

Mid-South Wrestling – October 27, 1984: Why It's So Special (Includes Full Show)

Mid-South Wrestling

Date: October 27, 1984

Location: Irish McNeil Boys Club, Shreveport, Louisiana

Commentators: Bill Watts, Boyd Pierce

Sure why not. The Vault has released some of these shows and Mid-South is a bit of a dark spot for me, especially in its heyday. While I know a good bit of its history, I haven't actually seen a lot of it and that needs to change. We might as well check out what is available so let's get to it.

Opening sequence. Oh sweet goodness how 80s can you get?

Commentary runs down the card and announces that Terry Taylor is going to be out of action for about a month due to an injury. Watts moves on to Jim Cornette and his tennis racket, which is just part of the wild violence around here. The promotion is going to get rid of just about everything that could, you know, KILL PEOPLE, but they're going to let a lot of the rest go. Well that's intense.

Steve Williams has a football helmet and is ready to face Jim Duggan (or Doogan as Watts always called him) in a football helmet match. Williams goes on a rant about how he's going to bury Duggan in the dirt.

Duggan has his helmet on too and it's giving him flashbacks to his gridiron days. It's time to fight Williams again.

Skandor Akbar (as interviewed by a rather young looking Jim Ross) is looking for great weapons for his army and he has found an incredibly underrated wrestler in Buddy Landel. It's

time for Landel to deliver whatever Akbar has paid him to do which is...not specified.

Missing Link vs. Mike Jackson

Jackson is around 35 here and about ten years into what is (thus far) a fifty plus year career in the ring. Link goes nuts by ramming his own head into the corner a few times but Jackson is up with a dropkick that misses by about a foot (even Watts calls out that they didn't connect). A headbutt puts Jackson down and another sends him out to the floor. Back in and a World's Strongest Slam into a middle rope elbow to the back finishes Jackson at 1:23.

Jim Duggan vs. Steve Williams

This is a football helmet match...and there is no Duggan. Instead here is Ted DiBiase (returning after an absence and looking bizarre with no facial hair) with Duggan's SMU helmet to say Duggan won't be wrestling tonight. Apparently Duggan jumped him from behind and tried to hit him with the helmet. DiBiase avoided it though and knocked him out with one punch. Ross doesn't seem to buy it as DiBiase's clothes aren't even messed up. Commentary isn't sure about this either but there's no match at the moment.

During the break, Duggan was found and is described as "in bad shape".

We get an interview from last week with a masked Jim Cornette (due to getting his head shaved) saying that he was ready to take out a member of the Rock N Roll Express. His mother has sent in a check for \$25,000 and all it will cost them is a Tag Team Title shot. The Rock N Roll Express can even name the stipulation so if they're not scared, sign on the dotted line and get paid.

Butch Reed vs. Brickhouse Brown

Brown snaps off some armdrags but gets taken down with a

headlock takeover. A headscissors works a bit better for Brown and it's Watts' chance to complain about the WWF, which was a common subject for him. Reed wins a test of strength but Brown spins out (that was snazzy) into an armbar, which has Reed fuming.

One heck of a clothesline out of the corner drops Brown and the legdrop connects as well. A neckbreaker drops Brown again but Reed pulls him up and two and sends him outside. Brown starts going after the knee and follows with a backdrop, only to miss a missile dropkick. Reed's gorilla press and legdrop finish at 6:22.

Rating: C+. Brown had a good look and it's easy to see why he would get more than a few chances. At the same time though, Reed felt like a star and had the look to go with it, which is why he was such a star for so long. This was a fun match and Brown got to show off a bit, which has me wanting to see more of him.

Jim Duggan has crawled into the arena and he is a bloody mess. He talks about how he went down to get his bag out of his car and three or four guys jumped him. Someone hit him with a slapjack though and he went down. The only face he saw was Ted DiBiase, who beat him with the slap jack. He said he'd be here though and stand up for everything (technically he's not standing at the moment but close enough) but he can't keep going and has to be helped out. Heck of a promo from Duggan here, who was a totally different star outside of the WWF. He looked like he was near death here and it was rather outstanding.

Post break, Watts praises Duggan for getting through all of that. Duggan is going to the hospital.

North American Title: Magnum TA vs. Ernie Ladd

Magnum is defending. Ladd runs him over with the size and power to start but gets knocked out to the floor. Magnum is

back in with a front facelock but a forearm cuts that off rather quickly. Back up and Magnum strikes away and hits a backdrop (eventually), followed by a middle rope dropkick. The referee gets bumped though and Magnum's elbow drop gets a delayed two.

Another shot knocks the referee outside and Ladd chokes Magnum down with some tape as another referee comes out to check on the first one. The second referee comes in and Ladd picks Magnum up but falls backwards to give Magnum two. Watts explains that Ladd is trying to fool the referee into thinking that Magnum is still fighting (if that's what they were going for, that's brilliant) and Ladd finishes with a double legdrop at 5:29.

Rating: B-. The more I see of Ladd, the more I wish I could see even more. He knew how to be a big man in wrestling, which is a hard thing to make work. The good thing is that we should be seeing something else from him going forward as you know, he won the title and all that such. The faking out the referee at the end was great and added a layer of realism that you don't often see. It's not a great match but I liked it well enough.

Here are the Rock N Roll Express to answer Jim Cornette's challenge. Ricky Morton is sick of Cornette interfering and busts out a straitjacket, which is how they're going to cut Cornette off in the title match. For some reason Morton puts Robert Gibson in the straitjacket and ties it up (oh dear) and, because Morton has apparently never watched wrestling, or had a functioning brain before, here is the Midnight Express to jump them.

The huge beatdown ensues with Cornette getting in some shots of his own and...yeah the Rock N Roll deserved all of that. How stupid can you...oh yeah it's Morton. A bunch of good guys make the save. That was another level of stupid from Morton, who might not have been the brightest guy in the world but...how

can you be this dumb?

Ted DiBiase vs. Johnny Mantell

DiBiase (with Skandor Akbar) starts fast and hammers away, including a running shot in the corner. Mantell fights back and strikes away, including a monkey flip out of the corner but a second is blocked. The falling fish (with the black glove) sets up the Figure Four to make Mantell give up at 1:28.

Post match DiBiase says he's ready for Master G. next week. G. has some kind of special hold but DiBiase has the Figure Four.

Watts is distraught at what has happened this week and recaps the show.

Roll credits.

Overall Rating: B. There's a reason that classic Mid-South is nothing short of beloved and you could see it here. I pretty much jumped into this cold and felt like I got every story that was going on with nothing leaving me unsure or confused. The action was good, but the point here is the whole atmosphere, as it feels like an exciting show with people moving around and getting into issues. That Duggan promo was a heck of a sight and I want to see where this is going. This lived up to the expectations and I'll absolutely take that.

Results

Missing Link b. Mike Jackson – Middle rope elbow to the back

Butch Reed b. Brickhouse Brown – Legdrop

Ernie Ladd b. Magnum TA – Double legdrop

Ted DiBiase b. Johnny Mantell – Figure Four

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