

Thought of the Day: TNA Possibly Going Back To Orlando/Some Other Home City

Is best for business. The current word on the street is that TNA is moving back to a home city, most likely Orlando again, to hold most of their TV tapings. A few major shows could be taped on the road. This is without a doubt the right move for TNA for one reason: they can't afford to stay on the road.

Look at TNA's business lately. They've cut away their PPVs, they're cutting house shows, they air specials on TV which get slightly higher ratings/audiences than usual, and they're spending way more money on TV tapings. Translation: spend more, bring in less. For a company like TNA which doesn't have a ton of sponsors and doesn't draw huge crowds (see: Glory, Bound For), going on the road this often isn't a viable plan. People often compare TNA to WCW, but it's really more like ECW. Think about this for a second.

ECW did most of its shows from one area/city

They never came close to being #1 or #2 (TNA is firmly #2 but only because there isn't a third major company)

Their TV show is the #1 show on its network, but it doesn't ever draw many people outside of its core audience

Only after several years of being an underground hit did it start regularly holding TV tapings outside of its base

ECW lasted about a year taping on the road before going back to house shows and syndication where it lasted about six more months. Now before you ask, no I'm not saying TNA has six months left and no I'm not saying they're in the same kind of shape as ECW was in 1999/2000. What I'm saying is right now, TNA flat out cannot maintain their status quo or grow nearly at all while doing TV on the road.

In short, they can stay in Orlando/whatever single city they pick and survive at a stable level or they can have a hotter crowd once in awhile and barely be able to afford anything outside of TV. This isn't a complicated problem.

TNA's Latest Woes

So the big stories at the moment are Hogan possibly leaving after October 1, TNA possibly taking Impact off the road by the spring and Mickie James' contract expiring and her walking away. We'll lump these together into one post and say.... 1. This is I believe the third time in four years that it appears Hogan won't be at Bound For Glory no matter what I believe? At the end of the day, Hogan is probably more trouble than he's worth. I'd assume he's the highest paid guy in TNA and he's on TV about five minutes a week anymore. I doubt Hogan is leaving forever, but I can't imagine he won't be at BFG.

2. Impact off the road would probably be a good thing. It has to cost a good deal of money for them to change venues every other week and with only four regular PPVs a year, the financial burden must be weighing them down. Yeah it's annoying to have it in the same place every week, but if it's what keeps them financially sound, so be it.

3. Mickie James leaving puts them at four active Knockouts: ODB, Velvet Sky, Gail Kim and Tessmacher, who hasn't been in a match for months now. Taryn is on maternity leave and will be gone for months. But remember people: Ivelisse just doesn't have what it takes to be on Impact. All she has are looks, ability, charisma and in ring abilities, plus an appeal to the Latino demographic. Just not worth it.

In short, TNA is in a big state of flux at the moment and it's hard to say where it comes out. It should be interesting though.

TNA Running Two House Shows In October

According to Meltzer it's a cost cutting measure. That's a bad sign if they're so tight for money they can't run house shows. I was at a show a few months ago and a TNA employee asked me to write up a good report for them on the internet. The fact that they're relying on fans to report on the internet that they're fun shows on top of this tells me that they're having problems.

AJ Styles Signed Through The

End Of The Year

According to various words on the street that is. In other words, the guy who is likely to become world champion at the biggest show of the year might not be signed two months later. From what I can find, and of course remember to take EVERY report you hear on the internet with a barrel of salt, it's due to TNA not being able to afford raises that Styles was promised. You have to think that these alleged financial problems could signal the end of Hogan's run with TNA. He must be their highest paid guy and he's barely ever on TV anymore.

Bound For Glory Series Cut Short, Final Regular Matches Set For Thursday

According to Meltzer's site:

Quote:

The entire thing is a mess because time is running out and of the 11 matches that would be necessary for each guy in a 12 man round-robin tournament, the guys have ranged from four to six matches completed with time running out.

So they are essentially dropping everything, doing the four matches this coming Thursday, and ending it from there with the top four point getters going to the 9/12 final four show.

<http://www.f4wonline.com/more/more-t...r-glory-series>

The current standings (number of matches in parentheses:

1. Magnus – 39 (7)
2. Bobby Roode – 34 (8)
3. Christopher Daniels – 30 (6)
4. Austin Aries – 28 (7)
5. Samoa Joe – 26 (9)
6. Jeff Hardy – 24 (7)
6. Mr. Anderson – 24 (9)
8. AJ Styles – 22 (8)
8. Kazarian – 22 (7)
10. Joseph Park – 17 (8)
11. Hernandez – 7 (7)
12. Jay Bradley – 0 (7)

So apparently the Series is out of time, given that the finals are scheduled for two weeks from this Thursday at the No Surrender special. Yes, amazingly enough you can't have 12 guys wrestle 11 matches each in the span of a month. Basically everyone is about 2/3 of the way through their matches but the totals are going to be all over the place due to the inconsistencies. But at least we got to promote Ortiz vs. Jackson for another company.

Can this company go a week without something screwing up?

So Cal Val Gone From TNA

This doesn't surprise me. She didn't really do anything other than wear good looking outfits, but Christy Hemme does that just as well if not better.

X-Division Drops Three Way Rule

Back to singles matches.

THANK GOODNESS. The three way match rules were getting really annoying as there's nothing gained by having everything as a triple threat. Good choice here.

Brooke Hogan Released From TNA

Kurt Angle Arrested. Again.

It's another DWI, his fourth alcohol related incident in six years. Can TNA have ANY good news?

TNA's Issues As Of Late

This has been the hottest topic in wrestling for the last week or so and I think it's time for an overview of the whole thing. To recap, TNA has cut a lot of wrestlers, had a lot of turnover backstage, messed up a house show and people think TNA is on its last legs. In short, I think they're fine.

Here's the thing to remember about TNA: they have two hours a week of TV as compared to the five that WWE has (excluding internet broadcasts). WWE has more than twice the room to get talent on TV so it's much easier for WWE to maintain a large roster. Think back: before this batch of releases, can you think of ten people let go by TNA in the last four years? Now can you think of twenty people hired in the last four years? The numbers were catching up to them and the cuts had to come eventually.

As for cutting costs, every company does this at some point. TNA recently lost tens of thousands of dollars a month by not having regular PPVs anymore. Couple that with the additional cost of taking Impact on the road and it's no wonder they need to cut some salaries. Cutting guys from Gut Check and people who are never used isn't a sign of going out of business. It's a sign of smart business.

The main thing to keep in mind though: Panda Energy is pouring money into TNA and will do so until they don't feel like it anymore. Spike is reportedly very happy with the ratings and it's not costing them a fortune to keep TNA on the air, so TNA isn't going anywhere anytime soon unless Panda pulls the plug.

In short, it's an overblown (yet interesting) story.