

Hidden Gem: Before They Were Stars

This kind of thing can be rather fun.

Kofi Kingston vs. Mike Mizanin

Date: March 23, 2007

Location: Quicken Loans Arena, Cleveland, Ohio

Smackdown dark match and Kofi hadn't debuted yet. Miz is the hometown boy and still little more than a reality show geek who has wrestled a few matches. Before the match, Miz says he and LeBron James are the only two celebrities from Cleveland but Miz was smart enough to get out. It's so strange seeing Kofi with the generic rock music and the big Jamaican flag. Kofi, with the crazy thick accent, says no one is here to hear Miz talk.

Kofi grabs a wristlock and shouts BOOM a lot but has to keep nipping his way out of top wristlocks. The armdrag into the armbar has Miz in trouble until he sends Kofi throat first into the top rope. We hit the chinlock, followed by a quick Fameasser for two. Kofi sends him face first into the middle buckle to set up a spinwheel kick to the face. What would become known as Trouble In Paradise finishes Miz at 4:29.

Rating: D+. It was clear that neither of them were exactly polished yet, though that BOOM BOOM over and over again made it a little more annoying. Miz would take a long time to get somewhere in the ring and while Kofi got better faster, he was doing way too much with the gimmick here and it was annoying. It's still cool to see two future Hall of Famers in a match like this though, as they have to start somewhere.

Wrestlemania Dark Match Set: Triple Threat Tag Title Match

[Source](#)

It's Epico/Primo defending against Gabriel/Kidd vs. The Usos. I won't be giving my thoughts on this yet because I'm planning on a major WM Preview later tonight with thoughts on all the matches

Thoughts on this?