

Lucha Underground – September 5, 2018: Pequeno Buneo



IMG Credit: Lucha Underground

Lucha Underground

Date: September 5, 2018

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Los Angeles, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

I guess this is the reception show. Last week saw the first ever wedding in Lucha Underground history, with Johnny Mundo marrying Taya, only to have Matanza interrupt and wreck everything in sight. This could make for some interesting prospects as we go forward so let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

The opening recap looks at Mil Muertes burying Fenix, the issues between the former Trios Champions and of course the wedding.

Catrina says she's done with Mil and never loved him. She leaves to be with the man she really loves but runs into Melissa Santos for the big movie style fight. Catrina seems to get the better of it but leaves by going up some stairs. Melissa follows and gets pulled down into an armbreaker, only to say that she'll kill Catrina. They fight

outside with Melissa taking her jacket off for the fan service moment.

Melissa gets a guillotine choke but Catrina chokes her way out and steals the medallion Fenix gave Melissa to choke some more. That's broken up as well and Melissa knocks her off the roof, with Catrina hanging on by a pipe. Melissa takes one of the hands off and here's Muertes to grab Catrina's arm. He tells her to go, puts the stone in her hand, and lets her fall off the Temple.

On the ground, Catrina is dead (with only her limbs showing) when Melissa and Aerostar show up. He knows she didn't do this and tells her to give him the medallion so he can return her heart's desire. Melissa hands it over and Aerostar absorbs Fenix's life force from Catrina before traveling back in time.

We cut to ten weeks ago, where Catrina steals Fenix's life force in the first place. She leaves and Aerostar returns it to Fenix, whose eyes open. Back in the present, Aerostar brings Fenix to Melissa, while saying it will take some time for Fenix to return to himself. Fenix stares blankly and there is something in his eyes. Aerostar disappears, wrapping up this bizarre segment that you don't see every day in wrestling. I think the Fantastics did it back in World Class back in 86 though.

The announcers recap the wedding chaos.

Joey Wrestling vs. Matanza

Matanza comes in from behind and hits some knees to the back, followed by some whips into the corner. An Avalanche sets up the bearhug but Joey manages a Death Valley Driver. A pair of low blows set up a Pedigree...and Matanza is right back up. Another splash in the corner sets up the Wrath of the Gods to finish Joey at 2:54. Better than you might have expected.

Big Bad Steve vs. Killshot

Steve has Brenda with him. Killshot kicks him in the knee and takes him down for a quick leglock. Cue Son of Havoc with a bucket of popcorn and a Coke, the former of which he shares with the crowd. That's a good role model. A dropkick to the knee sets up something like a standing Figure Four.

Steve gets hit in the face and suplexed down again but Killshot doesn't follow up. The delay lets Steve try a fireman's carry but

Killshot dropkicks him in the chest to escape. Brenda's advice: "Kill him." A pop up cutter drops Killshot and a package piledriver into flipping faceplant gets two. Killshot slips out of a superplex and kicks him down, setting up the Killstomp for the pin at 7:21.

Rating: C-. Killshot is crazy good at times and that's the case anywhere he goes. Steve was little more than a practice dummy here and really, what else were you expecting him to do? Killshot looked awesome and I'd love to see him get a bigger push around here. He certainly does in other places, so it's not out of the question.

Post match the fight with Havoc is on and Killshot loses his mask, freaking him out.

Lucha Underground Title: Pentagon Dark vs. Johnny Mundo

Mundo is challenging....or at least he would be if he was here. Pentagon wanted to give the couple the wedding gift of a broken arm, so someone get out here and have their bones broken. It's open challenge time.

Lucha Underground Title: Pentagon Dark vs. Hernandez

Hernandez, returning after Pentagon broke his arm, is challenging and the fans are VERY happy with this one. Pentagon starts firing off the kicks and sends Hernandez outside into the chairs. The loud chop against the post makes it worse but Pentagon takes too much time back inside, allowing Hernandez to hit a slingshot shoulder. The big dive takes Pentagon down again and we hit the camel clutch.

An over the shoulder kneeling backbreaker lets Hernandez strut a bit more but Pentagon is right back with the Sling Blade. Some more running chops rock Hernandez until he knocks Pentagon off the top. The top rope splash gets two so Pentagon superkicks him out of the air. The Pentagon Driver retains the title at 7:04.

Rating: D+. This was little more than a practice session for Pentagon and there's nothing wrong with that. Hernandez looked old and slow here, which is probably because he's a bit older than you might expect (45) and hasn't done much around here in a long time. Just a quick main event here, which doesn't exactly make it look great.

Post match Pentagon goes for the arm again but King Cuerno makes a save. The Thrill of the Kill onto the title knocks Pentagon cold to end the show.

Overall Rating: D. Cool opening sequence aside, this felt like a complete throw away show. There wasn't much energy to the whole thing and nothing really felt all that important. The wrestling ranged from skippable to pretty bad and that's just not what you see around here. Maybe it's coming down from last week's big angle, but this really did nothing for me.

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Lucha Underground – October 4, 2017: Love, Blood and a Haircut

Lucha Underground

Date: October 4, 2017

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

It's night number two of Ultima Lucha Tres and they have a big bar to live up to after last week's main event. The good thing is we're likely about to move up the card a bit and see some of the bigger stories played out, which is exactly the point of a show like this.

Hopefully we get some more of the big story tonight too. Let's get to it.

The opening video looks at last week's show and previews tonight's three matches.

Ivelisse and Jeremiah Crane get in an argument over him having feelings for Catrina. She doesn't need a man so after she beats up Catrina, she'll beat him up too. A hard kick to the chest sends Crane into a locker.

Battle Royal

Joey Ryan, PJ Black, Ricky Mundo, Vinnie Massaro, Mascarita Sagrada, Argenis, Mala Surete, Saltador, Paul London, Cortez Castro, Son of Madness, The Mack, Pimpinela Escarlata

For a unique opportunity, which could mean anything. Massaro gets superkicked out to start and the Rabbit Tribe dances around Madness as they are known to do. It actually works as they get together and toss him out, followed by Sagrada knocking Castro and Ryan off the apron for a double elimination. Yep it's going to be one of those battle royals.

London thrusts his crotch at Escarlata so he bites said crotch and dumps Paul. Suerte and Saltador are out in a hurry, followed by Escarlata kissing Argenis and eliminating him, only to fall out as well. Black kicks Sagrada low (kind of difficult to do) and throws him out. Mack dumps Mundo and a Stunner gets rid of Black to give Mack the win at 3:32.

Rating: D-. I'm really not sure what to think of these battle royals where everyone is thrown out in the span of a few minutes. Most of the people were just there for the sake of being there and it's not like Mack getting the win was a surprise, though the match was pretty much over before I had a chance to start caring about anything. I get that it's the point but sweet goodness give it a few more minutes or have less dead weight.

Dario Cueto comes out to announce the unique opportunity: a Trios Titles match next week, but with Dante Fox and Killshot as his

partners, assuming they're still alive.

Catrina vs. Ivelisse

This was set up at the start of the season and we're just supposed to remember why they hate each other (Catrina cost her her first two Ultima Lucha matches). Ivelisse sprints to the ring and the fight is on in a hurry. Catrina shows some fire though and slugs away into a standoff. Vampiro cheers for a wardrobe malfunction (they're basically wrestling in swimsuits, which is far from a complaint) as Catrina runs into Dario's office in a way to fill in some time.

Ivelisse follows her in and gets blasted with a bottle to draw some serious blood. Dario looks out as she carries Ivelisse up the steps and shuts the door in a good visual. A kick to the head knocks Catrina back down the steps and they get inside for a change of pace. Catrina scores with a spear and a double arm DDT before grabbing the stone. That earns her a spinebuster before Ivelisse takes the stone away and knocks her silly. A DDT ends Catrina at 6:17.

Rating: D+. This was far less of a match than it was a spectacle and there's nothing wrong with that. Catrina has some in-ring experience but that was a long time ago so there's no point in trying to do more than this. Ivelisse beating her was all that matters and it felt like a big fight, though I could have gone with a lot more. It's a shame that Ivelisse was injured for so much of Lucha Underground as I would have loved to see what else she could have done.

Post match Crane runs in and hits Ivelisse's ankle with a hammer, allowing Catrina to steal the stone again.

We run down the remaining card.

Fenix vs. Marty Martinez

Mask vs. Hair. They slug it out to start until Mariposa grabs Fenix's leg. The distraction lets Marty grab a belly to belly superplex and send Fenix outside. They switch places in a hurry though and Fenix tries a dive, only to have Marty pull Mariposa into

the way instead. That's it for Mariposa and she's out, with a double middle finger to Marty. Back in and Fenix kicks her in the head, only to get taken down again.

Marty rips half of the mask off but settles for a powerbomb instead. Fenix is dropped face first onto an exposed buckle and the blood is flowing again. A TKO gets two on Fenix but he's right back with a rolling cutter onto the apron. The mask is pretty much worthless now as you can see half of his face, making it a glorified eye patch. There's a Lethal Injection to drop Marty but he's right back up with a running clothesline to put both guys down.

Marty goes up top for some reason, allowing Fenix to pull him back down with a Spanish Fly to knock both of them silly. They slug it out from their knees until Marty hits a running curb stomp for two more. That sends him over to a lunchbox to find some scissors. That's enough to get Melissa onto the apron for a low blow, allowing Fenix to hit something like a Kinshasa to the back of the head. A springboard 450 with Melissa climbing on top as well ends Marty at 12:22.

Rating: B-. I can go for a match based on emotion and that's what we had here. These two beat the heck out of each other than that's all it needed to be. Fenix is one of the unsung heroes of this show and that's a very valuable thing to have. The fans buy into him and want to see him win, especially with the Melissa stuff. Fun match here but the ending is what matters most.

Marty tries to bail but Mariposa blasts him in the head with something made of metal. She even handcuffs him to the railings and the big haircut ends the show.

Overall Rating: C+. This didn't have the big match of last week but it was a better show top to bottom. We're starting to get into the bigger stuff now and the second and third matches were more than enough to make this work. It's a fun show, but you could cut out something like the battle royal and make it even better. The big time stuff starts next week though.

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Lucha Underground – December 21, 2016: Just Let It Be Over

Lucha Underground

Date: December 21, 2016

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

It's a big night here as we have the finals of the Battle of the Bulls tournament, meaning a four way elimination match to crown a new #1 contender. Other than that we have a big title match as Sexy Star challenges Lucha Underground Champion Johnny Mundo for the title inside a steel cage. Let's get to it.

The opening recap looks at the two big matches.

Battle of the Bulls Finals: Cage vs. The Mack vs. PJ Black vs. Jeremiah Crane

Elimination rules. Cage takes over to start and suplexes Mack down, only to have Black kick him in the head. Crane clotheslines the heck out of Black but Cage hits a big flip dive over the top because he's that kind of an athletic freak. All four are outside with Crane's charge being countered into a Cage Jackhammer. Back in and a double

team to Cage fails completely as he powerslams Black out of the air. Crane is powerbombed onto Mack out of the air but here's Texano to punch Cage in the jaw, allowing a parade of finishers to eliminate him at 6:03. That's some smart booking. Back from a break with Crane hitting a slingshot swinging neckbreaker for two on Black, followed by a Brock Lock to keep him in a trouble. Crane takes Mack to the top but gets Stunned back down for the pin at 14:14. We take a second break and come back with Mack hitting another Stunner for the win at 20:02.

Rating: B-. I liked most of this as they had a fun, fast paced match instead of trying for something epic for a change. Mack is an interesting choice for the win as you don't really expect to see him as a title contender. Good match here and the Battle of the Bulls was a lot of fun, which I didn't really expect.

Fenix and Aerostar can't find Drago. Kobra Moon comes in and says Drago has come home with her. Moon's two monsters beat them down.

Mack and Sexy Star celebrate. He tells her to get the title but don't be upset when he takes the title.

Crane goes to see Dario and is given a match he wants. Instead of leaving, Crane stands on a chair and gets something out of the ceiling, which he says he used to play with when he was a kid. After leaving, Crane runs into Catrina and says the match next week is with Mil Muertes. He walks through her like she's a ghost.

Lucha Underground Title: Johnny Mundo vs. Sexy Star

Mundo is defending and the Worldwide Underground is banned from ringside. In a very telling sign, the fans start a LOUD Johnny Mundo chant. Johnny kicks her away to start and poses because he's a man and she's a woman, meaning he's required to make fun of her. Star grabs a rollup for two and makes a very failed attempt to get out of the cage. The fans are a bit more split now as Johnny drives her into the cage and shouts that he's the man.

The champ misses a charge but still stops Star from escaping. That earns himself a crotching on the top but Johnny grabs a fireman's carry to send Sexy into the cage three times in a row. Star gets in a sitout powerbomb from the corner for two as Striker tells us to watch both wrestlers' chests. To check on their conditioning you see. Johnny gets pulled down again and hit with a not great high

crossbody from the top of the cage for two. They both head to the top with Star firing off kicks until Johnny rips her mask off. Johnny climbs out to retain at 12:13 as Star is covering her face on the mat.

Rating: C. Is that it for Sexy Star near the title? I certainly hope so as her main event run has been one of the least interesting things Lucha Underground has done. The matches haven't exactly been bad but it feels like watching X-Pac or Rey Mysterio fighting Big Show. I am WAY past the point of buying her as a legitimate threat to the title as almost all of her wins and even hope spots come from someone being overconfident. It's not interesting and yet it's all we get from her. Move on to someone more interesting, please.

The Mack Stuns Johnny as the champ goes to leave.

Moon has Drago chained up but he won't call her queen. Drago breathes fire to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. There's some good stuff on this show with the opener working just fine and the main event being watchable, albeit dull. I'm interested in where Crane is going as he's already hit a better stride in Lucha Underground than he did in his entire NXT run. The thing to remember is that this season is forty episodes long and we're not even at the halfway mark yet. That's A LOT of material to get through and it's going to take time to get somewhere. I didn't hate this show and I don't hate this season but I'm a little bored, which might be even worse.

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Lucha Underground – November 30, 2016: Break Up The Tribe

Lucha Underground

Date: November 30, 2016

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

It's time to get back to focusing on one of the more interesting members of the roster as tonight we're looking at Pentagon Dark. Black Lotus and her tribe are going after Pentagon so maybe we can get a bit more clarification on what's going on with their story. One of the problems with Lucha Underground is they have so much going on that it's hard to keep track of the individual stories. Let's get to it.

We open with a much needed recap of Black Lotus vs. Pentagon Dark. This includes Pentagon breaking Dragon Azteca Jr.'s arm and Lotus sending her cronies to eliminate Pentagon from Aztec Warfare.

Vampiro and Pentagon run into each other in the back, meaning it's time for flashbacks. Pentagon is threatened and doesn't seem pleased.

The announcers open us up but Vampiro doesn't have anything to say.

Pentagon Dark vs. Black Lotus/Black Lotus Tribe

Gauntlet match with Pentagon vs. all four in turn. First up is Doku, who walks to the ring with her arms folded for an odd look. Doku fires off some chops in the corner and a hard kick to the ribs, only to get dropkicked across the ring. Pentagon starts getting more serious so the kicks and chops get even harder. Well at least louder, with one sending Doku out to the floor.

A gorilla press toss sends Doku face first onto the apron and a sick kick to the thigh has her in even more trouble. Back in and Doku scores with a good looking spear followed by a top rope elbow. She tries it again though but Pentagon is waiting on her and breaks the arm for the win at 6:12.

Before we get back to the match, we see Catrina coming up to Jeremiah Crane in the back and taunting him about Ivelisse. It seems that they have a past and Catrina thinks he's not over her.

Back in the arena, Pentagon promises to break Lotus' arm as he waits for the next member of the tribe. That would be Yurei, who again is named for the first time here. The match (which is treated as an individual match instead of part two) starts fast with Yurei sending him outside for a big dive. They're certainly giving the women some solid offense here.

Pentagon is sent into the chairs and hit in the head with a metal sign. Back in and Pentagon starts wrenching on the knee but Yurei comes back with a hurricanrana. A tornado DDT looks to set up something out of the corner, only to have her dive into the package piledriver. One more broken arm later and Yurei is done at 7:22 (13:34 total, not counting breaks between falls).

Before the third fall, Matanza is working out when Dario comes in. Next week Matanza will get his rematch for the title but the monster wants Mysterio.

The third entrant is Hitokiri, which translates to Assassin. A dropkick sends Pentagon outside and a big moonsault press has Pentagon in even more trouble. Hitokiri starts banging away with a chair and Pentagon is in trouble. Vampiro is getting turned on by the violence and Pentagon is thrown through some chairs. Again. Pentagon is slammed onto the exposed concrete and you can see his body being broken down.

One heck of a kick to the ribs slows Hitokiri down and now it's her turn to go through the chairs. Her body being in a broken heap is quite the visual. An AA onto the concrete has Hitokiri reeling but she sends him into the post. That's enough time for her to go up to the top of Dario's office for the HUGE dive (the first woman to do so) and both are down. Back in and the Package Piledriver is countered into a standing Canadian Destroyer for the pin at 11:55 (25:29 total).

Actually we're not done as Black Lotus gets to face the broken Pentagon as well. Lotus kicks the referee down and the entire tribe surrounds Pentagon. Things get even more personal as Lotus breaks Pentagon's arm, bringing a smiling Vampiro to his feet. Cue Dragon Azteca Jr., who the women leave alone to break Pentagon's other arm.

No match with Lotus and I won't add any time because the bell never rang.

Rating: B. I liked the match but I still don't have much of a connection to this story. It's such a complicated and at times intense story but the other problem is it rarely gets any attention. This is the story that's been going on in the background instead of getting the main focus. That doesn't make it bad but at least it's an entertaining match, especially with the Tribe breaking Pentagon down and making him fight until he just couldn't do it anymore.

Prince Puma wakes up in his coffin and Vampiro is waiting on him.
Vampiro: "Come with me."

Overall Rating: B. These one match shows are fun but you don't want to do two of them in three weeks. I need a little more variety than this to really get into things, especially with how many stories are going around in this promotion. I'm also not sure where they're going with Pentagon, who is one of the most over acts in Lucha Underground but is just kind of there on the side while everything else goes on.

Here's my main issue with this season: what is the big story? You have Dario being evil and serving his master (whoever that is), Pentagon vs. Black Lotus vs. Dragon Azteca Jr., the cops running around, Matanza vs. Mysterio and the title picture but none of those feel like a bigger story than the rest of them, which is a problem. Still though, good show this week as the season is starting to get back on track.

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Lucha Underground – November 9, 2016: The First of Many Highlights

Lucha Underground

Date: November 9, 2016

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

It's a special week around here as we get one of the signature matches from Lucha Underground: Grave Consequences. While most promotions call it a casket match, Lucha Underground turns it into one of the biggest deals in their entire calendar. It helps that the match is between Mil Muertes and Prince Puma, which basically guarantees how awesome it's going to be. Let's get to it.

The opening recap looks at Famous b. vs. Mascarita Sagrada (with Son of Havoc and Dr. Wagner Jr. thrown in) and of course Grave Consequences.

Catrina gives Muertes a pep talk, saying she won't bring him back again if he loses.

Mascarita Sagrada vs. Famous B.

Believers Backlash, meaning fans bring the weapons. Sagrada grabs some football pads and headbutts B. low with the helmet, followed by a splash off the stepladder. Don't bother asking where the weapons are coming from here as the fans are just handing them over. B. misses a shot with a big bag of popcorn as the comedy is actually working here. How serious can a manager vs. a mini really be?

Some trashcan shots to Famous draw the Duke Droese reference and it's time for an atomizer full of perfume, which is actually labeled Arrogance. Nice touch. Sagrada pulls out a wizard hat and makes a

bowling ball appear for the Al Snow spot. Cue Wagner and Havoc who quickly cancel each other out, leaving Sagrada to blast B. with a portrait of...Famous B. Brenda gets pied (which freaks the fans out WAY more than it should) and a tornado DDT puts B. away at 7:02.

Rating: B-. It was fun and that's all they were going for. I get really tired of seeing matches like this go from comedy to serious and then back to a goofy finish and that's not it needed to be. Good, entertaining match here and that's all it needed to be. Sagrada should have destroyed B. and he did just that.

Sagrada cuts up a big cardboard cutout of B. and Havoc gives him a vest.

Dante is getting ready when Killshot comes in. Apparently Dante has gotten a job and they have to fight together tonight, though neither seems happy with it.

Kobra Moon is still trying to get Drago to join a tribe but gets turned down again. Vinny appears and is still creepy.

Mack/Mariposa/Marty Martinez/Jeremiah Crane/Ivelisse vs. Killshot/Argenis/Dante Fox/Cage/Texano

The winning team is in Aztec Warfare. Crane kicks Fox in the face to start and a Death Valley Driver sends Fox over to tag Killshot. The couple actually starts beating on Killshot but Cage comes in to throw Ivelisse into the corner. The rapid tags that you would expect begin and it's already time to lose track of everything that's going on.

We unleash the dives until Fox and Killshot argue in the ring. As with any arguing team, they're fine enough to work perfectly together and kick Marty and Mariposa in the face. Ivelisse flips out of a suplex into a hurricanrana (sweet) for two...and then crashes to the floor, injuring her ankle again like she did in season one. She screams NOT AGAIN as Fox lays out Killshot so Marty can get the pin at 4:03.

Rating: C. This was a bit too short to mean much but it was the kind of entertaining match you would expect from a show like this one.

Fox and Crane are good additions to the roster and the rest all have roles (save for Argenis, who the announcers said was basically just there), making this exactly what it needed to be.

Dario Cueto gives Matanza a pep talk.

Prince Puma vs. Mil Muertes

Grave Consequences and Puma kicks Muertes in the face during the entrances. That earns Puma a whip into the empty chairs, only to have him hit Mil in the mask with the bell. Puma goes to get the casket and is promptly powerbombed onto it. Of course it's table time because where would we be without one of those?

Unfortunately even death doesn't make you smart enough to not put a chair in the corner, meaning Muertes goes head first into it. That's completely no sold though and Puma is speared through the table in the corner. Mil unhooks the turnbuckle (Why not?) and the casket is brought inside. That takes too long as well, meaning it's a springboard 450 onto Mil on the casket. The lid is slammed onto Mil's back over and over....and here's another table.

Vampiro is WAY too happy about this evil side of Puma and you can feel his inner darkness coming out. Mil can't quite close the lid and the Flatliner is countered with a kick to the head. As expected though, Puma takes too much time setting up something big and gets chokeslammed through two tables at ringside. Mil goes to the back and finds the same casket that he put Konnan inside. A Flatliner on the floor is enough to finish Puma at 16:03.

Rating: A-. Great stuff here as they beat the heck out of each other with Mil just being too much for Puma when it came to the violence. In addition to getting rid of Puma for the time being, it also helps charge Muertes up before we get to Aztec Warfare next week. We haven't really seen Muertes vs. Matanza in their big fight last season and a return to that violence would be a lot of fun.

Puma's casket is carried out to end the show.

Overall Rating: A-. If there's one thing Lucha Underground knows how to do, it's set up something big for a major main event. Other than

the great main event, we also had the fun opener and more names announced for Aztec Warfare. That's going to be an even more entertaining show next week as Lucha Underground gets better, despite us only being at the beginning of a forty episode season (that should explain some of the slower pacing).

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Lucha Underground – September 28, 2016: I'll Settle For The Small Stuff

Lucha Underground

Date: September 28, 2016

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

This season is still off to a rocky start as we're still waiting for the big stories to really take off. There are a bunch of minor stories going on but nothing is really picking up and making me want to stick around and watch a lot of this stuff. Then again, the Lucha Underground tradition is to make things look horrible and then turn it around in a hurry. Let's get to it.

The opening video looks at Rey Mysterio Jr./Dragon Azteca Jr./Chavo Guerrero Jr., the Worldwide Underground, the cops investigating

Dario Cueto and Vampiro getting in Prince Puma's head.

Dario comes in to see Sexy Star and suggests that she's going to lose the Gift of the Gods Title soon. It won't be tonight though as she's teaming up with the Trios Champions against the Worldwide Underground. Cueto leaves and Johnny Mundo comes in to officially introduce himself to Star. You would think they would have met somewhere in there. He promises to take the title from her but she squeezes his hand.

Siniestro De La Muerte vs. Prince Puma

They run the ropes to start and flip over each other until a snap hurricanrana puts Muerte down. Vampiro seems VERY pleased with the more aggressive Puma, who grabs something like a suplex but kneels down and bends Muerte's leg over his head. Puma tries to run a bit too much though and gets caught in a reverse powerbomb out of the corner. A big spinning kick to the face drops Muerte again but here's Mil Muertes to distract Puma. That isn't a DQ for some reason so Puma hits a modified Michinoku Driver and a Flatliner (with a look at Muertes) for the pin at 4:51.

Rating: C. This was a good showing for the new Puma as he almost had to evolve to stay relevant in the rapidly changing Lucha Underground. It's also cool to see the promotion use somewhat big names as jobbers as Muerte hadn't been around in a while but still has enough credentials that beating him means something.

Muertes goes after Puma but Catrina drags him away.

Cortez Castro goes in to see Dario, who gets up and hugs him. Dario is going to do everything he can to bring Cisco's killer to justice. You can hear Melissa Santos introducing Castro for his match so he leaves the office as Dario sneers.

Cortez Castro vs. Pentagon Dark

Castro clearly isn't ready and didn't know he was having a match. Cortez elbows him in the mask to start but gets kicked down almost immediately. The package piledriver gives Dark the win at 1:11.

Post match, Pentagon breaks Castro's arm and says he wants to do the same to Azteca or Guerrero.

Worldwide Underground vs. Drago/Aerostar/Fenix/Sexy Star

The women start things off and run the ropes a bit before Star's

hurricanrana sends Taya over for a tag. Evans comes in for a bunch of flips (literally, and with the announcers mocking him for them) before handing it off to Black. That's fine with Drago, who legsweeps Black a few times before the good guys start speeding things up. Mundo cuts that off almost immediately with a superkick to Fenix. You can't have one superkick in a row though so Fenix superkicks Mundo right back down, followed by a Helluva Kick.

Instead Fenix drops Star into a legdrop for two but it's time to start the quadruple teaming in the bad corner. Taya hits some running knees in the corner and Star is busted open. Mundo hits Star by mistake though and the hot tag brings in Drago to speed things up again. Everything breaks down and they trade strikes before it's time for Fenix to hit the dives. Star sends Taya outside (where Taya seems to injure her ankle or leg) but gets superkicked by Johnny, sending her into a backslide for the pin at 8:52.

Rating: B-. This is more like it with the fast paced people flying all over the place and looking awesome like Lucha Underground is supposed to do. Mundo is likely going to wind up as the big bad of the show, which in a way is more interesting than having some supernatural character for a change. These tag matches are one of the things Lucha Underground does best and it worked well here too.

Catrina and Muertes aren't pleased with Muerte's latest loss. His punishment: CATRINA SUCKS OUT HIS SOUL, which she blows into Mil. She wants him to do the same thing to Puma. Stand there while she spits a soul at him?

Dragon Azteca Jr. vs. Chavo Guerrero Jr.

Mysterio is guest referee. Feeling out process to start until Chavo shoulders him down for a headlock. A springboard into a rollup gets two for Dragon and he grabs an armbar of his own. They head outside with Striker saying this is like a professional team playing a college team. I'm assuming he means Chavo is the pro team, assuming that means he's older, slower, and less popular.

Azteca gets posted on the floor and clotheslined back inside for two before it's back to the chinlock. A half crab is broken up thanks to a rope grab but Chavo shoves Rey down for breaking the hold. The distraction lets Dragon grab a rollup out of the electric chair for the quick pin at 7:15.

Rating: C. As is so often the case around here this season, this was

really just there. Chavo really isn't that interesting and his just average matches aren't going to cut it around here. Then again that's probably why he's a heel. Going somewhere with Azteca and Mysterio would help a lot but that's not seeming likely right now.

Black Lotus is praying (I think?) at a shrine (Maybe?) to her parents (In theory?) and promises to have her Triad avenge them against Pentagon Dark.

Overall Rating: C+. The wrestling helped here but the same problem persists: what's the point of this show right now? Dario is of course the top villain but there's no real advancement with most of his stuff. The wheel deciding challengers for Matanza doesn't really help either as it's just him beating up people that we know he can beat up without much effort. Other than that there's the Worldwide Underground which isn't exactly top level stuff after we've had Matanza and Muertes around. This show was better but they need to actually do something soon.

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**Lucha Underground –
September 14, 2016: Lucha**

Boom

Lucha Underground

Date: September 14, 2016

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Matt Striker, Vampiro

Tonight is about focusing on a midcard story for a change with a main event of Killshot vs. Marty the Moth Martinez in a Weapons of Mass Destruction match. It's quite different to see a match at that level getting such attention but things don't always work like normal here in Lucha Underground. Let's get to it.

The opening recap focuses on Dario Cueto returning to the Temple, Famous B. vs. Mascarita Sagrada and Martinez vs. Killshot.

We look back at the cops trying to arrest Cueto and realizing that he's more than just a regular street thug. Captain Vazquez (Castro's boss) tells him to see the bigger picture because there's a war coming.

Dr. Wagner Jr. vs. Mascarita Sagrada

Famous B., now with his phone number on his tie, handles Wagner's introduction. Sagrada tries a waistlock but gets hit with a Doctor Driver for the pin at 53 seconds. I'm very glad that Wagner wasn't just a one off appearance at Ultima Lucha II.

We go back millenia in time (somehow that works around here) and see a dying father giving a young girl an amulet which only works on females. Once she puts it on, she will never die. All that matters is fighting the coming war and then the father dies.

In present day, Captain Vazquez is seen looking at half of the amulet when Cortez comes in to see her. She suspends him and says to stop worrying about Cueto because there are more important things to worry about.

Argenis vs. Mil Muertes

Argenis tries some right hands to start and is quickly powerbombed. A chop and moonsault actually give Argenis a one count but the Flatliner gives Muertes the pin at 1:34.

Catrina gives Argenis the Lick of Death but here's Prince Puma to springboard in and take out Muertes with some dropkicks. So Puma is

listening to Vampiro, as he probably should.

Joey Ryan comes in to see Dario and admits that he's an undercover cop who knows Dario killed Cisco. He gets right to the chase: Joey wants to be on the right side of the war, unlike Castro, who Joey outs as a fellow cop. Dario gives him some money to pay child support.

Castro tells Vazquez he wants to be on her side in the war. He leaves and she looks at the amulet.

Marty Martinez vs. Killshot

Weapons of Mass Destruction match with Killshot attacking in the aisle. They head to the balcony which is covered in sandbags as the arena has a military theme. Marty is thrown over the announcers' table to draw a THIS IS AWESOME chant. The bloody Martinez throws Melissa Santos at Killshot for a breather before hammering him into the crowd. Killshot fights back so Marty bails to the floor, only to have Killshot dive off the balcony to take him down.

Marty stops to set up some tables but opts to suplex Killshot onto the apron. This has been the kind of violent brawl it should have been so far. We get a ladder bridged between the ring and the barricade but Killshot throws a blanket over Marty and kicks him down. Another ladder is dragged inside as Striker makes military analogies. A spinebuster puts Killshot down onto a big crate and a superplex onto the same crate makes things even worse.

Somehow Killshot pops and hits a Death Valley Driver onto the ladder, followed by a top rope double stomp for our first near fall. It adds so much when they don't do those every thirty seconds. Marty is fine enough to powerbomb Killshot over the top and through two tables at ringside for a really sick looking crash. That's only good for two though and Killshot grabs a quick Killdriver for two. Marty laughs because he's not all there.

Since two ladders aren't enough, here's a mega ladder to make it even worse. The ladder is set in the middle of the ring and there's a table at either side. Both guys head up the ladder but here's Mariposa to go after Killshot, only to have him knock her down through a table. With no one left to make a save, Killshot grabs Marty low and steals the dog tags back. A HUGE double stomp drives Marty through the other table and gives Killshot the pin at 22:33.

Rating: B+. Sometimes you just need to crank up the violence and let two guys beat the heck out of each other for a long time. This is the biggest win of Killshot's career and he's ready to move on to something more important. The blood on Marty's face was a great visual and both guys looked awesome throughout. It's a perfect way to blow off a feud like this and Marty can keep being creepy with someone else.

Muertes is beating up a helpless locker when Catrina comes in. Mil wants Puma, and I know this because he shouts I WANT PUMA. Catrina says patience is a virtue and she's been waiting hundreds of years for something. She holds up the other half of the amulet to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. This show did a lot of good about moving the stories forward. You can see the major story being set up and tonight was about moving a bunch of pieces around a chess board. Lucha Underground is a rare company where the stories are so different than what you see in the ring as there's a whole other world outside of the arena. It's hard to say where this is going but there's potential to have a lot of fun.

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Lucha Underground – July

20, 2016 (Season 2 Finale): See You....Long?

Lucha Underground

Date: July 20, 2016

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

We'll wrap it up here with the season two finale and the final part of Ultima Lucha Dos. That means Pentagon Jr. challenging Matanza for the Lucha Underground Title, Taya vs. Ivelisse and Rey Mysterio vs. Prince Puma in a major battle of the generations. They've got their work cut out for them to top what they did last year and I'm not sure they can pull it off. Let's get to it.

We open with a long recap of all the major events this season, which really was divided up into two parts with the pre and post Dario return. Also there's a lot of stuff that was basically forgotten, including Aerostar being a time traveler. They really do pack a lot of stuff into this and it's done a great job of making me want to see the big finale.

Vampiro is in full Emperor Palpatine mode as Pentagon Jr. bows to him before the title match. Pentagon has to destroy the monster that broke him but there is still fear inside him. Vampiro takes him to a room full of Pentagons, who the real Pentagon must destroy. With those imposters easily dispatched, it's time for the big showdown with the masked master. Pentagon rips the mask off and Vampiro says he's ready but not before changing his name from Pentagon Jr. to Pentagon Black.

Trios Titles: Drago/Fenix/Aerostar vs. Johnny Mundo/Jack Evans/PJ Black

Mundo and company are defending but there's no Taya. Johnny gets in a backbreaker to start on Fenix and it's quickly off to Drago who gets in a spinning DDT. Black comes in sans tag but misses his top rope Lionsault. Aerostar's corkscrew crossbody takes Black down again and a slingshot corkscrew splash gets no count as the referee actually remembers who is legal. It's off to Fenix who superkicks Jack before the good guys clean house, only to have the referee stop

the triple dive because they're not legal.

The distraction lets Fenix get stomped down in the corner as the champs take over. Evans comes in for a whip to crotch Fenix before a double belly to back suplex into a neckbreaker gets two. Everything breaks down again as Striker keeps talking about the referee, which has gotten more attention here than anything else. Jack's springboard is broken up with a superkick and a Canadian Destroyer plants Johnny.

Aerostar dives on the other champs and Fenix hits a great looking frog splash for two on Mundo. A slingshot splash from Aerostar and the springboard 450 from Fenix add up for two. The referee goes down so Mundo keeps getting beaten up until his partners FINALLY help him out with a belt shot to Fenix's head. A triple belt shot to the head gets two (seriously?) so Black kicks the ref in the head.

The champs go nuts with Chikara's BDK's Ragnarok (Evans and Black hold Fenix up by the arms while a running Johnny flips him forward for a big crash onto his back) but there's still no referee. Johnny puts the title on Fenix's face but here's Angelico on crutches to take Mundo out. Aerostar gets back up and springboards into a reverse moonsault to drop Evans. Another crutch shot sets up a Fenix Driver (Fire Thunder Driver) for the pin on Mundo at 11:50. That makes Fenix the first Triple Crown Champion.

Rating: B. Good choice for an opener here with a group of people going all over the place with a bunch of high spots and insanity. Angelico coming out made sense as Johnny won the title in the first place due to Angelico being injured, presumably by Mundo in the first place. The referee stuff got a bit annoying as the story came out of nowhere but then was dropped halfway through the match. Still though, good opener here and that's why you have matches like this one.

Dragon Azteca Jr. vs. Black Lotus

So Lotus mistakenly thinks Azteca's father killed her parents and is out for revenge, which actually makes sense for a change. They start fast with some running flips and a headscissors to send Dragon down. As Vampiro says Lotus is sexy and turning him on, Azteca baseball slides her to take over for the first time. Azteca misses a flip dive but easily whips her into the barricade with some force. Back in and Dragon misses a high cross body (he isn't the most accurate)

to give Lotus two, only to have him pop back up with a roaring elbow. Azteca goes up but Pentagon of all people runs out to crotch him at 4:20.

Rating: D. I think we've seen our first Ultima Lucha match to be sacrificed due to time restraints. To be fair though, it's not like this match had the biggest build in the world. This story has been kind of all over the place and the announcers can't talk about it because they haven't seen any of the buildup. You can barely talk about this one but Lotus looked fine while they lasted.

With Vampiro's blessing, Pentagon breaks both of their arms. After a break, Pentagon says he'll destroy Matanza with the new knowledge his master gave him. Now he's Pentagon Dark and ready for anything, including taking down the monster because there is zero fear. Actually, let's just do the title match RIGHT NOW.

Lucha Underground Title: Matanza vs. Pentagon Dark

Matanza is defending, Dario is in his corner and there must be a winner. Pentagon immediately hits a flip dive over the top to put the champion down. Vampiro keeps talking about the differences between Pentagon Jr. and Pentagon Dark as Pentagon knocks Matanza around ringside, including a hard whip into the barricade. An AA (not a Death Valley Driver announcers) has Matanza in even more trouble and he punches the post to make it even worse.

Some chairs to the back (including a La Parka guitar strum) knock Matanza around ringside and Pentagon whips him through some chairs. Matanza gets in a few right hands, only to be superkicked up against the barricade. Pentagon throws him through more chairs as this has been about 95% Pentagon through the first five minutes.

More chair shots to the leg keep Matanza in trouble on the floor and they FINALLY head inside. Dario: "Matanza! REMEMBER MAMA!" Matanza takes a third superkick and a running Codebreaker for two. A Backstabber gets the same so Dario is holding up the key. Pentagon wedges a chair in the corner (because wrestlers never learn) and is quickly sent head first into it for Matanza's first major offense.

Matanza sends him flying with a pumphandle suplex and a standing moonsault gets two. Pentagon stands up after a German suplex and tells him to bring it. That means superkick #5 to the champ before a modified Wrath of the Gods (not an Irish Car Bomb Matt) gets two. Pentagon goes outside and stops a dive with a chair to the head,

followed by a Canadian Destroyer to really knock Matanza silly.

Vampiro gets up and hands Pentagon a barbed wire baseball bat (the next logical step) but Dario knocks it out of his hands. Pentagon goes for Dario's arm but Matanza hits him (weakly) in the back with the bat and hits Wrath of the Gods to retain at 11:32. The fans are NOT happy with that ending and swear quite a bit.

Rating: B. Uh what? No seriously, what was that ending? Pentagon completely dominated Matanza the whole match, shrugged off most of his offense and then gets beaten by two moves? That felt like they had no idea how to get out of this and just said "oh just have him hit his finisher to retain". No build to it, no logical storytelling, no reason for Pentagon to lose that fast.

This match needed another five minutes or so and a lot more offense from Matanza if you're going to go with that ending. Having Pentagon lose after a hard fought war is fine but having him lose after he basically squashed Matanza for ten minutes isn't. If nothing else it makes your unstoppable monster champion look weak instead of like the killer he's supposed to be. A recharged Pentagon is a great choice to give him a fight but they toned Matanza WAY too far down this time and it hurt the story a lot.

Post match Vampiro goes to help Pentagon but gets shoved away.

After a break, Vampiro takes his medicine, saying he failed.

Taya vs. Ivelisse

Basically they're the two best women in the promotion (not named Sexy Star that is) and they've been feuding for a few weeks so here's a match. Ivelisse takes her into the corner and drives Taya face first into the middle buckle ten times in a row. Vampiro keeps trying to get back into things as Taya knocks Ivelisse face first into the apron to take over on the floor.

Taya is sent into the chairs and they fight on the steps before crashing down. Back in and Iveliss kicks her down a few times before grabbing a release German suplex. A bridging German suplex gets two and there go the lights. Back with Catrina in the ring and hitting a double arm DDT drop (think a Bubba Bomb but a double arm DDT instead of a full nelson). The lights go off again and Catrina disappears, allowing Taya to hit a double stomp for the pin at 6:20.

Rating: C-. The match was fine enough but another screwy finish is a

little annoying. It also doesn't really settle anything between Taya and Ivelisse but rather sets up something for the next season, which seems to be the problem with this whole show: not a lot is actually being decided here in favor of setting something up down the road.

Post match Catrina appears again to give Ivelisse the Lick of Death.

We get a voiceover from Konnan of all people, talking about finding a new protege to train. Apparently he's talking about Prince Puma, who gets a highlight video including beating up people in some warehouse. This turns into a quick video setting up Puma vs. Rey Mysterio.

Rey Mysterio Jr. vs. Prince Puma

The King vs. the Prince and I'm fine with this as the main event as it really is a dream match by Lucha Underground's standards. Rey even has the El Rey network logo on his back for a nice touch. They start fast (of course) and it's time to flip around a lot into a standoff. A headscissors from Rey is countered and Puma shakes his finger as we're at another standoff.

Rey changes the plan a bit with some kicks to the head but the sitout bulldog doesn't work. The fans cheer for different area codes before Puma bends Rey around his shoulders for a modified torture rack. Rey is able to escape and send him outside for that sliding splash under the bottom rope. The West Coast Pop gets two and a big springboard tornado DDT gets the same for Rey.

Mysterio tries a top rope hurricanrana but gets muscled up into a series of rolling suplexes (variety pack) for two. With nothing else working, Puma takes him up top for a super Razor's Edge but since there's no way that can happen, Rey gives him a reverse super hurricanrana for a near fall of his own. They slug it out with the fans being split on who to cheer for in a good sign. Another sitout bulldog is countered into a huge Backstabber, followed by a Blue Thunder Bomb for two. That move can't win anywhere.

The spinning kick to the head puts Rey in 619 position and Puma actually pulls off the move steal for a change. A 450 (not a 630 Striker) gets two and I feel like I'm in a math class. Puma gets two more off a fireman's carry into a kick to the head and goes up top. With Striker saying it's the I'm sorry, I love you moment, Puma misses the 630 and crashes down instead. Rey enziguris him into a 619 but Puma grabs the boots and spins him into a Tombstone. That's

countered as well into a reverse hurricanrana (I don't think I've seen that before) to set up the 619 and a top rope West Coast Pop puts Puma away at 26:28.

Rating: A-. I'm ok with Puma winning here as it's basically the end of Creed: Puma is the future but he's still got work to do to be the luchador he wants to be. This was a sweet wrestling match and felt like a main event level match. Given the way the title match ended, this was absolutely the right call for the main event as it doesn't leave a bad taste in your mouth to end the show.

Puma goes to leave but Rey says these are Puma's people and leaves him to pose.

The announcers wrap it up but Pentagon hits Vampiro with the barbed wire bat and superkicks Striker (should have gotten a bigger pop). The bat is raked across Vampiro's head for some blood before Pentagon hits him over the back (covered in a rather thick looking jacket) with the bat. They go inside where Pentagon licks the blood and kicks Vampiro hard in the head. Pentagon says he's the new master and licks some more blood before kicking Vampiro in the face again.

We go outside and Dario Cueto is ARRESTED. The police van pulls away as Dario lifts his head up and smiles to end the season. No really, that's the end of the season. No other stories are addressed and we're out for another few months.

Overall Rating: B. On its own, this is a strong show with a very good main event, an acceptable World Title match and a good Trios Title match. The only bad match is less than five minutes and I can live with seeing Catrina getting a little more physical if I just have to. I like the way they changed things up by going with the dream match for the good ending instead of having the fans boo the show out of the building when Pentagon lost. That's smart and a sign that someone knows what they're doing instead of just going ahead with their plan and dealing with the fans hating it.

Unfortunately, this was more than just a regular show. As soon as last season's finale ended, this became something everyone wanted to see. There was a huge set of expectations to go with this season and it made this finale a show with a lot additional weight on its shoulders. That's where things took a bad hit here.

All season long there were stories built, be it the big ones like

Dario having a master, Councilman Delgado and everyone talking about what a big deal this was. Then there were individual ones like Marty the Moth vs. Killshot, Aerostar being from the future or whatever else you want to name. At the end of it though, all we get is this one storyline development that seems more like a teaser than any major change.

A term I've seen used to describe this show is "more like a mid-season finale" and I really can't disagree. At no point did this feel like some big conclusion. Instead was much more like a show where we come back in six weeks to see what they have next. I think a lot of that has to do with knowing a third season is guaranteed though as last year was kind of up in the air, meaning they had to pack a lot into the first finale.

Overall this season was kind of all over the place. It started off with Dario and Matanza having to get back to the Temple and focused on Mil Muertes and Catrina in power but that wrapped up pretty cleanly and was barely mentioned again. The titles started changing hands a lot more frequently to keep things moving but it never felt like there was a big moment coming at the end of the season like with Muertes' inevitable title victory. It's still a good season but it seems like it cracked under some of the pressure, which they'll need to fix next time around.

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Lucha Underground – July 13, 2016: The Non-Calm Before The Lucha

Lucha Underground

Date: July 13, 2016

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

It's week two of Ultima Lucha Dos and now we should be moving on to the bigger matches instead of last week's unannounced mini tournament and that means we're likely getting a title match this time around. This should be a lot of fun as Lucha Underground knows how to do the big shows. Let's get to it.

The opening recap focuses on the Gift of the Gods Title and King Cuerno vs. Mil Muertes in a death match.

Gift of the Gods Title: Siniestro de la Muerte vs. Daga vs. Mariposa vs. Marty Martinez vs. Sexy Star vs. Killshot vs. Night Claw

Elimination match, the title is vacant coming in and this is Claw's debut. Killshot goes after Marty to start and there are no tags here. Speaking of tags, Marty puts the stolen dog tags down his trunks. Star kicks Mariposa in the mask to knock her outside but Daga kicks Star outside as well.

The other three start slugging it out in the middle with some quick rollup attempts for two each. Claw gives Daga a 619 but Muerte takes Claw down with a lifting reverse DDT. Daga drops Claw with a clothesline but gets kneed in the head, followed by a standing C4 to eliminate Muerte at 2:55.

We take a break and come back with Star knocking Mariposa off the top for a crash onto Daga, followed by a parade of dives. Back in and Daga grabs a guillotine choke on Marty, only to have Claw break it up with a guillotine legdrop. Well to be fair no one ever cared

about logic around here. Claw makes up for it a bit with a super hurricanrana and Phoenix Splash to get rid of Daga at 11:10.

Everyone heads outside and Claw moonsaults off Dario's office for your biggest spot of the season. As is so often the case in Lucha Underground though, there's almost no time to let it soak in though as Killshot is up with a Death Valley Driver to send Mariposa into the apron. Claw comes back in to superkick Killshot for two but the Phoenix Splash misses, allowing Killshot to hit something like a One Winged Angel to put Claw away at 13:50.

We're down to Mariposa, Marty, Star and Killshot and all four head to their own corner. They pair off as you would expect with the good ones taking over with some double teaming. Star dives over the top to take out Marty, leaving Mariposa to grab a sunset bomb for a quick two on Killshot. Marty curb stomps Killshot though and Mariposa adds the Butterfly Effect (Vertebreaker) for the elimination at 16:01.

Back from another break with Star getting a Fujiwara Armbar on Marty until Mariposa makes the save. The family starts double teaming but Marty punches his sister by mistake, allowing Star to grab a quick pin at 22:29. Star tells Marty to come back in and we get a KILL THE MOTH chant. A Black Widow has Marty in trouble but he pretty easily powers out and punches Star in the jaw for two. Star isn't done though and grabs a cross armbreaker out of nowhere for the submission at 25:51.

Rating: B. That was the best possible winner as they've built Star up so well this season that you have to go somewhere with her at some point. Having her beat Mariposa and Marty back to back is a great way to cap off their feud as well. Night Claw was looking great at first and then was just out in the middle, which is one of the issues with these massive elimination matches. No one else really stood out here but the only thing that really mattered here was the winner anyway.

Joey Ryan and Cortez Castro tell Mr. Cisco that he's cleared of all charges if his wire gets information on Dario Cueto.

Preview for next week's two hour finale.

King Cuerno vs. Mil Muertes

Death match, which I believe means hardcore. It's a brawl to start with Mil throwing him to the mat but Cuerno gets in a few shots in the corner to take over. Mil is sent outside for the running Arrow but comes right back with a TKO to plant Cuerno. Some chair shots don't seem to do much good as Cuerno kicks him away and dives off the balcony with a big cross body.

They both stagger to their feet and go up to the musical guest area with Mil hitting him in the head with a mic. Cuerno is kicked off the stage for a crash and it's time for a ladder and a table. Mil takes too much time setting up said ladder and Cuerno kicks him in the head back inside, followed by a running clothesline to put him on the floor. Vampiro keeps calling this all violent and insane but it's not exactly that much.

They head outside again and go up the steps with Mil going head first through a glass window. There's no effect of course so Cuerno goes through it as well, leaving him to fall back down the steps. He won't stay down again though and it's a tornado DDT off the wall. Cuerno finds another table, prompting Matt to wonder how many can possibly be underneath a ring. The table isn't used quite yet though as Mil wins a slugout and moves the steps around instead.

Cuerno backdrops him onto the ladder though and pulls out ANOTHER table, giving us four around the ring. As so many have before, Cuerno makes the mistake of going after Catrina and gets speared through a table. Back to back powerbombs put him through two more tables and Cuerno is basically done. A crowbar shot to the head destroys Cuerno even further and a Tombstone puts him out of his misery at 13:49.

Rating: B+. The ending really made this one as Cuerno set the monster off by going after Catrina, which has long since caused Muertes to lose his mind like this. Cuerno getting closer and closer but just not being enough to stop Muertes was a good story as well and the violence helped move things along. It's not quite as good as

some of the other brawls like this but Muertes is in his element here and it showed.

We look at Vampiro vs. Pentagon Jr. from last year to set up Matanza vs. Pentagon Jr. next week.

Vampiro pours out his medication and says it's time for him to go get his student ready.

We go to Dario's office where he meets with the wired Mr. Cisco. Apparently Cisco is just here to check in but Dario doesn't need anything. Cisco insists that he's a loyal soldier but he sounds a bit too nervous. Dario won't let him leave and asks if Cisco is wearing a wire. The wire is found so Dario grabs the mic and tells the cops to come get him. Dario picks up a bull statue and BEATS CISC0 TO DEATH. He picks up the red phone and anxiously tells someone that it's time to end the show.

Overall Rating: A-. Now that's more like it. Last week's show was a lot of fun but this felt like they were actually going for something important. Star winning was a good idea and the main event was one heck of a brawl. The interesting thing about Ultima Lucha though is that it the first two weeks really are just setting the table for the big showdowns next week, which really do a great job of making you want to see the finale. Well done here and the show was awesome like I was expecting coming into this season.

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Lucha Underground – June 29, 2016: I Want To See It

Lucha Underground

Date: June 29, 2016

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

It's the last regular show before the first week of Ultima Lucha, which will run for the next three shows. You can probably figure out most of the card from here but only a few matches have actually been announced. It should be interesting to see what Lucha Underground comes up with to get us there as they have some rather unique ways of setting up matches. Let's get to it.

The recap looks at Mil Muertes' latest death and feud with King Cuerno, plus Prince Puma challenging Rey Mysterio for Ultima Lucha Dos.

The Trios Titles will be on the line at Ultima Lucha with Fenix/Drago/Aerostar challenging PJ Black/Johnny Mundo/Jack Evans. The show now has its own graphics to really make it look important.

King Cuerno vs. Mil Muertes

That's quite the opener. Cuerno gets Muertes to chase him around to start but Muertes just spears him down back inside, which Striker says is like the reaper's trident. He's kind of a weird guy. Muertes fires off some chops, which Striker say are designed to disorientate your opponent. I thought they were designed to hurt your opponent's chest but that's just me. A chokeslam gets two for Mil but Cuerno comes back with a running knee and dropkick to set up the big dive through the ropes.

The referee gets taken out as well so Cuerno grabs a chair. Of note here, Striker talks about some soldiers being in the crowd and then calls the bumped referee a casualty of war. Bad choice of words there. Muertes no sells a chair to the head and blasts Cuerno with a clothesline. The chair to Cuerno's back makes it even worse but Mil misses a charge and goes head first into the chair in the corner, allowing Cuerno to grab a rollup (and the ropes) for the pin at 4:30.

Rating: C+. Striker driving me up the wall aside, this was a good enough brawl to set up the pretty obvious gimmick rematch at Ultima Lucha. Cuerno has always been one of my favorites around here so it's cool to see him getting a push and the biggest win he's ever had in the promotion, though I'm sure he'll get destroyed in the rematch.

Taya and Ivelisse come in to see Dario and get catty with each other from the start. Dario makes a match between them for Ultima Lucha to see who the baddest woman is. As they're leaving, Catrina comes in and calls Ivelisse a little girl. Apparently Muertes wants a rematch with Cuerno at Ultima Lucha but Dario lists off everything Catrina and Muertes have done to him. Catrina doesn't care and asks for it to be a death match. Dario actually agrees and Catrina disappears. Dario: "Women."

Prince Puma vs. Dragon Azteca Jr.

This should be good. Rey Mysterio is out with Azteca. They start fast (of course) by running the ropes with Puma missing a kick to the head and a standing moonsault before they trade armdrags. Striker begs Vampiro to help him with this play by play but he gets a break as the guys shake hands off a standoff. Dragon slaps him in the face and they run the ropes again with both guys sliding to the floor. Azteca runs back in for a suicide dive but gets caught on Puma's shoulders (surprising power display) and sent back first into the post.

Back in and Dragon's middle rope hurricanrana sends Puma flying and a springboard hurricanrana takes him off the middle rope. A running forearm to the jaw staggers Puma again, allowing Dragon to hit his pop up DDT (the DDTJ) for two. Back up and Puma pulls Dragon off the middle rope into a Blue Thunder Bomb followed by some rolling suplexes for two. The 630 is broken up as Puma gets crotched and a super victory roll gets two for Dragon. Puma kicks him in the back of the head and a Michinoku Driver gets two more. A dropkick sets up the 630 to finally put Dragon away at 8:44.

Rating: B+. Really awesome stuff here and that's all it was going to be. Azteca has hit the ground running in Lucha Underground and this does a good job of setting up Puma vs. Mysterio. Unfortunately it doesn't do much to set up Azteca vs. Lotus, which isn't the strongest feud in the first place. Still though, great match.

Post match Puma says that's Mysterio at Ultima Lucha.

Here are Son of Havoc, the Mack, Cage and Texano in the ring for a chat with Dario. The boss has plans for the four of them for Ultima Lucha: the Unique Opportunity Tournament. The winner will receive the most unique opportunity that he's ever offered so give it everything you have. The tournament starts next week but he thinks they should get a start right now so the brawl is on.

We run down the Ultima Lucha card. Those graphics really do add something.

Johnny Mundo vs. Fenix

Mundo flips off the crowd to make it clear that he is in fact the villain. Thanks for pointing that one out for us chum. Fenix starts with an early rollup attempt before a standing moonsault gets two. Mundo takes him into the corner for some choking, only to get chopped over and over and over. A quick C4 gets two for Mundo and we hit a double arm crank with a chinlock. Mundo spinebuster him for two and Taya gets involved with some choking.

Fenix superkicks him off the ropes though and dives out onto Johnny and Taya at the same time. We get a Super Calo reference before Striker says this is the fight of Fenix's life. I'd think the Muertes match where he won the title was a bit bigger but who am I to argue with Striker. Fenix gets two more off a sunset bomb but Taya grabs his foot so Johnny can kick him in the head. The End of the World misses as Taya puts the Trios Title belt on the apron. Fenix is right back up and chopping Johnny on the top, setting up a super C4 for no count as Taya has the referee. A belt shot puts Fenix away at 7:53.

Rating: B-. I'm not wild on the WWE style finish but at least it fits Johnny's character to perfection and helps set up the Trios Titles match at Ultima Lucha. Johnny and Taya are perfect together and you could see them being a thing in real life which always helps. Fenix has very quietly become one of the best performers in this company and it's always fun to see him in the ring.

Post match the other four members of the trios come out for the big brawl with Ivelisse following them to go after Taya. A huge brawl ends the show with the good guys (and Ivelisse) cleaning house.

Overall Rating: B+. Good wrestling and a VERY strong build towards Ultima Lucha makes this an awesome show. I love the fact that it's a three week show, basically guaranteeing that the matches don't have to be as rushed as they were last year. I'm looking forward to the show more than ever now and that's exactly how I should feel with a week to go. Really well done here as I've come to expect from this promotion.

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