

Pancakes And Piledrivers II: I Made A Bad Decision

Pancakes And Piledrivers II

Date: April 7, 2018

Location: Sugar Mill, New Orleans, Louisiana

Commentators: Rich Bocchini, Jake Manning, Marty DeRosa

This is a show from Pro Wrestling Revolver plus some other companies (AAW/Fight Club Pro), with the show being billed as the Indy Summit. The show took place over Wrestlemania XXXIV weekend and I had a ticket to this show but went to WrestleCon instead. Odds are I made a mistake but let's get to it.

The opening video looks at the promotions included for a nice change of pace.

Jeff Cobb vs. Shane Strickland

Yeah this is going to be fun, even with Matt Striker as ring announcer. At the very least, seeing Strickland's Ain't Nobody entrance is always awesome. Strickland hurts his arm on an early clothesline attempt so Cobb grabs him by the throat. A charge into the corner takes too long though, allowing Strickland to go up top. That's fine with Cobb, who pulls him out of the air and hits the swinging belly to back toss. The huge beal out of the corner sends Strickland flying again as commentary mocks the building for being filthy but not allowing the advertised pancakes.

Strickland tries to come back with a chop, allowing Cobb to show him how one is properly thrown. They have the same exchange with forearms but Strickland manages a kick to the head into a German suplex. The running kick to the head gives Strickland two and a hard knee to the head makes it worse. The Swerve Stomp gets two but Cobb sends him into the corner for a running uppercut. A headbutt plants Strickland again and the

Tour of the Islands gives Cobb the pin at 7:59.

Rating: C+. Nice opener here as we get one of the things that WrestleCon does well: putting together indy (well then indy) stars and letting them have a fun match. Strickland continues to feel like a star and it is no surprise that he has become a bigger deal. Cobb is a monster who can run over anyone and it is always fun to see him throw people around.

Post match Strickland thanks all three companies for putting the show on.

Colt Cabana/Marty DeRosa vs. Joey Ryan/Session Moth Martina

It's still weird to hear Ryan being treated as some kind of awesome star. Martina on the other hand goes around the ring drinking with fans, which makes her seem rather popular. Grinding on everyone in the ring makes it even better (Better?) as this is going to be an interesting one. This is DeRosa's, usually a commentator, debut and he has gear very similar to Cabana's.

Ryan oils up and gives Cabana some for he and DeRosa to share. The bell rings and Ryan tells Cabana to touch it but, after an apology to the crowd, he declines. Ryan thinks DeRosa might do it instead so Cabana brings him in...and has to hold DeRosa back from touching it. DeRosa and Ryan trade wristlocks to start but Ryan still can't get him to touch it. If that won't happen, maybe DeRosa will touch Martina's...uh, yeah.

Cabana is MORE than willing to try (Martina doesn't seem to mind) but they'll wrestle instead. Well maybe not as Martina grinds on Cabana to get out of a waistlock and Ryan tags himself back in. Cabana does his STOP, WHAT'S THAT and slaps Ryan in the face and annoyance begins to grow. DeRosa and Martina come in with DeRosa slapping her in the same way, which is NOT COOL with a lot of people. Ryan knocks DeRosa into the corner for a Bronco Buster (the long form) from Martina.

With DeRosa down, it's time for the lollipop from Ryan's trunks. Cabana breaks that up and it's stereo Bionic Elbows to the...villains? DeRosa busts out a super hurricanrana for two, followed by a Figure Four. Cabana puts Martina in the Billy Goat's Curse at the same time but Martina crawls on top of DeRosa's face and bounces for the double break.

Then Kiss Me by Sixpence None The Richer starts playing (ok that's a plus) and romance is teased...until DeRosa and Cabana's hands are put between Ryan and Martina's respective legs. There's the double flip (with the referee falling down too) and Ryan pulls out a sucker/Martina pulls out a prophylactic from their tights, which go into Cabana and DeRosa's mouths. Stereo superkicks are good for stereo pins for Ryan and Martina at 8:12.

Rating: F. This is the definition of a your mileage may vary match and that isn't the best thing to see. Ryan's shtick didn't work for me before everything came out about him and it's even more uncomfortable not. The match was pure "comedy" and barely a match, but what else were you expecting here? Absolutely not my thing and the kind of stuff I never need to see again.

Peace is made post match as Jim Cornette insults abound.

Eddie Kingston vs. Juice Robinson

Kingston comes out to David Starr's music as the result of a lost bet. They go technical to start with Kingston working on a hammerlock before switching into a top wristlock. Back up and Robinson hits a spinwheel kick, setting up a Cannonball in the corner. A high crossbody gives Robinson two as commentary talks about Sami Callihan. Kingston isn't having that and knocks him outside, setting up the big suicide dive.

Robinson's piledriver attempt is countered into a backdrop on the floor, setting up a big whip into the barricade. Back in and the waistlock goes on to keep Robinson down, followed by

the rapid fire (minus rapid fire) chops in the corner. That's reversed into some chops from Robinson and a layout powerbomb gets two. Kingston runs him over again and NOW it's time for the big chop off (which you knew was coming). Robinson gets in another shot and grabs Pulp Friction for the pin at 8:29.

Rating: C. That ending came out of nowhere and it wasn't exactly a great match in the first place. This felt more like the match where someone said "hey they've never fought before" and that was the extent of the planning. Granted there is only so much that you can do with a story on this show, but this was just kind of there for the most part.

Fight Club Pro Title: Meiko Satomura vs. Kimber Lee vs. Jessicka Havok

Satomura is defending and this is the top title of the promotion (out of England, owned by Trent Seven) rather than the Women's Title. Striker, ever the nitwit, insists that it IS the Women's Title, even though that title doesn't seem to have ever existed. Havok clotheslines both of them down to start and does it again to Satomura for daring to fight back.

Satomura and Lee get together and start striking away to take Havok down, leaving Lee to forearm away at Satomura for a bit. Some kicks to the head rock Lee but she's back with a bridging German suplex for two. Havok is back in though and tosses Lee around with no trouble. Three straight running kicks to the face stagger Lee even more but Satomura forearms Havok away. A DDT sends Havok outside and Lee gets Death Valley Drivered for two. Satomura hits Scorpion Rising to retain at 6:06.

Rating: C. That was rather sudden as Havok never came back in after the DDT. Not having a title changed here isn't exactly shocking and it was cool to see Satomura getting to showcase herself. Lee is someone I never could get into but she is talented. Havok on the other hand is a total monster that you get as soon as you see her. Perfectly fine match here, but I

was expecting more.

AAW Title: Trevor Lee vs. ACH

ACH is defending and Lee's (probably better known as Cameron Grimes) AAW Heritage Title isn't on the line. Lee bails to the floor to start and grabs the mic, allowing him to complain about this show taking place at "eleven o'clock in the afternoon". These people here don't care that he was out late on Bourbon Street but all that matters is that he is going to win the AAW Title. Not some loser like ACH who can't even get on another show this weekend, but a real champion.

After bragging about the money he is going to make, Lee gets hit in the face, only to have ACH miss the 450 back inside. A shot to the face knocks out ACH's tooth or gum but he is fine enough to avoid the Cave In. ACH is back with a superkick into a brainbuster for....the pin at 3:10!

Rating: C+. Sure why not, as Lee's promo and then getting getting shut up so fast was funny, but the wrestling was barely half of this. Sometimes you need a fun match like this, even if it was probably a way to cut time on a loaded show. ACH really was a talented guy before he went a bit bonkers, while Lee would go on to a rather nice career.

Post match, Lee reminds us that he is STILL the Heritage Champion.

OVE vs. Brian Cage/Joey Janela/AR Fox

Tornado rules. That would be the Crist Brothers/Sami Callihan, who are billed under both of their names (Ohio vs. Everything and Ohio Is For Killers). Jake Crist isn't waiting on the bell and flip dives onto everyone, setting up an Asai moonsault as we're just getting started without a bell. Penelope Ford comes out to watch as Dave takes Fox inside for a wind up DDT. Janela high crossbodies Fox but gets clotheslined by Callihan.

Cage is waiting on him so Callihan spits in his face...which earns Callihan a heck of a discus lariat. Jake knocks Cage outside but his suicide dive is caught in a suplex because Cage can do that. Everyone else heads outside, leaving Janela to hit a big top rope flip dive. Dave goes up so Ford catches him and it's a superplex onto the big pile. That's too far for Callihan, who powerbombs Ford onto a slightly smaller pile, which has commentary freaking out. Not over what Ford did, which was more dangerous, but just what Callihan did. Hypocrites.

Back in and a bunch of strikes to the face leave everyone down as commentary talks about Ford's Gizmo themed gear. OVE is back up with stereo superkicks but charge into superkicks. Fox avoids a charge though and hits a Spanish Fly, setting up a 450 for two. Jake is back in with a Death Valley Driver to Fox, setting up the spike Tombstone (Killing Spree) for...one?

Everyone is back up for the big staredown, with Cage hitting an F5 and Fox hitting a Death Valley Driver of his own, setting up a triple cover. OVE breaks up stereo triple superplexes so Fox knocks Dave down instead. Fox loads up a frog splash but Jake dives from the adjacent corner with a super cutter to knock Fox cold for the pin at 8:45.

Rating: B-. Thank goodness they went to the finish after that cutter because nothing was going to top that one. Fox was knocked silly and there was no reason to try anything else. The rest of the match was your usual insanity that comes with such a stipulation and it went rather well, at least partially helped because OVE is a regular team. That finish looked great though and it carried the match a lot higher.

PWR Scramble Title: Matt Palmer vs. Jake Manning vs. Caleb Konley vs. Trey Miguel vs. Clint Margera vs. Jason Cade vs. Ace Romero vs. Curt Stallion vs. Maxwell Jacob Friedman vs. Myron Reed vs. Connor Braxton vs. Omari

Palmer is defending and this would be your OH COME ON match of the show, as there are TWELVE PEOPLE in this. Everyone but MJF jumps Palmer to start and toss him outside, leaving everyone else to brawl inside. Reed is left alone to dropkick Cade outside so Stallion comes in to dropkick him. Romero hits a dropkick to Stallion but the rather tall Braxton kicks Romero outside.

Palmer and MJF double team Braxton and we seem to have a partnership...until they both poke eyes and kick each other low, which is good for a handshake out of mutual respect. That's always nice to see. Omari and Margera hit stereo flip dives onto the floor, followed by Miguel's springboard flip dive. Manning's top rope trust fall (while still reading his Boy Scout manual, as is his custom) takes everyone down, leaving Romero (nearly 400lbs) to hit his own dive, much to the fans' delight.

Back in and we get the required Tower Of Doom, albeit with Palmer and MJF teaming together, teasing a split, and then splitting in the span of ten seconds. Braxton and Stallion double team Romero, with the former managing an impressive slam. Manning is back in with a backbreaker into a lifting Downward Spiral to Stallion and we hit the parade of secondary (or maybe primary) finishers. Omari takes Miguel out so MJF tries to steal the pin, only to get rolled up by Palmer (with trunks) to retain at 8:14.

Rating: C. Yeah it was fine and that's all I can think of to say about it. What in the world are you supposed to do with a dozen people doing spot after spot for about eight minutes? Palmer stealing the pin doesn't so much prove anything as he just was in the right place at the right time. That is how these matches always go and while they get a lot of people on the show, they almost never do anything for me as no one gets to stand out in the slightest.

Lucha Bros vs. Jack Evans/Teddy Hart

First half of a double main event and it takes a good while for the Bros to get here. As usual, Evans runs his mouth a lot before the match, which will likely continue after the bell. Fenix and Evans start things off and yes Evans is still running his mouth, which is rarely a good idea. They trade their flips until Fenix kicks the leg out for no count before flipping up into a standoff.

Hart and Penta come in and the chop off is on fast before Hart complains about the lack of respect. A Backstabber drops Penta and Evans springboards in to kick Fenix in the head. That leaves Hart to hit a hanging piledriver/DDT at the same time to drop both Bros. Evans does a triple backflip into the corner to poke Fenix in the eye, which he describes as never before seen. The Canadian Destroyer into the moonsault gives Hart two on Fenix but Penta is back in for a change.

The double teaming takes him down as well, only to have the Bros pop up for running corner clotheslines. Penta gives Hart a heck of a superkick into the corner, with Evans being tied in the Tree of Woe to put them on top of each other. Fenix flips Penta onto the pile before Evans is tied up in a surfboard. That's not enough for Penta though, as Fenix pulls on the arms at the same time.

Since that doesn't really work nearly as well as the single version would, Evans hangs on until Hart makes the save. Penta Canadian Destroyers Hart for two with Evans making a save of his own. A springboard doesn't work for Evans as he falls off the top but he's right back with a middle rope Phoenix splash for two as Fenix makes his own save.

Fenix hits a rolling cutter on Evans as the referee is trying to restore order for whatever reason. One heck of a Project Ciampa drops Fenix and Evans adds the 630 for two more. Penta powerbombs Evans onto his knee for his own near fall, setting up a stereo Pentagon Driver/Black Fire Driver to give the Bros the double pin at 10:34.

Rating: B-. I would call this the “well, what did you expect” special, as you know what you’re going to get when you have a match involving these people. There is nothing else to expect from these four getting into a match and they made it work well. Let them go out there and do their flips and dives to pop the crowd and that’s all you need. Fun stuff of course, despite being total junk food wrestling.

AAW/PWR Tag Team Titles: Besties In The World vs. Aussie Open vs. Rascalz

The Besties (Davey Vega/Mat Fitchett) are defending both sets of titles in a ladder match. The Rascalz (Dezmond Xavier/Zachary Wentz) are debuting their name, having been formerly known as Scarlett And Graves (weird name). That leaves Aussie Open (Kyle Fletcher/Mark Davis), who have nothing of note but I needed a reason to say their names. And yes, the Besties are the team who do their entrance to Truly Madly Deeply by Savage Garden and yes it is still amazing.

Hold on though, as Fitchett wants tables and chairs added in to the ladders because they’re hardcore! Vega: “NO WE’RE NOT!” Striker says everything is legal, despite it being a ladder match where everything is legal in the first place. A bunch of weapons are thrown inside as commentary talks about how ridiculous it is to have all of these totally unnecessary things underneath the ring.

Ladders and plywood are placed in the corner and Fitchett and Miguel are knocked into/through them. Vega goes up top and gets caught by a bunch of people who shove him through another plywood board. Aussie Open and the Rascalz slug it out with the bigger Fletcher being the last man standing. Wentz chairs him off the ladder though and goes up, allowing commentary to mock JR’s voice on the famous Jeff Hardy ladder climb.

With that broken up, Wentz hits a big step up dive onto a pile on the floor, followed by Fitchett’s running lip dive. Davis

Arabian presses onto a bunch of people, leaving Xavier alone with a ladder in the ring. Instead of going for the belts, he climbs the ladder and shooting stars down onto the pile. Vega has used the delay to put a board over six chairs at ringside and superplex Wentz through it for the next big crash.

Back in and Fitchett kicks Xavier in the face but it's Aussie Open cleaning house. Davis' running forearm in the corner rocks Xavier and the Aussies both climb at once (Commentary: "No, no, no."). Fitchett makes the save and the champs crush Aussie Open with ladders in the corner. The Rascalz are back in to kick the Besties down, including Wentz superkicking a chair into Fitchett's face. Davis comes back in this time and powerbombs Xavier with one arm (dang) but gets kicked in the face by Wentz as well.

Xavier is back up to kick Fletcher and Fitchett down, leaving everyone on the mat. The Aussies catch Xavier going up and Fletcher dives off the top for a cutter (not quite OVE level but not bad). Wentz chops at the Aussies but gets thrown into a ladder in the corner for his efforts. That's enough to dent the ladder so Fletcher gets on Davis' shoulders but the champs turn it into a Doomsday Device. The Besties hit stereo piledrivers on the Rascalz (illegal in Louisiana) and retain the titles at 14:10.

Rating: B. It was a six man indy ladder match and that should tell you everything that you need to know. There were cool spots and a lot of carnage until one of the teams got the titles, which is exactly how something like this was supposed to go. It's nothing great or memorable but for a big main event on a show like this one, it went well and was probably the best thing on the card.

Post match the Besties say that's how you win gold together (Fan: "THEY'RE SILVER!") but they want to call out...DAVID ARQUETTE??? AND HE'S HERE! Arquette pulls out a \$100 bill scarf and says the Besties just want his money, before

bragging about the big names he has faced. He says he's a real champion and that WWE ruined WCW. Then he pulls off his jacket and reveals a NEVER BEEN PINNED shirt. Arquette seems to challenge the Besties to a match and leaves through the crowd to end the show on an awkward note.

Overall Rating: B-. I had fun and it only went a little over two hours so it didn't overstay its welcome. What matters here is getting a bunch of people on a show and popping the crowd over and over. You don't look for continuity or logic here and what we got here lived up to those requirements. It's cool to see some of the non-WWE stars out there doing their thing and there is only one match that really didn't work on the whole card. Fun stuff and I'm kind of regretting not taking it in live.

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205 Live – March 12, 2021: These Guys Are On A Roll

205 Live

Date: March 12, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

For once we're coming off of a pretty strong show as last week saw good stuff in both of the show's matches. The talent is there, but it is all about finding an interesting way to present it. This show has had a serious problem figuring it out along the way but hopefully they can start going in the right direction again. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Bollywood Boyz vs. Curt Stallion/Mansoor

Ever-Rise joins commentary for a bonus. Commentary mentions Mansoor being undefeated during his entrance as it seems to be a thing. Mansoor wristlocks Sunil to start but gets reversed into a headlock for his efforts. Samir comes in and it's a pair of leapfrogs into a double back elbow for two on Mansoor. Some double dropkicks take the Boyz down but it's too early for the hot tag.

A double suplex gets two on Mansoor and we hit the chinlock. Sunil holds Mansoor's legs so Samir can drop a top rope elbow for two more. Mansoor manages to shove them into each other but doesn't tag, instead fighting them both off on his own. A clothesline into a bulldog out of the corner drops Sunil and the slingshot neckbreaker hits Samir. Stallion tags himself in, glares at Mansoor, headbutts Sunil and pins Samir at 6:25.

Rating: C-. This could work as they do need to do something with Mansoor so feuding with Stallion could be as interesting as anything else. Above all else it is something and that is more than Mansoor has had this side of Saudi Arabia. I'm curious to see where it goes and that is something I haven't been able to say about 205 Live in a good while.

Tensions seem ready to flare post match.

We see Jordan Devlin saying that he's coming back to NXT from this week's NXT.

Ariya Daivari vs. August Grey

They fight into the corner to start and Grey isn't having this trash talk. Daivari takes him down into an early chinlock but Grey reverses that into a headlock. Grey throws in a takeover to frustrate Daivari even more but he's back up with some hard chops. A running hurricanrana and some chops set up another headlock on Daivari but he's back up with a knee to the ribs.

The threat of So Much Prettier sends Daivari bailing to the floor so Grey misses a dive and tweaks his knee. Daivari hits a hanging neckbreaker off the apron for two but Grey grabs a small package back inside. That annoys Daivari so much that he blasts Grey with a running clothesline and the chinlock goes on again. With that not working, Daivari misses the Persian Lion splash and Grey makes the comeback.

That means a double clothesline though and they're both down again. It's Grey up first and unloading in the corner, followed by some shots to the face. Grey snaps off a neckbreaker into a scoop brainbuster for two more. A swinging suplex gets two more so Grey heads up top, only to get pulled down in an Iconoclasm. Now the Persian Lion splash gets two so they head to the apron with Grey hitting something like an STO.

Back in and Grey misses his rope walk spinning crossbody for a

big crash. Daivari gets caught grabbing the rope while trying to counter a sunset flip and stops to yell at the referee. Grey nails a superkick but So Much Prettier is broken up. Instead Grey avoids a charge in the corner and grabs a rollup with feet on the ropes for the pin at 13:16.

Rating: B. Where in the world did that come from? These two had a heck of a match and I was wanting to see how it was going to end. Grey is becoming a breakout star more and more every single week and it's kind of awesome to see. The ending wasn't a heel turn but rather Grey cheating because Daivari had tried to and balancing things out. It made sense and was a clever way to wrap up a good match.

Overall Rating: B-. I'm not sure what has gotten into 205 Live as of late but they are on a rather nice roll. This is their second good show in a row and the main event is worth seeing, even if you're not overly familiar with either of them. I've been asking for the show to pick things up a bit and that is what they have been doing so well done on all accounts.

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205 Live – March 5, 2021: One Of Their Best Matches Ever

205 Live

Date: March 5, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, St. Petersburg, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

We're back to the cruiserweight show that doesn't seem to exist as far as the Cruiserweight Champions are concerned. Now one might think that is a bad sign for the show, but it has been chugging along for so many years now that I'm not sure it makes the biggest difference in the world. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

August Grey/Jake Atlas vs. Ariya Daivari/Tony Nese

Grey scares Daivari into the corner to start so it's off to Nese instead. A hammerlock takes Nese down in a hurry as Nigel says wins and losses matter around here. I'm not entirely sure how but you don't argue with a British wrestler. Nese fights up and brings Daivari back in for a double suplex but Grey sticks the landing and makes the tag. Everything breaks down and Nese fakes a knee injury, allowing Daivari to crotch Atlas on top.

Daivari's running boot to the face gets two and Nese is back in for a running elbow to the face. Atlas kicks him away though and Grey is smart enough to step around the post to make the hot tag. House is cleaned in a hurry but Daivari shoves Grey into the Sunset Driver for two. Everything breaks down and Atlas hits a suicide dive on Daivari, leaving Grey to hit So Much Prettier for the pin on Nese at 7:56.

Rating: C. Nice stuff here as Grey and Atlas were flying around while Nese and Daivari did their thing well enough. I know the stories aren't going anywhere and they have been on the same treadmill for years now, but at least they are having some slightly better matches. Just please find something for them to move towards. Like anything, please.

Earlier today, Mansoor and Curt Stallion had a friendly discussion over what their tag team name should be. Then they agreed to a match against each other tonight.

We look at Legado del Fantasma beating up Ever-Rise and Breezango on NXT.

The Bollywood Boyz aren't happy with Ever-Rise going to NXT without them.

Curt Stallion vs. Mansoor

Feeling out process to start with Mansoor driving him up against the ropes for the clean break. They go to the mat for the grappling exchange with Mansoor slapping on a hammerlock. That's reversed into a headlock until Mansoor gets away for two off an Oklahoma roll. Back up and Mansoor grabs another headlock, which is reversed into a bridging German suplex for two. Mansoor nails a running clothesline for the same and the chinlock goes on.

Grey is right back up with an Air Raid Crash onto the knee and a running knee in the corner rocks Mansoor. A DDT into the corner (that's a new one) gets two as Grey is getting frustrated. Mansoor counters a whip into a double underhook spun into a slam for two. Stallion headbutts him out to the floor and there's a dive to take Mansoor down again. Back in and Stallion's top rope splash hits knees but he catches Mansoor on top with a super reverse Spanish Fly. Mansoor sends him into the corner though and it's the slingshot neckbreaker to finish Stallion at 10:32.

Rating: B. I'm still not sure why WWE is waiting for so long to do anything with Mansoor because he is one of the better names they have on the lower level of the card. This was a rather solid match with both guys working hard and looking good in the process. It's one of the best 205 Live matches in recent memory and it's very nice to see something like that after so many weeks of meh.

Post match respect is shown and commentary mentions that Mansoor is 41-0. There's your stat that you probably never would have guessed.

Overall Rating: B-. As tends to be the case in WWE, the shows work so much better when they drop everything else and just focus on the wrestling. That is almost always the case around here, but this week's main event was more than enough to carry things. I can't imagine it means anything long term, but for a one off show, this was a lot of fun.

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205 Live – February 26, 2021: Yeah That

205 Live

Date: February 26, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

Another week, another 205 Live and I'm not sure how excited I can be about that. Hopefully this week winds up being a little better than usual because there isn't much else to say about the whole thing. You never know what you might get out of this week's show, but there is always a potential upside to the whole thing. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Mansoor/Curt Stallion vs. Ever-Rise

Stallion and Martel start things off with Parker taking him up against the ropes and then getting in a shove. That earns Martel a headlock takeover and then a shoulder gives Stallion one. It's off to Mansoor vs. Parker as we continue the back to back first gears. Parker grabs a headlock but Mansoor reverses into one of his own. Stallion comes back in to keep up the headlocking and an elbow to the face gets two. It's already back to Mansoor for two off a suplex, followed by a double armdrag to put both of them down at once.

Hold on though as here are the Bollywood Boyz to give Ever-Rise a pep talk, despite Ever-Rise not seeming interesting. Back in and a blind tag lets Martel come back in to powerbomb Mansoor and another blind tag lets Martel break up a sunset flip. Parker misses a step up elbow drop though and Stallion comes back in to start cleaning house. Stallion's top rope

splash hits raised knees as everything breaks down. Sweet Taste drops Mansoor and there's a big boot to Stallion. Not that it matters though as the Boyz accidentally distract Parker and Mansoor grabs a rollup for the pin at 9:33.

Rating: C. This was fine again but the big question now is where we go with the Boyz vs. Ever-Rise. They have been doing these things for months now but with nothing in the way of a big show, it can be hard to figure out where this kind of thing is going to end. I'm sure the blowoff match is going to work well, though I'm not sure where it is actually going to take place.

We look back at Ariya Daivari and Tony Nese attacking August Grey and then beating him in last week's main event.

Tony Nese vs. August Grey

Ariya Daivari and Jake Atlas are here too. Nese takes him down by the leg to start but gets reversed into an armbar. That's broken up for a standoff and it's Grey grabbing a slam but having to go after Daivari. Nese's baseball slide doesn't work but he gets in a cheap shot to the throat to take over. Back in and the Lionsault gets two so Grey is right back up with the spinning high crossbody for two of his own.

Nese grabs the gutwrench powerslam to take over again and we hit the bodyscissors. That doesn't work either as Grey fights up with a jawbreaker into a neckbreaker. Nese catches him on the top but misses the 450. That's enough to get Daivari on the apron so Grey can be tossed outside, meaning Daivari knocks Atlas silly. There's the suicide dive from Grey to take out Nese and it's So Much Prettier to finish Nese at 7:13.

Rating: C. Another completely watchable match which isn't exactly something I would want to see again, or that I'm going to remember in the next five minutes or so. That is the problem with most of the matches on this show and that was the problem again here. I'm sure that is going to set up another

tag match or something, because that's how these shows always work on this show.

Overall Rating: C-. This was one of those shows that wasn't exactly thrilling and didn't make me want to keep watching in the future. That's a common problem on this show and it keeps happening time after time. What on here is supposed to make me come back? The low level tag teams fighting each other? Another old vs. new tag match? I'd hope they can come up with something better, but I've been waiting for that one way too long now.

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205 Live – February 19, 2021: Power And Glory Were Very Shiny

205 Live

Date: February 19, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

It's another week and I still have no idea what to say about this show. Odds are it's going to be Tony Nese and Ariya Daivari dealing with some other young whippersnappers because that's all they have done for months. Oh and some Ever Rise/Bollywood Boyz stuff because that's still going. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Curt Stallion/Jake Atlas/Ashante Adonis/Mansoor vs. Bollywood Boyz/Ever-Rise

Well it's different enough. Mansoor and Martel get things going but it's off to Parker in a hurry for a double shoulder. Samir comes in and gets caught in an armbar so Ashante comes in, only to get elbowed down by the Boyz. That doesn't last long so it's off to Martel vs. Atlas, the latter of whom helps Stallion shoulder Martel down for two. Parker comes in and gets caught in Stallion's headlock as the rapid fire tagging continues.

Adonis comes back in and gets distracted by Martel, allowing the Boyz to take him down. We finally slow down a bit with Adonis getting beaten up by the rotating villains. Sunil grabs a chinlock for all of ten seconds before Adonis is sent back into the corner for more stomping. A drop toehold into an elbow to the back gets two and a top rope back elbow is good for the same.

Martel can't slam Samir onto Adonis though and it's off to Atlas to clean house. Everything breaks down again and Adonis dropkicks Parker for two. Mansoor's Death Valley Driver gets the same but he gets taken down into the Power and the Glory (Did I miss Power and Glory becoming the most influential team ever???) for another two. A bit of miscommunication lets Mansoor grab a Falcon Arrow for two as everything breaks down again. Stallion comes in off the blind tag and headbutts Sunil

for the pin at 9:59.

Rating: C+. It might not have been good, but it was absolutely energetic and that's a lot better than the usual around here. I'm still not interested in the Ever Rise/Bollywood Boyz deal, but some kind of continuing story is better than none. Just find something for all eight of these people to do and this show might be able to get somewhere, because the talent is there.

Earlier today, Ariya Daivari and Tony Nese jumped August Grey for stealing his chains.

We look at Santos Escobar backing out of his match with Karrion Kross on NXT. The match happens next week or Escobar loses the title.

Karrion Kross is ready to end Escobar.

Ariya Daivari vs. August Grey

Tony Nese is on commentary. Grey goes at Daivari to start but gets hit in the ribs. An early attempt to go after Grey's leg lets him kick Daivari to the floor, setting up a high crossbody back inside. A belly to back suplex gives Grey two but Daivari is right back with a DDT for the same. We hit the neck crank on Grey but he slips out and grabs a sunset flip for two.

There's a neckbreaker to drop Daivari, who pops right back up with a sleeper. The Rock Bottom plants Grey for two more but Grey ducks the hammerlock lariat. A superkick connects to Daivari and they're both down again. Grey sends him out to the apron and then clotheslines him to the floor but stops to glare at Nese. Daivari is sent inside but Nese holds up Daivari's chains to distract Grey (they are rather shiny). The distraction lets Daivari get in a dropkick and the hammerlock lariat is good for the pin at 6:57.

Rating: C-. I'm not sure how many times this match has taken place, but the problem is that it feels like one we have seen a dozen or so times. As usual, that is one of the major problems around here: there is nothing to fight over and it becomes rather tiring in a hurry. The match was fine, but how interesting is Daivari vs. Grey really going to be able to be?

Overall Rating: C. And so ends another rather uninspiring edition of 205 Live. The opener was fun but that's a pretty rare situation around here. The show has a lot of problems, but the biggest is the lack of anything to fight over. Daivari won the main event this week. Is that going to change anything? Is Daivari ever going to be moved up to another level? Of course not, as the Cruiserweight Champions (yeah remember there are two of them) are never here, so what is the point of this show? Other than giving the wrestlers a short show to say they're still active, I'm missing the point, but when has that ever stopped them?

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NXT – February 3, 2021: The Great Match Always Helps

NXT

Date: February 3, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Wade Barrett, Beth Phoenix, Vic Joseph

It's still tournament time because that's what we're doing around here at the moment. Tonight we have more tournament matches, but we also have an appearance from Edge, who has never been on this show before. I'm not sure what he is going to do, but the star power alone is worth a look. Let's get to it.

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

Women's Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic Semifinals: Dakota Kai/Raquel Gonzalez vs. Kayden Carter/Kacy Catanzaro

Catanzaro and Carter say they're ready to shock the world again. Kacy walks the ropes for an armdrag to Kai to start so it's quickly off to Gonzalez, meaning everything breaks down. We settle down to Catanzaro being caught in a front facelock but fighting up for a messed up version of Private Party's Silly String. Carter comes in for a running forearm to Gonzalez in the corner and a low superkick gets two. Gonzalez shoves Carter off the apron and into the announcers' table though as we take a break.

Back with Carter rolling away from Kai and making it over to Catanzaro for the hot tag. Everything breaks down with Catanzaro cleaning house before handing it back to Carter. Gonzalez is sent to the apron for a kind of hanging Pedigree, setting up Catanzaro's hurricanrana driver. Catanzaro hits the inverted Black Arrow but Kai is a hair late on the save so Gonzalez has to kick out anyway. Gonzalez powerbombs Catanzaro

for the pin at 13:03.

Rating: C. This tournament is starting to feel more and more like Impact's women's tournament as there is little drama as to who is winning, which doesn't exactly make for the best set of matches. There were only so many ways to present the whole thing because there are only so many regular teams. This was only so good because of some of the botches and messiness, but there was enough energy to carry the thing.

Toni Storm is ready for Io Shirai because she is the only one to get to her in months. Mercedes Martinez can't stop her either.

Edge and William Regal have a chat in the back.

Leon Ruff vs. Austin Theory

Johnny Gargano is here with Theory. Ruff starts fast but his crossbody is countered into a fall away slam...which doesn't work as Ruff lands on his feet. Theory drop toeholds him face first into the middle buckle and there's a belly to back suplex. A crossface shot to the face rocks Ruff but he hammers away at the ribs to slow Theory down. The sunset flip doesn't work so Ruff forearms away and kicks the leg out. Ruff goes to the apron and nails a superkick on Gargano, followed by a missile dropkick to Theory.

An exchange of shoulders put both Theory and Ruff down, with the latter falling out to the floor. Cue Indi Hartwell and Candice LeRae to help Gargano up but Ember Moon and Shotzi Blackheart run out to jump them. Ruff plays the Eddie Guerrero card by dropping to the floor and grabbing his face, causing another referee to eject Gargano. Back in and a middle rope spinning cutter gets two on Theory, who had to put his foot on the rope. That's enough for Theory, who grabs the ATL for the pin at 6:18.

Rating: C. Theory winning is nice to see as the guy has all

the tools in the world to be a star and giving him a win is a good sight to see. I know he's Gargano's lackey but at least he beat someone with a bit of a resume. Ruff is still doing well after his fluke title reign, with that spinning cutter looking great again.

Post match Theory hits another ATL and grabs the bell, but here's Dexter Lumis to rip out part of Theory's hair. Why? Because for some reason NXT thinks this is interesting. I don't know who else does, but they certainly seem to.

Video on Legado del Fantasma.

Video on Tian Sha, who seems to be the one behind Boa and Xia Li's transformations. It's about an old woman who had two children and met a dragon who agreed to teach the children. The teacher ascended to the throne and survived for generations, where we see Boa and Li standing around her throne. So yeah, the ancient woman is thousands of years old.

Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic Quarterfinals: Lucha House Party vs. Legado del Fantasma

Dorado starts fast with a Lionsault press for two on Mendoza. A double spinebuster puts Dorado down for two though and it's off to Metalik for a springboard. An enziguri knocks him to the floor though and Wilde adds a big dive off the apron. We take a break and come back with Metalik hitting a sunset bomb on Mendoza and getting over for the hot tag to Dorado.

A dropkick hits Wilde and Dorado's high crossbody gets two. Wilde is back up with half of a double springboard DDT, as he can't quite hook Metalik's head. The half that hits Dorado gets two but House Party is back up with Dorado helping Metalik hit a rope walk hurricanrana to send Wilde into Mendoza. Dorado moonsaults onto both of them but it's the Russian legsweep/running kick to the face to finish Dorado at 10:17.

Rating: C+. The action was good and all four were working hard but it's getting harder and harder to care about these tournament matches. The thing feels like it has gone on for months now and it's going to continue all the way up to Takeover. The action was good (with the understandable botches) but it's kind of hard to get excited about these matches when there are several every week.

Post match Legado points at the brackets but here's MSK to say they're going to win.

Oney Lorcan, Danny Burch and Pete Dunne arrive to go Finn Balor hunting.

Post break here are Lorcan, Burch and Dunne for a chat. Dunne says he wants the title so here's Finn Balor to interrupt. Balor says Dunne is hiding behind Lorcan and Burch, which Dunne denies. Burch and Lorcan head to the floor so Balor gets in and says the title match is on for Takeover.

Cue Edge, who says this place is about the W rather than the E, because he sees the passion and the hunger in their eyes. This place helped him find his passion, which helped him win the Royal Rumble. That lets him challenge any champion in this company, meaning it's time to look at the NXT Title. Edge says Balor is on another level so he'll be watching Takeover and it might influence his decision. He has never had the NXT Title and that is intriguing, so the fight at Takeover might help him make his choice.

I know that the chance of Edge picking the NXT Title is about one in three hundred and eighty two trillion, but just paying lip service to the idea makes the title seem that much more important. Balor is a big star in WWE at the moment, but Edge is that much bigger, meaning this was a nice rub to the title, even if Edge never appears again.

Johnny Gargano is rather pleased with The Way things are going but McKenzie Mitchell brings up Gargano's North American Title

defense against Kushida at Takeover. Gargano says he's getting her fired and we take a break. Back with Gargano taking Mitchell over to William Regal's office where he finds Kushida. The brawl is on with Kushida beating him down and kicking him in the arm until referees and agents break it up.

Toni Storm vs. Jessi Kamea

Kamea is officially in the Robert Stone Brand and takes Storm down for an early two. Storm gets in a shot of her own but here's Mercedes Martinez. Kamea yells at her and gets decked for the DQ at 1:21.

Post match the brawl is on as Io Shirai comes out to sit on the top and watch.

Curt Stallion has worked hard to get here and it's time to get his chance at the title. Place your bets.

Cameron Grimes is back next week. That's always good to hear.

Cruiserweight Title: Curt Stallion vs. Santos Escobar

Escobar is defending and has Legado del Fantasma with him. They lock up to start with Escobar hammering him down in a hurry. Stallion's chops don't do much good as it's a cravate into a seated abdominal stretch to put him down. Back up and Escobar hits a dropkick for two as Scarlett is watching from the perch. Something light a dragon sleeper goes on, followed by the armbar as Escobar finally sees Scarlet. A tilt-a-whirl backbreaker cuts off Stallion's comeback attempt but Scarlett's presence is quite the distraction.

Stallion clotheslines him out to the floor and we take a break. Back with Escobar cranking on the arm on the mat, which is switched into a half crab and then something like an STF. Stallion fights up and slugs away to put Escobar on the floor, setting up the suicide dive. Back in and Stallion gets suplexed into the corner to give Escobar two. The Phantom

Driver into the double underhook knee to the chest retains the title at 13:22.

Rating: C. We waited since November to set up this much of a squash? Stallion barely got in anything outside of a brief flurry and the Scarlett distraction didn't mean a thing. I'm not surprised at Escobar retaining, but could we have gotten a little more drama here? Escobar vs. Kross could be something, though it isn't likely to do the title much good.

Post match here's Karrion Kross to wreck the rest of Legado and have the big staredown with Escobar. Kross gets in the ring and tells Escobar he's giving him the gift of time. Now run along. Ok so maybe it was a tarot card last week.

Post break Edge runs into Karrion Kross in the parking lot, who says he hopes Edge chooses wisely. No matter who walks out of Takeover as champion, Kross is coming for the title. Edge sees that as motivation to come back here, and Kross might not like that.

Takeover: Vengeance Day rundown.

Men's Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic Quarterfinals: Undisputed Era vs. Tommaso Ciampa/Timothy Thatcher

Ciampa headlocks Cole down to start but it's too early to go with the Fairy Tale Ending. Instead Ciampa goes with the headlock again to keep things slow early on. Back up and Ciampa blocks a superkick but can't hit a running knee as we have a standoff. Thatcher and Strong come in with Thatcher taking him to the mat with an armbar. A punch to the ribs gives Thatcher two but Strong gets up to bring Cole back in.

Thatcher gets caught in the corner so he fights out and brings in Ciampa to take over on Strong again. This time it's Strong getting caught in the corner for a beating as everything breaks down. The big four way staredown takes us to a break. Back with the bow and arrow keeping Strong in trouble and

Thatcher adds a knee to the ribs. The cross armbreaker doesn't work so Thatcher slaps on the guillotine, sending Strong to the ropes.

Thatcher chokes away in the corner but Strong goes up with him for a top rope superplex. They're both down for a bit until it's a double tag to bring in Cole and Ciampa. Cole knocks him down for two and then nails the jumping enziguri. The brainbuster onto the knee connects but Cole can't get the Figure Four. Everything breaks down and it's a Figure Four to Thatcher, with Strong not quite being able to get the Stronghold on Ciampa. Instead Ciampa kicks him away and makes the diving save and we settle back down again.

Thatcher's release German suplex into a running knee to the face hits Strong for two but he blocks the Fairy Tale Ending. The Angle Slam drops Ciampa again and it's back to Cole. A superkick gets two on Ciampa and Cole is getting frustrated. Strong comes back in and everything breaks down but Thatcher pulls Cole to the floor. A jumping knee from Strong rocks Thatcher on the floor but Strong walks into Willow's Bell to give Ciampa the pin at 17:04.

Rating: B+. This got time and was built up well. The Undisputed Era has long since established that they can go in the ring with anyone and Ciampa/Thatcher have shown a rather nice chemistry as well. That set up a heck of a tag match here as everyone worked hard and I wasn't sure who was going to win until the ending. You don't get a much better feeling than that in wrestling and it was strong here so good stuff all around.

Post match the Grizzled Young Veterans come out to brawl with Ciampa and Thatcher to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. The main event was easily the best thing on the show with Edge's appearance a close second. I'm curious as to where some of these things go, but I'm more impressed by

the Takeover card being set up almost in one week. There are three title matches set and the two Dusty Classic matches will flesh out the card. I'm still not feeling the huge amount of tournament matches, but it is nice to have a great match to close the show out.

Results

Raquel Gonzalez/Dakota Kai b. Kacy Catanzaro/Kayden Carter – Powerbomb to Catanzaro

Austin Theory b. Leon Ruff – ATL

Legado del Fantasma b. Lucha House Party – Russian leg sweep/kick to the face combination to Dorado

Jessi Kamea b. Toni Storm via DQ when Mercedes Martinez interfered

Santos Escobar b. Curt Stallion – Double underhook facebuster

Timothy Thatcher/Tommaso Ciampa b. Undisputed Era – Willow's Bell to Strong

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NXT – January 27, 2021: Too Much Of A Perfectly Adequate Thing

NXT

Date: January 27, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Wade Barrett, Vic Joseph, Beth Phoenix

It's still tournament time around here as the women's Dusty Classic continues the first round but the men's version heads on to the quarterfinals. I'm still not sure if this is the best idea in the world as these tournaments are dominating the show, but maybe the action is going to be enough to carry the show. Let's get to it.

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

Opening recap.

Men's Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic Quarterfinals: MSK vs. Killian Dain/Drake Maverick

Maverick and Lee start things off and go to the mat in a hurry. Maverick's headlock is driven against the ropes so Lee says bring it. Dain wants in but Maverick isn't ready yet, instead taking Lee to the mat with a front facelock. That's broken up as well as Maverick is taken into the corner for a running Bronco Buster from Carter. Maverick slips away and brings in Dain to clean house, including throwing Maverick at Nash for a knockdown (always effective).

The running big boot in the corner rocks Carter but a shot to the knee put Dain down for a second. Lee comes back in and is tossed outside with ease to send us to a break. Back with Dain hitting Lee in the face again and crushing him with a

backsplash. That's enough to give Maverick two but the chinlock is countered for the hot tag to Carter. A penalty kick rocks Maverick and a dropkick puts Dain on the floor. The push moonsault connects for two with Dain making a save. Dain is sent outside again though and it's a Hart Attack with a Blockbuster instead of a clothesline to finish Maverick at 11:06.

Rating: C+. This was more like it for both teams, as Dain and Maverick are the kind of a team with just enough credibility to mean something and MSK feel primed for a serious run in the tournament. They made enough sense here too, with Dain being the wrecking ball that had to be dealt with and then Maverick being a much easier target. Good enough match and MSK continues to make me smile.

Danny Burch and Oney Lorcan are fired up for tonight. Pete Dunne looks like he's ordering dinner.

Raquel Gonzalez/Dakota Kai and Jessi Kamea/Aliyah are ready to win the Dusty Classic.

Curt Stallion looks out the window and sees shooting stars. One day he followed it and knew what he was ready to do. Now he wants to have a rocket strapped to his back in the form of the Cruiserweight Title.

Women's Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic First Round: Jessi Kamea/Aliyah vs. Dakota Kai/Raquel Gonzalez

Kamea and Aliyah have Robert Stone in their corner. Gonzalez and Aliyah start things off with Aliyah not being able to shove her around. Instead Gonzales swings her around in a lockup so it's off to Kamea, who has to avoid an elbow. A dropkick sends Gonzalez into the corner for a running forearm but she sends Kamea into Kai's elbow. Aliyah comes in for some double teaming and a running flipping hair faceplant puts Kai down.

Kai is sent outside but manages to pump kick Aliyah down hard and gets two back inside. Back in and Gonzalez hits a swinging powerslam on Aliyah, setting up Kai's running kick to the face in the corner. Kai gets two off a double stomp but Aliyah manages a clothesline to bring in Kamea. That's fine with Gonzalez, who plants her with the chokeslam for the pin at 5:58.

Rating: C-. This wasn't quite as interesting as the ending wasn't in doubt and the match felt a good bit longer than just under six minutes. That being said, the women's tournament is only three rounds long so it is a good thing to see the winners look dominant. Not the worst match, but it needed more wacky Robert Stone shenanigans to really push it over the edge.

The Way is sure they'll win the Women's Dusty Classic but Johnny Gargano isn't going to answer anything about Kushida. Austin Theory says it's kind of like the curse but Gargano orders him to say no more words. Kushida does not get a title shot.

Scarlett uses Tarot cards to display that destruction is coming.

Tegan Nox has been training with Brie Larson. Video tomorrow.

Tyler Rust vs. Dante Rios

Malcolm Bivens is at ringside and he has an inset promo, promising that Rust will win. Rust takes him down with ease to start and then nails a hard right hand. A stomp onto the head keeps Rios down and it's time to crank on the arm. Some chops rock Rust and a backside gives Rios two. What looks to be a tornado DDT winds up as a guillotine choke but Rust powers out. A big boot into a flipping neckbreaker sets up a modified Rings of Saturn (When did that become the most popular move in the world?) to make Rios tap at 3:23.

Rating: D+. Rust still looks good but they are playing into the idea that he might not be as polished as Bivens thinks he is. At least he won here, but it took a little longer than expected. It's something different though, and that's often a nice thing to see, especially when so many newcomers have the dominant run before their first story.

Bivens and Rust get a post match photo.

The Grizzled Young Veterans and Kushida/Leon Ruff are ready to win the Dusty Classic.

Finn Balor and Kyle O'Reilly are ready, don't trust each other, and will see each other out there.

Men's Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic Quarterfinals: Leon Ruff/Kushida vs. Grizzled Young Veterans

Before the match, Zack Gibson promises to win because Ruff and Kushida have been a team for about five minutes. Kushida takes Gibson to the mat without much trouble but Drake comes in for a spinning kick to the face. It's off to Ruff for a dropkick but Kushida is already back in for stereo basement dropkicks and two on Drake. We hit the quickly broken armbar and Ruff snaps off a top rope hurricanrana to put Drake down again. Drake forearm his way to freedom but Kushida saves Ruff from a double suplex. A middle rope cutter gets two on Gibson and we take a break.

Back with Ruff grabbing a sunset flip for two on Drake, who pops back up with a heck of a clothesline. Ruff is sent outside for a slingshot forearm/backbreaker combination to put him in even more trouble. A neckbreaker gets Ruff out of trouble back inside and the hot tag brings in Kushida to start cleaning house. The cartwheel into the basement dropkick rocks Drake again and there's a running dropkick in the corner. Gibson comes back in and escapes an Octopus, setting up a Doomsday Device of all things for two on Kushida.

The double handspring elbow drops the Veterans though and the hot tag brings in Ruff for the second house cleaning. A suicide dive hits Drake and a top rope flip dive hits Gibson. Back in and a running clothesline puts Gibson down again but Ruff misses the Swanton. Drake gets caught not paying attention on the apron and it's the Ticket to Mayhem to finish Ruff at 13:15.

Rating: B-. I could watch the Veterans at least three days a week and the two of them could be favorites in the tournament. Granted that could be the case for most of the remaining teams and that's a good sign for the whole thing. This worked out about as expected and Kushida getting the North American Title shot at Takeover (as he is almost a lock to do) is a lot more important than this team.

Post match here's the Way to beat down Kushida and Ruff. Johnny Gargano insists that Kushida will never get a shot but here's Dexter Lumis to scare them off. Sweet goodness why can't this guy just fall in a hole somewhere?

Curt Stallion has been attacked by Legado del Fantasma.

Post break, the Cruiserweight Title match is officially canceled for tonight. If this was supposed to be a surprise, maybe they shouldn't have pulled the match from the show's official preview.

Legado del Fantasma doesn't know what's going on but ANGRY William Regal comes in and says the title match is on for next week, with promises of consequences if anything else happens to Stallion. Regal leaves and the trio is freaked out by a playing card, though they insist there is nothing to worry about. I wonder if that's an ace. Like, say, an Irish ace.

Here's Toni Storm to say she wins whatever she wants. She wanted to be the first ever person to win the Women's Dusty Cup but Io Shirai took that away from her. Now she wants to hurt and ruin Shirai, but more than anything else, she wants

to be the NXT Women's Champion.

Cue Io Shirai to say she'll fight Toni anytime because she doesn't like her. The fight is on with Storm being sent outside but here's Mercedes Martinez to jump Shirai from behind. Martinez holds up the title but Storm says it's hers. Shirai is back in to jump them both but Storm pulls her off the top. A pair of hip attacks in the corner leave Shirai laying and Storm rubs the title.

Isaiah Scott doesn't like being accused of messing with Bronson Reed and suggests you could the fingers pointing at you when you point your finger at someone.

Imperium video, which heavily suggests the return of Walter. It's about time.

The Undisputed Era aren't worried about facing Tommaso Ciampa and Timothy Thatcher because they're tougher, more experienced and better. Well that was to the point.

Bronson Reed vs. Isaiah Scott

Reed throws him outside to start but Scott sticks the landing, only to get sent face first into the apron. A crossbody on the floor crushes Scott and we take a break. Back with Scott working on an armbar and then raking Reed's face a bit. Reed isn't having that and runs him over again, setting up a backslash for two.

Scott gets in another shot to the shoulder but Reed goes to the middle rope anyway. An enziguri connects though and Scott hits a 450 for two. Scott tells him not to get in his business and hits Reed in the face, which seems to be a rather bad move. Reed headbutts him and adds a hard clothesline, setting up the Tsunami for the pin at 9:21.

Rating: C+. This is the kind of thing that I can go for: taking two young (or at least new) stars and giving them a

story. Reed is looking more and more like a breakout star every week and Scott...well at least he can still talk rather effectively. Pushing one of them is a good idea though and if Reed is their guy, so be it.

Scott really does not look pleased.

Tommaso Ciampa talks about how some fights change people and respect can grow. Timothy Thatcher joins him to say pretty much the same thing. Ciampa promises a war with Undisputed Era next week.

Kyle O'Reilly/Finn Balor vs. Oney Lorcan/Danny Burke

Non-title, which I didn't know until this show started. Balor armdrags Lorcan into an armbar to start and it's quickly off to O'Reilly vs. Burch. O'Reilly grabs an armbar of his own but Burch goes to the recently injured jaw to break up a tag attempt. Lorcan and Burch get to work on the arm for a change, followed by Burch's headlock on the mat. That's reversed into a wristlock, which is enough for O'Reilly to get back over to Balor.

O'Reilly is back in less than five seconds later as Balor and O'Reilly start the rapid fire tags and arm cranking. They stop to glare at each other though and we take a break. Back with Balor getting a tag to clean house in a hurry, including a bunch of stomping on Lorcan. A trip takes Balor down though and Lorcan gets in some stomping of his own.

The chinlock goes on to keep Balor down and a double atomic drop into a Russian legsweep gets two. Lorcan starts yelling at Balor, which rarely seems like a good idea, and is quickly followed by Balor nailing a Pele kick. The Sling Blade is enough for the hot tag to O'Reilly as house is cleaned in a hurry. Burch gets a boot up in the corner and tries a middle rope but dives into a kneebar to give O'Reilly and Balor the win at 11:56.

Rating: B-. They were telling a nice story here, though I'm hoping we get at least a token Tag Team Title match out of this. I'm not sure we will, but it would serve well as a TV main event. At least they had a good match in the non-title version, but I would hope that NXT isn't the kind of place that just lets the champs lose.

Post match O'Reilly and Balor seem cool but Pete Dunne pops up. Burch and Lorcan send O'Reilly into the barricade and Dunne breaks Balor's fingers as the Undisputed Era come to the ring for the save, albeit rather slowly. The big staredown ends the show, though Balor drops to the floor with the Era standing in the ring. We could use a fourth for the villains here as that's a heck of an eight man tag.

Overall Rating: B-. The tournament matches are good but I'm rather relieved that they are wrapping things up sooner rather than later. There are too many tournament things going on at once here and it's kind of dragging things down. It's the majority of things going with the show and while the wrestling is good, I could go for something else. This was another good week, but I'm losing patience with all of the tournament stuff.

Results

MSK b. Killian Dain/Drake Maverick – Blockbuster/spinebuster combination to Maverick

Dakota Kai/Raquel Gonzalez b. Jessi Kamea/Aliyah – Chokeslam to Kamea

Tyler Rust b. Dante Rios – Rings of Saturn

Grizzled Young Veterans b. Leon Ruff/Kushida – Ticket to Mayhem to Ruff

Bronson Reed b. Isaiah Scott – Tsunami

Kyle O'Reilly/Finn Balor b. Oney Lorcan/Danny Burch – Kneebar

to Burch

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205 Live Results – January 15, 2021: NXT Needs Help

205 Live

Date: January 15, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Winter Park,

Florida Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

Things are going to take a bit of a turn this week as the show is going to be dedicated to the Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic. This is where 205 Live can be rather useful, as there are going to be quite a few tournament matches which NXT does not have time to present. Let 205 Live take some of the pressure off of things and NXT can get more important stuff done. Let's get to it.

We open with a look back at the first batch of Dusty Classic

matches from NXT, plus a preview of tonight's two matches.

Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic First Round: Legado del Fantasma vs. Bollywood Boyz

Santos Escobar is here with Legado. Sunil grabs a headlock on Mendoza to start but that's broken up in a hurry. A monkey flip into a clothesline to the floor has Mendoza in trouble and it's off to Samir. Wilde comes in as well and gets armbarred down in a hurry. A quick ram into the corner has Wilde in trouble but a Mendoza distraction lets Wilde grab a DDT. There's the double suplex for two on Samir and the cravate goes on.

Back up and Mendoza misses a charge into the post and the hot tag brings in Sunil for the comeback. The spinwheel kick drops Mendoza but Sunil goes after Wilde. It actually works this time as Sunil hits a top rope ax handle for two on Mendoza. Everything breaks down and a superplex into a top rope elbow gets two on Mendoza as Wilde makes a save. Samir gets taken down on the floor and a running boot/Russian legsweep combination sends Legado on at 9:48.

Rating: C. This was the serious version of the Boyz and it worked a lot better than usual as a result. The dancing stuff does suit them rather well but it's nice to see them actually do the more traditional thing once in awhile. Legado was good as usual, but I'm not sure how bright their tournament futures really are.

Killian Dain is still sick of Drake Maverick.

The Women's Dusty Classic is here next week.

Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic: Killian Dain/Drake Maverick vs. August Grey/Curt Stallion

Stallion shoulders Maverick down to start but gets sent outside so Maverick can dance. Back in and a dropkick into an

armdrag has Stallion in trouble so it's off to Grey. The staredown is enough to bring in Dain and it's a drop toehold into a backsplash. Dain picks Maverick up to use him as a weapon (Maverick: "PUT ME DOWN!"). Grey and Stallion are sent outside, with Maverick telling Dain to dive. Instead Dain picks Maverick up to throw at them for the big crash.

Back in and Maverick wonders why Dain wouldn't dive while getting two on Stallion. A backbreaker gets Stallion out of trouble though and it's back to Grey for a headlock. That is switched into a headlock but Maverick fights up and brings in Dain for the serious house cleaning. A crossbody gets two on Grey but he's back up with a superplex into a German suplex for two on Maverick. Dain has had enough of this and powerbombs Stallion, followed by powerbombing Drake onto him for the pin at 10:00.

Rating: C. Maverick and Dain are growing on me quite a bit (I bet it's the whistling) as Maverick's charisma is enough to carry just about anything to watchable. Throw in Dain as the monster and they're a nice little oddball team. I'm not sure why Stallion needed to take a fall, but odds are he holds that title shot for months to come anyway so it hardly destroys him.

Overall Rating: C+. The wrestling was completely average but I can go with burning a show off like this and having something good come of it at the same time. Not only did they get some tournament matches out of the way, but they didn't waste anything they had coming on the regular 205 Live. Not too bad here, even if the two winning teams aren't exactly heavy favorites.

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205 Live – January 8, 2021: Here We Go Again

205 Live

Date: January 8, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

We continue the waiting around for Curt Stallions Cruiserweight Title shot, which has been set up for months now. I'm not sure what they're waiting on, but at this point they need to have something special planned for the whole thing. You never can tell if that is going to play a role in this week's show but maybe they'll surprise us. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Ashante Adonis vs. Ariya Daivari

Adonis' headlock doesn't last long as Daivari knees him in the ribs and hits a dropkick. Daivari chops away in the corner but it just seems to annoy Adonis, who hammers away in the corner. A spinebuster gives Adonis two and there's a dropkick to put Daivari on the floor. Back in and a missed charge in the

corner allows Daivari to wrap the leg around the post.

Daivari kicks him in the face but the Figure Four attempt is countered into a small package for two. Adonis manages to knock Daivari outside for a breather and it's time to strike away back inside. A DDT rocks Daivari and it's a flapjack to do it again. The knee gives out to break up the Long Kiss Goodnight though and Daivari slaps on the Figure Four. That's turned over after a bit of a struggle so Daivari grabs the Rock Bottom for two. The hammerlock lariat misses and the Long Kiss Goodnight finishes Daivari at 8:48.

Rating: C+. Better than I expected here as Daivari loses again to put someone else over. I'm not sure how many more matches he (and Tony Nese) can lose like this with anything still mattering but at least they're trying to set up the next generation. You can only get so far with the same two people putting the same people over again and again, but it's better than nothing.

William Regal announces that 205 Live will be hosting some Dusty Classic matches. Good, as there's no need to cram them all onto NXT.

We look at Santos Escobar successfully defending the Cruiserweight Title against Gran Metalik on Wednesday.

August Grey/Curt Stallion vs. Bollywood Boyz

The Boyz now have a Go Pro camera. Grey cranks on Sunil's arm to start but has to kick out of an early crucifix attempt. Grey's rollup gets two and the armdrag into the armbars keeps Sunil in trouble. Stallion comes in off a blind tag to hit a dropkick and it's off to Sunil as well. The Boyz are cleared out in a hurry but it's back to Sunil vs. Grey. This time it's Grey being knocked outside for a cheap shot so the Boyz can take over.

The chinlock goes on back inside, followed by a jawbreaker

into a middle rope bulldog. We hit the chinlock again but Sunil lets go so he can knock Stallion off the apron. The Bollywood Blast connects with Stallion having to make a save. Grey avoids a charge in the corner though and now it's Stallion coming in to clean house. Everything breaks down and Stallion dives onto Samir on the floor. Back in and the running headbutt drops Sunil and Grey's run the ropes Unprettier finishes at 9:33.

Rating: C. Fine enough match here, though I'm curious as to why you would have the Boyz lose when they are already announced for the Dusty Classic. I know you don't want to have Stallion or Grey take a fall, but maybe it would be better to not have the match in the first place. Either way, Grey getting the pin is a bit better as it's not like Stallion needs that much more momentum with the title match off somewhere in the distance.

Overall Rating: C. I liked the wrestling and I want to see where some of this stuff, including the Dusty Classic matches goes. The problem is still the same though: having the same batch of people on here every few weeks and trading wins and losses. If only there was another show they could go to and actually get a chance to do something fresh for a change. Nah that's absurd, as it would suggest that 205 Live is anything more than a dumping ground.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the paperback edition of KB's Complete 2004 Monday Night Raw Reviews (also available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2019/08/26/new-book-and-e-book-kbs-complete-2004-monday-night-raw-reviews/>

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205 Live – January 1, 2021: The Foley Kid Has Something

205 Live

Date: January 1, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

It's a new year and things have been feeling a bit new around here. That's a good thing too as this show has been dying for some fresh blood for what feels like years now. I'm not sure if that is going to be the case again this week but you have to have hope, even around this show. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

We see a clip of Mansoor going back to Saudi Arabia in recent weeks.

Mansoor vs. Jake Atlas

Atlas works on the arm to start but gets headlocked down. That's a little harder to escape than you might think so Atlas tries a belly to back, only to have Mansoor land on his feet. Atlas grabs the leg so Mansoor armdrags him down using said leg before cranking on Atlas' leg for a change. The half crab goes on for a bit until Atlas kicks him hard into the corner for the break.

A neckbreaker gives Atlas two and we hit the cravate. Back up and Mansoor goes in with some dragon screw legwhips, with Atlas' leg giving out. The Scorpion Deathlock sends Atlas scrambling for the rope, allowing him to hit another

neckbreaker for two more. We hit the pinfall reversal sequence until Atlas kicks him into the corner. Mansoor legwhips him off the top though and ties the legs up for the rollup pin at 7:57.

Rating: C+. I'm still trying to find out when Mansoor became one of the most consistent people around her but it's getting to be a lot of fun to see him. On top of that, as I've asked before, why is he not on NXT? He could hang there well enough, and hopefully just isn't around here as favor to the Saudis.

Celebrating and handshaking ensues post match.

We look at Lucha House Party beating Legado del Fantasma on this week's NXT. Gran Metalik is getting a Cruiserweight Title shot at New Year's Evil.

Curt Stallion is ready to get his hands on Santos Escobar but tonight it's about the six man tag. He even has special partners in....Ever-Rise!

Curt Stallion/Ever-Rise vs. Ariya Daivari/Bollywood Boyz

Daivari knees Stallion in the ribs to start and gets two off an early backdrop. A running dropkick to the side of Stallion's head gets two but Stallion dropkicks Sunil Singh in the face. Sunil gets caught with a running knee/backbreaker combination for two more and it's off to Samir, who gets caught with a triple fist drop. A cheap shot from behind puts Martel down though and the Boyz get two off a double suplex.

Sunil grabs a chinlock to cut off a comeback attempt but Daivari comes in for a double clothesline. That's enough for the hot tag off to Stallion to clean house. A DDT gets two on Samir and some step up elbows to the back keep him in trouble. Sunil comes back in with a spinwheel kick but Samir elbows Daivari to the floor by mistake. That's enough for Daivari but Stallion flip dives onto all three of them. A double Stun Gun into Stallion's running headbutt finishes Samir at 9:17.

Rating: C. When the heck did Ever-Rise become a fun little tag team? They went from absolutely nothing for weeks to a not half bad team and I'll take that every time. I know it doesn't mean anything on 205 Live but at least this show has a little something going for it now and that's as good as you can ask for around here.

Overall Rating: B-. As I've said many times, when the show is only about half an hour long and they get in a pair of nice matches with some people being pushed (or at least built up), it's quite the use of about half an hour. I could go for more stuff like this, even if it is just a primer for another division of the minor league show. One of their better efforts in recent weeks and I'm liking where it's going (or at least where it is).

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