

The Rest Of Dark Side Of The Ring

The season is done now and the good news is that the show has received the highest audience and ratings in the history of the network. That would make it seem like a second season is likely, which is great as this has been one of the best series of documentaries I can remember seeing.

Bruiser Brody

We're starting with probably the best episode here. Bruiser Brody was a monster back in his day and one of the true traveling attractions in wrestling. He would wrestle a little bit throughout the territories but never stayed in one place for very long. Eventually he tried to buy into the World Wrestling Council in Puerto Rico, which didn't sit well with another wrestler, who stabbed him to death in the shower.

That's what the episode focuses on because what else could it focus on? The main speaker here is Tony Atlas, who was in the locker room that night and saw the knife. He also helped carry Brody out but there was nothing that could be done to save him. This is a well known story in wrestling but the fallout is the fascinating part though as the show looks at the coverup of the murder, with claims of self defense and subpoenas being delivered after the trial was over.

This one felt like a dive into a very deep story and that's where this thing got fascinating. The main story is well known but the details themselves make it clear how horrible the entire situation really was. It's one of those cases where everyone else seems to know what happened but the people involved with the killing yet somehow they've gotten away with the whole thing. Check this one out as it's more than worth your time.

Von Erichs

This one is much more like the Montreal Screwjob episode than anything else. The problem with the Von Erichs is that there is so much to be said

about the whole thing that you can't contain the whole thing in a single hour. The family is one of the greatest tragedies in wrestling history and we get a lot of that here.

Kevin Von Erich, the last of his generation, gets to talk a lot here and you can feel the real emotion coming from him as he talks about his brothers passing away. The line of "I used to have five brothers and now I'm not even a brother anymore" is a really hard one to sit through, though it does seem like he has found peace, which is the best possible ending that he could have.

The other big issue here is talking about how David passed away from stomach issues when it has been pretty well established that it was a massive drug overdose. That being said, I can completely understand the lack of wanting to talk about something like that as maybe Kevin still believes otherwise. Can you blame him for wanting to try to have some peace on that? Either way, this made me want to watch the other two awesome documentaries on World Class, both of which are more than worth seeing. This is a good show for another side, but it could have been twice as long to really cover everything in more detail.

Gino Hernandez

I was looking forward to this one as Hernandez is another interesting case that you don't hear about very often. Hernandez was a young and talented heel who knew how to work a crowd but also spent a lot of time partying and getting involved with some rather questionable people.

This one takes a different twist though as it's much more about Hernandez's family trying to find out what happened to him. Hernandez died under some mysterious circumstances (the autopsy report had some mistakes and he had something like five times the amount of cocaine in his body for an overdose) and for thirty years his mother and daughter weren't sure what happened to him. The producers found some of the people Hernandez associated with back in the day and smoothed things over a bit, though it does seem that there was some more going on.

This is more in the true crime path like the Brody show and that made it better. Again, it helps to have a story that a lot of people aren't

familiar with and some characters that are easy to get behind. Throw in some stories like Hernandez being paranoid that he was about to be killed and then dying under mysterious circumstances and this was quite an easy watch. Well if you can ignore a story about death, drugs and a destroyed family.

Fabulous Moolah

Series finale time and this one didn't work as well for me. The idea is that Moolah is someone who is beloved for her success and influence on wrestling but she might have been a rather horrible person behind the scenes, controlling her women wrestlers and throwing them away when she stopped making them money. It sounds like a lot to cover and that's where this runs into trouble.

The problem here is they run through so many different stories about Moolah that it's hard to get any kind of flow going. It's a lot of looking at one person/story then another then another and while it certainly makes Moolah look horrible, it's not the best way of presenting things. It's much more a bunch of things being thrown together and used as a presentation of everything wrong with her. The overall message works, but the means of getting there not so much.

Overall, I'm sure there's something there with Moolah, but her legacy is so strong and influence so incredible that it's rather easy to overlook. At the same time though there are so many stories of people being treated horribly that it's impossible to overlook. When you consider the history of wrestling though, especially the era when Moolah was on top, it's all but guaranteed that Moolah wasn't the only boss doing things like this. It's a good amount of stories and evidence against her, but that's what it feels like: a bunch of stories told one after another instead of one big compelling idea.

So yeah, the series is great and even the worst episode (probably Moolah or the Screwjob) are all worth checking out. The Brody one is great though and they all fly by. Season two should be great as it's not like there aren't a ton of stories to tell. Dino Bravo has been rumored for a season premiere and that could work out very well. Check these things out

as soon as you can.