

Hidden Gems #13: Don't Mess With Texas (Especially Not This Kind)



IMG Credit: WWE

Hidden Gems #13

Date: 1980

Texas Championship Wrestling TV

Date: October 27, 1980

Location: Sportatorium, Dallas, Texas

Commentator: Boyd Pierce

So this is a different one with a full episode of the Texas Championship Wrestling TV, which would eventually morph into World Class Championship Wrestling. These shows are very rare, hence why they make a lot of sense as a Hidden Gem. Believe it or not, the show is about the Von Erichs. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence, with a bunch of still shots.

Tim Brooks vs. Ted Heath

They go into the corner to start with the British Heath getting in a shot to the ribs off the break. What a villain. Some circling goes to Heath as he takes over on the hammerlock, allowing Pierce to talk about how awesome Heath was as an amateur wrestler in the UK. The wristlock into the hammerlock keeps Brooks in trouble until he reverses into a hammerlock of his own. Ever Pierce acknowledges that they're not moving very much out there, even as Heath takes over with another hammerlock.

A headscissors takes Brooks down, allowing him to hit a quick splash onto the arm. After some pausing for Heath to hold his arm, we get a rather fired up test of strength with Brooks kicking him in the ribs to take over. Heath backflips out of things though and takes Brooks down in a pretty impressive counter (how British of him). Brooks takes him right back down and drops some knees, only to have the arm bent around the rope. They go into the corner with Brooks getting a chain to the throat and the bearhug goes on.

Heath breaks out of that and gets in the chain as well, sending Brooks running off like a true coward. Imagine that: running when an angry man is swinging a steel chain at you. Get some backbone man! We have three minutes left in the fifteen minute time limit and it's Brooks coming back in to beg away again. With the chain taken away, Heath starts in on the leg and chops Brooks on the mat but a splash hits knees. Brooks drops a leg for the pin at 13:27.

Rating: D+. This was a weird one as it felt like they ran out of time for what they were trying to do and threw together a quick finish. Heath was decent enough here but Brooks was a heel around the territory for a long time. It would have worked better had they gotten to the bigger stuff earlier, but that ended just came out of nowhere and felt like it was from a different match.

Brian Blair vs. The Jackyl

The Jackyl is a masked man replacing the injured Bulldog Brower. Blair slugs away to start with Jackyl staggering around until he falls down. A headlock takeover lets Blair keep him in trouble as the announcer talks about how AMAZING the Von Erichs are. Jackyl finally goes with a pull of

the hair to escape and it's right back to the headlock takeover to lay on the mat some more.

After another minute or so of just laying there on the mat, they get up to their knees for more headlocking. Blair switches to a front facelock as we hit five minutes in...somehow. They FINALLY break it up and it's time for Jackyl to go with the foreign object. Blair fights back with right hands and a knee drop, meaning we hit the front facelock again. It's time to go after the mask but Jackyl drives him up against the ropes for the sake of identity.

Some right hands have Blair in trouble and it's off to the chinlock because this match hates me. Blair reaches up and pulls the mask half off so Jackyl cranks on the chinlock a bit more to keep things hidden. That works so well that they do it again but this time, Blair gets away and blindly swings. The slug it out from their knees until Jackyl slams him down, only to miss a legdrop. An atomic drop into a middle rope elbow to the head rocks Jackyl again and an abdominal stretch into the pin finishes Jackyl at 11:56.

Rating: D. This did get a little better once they started doing something but the first five or six minutes were spent ENTIRELY on the mat in one hold after another. That's not wrestling, that's not psychology and that's not effort. This was the two of them laying there for half of the match and that was horrible. Once they got up and tried to do something it got up to acceptable, but just laying there like that isn't worth anyone's time.

Post break (and shower and dressing), Blair talks about all of the physical stuff he has to do to stay in shape. Oh and stay away from drugs and cigarettes. He's been an athlete since he was six years old and now he does some rodeo along with wrestling. Blair likes the idea of Fritz Von Erich beating up Gino Hernandez too. The lack of charisma was strong here, as was Blair's goodness being almost hard to take. Then again, different time and Fritz LOVED that kind of stuff so it makes sense.

Stan Stasiak vs. Bruiser Brody

The brawl is on in a hurry with Bruiser knocking him to the floor early

on. Back in and they brawl in the corner, with Brody getting smart by working on the heart punch hand. Stasiak is fine enough to send him face first into the buckle and we hit the nerve hold. Brody fights up from his knees and stomps away in the corner so they can go outside. Some rams into the apron let Brody bites him in the head as the beating is on. Back in and the running knee misses Stasiak but the referee gets pushed away, allowing Stasiak to use a foreign object for the pin at 4:28.

Rating: C. That's not the ending I would have bet on as Brody is Brody and it's 1980 so why is Stasiak still being pushed as something? It wasn't clean or anything though so it's not like this is anything of note. It was one of the more entertaining matches on the show as well, mainly due to Brody's crazy charisma.

Bruiser Brody/Von Erichs vs. Stan Stasiak/Gary Young/Pak Song/Gino Hernandez

That would be David/Fritz/Kevin here and there are a ton of stipulations. It's an elimination match with pin/submission/over the top rope eliminations. Whoever is eliminated first can't wrestle in Texas for six months, but if it's one of the Von Erichs they can keep living in the state. Any of the other five have to get out of Texas altogether. Brody and Young start things off as there are two referees inside the ring for a weird look.

They run the ropes with a kick to the ribs putting Young in trouble, meaning it's off to David for an armdrag takeover. David gets pulled into the corner though and it's time for the villains to start taking their turns on him. Gino gets in some stomps but it's off to Kevin, sending Gino BAILING to the floor. The villains take a breather on the floor and we settle down to Young front facelocking Kevin. Song's chops put Kevin down but a dropkick puts him down. The Claw goes on and Song is pinned at 3:57.

We take a break and come back with Brody slamming Gino and cleaning house as only he can. Kevin comes in to get caught with a cheap shot, allowing Gino to throw him outside. Gino chokes Kevin so Fritz comes in to ship Gino with a leather belt. Kevin and Gino fall over the top for the double

elimination and the credits roll as they fight on the floor at 6:56 shown.

Rating: D+. This didn't have time to go anywhere but they got rid of Song so at least they got the important part done. The point of a show like this is to leave the fans wanting more and that is exactly what they managed to do. Granted I'm not sure how well it worked with no real backstory to the whole thing but the Von Erichs in the main event was the guaranteed main event.

Overall Rating: D. I wasn't feeling this one at all as it just wasn't an entertaining show. The promotion was built around personalities and the long form stories but none of those were on display here. It was a case of knowing almost everyone involved aside from the interview with Blair and the deal with Fritz whipping Gino. The promotion would get better but this wasn't the time just yet. Bad show, but anyone can have an off week.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the paperback edition of KB's Complete 2004 Monday Night Raw Reviews (also available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2019/08/26/new-book-and-e-book-kbs-complete-2004-monday-night-raw-reviews/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>