. Robinson comes in to take a double Golden Rewind and falls to the floor. That's cool with Dorado, who dives onto him while tagging Kalisto in midair. The Salida Del Sol ends

DePolo at 2:06. The jobbers had no offense at all.

Gulak doesn't like the chaos that will be taking place in tonight's match. It doesn't matter though as one of them will be tapping out.

Mustafa Ali is ready to take whatever he has to in order to get the Cruiserweight Title.

Lio Rush doesn't think much of Tozawa asking for a rematch because he beat Tozawa already.

Mustafa Ali vs. TJP vs. Hideo Itami vs. Drew Gulak

One fall to a finish with the winner getting a title shot at some point in the future. TJP stands back while Itami and Gulak stomp on Ali (wrestling shirtless tonight) in the corner. Ali fights back and catapults Gulak into TJP for two with Itami using a kick to break things up. With Gulak and TJP on the floor, Itami kicks Ali out of the air to take over for the time being. Hideo is really not happy with TJP breaking up a cover so Ali headscissors TJP to the floor and kicks Itami in the face.

Gulak comes back in with a hard clothesline to take Itami's head off and we hit a neck crank rather early on. Everyone gets back in and Itami wants to take out TJP but Gulak says not so fast. Gulak knows what TJP is but tells Itami to beat Ali up instead. They gang up on Ali with a triple backdrop in quite the show of respect. The trio takes turns calling spots on Ali until TJP rolls Gulak up for two, which doesn't sit well with anyone.

The argument allows Ali to dropkick them all down but TJP puts Itami and Ali in abdominal stretches at the same time. TJP: "YOU GIVE UP! YOU GIVE UP! SOMEBODY GIVE UP!" Gulak breaks it up and Gory Stretches TJP which is reversed into a pinfall reversal sequence. Itami takes them both down and yells at TJP but stops to kick Ali in the head. Ali and Gulak get back up with Ali hurricanranaing him into Itami for a double knockdown.

There's the rolling X Factor to TJP and the spinning DDT for two on Gulak with Itami making the save to put everyone down. TJP is up with a nasty

looking spin kick to Gulak's face but Itami kicks him as well, followed by a superkick from Ali for another knockdown. Ali and TJP hit stereo crossbodies with Ali rolling out to the floor. Gulak and Itami have a staredown with Gulak offering a handshake but getting into a slugout instead.

A Falcon Arrow gives Itami one with no one coming in for the save. They roll outside again so Ali and TJP can take their places, only to have TJP pulled back outside. Ali hits a big dive onto all three of them, followed by a heck of a tornado DDT on TJP. The 054 connects but Itami makes a save. Itami dropkicks Ali into the steps but Gulak posts Itami hard. Ali is out though and the Gulock gives Gulak the easy win at 14:47.

Rating: B. Above all else, it's the right winner. Gulak has been on a roll in the last few months and there's no reason to keep him away from the title picture (and hopefully the title) any longer. I can also go with TJP and Ali closer to the title as TJP is a great cocky heel and Ali lives up to his moniker of the heart of NXT. Itami is getting better (or maybe I'm just getting used to him) and as long as he cuts out the RESPECT ME stuff, he's completely serviceable in his role.

Gallagher and Brian Kendrick come in for the celebration to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Another strong show with the right choices and some good action all night long. Above all else though I'm glad to see Gulak getting the push towards the top of the show. He's long overdue for this spot and really, his promos alone make him a better option than Alexander. They have figured this show out and that couldn't come at a better time. Nice stuff here, which is becoming very common.

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