

Middle Kingdom Wrestling – October 12, 2015: American Know-How

Middle Kingdom Wrestling Episode 4

Date: October 12, 2015

Location: CWE Gym, Dongguan, China

Commentator: Eddie Strong, Cam Ferguson

Back to the east again with the latest offering from a company that I like for reasons I can't put my finger on. We're moving forward in the tournament but it's been a long time and I might not remember everyone involved. Hopefully they have a decent recap, along with a better announcer. Let's get to it.

The opening sequence has changed a bit but the recap is still the same. They still need to get a better graphic though.

We open with a recap of Black Mamba being ejected from the tournament for cheating and getting to face the Slam as a result. That right there is all I needed for a recap so far as it took less than a minute and summed up the big story. Well done.

Ash isn't pleased with being cheated out of the tournament by Black Mamba and Da Li Sam. After implying that Sam is a prostitute for fat women, he talks about ripping the stitches out of his head with chopsticks. I think that deserves a HE'S HARDCORE chant. He's back earlier than the doctors recommended and he wants the Slam's top student Jason. Therefore, Jason needs to go tell Slam that he's tired of taking out the trash and buying toilet paper and wants to face Ash instead. The delivery wasn't the best but he definitely had some charisma to him and was comfortable in front of a camera.

Ash vs. Jason

This is billed as a special challenge match. Ash has an American flag on

his jacket so I'm guessing he's the heel here. He comes out with a good looking woman so he can't be all bad. We have a new commentator named Cam Ferguson who apparently has a Masters in Confucianism and is clearly a heel.

Jason hides in the corner to start as Eddie recaps the story so far in that annoying voice of his. A dropkick gets two on Jason and Ash messes with the hair. Ferguson says that's typical American bullying but Eddie says he's supposed to be hitting him in a wrestling match. Ferguson: "So it's ok to kick him in the stomach?" A quick belly to belly puts Ash down and Ferguson accuses Ash of hitting low.

We hit a chinlock from Jason (Or a rear naked chin hold according to Eddie. That sounds like the Matt Striker school of "here's a WAY more complicated name than you need.") as Ferguson accuses the referee of being a traitor to the Communist Party. Ash comes back with some forearms and a middle rope kick to the chest (think RVD) for two, followed by a Boston crab for the win.

Rating: C. You can really tell which people in this promotion have the ring experience. Ash isn't great but he clearly has a much better idea of what he's doing. There was even a little story here and it helped the match move on a lot. Also they're starting to go longer and I'm not bored so things are definitely improving.

MKW Title Tournament Semi-Finals: Dalton Bragg vs. Len Bai

Bragg has comically skinny arms. Bai doesn't like Dalton taking his time on the floor and dives over the top, only to crash down in front of him. It doesn't really matter as the ring is only about three feet above the ground but it was still quite the crash. Bragg gets in a cheap shot from behind to take over and we get a ridiculously slow motion Irish whip into a monkey flip to Bai.

Back up and they trade chops (with Bai's lacking any follow through) until Bragg asks a little girl to rub his hand to make his stronger. Bragg's cross body is countered into a backbreaker for two and Strong is somehow still on my nerves. After Bai hasn't done anything flashy all match, he slaps on Cattle Mutilation of all things. Where did he learn

that? A fisherman's buster gets two on Bragg but he pops up and hits a nice middle rope Codebreaker to advance to the finals.

Rating: C-. Not the best match here but you can see that Bai is still new out there. Bragg isn't anything worth watching either though he definitely has more experience and looked more comfortable. The Cattle Mutilation and Codebreaker looked good and the right guy won though so it's not the worst in the world.

Post match Bai breaks Bragg's arm in a surprisingly big heel move.

After the credits, Black Mamba and Da Lip Sam say they're not worried about the Slam. Bai promises to take care of the tournament final too.

Overall Rating: C-. The tournament is coming to a close as we're wrapping up the first season but this wasn't their strongest show. You can clearly see the difference between the talent levels and it can be a bit tiring watching the people with next to no experience. The show is still watchable at less than half an hour but I'm hoping it picks up a bit in the final.

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