

Lucha Underground – June 14, 2017: Murder and a Tournament

Lucha Underground

Date: June 14, 2017

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

It's tournament time, which isn't the most best description in the world around here. This time around it's the start of the Cueto Cup, with the winner getting a Lucha Underground Title shot at Ultima Lucha Tres.

Tonight we have first round matches, which could eat up a good chunk of time in a thirty two person tournament. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Dario Cueto's announcements last week, as well as Drago turning on his partners to join the villains. There's also a clip of the Black Lotus Tribe destroying Pentagon Dark...whenever that was.

Pentagon comes in to see Dario, who has a bracket board in his office, just in case you wanted him to get even more awesome. Dario doesn't think much of him being back but Pentagon goes after the arm, earning himself a spot in the tournament. Before leaving, Pentagon promises to break some bones if he doesn't win something at Ultima Lucha.

Cueto Cup First Round: Mala Suerte vs. The Mack

They flip around to start with Mack grabbing an armdrag. The fast pace continues until a standoff but Suerte stops to pose instead of following up. That man needs a role model. Suerte's chops have no effect so Mack Samoan drops him for two. A hurricanrana takes Mack down for a basement dropkick and some arm waving.

That just seems to tick Mack off as he grabs an exploder suplex for two more. Suerte's release German suplex sends Mack flying and Mala heads up top, despite Mack being 90% of the way across the ring. Instead of jumping though, Mala drops down and runs across the ring for a backplash. Eh cute enough. Suerte misses a Swanton though and the

Stunner advances Mack at 7:31.

Rating: C. This looked like a squash on paper but Suerte wound up getting in enough offense to make things entertaining. Mack is coming off back to back Lucha Underground Title matches though and it wasn't likely to have him lose to a low level performer like Suerte this early on.

Cage, still wearing the gauntlet (which is still shooting electricity), is lifting when Dario comes in. The boss thinks Cage should meet Councilman Delgado but Cage doesn't seem interested. Dario insists though, because he's not scared of a giant wearing a powerful weapon.

Cueto Cup First Round: Argenis vs. Pentagon Dark

Argenis tries to handspring off the ropes and gets dropkicked in the mask for his efforts. Pentagon takes the knee out and it's one sided to start. A hurricanrana drops Pentagon but he kicks Argenis in the head to take over again. An exchange of superkicks goes to Pentagon but Argenis is able to take him outside. That's about it for his offense at the moment though as Pentagon kicks him in the face a third time. Argenis gets two off a neckbreaker, only to get suplexed into the corner. The pumphandle driver gives Pentagon two so it's a package piledriver to put Argenis away at 5:44.

Rating: C+. Pentagon comes off like someone who knows how to maul people and it's very entertaining to watch him do so. This was completely one sided with Pentagon toying with Argenis from bell to bell. If Pentagon doesn't go a very long way in this tournament, there's something wrong with this promotion.

Pentagon breaks Argenis' arm for a second time, just because he can.

Cueto Cup First Round: Famous B. vs. Texano

B. yells at Melissa Santos for not introducing him from Texas. He needs a stud like Texano in his stable so he's willing to let Texano get an uncontested pin. B. lays down but Texano picks him up at two, setting up a sitout powerbomb for the pin at 25 seconds.

Famous B.'s valet Brenda gives Texano a little spank, which he doesn't

seem to mind.

Video on Rey Mysterio getting ready to challenge Johnny Mundo for the Lucha Underground Title.

Cueto Cup First Round: Aerostar vs. Drago

Striker reminds us of their best of five series and when you add in following matches, they're 3-3 against each other. It's nice to have them add in stories like that for some interest in what should be nothing matches otherwise. You know, ignoring the whole betrayal last week. Drago is now in red and on Kobra Moon's leash.

Aerostar offers a handshake to start but Drago won't do it. With Aerostar's back turned, Drago hesitates to hit him but a smile from Moon turns him more evil and Aerostar is in trouble to start. Aerostar grabs a drop toehold to send him into the middle buckle, only to eat a dropkick. This might be more entertaining if Striker would drop the hissing sounds whenever talking about Moon. A hurricanrana and kick to the head stagger Drago but he catches a springboard in a cutter for two.

They look at each other for a second and again, Drago doesn't seem to want to do this. Aerostar hits a suicide dive to send Drago into the stairs but bangs himself up even worse at the same time. Some cheap shots from Moon keep Aerostar down and Drago fires off some more kicks. Aerostar is right back with a freaky modified Texas Cloverleaf while laying on his back with a bodyscissors around Drago's ribs. It's broken in just a few seconds but it certainly looked cool. Drago comes right back with the Dragon's Tail for the pin at 7:26.

Rating: D+. This was much more about the storyline than the match and that's not often a good thing. The Kobra Moon stuff really isn't all that interesting and it would have been nice to have a refresher after so many months away from the story. At least the logical winner moved forward though and the story can continue in the Trios Titles matches.

Drago lays Aerostar out after the match, again at Moon's wishes.

Cage goes to City Hall where Councilman Delgado promises Cage more power

as their work begins. Cage then chokes Delgado against a wall...and PUNCHES HIS FACE IN, apparently murdering the Councilman because Cage is a machine and not a man.

Overall Rating: D+. This was about moving stories forward instead of the matches and that's not the best thing in the world when we're in the start of such a long story. Assuming four matches a week, we're looking at four straight weeks of first round matches before we really move to the bigger stuff. Then again we had a murder on this show as Cage continues to become a potentially huge bad. Not the worst show here but it's a first step of a long way.

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Lucha Underground – October 27, 2016: It's A Soul In A

Box

Lucha Underground

Date: October 26, 2016

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

The countdown to Aztec Warfare is on and that means things are about to pick up around here. The problem with this season so far has been the lack of any meaningful story but the entire roster contending for the title in one match should get us somewhere. If nothing else it would be nice to see something other than one random challenger a week. Let's get to it.

This week's opening recap looks at Texano vs. Cage, Johnny Mundo getting a Gift of the Gods Title shot and Ivelisse's boyfriend Jeremiah. These things are a great refresher and a solid preview of things to come tonight.

Sexy Star comes into Dario Cueto's office and demands her Lucha Underground Title shot next week. Dario admires her huevos but says she has to defend the Gift of the Gods Title against Johnny Mundo tonight. If Aerostar, Fenix or Drago interfere, they're banned from the Temple forever.

Marty Martinez vs. Ivelisse

Marty smiles as Ivelisse forearm him in the face and a middle rope crossbody is turned into a powerslam. As the beating goes on, Vampiro says Marty weighs 300lbs. I know wrestling weights are gimmicked but that sounds insane. Mariposa gets in a few bites (thereby freaking Melissa Santos out) and Marty elbows Ivelisse in the face. A few strikes stagger Marty but Ivelisse's guillotine choke actually brings him down. Well at least a little down until he knocks her silly with a spinebuster. A full nelson slam puts Ivelisse away at 4:20.

Rating: D+. Lucha Underground is normally pretty good with their intergender matches but in this case it was Marty destroying one of the

best women in the promotion. Ivelisse never had a chance here and Marty, who isn't much of a star in his own right, basically squashed her. What happened here?

Post match Jeremiah comes in and cleans house until it turns into a brawl, likely setting up a tag match. Jeremiah seems to apologize to Ivelisse for interfering but she's not pleased.

The Rabbit Tribe, including Paul London, is coming soon.

Jeremiah is still apologizing and suggests he join the Temple. The idea of them fighting together seems to appeal to Ivelisse.

And now, let's make things interesting. We go to the inside of Councilman Delgado's limo when Dario gets in. Dario says someone's ascension is complete (they might be talking about their boss but it's not clear) and Delgado talks about needing a host body. It seems that the series between Texano and Cage will be for the right to be the host so Delgado hands Dario a box....which I assume contains a soul? Now THIS is Lucha Underground!

Texano vs. Cage

This is match #3 in a best of five series with Cage up 2-0. Texano goes right after him (because he's desperate) and a clothesline sends Cage outside. A whip into the eternally empty wooden chairs makes things even worse for Cage so he throws Texano right back. Texano pops back up as well and sunset bombs Cage over the top and back onto the floor.

Back in and the no selling continues with Cage throwing him down in a fall away slam. A top rope superplex puts both guys down in a heap and Cage is the first to cover for two. Cage's pumphandle faceplant gets the same so Texano hits a middle rope leg lariat for his own near fall. This is a bunch of trading spots and that's all it should be. A buckle bomb sets up an F5 on Texano and the kickout frustrates Cage even more. With Cage at his wits' end, Texano grabs a small package for the pin at 7:45.

Rating: C+. I'm a big fan of that ending as they were beating the heck out of each other until one guy puts the brakes on and goes in a

completely opposite direction for the pin. It's good psychology and works almost every time. I'm sure we'll see these two fight again but it's nice to keep them from fighting on every single show. In other words, this isn't Cesaro vs. Sheamus.

Dario is looking in the box (What could that possibly look like?) when Rey Mysterio comes in. Rey wants to face Chavo Guerrero in a Loser Leaves the Temple match. Dario agrees and says you have to put a dog down for its own good. Now anyone other than a wrestling face would see that something is up with a statement like that but Rey is cursed with being an idiot.

Gift of the Gods Title: Johnny Mundo vs. Sexy Star

Star is defending. It's a change of pace this time as Star tries to stay away to start, only to get taken down into an amateur wrestling contest. This goes badly for the champ and Johnny kicking at the legs make it even worse. A botched looking neckbreaker puts Sexy down again and a running knee to the face gets two.

Johnny goes Backlund with a crossface chickenwing before putting Star on the top rope and elbowing her in the face. You don't see that very often but it's happened twice on this one show. Johnny tries a moonsault but lands on raised feet to FINALLY (ok they're four minutes into the match) give Star an opening. Star goes with some weak looking right hands to the face and a failed monkey flip because YOU CAN'T MONKEY FLIP JOHNNY MUNDO! Yeah doesn't have quite the same ring.

Mundo spears the referee by mistake and of course Star chokes Johnny out a few seconds later. Cue the Worldwide Underground to lift Star up so Johnny can charge at her, sending her flipping over and down to the mat (Chikara's BDK used it as their finisher, Ragnarok). Another referee comes in as the Underground leaves (So he was watching the match to see the ref bump but not the interference?) to count two, meaning Johnny knocks him out too.

The Underground wraps a chair around Star's neck but before they can Pillmanize her, it's the Mack running in with a bunch of Stunners. Star chairs Mundo in the head for two and I can hear Vince Russo's laughter in

my head. Johnny misses the split legged moonsault but pulls out a pair of brass knuckles to knock Star out for the pin and the title at 11:43.

Rating: D. I know this is a promotion where the suspension of disbelief has to be stretched but the idea that the referees didn't catch on to ANY of that cheating is too much for me to take. This was Sexy Star vs. the World (wide Underground) and it really didn't work. Mundo cheating to win once or twice at the most would have been fine but this was two people interfering, a chair, two ref bumps and brass knuckles. There's a line you can cross where it's too much to take and this match jumped over it.

Prince Puma is working out when Vampiro comes in to say beating Mil Muertes was a great first step. Vampiro brings up Muertes killing Konnan, which Puma finds due to Vampiro's hatred of Konnan. Puma seems to think about it to end the show.

Overall Rating: D+. This wasn't a strong episode on the wrestling side though we're starting to get back on the right path with the storytelling, which is where Lucha Underground shines. You can tell there's going to be some big stuff coming at the Aztec Warfare show and that's a good sign going forward. This show wasn't a good sign though and that's quite the fall after last week's strong outing.

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