

205 Live – January 23, 2018: Here We Go All Over Again

205 Live

Date: January 23, 2018

Location: Capitol One Arena, Washington DC

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

Stop me if you've heard this one before, but there's a big change to the Cruiserweight Title situation. In this case, there is no Cruiserweight Champion as Enzo Amore has been stripped of the title and released from the company. There is no word on what's going to happen to the title but for now, Sunday's Cruiserweight Title match is off. Therefore, enjoy another show with little advancement to the top storyline. Let's get to it.

Daniel Bryan informs us that Enzo is no longer champion and gone from the show. He's telling us this because of his connection to the company, mainly through the Cruiserweight Classic. Next week, there will be a General Manager announced and their first action will be to deal with this situation. No word on who that will be (Bryan said him or her).

Opening sequence.

The announcers recap what we just heard.

Kalisto/Gran Metalik/Lince Dorado vs. TJP/Ariya Daivari/Tony Nese

TJP misses an early swing at Dorado and gets taken to the mat in a headscissors. Back up and Dorado dabs at TJP before taking him down with a single chop. A little arm cranking is enough to send TJP over to Nese, who can't keep up with Metalik from bouncing off the ropes. Nese finally takes him down and sends Metalik into the corner so Daivari can come in to take over.

Nigel asks where Drew Gulak is now that the Zo Train (not named) is over. Fair question actually. It's off to Kalisto with slingshot hilo, followed

by a kick to Daivari's hands (rather than his head) for two. Nese's distraction lets Daivari knock Kalisto off the ropes and out to the floor in a heap. We get to the standard beatdown in the corner, including a belly to back for two from TJP.

Nese comes back in for a chinlock but gets kicked in the head, allowing the ice cold tag to Dorado. I mean the people just did not react at all. A moonsault press gives Dorado two as everything breaks down. Kalisto and Metalik hit stereo flip dives but Dorado misses a shooting star (not a 450 as Nigel says). The Detonation Kick misses though and Dorado's handsprings Stunner ends TJP at 9:12.

Rating: C. Pretty standard six man cruiserweight match and there's not much to say about something like that. The three luchadors as a team is fine, but much like everything else on this show, there's not much of a story to go with it. I need something more than an average match to keep my interest, especially when there's very little character work to speak of. Well, outside of TJP crying of course.

Post match TJP yells at his partners but gets shoved down and blamed for the loss.

Drew Gulak, in a suit and standing in front of an American flag, supports a new General Manager but wants it to be someone who will have none of this high flying, chanting, flipping and flopping. They need to be on board with the idea of a DREWtopia. I fully support more Drew Gulak around here, especially in a bigger role.

Jack Gallagher vs. Hideo Itami

Before the match, Itami says what happened to Brian Kendrick was an accident. He respects Kendrick but not so much with Gallagher. An early kick to the face drops Gallagher in short order but a leather shoe to the ribs slows Itami down as well. An early headlock on the mat doesn't get Gallagher very far as Itami is right back up with more kicks in the corner. With Gallagher draped over the middle rope, Itami goes up for a jumping kick to the back.

Gallagher uses a referee distraction to sneak underneath the ring and

sneak up on Itami, sending him shoulder first into the buckle. Jack bends the arm around his leg and cranks on Itami's hand for good measure. We hit a double wristlock on Itami but a suplex gets Itami out of trouble.

The arm is banged up but Itami is still able to throw a knee, followed by a top rope clothesline for two. The fans are just NOT responding to this and it's kind of sad to see. A spinning fist drops Gallagher into the corner and Itami grabs a dragon sleeper, which he swings into something like a Twist of Fate Stunner with a kick to the head (it's kind of hard to describe) for the pin at 6:23.

Rating: C+. Itami needs to pick a finisher already and it needs to be something other than that one, which was more complicated than it needed to be. In theory this should wrap up their feud but since it's 205 Live, we're probably in for another five weeks between these two. At least until Kendrick gets at the latest.

Akira Tozawa thinks he could be a good boss and practices firing someone.

Cedric Alexander vs. Mustafa Ali

Cedric says the plan hasn't changed and he'll be champion soon. They shake hands to start but Cedric pulls him back and says he'll be champion. You said that already. Feeling out process to start with Ali's wristlock getting him nowhere. A hurricanrana doesn't work either as Alexander lands on his feet.

Back up and Alexander backflips into his ankle scissors for two, followed by an armbar on the mat. Ali fights up and hits a dropkick into an armbar of his own as they seem to be mirroring each other so far. Alexander breaks that up as well and shoves Ali off a springboard, sending him face first into the apron for a BAD looking crash. That's only good for two so we hit a cross arm choke to keep Ali down inside. Ali gets back up and avoids a charge in the corner, sending Alexander face first into the middle buckle.

The rolling X Factor gives Ali two but his tornado DDT is blocked and reversed into a suplex. That's reversed as well but Ali sends him into the corner. Cedric's springboard Downward Spiral gets two more and

Alexander wins a slugout. Ali is right back up with a running C4 and a wicked tornado DDT gets two. The 054 misses though and it's a Neuralizer into the Lumbar Check to give Cedric the pin at 11:49.

Rating: B. That's the kind of match 205 Live has been needed for months now and I'm very glad to be away from the constant Zo Train vs. everyone else story that we've been sitting through for such a long time. This was a lot of fun with both guys working hard and showing how awesome these guys can be if they're allowed to put something together and not sit around waiting on Enzo to do his stupid lines.

They shake hands post match.

Overall Rating: B-. Strong main event aside, this was kind of a placeholder show as we wait on the GM. I'm still not sure what the point was in having this show go longer again when you probably could have cut it down to the previous week's length. Last week's shorter run time was a nice touch but the lack of Enzo does even it out. I'm very glad that they've gotten things a little more steady, but I'm not sure how strong this show can be, at least based on past experiences.

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205 Live – January 16, 2018: The Best Thing To Happen To This Show

205 Live

Date: January 16, 2018

Location: Laredo Energy Arena, Laredo, Texas

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

Welcome to the shortened version of the show as we're now down to just half an hour thanks to Mixed Match Challenge (I need to send that show a Christmas card.). We're coming up on the Royal Rumble with Enzo Amore defending the Cruiserweight Title against Cedric Alexander (again) so let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

TJP vs. Gran Metalik

Rematch from last week where Metalik won and sent TJP into a tailspin. Thankfully Metalik is back to his normal look and out of the Black Panther style mask. TJP runs him over for a very fast one and it's off to a front facelock. You know, wrestling. Back up and Metalik hits a very high angle springboard armdrag as we see Kalisto watching backstage.

TJP is sent outside for a top rope Asai moonsault as things are starting to speed up a bit. They head inside again with Metalik trying...something off the ropes, allowing TJP to dropkick him in the back and out of the air. That's a very simple counter but it works exactly as it needs to. The slingshot hilo gives TJP two and we hit the chinlock (because of course we do).

With that not working, TJP ties him in the Tree of Woe, only to miss a baseball slide and hit the post. A superkick and a rope walk dropkick set up the rope walk elbow for a VERY close two. The Metalik Driver is countered but Metalik reverses the Detonation Kick into a rollup for the

pin at 5:17.

Rating: C. I like both of these guys and I like the fact that they didn't go with the 50/50 booking even more. There's a chance this is leading to some kind of a turn for TJP but I'm wondering what they have in mind for Metalik. Of course on this show, it's likely joining the Zo Train or nothing. At least they're going somewhere though.

Post break, TJP is livid again in the back and might be crying.

We look back at Hideo Itami attacking Jack Gallagher with Jack's own umbrella last week. As long as they don't have Itami talk, he'll be fine.

Gallagher has been hearing Brian Kendrick's face being broken over and over but now he wants to hear Itami scream. He'll find Itami's weakness and exploit it because he is now the man with a plan. So his plan is to just hurt Itami somehow? That's quite the broad plan.

Here are Cedric Alexander and Goldust for a chat. Goldust talks about how our lives are determined by opportunities. Some might say their friendship is curious but Cedric is a star on the cusp of a golden opportunity. Cedric digs that and Goldust calls him the DiCaprio to Goldust's Scorsese. So neither of them are going to win for a really long time?

Cue Enzo Amore and the Zo Train to say they deserve an Academy Award for acting all buddy buddy. Goldust doesn't appreciate being called funny because the only clown he sees is right in front of him looking like a swamp duck. Threats are issued but Enzo says Goldust has to beat the entire Zo Train first. Goldust says bring it on.

Goldust vs. Zo Train

Drew Gulak (along with Ariya Daivari and Tony Nese) starts for the team and slaps Goldust in the face. An early hip attack puts Gulak down and it's off to Daivari, who is atomic dropped for his efforts. The numbers game offers a distraction though and Daivari hammers Goldust from behind.

Nese comes in for the choking in the corner, followed by a hard running forearm. We hit the neck crank for a bit, only to have Nese miss a charge

into the corner. It's back to Gulak who eats a quick bulldog, followed by the snap powerslam for two. Nese knocks Goldust to the floor but dives onto Daivari by mistake. Cedric dives onto Enzo and the Final Cut ends Gulak at 4:00.

Rating: D. So not only does the old heavyweight come onto the cruiserweight show and get treated like a big star straight out of the gate but he beats the heel goons clean in short order. I don't want to hear about the Zo Train being anything more than lackeys ever again as this was even more destruction after they already lost almost all of their value in the first place. There is zero reason for Enzo to keep the title another day, which is why you can pencil him in for a title defense at Wrestlemania.

Overall Rating: C-. Words cannot describe how glad I am that Mixed Match Challenge is a thing for the next three months as it means this show is now half the length. This was WAY easier to sit through as they didn't have time to waste on matches that didn't need to go on as long as they did and offered nothing but filler. 205 Live would seem to be in some trouble now and I really, really hope the change is permanent even after the Mixed Match Challenge is over.

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205 Live – January 9, 2018: The British Are Sneering

205 Live

Date: January 9, 2018

Location: Legacy Arena, Birmingham, Alabama

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

Another Raw (the show where the real cruiserweight stuff happens) has come and gone and Enzo Amore is STILL Cruiserweight Champion as he retained via countout last night. Enzo also came up with a bad ankle, which means we might wait even longer before getting the title off of him. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of last night's title match with Amore injuring his ankle on a flip dive over the top, setting up the countout loss. You can probably pencil the rematch in for the Rumble and I think my head is going to explode if Enzo keeps the title any longer than that.

Opening sequence.

Earlier today, TJP came up to Gran Metalik and Kalisto in the back to brag about winning the Cruiserweight Classic. I love it when these grown men talk like thirteen year olds (albeit with the standard obsession with specific names and titles).

TJP vs. Gran Metalik

TJP returned last week and Metalik is back after his latest sabbatical for no apparent reason. Metalik now has a black mask which really doesn't suit him very well. The early flip off goes in Metalik's favor and a hard armdrag sets up an armbar on TJP. A basement dropkick has TJP in trouble as the announcers wonder if Metalik's loss in the Cruiserweight Classic final is still bothering him. If he's not over it in a year plus, he's

not getting over the thing.

Metalik misses a dive and gets caught with an uppercut on the floor. He's fine enough to dive off the steps into a hurricanrana though and it's time to head back inside. TJP kicks him in the ribs though and it's off to the Tree of Woe. The running basement dropkick gets two and we hit the chinlock.

Back up and the springboard forearm gets two (minus the nipup, which TJP loaded up and then just didn't do), followed by a belly to back suplex for the same. Metalik gets sent hard into the corner but is right back up with a sunset bomb off the post (cool looking move) to put both guys down. It's Metalik up first though with the rope walking dropkick getting two. The double chickenwing gutbuster gives TJP two but Metalik slips out of the Detonation Kick. Instead he dropkicks TJP into the Metalik Driver for the pin at 9:04.

Rating: C. What was up with the booking here? TJP comes back last week and is losing clean to Metalik here? I like both guys quite a bit but TJP losing here makes no sense whatsoever. If Enzo's booking has taught us anything, it's that 205 Live needs star power more than ever. If that's the case, keep TJP winning and find someone else for Metalik to beat. Or just keep doing what you're doing and wonder why this show is death.

Post match TJP snaps and breaks a bunch of stuff, including the announcers' area. It's nice that they're giving him something, but again STOP DOING IT RIGHT AFTER HE LOSES CLEAN!

We look at Nia Jax checking on Enzo Amore after his ankle injury on Raw.

A banged up Enzo says he's thinking about getting the Ford logo tattooed on his back because he's Ford tough. He'll be back to take care of Alexander but here's Tony Nese to say he wants back on the team. Not only that but he wants to be the top guy (the Bob to Enzo's Joker if you will). Enzo likes the idea but doesn't say yes. Egads can we get to the end of Enzo's title reign so the heels can grow some spines again?

Here's Jack Gallagher to talk about taking Hideo Itami out last week. Itami is out licking his wounds at the moment but as soon as he's back,

Gallagher has even more damage in store for him. Gallagher isn't pleased with the fans not caring but shifts back to talks of torturing Itami. This of course brings out Itami, giving us an awesome sneer from Gallagher. The fight is on with Gallagher taking an umbrella shot to the head to send Jack running off. The fans didn't quite react to this and Itami's "COME ON" didn't help matters. Just be the silent assassin because everything else isn't working for him.

Cedric Alexander is ready to win tonight and Goldust comes in to compliment him on banging Enzo up last night. Alexander promises to hurt Enzo even worse next time and Goldust likes the idea. They almost have to be getting ready to have Goldust screw him out of the title right? I have no idea what that accomplishes but it wouldn't shock me all that much. Whatever gives us more Amore right?

Tony Nese vs. Cedric Alexander

Enzo handles Nese's entrance. After some long posing to start, Nese cranks on the wristlock (way too common of a start in WWE these days). Nese takes him down and makes sure to suck up to Enzo. Cedric is sent face first into the apron and then the barricade before we hit a neck crank back inside. Back up and Cedric's chop doesn't get him very far as a hard whip sends him into the corner. Nese misses a charge though and the slingshot Downward Spiral takes him down.

For some reason he thinks going outside is a good idea, apparently never having watched a Cedric match before. The running flip dive gives Cedric two more and the springboard clothesline is good for the same (at least both looked quite good). The Neutralizer is countered into a gutbuster and Nese takes over. Another fireman's carry is escaped but Cedric hurts his knee. A very fast small package gives Cedric the pin at 8:56.

Rating: C-. Pretty standard 205 Live main event with Enzo running his mouth the whole time and taking away a lot of the focus that the wrestlers could have had. They're doing a very good job of making me want to see him lose but knowing WWE, they won't know when to pull the trigger and we'll be stuck with Enzo bringing this show down until Wrestlemania or so.

Post match Cedric is perfectly fine (and pointing at his brain) as Enzo tells Nese to get out now. Cedric looks down at Enzo's feet and kicks out the good ankle, followed by the Lumbar Check to end the show.

Overall Rating: D+. As is always the case with an Enzo era show, none of this stuff feels like it matters. TJP loses to Metalik and Gallagher vs. Itami continues? Good for them, but none of those four are likely to be near the Cruiserweight Title anytime soon (well maybe Itami) and fans seem to know it. With so much of the time going to Enzo, everyone else gets left in the dust and that's going to be a problem when you don't have Enzo on top anymore. But hey, at least 205 Live cracked the top ten WWE Network shows a few times right?

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205 Live – January 2, 2018: The Enzo P-A-R-A-D-O-X

205 Live

Date: January 2, 2018

Location: Amway Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

So this show's lull is somehow STILL GOING as Cruiserweight Champion Enzo Amore was hospitalized due to the flu, meaning the title match against Cedric Alexander was postponed yet again. There's really nothing going on at the moment because we're stuck waiting on the title match (and hopefully the title change) so there's a good chance this is going to be another lame duck show. Let's get to it.

The opening recap looks at Amore being sick and Alexander teaming with Goldust of all people to defeat Ariya Daivari and Drew Gulak. If Goldust is this show's idea of a big deal, just turned the Mixed Match Challenge into an hour show and be done with it.

Opening sequence.

Akira Tozawa vs. TJP

This is TJP's first match back in three months. Technical sequence to start until TJP hides in the ropes to avoid a charge. That's fine with Tozawa, who slams him head first into the mat twice in a row. Some overblown stomping in the corner keeps TJP down as this is quite the welcome back to the roster. A suicide dive is blocked by TJP's raised boot to the shoulder though, followed by said shoulder going into the post.

There's a slingshot hilo and TJP holsters the finger guns. I still like this guy no matter how much he's loathed more often than not. Tozawa's shoulder is cranked in various painful looking ways before TJP just stands on his face. The fans want Enzo (mark Miami down as one of the dumb cities) as TJP gets two off a hammerlock belly to back suplex. I love it when they mix up the offense like that. It's better than five armbars.

A double arm crank doesn't get TJP very far but a kick to the head gets two. Tozawa is back up with a boot to the face of his own, followed by a snap Saito suplex. A suicide dive is good for two but the top rope backplash is easily broken up. TJP sends him arm first into the post and the Detonation Kick is good for the pin at 9:55.

Rating: C. I still like TJP a lot and that's likely to be the case for a good while. He's smooth in the ring and is a good, cocky heel who can either be pushed or put someone over in almost any given circumstance. Unless he was injured, I'm not sure why he was on the shelf so long as he's someone who should be around more often. Hopefully Tozawa doesn't take his place on the list of talented people who are stuck on the sidelines for no logical reason.

Goldust comes up to Cedric Alexander in the back. After admitting that he's not under 205 pounds, Goldust talks about how he's here to help Cedric on his quest for gold. They could be a great team! Like Turner and Hooch! I know Enzo is out with the flu at the moment, but sweet goodness there was no one better than GOLDUST to replace him? That's really the best option they have? That's how much they think of this show?

Here's Jack Gallagher to demand a rematch with Hideo Itami. First though, we see a clip of Itami injuring Gallagher's friend Brian Kendrick. After looking at the clip multiple times, here's Itami for the match, only to have Gallagher beat him down with the umbrella. Itami falls down in short order and a pipe falls out of the umbrella. No match of course. That's quite the dastardly act and does the right thing here in getting Gallagher over more than anyone else in the whole thing.

The Zo Train says last night was an injustice because their open challenge was only for people on the 205 Live roster. Goldust comes up and insults their breath. Keep bringing that star power buddy.

Ariya Daivari/Drew Gulak vs. Cedric Alexander/Goldust

Cedric and Daivari feels each other out to start until Daivari pulls him down by the hair. That earns him a dropkick though and it's off to an armbar. The fans want Goldust and get their wish as he cranks on Gulak's arm for a change. Goldust tries to run the ropes but stops for a second because he needs to catch his breath in a funny bit.

For some reason Daivari stands there before kneeling him in the ribs (Politeness maybe?) and hands it off to Gulak for an armbar. We hit the chinlock for a bit until Cedric sends Daivari into the buckle. There's no tag though and Cedric is sent face first in as well, cutting off whatever

momentum he had built up.

It's back to the chinlock as Nigel sends well wishes to Enzo. Cedric is sent into the steps and let's hit that chinlock all over again. The Neutralizer finally gets Cedric out of trouble and the hot tag brings in Goldust. House is cleaned and Goldust powerslams both villains. A blind tag brings in Cedric with the springboard clothesline and Goldust helps him on a big flip dive. The Lumbar Check finishes Gulak at 11:55.

Rating: D. Didn't we pretty firmly establish this last night? It's no secret that Goldust and Cedric (or Cedric and a stuffed turtle at this point) can beat these goons but since WE MUST WAIT ON ENZO, this is all they can do anymore. It's almost like the NXT: Redemption season where they would just throw people out there (including Goldust actually) when they needed to extend a story. Pretty dull match, mainly because everything was already established the night before.

Overall Rating: D-. And that right there is why Enzo is a major, major problem on this show. There's really nothing else of value on the show and if he's gone, there's almost nothing important happening on the show. Due to multiple reasons now, we've been sitting around waiting on Cedric vs. Enzo, which will hopefully FINALLY get us back to a normal show around here. The problem though is if Enzo retains, we're stuck waiting on another challenger to rise up and take the title.

Without Enzo around, there's really no point in this show existing, and that's not even considering that it's become 2011 Smackdown: a place where you put Raw rematches for the sake of filling in TV time because there's nothing else to air. Bring some people up from NXT for some one off appearances, have some crazy five way elimination match, do the freaking challenges from the original NXT or whatever. Just do SOMETHING more interesting than this waste of time.

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205 Live: Where the Cruiserweights Are These Days

205 Live

Date: December 26, 2017

Location: Allstate Arena, Chicago, Illinois

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

We're continuing the slow crawl towards the Cedric Alexander vs. Enzo Amore Cruiserweight Title match, which of course is taking place on Monday Night Raw instead of 205 Live. As has been mentioned, it's clear that this show is little more than a filler show anymore and that's not fixing any of its problems. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Enzo Amore having issues with the Zo Train and having Cedric Alexander pick the members off without much trouble.

Cedric comes up to Drew Gulak, who is waiting on Enzo (his best friend) to call. Drew tells him to mind his own business but Cedric says it'll be a wonderful life when Enzo is no longer champion. Cedric talks about how much better things will be once Enzo is out of power and Drew seems to entertain the thought.

Opening sequence.

Hideo Itami vs. Jack Gallagher

Before the match, Gallagher promises to avenge his friend in front of

these Chicago pillocks. Nigel says he's faced a lot of opponents in his career but he was always scared of Itami. I love it when wrestlers mention their careers like that as it reminds you that they actually do have a perspective that can matter in a match like this. Itami knees him in the ribs and again demands respect.

The kick to the face keeps Gallagher in trouble and a Fameasser with Gallagher on the middle rope gives us another respect demand. If you have to shout it three times less than two minutes into the match, it's time for a better catchphrase. Gallagher ties him up in the ring skirt to take over though and we hit a quickly broken chinlock.

Instead it's a cravate to keep Itami in trouble and we're right back to the chinlock. Itami finally grabs a dragon screw legwhip and there's the tornado DDT across the top rope. Back up and Gallagher pulls him into the Captain's Hook but Itami makes the rope. The running corner dropkick rocks Gallagher and a Rings of Saturn (with a leg wrapped around Gallagher's head) is good for the tap at 7:38.

Rating: D+. Itami just doesn't have the fire that he needs and it's showing more every time. Throw in the lack of the GTS (which hopefully isn't permanent) and there's just not much to look forward to with him. He's not the biggest guy in the world and he has limited charisma. He's tailor suited to be the assassin style heel but for some reason he's stuck in this lame face role. Oh right: Enzo has to be the top heel. What was I thinking?

Video on Tony Nese's issues with the Zo Train, leading to him getting beaten down by the team.

Nese wants to take the Zo Train out but he understands that Enzo is a global superstar and the money is more than worth it. Akira Tozawa comes up to ask about Nese's status and gets punched out. To recap: Enzo is the star and everyone else on 205 Live is a worthless nobody. Good to know.

Tony Nese vs. Akira Tozawa

That's quite the fast turnaround. Tozawa charges in with some right hands at the bell but Nese hammers him down in the corner. The fake out right

hand smacks Nese in the jaw though and Tozawa scores with his backplash. Nese kicks him in the head though and drops some legs for good measure.

We hit the neck crank and then a chinlock with a bodyscissors to really keep Tozawa down. Tozawa finally comes back with a suplex and now the suicide dive connects. Back in and a good looking pumphandle sitout powerslam gives Nese two but he gets kicked in the head over and over. Tozawa's top rope backplash is broken up though and the running knee gives Nese the pin at 6:48.

Rating: C. Tozawa is far more charismatic than Itami and it's no surprise that I liked his match more. Nese on the other hand is in a weird place as he should be teasing a face turn but I think WWE knows that it would be career suicide. He needs a little more development too as you can only go so far with great abs.

We look at Alexa Bliss breaking up Nia Jax and Enzo's kiss on Monday.

Drew Gulak/Ariya Daivari vs. Cedric Alexander/Mustafa Ali

Before the match, Gulak asks how we are doing. Drew thinks we need a Best Of list and that means a look back at his best slide. What better way to do that than with a POWERPOINT PRESENTATION??? Cedric cuts him off again and Nigel wants to know who is in charge of music.

Alexander points out that we're in Mustafa's hometown and Ali has some valid points of his own to make. Ali says these two would never be friends outside of the Zo Train because Daivari is the kind of guy who would look down on a blue collar scrapper like Gulak. All that matters is Enzo would pick Nia Jax over the Zo Train every time, which doesn't sit well with the villains.

Ali and Daivari start things off with Ariya hammering away with Daivari getting armdragged into an armbar. It's off to Cedric and Drew, who fight over a wristlock of their own. Ali comes back in with some hard chops but Daivari offers a distraction so Gulak can drop Mustafa from behind. We hit the neck crank and the hometown fans are WAY behind Ali here.

Back up and Ali makes the hot tag for some house cleaning but Alexander

gets kneed out to the floor. Alexander gets in a kick to the head though and it's a hot tag off to Ali, though the fans don't seem thrilled. A corkscrew flip dive to Daivari wakes them up a bit more and the rolling X Factor gets two. Daivari takes Ali up top but Gulak tells him nothing off the top. That earns Gulak a Lumbar Check and the 054 puts Daivari away at 8:51.

Rating: C. Now stop me if you've seen this one before, but odds are you've seen this one before. There's only so much interest to be had in a match (or a show for that matter) when everything of note happens on Raw anymore. The title contenders were crowned on Raw, the #1 contenders match was on Raw and now the title match is going to be on Raw.

Overall Rating: D+. There's just nothing going on around here and that's quite the shame. Enzo being gone continues to be a problem whether he's here or not. When he's here, he dominates the entire show and nothing else matters. When he's not here, almost none of the stories goes anywhere because there's no point to them without Enzo around. Given that your big story is basically "Enzo is awesome and none of us matter", that's not the biggest surprise. This was another skippable show, which isn't going to be made any better when the title match is on Raw, but that's where 205 is these days.

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205 Live – December 19, 2017: Maybe Gulak Does Make a Better 205 Live

205 Live

Date: December 19, 2017

Location: Prudential Center, Newark, New Jersey

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

The big story tonight is the (second) debut of Hideo Itami, who made his main roster debut last night on Raw in further proof of the fact that 205 Live really doesn't need to exist. Other than that we have a new #1 contender in the form of Cedric Alexander in a title match with a date to be announced. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of last night's #1 contenders match. Again: why does this show exist when the big story happens on Raw?

Opening sequence.

Tonight: a rematch of Alexander vs. Gulak. THIS SHOW DOES NOT NEED TO BE AROUND!

Kalisto/Gran Metalik vs. Brian Kendrick/Jack Gallagher

Before the match, Kendrick talks about Metalik getting involved in their business last week. Kalisto nips out of Kendrick's wristlock to start but doesn't have as much luck with a top wristlock. Some chops put Kalisto in the corner but he comes out with kicks and a headscissors. Nothing wrong with some lucha. Metalik comes in for the rope walk crossbody but gets kicked in the face to cut him off.

Not that it matters as he rope walks into a dropkick to Gallagher, setting up the double flip dives to the floor. Back in and Gallagher ties

Metalik in the Tree of Woe (because you should be doing that fifteen seconds after a big high spot) for the running dropkick before starting in on the leg. Kendrick comes in for a half crab before shifting to just pulling on the leg. It's back to Gallagher for more leg pulling as this match is rapidly dying.

Kendrick takes him to the top, only to get pulled down into a faceplant. The hot tag brings in Kalisto with a springboard seated senton and a double armdrag. The hurricanrana driver and the Salida Del Sol get two with Kendrick making the save. That's actually enough as the match is thrown out at 8:56.

Rating: C. The match wasn't the worst but that leg work in the middle destroyed the crowd's entrance. It doesn't help when you've seen some combination of these four have very similar matches for far too long now and it's not getting any better. They need to mix things up a bit, or just let them fight some fresh opponents. I know it's crazy but maybe they could TALK about their issues to hype up the matches a bit. That's nuts right?

Post match Kendrick and Gallagher use the steps to crush Metalik's leg.

Enzo yells at Gulak and Ariya Daivari for Cedric getting the title shot. Gulak takes the blame and says he can make up for it by taking Cedric out tonight. Enzo tells Daivari to show some emotion. As usual, Gulak is one of the best things about this show without doing anything more than making simple things look good through delivery.

Hideo Itami vs. Colin Delaney

Itami wastes no time in kicking Colin down before shouting RESPECT ME. The tornado DDT into a neck snap across the rope sets up the top rope clothesline. Itami hits a running corner dropkick and the GTS is good for the pin at 1:51. Total and complete squash, as it should have been.

We look back at Tony Nese standing up to Enzo and getting beaten down as a result.

Enzo says that was a learning experience. Cedric comes in and Enzo mocks

him for needing a second chance to qualify for the title match. Alexander says if Enzo was so great, he wouldn't need the Zo Train. There's only one word to describe him. Enzo: "Champion."

Cedric Alexander vs. Drew Gulak

Enzo is with Gulak. Before the match, Drew says there will be no chanting and tonight he'll only make one PowerPoint. Tonight, he'll overpower Cedric and make a salient point. They fight over a lockup to start until a palm strike drops Alexander in the corner. It's off to the knee with Gulak dropping some elbows and grabbing a leglock.

Cedric fights up and kicks him in the face, only to get chopped and kicked down again. That's quite different for Gulak and it's kind of working for me. Drew takes him outside for a posting before we hit the chinlock. That's switched into an armbar with Drew wrapping his leg around Cedric's face for a little bonus. Cedric fights back with a string of clotheslines, followed by a flip dive dropkick to the chest (cool) to knock Gulak silly.

Gulak is rocked but manages to avoid the C4. A clothesline gets two on Cedric and Enzo is elated. Cedric is right back with the bottom rope springboard Downward Spiral but gets tripped down into that seated STF. Drew shifts it over into a crossface chickenwing but Cedric makes the rope. Back up and Alexander loads him up for a superplex, only to be shoved back down. Drew slowly climbs down, allowing Cedric to grab the Lumbar Check for the pin at 11:53.

Rating: B. I had a blast with this one as they had one of the best matches 205 Live has put together in a long time. Gulak is getting better in the ring every single week and Cedric is always fun to watch. They were having some extra energy this time around and it was much better than their Raw match. Again though, if you're going to have a better version of the same match, why in the world did you do the first one on Raw?

Daivari tries to run in but gets a Lumbar Check as well.

Overall Rating: B. Good show this week, Raw induced problems aside. The

one thing I'm worried about is how long they want to stretch out Enzo vs. Cedric. They couldn't possibly try to get this all the way to the Rumble right? I mean, I'd be fine with the match taking place on the first Raw of the year but there's not enough stuff to build to what should be a one sided match. Gulak vs. Alexander was very good and Hideo's debut was solid, making this one of the better shows they've done.

Results

Brian Kendrick/Jack Gallagher vs. Kalisto/Gran Metalik went to a double DQ when all four brawled in the ring

Hideo Itami b. Colin Delaney – GTS

Cedric Alexander b. Drew Gulak – Lumbar Check

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205 Live – December 12, 2017: Check the Date on Enzo

[205 Live](#)

Date: December 12, 2017

Location: US Bank Arena, Cincinnati, Ohio

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

So you remember how last week's show was basically a placeholder before we got to the #1 contenders match on Raw this week? You remember how the first question a lot of people had was why is the #1 contenders match happening on Raw and not on the Cruiserweight show? Well we're in the exact same place this week. Let's get to it.

The opening recap looks at last night's Second Chance four way with Cedric Alexander earning a spot in Monday's #1 contenders match.

Opening sequence.

Before the first match, Drew Gulak is here with Ariya Daivari and says he's getting closer to his vision of a better 205 Live. Gulak compares Cedric to the Grinch for stealing Daivari's second chance and says tonight, Alexander is pounded into dirt. On to sadder news: Noam Dar has had to undergo knee surgery and will be missing some time. However, Drew has a 93 step plan for rehabilitation in the form of a POWERPOINT PRESENTATION! And never mind as we have another interruption.

Cedric Alexander vs. Ariya Daivari

Cedric wastes no time in working on a wristlock while Drew uses his bullhorn to tell the fans to stop chanting. A dropkick sets up the armbar as dueling WE LOVE CEDRIC/POWERPOINT chants start up. Cedric misses a springboard but Drew breaks up a dive while demanding that Alexander stay off that top rope.

Gulak gets in a cheap shot on the floor and the dueling chants begin again. A bulldog gives Daivari two and we hit the chinlock. Cedric fights up without much effort and elbows him in the face. It's too early for the Lumbar Check though and Daivari breaks up a Neuralizer. Instead it's a spinebuster to plant Cedric again but Daivari goes to the top. The frog splash gets two but the second Neuralizer attempt works just fine. Cedric Lumbar Checks him for the pin at 8:03.

Rating: C-. Acceptable but lifeless match here with Gulak stealing yet another show. The problem here was very clear: why would you have any other ending besides Alexander winning clean? He's going on to face Gulak on Monday in a big match and that made this a waste of time. Alexander is always worth a watch but with Raw being where the important stuff happens, it's hard to care about something like this.

We look back at last night's segment with Enzo looking to yell at Gulak but getting cut off by a lovesick Nia Jax.

Enzo yells at the Zo Train but Gulak apologizes for what he said last night. It's not impossible that he could become the next Cruiserweight Champion though. Enzo yells but Tony Nese cuts him off, only to have Enzo call him stupid. He built the Zo Train with his fist and built this show from the ground up. Things calm down a bit but Enzo says he wants the Zo Train at ringside when he faces Nese tonight.

Kalisto vs. Jack Gallagher

Before the match, Brian Kendrick talks about his dream of being Cruiserweight Champion in WWE. Since he lost the title, he hasn't been given a chance to get his title back. Kalisto showed up and got opportunity after opportunity though and that's not right. Gallagher tells Kalisto to watch his step or he'll springboard into a spider's web. Kalisto doesn't seem scared and we're ready to go.

A headlock takes Kalisto to the mat to start but he pops up and sends Gallagher into the corner without much effort. Gallagher gets dropkicked out to the floor but blocks a kick and sends Kalisto's leg into the post. Back in and Gallagher starts working on the knee like an evil Englishman should. The bad leg is wrapped around the ropes and a twist pulls it back down to the mat.

Jack even mocks the LUCHA dance before grabbing a Brock Lock. I can always appreciate it when someone mixes up their holds like this. There's no reason to keep doing the same stuff over and over, especially when you're billed as a submission specialist. Kalisto gets out and hits a middle rope moonsault press for two. The hurricanrana driver gets a delayed near fall of its own, followed by a nipup hurricanrana for the

pin on Gallagher at 8:53.

Rating: C+. This would have been better if there was any reason to believe that Gallagher was going to win. You really can tell who is going to win most of these matches and that's the case far more around here than on any other show. There's a hierarchy around 205 Live and people like Gallagher, despite being immensely talented, is on the wrong end of it.

Post match the beatdown is on but Gran Metalik makes the save.

Gulak tries to talk Enzo out of the match with Nese, but Enzo promises a technical spectacle.

Hideo Itami arrives next week.

Enzo Amore vs. Tony Nese

Non-title. Nese doesn't seem thrilled with this, not even showing off his physique on the way to the ring. Before the match, Enzo calls the Zo Train an unbreakable unit, which seems to annoy Gulak. Enzo runs his mouth to start and shows off his foot speed. Trash is talked as there's no contact in the first minute and a half. Enzo finally slaps him and asks what Nese is thinking. Nese backs him into the corner but Daivari comes in for the DQ at 2:40.

The post match beatdown is on and Gulak really doesn't seem happy with any of this. Enzo loads up the Jordunzo but lets Nese go, telling Gulak to get in and prove his worth. Gulak finally gets on the apron as the fans aren't thrilled with this stuff. He gets in Enzo's face...and then kicks Nese down, albeit reluctantly. Now the fans are chanting THIS IS BORING as Gulak slaps Nese in the face a few times. Enzo puts his coat on and hits the Jordunzo (Oh no. Nese's head went down a full ten inches!) to end the show.

Overall Rating: D+. What is the point of this show anymore? To fill in time before we get to the big stuff on Monday? In theory they're setting up Alexander winning on Monday and Gulak not helping Enzo in the title match (I'd be stunned if they put the title on Gulak) to get the title

off of Amore, but they're beating Nese down to get there? This story might wind up making sense (it probably will) but egads they're making this show feel more and more worthless every week.

The other problem is Enzo himself. Back when he moved to 205 Live, I thought Enzo would have a short shelf life. We're already reaching that point. You can only go so long with the smoke and mirrors of him never wrestling or doing anything more than cutting funny promos. That's where we are now and he's bringing other people down with him. There's enough fresh blood and upgraded characters to make 205 Live every bit as worthless without Enzo around so just give us something new already.

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205 Live – December 5, 2017: Drewtopia!

205 Live

Date: December 5, 2017

Location: Valley View Casino Center, San Diego, California

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

We're in a weird place with this show as the big #1 contenders match is coming up on Raw, making this show all the less important. On top of that, Enzo Amore is out of the country this week and has put Drew Gulak in charge. I'm sure nothing bad will come of this whatsoever. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Gulak becoming the second entrant in the #1 contender match by winning a four way last night on Raw.

Opening sequence.

Here's Gulak to open things up by asking how we are all doing. His mentor has appointed him as the leader of the Zo Train but this Monday, Drew is going to become the new #1 contender and face Enzo to become the new Cruiserweight Champion. It's PowerPoint time but Cedric Alexander comes out to cut him off for their match. Hang on a second though, as Drew is using his new authority to delegate matches. Therefore, Cedric will be facing someone else tonight. Someone who has been S-O-F-T as of late.

Cedric Alexander vs. Noam Dar

Gulak sits in on commentary. Dar cranks on a headlock to start but Cedric nips up and scores with a good looking dropkick. He stops to glare at Gulak though, allowing Dar to kick out at two. Dar gets sent outside where Gulak points out an incoming dive, allowing Gulak to kick Cedric down to take over.

Back in and Dar works on the arm until he realizes that isn't getting him anywhere. Instead he kicks Cedric in the face, only to be kicked away. The springboard clothesline gets two but another kick cuts Cedric down. Dar goes up but Gulak freaks out, saying they talked about this. He comes back down and walks into the Neuralizer, followed by the Lumbar Check for the pin at 5:44.

Rating: D+. Nothing special here, aside from Gulak getting to show off some more of his entertaining personality. Dar is still one of the least interesting performers on the roster and Enzo looking down on him isn't doing him much good. I have no idea why Swann is in the title picture instead of Cedric but I'd bet on WWE not paying much attention.

205 Live is running some house shows next month.

Swann, Mustafa Ali and Akira Tozawa are fired up for the tour. Ali switches over to Gulak, who made him miss Enzo. The interviewer comes up to ask Swann about Gulak being in charge of the Zo Train. Swann doesn't mind though as he's going to go out and stay classy San Diego.

Brian Kendrick vs. Gran Metalik

Kendrick has Jack Gallagher with him. Earlier today, the two of them talked about being glad Kalisto is gone tonight. Metalik grabs an early springboard wristdrag to start and Kendrick needs a breather. Back up and Metalik runs the ropes into a middle rope dropkick, followed by a dive onto Gallagher. A springboard missile dropkick takes Kendrick down again but Metalik heads into the crowd.

With a running start, Metalik drives over the barricade for a hurricanrana to keep Kendrick in trouble. Gallagher grabs Metalik's leg though and Brian gets in a few shots to take over. Back in and we hit the choke on the ropes but it's too early for Sliced Bread. Instead it's a knee to the face and the Captain's Hook to give Kendrick the win at 5:48.

Rating: C+. This was a tale of two halves with Metalik dominating the early part but getting completely destroyed in the end. I'm still a fan of Metalik but it's pretty clear that he's only going to be there to put others over. It was more entertaining than I was expecting, even if Kendrick vs. Kalisto is little more than a way to get Kalisto back on track.

We look back at Nia Jax having a thing for Enzo.

Gulak yells at the Zo Train, again comparing the team to the Justice League. The thing is Ariya Daivari is Wonder Woman: a fierce warrior with a great sense of fashion.

Hideo Itami is still coming. We get some tweets from some members of the roster, who are excited to have him around.

Tony Nese vs. Rich Swann

Gulak is in Nese's corner so Swann brings Cedric with him. Nese wastes no time in kicking Swann down into the corner and then sweeping the leg to put him on the floor. That's fine with Swann who pops up for a middle rope flip dive to take Nese down as well. Back in and Nese takes over again, this time slapping on a bodyscissors.

The situp kicks to the ribs keep Swann in trouble but Nese misses a Lionsault. He's fine enough for a sitout pumphandle powerslam though and Swann is right back in trouble. Said trouble only lasts a few seconds though as Swann is right back up with a spinning kick to the head, followed by the Phoenix splash for the pin at 7:59.

Rating: C-. Another rather dull match to end a rather dull show. Swann winning was obvious and it's not a good sign when Gulak being upset at not wanting to upset Enzo was the most entertaining part. You could have had any member of the team out there and it wouldn't have changed a thing, which isn't the best sign in the world.

Post match Gulak calls in the Zo Train but the villains take forever just standing there, allowing Tozawa and Ali to come in for the save to end the show.

Overall Rating: D. This is a tricky one to grade as it was built around Drew Gulak, who was rather entertaining. The problem is the show itself didn't work, mainly because none of this matters. We're building towards Swann vs. Gulak for the title shot but with that match already set up and Enzo not here, none of this really matters. It made the show feel like a waste of time, which is what happens when you focus so much of your storytelling on one idea. The wrestling was really lackluster though and it made for a dull night, which isn't a good sign when things need to be picking up.

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205 Live – November 28, 2017: A Very 205 Live Anniversary

205 Live

Date: November 28, 2017

Location: Rupp Arena, Lexington, Kentucky

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

The show is in a weird place for the next few weeks at the moment as they're setting up a new #1 contender but it's going to take a little while to get there. We have one member of the #1 contenders match but since the matches are taking place on Raw, there's only so much need for this show to even exist right now. Let's get to it.

Of note: I was in the arena for this show so it's my second time seeing it.

The opening recap looks at last night's fatal four way with Rich Swann qualifying for the #1 contenders match in two weeks.

Opening sequence.

The announcers thank us for watching 205 Live for one year now. Sweet goodness how low does the viewership have to be for us to not thank us?

Here are Enzo Amore and Noam Dar for an opening chat. Enzo's mic doesn't seem to work on the way to the ring so he waits until he gets inside to talk about having the Zo Train getting to the top of the cruiserweight

Mount Rushmore. Last week the Zo Train got a little derailed because someone thought we were playing Mario Kart and slipped on a banana peel. That would be Dar, who needs to TOTALLY redeem himself tonight.

Rich Swann vs. Noam Dar

Before the match, Swann says he hasn't been Cruiserweight Champion in about a year (closer to ten months actually) but he's getting closer every day. Not much to say there Swann. Dar hits the floor at the bell (must be a Kevin Owens fan) before heading back in to crank on a wristlock. That's reversed into another wristlock, sending Dar back outside.

Swann isn't waiting this time and takes Dar out with a flip dive from the apron, much to Enzo's chagrin. Swann's Rolling Thunder gets two but an Enzo distraction lets Dar get in a kick to the knee. A clothesline to the back of the head gives Dar two but he keeps holding his knee. Enzo: "What are you, Big Cass? GET THE JOB DONE!" Back up and Swann kicks him in the head, setting up the Phoenix splash for the pin at 4:42.

Rating: D+. Dar continues to do nothing for me and Swann winning here was hardly a surprise. The problem here is the continuing story of the Zo Train: how much difference does it make to have Swann win here? Enzo will just talk a lot and the wins will be traded over and over until no one but Enzo and the eventual #1 contender gets anywhere.

Enzo threatens to fire Dar if he keeps screwing up.

Kalisto is ready to start his comeback against Jack Gallagher.

Kalisto vs. Jack Gallagher

Brian Kendrick is in Gallagher's corner. Gallagher works on the arm to start but is quickly taken down into a wristlock. They fight over the same hold until Kalisto realizes that's not the best idea against Gallagher. Instead he fires off the kicks, only to have a Kendrick distraction let Jack take over again.

There's a knee to the gut to cut Kalisto off again and Gallagher stays on the ribs like an evil Englishman should. We hit the cross arm choke with

Gallagher bending him back onto the knees. That goes nowhere so Kalisto hits his rolling kick to the head, followed by the springboard seated senton. A quick Salida Del Sol drops Gallagher but Kendrick comes in for the DQ at 6:23.

Rating: C. Kalisto vs. Kendrick/Gallagher could be fun, though I'm not sure how many times you can trot the two of them out there for pretty much the same feud. At least Kalisto is entertaining and fast paced enough to keep up the entertainment, which should make for a nice dynamic. He'll need a partner though, which hopefully means more Gran Metalik.

Hideo Itami is coming.

Rich Swann, Cedric Alexander and Mustafa Ali are watching the Itami video in the back and say they're worried about those strikes. It turns into a discussion of who will be facing Swann but everything is cool.

Mustafa Ali/Cedric Alexander vs. Drew Gulak/Tony Nese

These four will be in the other four way on Monday. Before the match, Gulak praises Nese's physique and says Enzo has dubbed them Team Power Point. See, Nese has power and Gulak always gets straight to the point. Drew thinks the Zo Train is like the Justice League with Enzo acting as their Superman. As a bonus though, Drew has a POWERPOINT PRESENTATION! I never would have believed it but he's got something with that bit. As usual, entrance music cuts him off and we're ready to go.

Drew gets annoyed at the POWERPOINT chants, allowing Cedric to get the better of a wristlock. It's off to Nese vs. Ali for some more wristlockery, which has been really common tonight. Nese gets armdragged into an armbar but Cedric goes over to yell at Gulak, meaning he's not there for a tag. The tag works a few seconds later but Cedric walks into one of the loudest chops I've ever heard.

Throw in a running elbow to the jaw and Alexander is in some quick trouble. Back in and Nese hits the ab crunch kicks to the ribs. Gulak grabs something like half an STF before switching to a regular chinlock. Cedric makes the expected escape and the hot tag brings in Ali for the

comeback. The rolling X Factor gets two and a Doomsday Device with a high crossbody instead of a clothesline is good for the same. Face miscommunication sends Cedric outside though and Nese gets a rollup for the pin at 9:31.

Rating: C-. This was a lifeless match and it was clearly just there to help set up Monday's match. That's not the most thrilling thing in the world and the time didn't make things any better. Gulak is getting more entertaining now that he's found his personality niche but the story still isn't much.

Overall Rating: D+. As usual, the wrestling is passable for the most part but the storytelling is just dreadful for the most part. Everything is setting up the title shot against Enzo but why should I believe that would be anything more than Enzo cheating to retain the title all over again? At least there's something else now in the form of Kalisto vs. Gallagher, which is a necessary update.

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205 Live – November 21, 2017: Always Leave On A Dance

205 Live

Date: November 21, 2017

Location: Toyota Center, Houston, Texas

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

It's one of the final shows from Houston as we hit the cruiserweight division. Enzo Amore is still Cruiserweight Champion and the question now is who comes next. Kalisto has been dispatched (again) and it's not clear who will be going after the title again. The show is being turned into a faction warfare and that could go multiple ways. Let's get to it.

The Zo Train (minus Drew Gulak) has a Thanksgiving dinner prepared in the back. Enzo (in a Randy Savage shirt) says he's now 5G and therefore they're all connected. He's gotten them all matches tonight but they better rep to Enzo brand like a barbell. If they do well, Christmas could come early in the form of a recommendation for a Cruiserweight Title shot. Enzo wants to know where Gulak is but here's the Gobbledy Gooker. Naturally that's Gulak, who says he's the Gobbledy Gulaker. Gulak: "You told me to loosen up!" Enzo is disappointed.

Opening sequence.

The announcers chat for a bit.

Drew Gulak vs. Akira Tozawa

Street fight. Gulak comes out in jeans, which is a really odd look for him. Drew isn't usually into this but if Enzo is from the streets, Drew needs to help clean them up. However, that might get his hands dirty so it's time for a very special POWERPOINT PRESENTATION! Or not as Tozawa cuts him off, sending Drew into a near fit. Gulak bails to the floor with his hands covering his ears as the chanting starts early this week.

Back in and Tozawa kicks him in the chest, setting up some screaming.

Tozawa kicks him outside again but the suicide dive is countered into a suplex onto the ramp. A clothesline messes with Tozawa's throat, meaning no more chanting. That's rather evil and something you wouldn't have expected from a show like this.

Some chairs are thrown in but Gulak would rather slap him in the face for two instead. Drew puts the No Chants sign in the corner but gets suplexed through the handle, which has to be rather painful to at least a few inches of skin. The fans want tables so Tozawa pulls one out, only to get suplexed into the corner as well.

The table is set up in the corner but have to settle for Tozawa throwing Drew over the announcers' table instead. A good looking flip dive off said table has Gulak in even more trouble and it's time for more weapons. Tozawa puts a trashcan over him and swings away with a kendo stick. The top rope backslash through the table ends Gulak at 11:12.

Rating: B. They were getting close to that next level here but they never could flip the switch on. Tozawa is good for a hardcore brawler and it was cool to see Gulak move up to another level of violence every now and then. Good, hard hitting brawl here that needed a little more to become great.

Hideo Itami is coming to 205 Live. Well it's not like he's going to do much in NXT so get him up here while he's healthy.

Tony Nese doesn't think much of Itami but Amore seems nervous. If Nese doesn't get, better, he won't be on the Zo Train much longer. Rich Swann, Cedric Alexander and Mustafa Ali come in and trade some insults.

Tony Nese vs. Mustafa Ali

Hang on a second as Nese needs to show off the abs. That just earns him a wristlock though and even a slam won't break it up. Now that's some dedication. Nese goes with some stomping but gets sent outside for a heck of a flip dive from the top. Ali might not have the best charisma in the world but he can throw some pretty dives.

Back in and Nese grabs a chinlock to slow things down, only to miss a

charge into the corner. Ali switches things up a bit with a rolling X Factor instead of the rolling neckbreaker but he can't follow up. The 054 takes way too long though and Nese sends him HARD into the post. The running knee in the corner ends Ali at 7:05.

Rating: C. Just a quick match here with Nese giving the Zo Train what is likely its only win tonight. This feels like the kind of show designed to give the fans a lot of stuff to cheer for and Nese winning should keep it from being a clean sweep. It helps that Nese is a simple character who does his thing quite well. I mean, it's hard to argue with someone being in that kind of shape.

Daivari and Dar are ready to impress Enzo too. Enzo will be in the front row, but Gulak, back in the turkey suit, is stuck in time out.

Ariya Daivari/Noam Dar vs. Rich Swann/Cedric Alexander

Enzo is at ringside. Daivari and Cedric start things off with a rather long feeling out process until Cedric scores with a dropkick. Swann comes in for the Rolling Thunder as Enzo is talking to the fans. It's off to Dar, who gets caught with a good looking springboard clothesline. Cedric's ankle scissors is countered with a kick to the ribs though and it's time for some villainous control.

Both guys take turns kicking away as Enzo continues to talk trash from the floor. Alexander finally rolls away and makes the diving tag off to Swann for almost no reaction. Enzo breaks up the Phoenix splash though and Daivari's frog splash gets a rather close two. If back to Dar who gets kicked in the head but Cedric goes after Enzo, earning himself a baseball slide from Dar. Back in and Swann kicks Dar in the head again, setting up the Phoenix splash for the pin at 8:07.

Rating: C+. The energy was there, even if the fans weren't exactly thrilled. Swann and Alexander are a good tag team and every time they're out there, I can't help but wonder why they're not a midcard team on the main roster. It's not like the shows have anything better at the moment.

Post match Enzo comes in to beat on Swann until Tozawa and Ali come down. Cue Nese and Gulak to cut them off though and the big beatdown ensues.

Enzo hits a top rope splash onto both guys and it's a group dance to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. This was a strong show by 205 Live's standards and I'm glad to see them having a little more energy. That being said, I'm rarely a fan of having one storyline completely dominate the show like this. If you're not a fan of the good guys vs. the Zo Train, there's no reason to watch the show. In theory this sets up Itami as the next star, but it wouldn't shock me to have him just be another name on Amore's list. If nothing else I'd love to see Cedric get the title at some point, as he's certainly earned it. Good show this week.

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