

NWA Powerrr – December 23, 2019: The NWA Way



IMG Credit: National Wrestling Alliance

Powerrr

Date: December 23, 2019

Location: GPB Studios, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Stu Bennett, Joe Galli

We're on Monday here because it would be a little insane to have a show on Christmas Eve. Therefore, it's time for the second show of the season a week early and thankfully we get some followup to some of the good stuff we saw last week. Things moved towards a more traditional direction and that's the best thing they could do, albeit with their own unique twist. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of the end of Nick Aldis retaining the NWA World Title at the end of Into The Fire, setting up Marty Scurll's return. Then last week, Aldis and Scurll didn't seem to be on the same page about Scurll getting a World Title shot. As a result, Aldis formed a team to give us a heel stable.

Into The Fire.

Quick rundown from the announcers.

Trevor Murdoch is rather happy because he has gotten a contract. Zicky Dice interrupts him though because he's going to win the TV Title. Cue the debuting Pope D'Angelo Dinero to talk about some famous NWA names. He's here to find his Super Powers or Horsemen, so Dice offers his services. Pope just walks over to commentary without saying anything to a funny reaction.

TV Title Tournament Qualifying Match: Ricky Starks vs. Eddie Kingston

They lock up to start as commentary brings up the 6:05 time limit. Kingston shoulders him down into a headlock but Starks fights up for a middle rope shoulder. A high crossbody gets two but Kingston runs him over and hammers away. Starks knocks him down again though and grabs a tornado DDT for two. Buster Keaton (lifting sitout Pedigree) finishes Kingston at 4:10.

Rating: C. This was a good enough match where they packed in a lot of stuff. Starks is someone they want to push and giving him a run towards the TV Title would work rather well. Pope being involved could make for something interesting, but him putting Starks over in some way would be best.

Post match Pope nods at Kingston.

We look back at the formation of Magnus' team last week and their beatdown of Tim Storm.

Here are Royce Isaacs and a rather tattooed woman named Mae Valentine. They're asked about holiday plans and Isaacs whispers something in the interviewer's ear, which doesn't set well with him. Isaacs is going to show what he can do on his hand but here's James Storm to say he wants Isaacs to prove himself.

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James Storm vs. Royce Isaacs

They brawl on the floor before the bell with Storm getting the better of

things. Storm hammers away...and Isaacs takes the countout at 1:02. Well it's better than Isaacs taking the pinfall.

Here's Eli Drake, with a bottle of champagne, for a chat. We get a lot of YEAH YEAH YEAH's before Eli talks about the interviewer warming up the crowd with a comedy routine before the taping starts. Drake talks about having some New Year's resolutions and they are all about gold. He has the shoes of a champion and the jacket of a champion but he calls it shoes as well because he's a little too fired up.

Jocephus (as Santa) and an unidentified Mrs. Claus sing some Christmas carols and Drake gets in a few more YEAH's as backup. Cue Aldis and company to interrupt though and Aldis has some matching shirts for all of them. Everything you've seen over the last few weeks has been a part of the plan, including taking out James Storm. As for Ricky Morton, he can come out here and say something to Aldis' face. Morton doesn't think much of Aldis training under Harley Race and then disrespecting his legacy like this. Aldis threatens Morton to wrap it up.

We look at the women's tag match from Into The Fire, including ODB debuting.

Melina/Thunder Rosa/Marti Belle vs. Allysin Kay/ODB/Ashley Vox

Whoever gets the fall gets to pick an opponent of their choosing. Rosa works a hammerlock on ODB but ODB slips out of a suplex and brings in Kay. Belle comes in to drop Kay with a running knee but it's off to Vox in a hurry. She's beaten down as well and we get into the more standard structure, with Vox getting beaten up in the corner. Melina gets two off a DDT but it's right back to ODB vs. Rosa with the former taking over. Everything breaks down and Rosa has to bite the finger to escape an armbar. Something like a sitout White Noise shoulderbreaker finishes Vox at 5:48.

Rating: D+. I've never been an ODB fan so having her around here didn't make things that much better. What did help was having a bunch of fresh talent in the match at the same time. The women's division doesn't really need to exist around here, but if they're going to do something with it, they're going to need a lot of names to keep things moving.

Post match Rosa is about to pick her opponent but Melina chooses for her: ODB.

We get a drawing for the TV Title tournament: Tim Storm vs. Nick Aldis. Storm talks about Mama Storm turning 95 this week and asked how long Tim can wrestle. She retired at 78 and he got his work ethic from her. We get an homage to the Hard Time promo, with Storm saying he's old and broken down but he's bad and they know he's bad.

TV Title Tournament Qualifying Match: Question Mark vs. Colt Cabana

Colt armdrags him down a few times but loses a chop off to the ka-ra-te master. A rollup gives Colt two and an elbow to the jaw puts Mark down again. The running hip attack connects in the corner and the middle rope splash gives Cabana two. Cabana goes up but dives into a shot to the throat to give Mark the pin at 3:07.

Rating: C. This didn't have time to do much but around here it's one of the longer matches. That's such a weird dynamic for the company but it's working well enough. Mark is one of the best cult favorites I've seen in a long time and that's the kind of thing that can work wonders around here.

Aron Stevens and Question Mark want all the gold.

Roll credits.

Overall Rating: C+. You can tell they've changed things up a lot around here as they are now packing in every single thing that they can. It's made things more interesting, though I'm still not clear on how the tournament is working. Are they going to have qualifying matches and then the pay per view is built around the tournament? Anyway, at least they're doing some interesting stuff and the place is going to be rather pleased when they get to Storm vs. Aldis for the title again. Nice show here, and the new style is an improvement.

Results

Ricky Starks b. Eddie Kingston – Buster Keaton

James Storm b. Royce Isaacs via countout

Melina/Thunder Rosa/Marti Belle b. Allysin Kay/ODB/Ashley Vox – Sitout shoulderbreaker to Vox

Question Mark b. Colt Cabana – Chop to the throat

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NWA Powerrr – December 17, 2019: The One With A Story



IMG Credit: National Wrestling

Alliance

Powerrr

Date: December 17, 2019

Location: GPB Studios, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Stu Bennett, Joe Galli

We're back after a one week absence with I guess the start of the second season. Into The Fire has come and gone with the biggest developments being Aron Stevens taking the National Title from Colt Cabana and Marty Scurll showing up to challenge Nick Aldis, who retained the World Title. Hopefully there is a nice bump in viewership after the pay per view. Let's get to it.

We open with a look at Scurll appearing at the end of Into The Fire.

Speaking of which, Into The Fire.

The announcers preview tonight's show.

Here are Aron Stevens, in a gi, and the Question Mark for a chat. Stevens describes himself as a VERY dangerous man because he is now the first ever American to have a third degree black belt in Mongrobian karate. Mark: "KARATE!" Fans: "QUESTION MARK!" Stevens: "DO NOT CALL THIS MAN A MARK!" Stevens lists off the names who have held this title but he is at a different level than the rest of them.

Actually, he is NOT the NWA National Champion, because he is the first ever THIRD DEGREE NWA National Champion, and he has the stripes on the belt to prove it. From now on, you will refer to him as Shooter Stevens. Soon, the two of them are coming after the Tag Team Titles, Mark will be going after the TV Title and Stevens will be having the NWA World Title. Cue Colt Cabana to say Stevens would never win a thing without Mark there to help him. Stevens says he's a third degree champion and suggests Cabana try some Mongrobian karate lessons.

Cue Thunder Rosa of all people and the men all leave. Rosa shouts in Spanish and here's Melina, only to have Ashley Vox show up to attack Rosa. The two of them go to crush Vox's arm but Allysin Kay and ODB make

the save.

We look at Ken Anderson jumping Eli Drake from behind. Tonight, they face off in a No DQ match.

Post break, here's the same thing you just saw.

Melina and Rosa yell at Marti Belle for not having their back out there. Belle says they told her to stay in the back but Melina wants her to do what she means, not what she says.

The NWA TV Title is coming back (that belt is still sweet) and there will be a tournament to crown the first champion. The finals will take place at the still unnamed January 24 pay per view and each match has a 6:05 time limit.

TV Title Tournament Qualifying Match: Zicky Dice vs. CW Anderson vs. Sal Rinauro

One fall to a finish. They go for the rapid fire near falls to start as the time limit is rather short. A triple clothesline puts everyone down with Dice getting up to cover both of them for two each. The double noggin knocker is broken up and it's a double punch to the face to put Dice down. Dice hits a running Stunner on Anderson but Anderson hits the spinebuster on Rinauro. Anderson is sent into the post though and Dice's Snake Rattle And Roll (neckbreaker) finishes Rinauro at 2:00.

Post match Dice says he doesn't need luck because he's the future TV Champion. Cue the Dawsons to chase him off though and say no one can stand them. Well they can't stand the fans either and they're here to expose some truth. James Storm is right: there is a conspiracy around here and they were a part of it. They did the Wildcards' dirty work but now the Wildcards won't answer their phones.

Cue the Wildcards with chairs to chase them off but now it's Marty Scurll coming out for a chat of his own. Scurll has been hearing people asking about where he's going for the last two months but the truth is he does whatever he wants. If he wants to show up in the NWA, that's exactly what he's going to do. He's heard Nick Aldis talking about being the NWA World

Champion for a long time now.

Well he's known Aldis (and Bennett) for a long time now. Earlier this year, Scurll gave Aldis the fight of his life at the Crockett Cup and he knows he can beat Aldis. The fans seem to like the idea and he's right here waiting for Aldis anytime anyplace. Scurll brings so much star power to this place that it's unreal.

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Eddie Kingston joins commentary and has nothing to say about Homicide's injury.

Rock N Roll Express vs. Zach Mosley/Sean Sims

Non-title. Gibson shoulders Mosley down to start and it's off to Morton for the Million Dollar knee lift. The Express whip them into each other and roll them up at the same time for the double pin at 46 seconds.

Post match the Express talks about other great names in the NWA's history and what an honor it is to be considered with them. As for Aldis comparing himself to Harley Race and Ric Flair, he has a long way to go to back that up.

Cue the Dawsons again to say they want the Wildcards so here they are for the brawl.

The pay per view will be called Hard Times.

Dawsons vs. Wildcards

Zane has to fight out of the corner to start but everything breaks down in a hurry. Zane is taken outside with his hand being stomped onto the steps to put him in trouble. Back in and the double teaming ensues, including a wishbone to stretch the legs out. Latimer bites the hand so Dave comes in for the save, only to get taken out in a hurry. A powerbomb/Death Valley Driver combination finishes Zane at 3:05.

Rating: D+. You have to rebuild the Wildcards somehow if you want them to mean anything going forward so having them beat up these heavies is a

good way to go. They're a fine team and if they beat the Express to get the titles back, they might actually be able to survive that rather horrible loss.

Post match the Wildcards don't like the Dawsons and say they're lying. Cue Santa Claus (or Jocephus Claus) to throw gifts to the fans...and that's it.

After losing at the pay per view, James Storm said he would get his justice when he deserves it. He saw Aldis taking off the turnbuckle pad and taking out Storm's referee so that wasn't exactly fair. Storm is willing to go back to the bottom of the pile to get to the top.

Zicky Dice comes back out and we get to see the entrants in the TV Title tournament:

Zicky Dice

Ricky Starks

Caleb Konley

Colt Cabana

Trevor Murdoch

Tom Latimer

Question Mark

Eddie Kingston

Tim Storm

Dave Dawson

Zane Dawson

Nick Aldis

Former TV Champion Nikita Koloff comes out (still looks great) to draw some names for the tournament. Here are some first round matches:

Ricky Starks

Eddie Kingston

Colt Cabana

Question Mark

Aldis and Starks come up to the interview desk with Aldis showing off the NWA pocket square. Aldis talks about the effort it is going to take to knock him off. He's here to make history so he wants to hold both titles at once. Maybe Starks could even make it to the finals to face him.

Marty Scurll is brought up and Aldis has no comment. He goes on about how people keep coming in here to ask about spots, just like Scurll. Aldis didn't hear what Ricky Morton had to say but he's sure it was complimentary. As for Kamille, he knows he needs a real team and not just an insurance policy. You'll see the team over the next few weeks, but Kamille is no longer his insurance policy. The fans seem to approve.

We get a sitdown interview with Scurll, who took the first chance he had to come to the NWA. He loves the idea of the NWA World Title because it was the title that mattered when he was a kid. Scurll likes to keep people guessing and maybe even he doesn't know what he's going to do at times. He'd love to be the NWA World Champion.

Tim Storm joins commentary and he likes the idea of Scurll vs. Aldis.

Here's Eli Drake, with a sore throat, for a chat. A few minutes ago, you had Aldis out here talking about how things are supposed to be in the NWA but then Drake wasn't in the tournament. As for Ken Anderson, he sent Drake's throat into the post with a chair but Drake is still standing. Let's do this right now.

Eli Drake vs. Ken. Anderson

No DQ. Drake slugs away to start and the fans are behind him. A clothesline out of the corner sets up a Russian legsweep and another clothesline puts Anderson on the floor. They fight into the crowd with Drake kicking him low but Anderson gets in a shot to the ribs. They fight

behind the cameras with Drake getting the better of it and hitting Anderson in the back with a trashcan.

Drake crushes his face against a barricade but stops to steal a fan's phone for a picture. They head back to ringside with Anderson sending him into the steps. A chair is thrown in but Drake blocks the Mic Check into said chair. Drake sends him face first into it instead and hammers away, setting up the Gravy Train to finish Anderson at 6:57.

Rating: C. This was a big brawl in the crowd with a few moves thrown in at the end. To be fair though, they had the match at Into The Fire so there wasn't much of a point to doing the full thing here. Drake wanted revenge and got to beat Anderson up here so everything they did made perfect sense, including Drake winning.

Post match Aldis comes out to get in Storm's face, saying to keep his name out of Storm's mouth. They argue some more off microphone so Storm gets in the ring and invites Aldis to join him. The jacket comes off but the Wildcards come in as well to beat Storm down as Aldis approves. Cue Kamille to shove Aldis into the corner...and spear Storm. Kamille kisses Latimer to end the show.

Roll credits.

Overall Rating: C+. There was a lot going on here and I liked it better than most of their usual shows. The biggest thing here was having an actual focus instead of being a big collection of things going on at the same time. Aldis is a full on heel and has a bunch of people gunning for him so now he has his own backup. That's a basic story that can carry them for a long time as we try to find the next person to take the title from him. I dug this one and hopefully they get some more viewers after a revamped effort to start the second season.

Results

Zicky Dice b. CW Anderson and Sal Rinauro – Snake Rattle And Roll to Rinauro

Rock N Roll Express b. Zach Mosley/Sean Sims – Double rollup

Wildcards b. Dawsons – Powerbomb/Death Valley Driver combination to Zane

Eli Drake b. Ken Anderson – Gravy Train

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NWA Into The Fire Preview



IMG Credit: National Wrestling Alliance

I would say this falls into the “never say never” category. The NWA used to be all the rage back in the day but now things have changed quite a bit. While it isn't exactly what it was

before, the NWA is still around and has reached a level they have not achieved in a long time. This includes holding a pay per view event and that means it is time to see what they have in store. Let's get to it.

Tasha Steelz vs. Thunder Rosa

This is a last minute addition to the card and it certainly feels like one. Rosa is someone that has been pushed rather hard since Powerrr began and she has been treated as a big deal. Steelz is someone you may remember as not doing very much but she is someone who can be put in there for a quick match. I'm not sure how much I would expect from it, but at least the match exists.

I'll take Rosa here, as she needs to get her feet back a little bit after they did that rather strange series of videos on her losing in mixed martial arts (yeah it was cool, but it was completely different to what she does in her regular appearances). Steelz is someone who could be a nice star down the road, but Rosa is someone who could be a big star right now and that is what the NWA needs at the moment.

Tag Team Titles: Rock N Roll Express(c) vs. Wild Cards

It's a rematch of the big moment from the first season (Are eight shows a season?) of Powerrr with the Express becoming nine time Tag Team Champions. Now they have to defend the titles that they won in a match which wasn't all that great in the first place. I'm almost scared of the idea of the Express putting on some big, epic match, but it was cool to see them win the titles one more time at least.

I'll go with the Wild Cards winning the titles back here, as there isn't much of a future in having champions who are both in their 60s. It was a nice moment and all, but losing to the Express hurt the Wild Cards quite a bit. A win could help them get back on their feet, but it might be a little too late. You have to try and see though, as the Wild Cards need to get the

titles back.

National Title: Colt Cabana(c) vs. Aron Stevens vs. Ricky Starks

How out of place does a triple threat match feel in the NWA? Anyway, this is an interesting one as you have the popular Cabana, the incredibly gimmicky Stevens and Starks, who looks like a nice prospect. This really is a match that could go any way and that makes things a lot more interesting. I'm actually not sure how this is going to go and that's a feeling I always like.

That being said, I'll go with Cabana retaining here, as he has the highest profile of all three names. Starks would be able to get something out of winning the title, but I'm not sure if he's ready to go there yet. Stevens is going to be fine with his promos and funny lines alone and Cabana has already lost the title once. Cabana retains here, but it really could go to any of the three.

Trevor Murdoch vs. The Question Mark

Every now and then you find someone who just catches fire in a way beyond all expectations. That is the case with the Question Mark, who has turned into the cult favorite of all cult favorites in the NWA. I know he isn't going to go anywhere long term, but it's very smart to go with something that is working at the moment. The NWA needs something to get on the map and maybe the Question Mark can do so in a way.

So of course I'll take the Question Mark to win, though probably not through the cleanest means. There is nothing wrong with giving Question Mark a win here, as Murdoch can bounce right back in a hurry due to being one of the better known names around at the moment. Question Mark isn't going to last forever so the NWA is doing the right thing by capitalizing while they can, which includes a win here.

Allysin Kay/Ashley Vox vs. Melina/Marti Belle

This is another star power match, but above all else, where in the world do those drum beats come from? Can everyone in the ring hear them? Are they in someone's head? Why do I think about these things so much? Anyway, Melina getting back in the ring is kind of a big deal, though I'm not sure if she has the kind of star power to make that big of a difference around here.

I'll take Melina and Belle to win, likely with Melina pinning Kay to set up a future title match. There is nothing wrong with that in a situation like this so hopefully they get this one right and go with the logical means. Vox is another someone who could be a nice addition to the roster so putting her in there with the biggest name the women's division has is smart. She isn't involved in the finish here though and that makes the most sense.

Eli Drake vs. Ken Anderson

Here's your second biggest and likely best match on the card as you can throw two experienced people out there and likely have one of them become the next #1 contender to the World Title. Drake has come off like a star in the NWA with those promos and status as the devil on your shoulder working very well for him. Anderson is Anderson and therefore acceptable, but he is pretty long removed from being a big deal.

That being said, I'm still going with Anderson to win with some cheating. Drake is someone with more potential and likely more help long term, but Anderson is someone with a certain charisma to him and his former WWE/Impact Wrestling status should be enough to carry him here. It's ok to go with the bigger name at times and that is what they seem to be doing here. Anderson wins.

NWA World Title: Nick Aldis(c) vs. James Storm

It's the main event with a stipulation of course, as this will be 2/3 falls with both of them getting to pick a referee for each fall. Should it go to a third fall (should....right), a coin toss determines who will referee the third fall. The cuts from the broadcast hurt this one a bit as their reason for fighting isn't all that clear. The videos are out there, but it would be nice to have a little better explanation.

Even with all of the stipulations, I'm taking Aldis to retain here as the NWA really seems to love him. I'm not sure I get the huge star in Aldis, but he does indeed have something there. The promos and look are enough to keep him in or near the main event and it's not like there is anyone else who desperately needs to win the title at the moment. Aldis is as good as they have at the moment, so stick with what works.

Overall Thoughts

I still can't get my head around the idea that the NWA is running a pay per view and it actually looks good. The promotion is not exactly doing great at the moment with the viewership for Powerrr being pretty weak, but the fact of the matter is they got out there and tried to do something, which is a lot more than so many promotions can do. See if this works and maybe there is a path forward. It's not like this is going to be any worse than having the promotion sitting around, so maybe it can get them somewhere better, even if it is just a little bit.

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NWA Powerrr – November 5, 2019: From The Frying Pan And....



IMG Credit: National Wrestling Alliance

NWA Powerrr

Date: November 5, 2019

Location: GPB Studios, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Joe Galli, Jim Cornette

We're getting into the groove of things around here and that is making things a lot more interesting. One of the biggest stories is James Storm vs. Colt Cabana for the National Title, which is going to have to go down at some point. Other than that we need a new #1 contender and we might get closer to that tonight. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of Eli Drake being interested in all of the titles around here and playing Devil's Advocate for just about everyone. After a six man tag last week, Colt Cabana is owed a National Title shot, though Drake is still lurking.

Opening sequence.

The announcers preview the show.

Here is Colt Cabana for a chat. He is happy with what happened last week because he's getting his National Title shot this week in the main event because he is a main eventer. The fans rather approve.

We look back at Ricky Starks beating Aron Stevens last week.

Stevens comes out for a chat. Everyone knows that last week was a fluke and HE IS SPEAKING THANK YOU. If you watch YouTube, you can see how great he is in the ring, but more importantly, he has found out that he is the direct descendant of William Shakespeare. He has a quote from his great great great great etc. grandfather but gets cut off by boos. Stevens: "ARE YOU BOOING WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE???" Anyway he has a script from Hollywood and if things are not going his way, he will gladly accept it.

The NWA is coming to RetroMania Wrestling. I've heard good things.

Dawsons vs. Matthew Mims/Jordan Kingsley

Zane powers Mims into the corner to start but gets taken into the other corner for some shoulders to the ribs. That's about it for the offense though as the Dawsons hit a double suplex on Kingsley, followed by Dave tossing him into the air for a crash. Kingsley gets thrown into the corner so Mims tries to slug away, only to get dropkicked down. A double powerbomb gives Dave the pin at 2:12.

The Dawsons want a title shot. Cue Outlaw Inc. to say the Dawsons beat them in a No DQ match so there are no complaints. That being said, if the Dawsons want a title shot, come beat them again. They're willing to put the title shot on the line against the Dawsons, who will think about it.

Tim Storm is asked about all the bad things going on for him right now

and retirement has been rumored. He does not regret taking the challenge from Nick Aldis, who is a fine champion. Storm doesn't know where things are going from here though and there are a lot of decisions to be made. As for other titles, he would be honored to hold any title, but he isn't sure if that is the direction he should take. The World Title ship has sailed....and here's Aldis to take Storm away for a chat. Aldis says don't do something you will regret because the two of them built this house. Don't forget who you are.

Ashley Vox vs. Thunder Rosa

This is Rosa's in-ring debut and she goes straight to a sleeper until Vox makes the rope. That's fine with Rosa, who pulls her by the hair to make it even worse. Vox's headbutt doesn't do much and it's a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker to put her down. Rosa kicks her down again and drives some elbows in the back before grabbing a bodyscissors. Back up and Vox grabs something like a chickenwing (The Real Catch) but Rosa flips her over and hits a top rope double stomp to the back for the pin at 3:18.

Rating: C. Yeah Rosa looked awesome here and that's a good sign for the future of the women's division. She comes off like a killer and that is the kind of thing that the division needs. The wrestling wasn't all that great and the match was little more than a squash but at least they have a unique character who could be a big deal going forward.

Post match Rosa stays on Vox but Marti Belle comes out for the save.

Post break Belle talks about how she doesn't know Rosa but she does know Allysin Kay, who is her best friend. Then Kay came out and said Marti wasn't ready, which rubbed Belle the wrong way. Cue Kay to say this didn't need to be in public but here's Rosa to post Kay. Belle stands back for a bit before following them into the ring....and helping to beat Kay down.

Who is the Question Mark? This is going to be a disappointment isn't it?

Ricky Starks vs. Aron Stevens

2/3 falls and before the match, Stevens says there is no way Starks can

beat him. Stevens tries to jump him from behind and gets rolled up for the pin and the first fall at 5 seconds. That sends Stevens outside for the YES/NO argument with the fans as we take a thirty second rest period. Back in and Starks gets two more off another rollup, showing that R-Truth Wrestling School diploma.

A nice dropkick gives Starks another two and he even throws in some Dickens before chopping away. Stevens thumbs him in the eye and hammers away on the mat for two before grabbing the chinlock. Back up and Starks strikes away, followed by a tornado DDT for two more. The missile dropkick misses but Stevens takes too much time posing, allowing Starks to roll him up for the pin at 4:49.

Rating: C. They kept this moving at a fast pace and the match was entertaining while it lasted. Starks is looking more and more like a star every time he's out there and some wins over one of the better characters is only going to help him in the long run. That is the kind of thing that the NWA needs to do and they're doing a decent job so far.

The NWA is still coming to RetroMania Wrestling.

National Title: Colt Cabana vs. James Storm

Cabana is challenging and has Mr. Anderson in his corner while Eli Drake is out with Storm. Cabana shoulders him down to start and hammers away in the corner, followed by a bonus shoulder. A missed charge in the corner lets Storm DDT him right back down though and it's time to head outside. The seconds glare at each other as Storm chops away and sends Cabana back inside.

It's time to start on Cabana's recently injured leg but Cabana pops up for more chops. There's a headscissors and a wristlock into a faceplant for two on the champ, followed by a sunset flip for the same. Storm is right back with a TKO across the top rope and the top rope elbow connects for two.

Cabana gets to make a comeback of his own and gets two off a running splash. The Flip Flop and Fly connects but Storm is right back with a Backstabber. The Eye of the Storm gets another near fall and Storm can't

believe it. Drake and Anderson get in a fight and here's Kamille to stare at Anderson. As the glaring ensues, Cabana gets the Superman pin for the title at 7:58.

Rating: C+. They were getting in a groove here when everything got nuts. What mattered the most here though was having the formerly injured champion get the title back, which is something that needed to happen. Cabana is the kind of guy who can get a nice reaction anywhere in the world so putting the title on him again makes more sense.

Post match Storm says he'll see Cabana again. Storm shouts at Anderson before leaving.

The Dawsons come up to the interview area and want their match with Outlaw Inc. RIGHT NOW.

Dawsons vs. Outlaw Inc.

For a future title shot. It's a brawl to start (of course) with the Dawsons crushing Kingston for an early two. Homicide gets knocked off the apron and a poke to the eye cuts off Kingston's comeback. Instead Kingston goes with a clothesline but there's no tag yet as the Dawsons hit a double suplex. Kingston is right back out of the corner with an STO and that's enough to bring in Homicide to clean house.

Some running clotheslines to opposite corners keep the Dawsons in trouble but here are the Wild Cards. Zane gets knocked to the floor and it's a big knockdown on the outside. The Wild Cards are up to stomp Homicide from coming off the top but it's the Rock N Roll Express of all people to get rid of the Cards. The Dawsons collide and it's a spinning backfist into the Gringo Cutter to give Homicide the pin at 5:39.

Rating: D+. This had too much going on for my tastes and it was kind of a mess all around. It was much more of a brawl than anything else and that made things a little less interesting than it would have been otherwise. At least we had a nice surprise with the Express running in, which is about as required as you can get on an NWA show. Not a good match, but a fun angle.

The Rock N Roll Express come out to celebrate to end the show.

Roll credits.

Overall Rating: C+. It was a tighter feeling show tonight as they had stories up and down the card and tied things back into the earlier part of the show as it kept going. At the same time they also had a few things that are going to make me want to see what is going on in the future. Keep doing these things and we could be in for an interesting few weeks going forward, including the pay per view. Nice job here.

Results

Dawsons b. Matthew Mims/Jordan Kingsley – Double powerbomb to Mims

Thunder Rosa b. Ashley Vox – Top rope double stomp to the back

Ricky Starks b. Aron Stevens two falls to none

Colt Cabana b. James Storm – Superman Pin

Outlaw Inc. b. Dawsons – Gringo Cutter to Zane

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NWA Powerrr – October 29, 2019: The Most Watchable Wrestling On TV Today



IMG Credit: National Wrestling Alliance

NWA Powerrr

Date: October 29, 2019

Location: GPB Studios, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Joe Galli, Jim Cornette

We're rolling along with this series, which has yet to have a really bad show. Things can be a little bit up and down but what matters most is they're having the shows and doing some good things. They need to establish themselves as anything beyond the joke that they have been for the better part of twenty years and these shows have been some nice first steps. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of last week with Tim Storm teasing retirement but getting talked into a tag team with Eli Drake. The Dawsons beat them but there seems to be more to this one.

Opening sequence.

The announcers welcome us to the show but here's James Storm in a hurry.

He's tired of having to prove himself while Nick Aldis ducks him all the time. Then he has Colt Cabana running around talking about the National Title. Cue Cabana to say the title belongs to him but now he's healthy and ready to go. Eli Drake comes out to say Cabana is disrespecting him so here's Aldis to say Storm's complaints are alcohol fueled.

Drake on the other hand has no vices, except for wanting to be Nick Aldis of course. A six man tag is set for later, with the four of them finding another partner. The stipulations are on too: if Aldis' team wins, Cabana gets a National Title shot. If Storm's team wins though, he gets a World Title shot, providing that he vacates the National Title. Storm insults Aldis' Jaguar and it's on.

We recap the Kamille doesn't talk deal.

Trevor Murdoch says he has worked for everything in this business and the NWA is no different. He doesn't think Jocephus should be banned for forty five days for throwing powder in Cabana's face. Instead, Jocephus should have to face Murdoch here. Jocephus comes out to say that his spiritual advisor has allowed a beating on Murdoch Trevor (what he said) tonight.

Jocephus vs. Trevor Murdoch

Jocephus gets in a posting to start so Trevor hits a few early clotheslines. Trevor gets dropped onto the buckle so Jocephus pulls out some powder. That's kicked into his face though and Trevor finishes with a middle rope bulldog at 1:08.

Thunder Rosa is coming.

Here's Aron Stevens for a chat. We get a Tropical Pirates reference but here's Ricky Starks to interrupt. Stevens: "You want to be my stunt double?" Stevens says he looks ridiculous so Starks slaps him in the face and says Stevens talks too much.

We recap the Dawsons interfering in Eddie Kingston/Homicide vs. the Wild Cards, sending Kingston over the edge.

Austin Idol thinks you need a kayfabe cocktail.

The Rock N Roll Express is coming. Works for me.

Dawsons vs. Eddie Kingston/Homicide

No DQ. It's a brawl on the floor to start with Kingston chopping the post as Homicide and Dave fight in the ring. The two of them head back outside so Homicide can choke with a camera cord. Cue the Wild Cards to watch as the Dawsons take over on the floor and throw some chairs inside. Homicide is up in the ring though and wedges one in the corner. Dave gets sent into it and a cutter gives Homicide two.

Some chairs are stacked up in the ring and Kingston gets slammed down onto the bridged chair for two. Homicide gets back up and takes a chairing of his own as the champs are getting more interested. The chairs are stacked on top of Homicide but the Wild Cards come in and knock Zane silly with the title. An AA onto the chairs knock Homicide silly and Dave is dragged on top for the pin at 5:50.

Rating: C. If you can do it right, a three way feud can be quite interesting and that's more or less what they're doing here. Give the champs a reason to explain their actions and they could be in business. The No DQ part made sense here and it's a lot better than having the referee get bumped or something goofy like that. Telling logical stories can get you rather far and they're on the right path.

Who is the Question Mark?

Marti Belle is Allysin Kay's friend but she's coming for the title.

Marti Belle vs. Ashley Vox

Allysin comes out to wish them both luck because she's beaten both of them before. Marti takes her down to start and grabs a seated Blockbuster. Ashley can't get anywhere on the arm as the announcers talk about Aron Stevens. Back up and Marti rolls some suplexes into a Russian legsweep for two but Ashley sweeps the leg. Allysin doesn't seem to have a favorite here as Ashley misses a springboard headscissors and gets sent into the corner. Ashley's chickenwing is broken up but she's fine enough to jackknife cradle Belle for the pin at 3:34.

Rating: D+. I don't think it's any secret that Kay is the star of the division and the best woman going around here today. Marti and Ashley aren't much in the ring but they're passable enough and haven't been completely overexposed on TV. Marti was in Impact for a bit but she was never a star. Vox is pretty much new to the national scene so it's not like she has anything to lose.

Come to Tony Falk's house of waffles and tire irons. This week: buy three pancakes, get four tire irons free. Sounds like a good deal, assuming I can find a use for three waffles.

Ricky Starks vs. Aron Stevens

Stevens snapmares him down to start but misses an early elbow drops. That lets Starks send him face first into the buckle a few times and a dropkick gets two. Starks gets in a dropkick and goes to the ropes, only to have said rope kicked low. Stevens hammers away and hits the Russian legsweep into the wind up elbow. A lot of trash talk and a slap to the face cause Starks to hammer away. Starks teases his own slap and scares Stevens, setting up a rollup to give Starks the pin at 3:23.

Rating: C-. Stevens continues to be much more about character than anything else and that's fine. The actor deal is actually working for him and I'm curious to see where he can take it. Then you have Starks, who isn't the biggest guy but he has the athleticism to make everything work for him. Good enough match here, though it felt more like angle advancement than anything else.

Stevens sits on the mat and gets into a NO/YES argument with the fans.

Nick Aldis/Colt Cabana/Mr. Anderson vs. James Storm/Wild Cards

I thought they announced Eli Drake as Storm's partner. If Storm's team wins, he gets a World Title shot, provided he vacates the National Title. If Aldis' team wins, Cabana gets a National Title shot. Storm stalls to start as Team Aldis decides who should go first. It's Aldis himself but Latimer tags himself in to go after a wristlock on the World Champ.

You don't do that to Aldis, who hits some clotheslines into an armbar

before handing it off to Latimer. It's off to Cabana for a double clothesline on the Wild Cards, plus a Bionic elbow for a bonus. Storm comes back in and hammers away on Cabana with Isaacs getting in his own shots to the face. Cabana blocks a middle rope dive with a raised boot and the hot tag brings in Anderson to clean house.

A neckbreaker gets two on Latimer as Storm has been knocked to the floor. Everything breaks down and it's a double clothesline to put Storm and Aldis down. Cabana gets the tag and runs over Latimer in the corner, leaving Storm to superkick Isaacs by mistake. Storm plants Latimer and the Superman cover gives Cabana the pin at 6:54.

Rating: C. This was exactly what it needed to be with the action based match that didn't come close to overstaying its welcome. You don't need a five minute shine, another five minute heat segment and then a five minute match to tell the same story. They didn't do too much here and we got a perfectly watchable tag match that served its purpose perfectly well and set up the next title match.

Roll credits.

Overall Rating: C+. The best thing that the NWA has going for it is its accessibility. You can jump straight into any episode and instantly get everything that is going on. That was on full display here as the recaps, promos and matches all explained who people were and what was going on every time. You don't need to do that forever, but for these early shows, it's the best thing you can do. This isn't a show where the wrestling is the top priority and that isn't a bad thing. Good show here and the most watchable hour of wrestling going today.

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NWA Powerrr – October 8, 2019 (Debut Episode): Dang It Why Does It Have To Be Good?



IMG Credit: National Wrestling Alliance

NWA Powerrr

Date: October 8, 2019

Location: GPB Studios, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Joe Galli, Jim Cornette

So this is something different as the NWA is back with a fresh TV series, though it is taking place in a studio in front of probably about 100 people instead of an arena. It might seem a little ridiculous, but at some point you have to just put the wrestlers in the ring and run shows, which is where the NWA is now. It's better than nothing so hopefully it

works out well here. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence, featuring a lot of shots on the NWA World Title and champion Nick Aldis. One very smart thing here though: name graphics for the wrestlers, which might be only the wrestlers appearing on the show.

And yes there are three r's in the name.

The announcers welcome us to the show with Cornette being in his element rattling off the history of televised wrestling in Atlanta.

We get the old interview area (I miss that thing) with Aldis, and his bodyguard Kamille, who talks about holding the World Title for nearly a year. It's hard to stay hungry but look at how far they've come. They were a punchline and now they have some great champions representing the NWA name.

We hear about the Tag Team Champions (the Wildcards), the National Champion (James Storm) and the Women's Champion (Allysin Kay) and all of the people fighting for respect. That brings him to Tim Storm, who he respects more than any man he's ever met. But everything Aldis has, from the Jaguar parked outside to every meal that he's put on his son's table, is because of professional wrestling. Let's do it serious tonight so Storm can find out why he's the National Treasure.

This felt VERY similar to an old school studio promo as it was no gimmick or special feature. It was Aldis, who was rocking the suit like an NWA World Champion would, looking straight at the camera and telling us why we should care about what we're seeing and who is coming for the title. More of this stuff and we're in a good place.

Dawsons vs. Billy Buck/Sal Rinauro

The Dawsons (Zane and Dave) are a couple of big guys who knock Sal around to start. Buck comes in and gets caught with a running elbow/side slam combination. A standing splash to the back into a powerslam finishes Rinauro at 1:20.

Post match the Dawsons say that is just a little taste of what is to come because they own the world now. They'll fight everyone and they don't

care how they win. They're the guys who bullied you for your lunch money so be ready for them.

Promotional consideration paid for by....THE AUSTIN IDOL UNIVERSAL WRESTLING COLLEGE??? They're making it really hard to not want to keep watching this.

Here's Eli Drake for a chat and that's a very good thing. Drake asks if this is NWA country and he thinks they said YEAH YEAH YEAH YEAH. There's something different about this place but it doesn't take a scientist to see that it's a special kind of place. You look around and see men ready to fight so everyone with a belt better be ready because he's coming for you. I've always liked Drake and his talking is some of the best around.

Eli Drake vs. Caleb Konley

Drake shoulders him down but gets rolled up for a few near falls. A monkey flip sends Drake into the corner but he blocks another one back out of it, setting up a jumping neckbreaker to drop Konley. A swinging neckbreaker gives Drake two and the fans are behind him. Drake knees him in the head for two more but Konley is right back with a kick to the chest. Konley gets two off a slingshot splash and a double stomp out of the corner makes it worse. The springboard splash hits raised boots though and the Gravy Train finishes Konley at 4:26.

Rating: C. They were trying hard here and Drake looked good while selling quite a bit. Konley was someone who showed potential in Impact but at the same time, Drake looked like a star who belonged on a bigger stage. Drake could be a big deal around here and I hope that is the case, because you can see the fire in his eyes every time he talks.

We recap Aldis vs. Storm, which is Storm's last shot at the title. Storm accepted the challenge because he knows he can beat Aldis, as he has before.

Jocephus, a seemingly mad man, runs up to commentary and demands Storm come out here right now.

Back from a break and Jocephus is still shouting for Storm. Cornette:

“Are you a meteorologist?” Cue National Champion James Storm, who says he is the only Storm that Jocephus needs to worry about. Storm calls Jocephus the kind of fake wrestler who could never walk a mile in his shoes. Go back to your desk job and leave the job of being a star to the real stars. The fight is on but referees break it up.

Wild Cards vs. Danny White/Mims

The Wild Cards (Tom Latimer/Royce Isaacs) are the Tag Team Champions but this is non-title. Isaacs runs White over to start and gets beaten up by Latimer (formerly known as Bram in Impact) and stomped by Isaacs. A powerbomb into a German suplex finishes White at 2:08.

The Wild Cards say this is what they were made for but here’s Eddie Kingston to mockingly applaud them. He calls Latimer Bram but then switches to Tommy Boy, who he is not here to disrespect. Royce complains but is threatened with a slap if he isn’t quiet. They may be a great team, but they do not speak for the outlaws. Cue Homicide to back up Kingston as Jocephus and Storm brawl through the curtain as well.

Back from a break with Storm breaking through security and chasing Jocephus around some more. Referees break it up again...for all of three seconds before it’s up into the crowd for a bit. Storm gets in the ring and calls Jocephus in, but he has to turn his back first. Hey let’s make it a match.

James Storm vs. Jocephus

Non-title I’d assume...and the Last Call (superkick) finishes Jocephus at 19 seconds.

Storm puts Jocephus’ thumb in his mouth for a little bonus humiliation. For a bonus, Storm goes to commentary and says the NWA is in the eye of the storm.

Video on Tim Storm, who is a wrestler, a teacher and a grandfather. He wants to do this when he’s 70 because he never wants to come off of the mountain. Aldis took the title from him in 2017 and, other than a quick run by Cody last year, has held it ever since. He needs one more shot at

the title because he knows he can do it.

Storm (Tim this time) talks about how 6:05 on Saturdays defined him (when he was a young man of about 35 more than likely) but now it is his family, including his 94 year old mother, who only cares if he gets hurt. He is Mama Storm's baby boy, which sets off a MAMA chant. The title defined him as a wrestler and he held it for over 400 days. Now it's all he wants back and he kind of quotes Lose Yourself in regards to seizing the opportunity. Tonight is his night.

NWA World Title: Nick Aldis vs. Tim Storm

Aldis, with Kamille, is defending. We get the Big Match Intros and they are VERY to the point with just the names being announced, meaning no weights or hometowns, which makes for a weird intro. Aldis loses an early chop off to the bigger Storm, who wins a slugout in the corner as well. They head outside with Aldis sending him face first into the post and back first into the apron.

Back in and an elbow gets two and we hit the chinlock. That's broken up and Storm sends him face first into the buckle for a double knockdown. Storm grabs a Figure Four (required) but a rope is eventually grabbed. With the holds not working, Storm gets two off a superplex and can't believe the kickout. A high crossbody (with Storm slipping a bit) connects for two but we do get a PERFECT STORM chant. Storm misses a middle rope Swanton of all things and the fans are split this time.

Aldis' top rope elbow hits the back and it's the King's Lynn Cloverleaf to stay on the spine. That's broken up and we almost get a ref bump, allowing Storm to hit a low blow. The Perfect Storm (swinging Boss Man Slam) gets two so they go up top. That means a double headbutt to put both guys on the floor again. Aldis clotheslines Kamille by mistake and Storm posts him for a good staggering. Back in and Aldis grabs a small package out of nowhere to retain at 12:08.

Rating: B-. Not a great match or anything but you can tell Aldis is a polished wrestler. I don't remember seeing much (if anything) from Storm before but he was perfectly fine. That being said, Aldis looked like a star and Storm looks like someone whose heyday was twenty plus years ago.

It's fine for a short form story, but changing the title here would have been insane and I'm glad it didn't really come close to that.

Post match Aldis praises Storm as a real man and Kamille won't speak about the missed clothesline. Storm takes the mic back and says it was a great win. Kamille doesn't seem thrilled with that but leaves with Aldis anyway.

Roll credits.

Overall Rating: B. I liked this WAY better than I would have expected as the hour flew by, mainly due to the squash matches. What mattered here was they kept it short and to the point. The production is bare bones (there aren't even entrance themes) and what you get here is a show built on the legacy, the wrestlers and their personalities. This show was designed to get you into the wrestlers and make you want to see more. The NWA has miles to go but this felt different in a good way, and that's better than anyone would have expected from them a few years ago. Great start, and check this out if you have a chance.

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Ring Of Honor TV Results – June 12, 2019: Points For Trying? Maybe?



IMG Credit: Ring of Honor Wrestling

Ring of Honor

Date: June 12, 2019

Location: The Odeum, Chicago, Illinois

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Nick Aldis

It's a big week this time around as we have hometown boy and NWA National Champion Colt Cabana defending the title against James Storm. I'm not sure how smart it is to have another promotion tying in to ROH but I'm also not sure if the company knows how to survive otherwise. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

NWA National Title: Colt Cabana vs. James Storm

Cabana is defending and that title is still hideous. They lock up to start with Storm missing a right hand in the corner, prompting Colt to tell the referee to admonish him. Cabana grabs a headlock as they're firmly in half gear so far. A cartwheel over Storm lets Colt go right back to the headlock but Storm is right back with a weak Sling Blade.

Last Call misses as Cabana bails to the floor and we take a break.

Back with Cabana working on the arm, followed by a falling splash. Storm trips him down though and gets in a kick to the head. Some right hands to the same general area keep the champ in trouble, setting up a running knee to the face. That's good for a delayed two as they're really not exactly putting in that much energy here. Cabana fights out of a chinlock and blocks the Eye of the Storm.

A headscissors puts Storm down but Colt can't follow up, after those devastating....what did Storm do that should keep him down? Cabana gets up for his running shoulder in the corner, setting up the double jump splash for two. Back from another break with Storm sending him into the barricade and then sending him into the barricade again.

Storm stops to glare at Aldis on commentary before breaking the count like a veteran. The delay lets Cabana get in a hiptoss onto the concrete and it's a moonsault for two back inside. Storm hits a pair of Last Calls but puts on the Cloverleaf to mess with Aldis even more. The bell rings without a tap....because the fifteen minute time limit has expired (at 16:34).

Rating: D+. This was more long than anything else with Cabana surviving. I'm sure they're setting up Storm vs. Aldis, which makes a lot of sense as Storm is still someone who can go in the ring and looks like a star. The NWA doesn't have the deepest roster in the world at the moment so someone with some credibility like Storm is a good idea.

Post match Cabana says he'll go five more minutes but here are the Briscoes to beat down Cabana to vent some frustrations with the NWA. The Briscoes say everyone has been screwing them so it's time for them to do some screwing of their own (I'm sure there's a Deliverance joke in there somewhere). They call out Aldis (Nick: "Oh we're going there?") so the tie comes off and the fight is on. The Briscoes take care of Aldis with no trouble and stand tall over he and Cabana.

Back with a recap of what we just saw as we're now over halfway through the show.

We run down the Best in the World card.

We get the second half of Jeff Cobb's biographical video, now focusing on his journey into pro wrestling. He didn't know it existed in Hawaii but he knew he had to get into it and started training. War Machine got him into Ring of Honor and here he is. Then he won the TV Title in three minutes and he can do the same with the World Title. They're doing well here.

Here's Silas Young for a match but first, he talks about how he's a changed man. He isn't going to keep taking shortcuts because there isn't a better pure wrestler in the world than him. Sure he could have a mat classic against anyone in the back right now, but he's found a guy who has beaten Lou Thesz, Johnny Saint and Billy Robinson. That would be...THE SQUID.

Silas Young vs. The Squid

It's a guy in trunks and a mask. Squid works on a wristlock to start so Young does a bunch of nipups to escape. That sets up a handshake as Squid keeps waving his hands. They go to the mat with Silas' half crab sending Squid over to the ropes. Another handshake gets Squid pulled into a headlock, followed by a shoulder. An abdominal stretch makes Squid tap at 2:03.

Post match Young keeps the hold on and lights up a cigarette at the same time. Young has been awesome over the last few weeks.

We recap Bully Ray vs. Lifeblood, which hasn't been all that interesting because Ray feels like he's been feuding with the entire company forever now.

Here's Mark Haskins for a chat. He talks about wanting to be a professional wrestler instead of an entertainer. A few months ago, he and Bandido tore the house down and Juice Robinson was watching. That was enough to set up Lifeblood and the ranks were formed, including Tenille Dashwood. Then Bully Ray powerbombed her through a table, so Ray needs to get out here right now.

Post break here's Ray, to say he'll take Haskins up on his challenge. He wants the ring announcer and the referee out of the ring first and the two scamper off. Ray gets in and asks if Haskins is going to bite with the barking. He talks about his retirement last year in this very arena, drawing a RETIRE AGAIN chant. Ray brings up the fans refusing to let him leave last year and the grown men crying in the front row. They cried because they're suckers just like Haskins.

See, he lied because that's what he's been doing for his entire career. No one has been able to stop him so why can Haskins be the one to shut him up? Haskins wants to fight but here's Shane Taylor to interrupt. Tracy Williams comes out to even things up before anything gets physical. Ray tells the referee to get back in the ring and start the match.

Bully Ray/Shane Taylor vs. Mark Haskins/Tracy Williams

And no match as the Soldiers of Savagery run in to jump Haskins for the DQ at 28 seconds.

Post match the big beatdown is on but PJ Black runs in with a chair. The numbers get the better of Black though and Ray superbombs him through the table to end the show.

Overall Rating: D. So yeah, one real match and that was for an NWA Title. This show was all about the villains dominating in three different stories and while that can work, it's not the most thrilling stuff in the world this time around. You have the Briscoes as monsters, which has been done several times before. Young is more of a smarmy heel, who will get taken down by Jonathan Gresham in a good match to blow off an entertaining angle.

Then you have the big angle though, with Ray leading a four man (so far) heel team to fight Lifeblood. That's good enough on paper, but as soon as Ray is the focal point of the heel team, it starts to fall apart. I like the idea of Lifeblood but Ray, Taylor and two monsters aren't exactly interesting villains. It's an idea, but it feels like something that has been done by better villains before. I can appreciate them trying something here and it was far from terrible. It's just not very interesting and that's going to be a problem.

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Impact Wrestling – January 4, 2018: They Need To Get Out Of The Infield

Impact Wrestling

Date: January 4, 2018

Location: Aberdeen Pavilion, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Commentators: Jeremy Borash, Josh Matthews

We're back to the regular shows after two weeks of Best of 2017 episodes drew higher audiences than the standard ones. This is a big week as well with multiple title matches, including Eli Drake defending the World Title against Alberto El Patron in a match which might be taped from a WrestlePro event. Let's get to it.

Dan Lambert tells the American Top Team guys that he has this tonight.

We preview tonight's big tag match and four title matches. This is a

stacked show but it really, really needs to draw.

Opening sequence.

X-Division Title: Taiji Ishimori vs. Trevor Lee

Lee is defending and has Caleb Konley in his corner. They fight over arm control to start because that's the kind of exciting stuff this division is built on. Giving this match the level of attention it has earned, the announcers talk about every other big match taking place tonight.

Ishimori dropkicks him out to the floor and moonsaults into a pose.

Konley trips him up though and the champ takes over with a running kick on the apron.

Back in and a whip into the corner gets two more as the announcers are now going with silence instead of talking about something else.

Uh...improvement? Ishimori comes back with running knees in the corner and takes his shirt off. Not quite TAKING OFF HIS PANTS but close enough. A handspring into a crossbody looks to take Lee down but he flips it over into a belly to belly for a sweet counter as we take a break.

Back with Ishimori scoring off a handspring kick to the face but missing the 450. Like a finisher is going to hit on the first attempt. Lee backslides him down but picks Ishimori up into a sitout powerbomb for two instead. Destino (Tetsuya Naito's finisher) gives Ishimori two and the 450 is enough to get the title off of Lee at 13:16.

Rating: C+. There's no secret that Ishimori is the best in the division but that's not exactly saying much. The division barely means anything around here anymore and Ishimori isn't going to be able to do anything on his own. It also doesn't help that there's not much setting the division apart. Ishimori has a good looking 450 but most of the division isn't exactly known for flying around the ring. Give us something that makes them stand out aside from the label of being in the X-Division.

Alberto and Eli are ready to fight at WrestlePro. I know they need more content but this always feels like it's cheap.

Dezmond Xavier wants a shot at Ishimori's title. Makes sense after the

Super X Cup and it's better than nothing else.

LAX isn't happy.

James Storm says tonight is a little different because he's standing up for Impact Wrestling. I'm a big Storm fan but his "I've been here since the beginning" promo is getting old.

Grand Championship: Ethan Carter III vs. Fallah Bahh vs. Matt Sydal

Carter is defending and this is under the same round and scoring system as a standard one on one match. Yes they're finding new ways to make this title stupid. Everyone brawls to start until Bahh clotheslines both of them down and slams Matt onto Eli. Bahh rolls onto both of them to break up a cover and chops the heck out of Carter in the corner. Carter gets run over again but he rolls away before a Banzai Drop. The first round ends and of course goes to Bahh.

Round two starts after a break with Bahh getting double teamed and knocked out to the floor. Sydal kicks Carter down for two but Eli gorilla presses him onto Bahh. Josh thinks Carter should try to win the match. Keep it up Josh and you'll get up to Byron Saxton territory in no time. Carter throws Drake into the corner to end the round.

As you might expect, Carter wins the second round but Bahh runs them both over to start round three. Bahh sits on Carter's chest for two with Sydal having to make a save. The TK3 plants Sydal and Carter breaks up another Bonzai Drop attempt. Bahh is back up and slows down the shooting star press, which Sydal hits just as time expires at 9:00. Carter wins round three and retains the title.

Rating: B-. As usual, the more fun I have with this match, the less interest I have in the whole concept. You could do the exact same thing with a ten minute time limit, which at least makes more sense than a nine minute time limit. I know I harp on these same issues over and over but sweet goodness they just do not learn with this thing. I'm not sure what they see in the whole concept but I don't think anyone would be complaining if it was just dropped already.

Video on Johnny Impact. He really needs a fresh feud after all this stuff with Alberto, who hasn't done much for Johnny's status around here.

KM arrived and jumped Moose. Somehow, this has been quite the upgrade for him as of late.

Allie can't believe she's here but Gail Kim (take a freaking shot) told her she'd be here. Crazy Laurel Van Ness attacks her from behind.

Dan Lambert vs. James Storm

Loser leaves town and no holds barred. Lambert talks a lot of trash and here are the American Top Team guys for the beatdown. Lashley's spinebuster gets two but Storm manages to Last Call everyone down. He hadn't taken much damage but sweet goodness that's quite the comeback. KM comes in with a beer bottle to Storm's head for two. Lashley holds Lambert back, allowing a double beer bottle shot to put Storm away at 3:36.

Rating: F. And that's it for Storm, who has been one of the longest standing stars of Impact for years now. It does kind of seem appropriate that he goes out putting someone else over, which is always the case for Storm. I could go for him putting over WRESTLERS on his way out but this American Top Team thing is out of hand at this point. It really would have been nice for Storm to get in any kind of important offense but this is how Impact is going to let someone go, because that's what matters to them.

Post break, Storm gets an ovation from the locker room. Storm calls his family to say he's coming home and you can barely hear him over the LAX chants while the other match is being taped at the same time. So he gets squashed and beaten down by non-wrestlers and then you can't even hear his goodbye speech. As mentioned: such is life in Impact.

Video on the debut of Joseph Park, who started off looking for his brother Abyss. I was actually surprised that he was Abyss as I never would have recognized him. The fact that he looks like Penn Jillette made things more complicated.

We see the last few minutes of Joseph Park vs. Bully Ray from Slammiversary 2012.

Chandler Park vs. Jon Bolen

Park is indy mainstay Ethan Page. Bolen drops Park to start and runs him over with a shoulder for two. Josh plugs the upcoming Orlando tapings which will feature a miniature golf tournament. Well it's better than a match from 2012. Joseph manages to get some cheers going and Bolen misses a charge in the corner. Chandler celebrates a bit too long though and gets the ropes kicked between his legs. For some reason Jon decides to insult Joseph's Grandma Jenny and gets knocked into a rollup for the pin at 2:39. Park has a good look but this slip on a banana peel winning isn't going to work for very long.

So to recap: they aired a video package which showed that they're basically repeating the same idea with one of the participants being the same just five years later. Am I missing something here?

Sydal wants Carter one on one and says tonight's defeat felt like a victory. He has a radical idea: a REGULAR MATCH for the title. I could certainly go for that idea, which is why I think they'll manage to botch the thing.

Video on Alberto vs. Eli. Alberto is still mad about being abandoned by the company and makes threats in Spanish. Drake is a paper champion of course but says that the only paper involved with his title is all the paper money he makes. As usual, Eli is the best promo in this company.

From Rahway, New Jersey this past Saturday at a WrestlePro event.

Impact Wrestling World Title: Eli Drake vs. Alberto El Patron

Eli is defending and it's a brawl before the bell. Jeremy tries to explain the low attendance on the horrible snowstorm over the weekend, even though this was taped nearly a month ago. Alberto gets an early two off a dropkick to the back and sends him into the barricade a few times. Drake is rammed into the buckles over and over but we're clipped (on a show with a MATCH FROM NEARLY SIX YEARS AGO) to Drake choking on the

ramp.

They take turns sending each other into the barricade with Drake getting the better of it for two inside. We hit the chinlock for a bit until Alberto gets the cross armbreaker over the ropes. Clipped again to the Gravy Train giving Drake two. Drake misses a belt shot and gets faceplanted onto the title for two more. The ref gets bumped though and a belt shot retains the title at 6:19.

Rating: D-. Oh sweet goodness no. In addition to the lack of the time (six minutes for a World Title match is almost inexcusable in the first place), the clipping of the match (maybe they could only air so much of it) and the REALLY lame ending, there's the fact that it wasn't even held under their own brand. If the match being under the WrestlePro banner necessitated the clipping, maybe don't have the thing under another banner and tape the match at your own tapings. Why is this stuff so freaking complicated for just this company? I've seen indy promotions that run once every month that are put together WAY better than this.

Here's a clip from a Team Canada match in case you had gotten enough of this modern stuff.

Drake brags about his win and says the belt shot was a receipt for the DDT onto the title belt a few weeks back.

Tag Team Titles: LAX vs. OVE

OVE is defending and this is titles vs. careers. The champs jump LAX during the entrances and the weapons beatdown is on. If this is anything goes, there was no announcement saying such in the arena. The lights finally come up and we get an opening bell with Santana getting superkicked down for two.

We settle down to Dave choking Santana in the corner before it's off to Jake to choke on the ropes. Santana fights back up but has no partner, meaning Jake can kick him back down for two. The stomping and choking based offense continues with Santana's right hands having little effect as we take a break. Back with Santana still on his own but managing a cutter on Dave. Ortiz finally manages to get back to the ring, only to be

knocked down to the floor again.

Santana has to slap his way to freedom as Ortiz is up on the apron. A DDT finally gets Santana over to the corner for the hot tag so Ortiz can Death Valley Drive Jake into Dave in the corner. Ortiz heads up top for a superplex but Dave reverses it into the Street Sweeper (stealing the finisher) for two more. Santana breaks up the All Seeing Eye and looks for something off the top onto Dave, only to dive into a cutter from Jake in a sweet looking visual. Jake and Ortiz are left to slug it out with Ortiz getting the better of it, setting up the Street Sweeper for the pin and the titles at 14:42.

Rating: B. The story was solid here as you have LAX winning when all the interference goes away despite OVE getting an early advantage. They did this the way they needed to but hokey smoke it's time for some fresh challengers. I know there aren't a lot of teams to go around this company but these four can't feud together much longer, just for the sake of people getting burned out on the match.

Overall Rating: C+. This one depends on how you look at it. The good wrestling outweighed the bad wrestling but egads why can't this company get the most basic stuff down? I know I mentioned it multiple times but they aired part of a match from 2012 and clipped the World Title match (which aired in another promotion). This is their big return show with FOUR title matches on one show and a gimmick match and it felt like they stumbled to the ground and then crawled over the finish line.

This company doesn't seem to understand the basics and those major issues are making it very difficult to make any real progress. They built up Alberto vs. Drake and for whatever reason it's taking place in a small arena in front of a lot of empty bleachers and we don't even get to see the whole thing. That makes this company seem low level and makes the casual viewers go to another promotion. You need to knock something out of the park once in awhile but I don't remember the last time they even hit a stand up triple. This was a watchable show but it should have been so much more, which is the case way too often.

Results

Taiji Ishimori b. Trevor Lee – 450 splash

Ethan Carter III b. Matt Sydal and Fallah Bahh via judges' decision

Dan Lambert b. James Storm – Double beer bottle to the head

Chandler Park b. Jon Bolen – Rollup

Eli Drake b. Alberto El Patron – Title shot to the head

LAX b. OVE – Street Sweeper to Jake

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Impact Wrestling – December 7, 2017: This Show Needs A Motivational Speaker

Impact Wrestling

Date: December 7, 2017

Location: Aberdeen Pavilion, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Commentators: Josh Matthews, Jeremy Borash

It's almost time for a new year but first we need to wrap up the old one as we continue Johnny Impact vs. Alberto El Patron. Last week Johnny him in a long showdown but World Champion Eli Drake is looming on the outskirts. We'll also get more in the Knockouts Title tournament so let's get to it.

We open with various names, including El Patron, Drake, James Storm and Dan Lambert, promising to take care of whomever they're mad at this week.

Opening sequence.

Caleb Konley vs. Taiji Ishimori

They hit the mat to start with Konley working a headlock until Taiji throws him outside. The tease of a dive has Konley freaked out but he still manages to send Ishimori face first down for two. A backsplash gives Konley the same and he throws Ishimori outside for some shots from Trevor Lee. Back in and a spinning strike to the face looks to set up a TKO, only to have Ishimori counter into a reverse DDT. The 450 puts Konley away at 6:13.

Rating: C. So the guy from Japan who never talks, has almost no personality and no character other than "he's awesome and from Japan" (and who does impress in the ring most of the time) beat a boring guy in plain black trunks, likely setting up a match against another boring guy in plain black trunks with longer hair. We don't have time to learn anything about them though because we might not get to hear about how to make Impact great or Alberto's half Spanish/half English.

Lee comes in for the post match beatdown but Dezmond Xavier makes the save.

Knockouts Title Tournament First Round: Allie vs. Sienna vs. Rosemary

The winner gets Laurel Van Ness for the title. Sienna bails to the floor to start so the other two go outside and chop away. Back in and Sienna chops on Rosemary before hitting a running hip attack in the corner. Allie and Rosemary are whipped into each other, followed by a clothesline to put Rosemary on the floor.

A kick to the chest staggers Sienna but she's right back up for a superplex with Rosemary having to make a save. Sienna gets caught in a double armbar for a near submission, only to have Rosemary and Allie let go. That means a slugout (demon vs. Easter egg) until Sienna comes back in and eats a hard German suplex. The Red Wedding gives Rosemary the pin on Sienna at 6:14.

Rating: C-. Just three women doing moves to each other until one of them won. Rosemary vs. Laurel should be fun, even if it seems that Laurel is just a placeholder while Taya Valkyrie has visa issues. Rosemary looked the strongest here so there's little to complain about, even if it wasn't thrilling stuff.

Sami Callihan and OVE are in the ring to talk about how much they can't stand Canada and Mexico. It's two countries full of nonsense and the feud with LAX continues. This has gone beyond wrestling and is now gang warfare. Callihan brags about Ohio being awesome but some Canadians named TDT (two guys who seem to be from Montreal) come out to issue a challenge. TDT gets the better of it until Sami makes the save with a kendo stick. Some chairs are loaded up in the middle but LAX makes the save. OVE bails in short order.

Allie is upset when she runs into Gail Kim, who says Allie didn't let her down.

Clip of Christopher Daniels vs. Senshi from Lockdown 2006.

KM beats up a bunch of people in a gym to prove himself to American Top Team.

LAX is ready to get the titles back.

Eli Drake and Chris Adonis are ready for Petey Williams and Johnny Impact tonight.

Grand Championship: Ethan Carter III vs. Matt Sydal

Sydal is challenging. They circle each other to start with little contact in the first thirty seconds. Ethan's headlock goes nowhere so he shoulders him down to take over for the first time. That earns Ethan a

kick to the head, followed by a standing moonsault for two. Ethan hammers him down without too much trouble though and sends Sydal outside. Back in and a delayed vertical suplex ends round one, with Carter getting the win.

Round two starts fast with Sydal stomping and chopping away, only to be sent into the corner for some stomps from the champ. We hit the cravate for a good bit until Sydal fights up with more kicks. A suplex of his own gets two and we wrap up round two with Sydal tying it up.

Carter gets in a cheap shot to end the round though and Sydal starts slowly, allowing Ethan to hit a hard sitout powerbomb for two. Sydal's double knees from the top give him the save, followed by a side roll and another near fall. Sydal bolts up top but the shooting star is broken up. A superplex is broken up so Sydal tries another shooting star, which only hits mat. They hit a double clothesline and that's the end of the round. After a break, the third round is....a draw, meaning it's a tie at 9:00. Guest judge Fallah Bahh gave the third vote.

Rating: C+. I liked the match more and these two have chemistry together but the round system is still getting annoying. I'm not sure why they're keeping that system around and it's not like anything is really being made better because of it. Just let it be a match with a ten (yes ten, not nine) minute time limit like fans want. But hey, let's be different instead of logical.

Long clip of James Storm vs. Bobby Roode from Bound For Glory 2012. That was a great match.

Park Park and Park ad. The intentionally low budget is awesome.

Bobby Lashley/Dan Lambert vs. James Storm/Moose

Lambert is wrestling barefoot and American Top Team is at ringside. Storm and Lashley start things off with an early Sling Blade taking Lashley down. Moose comes in for a backsplash (because everyone has to use a backsplash these days) but a Lambert distraction lets Lashley take him down.

We hit the chinlock for a bit until Moose gets in a spear. That means a hot tag to Storm as Lashley has no one to tag. The American Top Team member in the neck brace comes in so Moose bicycle kicks him down and tosses him onto the pile at ringside. The distraction lets Lashley spear Storm down so Lambert can get the pin at 5:25.

Rating: D. I'm so sick of this stupid feud and the MMA guys being presented as anything more than a novelty. I have no idea why they're being brought in all the time for the sake of just being warm bodies but I'm sure it's something about cross promotion or whatever. Bad match too, but that's the case with these guys more often than not.

Lashley isn't happy with Lambert but shakes his hand anyway.

Johnny Impact and Petey Williams are ready for the main event. Alberto better keep his nose out of this too.

Ad for the finals of the Knockout tournament, which is nowhere near as epic as they're making it out to be. It was a pair of triple threats and a singles match, not Wrestlemania IV.

Chris Adonis/Eli Drake vs. Johnny Impact/Petey Williams

Johnny and Chris start things off with Impact being run over but nipping back up. Eli accidentally shoulders Adonis in the corner and we get the drop toehold into the crotch as we take a break. Back with Drake hitting a backbreaker on Williams and bringing Adonis back in for a knee to the spine. The double stomping ensues and Drake gets two off a jumping elbow (with some finger poking included).

Petey finally snaps off a hurricanrana, only to get caught in a belly to back slam to give Adonis two instead. Williams rolls away and makes a hot tag to Johnny though as everything breaks down. A standing shooting star gets two on Adonis and the flip neckbreaker gets the same. Petey comes back in with a slingshot Codebreaker to Drake but gets caught in the Adonis Lock. Johnny makes the save with a Flying Chuck, followed by Starship Pain for the pin on Adonis at 13:23.

Rating: C. Just a main event tag here that continues to show the value of

having a lackey like Adonis who can take fall after fall like this and be fine. Drake vs. Impact vs. Alberto isn't exactly thrilling but at least there's something there. I hope we don't have to go with Alberto as champion again though as I don't think I can handle that level of indifference again.

Post match Alberto runs in and sends Drake into the post. A DDT onto the title ends the show.

Overall Rating: D+. If I had to sum up this promotion in one statement, it would be lack of effort. So many of the stories here feel like the idea is "you people go out there and do this". End of direction, end of idea, end of motivation. Maybe if we didn't have to show classic clips or hear from KM and LAX (Why are so many people on this show either an acronym or initials?) or talk about mixed martial arts being so freaking awesome, we could get some of these people some promo time so we can have a chance to care about them. The show wasn't the worst but it's still lacking energy and that's very bad as well.

Results

Taiji Ishimori b. Caleb Konley – 450

Rosemary b. Sienna and Allie – Red Wedding to Sienna

Ethan Carter III vs. Matt Sydal went to a draw

Bobby Lashley/Dan Lambert b. James Storm/Moose – Spear to Storm

Johnny Impact/Petey Williams b. Chris Adonis/Eli Drake – Starship Pain to Adonis

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Impact Wrestling – November 16, 2017: Hey, He's Canadian

Impact Wrestling

Date: November 16, 2017

Location: Aberdeen Pavilion, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Commentators: Jeremy Borash, Josh Matthews

We're still in Ottawa, as will be the case for several more weeks. Tonight is about some followups to Bound For Glory as Gail Kim will be in the house for her first comments after winning the Knockouts Title, plus the return of American Top Team. I'm sure these won't be bad segments that accomplish nothing and get us nowhere. Let's get to it.

Gail Kim and American Top Team arrived earlier today.

Johnny Impact and Alberto El Patron have been banned from the building.

Eli Drake is ready to face Petey Williams, who should stick with the X-Division.

Taiji Ishimori/Caleb Konley/Trevor Lee vs. Sonjay Dutt/Dezmond Xavier/Garza Jr.

Lee uppercuts Dutt to start and Ishimori comes in to spin out of a wristlock. Dutt dropkicks Konley down so it's back to Lee for the heel dominance. That goes nowhere so it's off to Garza who cleans house and TAKES OFF HIS PANTS! Xavier hits a dive of his own but Ishimori hits

running knees in the corner. Konley gets kicked in the ribs and Xavier's Final Flash gives him the pin at 6:45.

Rating: C-. I'm running out of ways to say the X-Division guys aren't interesting. This was your run of the mill match with some dives and nothing much else. I still have no reason to care about any of these people and Lee continues to be champion for no adequately explored reason. It's good to start the show with a match though, especially something a little more entertaining than the other options.

OVE is ready to continue the fight against LAX.

Grand Championship: Fallah Bahh vs. Ethan Carter III

Carter is defending as I try to remember that the Grand Championship is a thing. Ethan tries some technical stuff to start before slapping Bahh in the back of the head. The huge Bahh sends him into the corner before easily shouldering him down. For some reason Carter tries a slam and gets slammed down for his efforts. A really bad rolling splash (as in Bahh gets a jogging start, drops, and rolls over Carter) puts Carter in the corner to end the first round. Bahh wins round one and runs Carter over to start the second.

A second charge only hits post though and Carter kicks him in the head. While Bahh regains his senses, Josh says you can go back sixteen years on the Global Wrestling Network. No Josh, you can't. We hit a chinlock for a bit before a Stinger Splash has Bahh in more trouble. Another chinlock keeps Bahh down to end the round, which is won by Carter.

The third round starts after a break with Bahh winning a slugout until Carter hits a clothesline. It can't take the big guy down but Bahh is barely standing. The required Samoan drop is enough for Josh to give the first minute of the round to Bahh. A belly to belly gets two on the champ, followed by a crossbody for no cover. Bahh goes to the middle rope but gets pulled down, allowing Carter to grab a rollup with his feet on the ropes to retain at 15:14.

Rating: D+. As usual, there is no reason whatsoever to have the rounds save for fake drama. Bahh is every fat monster who can't do anything out

of the ordinary while Carter is stuck waiting around for a better story. I'd be thrilled if they just turned the title back into the TV belt, assuming they'll actually do anything with it. The specifics mean nothing if you can't get anyone wanting the thing, which has always been the problem around here.

OVE/Sami Callihan vs. LAX

It's a brawl to start with Ortiz hitting a cutter on Callihan and a backbreaker on Dave Crist, only to have Sami come back in to send Ortiz outside. That means a suicide dive and the brawl continues on the floor. Back in and Homicide can't hit the Gringo Killer on Callihan, who kicks him low for a breather. Jake actually bothers with a tag as we take a break.

Back with Santana getting pummeled in the corner but fighting over for the hot tag to Ortiz. Everything breaks down again with LAX making the face comeback, including a Tower of London out of the corner to Dave. Callihan comes back in to help with a Stunner on Santana, followed by Jake's tombstone for two. Ortiz comes back in for the Street Sweeper and the pin on Dave at 13:16.

Rating: C. So they can get rid of the Veterans of War (another team with a three letter nickname) because the tag division is just so deep at the moment. It certainly feels like LAX has turned face but without much of a moment to get them there. It also isn't much of a face group when they have the numbers advantage, though why bother making sense when you can do a double turn for the sake of a double turn?

Here's Dan Lambert with an envelope. He brags about how awesome MMA fighters are and how pathetic wrestlers are before going into a rant about the company moving to Canada. See, Canada has weak currency and Impact Wrestling wants some of that lame money. As for the point, Lashley was granted a release but for some reason the company never signed onto it.

Lambert has drafted a new release and just needs an executive to come sign off on it, otherwise the destruction will continue. Cue Moose to call Lambert dumb for giving his boys the night off, leaving him all

alone here. Lashley comes out for the save, along with American Top Team, who you would have thought Moose would have noticed in the back. Cue James Storm to clean house without much effort, including a beer bottle over the head of one of the MMA fighters.

Storm grabs a mic to say he's been training since 1996 and was told he would never be here. His mama told him to never give up and that's what professional wrestling is. He mentions some of the tag teams he's been in and that's what wrestling is too. Storm talks about how awesome this place is to wrap it up.

Post break, KM wants to be part of American Top Team. Lashley tells him to prove himself.

Chris Adonis and Eli Drake tell Williams to try to make himself a Canadian hero. If Petey can last three minutes with the champ, he'll be a Canadian hero. He won't be World Champion though and that's just a fact of life.

Allie thanks Gail Kim for being awesome.

Long video on Kim's career. They're really going to just send her out there, have her give a speech, and get no one else over aren't they?

Gail comes out for her speech and Allie comes out as an invited guest. Kim talks about wanting to wrestle eighteen years ago and finding a wrestling school so she could do just that. We get the required YOU DESERVE IT chants, even though no one deserves as much praise as Gail gets around here. She thanks the women who helped pave the way to get her here (Trish Stratus, Lita, Molly Holly, Awesome Kong) and she's at peace with her decision.

She's vacating the title and can't wait to see where things go from here. No interruption, nothing for anyone else and just Gail. I'm so glad she got this one last moment to add to her collection of other moments. There's no denying that Gail is great but this company seems to think she's Austin and Rock combined. Did I miss it when she became the biggest star the company has ever had?

Joseph Park comes up to catering and scares everyone off, save for Grado. Park begs forgiveness and blames Abyss. He gives Grado his visa because TNA doesn't understand the idea of immigration either. A Mountie comes up to say Grado's visa only counts in America so he's being deported. Well that happened.

JB is in the ring to announce the main event so Jimmy Jacobs pops up on commentary. He takes a selfie with Josh and says he'll stay as long as he feels welcome.

Impact Wrestling World Title: Petey Williams vs. Eli Drake

Drake is defending. Feeling out process to start with Drake bailing from the threat of a Canadian Destroyer. Back in and a headscissors takes the champ down, followed by the O Canada spot in the corner. We come back from a break with Drake getting two off a belly to back suplex and Adonis choking on the ropes.

A tilt-a-whirl powerslam and a jumping elbow get two on Petey and we hit the reverse chinlock. Drake cuts off a comeback with a clothesline, only to miss a middle rope knee drop. The slingshot Codebreaker gives Petey two and a running knee to the face drops Drake again. The Canadian Destroyer doesn't work so we hit the Sharpshooter in the middle of the ring instead.

Drake makes the rope so Petey hits a DDT on the champ, followed by a suicide dive to Adonis. A slingshot is countered into a failed Gravy Train attempt and now the Canadian Destroyer connects...for two, which is said to be the first time anyone has ever kicked out. Another Canadian Destroyer attempt is countered into a kneeling reverse piledriver, followed by the Gravy Train to retain the title at 17:31.

Rating: B. Good match, albeit one without much drama. As soon as Drake kicked out of the one weapon Petey had, any doubt went flying out the window. I'm fine with Williams getting a one off title match but I really don't need him getting a spot in the main event scene because "hey, he's Canadian".

Overall Rating: C+. There were some problems here and there but this was

one of their best shows in a long time. First of all, everything was about Impact, as in there was no footage from other promotions to pad things out. Couple that with a good main event and some angle advancement (Storm as Moose's partner is completely acceptable) and Grado being gone and it's a good night. Unfortunately I have no reason to believe this will last but I'll enjoy it while I can.

Results

Sonjay Dutt/Dezmond Xavier/Garza Jr. b. Taiji Ishimori/Caleb Konley/Trevor Lee – Final Flash to Konley

Ethan Carter III b. Fallah Bahh – Rollup with feet on the ropes

LAX b. OVE/Sami Callihan – Street Sweeper to Dave

Eli Drake b. Petey Williams – Gravy Train

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