

# Oasis Pro Wrestling: Ninth Islvnd: Blah

## Ninth Islvnd

Date: April 17, 2025

Location: Swan Dive, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Mike Wexler, Pollo del Mar

Every Wrestlemania Week I try to see what I can find from a random independent promotion and that's what we're doing here. This is Oasis Pro Wrestling and I know absolutely nothing else about it. I've glanced at the card and it looks interesting enough so let's get to it.

We finally go to the arena a mere thirty minutes into the Youtube video (after looking at the logo all that time) and look at the card, which we can't see because of logos on the screen. This goes on even longer as we are almost forty minutes into the video with only a few seconds' long shot of the arena thus far.

Apparently most of the people on this show are Polynesian. So we have a theme.

The South Pacific Savages (Journey Fatu, Juicy Fatu, Iosefa Parisi) to say this show means a lot to them, though their audio gets much lower, making it a bit hard to understand them. They bring out two other men to hype up the crowd and we're ready to go.

## Tha Islandahz vs. Elliott Rey/Gigi Furiosa

This is a Dojo Showcase, because you always want to start off with your students and the Islandahz are Damu and Tui. Furiosa works on Damu in the corner but gets double teamed by the far bigger Islandahz. The audio goes way up as Furiosa fights up with a clothesline to make the tag off to Rey. An exchange of

shoulders doesn't go anywhere so Rey runs him over. It's back to Furiosa (del Mar: "Why?") but Tui doesn't want to lock up with a woman.

Eventually he does and whips her in, where Damu gets in a knee to the back. Damu pulls Furiosa down by the hair and the referee doesn't see the tag to Rey, leaving him rather annoyed. The tag goes through a few seconds later though and it's time to clean house. Commentary gets on Rey for playing to the crowd too much and then he clotheslines Furiosa by mistake. Tui hits a Samoan drop into a moonsault headbutt (which the camera missed) to pin Rey at 8:39.

**Rating:** C. I'll give it a bit of a break because they're students but this wasn't exactly much to see. I mean, I'm assuming it wasn't much to see because the camera was all over the place and it was hard to keep track of what was happening. The Islandahz were doing an impression of just about any Samoan tag team while the other two were some odd pairing who didn't work well together. That's not much of a start.

#### Hoka vs. Midas Creed

The much bigger Hoka grabs a headlock to start but gets caught with a dropkick. A swinging neckbreaker takes Hoka down and a superkick sends him into the ropes. Hoka comes back with a clothesline for two and we hit the chinlock. That's broken up and Creed fires off some running forearms, setting up a middle rope cutter for two. Hoka is right back up with a Boss Man Slam and a running palm strike finishes Creed at 6:38.

**Rating:** C. Basic power vs. speed match here and that's always a fine way to go. Neither of them exactly stood out here but at least I could see what was going on most of the time here. Hoka wasn't bad and his Boss Man Slam looked good enough, to the point where it definitely should have been the finish.

#### Adrianna Mosley/The Samoan Reaper vs. Melanin Mafia

The rather tall Reaper's shoulder doesn't do much to the rather wide Sancho Dimera. It's off to the women, with Mosley hitting a DDT on Beatrice Domino (an awesome name). Mosley sends her flying off a northern lights suplex but Domino gets in a shot of her own. The reverse chinlock doesn't last long and it's off to Dimera, who apparently weighs over 700lbs. Some forearms keep Mosley down and it's back to Domino for another reverse chinlock.

Mosley fights up and strikes away, including a headbutt which the camera showing the three inch gap between them (Domino sells anyway). A clothesline puts Domino down and the double tag brings in Reaper for a side slam on Dimera. Everything breaks down and Mosley gets in a Stinkface on Domino, followed by Reaper's running hip attack on Dimera, who will apparently eat anything. We'll thankfully move on from that as everything breaks down and Reaper spears Dimera, with Mosley doing the same thing to Domino. Reaper's top rope splash ends Domino at 10:24.

**Rating:** D. Oh yeah this really didn't work. This was a throwback to something of a freak show match, with the massive Dimera and the large enough Mosley making for more of a "this is a weird thing to see". The action was bad too and it made for quite a long ten minutes. This was pretty horrible and that's not a good sign.

#### Sean Maluta vs. Sonico

At least I've heard of these two. Hold on though as here is a manager with a man named Harman Cheema. Apparently Cheema represents India so he needs to be on the show. Sure why not.

#### Sean Maluta vs. Harman Cheema vs. Sonico

It's a brawl to start and Cheema goes to sit in the crowd, leaving Sonico to jump Maluta. Now Cheema comes in but gets sent outside for a dive from Sonico. Back in and Sonico hits a Swanton but gets dropped by Maluta. Cheema splashes Sonico in

the corner as the fans talk about Cheema's back hair. Maluta is helped to the back after being injured and Cheema's manager tries to bring in a chair. Sonico takes it away and hits the manager with it before throwing it in Cheema's direction. A brainbuster through the chair gives Sonico the pin at 6:45.

**Rating:** C. I'm assuming Maluta got hurt somewhere in there but this was just a bunch of spots until someone won. The chair being brought in felt like it was out of nowhere, which makes sense given how all over the place this was. Sonico and Maluta have spent some time in AEW so at least they're decent, but you can only do so much with so little time.

Post match Sonico gets in a shot on the manager too. Commentary approves.

Afa Jr. vs. Chris Nastyy vs. Hero Leo vs. Noah Kekoa vs. Solomon Tupu vs. Valu

Afa Jr. is better known as Manu and this ring is not big enough for six people to be scrambling. Nastyy is entering himself in the match (like we saw in the previous match) because he's 1/78th Polynesian. Nastyy gets punched and headbutted to the floor, leaving Kekoa (formerly Kona Reeves) to hit Afa low.

Nastyy gets pulled outside again and it's Tupu coming in to forearm it out with Kekoa. Valu comes in for an exchange of shoulders with Tupu before they both shoulder Nastyy down. Afa Jr. is back in with a superkick, leaving Nastyy to get taken down with a Boss Man Slam. Afa's top rope splash is good for the pin on Nastyy at 4:10.

**Rating:** D-. Again, what are you supposed to do when you have six people in a match and four minutes to do anything? Most of the people here didn't get to stand out as the only story of the match was Nastyy getting beaten up. It was like they just did a few things until someone, in this case the biggest star, won. What fun.

Ten minute intermission, which is included in the video.

#### Pacific Seas Title: El Fatal vs. Gringo Loco

Fatal is defending and dropkicks him to the floor for a running flip dive. Back in and Fatal knocks him down again but gets caught with a faceplant into a superkick. A sitout exploder suplex gets two on Fatal but he kicks his way out of a waistlock. Fatal's top rope hurricanrana drops Loco as Sonico (Fatal's stablemate) comes out to watch. Fatal misses a corkscrew moonsault and a middle rope Canadian Destroyer gives Loco two. The referee almost gets bumped so Fatal gets in a low blow. A double underhook Codebreaker retains the title at 4:24.

**Rating:** C-. He's not a huge star but Loco is at least a name. That's one of the few things they have on this low budget show and he's in there for about four minutes? If you want your champion to feel like a star, use the outsider you have to make him look better. That's the idea here in theory but what are you supposed to do with less than five minutes?

Ignore commentary getting the name of the title wrong.

#### South Pacific Savages/Zilla Fatu vs. The Mane Event/Jack Cartwheel/Super Crazy

The rather large Crazy almost falls off the stage on the way to the ring. Mane starts fast with a moonsault onto the Savages and Crazy gets in a dive of his own. It's a big brawl on the floor and you can't really tell what is going on. Zilla throws a bunch of chairs and Cartwheel gets beaten down. We finally settle down to Crazy choking Parisi and hitting him with a dropkick. Juicy comes in to run the Mane Event over and Lyon has to save Black from destruction. Juicy's top rope splash connects and Zilla gives Cartwheel a pop up Samoan drop. Black goes up but dives into a Samoan Spike to give Zilla the pin at 6:50.

**Rating:** F. This was barely a match as the first half or more was spent on the big wild brawl where you could barely tell what was going on. That's in addition to Crazy looking horrible and slow, plus almost no one really getting any sort of focus. The Savages/Fatu winning was no surprise, but could you at least try having a match?

Post match Juicy thanks the fans for coming out to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** D-. Yeah no. I get that this was a low budget show but there were some names on here with talent who could have done far better. Instead, it's a bunch of short matches (the one match that broke ten minutes was horrible) and a total mess of a main event. It says a lot when the best thing on the show was a six minute match between two people I've never seen before. Really bad stuff here and that's not a good thing to see when they're probably getting their biggest audience ever.

### Results

Tha Islandahz b. Elliott Rey/Gigi Furiosa – Moonsault headbutt to Rey

Hoka b. Midas Creed – Palm strike

Adrianna Mosley/The Samoan Reaper b. Melanin Mafia – Top rope splash to Domino

Sonico b. Sean Maluta and Harman Cheema – Brainbuster through a chair

Afa Jr. b. Chris Nastyy, Hero Leo, Noah Kekoa, Solomon Tupu and Valu – Top rope splash to Nastyy

El Fatal b. Gringo Loco – Double underhook Codebreaker

South Pacific Savages/Zilla Fatu b. Mane Event/Jack Cartwheel/Super Crazy – Samoan Spike to Black

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# Progress Chapter 179: Las Vegas: They're Going Backwards

## Progress Chapter 179: Las Vegas

Date: April 18, 2025

Location: Palms Casino Resort, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Jack Farmer, Rich Bocchini, Veda Scott

We're back to Progress again as they are invading Wrestlemania Weekend for at least the second year in a row. This is the British promotion which has been around for quite a good while but might not be as great as it once was. I had a good time at least year's show though and hopefully they can replicate that here. Let's get to it.

Note that I do not follow Progress so I apologize in advance for any plot or character points I might miss.

Opening sequence.

## Lykos Gym vs. Boisterous Behavior

That would be Kid Lykos/Kid Lykos II vs. Leon Slater/Man Like DeReiss as commentary spends the introductions talking about how tired both the wrestlers/commentary teams are. Lykos II

takes Slater into the corner to start but gets grabbed by the throat for his efforts. That's broken up and Lykos comes in for his brainbuster. I know this because he shouts BRAINBUSTER, with commentary implying that it never works when he shouts like that.

DeReiss comes in and runs Lykos over to get him into the corner, meaning choking can ensue. The chinlock goes on and DeReiss puts Lykos down for two more. Lykos gets in a jawbreaker but gets pulled into something like a powerbomb. Instead of planting him though, DeReiss brings in Slater for a stomp and then just drops Lykos. Weird move. Anyway, Lykos flips over Slater out of the corner and rolls over to bring in Lykos II. Everything breaks down and Slater gives Lykos II a Lethal Combination.

Lykos II Is right back with Lo Mein Pain for two and a double kick in the corner rocks Slater again. DeReiss has to spear Lykos II into the cover for the save (that looked good) and everyone is down for a bit. DeReiss breaks up the double brainbuster and Behavior hit stereo running kicks in the corner. Lykos II gets his knees up to block DeReiss' 450 and the super brainbuster brings Slater down in a big crash. Lykos II's brainbuster finishes Slater at 11:23.

**Rating:** B-. Perfectly nice start to the show here with the Gym being a good example of what happens around here. I'm not sure I get the appeal of either Lykos but they had a nice match here, with Boisterous Behavior being solid opponents. As usual, a tag match is a good way to open a show and it worked well here.

WXW Unified World Title: 1 Called Manders vs. Marcus Mathers vs. Tate Mayfairs

Manders is defending. Mayfairs and Manders stare each other down so Mathers grabs a headlock on the Manders, which doesn't go that well. A neckbreaker drops Manders and he rolls



outside, leaving Mayfairs to take over on Mathers. Back in and Manders chops away at Mayfairs before planting Mathers as well.

Manders' elbows miss though and he falls out to the floor, with Mathers Blue Thunder Bombing Mayfairs for two. Mayfairs drops Manders again and hits a top rope elbow for two, with Mathers making the save. Mathers cutters Mayfairs and flip dives onto Manders on the floor. Back in and Manders blasts Mathers with the lariat to retain at 8:22.

**Rating:** B-. Better stuff here with Manders getting to do his power stuff and fighting off the other two. Manders isn't someone who does anything groundbreaking but he does the old cowboy style well enough that it's rather effective. Mathers and Mayfairs were fine challengers here and all three interacted well enough.

#### Mike D. Vecchio vs. Kuro

Kuro knocks him to the floor to start and hits an early suicide dive before knocking Vecchio into the crowd. They go inside for some running boots to Vecchio in the corner but Vecchio kicks him down. Vecchio goes outside and catches a running flip dive (dang) for a powerbomb onto the apron. A hard forearm to the back has Kuro in more trouble, followed by a running big boot back inside. Vecchio throws him down again and hits a gutwrench helicopter bomb for the win at 7:14.

**Rating:** C. I've only seen a bit of Vecchio but his look alone is going to get him some shots. Hopefully he can get the experience and in-ring skills to back it up because that could make him quite the prospect. It was just a step above a squash, but I can go for seeing a possible star on the bigger stage.

Respect is shown post match.

#### Women's Title: Vert Vixen vs. Rhio vs. Nina Samuels

Samuels is defending. Rhio wastes no time in running Vixen over for two, with Samuels hiding on the floor. They all head outside with Rhio taking over, setting up an Irish Curse to Vixen back inside. Samuels makes the save and tries to team up with Vixen, earning herself a headlock. Vixen knocks her down for two but Rhio is in for some standing switches.

Samuels knocks Vixen to the floor before sending both of them into the corner for the running knees to the back. With Vixen in trouble, Rhio is back in with a double dropkick to both of them to take over. A fisherman's neckbreaker puts Vixen down and Samuels gets dropped as well. Vixen is back up to knock Rhio down and the Blue Thunder Bomb gets two on Samuels.

The Game Over brainbuster gives Vixen two on Samuels with Rhio making another save. Samuels rolls Rhio up for two, even with a handful of trunks. Rhio package piledrives Samuels but Vixen pulls the referee out at two. Vixen posts Rhio but Samuels pulls her down by the hair. A powerbomb spun into a knee to the face lets Samuels retain the title at 11:44.

**Rating:** B-. Rhio and Vixen felt like the big grudge here and it felt like a feud that could have some legs. At the same time you had Samuels, who was in over her head but was smart enough to come in and steal some shots here and there. Having Samuels win clean in the end was a surprise, but they made it work here.

Post match Rhio package piledrives Vixen to leave her laying. That sounds rematchish.

Proteus Title: Paul Walter Hauser vs. Adam Priest vs. Charles Crowley vs. Effy vs. Simon Miller

Miller is defending and this is one fall to a finish. Hauser is better known as an Emmy Award winning actor who happens to be a huge wrestling fan. Hold on though as Crowley grabs his helmet and reaches in to pull out...a fist to punch a bunch of people. Miller knocks Crowley outside but gets caught by

Effy's atomic drop.

Effy ties Priest up in the ropes with something like a Tarantula but Crowley makes the save with a discus forearm. Hauser is up with a running flip dive off the apron, leaving Miller to hit a suicide dive onto the pile. Back in and Crowley hits a springboard cutter for two on Miller but Hauser comes in for the save. A Russian legsweep drops Effy and a middle rope headbutt gets two. Hold on though as Effy goes after Hauser's nipples but they don't seem to feel pain.

Effy knocks him down and hits some running seated sentons, only for a third to hit raised knees. Back in and Priest piledrives Hauser for two but Crowley clears Priest out again. Effy gives Crowley and Miller a double noggin knocker before a legdrop gets two on Miller. Back up and Miller's spear hits Effy but Crowley comes in to mist Miller down. Hauser is up with a pop up Samoan drop to Crowley, only for Priest to hit Hauser with a chair. Priest loads up something but Hauser hits a hammerlock Downward Spiral onto the chair to pin Priest for the title at 8:48.

**Rating:** C+. Well. Why not? Hauser is someone who has clearly found something he loves in wrestling and is putting in the effort to turn this into something. It's not like he's headlining Wrestlemania or anything and this might get Progress some much needed attention. He basically won the title on a fluke and will get to hold it until they're ready for a big deal to take it from him. It's a nice little headline and that's all it needed to be.

Hauser is stunned as he gets the title and poses for a bit.

#### Minoru Suzuki vs. Cara Noir

Somehow, I have never actually seen a Noir match. Suzuki gets the MURDER GRANDPA chant and kicks at the legs a bit before going after an armbar. Noir spins out of a headscissors and gets up so they can slowly trade chops. Suzuki pulls him down

into a Fujiwara armbar and twists the fingers around.

That's broken up and they go to the apron to slug it out, only for Suzuki to pull him into another armbar. They go outside where Noir's arm is sent into the post, meaning it's time for more finger twisting. Another slugout goes to Suzuki and it's time for a seated armbar back inside. Suzuki switches over to a half crab, followed by a quickly broken ankle lock.

Noir kicks away, including a sliding kick to the face, only for Suzuki to kick him down again. They chop and forearm it out again until one big forearm puts Noir down. Back up and Noir hits an enziguri into a rear naked choke...and Suzuki flips him forward, with Noir landing ON HIS HEAD. Suzuki grabs a choke and finishes with the Gotch style piledriver at 13:34.

**Rating:** D+. For months, all I've heard about Noir is that no one wrestles like him and he can do all kinds of impressive things. All I saw here was Suzuki doing his thing and dominating Noir, who was mostly just trying to do the same thing Suzuki was doing. This didn't show me a thing about Noir but rather that Suzuki is going to have his match and nothing else.

Progress World Title: Luke Jacobs vs. Michael Oku

Oku, with Amira, is challenging. They slug it out at the bell with Jacobs getting the better of things until a hurricanrana sends him outside. The big flip dive takes Jacobs down again but he catches another one to send Oku onto the apron. Back in and Jacobs slowly hammers away, setting up a slam to keep Oku in trouble. The crossface shots to the jaw rock Oku, who manages to come back with a missile dropkick.

A pair of DDTs gives Oku two and we slow down a bit. The half crab is broken up and Jacobs forearms the heck out of him. That just earns Jacobs an enziguri so he smashes Oku with a lariat. They go to the stage where Jacobs hits a suplex but stops to argue with Amira. That's enough of a distraction for

Oku to get a running start and hit a hue dive to drop Jacobs.

Back in and a frog splash gets two but Jacobs lariats him into a pop up powerbomb for two. The mostly out of it Oku is put on the top for a superplex, followed by a German suplex to drop Oku again. Somehow Oku is fine enough to grab a half crab, which is broken up as well so Oku blasts him with a superkick.

The frog splash sets up another half crab, with Jacobs doing a rather dramatic crawl over to the ropes. Jacobs is back up and gets taken down by a clothesline but is still able to uppercut him out of the air. A lariat gives Jacobs one, followed by another for the pin to retain at 17:08.

**Rating:** B. These guys told a good story out there and Jacobs got to beat a big name clean in the middle of the ring. Oku is someone who has built up a nice reputation so beating him is a nice moment for Jacobs. He's been champion for almost a year now and there is a good chance that he'll hold it for a few more months at least. This was a good win on a fairly big stage and that should be a nice boost for Jacobs. He doesn't have the deepest style as he's mainly just a powerhouse, but it still works.

**Overall Rating:** C+. This was just ok for the most part with only the main event really coming close to standing out. Hauser's title win will get some attention and that's a good move for the promotion. Other than that, pretty much nothing stands out on here and for a show where they had a different and enthusiastic audience, that isn't the best sign. Not a bad show, but not the most thrilling effort.

### Results

Lykos Gym b. Boisterous Behavior – Brainbuster to Slater

1 Called Manders b. Tate Mayfairs and Marcus Mathers – Lariat to Mathers

Mike D. Vecchio b. Kuro – Gutwrench helicopter bomb

Nina Samuels b. Rhio and Vert Vixen – Spinning knee to Vixen's

face

Paul Walter Hauser b. Adam Priest, Effy, Simon Miller and Charles Crowley – Hammerlock Downard Spiral onto a chair to Priest

Minoru Suzuki b. Cara Noir – Gotch style piledriver

Luke Jacobs b. Michael Oku – Lariat

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# WrestleCon Supershow 2025: Oh That Was Bad

## WrestleCon Supershow 2025

Date: April 17, 2025

Location: Palms Casino Resort, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Nick Knowledge, Veda Scott

This is one of the biggest independent shows of the week, though in this case it is being presented by GCW as part of the Collective. The matches have pretty much no continuity and are designed to have the most fun possible. That can make for some very entertaining shows and hopefully they continue the tradition. Let's get to it.

We open with a tribute video to Mark Hitchcock, a former Highspots employee who passed away, with the show being named in his honor as a result.

### Team Arez vs. Team Gravity

Arez, Latigo, Toxin, El Bendito, Canis Lupis

Gravity, Spider Fly, Aero Panther, Fight Panther, El Vengador

This is the show's signature ten man tag and the participants were not announced until their entrances. I apologize in advance for getting the wrestlers wrong, but even commentary doesn't seem sure which is which. Latigo and Vengador start things off with Vengador working on an armbar but getting rolled up for two. Back up and Vengador works on the arm before Latigo gets another rollup for another two, meaning it's another standoff.

Arez and Aero runs the ropes rather quickly before flipping next to him. Aero misses a kick to the face and they get up for another standoff. Gravity and Toxin come in with the bigger Toxin slamming him down. Gravity sticks the landing on a flip attempt though and does his moon walk deal, followed by an armdrag out to the floor. The tease of a dive sends Toxin bailing and it's off to Fly vs. Latigo as we're getting back to the start of the lineup.

Latigo throws Fly into the ropes but gets sent outside in a heap. Lupis and Bendito both come in and toss Fly into the air for a nasty crash down. Gravity comes in and gets caught in a five on one beatdown. Toxin is tossed into a big backsplash onto Gravity and for some reason we look at one of his partners rather than the cover. Vengador manages to send Arez to the floor and it's off to Panther to pick up the pace. The Panthers hit big dives and Arez and Latigo follow with dives of their own. Back in and Fly and Gravity hit a hurricanrana and super armdrag, leaving Vengador to faceplant Toxin out of the corner.

Fight gets caught with a bunch of superkicks but a quintuple superkick misses. Lupis is planted with a big spinning slam for two before it's time to fight over the double...er, triple...uh, quadruple suplex...and then with the other eight huddled together, Aero suplexes Arez onto the pile for an insane visual. Gravity and company go up for dives to the floor, leaving Lupis to hit a super swinging Side Effect for two on Fight. Fly gets triple teamed inside and Arez hits a top rope double stomp for the pin at 16:10.

**Rating:** B. These wild lucha matches have become a staple of a lot of shows these days (Ring Of Honor went nuts with them for a bit) and they're still fun. This one didn't have quite the star power, but there is something special about seeing these people getting this kind of time to showcase their talents. It might not be the highest quality match from American standards, but it is a great display of a very different style and that worked very well.

Post match money is thrown into the ring in quite the sign of respect.

As is tradition, we have a special ambassador for the show: Sean Mooney! And he looks about the same as he did back in the day! The fans seem happy to see him and he thanks them for the reception. Mooney plugs his appearance at WrestleCon and the Wrestlemania IX documentary on Peacock. He'll be hosting a panel on the show at WWE World and hopes the fans come see him. Mooney wishes the fans a great time to wrap it up. This was a nice surprise as Mooney is someone who has just kind of slipped through the cracks, with even his podcast not being that well known.

### Ninja Mack vs. Mascara Dorada

Dorada plays to the crowd a bit to start before winning a battle over a lockup. That's good for a clean break so Mack works on a wristlock to take over. Dorada reverses into one of



his own and walks on his hands into an armdrag, leaving even Mack impressed. They go to the top, with Dorada trying a super hurricanrana but Mack sticks the landing, because of course he can do that. Back up and Mack offers a handshake but instead it's time for a martial arts pose.

Dorada is kicked to the floor for a series of backflips into a dive, only for Dorada to dive back inside. That means Dorada can hit a big dive of his own and they go up to the stage. Dorado shrugs off some chops and hurricanranas him down the steps, setting up one heck of a dive to the floor. Back in and Mack kicks him down again before flipping out of a sunset flip attempt. Mack's sitout powerbomb gets two but he misses a...I guess a Phoenix 630? Dorada grabs something like a Razor's Edge Dominator, setting up a shooting star press for the pin at 9:07.

**Rating:** B. Yeah this was fun and was the kind of match you would have expected, though it never quite got all the way up to that high gear you might have thought they would do. Mack was doing his incredible flips but Dorada felt like a bit more of a complete star in the ring. Good, high flying match here, and a nice change of pace after the more wild opener.

### Sin City Scramble

This is a seven person Royal Rumble with two minute intervals but it's one fall to a finish and it can only take place when all seven are in. Vaughn Vertigo is in at #1 and TJP is in at #2. They fight over a wristlock to start until TJP takes him down into the headscissors. Vaughn reverses into one of his own but TJP slips out. A rollup to TJP gets...nothing because it doesn't matter yet. TJP takes him down by the leg but Vaughn kicks him down and hits a standing moonsault...for two, because the referee screwed up.

Super Crazy is in at #3 and takes Vaughn down to work on his legs. TJP breaks up something like an abdominal stretch but

Crazy chokes him in the corner. Mike D. Vecchio is in at #4 and comes in with a nice step up elbow to put Crazy down. Vecchio runs over TJP as well and drops him with a suplex as the power/athleticism is on full display here. A double suplex drop Vecchio and it's 1 Called Manders in at #5.

Manders chops away at Vecchio but Vaughn is back in with a Swanton to a standing Manders (who was nice enough to stay bent over for the better part of ever). Crazy moonsaults onto a bunch of people at ringside and Vecchino shooting stars onto everyone else. Cheeseburger is in at #6 and he slugs away at Vecchino, which goes as well as you would expect. A superkick into the Shotei palm strike puts Vecchio on the floor and TJP hurricanranas Crazy to the outside.

That leaves us with one mystery entrant and it's...Danhausen in at #7 to complete the field. It's one fall to a finish so Danhausen curses Cheeseburger, who almost shoteis himself. Cheeseburger fights back though and gets northern lights suplexed. TJP is suplexed as well but Danhausen hurts his hand chopping Vecchio. Danhausen manages a running dropkick to send Vecchio outside so Manders is back in...and gets cursed. Danhausen takes him out and puts the teeth in Vaughn's mouth. The pump kick is enough to give Danhausen the pin on Vaughn at 16:32.

**Rating:** B-. This was the definition of fun, goofy stuff at the end, but Vecchio looked like an interesting prospect. Most of the rest of the stars were fine, though Crazy was not exactly looking great. Danhausen was the focus here though and, in addition to looking much more muscular than in previous appearances, it was nice to have him back.

#### Matt Mako vs. Matt Riddle

Mako is billed as the Evolution Of Combat so I think you get the idea here. They do shake hands and get started and we get a pose off, as tends to be the case on occasion. We get a

WELCOME MATT chant before they go to the grappling, with Riddle going for the arm. That's broken up so it's a LET'S GO MATT/YOU SUCK MATT dueling chant as the crowd amuses themselves.

Riddle goes for the arm again but Mako gets out, with the fans thinking that MATT IS GONNA KILL YOU. They trade kicks to the chest until a Mako chop fires Riddle up. The chop off has both of them cringing and a cross armbreaker sends Riddle over to the ropes. Back up and Riddle strikes away, setting up a gutwrench suplex into some Brotons. A fisherman's buster gives Riddle two and he's starting to get fired up.

They forearm it out with Riddle being knocked into the corner for a boot choke. Mako gets pulled into a triangle choke over the ropes before a suplex sends him flying. Riddle gets in a super fisherman's buster and the Floating Bro connects for two. Mako catches him on top and pulls Riddle down into a cross armbreaker but Riddle forearms him in the face. The Bro Derek finishes Mako at 9:53.

**Rating:** B-. This is where the Supershow can be more fun as they know how to mix things up with a nice variety. That's what you had here, with more of an MMA inspired match. It's a style that makes sense in modern wrestling and it helps when you have someone who has such an extensive background in the style. Riddle is a talented star, but the baggage that comes with him can be quite the issue. Let him stay around here and be awesome, because he's quite good at this style.

#### Maki Itoh vs. Mickie James

Itih sings herself to the ring and does her big song to get things going. They take their time to get going before going to the mat for a headscissors. Itoh gets out and gives her a cute look, leaving James a bit confused. James wins a test of strength but Itoh takes her down with James running to the floor.

James grabs the mic (James: "Found it!") and says that there are a lot of people getting in the ring this weekend in an effort to get their five stars. Meltzer has never put her over though (her words) but she's here to entertain the people. She hasn't wrestled in about a year but she was interested in facing Maki Itoh, who is pretty good. Itoh is also a J pop star and James is Hardcore Country, so what about a sing off?

Itoh sings and James says she has no idea what she just said but she knows it was awesome. James sings about beating Itoh up and her lack of curves (to the tune of her theme song) before decking Itoh with the mic (the fans are NOT pleased). A boot to the face puts Itoh down and James chokes away but Itoh flips her off. Itoh is back up with a headbutt for two and she avoids the top rope Thesz press. The Mick Kick misses and they trade rollup for two each, setting up the MickieDT for the pin at 14:24.

**Rating:** C. I have absolutely no idea what this was but it was one of the weirdest things I've seen in wrestling in a good while. James just went into some random rant about Meltzer and then did a weird heel turn. It wasn't even much of a match, but this is only going to be remembered for the bizarre part in the middle.

#### Butterbean vs. Minoru Suzuki

Dan Severn (now with white hair) is guest referee and we have four two minute rounds. They slowly strike away at each other with the exchange of chops going nowhere. Butterbean jabs away in the corner and tries to lift Suzuki up, with Severn not being able to break it up as the round ends. They keep grappling in the corner and Severn has to break it up.

The second round begins with Severn having to make them go to their corners, with the round being almost half over by the time he calls for the bell. So we reset the clock as this is turning into an even bigger mess by the minute. Suzuki takes

him down and they fight over a leglock, meaning some grunting until the time runs out. After a sixty second rest period, round three begins with Butterbean punching him in the ribs. Suzuki slugs back and then takes it to the floor where they brawl to a double countout at 9:06.

**Rating:** F. Oh this was terrible and that shouldn't be a surprise. They're both in their late 50s and Butterbean isn't exactly a wrestler (he's had three matches since 2012) so what was this supposed to be? It's a good example of something that sounded fun on paper but then reality set in and there was no way around the whole thing. Absolutely awful.

Post match the brawling and sneering continues, with MMA legend Don Frye getting involved. The fans want one more round (masochists) and Suzuki is willing to do it but they announce the double countout again to make sure that this isn't fun.

#### TMDK vs. Flip Gordon/Michael Oku/Hechicero

We get a BAD DUDE (Tito)/OKU chant off before Oku and Haste officially start things off. Neither of them can get anywhere with the grappling so Oku snaps off a running hurricanrana. Tito comes in to shoulder Gordon down but he pops back up and it's off to Hechicero vs. Sabre Jr. for the real showdown. Sabre's wristlock is quickly broken up so they tie their legs together and go to the mat. Hechicero pulls him down into a rollup but Sabre is right back up for a standoff.

More grappling doesn't go anywhere so Hechicero takes him into the corner for some stomping. Oku comes in and allows the tag to Haste, who slams Oku down. It's off to Tito to plant Oku again before Oku is dropped onto the apron. Sabre ties the legs up for some cranking, followed by Haste's one arm belly to back suplex for two. Oku DDTs his way to freedom though and it's off to Gordon to clean house. Some moonsaults get two on Haste but it's back to Tito to drop Gordon. A dive to the floor hits Gordon again but he forearms his way to freedom.

Hechicero comes back in to kick Tito in the corner before choking Sabre in the ropes. They go to the mat where Hechicero grabs the rolling cradle, followed by a kick to the face. Oku comes in for a European clutch for two on Sabre. The half crab sends Sabre over to the ropes so Oku kicks the leg out again.

Hechicero comes back in for a surfboard, with his partners hitting a double bulldog. Everything breaks down and Sabre is fine enough to grab a cross armbreaker on Gordon. That's broken up so Oku DDTs Haste to send him outside. Gordon hits a suicide dive but Sabre avoids his 450 back inside. Sabre grabs an armbar to make Gordon tap at 21:33.

**Rating:** B. This was a good, back and forth match, though it really just made me want to see Hechicero and Sabre go nuts with holds and submissions on their own. The other four were just kind of there for the most part, with only Oku standing out. At the same time, you had Gordon feeling like a relic of a past generation, which was so strange to see. Good main event, but it could have been better with some tweaks.

Post match Sabre teases coming after Oku's British Heavyweight Title to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C+. This show started off well and then just crashed hard until the main event helped it a lot. I'm not sure if it's GCW taking it over or something else, but this was not as fun as the previous years' editions. Hopefully this was just a one off, as the show can be a blast but this one was something that feels like it sounded better on paper rather than what we actually got.

### Results

Team Arez b. Team Gravity – Top rope double stomp to Spider Fly

Mascara Dorada b. Ninja Mack – Shooting star press

Danhausen won the Sin City Scramble – Pump kick to Vaughn

Matt Riddle b. Matt Mako – Bro Derek

Mickie James b. Maki Itoh – MickieDT

Butterbean vs. Minoru Suzuki went to a double countout

TMDK b. Hechicero/Flip Gordon/Michael Oku – Armbar to Gordon

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# Prestige Wrestling: Nothing To Lose: They'll Stay On The List

## Nothing To Lose

Date: April 17, 2025

Location: MEET Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Jordan Castle, Brian Zane

This is from Prestige Wrestling, a promotion from the Pacific northwest. I'm not sure what that is going to mean this time around but I've enjoyed what I've seen from the promotion before. Hopefully they can live up to the hype as I'm watching them based on that reputation. Let's get to it.

Note that I do not follow the promotion so I apologize in advance for any plot or character points I miss.

## Lykos Gym vs. Sinner And Saint

Lykos II and Icarus start things off but all four come in for the staredown. With that broken up, Lykos II takes over on Williams and it's quickly back to Icarus. An armdrag into an armbar takes Icarus down as Zane talks about his high school e-fed (I love independent wrestling). Lykos gets taken into the corner and dropped with a clothesline but he manages to get up top.

That means a roll over to Lykos II and the pace picks way up. A brainbuster gives Lykos II two but some rapid fire strikes to the face knock him down. Ode To The Fallen is broken up and it's back to Lykos as everything breaks down. Lo Mein Pain gets two on Icarus but a double brainbuster is broken up. Lykos II is sent outside (and hard too) and it's the Ode To The Fallen to give Williams the pin at 8:30.

**Rating:** C+. Perfectly watchable tag match here between two teams who have been around the independent scene for a good while. Sinner And Saint are getting a focus in TNA so they might be on their way somewhere. I'm not sure I get the appeal of Lykos Gym, but they are far from bad in the ring.

## Arez/El Hijo del Dr. Wagner Jr./Galeno del Mal vs. Z-Brats

Lucha libre vs. Dragon Gate here. Arez and Shun Skywalker start things off with Arez spinning around to get some early near falls. An armdrag takes Skywalker down again and the other Z-Brats come in to hammer Arez down into the corner. Everything breaks down and Galeno and Wagner gets sent into each other and Skywalker gets to pose. Back up and Galeno and Wagner (who are apparently brothers) double team Ishin and a pair of splashes get two, with Skywalker making the save.

Wagner chops at Skywalker in the corner but he's back with a sitout butterfly suplex for two. Back up and a double suplex gets two on Galeno but Arez is back in for a PK to Minoura. A step up Asai moonsault takes him out again but Ishin is there



for a running flip dive. The much bigger Galeno hits his own dive before Ishin manages to suplex him back inside. Galeno is right back up with the Galeno Special to plant Ishin for the pin at 10:34.

**Rating:** B-. This week has featured quite a few matches similar to this one and that's not a bad thing. These people know how to work well together and this was no exception. They mixed things up a bit here with some bigger guys and that helped a good bit. It's another fast paced tag match with people getting to do their thing and it's on the card over and over for a reason.

#### Jordan Cruz vs. Bodhi Young Prodigy

The smaller Bodhi tries to start fast but his high crossbody is pulled out of the air. Cruz knees him in the face in the corner and grabs a Falcon Arrow to drop Bodhi again. Quite the lariat turns Bodhi inside out but he comes back with a high crossbody. A Pele kick rocks Cruz and a pop up hurricanrana gives Bodhi two. Bodhi's 450 is countered with a grab of the throat and a superplex into a Shining Wizard...gets two as Cruz pulls him up. No More Sorrow (a brainbuster onto the knee) finishes Bodhi at 4:54.

**Rating:** C. Not much to this one but there wasn't supposed to be. Bodhi is literally named "Young Prodigy" so seeing him take that kind of a beating makes good sense. Cruz got to show off well enough here too, though it's almost strange to see this kind of a match on such a featured show.

#### Minoru Suzuki vs. Adam Priest

Suzuki gets a heck of a reaction and Priest heads straight to the floor for some stalling. Back in and a kick to the leg has Priest in more trouble as the fans get in a MURDER GRANDPA chant. Priest's chops just annoy Suzuki and he's smart enough before Suzuki can retaliate. The stalling is on again but this time Suzuki follows him outside and it's time to throw some

chops.

Suzuki even puts him in front of a fan for a big chop and let's have a chair. Apparently that's a ringside chair so it doesn't count as a DQ, at least according to commentary. Back in and Suzuki starts working on the hand before switching over to a half crab. That's switched into a crossface but Priest gets up and goes after the leg.

A Figure Four has the leg in more trouble but Suzuki cranks on the ankle to make Priest go to the ropes, despite still having the hold on. That's some amazing pain innovation. Back up and they strike it out with Suzuki getting even angrier. Suzuki knocks him down and does it again, with the fans thinking Priest's time is limited. The sleeper into the Gotch style piledriver finishes for Suzuki at 12:28.

**Rating:** B-. This is the kind of thing that Suzuki can still do well, as it was more a case of him being goofy/intimidating at the same time while using some smoke and mirrors to get through the match. Suzuki can't move nearly as well as he did before and it's smart to let him do something easier like this. The fans still love him so let him go do something a bit less than serious.

Post match Suzuki teases a piledriver on the referee but lets him escape.

#### Kevin Blackwood vs. Leon Slater

Man Like DeReiss is here with Slater. They go with the grappling to start until Blackwood grabs a headlock into a shoulder. Slater is back up with a running clothesline for a knockdown, with Blackwood nipping up. A bouncing kick to the face sends Blackwood to the floor and there's the slingshot dive. Back up and a slingshot Fameasser over the middle rope has Blackwood in more trouble. Blackwood drops him onto the apron though and a knee to the ribs cuts him off again.

Slater's rollup seems to annoy Blackwood, who drops him with a belly to back suplex. The abdominal stretch goes on the banged up ribs but Slater powers out and hits a leg lariat. Slater hits a running boot to the face for two so Blackwood German suplexes him down for the same. They go up top, where Slater gets shoved down but he avoids a dive. Slater hits a Blue Thunder Bomb, only to miss a 450. Another top rope double stomp is kicked out of the air but Slater's Swanton 450 hits raised knees. Now Blackwood's double stomp can finish at 12:21.

**Rating:** B. Blackwood has impressed me in the few matches I've seen him in and that's a cool thing to see. He wrestles an intense style and Slater's high flying fits in well with him. I've liked Slater during his time in TNA and hopefully he gets a chance to keep going, as that could take him a long way.

Evan Rivers/Tate Mayfairs/Vaughn Vertigo/Xia Brookside vs. Drexl/Jaiden/Amira/Matt Brannigan

Rivers and company have matching costumes....though I have no idea what they are. Jaiden strikes away at Vaughn to start before it's off to Brookside vs. the rather odd Drexl. Mayfair comes in to chop away at Drexl, who rubs his nipples in appreciation. Brannigan comes in and gets taken into the wrong corner and it's time for some wind up spansks. Brookside comes in and gets dropkicked down by Amira, sending her and her team outside for a huddle. Brannigan and company stop for a drink and everyone but Mayfairs do match pose.

Instead, Brannigan gets suplexed down so it's time for CPR. Amira gets taken into the corner for a kick to the back of the head but manages a quick shot of her own. Jaiden comes in to clean house for all of five seconds before getting stomped down in the corner. Jaiden's suplex gets him out of trouble and it's Drexl coming in to clothesline and grab various things. Everything breaks down and most of the people head out to the floor. Amira gets caught in the Tree Of Woe for a coast

to coast ax handle. That sets up Mayfairs' moonsault for the pin at 11:56.

**Rating:** C+. This was little more than goofy fun with the heroic team getting to do their entertaining stuff and the villains cutting them off here and there. It was a good example of taking a bunch of people and letting them entertain the fans, which is going to work every time. If nothing else else, Brookside getting a bit more featured time is a nice bonus too.

We get a pretty basic highlight package on the promotion.

### Michael Oku vs. El Phantasmo

Amira (not the one from the previous match) is here with Oku. Feeling out process to start and they take turns shaking Amira's hand. Phantasmo shoulders him down and grabs a hurricanrana to send Oku outside. Some chops have Oku in more trouble and a whip into the corner has him in trouble back inside. Oku is sent outside, where his chop almost hits Amira by mistake.

Back in and Oku wins a slugout and grabs a tornado DDT for two. The top rope Lionsault misses though, leaving Phantasmo to hit a regular version for two more. Oku kicks him down though and now the top rope Lionsault can hit the leg, setting up the half crab. The rope is grabbed so Oku knocks him outside, setting up the Fosbury Flop. Phantasmo is able to catch him on top for a superplex and a cutthroat driver gets two. They trade big shots to the head until Phantasmo's clothesline gets two. Oku's backslide gets two so Phantasmo hits a Canadian Revolution II for the same. Thunder Kiss 86 finishes Oku at 13:30.

**Rating:** B-. Oku continues to grow on me and that's nice to see after so long of being relatively indifferent to him. This was a good mixture of technical and high flying stuff, with Phantasmo looking rather smooth in the ring. You can see how

talented these two are and they had a good match, which shouldn't be a surprise.

Respect is shown post match.

### IInspiration vs. Kylie Rae/Nicole Matthews

This is the IInspiration's first American independent match ever and the fans give them quite the reception. Matthews runs Lee over and mocks her dancing, only for Lee to do the exact same thing in a nice moment. Rae comes in and gets caught with a middle rope ax handle to the arm. It's back to Matthews, who gets rolled up for a quick two. With Matthews on the floor, Rae gets caught with some running shots in the corner. Stereo kicks drop Rae again and it's time for Matthews and Rae to leave.

The IInspiration isn't having that and drag them back for the right hands in the corner. Matthews gets in a shot to McKay's knee though and it's time to start the double teaming on the leg. Matthews cranks on McKay's leg but she sends Rae and Matthews into each other. It's back to Lee to pick up the pace, including a tornado DDT for two. Everything breaks down and Matthews gets a half crab on McKay. Lee does the same thing to Rae and it's a powerbomb/spinning faceplant combination to give Lee the pin at 10:54.

**Rating:** C+. This was the feel good match as having the IInspiration got to have their big moment as they have been away for a long time. They get to come in and beat some known names, which is a fine way to use them. I'm not sure I can imagine them being around long term, but it was perfectly fine for a one off appearance.

### Prestige Wrestling World Title: Alan Angels vs. Calvin Tankman

Angels is defending and it's No DQ so he jumps Tankman with a trashcan to start. They get inside for the opening bell and the much bigger Tankman fights back to take them out to the

floor. An exchange of chairs to the back goes to Tankman, who knocks him around ringside and drops him onto the apron. The door is loaded up but Angels dropkicks it into Tankman's face for the big crash.

Angels chokes away with a chain and puts a trashcan over Tankman's head for a heck of a chair shot. Tankman drops him with a single forearm and Angels' chair shot bounces off the rope and hits him in the head. Angels blocks a powerbomb though and hammers away with forearms to the back of the head.

The Rings Of Saturn with a chain has Tankman in more trouble but he powers out for two of his own. Tankman makes a door bridge, with a super sitout powerbomb putting Angels through them for two. With that not working, Tankman takes him up again but cue Jordan Cruz to powerbomb Tankman through the chairs. The Halo Strike (basically a Van Daminator) retains the title at 16:01.

**Rating:** B-. The ending felt like a big deal as Angels now has some muscle to help fight against the forces of good. Tankman is a big guy who can move and that makes for a good challenger for a smaller champion like Angels. The weapons stuff helped make the match feel special, as we hadn't seen it throughout the show. Nice main event here with the surprise angle at the end.

**Overall Rating:** B-. This was about all you can ask for out of such a show, as they had good matches with some storyline changes taking place as well. It's a perfectly watchable show with some familiar faces and a few names who are probably more local to Prestige. I had a good time with this one as it's a perfectly acceptable show.

### Results

Sinner And Saint b. Lykos Gym – Ode To The Fallen to Lykos  
Arez/Galeno del Mal/El Hijo de Dr. Wagner Jr. b. Z-Brats –  
Galeno Special to Ishin

Jordan Cruz b. Bodhi Young Prodigy – No More Sorrow  
Minoru Suzuki b. Adam Priest – Gotch style piledriver  
Kevin Blackwood b. Leon Slater – Double stomp  
Evan Rivers/Tate Mayfairs/Vaughn Vertigo/Xia Brookside b.  
Drexler/Jaiden/Amira/Matt Brannigan – Moonsault to Amira  
El Phantasmo b. Michael Oku – Thunder Kiss 86  
Inspiration b. Kylie Rae/Nicole Matthews – Powerbomb/spinning  
faceplant combination to Rae  
Alan Angels b. Calvin Tankman – Halo Strike

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# **Stardom American Dream In Sin City: It's Her Show**

## **American Dream In Sin City**

Date: April 17, 2025

Location: Silverton Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Dan Barry, Trevin Adams

This is from Stardom, with the promotion running a pair of shows over Wrestlemania Weekend. We should be in for some of the best women's wrestling in all of Japan and that should make for a fun show. Last year's edition in Philadelphia was

entertaining enough and hopefully they can do even better this time. Let's get to it.

Note that I do not follow Stardom so I apologize in advance for missing any storyline or character points.

Opening sequence, featuring something like opening credits for a nice idea.

We seem to have something go wrong to start (Barry: "Live television everybody.") as it seems the wrong music/graphic played.

### AZM/Ram Kaicho vs. Mazzerati/Starlight Kid

AZM and Kid, apparently rivals, get things going. They run the ropes to start and AZM hits a basement dropkick before tying Kid's arms in the ropes. Kaicho gets in a shot of her own in the ropes and a stomp gives AZM a cocky near fall. It's off to Kaicho for a chinlock, with Kid getting straight over to the ropes. Kid fights up and hits a Standing moonsault, allowing the tag off to Mazzerati to pick up the pace. It's already back to Kid, who gets small packaged for a quick two.

AZM comes back in for a springboard armdrag into a quickly broken Rings Of Saturn. A bridging suplex gives Kid two and it's back to Mazzerati, who is suplexed as well. Stereo basement dropkicks get two on AZM but Kaicho is back in with a high crossbody. Mazzerati has to get out of a Fujiwara armbar and AZM misses a top rope double stomp. A rollup gets two on AZM but Mazzerati misses a clothesline and gets rolled up (possibly with trunks) to give AZM the pin at 12:06.

**Rating:** B-. Good way to start the show with AZM and Kid, who seem to be some of the bigger names around here, getting in the ring to make the show feel important. The action was good and Mazzerati taking the fall isn't exactly a shock as she hasn't been much of a big deal when she has been around in AEW. Solid enough opener here with a fast paced tag match



often being a good way to go.

Post match Kid and AZM, both of whom have titles, seem to be ready for a match at some point in the future.

### Jody Threat/Suzu Suzuki vs. Airica/Unagi Sayaka

Airica is brand new and looks a bit cheerleaderish. Sayaka and Suzuki fight over a lockup to start so it's quickly off to Threat, with Sayaka hitting a double Codebreaker. Airica comes in and gets caught in the wrong corner for a running clothesline. It's already back to Sayaka, who manages a running elbow in the corner. A facebuster into a legdrop gets two and it's back to Threat for a Jackhammer.'

Suzuki hits a running hip attack in the corner (because every women's match must have a running hip attack) but Suzuki is back with a running cutter. It's back to Airica with a dragon suplex and Sayaka superplexes Suzuki. An assisted Gory Bomb plants Suzuki for two but Threat is back with a spinning faceplant. Threat and Suzuki hit stereo German suplexes and Suzuki hits what Tatum Paxley calls the Psycho Trap for the pin on Airica at 9:15.

**Rating:** C+. Another fast paced match, with Airica's look making her stand out in a good way. She was wearing bright green (including her hair) and it got my attention as soon as she came into the arena. The action wasn't quite as good as the opener but this show is feeling like it's about getting more people in the ring, which is not a bad way to go for a high profile show like this one.

### Stars vs. Hazuki/Kelsey Heather

The Stars are Hanan/Saya Iida. Heather and Iida start things off with Heather getting rather athletic by taking her down for a Hennig necksnap. Hanan comes in to slam Heather and grab the chinlock. That's broken up and it's off to Hazuki, who dropkicks both Stars down without much effort.

Hanan comes back in and forearm away at Hazuki, who brings Heather in for a double basement dropkick. Something close to a hiptoss takes Heather down and Hanan hits a Fameasser for two. Everything breaks down and Heather hits an enziguri for two on Iida. An assisted swinging neckbreaker gets two on Heather but Hanan's tabletop suplex finishes at 9:55.

**Rating:** C+. This was the weakest of the three tag matches but it was still a perfectly good match. You had the Stars feeling like a more polished and experienced team who came together and beat the new pairing. It wasn't bad at all, with the Stars looking like a rather good team who could work well against a better set of opponents.

Intermission, with commentary talking about how great the show has been and how great it will be. This goes on for ten minutes and there is only so much to talk about so far.

We also look at the merch tables, which can be a lot of fun.

#### Empress Nexus Venus vs. Hate

This would be Hanako/Mina Shirakawa vs. Momo Watanabe/Natsuko Tora and I'll let you guess which team is evil. Shirakawa dances at the much bigger Tora to start and then dances some more, with Tora kicking her in the back. A low bridge sends Shirakawa outside and it's time to brawl on the floor. Back in and Tora clotheslines Shirakawa for two and a suplex puts her down again.

Watanabe comes in and slowly kicks away at Shirakawa, who fights over and brings in Hanako. A Samoan drop hits Watanabe, who is right back with a kick to the chest for two. It's back to Shirakawa, who ties up Tora's legs and DDTs Watanabe at the same time. Shirakawa gets in the Figure Four but has to let go for a clothesline on Tora instead.

Back up and Tora's Samoan drop gets two on Shirakawa, followed by a backsplash for the same. Hanako is back in for the save

and Shirakawa comes in off the top with a Sling Blade. It's back to the Figure Four with Watanabe making a save. Tora knocks Shirakawa silly for two and a top rope splash gets the same. Watanabe brings in a baseball bat but hits Toro by mistake, allowing Shirakawa to grab a rollup for the pin at 12:15.

**Rating:** B. Occasionally you will see a match where one person just takes the whole thing over and outshines the rest of the people involved. That's what we had here, as Shirakawa's charisma is just on another level and there's nothing anyone is going to be able to do to overcome her. Even Watanabe, who is an all time Stardom name, was only able to do so much here. Shirakawa is a star and she knows it, with the fans being right there with her.

Post match Shirakawa thanks the fans for coming to the show and talks about how much has changed in one year. She loves the fans so stay tuned and see what is next.

### Syuri/Vipress vs. Hate

In this case, Hate is Kalientita/Konami. Syuri and Konami go to the mat to start and it's quickly off to Vipress for a hip check. Kalientita comes in and gets suplexed for two and it's already time for everyone to go outside. Back in and Hate takes over but Vipress strikes and suplexes her way out of trouble. A faceplant gets two on Konami, with Kalientita making the save.

It's back to Syuri, who strikes it out with Konami as they trade hard kicks to the chest. Konami kicks her down for two and everything breaks down, with Hate getting caught in stereo submissions. With that broken up, Kalientita hits a Codebreaker for two on Syuri and a forward DDT gets the same. Syuri fights up with kicks of her own, including a big one for two on Kalientita, followed by a powerslam for the pin at 11:58.

**Rating:** B-. It's another good match but I'm getting tired of the tag matches as they're not exactly standing out. One thing that really does help is that you have Hate, who are about as straight up evil as you can get. That gives you a basic setup for the match and identifies the heroes involved. Syuri is rather talented, but I could go for something a bit different this far into the show.

### Maika vs. Thekla

Thekla is also part of Hate and goes to the top rope to jump in front of Maika. That's fine with Maika, who hammers away but gets caught with a headscissors. Cue more of Hate to go after Maika and Thekla plants her on the ramp. Maika gets posted and commentary points out that the STEEL post is in fact the hardest part of the ring. Back in and Thekla grabs a Muta Lock before choking away in the corner.

Thekla grabs an Upside Down in the ropes, followed by a basement superkick for two. Maika fights up and hammers away in the corner with a clothesline getting two. Thekla shrugs that off and grabs an octopus hold before hitting some running shots to the face. The cross armbreaker is blocked and Maika grabs a suplex for two. Thekla spears her down for two but takes too long going up top and gets superplexed back down.

They both get up and slug it out from their knees with Maika forearming away to take over. Something like an Octopus on the mat has Maika in more trouble but she gets her feet over to the ropes. A quick powerbomb gives Maika two so she grabs a Michinoku Driver for the pin at 17:26.

**Rating:** B. Easily the best match of the show, with an easier to follow story. Again, having one of the people involved being in a group called HATE certainly helps things along and makes it that much easier to understand. I liked the match well enough, even if I don't know much about either of them. That's the sign of a good match and it worked well here.

Post match Maika yells at Thekla, who says they used to be cool but now Maika is lame as s\*\*\*. Now though, Mina Shirakawa is leaving Maika and Thekla gives her a fairly aggressive hug. Maika thanks the fans and the rest of Empress Nexus Venus comes out to celebrate with her to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. Much like last year in Philadelphia, this didn't feel like a show that was designed to be a big step forward for Stardom but rather "hey, here are the Stardom wrestlers". That's not a bad idea at all as it makes the fans want to see what is going on in the promotion and maybe want to see it later. That's not a bad way to go and the show did give you an idea of what you might see in the promotion. Good show, though not exactly must see.

### Results

AZM/Ram Kaicho b. Mazzerati/Starlight Kid – Rollup to Mazzerati

Jody Threat/Suzu Suzuki b. Airica/Unagi Sayaka – Psycho Trap to Airica

Stars b. Hazuki/Kelsey Heather – Tabletop suplex to Heather

Empress Nexus Venus b. Hate – Rollup to Tora

Syuri/Vipress b. Hate – Powerslam to Kalientita

Maika b. Thekla – Falcon Arrow

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# Pandemonium Pro Wrestling: The House Always Wins: I'd Call That A Win

## The House Always Wins

Date: April 17, 2025

Location: Freemont Country Club, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Elliot Tyler, Jordan Castle

So this is Pandemonium Pro, which is an independent promotion that I know nothing about. I wanted to do one of their shows a few years ago but could never actually find it so we'll try it again here. I'm always a sucker for a gambling themed named and what are the odds of seeing one of them in Las Vegas? Let's get to it.

Note that I know nothing about this promotion so I apologize in advance if I miss any plot or character points.

Apparently there was a pre-show battle royal but it does not seem to have been broadcast.

## Sean Legacy vs. Tommy Billington

For some reason this is a separate video from the YouTube stream of the show so I'm not sure if it's officially part of the show or some kind of pre-show. Legacy takes him to the mat to start as commentary is at very different levels, with one of them sounding like they are in a different location. A victory roll gives Legacy two and he grabs a headlock takeover.

Billington flips out of a wristlock and takes him down into an

armbar. Legacy is right back with a standing moonsault for two so Billington drops him with a clothesline. Back up and Billington stomps away in the corner but gets caught with a DDT for two more. They slug it out...and the video ends without a winner. Another video on the page shows Legacy leaving after a win, though there are no details about how he got there. No rating due to the incomplete match, but they were starting to pick it up when the video ended.

Here is Miu Watanabe to sing a song. I'm not sure what she's saying but the fans seem into it and it's rather fast paced.

### Jordan Cruz/Sonico/Wicked Wickett vs. Alan Angels/Duke/Fuego del Sol

Duke is better known as Duke Hudson. Angels and Sonico start things off as we lose commentary for a bit. Sonico rolls him up for some near falls and it's already off to del Sol vs. Wickett. They trade hurricanranas for a standoff...and the video ends again after just over two minutes. Apparently Cruz and company went on to win, though again I have no idea how they did it or how long it took.

### Mao vs. Masha Slamovich

Neither gets an introduction and we're seemingly joined in progress. Slamovich's headlock doesn't last long and they're quickly on the mat, which goes to a standoff. Mao flips her off as commentary reads off some sponsors and then apologizes to them. A hiptoss takes her down before Mao teases a hanging DDT, only to drop her face first instead. The half crab keeps Slamovich in trouble before a split legged moonsault (with Mao grabbing the lighting rig) gets two.

Slamovich is back up with a rolling kick to the face and the rear naked choke goes on. Mao slips out but gets it again, only for Mao to fight up with a cutter for two. They trade enziguris until Slamovich knocks him out of the air for a crash. An exchange of German suplexes doesn't get either of

them anywhere so they trade kicks to the head...and Slamovich falls onto him for the fluke pin at 9:30.

**Rating:** C+. This was a nice enough back and forth match, with Slamovich being able to hang with Mao fairly well. Granted it helps when Mao's big offense is flipping off the crowd, so Slamovich only had so much to keep up with here. Slamovich's star continues to rise and she got a good win here on the big weekend.

#### Mustafa Ali vs. Ninja Mack

Ali has no interest in shaking hands to start so he drives Mack into the corner. Back up and Ali grabs an armbar, only for Mack to flip away and nip up into a standoff. Mack flips out of a hurricanrana but Ali does Mack's own pose with quite the big grin. That's fine with Mack, who hits a spinning kick to the head and they head outside, where Mack's sliding dive is countered into a DDT onto the floor (ouch).

Back in and Mack seems to be having trouble seeing so Ali knocks him down again and hits a standing moonsault. Mack catches him on top with a kick to the head, only to get German suplexed down. Ali mocks Mack again and they trade rollups until Ali backslides him with feet on the ropes for the pin at 9:35.

**Rating:** B-. What were you expecting here? Ali is one of the better stars on the independent circuit and Mack is a rather entertaining high flier. Getting Ali on the show makes things feel more important and he got to showcase his talents rather well. Mack is going to be fine as well as he's that good of a high flier and this worked well enough.

#### Hyan vs. Kingsley

Kingsley is apparently replacing WWE ID Prospect Zara Zakher and is the lead singer of the Backslide Girls. Which is apparently a thing. They circle each other to start and then



trade legsweeps for a quick cover each. A dropkick sends Kingsley outside and Hyan drags her back in by the hair, which isn't very nice.

Back in and Kingsley kicks away as commentary throws us to a commercial on the local TV broadcast as this is a rather odd production. Kingsley stacks her up for two and grabs a chinlock to keep things slow. Back up and Hyan sends her to the floor and a dive takes Kingsley down again. They get back inside with Kingsley grabbing an STF variation until Hyan makes the rope. Hyan's CT Knee gets two and it's a spear into Beauty Sleep (Glam Slam) to end Kingsley at 10:09.

**Rating:** C+. This was a match where the production brought down the enjoyment as there were issues in telling which of them was which or what was going on. That's an annoying detail as the match was good enough, though it was kind of just trading moves without building towards much of anything.

#### Miu Watanabe vs. Maya World

Watanabe wrestles her down to start before Maya misses a swinging kick. Maya manages to send her to the apron for a basement dropkick and it's time for a bit of a breather. Back in and Watanabe is fine enough to hit a running shoulder, only to get caught in a gory stretch spun into a knee to the face. Watanabe pops up with a comeback so sudden that commentary sounds surprised, including with World being driven into the corner.

The giant swing is broken up though and World superkicks her into a crossface. Watanabe fights up and hits a big backbreaker, which is enough to set up the giant swing. World slips out of an over the shoulder backbreaker and grabs a sunset bomb out of the corner for two. Back up and Watanabe misses a right hand and gets cuttered, only to shrug it off for a powerslam. The Tear Drop (flapjack) finishes World at 11:28.

**Rating:** B-. This was good enough, though Watanabe seemed to survive a good bit of offense and just pop up to take over again. That's not the best way to go, but World definitely got to showcase herself for a bit. Watanabe definitely has star power, though it was nice to see World doing well too.

### Kzy vs. Cappuccino Jones

Kzy is from Dragon Gate. Jones takes him down by the arm to start and they fight over a hammerlock. Back up and Jones cranks away on the arm, only for Kzy to Worm his way out. Jones isn't sure what to make of that so he has some coffee and dances a bit as well. Kzy has some of said coffee and they both do indeed dance. Jones does a reverse Worm and then gets kneed in the ribs, only to come back with a dropkick for two.

They run the ropes until Kzy hits a running Blockbuster for a big smile. Jones hammers him down and drops a fist for two, setting up the neck crank. Kzy fights up and hits a running shoulder in the corner, setting up a fireman's carry sitout powerbomb for two. A frog splash misses for Kzy and a half and half (clever) suplex gives Jones two more.

The Macchiato Driver gives Jones another near fall and they slug it out. Back up and Kzy hits a running clothesline and they're both down. A sliding lariat gives Kzy two but Jones gets to the coffee and hits a Decaffinator for two. Kzy is back with another basement clothesline into a frog splash for two of his own. They trade rollups for two each until Kzy piledrives him for the pin at 13:14.

**Rating:** B. This was a lot of fun as Jones has turned what should be a pretty basic gimmick into something rather entertaining. You wouldn't expect to see someone whose entire deal is "he drinks a lot of coffee" get somewhere but he has the in-ring talent to back it up. Kzy has looked good in his time in the ring this weekend and he got to do well again here.

### Barbaro Cavernario/Yamato vs. Ben-K/Titan

Cavernario and Ben-K start things off and they go to the grappling, with Cavernario taking him to the mat. That's broken up and they circle each other again before heading right back down. Ben-K drops him with a running shoulder and it's off to Yamato vs. Titan, with commentary going into a discussion of wrestlers' hair. Yamato gets taken down and Ben-K comes in to work on the ribs.

A gutwrench suplex gets two and it's time to tie up the legs for something like a reverse surfboard (that's a weird one). Yamato fights up and sends him into the corner for the running dropkick, allowing the tag off to Cavernario. Everything breaks down and Cavernario hits a big dive out to the floor.

Back in and Cavernario gets faceplanted for two, leaving Yamato and Ben-K to go at it for a change. Yamato can't hit a brainbuster but he can forearm Ben-K a few times, setting up a suplex for two. Titan is back in to kick Yamato in the face and everyone is down for a bit. Back up and Titan hits a top rope double stomp on Yamato with Cavernario breaking it up. Yamato kicks Ben-K in the face and gets German suplexed for two. A quick hurricanrana gives Yamato the pin at 14:05.

**Rating:** B. Another match designed to be a bunch of people getting in some fast spots and hard hits, which worked rather well. It was a mixture of different styles but they meshed together, likely due to familiarity. Good, fast paced match here and all of them got a chance to showcase themselves.

### Ella Envy/Brittnie Brooks vs. B3cca/Joseline Navarro

B3cca, a singer, dances to start and Envy joins in before decking B3cca from behind. Navarro comes in to take Brooks down but gets dropped with a quick shot to the face for two. Everything breaks down and B3cca and Navarro drop them, meaning we get tandem dancing. Envy fights out of the corner and hits a running hip attack in the corner to B3cca. Brooks

comes back in and gets caught with a superkick, only to get kicked in the back for two.

A slightly aggressive tag brings Envy back in but she's fine enough to grab a snap suplex. Envy accidentally drops Brooks and B3cca crossbodies both of them at the same time. Navarro comes back in to clean house but Envy drops her from the apron. B3cca hits a Death Valley Driver onto the knee but she gets sent outside. A catapult into a clothesline gets two on Navarro with B3cca making the save. Navarro takes Brooks outside and B3cca hits....something we don't see off the top for the pin at 11:35.

**Rating:** B-. This was a nice showcase from four women who might not be as well known and that's one of the best things that can happen in this kind of a weekend. B3cca has a gimmick that can get your attention rather quickly and Envy/Brooks were both good as the pink obsessed stars. Nice match here, though the missed ending hurt it a bit.

#### Hechicero vs. Kevin Blackwood

We get an anxious handshake to start before Blackwood grabs a hammerlock. Hechicero grabs a leglock and they go to the mat with Blackwood having to take it to the ropes. Blackwood's choke sends Hechicero over to the ropes as well and they get up for the chop off. Blackwood gets the better of things and hits some clotheslines but Hechicero pulls him into a swinging backbreaker for two.

Hechicero pulls him into a leglock in the ropes and a top rope forearm gets two more. That's broken up and Blackwood kicks away, setting up an exploder suplex. The running corner dropkick rocks Hechicero again but he pulls Blackwood out of the air, setting up the surfboard. Blackwood powers out of that and pulls him into a leglock.

Hechicero gets out of that as well and a spinning slam gets two. They chop it out from their knees until Blackwood hits a

running knee. The brainbuster gets two more but Hechicero dropkicks him into the corner. The headscissors driver plants Blackwood again and something like an Octopus on the mat makes him tap at 13:45.

**Rating:** B. This was the technical showcase match and it worked well, with Hechicero getting to work his magic and finally put Blackwood away. Blackwood was presented as a mixture of skilled and tough, which was going to give Hechicero a difficult out. Good main event here, with Hechicero feeling like a star throughout the whole thing.

Post match Blackwood shows respect and Hechicero says...something the microphone is far too low to understand.

The ring announcer thanks us for coming out to wrap it up.

**Overall Rating:** B-. There was a lot of good stuff on here and the biggest problem was the production, with the lighting being not so great and the camera angles having issues. That being said, this was a nice mixture of styles and stuff throughout, which made for a fun show. It flew by and was certainly entertaining, with enough star power to make things interesting. Maybe not a classic, but certainly a fun enough way to spend about two hours and fifteen minutes.

### Results

Sean Legacy b. Tommy Billington

Jordan Cruz/Sonico/Wicked Wickett b. Alan Angels/Duke/Fuego del Sol

Masha Slamovich b. Mao – Kick to the head

Hyan b. Kingsley – Beauty Sleep

Miu Watanabe b. Maya World – Tear Drop

Kzy b. Cappuccino Jones – Piledriver

Yamato/Barbaro Cavernario b. Ben-K/Titan – Hurricanrana to Yamato

B3cca/Joseline Navarro b. Brittnie Brooks/Ella Envy

Hechicero b. Kevin Blackwood – Seated Octopus

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# Defy Wrestling: Living Proof: The Proof Is In The Review

WrestlLiving Proof

Date: April 17, 2025

Location: Palms Casino Resort, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Rich Bocchini, Ethan HD

This is from Defy Wrestling, a promotion based out of the Pacific northwest. The promotion has been around for a long time and I've liked most of their stuff that I've seen over the years. This show is likely going to include the usual array of guest stars that you see in Wrestlemania Week so that should be a nice bonus. Let's get to it.

Note that I do not follow the promotion so I apologize in advance for any plot or character points I miss.

Some women, possibly Vert Vixen and Rhio, get in a fight backstage.

Bollywood Boyz/Galeno del Mal vs. C4/Negro Casas

The Boyz and C4 (Cody Chhun and Guillermo Rosas) have been feuding for a good while now. The bell rings and we pause for a Bollywood dance off, because, well, that's what the Bollywood Boyz (Harv and Gurv) do. We settle down to Harv small packaging Chhun for two before handing it off to Gurv. The bigger Rosas comes in to run Gurv over with a shoulder and a double dropkick sends Harv outside. Casas (65 years old) comes in to chop away at the far bigger del Mal, who drops him with a single chop.

We settle back down to Rosas working on Gurv's arm and it's back to Casas for some chops of his own. Del Mal comes in and Rosas gets crushed in the corner with some splashes. The Bollywood Blast hits Rosas and it's back to del Mal for a very big running splash. Harv's chinlock is broken up with a chinlock and it's back to Chhun to clean house. A double suplex drops del Mal but the Boyz are back in with stereo Sharpshooters to C4. Casas breaks those up and, along with C4, grab stereo la majistrals for a triple pin at 10:09.

**Rating:** C+. This was right out of the modern six man tag playbook and that only made for such an interesting match. It was a bunch of people running in and doing various spots until the ending. What we got wasn't bad and the fans were into the dancing at the beginning, but this never got to a very high level.

Here is Ravenous Randy Myers (the Weirdo Hero) for a surprise chat, though he does kiss some fans on the way in. He welcomes the darling fans to the 11am show and says we should make some magic. Myers parades around the ring a bit and here is Evan Rivers to go after him. Myers fights back and chases him through the crowd.

Amira/Vert Vixen/Viva Van vs. Liiza Hall/Nicole Matthews/Rhio

Vixen and Rhio start things off but Hall tags herself in to make us wait for what seems to be the big fight. They fight

over wrist control and get nowhere until Vixen takes her down for an elbow to the back. Van comes in for a double basement dropkick for two on Hall, who pulls her down to work on the arm for a bit. Rhio comes in to trade rollups for two each with Van, who comes back with a spinwheel kick.

It's off to Amira, who charges into a raised boot in the corner, allowing Matthews to come in. A quick armdrag takes Matthews down but she's right back with a quickly broken rear naked choke. They trade kicks from the mat with Matthews getting the better of things, meaning it's off to Hall for some kicks to the back. A double knockdown keeps Amira in trouble but she counter's Hall's kick to the head into a powerbomb for a needed breather.

Now we get the big showdown between Vixen and Rhio with an exchange of kicks to the head. The fight gets intense enough that Amira and Matthews come in to try and pull them back to the corners. Instead everything breaks down, with Vixen and Rhio slugging it out on the floor. They fight into the crowd, leaving Hall to suplex Van. Amira gets taken up to and crashes back down off a spider suplex. Van and Matthews kind of fall out of the corner (not sure what they were trying there) before Van hits an Ocean Cyclone suplex (ah that's what they were trying) for the pin on Matthews at 14:07.

**Rating:** B-. I was getting into this one as they made Rhio vs. Vixen feel like a showdown between people who wanted to hurt each other. That's what it needed to be and it made for a good match. The other four were doing their thing as well and I got into a match between people I don't particularly know. I'll call that a good sign, as you should be able to tell that kind of a story.

### Michael Oku vs. Evil

Amira (not the one from the previous match) is here with Oku. Of note: during the entrances we get a graphic for upcoming



events, including the one we're currently watching. Evil goes for a cheap shot off the handshake to start (because of course) and grabs a headlock. Oku sends him to the floor for a suicide dive though, only for Evil to be ready for the Fosbury Flop.

It's already time to choke with the tag rope (and Evil even ripped it off to be extra ev...well you get the idea) and Evil gets some near falls. A rake to the eyes has Oku in more trouble but he comes back with a quick middle rope dropkick. Oku plants him down for some near falls but it's way too early for the half crab. Evil throws the referee at Oku and gets in a low blow, setting up a suplex neckbreaker (with an assist from the referee) for two.

Amira won't let Evil bring in a chair though and Oku sends him to the floor for the flip dive. Back in and a frog splash high crossbody gets two on Evil and the half crab goes on. That's broken up rather quickly and another low blow sets up a fisherman's suplex for two on Oku. Back up and Oku's running knee sets up a spinning frog splash for two more. Another frog splash hits raised knees though and Evil hits a hard clothesline for his own near fall. A fireman's carry into a sitout powerbomb gets two more on Oku, followed by Everything Is Evil (ST0) for the clean pin at 10:10.

**Rating:** B-. Oku has changed just enough of his style that I'm liking him a bit more and it's nice to see someone with his skills in the ring. On the other hand you have Evil, who isn't exactly worth seeing most of the time. I was a bit surprised to see Evil get a clean win as Oku is a fairly big star, though I guess he isn't annoying New Japan stable big.

Post match Evil puts on a Scorpion Deathlock, with Amira helping the referee to break it up.

Tag Team Titles: Lykos Gym vs. Susumu Yokosuka/Hyo vs. Sinner And Saint

Sinner And Saint, with Evan Rivers, are defending. We pause for Hyo, who seems to be a male stripper, to get money stuck into his gear. Hyo and Kid Lykos II (partner of Kid Lykos) with Hyo missing a dropkick, allowing Lykos to grab a quick rollup for two. Icarus (Sinner) comes in and gets caught with a basement dropkick but Williams (Saint) cuts off a whip into the corner.

Lykos comes in to take over on Williams and a double back elbow sets up a basement dropkick for two. Williams is back up to take over on Lykos II's arm and it's back to Icarus for a clothesline. Lykos II gets in a shot of his own though and it's off to Hyo and a double stomp to Williams. Rivers gets on the apron for a cheap shot so here is Randy Myers to get some revenge from earlier and chase Rivers into the crowd.

Yokosuka remembers that he's in the match but can't get a powerbomb on Icarus. Instead Icarus is sent into the corner but it's Lykos II getting suplexed down. Hyo takes down the suspenders and hits a middle rope backsplash, with Sinner and Saint making the save. The Lykoses hit something like a Motor City Machine Guns Skull & Bones and we hit the parade of knockdowns. Williams sends Hyo into a low blow, setting up Ode To The Fallen (Angel's Wings/kick to the head combination) to retain the titles at 11:07.

**Rating:** B-. It was a pretty wild match where they gave up on the tagging about halfway through. That's what happens most of the time in matches like this and while it was still entertaining, it turned into a bunch of near falls and saves. Sinner And Saint still don't do much for me, though it was certainly not a boring match.

#### Kenta vs. Mance Warner

Kenta is trying to get back to the top after losing the World Title and this is one of his big steps. They forearm and then slap it out before going outside for Kenta's kicks to the

chest. Kenta even steals a fan's hat, though he is nice enough to give it back. Warner gets in a few shots of his own, only to get kicked in the face for his efforts. Commentary tries to pinpoint Bucksport, Tennessee as Warner and Kenta go to the stage for a chair duel. Then they sit in the chairs and trade slaps, as wrestlers tend to do.

Warner gets the better of things and takes the chairs back to the ring, with Kenta joining them shortly thereafter. Kenta powerslams him through an open chair but Warner is back up with the running lariat for two. They trade shots to the head until Kenta grabs a Falcon Arrow, followed by a top rope double stomp for two. The GTS is broken up and Warner hits a rather hard chokeslam for two of his own. Back up and they trade forearms until Warner drops him with a right hand. That's shrugged off though and a quick GTS finishes Warner at 13:11.

**Rating:** B-. This started good good and then slowed down a bit, with things thankfully not getting too far into the hardcore/violent stuff that Warner tends to do. Instead it was more of a straight fight and Kenta felt like he earned the win. This was a nice change of pace after having so many tag matches thus far.

### Rock N Roll Express vs. Midnight Heat

Midnight Heat is Eddie Pearl/Ricky Gibson (not Robert Gibson's former partner). For the sake of simplicity, I'll refer to Robert Gibson as "Robert", Ricky Gibson as "Ricky" and Ricky Morton as "Morton". The fans really do not like Midnight Heat and Ricky makes it even worse, saying that the fans are here to see if the Express are still actually alive. They are for now, but this match hasn't started yet. The Express has the chance to take their boots off and get out of here right now.

Morton mocks the Heat for taking so long to say anything. Yeah the Express is old but in their day, the Heat couldn't beat

either one of them. Morton thanks the fans for always being there for them and it's time to get it on. Robert sends the Heat into each other to start and a double right hand sends them outside for a needed breather.

Back in and Morton hits a running knee lift to Pearl before taking him into the corner. Pearl manages to knock Morton into the corner and it's off to Ricky for an assisted kick to the ribs. Morton avoids a charge in the corner though and Robert comes in (ignore that he was half in before the tag) as everything breaks down. Gibson hits Pearl by mistake and Morton busts out a Canadian Destroyer. Robert's right hand of all things finishes Gibson at 7:34.

**Rating:** C. The thing to remember about the Express is that they aren't going to be the fast paced stars like they were forty years ago. The point of having them around is getting to show off their charisma and the nostalgic, which is not a bad idea. That's what they did here, and they still look good enough in the ring to get by. They're a fun team and it was nice to see that they still have enough of it to be entertaining.

Defy World Title: Clark Connors vs. El Phantasmo vs. Man Like DeReiss

Connors is defending and DeReiss raps his way to the ring, as is his custom. The challengers yell at each other to start so Connors flips both of them off and bails to the floor. Back in and Connors stomps away on DeReiss but Phantasmo is back up to hammer on Connors in the corner. Phantasmo bends Connors' finger back but the long form Old School is broken up.

Instead Connors is knocked out to the floor, where DeReiss gets beaten up too. Connors teases chopping a fan who is sitting on Phantasmo's lap but then just pokes Phantasmo in the eyes instead. Back in and Connors grabs a chinlock on Phantasmo but DeReiss comes off the top with a Blockbuster to

take Connors down. The Tower Of Doom brings DeReiss crashing down and Connors gets two each.

DeReiss and Phantasma get sick of Connors and superkick him down before Phantasma drops DeReiss with a forearm. Phantasma misses a kick to the face and a cutter drops him for a change. DeReiss' 450 connects but Connors comes back in to steal the near fall. Phantasma is back with a superkick each and something like a Pedigree gets two on Connors. DeReiss tries another 450 but hits Connors' raised knees. Connors hits a spear each and No Chaser (implant DDT) pins DeReiss to retain the title at 12:38.

**Rating:** B-. I'm not sure if there was some kind of a personal issue here, but it never felt like they were really angry at each other. Maybe that's not what they were going for, but it didn't make for the most exciting match. All three of them did look good in the ring, though Connors is still relatively early in his title reign so having him keep the belt is a good move. Let him get a nice win and move on, which is what he pulled off here.

**Overall Rating:** B-. As has been the case with Defy that I've seen, this was a perfectly fine wrestling show without anything really standing out. The action was good and it felt like there was enough of a history that I got some of the points of the matches. While there will be better independent shows over the weekend, there are going to be far worse picks. Nice enough show here.

### Results

C4/Negro Casas b. Bollywood Boyz/Galeno del Mal – Triple pin  
Amira/Vert Vixen/Viva Van b. Liiza Hall/Nicole Matthews/Rhio –  
Ocean Cyclone suplex to Matthews

Evil b. Michael Oku – Everything Is Evil

Sinner And Saint b. Lykos Gym and Hyo/Susumu Yokosuka – Ode To  
The Fallen to Hyo

Kenta b. Mance Warner – GTS

Rock N Roll Express b. Midnight Heat – Right hand to Gibson  
Clark Connors b. Man Like DeReiss and El Phantasma – No Chaser  
to DeReiss

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# Dragon Gate USA: The Rebirth: Welcome Back

## Dragon Gate USA: The Rebirth

Date: April 16, 2025

Location: Palms Casino Resort, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Joe Dombrowski, Rich Bocchini

So this is Dragon Gate USA, which (I believe) is an official spin off from the Japanese Dragon Gate promotion. This is the first time that Dragon Gate USA has run a show in over ten years, though it isn't clear if this is the start of an ongoing relaunch. I have no idea what to expect here but let's get to it.

Note that I did not follow the original promotion/Dragon Gate (assuming that matters) so I apologize in advance if I miss any storylines or character points.

## Kzy vs. Marcus Mathers

They stare at each other to start before locking up and trading some waistlocks. Kzy...I think dances out of a waistlock but Mathers is right back with a wristlock. A Worm gets Kzy out of a wristlock but Mathers wants to keep this serious. We get a dance tease until Mathers hits him in the ribs. That earns Mathers a running Blockbuster and we hit the chinlock. That's broken up like you might expect from a chinlock, allowing Mathers to hit a spinning high crossbody.

Kzy gets kicked down for two and Mathers grabs a chinlock of his own. A pair of belly to back suplexes put Kzy down but he blocks a regular suplex attempt. Kzy's running forearm and uppercut drop Mathers, who is right back with a sunset flip out of the corner. A middle rope Stunner into a Blue Thunder Bomb gives Mathers two and an RK0 drops Kzy again. The fisherman's buster gives Mathers two but he misses a 450 and gets caught with a running uppercut. Kzy hits a headscissors driver and Impact (Jay Driller) sets up a frog splash to give Kzy the pin at 10:38.

**Rating:** B. Good, back and forth opener here as Mathers continues to shine when he is given the chance. I've seen both of these guys in the ring before and they have both done well before. Kzy felt like a big enough deal, with commentary recapping his title history from Dragon Gate. It's a nice way to get things going for the relaunched promotion and it went well for both guys.

Post match respect is shown. Mathers leaves and Kzy gets the mic to talk about how Dragon Gate USA is back.

## AZM/Starlight Kid vs. Konami/Natsuko Tora

These are women from Stardom and Konami/Tora are part of the HATE faction so I'm going to assume they're the villains. Hate jumps the other two to start fast and the brawl is on fast. Thankfully we go split screen with Konami striking away at Kid

before we settle down to Konami throwing AZM down by the hair. The double arm crank is on until the Kid makes the save, only for Tora to come in with a choke.

With those broken up, Konami kicks AZM in the back, leaving Tora to mist her down. The referee almost gets decked but he's up to count two off a suplex to AZM. Back up and AZM manages a suplex of her own and it's back to Kid for a high crossbody. Kid takes both villains down for a double dropkick against the ropes. A standing moonsault gives Kid two but the much bigger Tora is back up for a slugout. Tora knocks her down for a standing backplash and a near fall. Konami comes back in for a Disarm-Her but Kid headscissors her way to freedom.

It's back to AZM, who is quickly kicked down and Tora hits a running crossbody to take both of them down. The two of them nip up though and stereo armdrags bring the villains off the top. AZM's Fujiwara armbar has Konami in trouble but Tora is back in to run her down with a shoulder. The Cannonball crushes AZM and Konami's running kick to the chest gets two, with Kid making the save. AZM sweeps Konami's leg though and a rollup gets the pin at 11:35.

**Rating:** B-. I was getting into this one near the end as they were telling a nice story, with the heroines vs. the villains and it made for a good story. AZM and Kid were fighting from underneath throughout and eventually overcame hate with better wrestling technique. Good match here, with Stardom getting to showcase their star power as usual.

### Ho Ho Lun vs. Rhys Maddox

Maddox is 17 and a newcomer, as you might have guessed due to being 17. They fight over wrist control to start and Maddox breaks out of a full nelson. Maddox knocks him into the corner and hits a basement dropkick for two. Lun kicks the knee out to take over though and it's time to twist the leg around.

A leglock goes on to keep Maddox down as commentary tries to



compare him to Shawn Michaels or Terry Gordy. Back up and Maddox hits a bottom rope springboard cutter and they're both down for a bit. The leg is fine enough to hit a springboard forearm for two but Lun is back with a missile dropkick. Maddox hits a DDT for two but Lun grabs two rollups for two each. The third rollup, with the legs tied up, finishes Maddox at 8:41.

**Rating:** C+. This was just ok with Lun being the veteran who was trying to carry things and only being able to get it so far. The leg stuff in the middle went nowhere as Maddox was right back with springboards and that's never a good thing to see. It was a decent enough match, but neither of them really stood out.

### El Cucuy/La Estrella/Ultimo Dragon vs. Sovereign

Sovereign is Evan Rivers/Judas Icarus/Travis Williams (the latter two are known as the Northern Armory in TNA). Dragon is the star of WCW fame and had a big hand in starting Dragon Gate. Cucuy (who looks a bit evil and is described as the Mexican Boogeyman) starts with Williams and runs him down with a shoulder. Estrella comes in and is taken into the wrong corner and it's off to Icarus.

A whip into the ropes is cut off as Estrella walks on his hands but gets sent outside. The cameraman gets taken down and Rivers' clothesline to the back of Estrella's head gets two. A bodyscissors lets Rivers fish hook Estrella's mouth before it's back to Williams for a shot to the face of his own. A stomp to the arm gets two and Icarus chokes away on the mat. Rivers accidentally sends Icarus into Williams in the corner though and the tag brings in Dragon.

The rapid fire kicks (well as rapid as he can get) have Rivers in trouble and Dragon spins Williams into a leglock. Everything breaks down Cucuy hits a double hip attack in the corner. Estrella adds a running dive to the floor and the

rather large Cucuy hits a flip dive over the top. Back in and Dragon grabs la majistral for the pin on Rivers at 9:17.

**Rating:** C+. This was about getting Estrella in the ring on this show and that is not a bad idea. He's a legend in wrestling and in Dragon Gate in particular so this makes a lot of sense. Sovereign didn't feel like the best team, though having the Boogeyman go after the villains was a bit odd to see. The fans seemed happy to see Dragon though so we'll call this a success.

Rich Swann/Willie Mack vs. Alec Price/Jimmy Lloyd vs. Ben-K/Hyo

Swann has gotten a haircut and...yeah I don't know about that. Hold on though as Swann and Mack get the referee to dance during the entrances for the fun moment. Hyo seems to be a male stripper, or at least something else that gets women to put money in his pants. Hyo and Price start things off with Price bouncing on the mat to escape a wristlock. Swann and Lloyd come in for an exchange of leapfrogs before Swann shoulders him down.

Hip swiveling ensues but Lloyd is right back up with a running neckbreaker. Price comes in to help drop Swann and Lloyd (who is not a small guy) hits a dive, which sends Swann out to the floor. That means Mack can come in for a slugout with Ben-K, who manages to knock him down. Everything breaks down and Swann gets caught in a gutbuster/running dropkick combination. Price and Lloyd hit stereo dives to the floor as everything breaks down. Back in and Ben-K and Hyo go up, only to get caught by Lloyd and Mack.

That means a double Doomsday Blockbuster from Price, followed by a dropkick to send Mack outside. Swann gets planted with a double flipping DDT and Price hits a dive onto the floor. Back in and Ben-K spears Price down, only to get leg lariatied by Mack. Swann is in with a Lethal Injection to Hyo and Mack hits

a big running flip dive onto Price and Lloyd. That leaves Swann to hit the 450 to pin Hyo at 9:33.

**Rating:** B. Yeah this was fun, with everyone just going nuts until someone got the pin. That's what this kind of match should be and it was as entertaining as you would have expected. Swann and Mack have worked well together for a long time and they still have that chemistry. Ben-K and Hyo got to showcase themselves well enough, while Price and Lloyd were just kind of there to make it more of a brawl, which was only so much of an addition.

If nothing else, it's nice to hear Swann's music again.

Here is Matt Sydal, who praises the previous match and talks about how awesome it was to be in the first group of wrestlers who went over to Dragon Gate. Now Dragon Gate is back here in America and these fans are here on a Wednesday so they want this stuff put into their veins. Sydal asks us to come out for their other show on Friday night and thanks the fans for coming out. Perfectly fine speech here for a special moment.

### Paradox vs. Z-Brats

That would be Dragon Kid/Susumu Yokosuka/Yamato vs. Ishin/Kota Minoura/Shun Skywalker. Yokosuka and Minoura slowly circle each other before fighting over wrist control. Minoura kicks him down and flips off the fans before handing it off to Skywalker and Kid. Skywalker goes to the eyes to take over but gets armdragged down. Yamato and Ishin come in, with Ishin holding up the referee's hand.

They trade shoulders with Yamato taking him down and stopping to gaze at the fans. Everything breaks down and the Brats jump Paradox on the floor. We go split screen as the beating continues outside, including some of them going to either the stage or into the crowd. Ishin chokes Yamato on the stage before going back to ringside to trade opponents. We settle down to Skywalker taking Kid into the corner, where some

double boot choking ensues. Minoura kicks him back into the corner before Ishin's DDT gets two.

Minoura lets Kid chop away and Kid is fine with doing this rather than trying a tag, only to snap off a headscissors. Yokosuka and Ishin come in, with the former getting to clean house in a hurry. Yamato and Ishin fight over a suplex until Ishin finally gets him over as everything breaks down again. Skywalker soaks in some booing before helping Ishin double team Kid with right hands. A pump kick drops Kid again and Ishin's splash gets two. Yokosuka saves Kid on top though and it's a super hurricanrana to bring Skywalker down.

Minoura gets caught in the wrong corner for some running clotheslines but gets out of Yamato's Galleria. A Stundog Millionaire drops Skywalker and we hit a parade of knockdowns. Yamato plants Ishin, who pops back up with a German suplex. A lariat drops Ishin right back and everyone is down for a needed breather. Ishin and Yamato chop it out until Kid is back in with a tornado DDT. An assisted reverse implant DDT gives Yamato the pin on Ishin at 20:18.

**Rating:** B. It was an entertaining, fast paced match but I'm not sure this is going to be some kind of game changer like some of their previous matches have been. All six looked good and did their things well, but it never got to that high level that had me desperate to see what was happening next. Still though, rather good main event and worth a look.

Post match Yamato says the promotion made new history tonight. Rich Swann comes in to praise the winners and says without them, he would not be the wrestler he is today. Swann respects Yamato but challenges him for this Friday. Yamato seems to accept.

**Overall Rating:** B. This might not have been a classic show but it was more than good enough. It was a bunch of talented wrestlers getting to work a style which works well for them.

You didn't need to have a deep understanding or knowledge of what happened coming into the show and it still worked well. Good stuff here, making it a solid return for the promotion.

### Results

Kzy b. Marcus Mathers – Frog splash

AZM/Starlight Kid b. Konami/Natsuko Tora – Rollup to Konami

Ho Ho Lun b. Rhys Maddox – Rollup

El Cucuy/La Estrella/Ultimo Dragon b. Sovereign – La Majistral to Rivers

Rich Swann/Willie Mack b. Ben-K/Hyo and Jimmy Lloyd/Alec Price – 450 to Hyo

Paradox b. Z-Brats – Assisted reverse implant DDT to Ishin

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# **GCW    WWE    ID    Championship Tournament: In Development**

## **WWE ID Championship Tournament**

Date: April 16, 2025

Location: Palms Casino Resort, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Dave Prazak, Trevin Adams

So this is a weird thing as WWE is partnering with GCW for the first batch of matches in the tournaments to crown the first ever ID Champions. We're getting matches in the men's and women's tournaments, plus some bonus matches to round out the card. One of these matches features former Bayley super fan Izzy, which is going to be absolutely bizarre to see. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Note that both tournaments are double elimination so a loss does not end a wrestler's chances.

### WWE Men's ID Title Tournament First Round: Freedom Ramsey vs. Jordan Oasis

Oasis is the Global Nomad and is here by way of Greyhound. We get a handshake to start and Ramsey grabs a headlock to grind away. Back up and Oasis armdrags him into an armbar, only to get dropped with a running forearm to the face. Something like an X Factor out of the corner gives Ramsey two but Oasis kicks him down. A backsplash gets two on Ramsey and Oasis grabs the chinlock.

Back up and a low bridge sends Oasis outside but he's right back up for a suicide dive. The chinlock goes on again back inside for a bit before Oasis fires off some big chops in the corner. A hard clothesline gets Ramsey out of trouble and a spinebuster drops Oasis again. Ramsey grabs a Falcon Arrow for two but Oasis pulls him out of the air and hits a brainbuster. A Cannonball to Ramsey's back against the ropes (or at least in its general vicinity) gets two but Ramsey snaps off a German suplex. Oasis is right back up with a clothesline to the back of the head for the pin at 10:58.

**Rating:** C. This wasn't a bad match, but it was dragging in the middle and that hurt it a lot. It started to feel like they were just filling in time by doing moves instead of trying to get a win. Maybe they were trying to showcase themselves and

display what they can do, but this probably needed to have a few minutes cut out. Not a bad match, but it only got so far.

Post match they shake hands and Oasis welcomes us to the show. Oasis talks about how the ID Titles will be defended around the independent circuit, including in GCW. He thrives on being on the road and he hopes the people are strapped in for the journey. Decent promo here.

### Zara Zakher vs. Izzy Moreno

This isn't a tournament match but if Moreno wins, she is in the Women's ID Title tournament. They go with the grappling to start and have a staredown before trading rollups for two each. Moreno's northern lights suplex gets two and her armbar sends Zakher to the ropes.

Back up and Zakher grabs a few slams but Moreno hits a high crossbody for two. A cross armbreaker goes on so Zakher stacks her up for two. Zakher's spinebuster gets two but here are Swipe Right, with Jackson Drake and Zayda Steele (from Evolve). Steele uses the distraction to hit Moreno in the head with a shoe, allowing Zakher (who didn't seem to see Steele interfere) to grab Control Z (RK0) for the pin at 4:53.

**Rating:** C. The fact that Moreno was in the ring is more amazing than anything else, as so many people are going to remember her as a ten or so year old fan. I'm not sure what kind of a future she has in WWE but getting this far is pretty impressive. Zakher continues to be an impressive enough star and I could see her making a run in Evolve, or even further.

Post match Steele lays out Zakher and Moreno. Swipe Right says Jordan Oasis and Izzy Moreno suck and don't deserve to be in the ID Program. They brag about their own talents and promise to take over the independent scene. As usual, the team isn't a bad idea, but they're not the most imposing looking people.

### WWE Men's ID Title Tournament First Round: Aaron Rourke vs.

## It's Gal

Gal (rhymes with doll) is quite muscular and is described as a Real Life Action Figure. Rourke on the other hand is billed from Sparkle City. Gal's grappling doesn't work to start and Rourke gets in a quick spank. A headscissors takes Rourke down and Gal grabs a headscissors with some pushups thrown in. Back up and Rourke hits a dropkick into the corner and they head outside. That goes nowhere so Gal sends him flying for a faceplant, setting up a big boot for two.

Gal grabs the chinlock for a bit before throwing him out of the corner. A fall away slam sends Rourke flying and a clothesline gives Gal two but he misses a legdrop. Rourke scores with a leg lariat and a DDT, followed by a Helluva Kick. The hip attack gets two on Gal, setting up a Molly Go Round for two more. They lock hands and trade shots to the face before going up top, with Rourke grabbing a sunset bomb. Back up and they get in a fight over Gal's medals, which are taken away, allowing Gal to hit him low. A Blue Thunder Bomb gives Gal the pin at 8:45.

**Rating:** C+. Nice enough match here, with Gal getting to show off. They were just different enough to have something that made them stand out while also being similar enough that it made for a fun showdown. Gal has been featured on Evolve before so it makes sense for him to go over, though I'm not sure if he stood out more.

## WWE Men's ID Title Tournament First Round: Atticus Cougar vs. Ice Williams vs. Aaron Roberts

Cougar, a GCW star, has to win to get into the tournament. Roberts, by far the largest of the three, takes over on Cougar to start and avoids Cougar's attempt at skewering him in the head. Williams is back up with a rope walk Blockbuster to take Roberts down but Cougar is right there to go after him. A DDT plants Cougar and Roberts' splash crushes him as well. Roberts



splashes Williams as well but Cougar is back in with a chair. That just ticks Roberts off and a spinebuster drops Cougar.

Roberts has a seat in the chair, but Cougar is back up with a running boot to send the chair into Roberts' face. Williams is back up to slug it out with Cougar but Roberts runs both of them over. Back up and Cougar sends them into each other, setting up a moonsault for two on Roberts. Williams elbows Cougar down, only for Roberts to miss a Vader Bomb. Cougar rakes Roberts' eyes and this a headlock driver but Fuego del Sol runs in to take Cougar out. Williams drops a top rope elbow to pin Roberts at 6:31.

**Rating:** C-. I wasn't feeling this one, with Cougar feeling like he was just thrown in there for some GCW flavor. That doesn't really work though as you have two guys doing a regular match and Cougar runs in there with skewers to try to stab someone. It doesn't work and the match was kind of a mess as a result.

Post match Swipe Right and company come out to wreck Williams. Zayda Steele mocks Williams as a loser and promises to make Kylie Rae a loser as well.

#### WWE Women's ID Title Tournament First Round: Kylie Rae vs. Zayda Steele

Swipe Right and Jackson Drake are here too. Steele won't shake hands so Rae grabs a wristlock. A rollup gives Rae two and she does it again to frustrate Steele all the more. Swipe Right trips Rae down though and that's good for a massive ejection. Steels pulls the arm over the rope and some knees to the chest give Steele two. Rae gets choked down in the corner and Steele gets to strut a bit.

The triangle choke over the ropes keeps Rae in trouble and the rather cocky Steele stays on the arm. Rae gets out of a Disarm-Her and a basement superkick gets two on Steele. Back up and Steele hits a discus forearm for two as the pace slows

again. A slap to the face wakes Rae up though and she hits a superkick into a crossface for the fast tap at 8:46.

**Rating:** C+. That's a bit of a surprise, as Steele has felt like someone who could be a big star in the division if she was given the chance. At the same time, Rae is one of the bigger names on the Evolve roster and it's good to see her actually getting a win on a bigger show. This felt like something that could be a step forward for Rae, which she has been needing.

### WWE Men's ID Title Tournament First Round: Marcus Mathers vs. Sam Holloway

No DQ and these two seem to have been feuding for a good while. The much bigger Holloway hits a dropkick to start fast, followed by a sitout powerbomb for two less than thirty seconds after the bell. Some chairs are thrown in but Holloway picks up another, which is dropkicked into his face. Mathers hits a suicide dive and hammers away before posting Holloway.

Back up and Mathers climbs onto the stage, setting up a huge running flip dive. A high crossbody gives Mathers two but Holloway butterfly suplexes him into a chair in the corner. The chair is wedged into the corner but Holloway's charge misses, giving Mathers a much needed breather. A Van Daminator (Mathers is from Philadelphia so it fits well) gives Mathers two and a German suplex is good for the same. Back up and Holloway drops him through the chair for two of his own and things slow down a bit.

Mathers tries to go up and gets dropkicked off the top for a crash. A powerbomb onto the apron drops Mathers again and a top rope splash gives Holloway another near fall. It's time to get serious as Holloway takes down the straps, which takes way too long, allowing Mathers to chair him into the Tree Of Woe. Mathers puts a chair in front of Holloway's face and pelts another chair at him for two more. A chair bridge is set up

and a middle rope cutter onto a chair (the bridge broke), setting up a nice 450 to pin Holloway at 12:36.

**Rating:** B-. You could tell there was a story and feud here, though commentary didn't exactly explain what those were. What mattered the most here was that the weapons didn't feel out of place and they didn't go insane, only using a bunch of chairs. Mathers has shown off some talent in his career and it isn't a surprise that he is getting this kind of attention. Holloway wasn't a bad big man either, but he needs something else to make him stand out.

Post match Holloway takes out the referee to blow off some steam.

### Swipe Right/Jackson Drake vs. Cappuccino Jones/Jack Cartwheel/Sean Legacy

This is a rematch from the first ever WWE Evolve main event. Drake and Jones start things off and go to the mat to start with Jones sending him crawling over to the ropes. Jones cranks away on the wrist before he sweeps the legs to take Drake down again. Cartwheel comes in to work on Baylor's arm as well before it's off to Legacy for more of the same. Jones gets in more arm cranking and it's Cartwheel coming in for a chinlock.

Smokes comes in and has his arm twisted as well as the good guys have a theme going here. Cartwheel cartwheels away from Baylor and gets two off a slam. The fast tags continue with Legacy moonsaulting next to Smokes, but getting clotheslined down by Drake. Legacy gets taken into the wrong corner though and it's time to start the alternating beatdown. Drake's Russian legsweep puts Legacy down and he stomps on Legacy's fingers in a rather nasty move.

Legacy is fine enough to get over to Cartwheel for the tag and the pace picks back up, with Cartwheel flipping around Baylor. Something from the top is loaded up but Baylor rolls outside,

only for Cartwheel to cartwheel dive onto Swipe Right. The good guys hit stereo dives to the floor in a cool visual but Cartwheel gets low bridged outside. The double stomping is on and Baylor grabs a suplex to put Cartwheel down back inside. Jones tries to come in for a save without a tag but Cartwheel is dropped down with a belly to back suplex.

Drake's butterfly suplex gets two and he hammers away, with Cartwheel fighting...into the wrong corner. Maybe those cartwheels are messing with his brain. Cartwheel finally clotheslines his way out of trouble and brings Jones in to clean house. Everything breaks down and Legacy knocks all three villains down at once. A springboard 450 gets two on Smokes, who is back up with a fireman's carry onto the knee for two of his own.

Legacy gets over to Cartwheel to fight back but he gets caught with a Lethal Injection for two. Baylor sends Jones outside and then come sin legally but Jones is back in for a right hand into a Death Valley Driver to put Baylor down. A top rope elbow gives Jones two and all six are left down. Cartwheel takes too long going up and gets caught by Drake, who grabs a super poisonrana. The Super Swipe finishes Cartwheel at 20:58.

**Rating:** B-. Well that was...lengthy. It was a match where it felt like they were out there for the sake of filling in time, which doesn't help when these guys don't have a ton of experience to know how to make this work. What we got was good, but it could have been a few minutes shorter to tighten things up again. That being said, this is designed to be developmental stars having a match and it went well enough all things considered.

Post match the beatdown is on again but Freedom Ramsey runs in for the save. That goes badly as well but here are Ice Williams and Jordan Oasis for the real save. The villains are cleared out, with Legacy and Williams promising to be ready for their tournament matches. That lets the good guys pose to

end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C+. All things considered, this was ok, but it did lose its charm after a little while. At the end of the day, these people are mainly still up and coming stars who need to get more ring time and coaching. At some point, they start to run out of things to do and it can take away a lot of interest in their matches. That can make for a fun forty five minute show with something like Evolve, but a two plus hour event, especially with a bunch of tournament matches, it was only so entertaining throughout.

### Results

Jordan Oasis b. Freedom Ramsey – Clothesline to the back of the head

Zara Zakher b. Izzy Moreno – Control Z

It's Gal b. Aaron Rourke – Blue Thunder Bomb

Ice Williams b. Aaron Roberts and Atticus Cougar – Top rope elbow to Roberts

Kylie Rae b. Zayda Steele – Crossface

Marcus Mathers b. Sam Holloway – 450

Swipe Right/Jackson Drake b. Sean Legacy/Cappuccino Jones/Jack Cartwheel – Super Swipe to Cartwheel

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# Best Of Reality Of Wrestling: I've Seen Much Worse

## Best Of Reality Of Wrestling

Commentators: Brad Gilmore, Anthony Pratt, Matt Topolski, Shaul Guerrero

The title kind of says it all here as we have a DVD collection of matches from Booker T.'s promotion in Texas. This is from a bunch of different shows so there is nothing in the way of continuity here. I've only seen a bit from this promotion before so I'm going in blind, which can often be fun. Let's get to it.

From Summer Of Champions 2, August 8, 2015.

## Diamonds Title: Miranda vs. Robin vs. Athena

The title is vacant coming in and Athena is better known as Ember Moon or...well, Athena actually. Robin, who is listed as Ivory on the DVD and is apparently named Ivory Robin, is double teamed down to start but Athena clears the ring. Athena hits back to back suicide dives and throws Robin back inside.

Robin grabs a reverse chinlock but Miranda is back in with a running dropkick for two. A spear on the apron drops Athena for two, as Athena gets her boot on the rope. Back up and Athena hits a suplex, followed by what would become the O Face (seemingly debuting it) on Miranda. Robin throws Athena outside though and steals the pin and the title at 5:25.

**Rating:** C+. This was short and to the point, as the Women's Revolution was just starting to come together in WWE so things hadn't picked up everywhere else. Athena was getting to showcase herself here and it worked rather well. The O Face is still a great finisher and it's no surprise that Athena was on her way to WWE, as you could certainly see the talent shining

through there.

Lita of all people comes out to present the title in a surprise.

From Christmas Chaos XII, December 9, 2017.

### Reality Of Wrestling Title: Ayden Cristiano vs. Gino

Cristiano, with Reina, is defending in Lucha Extrema (anything goes) and this is title vs. career. Cristiano starts fast and hits a pair of Helluva Kicks as commentary explains that Cristiano was a father figure to Gino when Gino's father died. Gino gets sent outside and is kicked down again but fights back. An apron 619 misses so Gino settles for a kick to the head. A hurricanrana off the apron drops Cristiano again for two on the floor, with Reina breaking up the cover.

Gino grabs a chair to chase Reina off but Cristiano uses the chair to knock a dive out of the air. Back up and the apron 619 sends the chair into Cristiano's face but here is Cristiano's La Familia to jump Gino. The steps are carried up to the stage, where Cristiano rips up Gino's father's mask for the personal touch. Gino fights out and hits a running dive off the steps to put La Familia through some tables.

Cristiano is back with something metal to the face and they come back to ringside, where Gino sends him through the barricade. A hammerlock lariat gives Gino two and the fans come back down in a hurry. Cristiano can't hit a piledriver on the exposed concrete but a backdrop onto the concrete connects. Back in and Cristiano hits a top rope elbow for two so he grabs a wrench. The turnbuckle is taken off and a running shot to the face gives Cristiano another near fall. They chop it out until Cristiano is sent into the corner. Eat Defeat gives Gino the pin and the title at 14:14.

**Rating:** B+. They were pulling me into this one with a good story as I wanted to see Gino pull this off. It felt like a

big moment to see Gino beat Cristiano, who has apparently tormented him for a good while. That's the kind of thing that makes for a solid performance and I was into what they were doing. Nice stuff here, especially for two people I barely know.

Post match Gino celebrates and gets the mask back for a bonus.

From Christmas Chaos XI, December 10, 2016.

### Reality Of Wrestling Title: Gino vs. Evan Snow

Snow is defending in a ladder match, having won the title after it was stripped from Gino. Snow dances a lot and is billed from Hip Hop, USA. They fight over a lockup to start until Gino misses Eat Defeat. The lockup goes on again until they fall over the top rope and crash out to the floor. Gino wins a slugout on the floor but Snow is back up with a flip dive off the apron.

It's time for a ladder, albeit not a tall one. We're clipped to Snow knocking the ladder into Gino's face and then bringing in a bigger ladder. Snow climbs, only to dive at Gino, who knocks him out of the air. Back up and Snow bridges a ladder into the big one but Gino flips him face first onto the bridged one, sending the whole thing down. Gino gets smart by crushing Snow's leg in between and with the ladder. Snow starts getting up so Gino is smart enough to get down and take out the leg again.

Gino suplexes him onto the ladder and we take a break. Back with Snow hitting a superkick and giving Gino a Gory Bomb onto the ladder in the corner. They both climb until Snow grabs a sunset bomb (What leg injury?) for the big crash back down. Snow knocks him off the ladder again and jumps from the top over the ladder for a Hip Hop Drop (guillotine legdrop). Back up and Gino grabs Eat Defeat off the ladder for the big crash. That's enough for Gino to go up and pull down the title at 12:29 shown.



**Rating:** B-. It was your normal ladder match with all of the big bumps and crashes, though I was a little confused about who I was supposed to be cheering. Gino was the big face a year later but this felt like Snow was the big babyface here. Either way, another good match as this Gino guy isn't bad.

Post match Rey Mysterio shows up as a surprise to present Gino with a new title belt. Welp, he's definitely a good guy.

From Final Heat, February 21, 2025.

We recap Harlem Heat challenging the Heavenly Bodies for the Tag Team Titles. Booker T. said the titles had been hijacked so he was going to take the titles back himself. He needed a partner, but Stevie Ray showed up to say Booker really needed his brother. The Bodies weren't impressed but the match was on.

#### Tag Team Titles: Harlem Heat vs. Heavenly Bodies

The Bodies (Desirable Dustin/Gigolo Justin) are defending and this is Harlem Heat's first match together in almost fifteen years. Booker backs Justin into the corner to start and the fans are rather happy. Ray comes in to chop and elbow away in the corner as commentary runs down the teams that Harlem Heat has defeated over the years. It's back to Booker, who gets taken into the corner by Dustin for some shots to the face.

Booker gets in a superkick to cut that off in a hurry and Ray comes in again for a shot to the ribs. We're clipped to Justin getting in a cheap shot to Booker from the apron. Booker gets knocked to the floor so Justin can hammer away. Back in and Dustin hits a corner clothesline for two, followed by a front facelock. It's too early for the tag back to Ray though as Booker is pulled into the wrong corner for some stomping.

We hit the chinlock but Booker fights out, only to get clotheslined back down. The abdominal stretch goes on instead, with Booker hiptossing his way to freedom. Raw gets drawn in

before the tag though and Booker gets stomped down in the corner. A double clothesline gets Booker out of trouble and the big tag brings in Ray to clean house. Ray powerslams Dustin for two and everything breaks down, with Booker clotheslining Justin out to the floor. The Ax kick gives Booker the pin and the titles at 10:50.

**Rating:** C. The match was a pretty basic formula, with Ray's time in the ring being rather limited. That's not a bad thing for the most part, as Ray was more of a special attraction than anything else. He was only so good in the first place so having him back after this much of a layoff was going to have limited results. That being said, the title win was a nice moment, even if Harlem Heat would vacate the titles a few weeks later, with the Bodies holding the title for the better part of a year after. Still though, nice enough moment here.

From Ladies Night Out, February 17, 2018.

#### Diamonds Title: Hyan vs. Kylie Rae

Rae is defending but doesn't have the belt for some reason. Feeling out process to start with the fans being behind Rae, who does in fact smile a lot. Rae takes her down into a front facelock and gets two off a rollup, which leaves Hyan a bit frustrated. A headscissors sends Hyan into the ropes and a running knee knocks her back out. With nothing else working, Hyan grabs the referee for a distraction and hits the ropes to crotch Rae on top. Some elbows in the corner keep Rae in trouble and Hyan grabs a chinlock.

That's broken up so Rae gets up an elbow in the corner to cut off a charge. A basement superkick misses for Rae and Hyan grabs a rollup for two. Back up and the basement superkick connects for Rae and she can't believe the kickout. Hyan starts in on the arm and cranks away before slamming it into the mat for two. A Disarm-Her has Rae in more trouble but Hyan lets her go, instead option for a running knee and another

near fall.

Rae knocks her off the top though and a missile dropkick connects to leave them both down. They both get up at a count of nine and trade the forearms until Rae pulls her into the crossface. The rope is grabbed for the break and Hyan gets her own crossface (ignore that it's not on the arm she had been working over). That's countered into a rollup for two but Hyan is back with a heck of a Glam Slam for the pin and the title at 13:43.

**Rating:** B-. Nice match here, with Hyan getting to show what she can do and win the title in a pretty good showdown. These two have had quite the rivalry and it felt like a showdown. Rae is someone who has done some good things in a variety of places over the year and it's no surprise that she had another good performance here. That Glam Slam at the end was very good too, as Rae landed hard and it looked like a knockout blow.

Post match Hyan gets the title, which was on the stage for some reason.

From No Limits 2017, May 31, 2017.

JJ Blake interrupts the introduction and says he's the champion of all televisions.

TV Title: Terrale Tempo vs. JJ Blake

Blake is defending inside a cage and there are some weapons hanging from the top. Tempo grabs a headlock to start and we get some rather blatant spot calling on the mat. Blake is back up with a dropkick, only to get crossbodied for two. A jumping elbow gets the same and things slow down as we take a break. Back with Tempo hitting a backdrop and going up, where he grabs a chair.

With Blake down again, Tempo grabs a trashcan, with commentary pointing out that he could just leave instead of going for the

weapons. The delay lets Blake come back with a steel rod to the ribs for two. A belly to back suplex gets two on Tempo but he's right back up to put the trashcan in the corner. Blake is sent into the cage a few times and a spinebuster puts him down again.

Tempo hits a dropkick into the cage but Blake is able to crotch him on top. Blake puts him in the trashcan in the corner and hits a step up dropkick to crush him again. The knockout has Blake panicking and we take another break. Back again with Tempo superplexing him off the cage for the THIS IS AWESOME chants and a double down. Tempo gets a very delayed two so Blake fights up only to get caught in a swinging Downward Spiral for two.

That's still not enough for Tempo to get out as Blake pulls him back in so they can slug it out on top of the cage. Tempo grabs Blake's black hammer and knocks him off the top but here is a rather large man (Blake's training partner Tiny) to pull Tempo out of the air. Tiny throws Tempo back inside and gives him a chokebomb so Blake can get the retaining pin at 13:43 shown.

**Rating:** B-. Not the best ending, but they had a good match where they beat each other up pretty well. That's the point of putting them in a cage for a grudge match and it made Tempo feel like enough of a star. I was half expecting Tempo to win anyway in a St. Valentine's Day Massacre ending but Blake retaining so Tempo can come after the two of them again later is fine too.

From Christmas Chaos XII, December 9, 2017.

Texas Title: Mysterious Q vs. Rex Andrews vs. Johnny Impact

Q, a masked man, is defending, Andrews is a former TV Champion and I'm guessing you know Impact. Andrews drops Impact to start and grabs a Kimura on Q, with Impact making the save. Q and Impact team up to take out Andrews, leaving Impact to

shoulder Q down. Impact can't send him into the corner as Q sends him to the floor. Back in and Andrews cuts off the Q Cutter with an armbar attempt.

Andrews kicks him down into a Fujiwara armbar but Impact makes the save for a showdown. They circle each other for a bit until Andrews suplexes Impact for two. Back up and Impact kicks Andrews down but Q breaks up Starship Pain. They all wind up in the corner, with Impact German superplexing both of them down. Back up and Impact gets beaten between the two of them, only to send them both into the corner.

The sliding German suplex hits Andrews but he rolls away from Starship Pain. Q's springboard elbow gets two and he plants Impact with a spinning slam. Andrews is back in with a knockdown to Q and a Paige Turner for two on Impact. Andrews gets the cross armbreaker on Impact but has to let it go to knock Q off the top. Back in and Impact puts Andrews down, setting up the standing shooting star press for two. Q shoves Impact off the top as well though and a 450 finishes 12:49.

**Rating:** B. This was pretty much your standard three way match but beating Impact, even without pinning him, was a good way to make Q feel like a bigger deal. That's why you bring someone like Impact in and Q looked good in his win. Andrews felt like he was just there for the strong style/MMA influenced offense and that doesn't really stand out.

Bit of a weird note to end the set: Q poses as commentary advertises Gino vs. Cristiano later in the same night, which is listed earlier in the DVD.

**Overall Rating:** B-. It's not a great promotion or anything that hasn't been done better, but I've definitely seen far worse than what was offered here. You had seven matches which take up about two and a half hours with nothing close to bad. The worst match on the whole thing is a Harlem Heat reunion, which is a big enough deal to warrant a spot. I've liked the

little I've seen of Reality Of Wrestling and you can see that, at least in this era, they had some talent that stood out. Good, fun watch here and I could go for a bit more from these people.

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