

# 205 Live – January 2, 2019: Quality Time



IMG Credit: WWE

## 205 Live

Date: January 2, 2019

Location: PPG Paints Arena, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness, Percy Watson

The title is the focus this week as Cruiserweight Champion Buddy Murphy needs some challengers at the Royal Rumble. He actually needs three of them as Drake Maverick has put him in a fatal four way. That means we'll be seeing two of three qualifying matches tonight, with the third taking place next week to find the three challengers. Let's get to it.

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

In Memory of Gene Okerlund.

Drake Maverick hypes up tonight's qualifying matches and promises a big surprise at some point.

Opening sequence.

Kalisto vs. Lio Rush

The winner goes to the four way. The fans aren't happy with Rush to start

and it's already time to run the ropes rather quickly. Kalisto's handstand into a double backflip sends Rush bailing to the floor as Buddy Murphy and Tony Nese watch in the back. Rush comes back in for a slap to the mask and you can see Kalisto getting more serious. The chase is on with Rush swinging around the post so Kalisto uses them as a launch pad to get around the ring faster. A handspring kick to the head knocks Kalisto off the apron and that means a suicide dive as we actually get to the contact.

Back in and Rush snaps off a suplex before a knee to the back gets two. The reverse chinlock goes on for a good while until the cocky Rush sends him outside, setting up a quick rest on the top rope. A running elbow to the face cuts Kalisto down again and Rush snaps off the rapid fire strikes. Kalisto finally stops him with a raised boot in the corner, setting up a springboard flip dive to the floor.

Back in and Rush hits a spinning kick to the face and a second one....doesn't get anything as Rush heads up top instead. That allows Kalisto a kick to the face of his own and a middle rope fall away slam backflipped into a World's Strongest Slam (cool) gets two. They take their time getting up and the Salida Del Sol is countered into a spinning Unprettier for two more. Back up and the springboard spinning crossbody barely hits Rush, who kicks Kalisto in the face again.

A TKO onto the top rope sends Kalisto outside for a nine count and Rush's frustration sets in. Rush loads up the Final Hour but Metalik and Dorado load up the noisemakers for a distraction. For some reason Rush is dumb enough to go after them and the Salida Del Sol sends Kalisto to the Royal Rumble at 14:19.

**Rating:** C+. The ending was a bit of a stretch but Kalisto winning is always a good idea. He comes off as one of the biggest stars around here and he's going to make any match better. I wasn't wild on Rush losing the way he did but he's got enough going on over on Raw to make up for it. Nice match with a not great ending.

Nigel being annoyed at Kalisto winning is rather amusing.

We look back at last week's street fight with Akira Tozawa and Brian

Kendrick defeating Jack Gallagher and Drew Gulak.

Gulak doesn't consider himself an underdog against Tozawa tonight because he's a realist. Tonight isn't about weapons because it's a wrestling match.

Drake Maverick promises new faces coming around here in the near year. That may or may not be interesting.

### Akira Tozawa vs. Drew Gulak

The winner goes to the Rumble and there are no seconds here. Feeling out process to start with Gulak taking him down in a headlock. Tozawa grabs one of his own but misses a big kick to the face. That seems to make Gulak a bit more serious so he goes after Tozawa's ear and asks HOW DARE YOU. The quick right hand to the face drops Gulak and we get a Tozawa scream. They head outside with Gulak kicking him into the barricade and slamming the weakened back onto the floor.

We hit the double arm crank with a knee in Tozawa's back before Gulak switches to a regular chinlock. That doesn't go far so Tozawa is back up with a spinning kick to the head for two. Gulak gets draped over the middle rope for a Fameasser but Tozawa's back is banged up again. The delay lets Gulak powerbomb him into the corner and hit a heck of a lariat for two more. Tozawa wins a slugout though and it's a Black Widow on Gulak, who reverses into a Brock Lock of all things.

The rope breaks the hold and Tozawa is fine enough for a backdrop diver. Tozawa's knee gives out on top though and he gets pulled down into the Gulock. The hold lasts for more than a few seconds, meaning of course Tozawa can roll over to the ropes for the break. Gulak bails outside and there's the big suicide dive that you knew was coming. It's too early for the top rope backplash though as Gulak is fine enough to crotch him on top. Gulak can't superplex him from the middle rope and the top rope version is broken up with a headbutt. Now the top rope backplash can send Tozawa to the Rumble at 17:13.

**Rating:** B. I liked this more than I was hoping as the old guard of the division continues to roar back. Tozawa is the kind of guy you can move

up to the next level anytime you need to and that's what they did here. Gulak's fall continues as he never recovered from losing the Cruiserweight Title shots last year. Still though, good match as you almost always get from Gulak.

Brian Kendrick comes in to celebrate as Buddy Murphy and Tony Nese aren't exactly impressed.

Cedric Alexander isn't scared of Hideo Itami in next week's final qualifying match.

Hideo Itami and Ariya Daivari demand RESPECT next week.

**Overall Rating:** B. This was a wrestling show and that's where 205 Live tends to shine. They did things well here and made two of the necessary big steps towards the pay per view title match. If they have another great match next week to set up the entire thing, the four way is going to be a blast. I'm also interested in seeing where those new names are going to go. That could be a variety of people either from NXT or elsewhere, and that can shake things up around here, which is often a good idea. Anyway, strong match here.

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# 205 Live – October 3, 2018: It Happens Here Too



IMG Credit: WWE

## **205 Live**

Date: October 3, 2018

Location: Moda Center, Portland, Oregon

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Percy Watson, Nigel McGuinness

The road to Australia wraps up here as we've got one more show before Super Show-Down. That likely means one more segment between Cruiserweight Champion Cedric Alexander and #1 contender Buddy Murphy, along with more between TJP and the Lucha House Party. You know, for a change. Let's get to it.

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

Opening preview.

Opening sequence.

The empty seats are back with a vengeance this week.

Akira Tozawa vs. Jack Gallagher

Gallagher takes him up against the ropes to start so Tozawa shouts in his face. Tozawa takes it to the mat and it's time to start fighting over a leglock. The pinfall reversal sequence gives us a reversing sequence of pinfall attempts until Tozawa kicks him in the chest. That sets up the backslash because almost every wrestling match today needs a backslash. Gallagher bails and Drew Gulak is a good enough villain to trip Tozawa so Jack can take over.

The chinlock goes on but even Gallagher knows how boring that is so he hammers away instead. Now it's the longer form chinlock, plus a stomp to the arm. The double arm crank just seems to annoy Tozawa though as he kicks Gallagher to the floor for the suicide dive. Back in and the Black Widow has Gallagher in trouble but you don't try holds on a British wrestler. Gallagher quickly reverses into a leglock to keep Tozawa down. With that not working, Gallagher takes him up top, which is rarely a good idea in general. Tozawa shoves him down and drops the top rope backslash for the pin at 8:34.

**Rating:** C-. There was a story here with Tozawa getting a win back after he went with what worked well for him in the first place. Gallagher on the other hand had his success with the technical wrestling but then got out of his comfort zone. Tozawa could be a top star on the show at the drop of a hat, but it wouldn't surprise me if the trio is split up soon.

Post match Gulak says the team hasn't been successful lately so it's time for the return of the POWERPOINT PRESENTATION! His plan for a better 205 Live includes no mercy, which is why he didn't win the Cruiserweight Title. Starting right now, this team has no place for weakness or weak links. No place for former Cruiserweight Champions who have lost their edge and are dead weight holding Gulak back.

Gulak goes after Kendrick but gets sent outside, leaving Gallagher to take the Captain's Hook. You never put a hold on when there are two people around though and Drew comes back in for the Gulock. Good enough angle, especially if you ignore Gallagher losing and Kendrick being called the weak link.

Video on Murphy vs. Alexander, complete with both of them training for

the match. That's a touch I haven't seen in a very long time and it's cool to see it back.

Drake Maverick says that Hideo Itami and Mustafa Ali will face off again, though no details are given.

Next week: Lio Rush's Open Challenge.

### Kalisto vs. TJP

They go right into the test of strength with TJP taking him to the mat into a double bridge. Kalisto monkey flips TJP down as well so TJP monkey flips over, only to have Kalisto land on his feet. A crossbody gives Kalisto two and it's off to the armbar to slow things down. Back up and Kalisto dances a bit, followed by a slightly botched headscissors to the floor. The teased dive has TJP cowering away and he charges into a rollup for two more back inside.

Kalisto tries his hand walk again and gets dropkicked in the ribs this time, followed by another dropkick to the floor. Back in and TJP ties up the legs before tearing the back of the mask off. Good, as that tail thing looked stupid. The double arm crank (that's popular around here) goes on until Kalisto fights up and tries a springboard but TJP is right there with a Russian legsweep in a cool counter.

TJP rolls some suplexes for two and the chinlock goes on for a few seconds. The Swanton misses though and Kalisto starts kicking away, including his rolling kick to the head. It's too early for the Salida Del Sol so Kalisto settles for an enziguiri instead. TJP is right back with an Iconoclasm of all things off the top but he goes up again, allowing Kalisto to pull him back down for a big crash.

A dropkick to the knee cuts Kalisto off again though and the kneebar goes on in the middle of the ring. Kalisto rolls him up for two and eventually dives over to the rope for the break. With nothing else working, TJP goes for the mask like a true villain. Cue Lince Dorado for the save, allowing Kalisto to grab a rollup pin at 14:27.

**Rating:** B-. Good match but it never reached the kind of level that these

two are capable of hitting. Kalisto winning was a bit of a surprise and even though it wasn't clean, it does him some good after losing so many times. TJP is still a star who should be on the main roster but why do that when you can have him toiling here?

Post match TJP steals the mask and runs off to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C-. This was a pretty lifeless show as there was little to get excited over, mainly due to the Cruiserweight Title match being set for Saturday. That's a constant problem in WWE and something that keeps happening no matter what. The show wasn't bad, but it's nothing that you need to see. Hopefully Saturday's match is and things get better as we move forward.

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## 205 Live Results – August 29,



# 2018: The Same Thing That Always Happens



IMG Credit: WWE

## 205 Live

Date: August 28, 2018

Location: Scotiabank Arena, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness, Percy Watson

We're still on the way towards....whenever the next Cruiserweight Title match is going to be as Drew Gulak seems ready to get another shot at Cedric Alexander. Last week's main event saw Lucha House Party defeat Buddy Murphy and Tony Nese, but we could still get a thing or two more out of the feud, especially since Kalisto got involved at the end. Let's get to it.

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

Drake Maverick gives us the recap/preview.

Opening sequence.

Brian Kendrick vs. Akira Tozawa

Before the match, Kendrick and Brian Gallagher rip on Toronto a bit for being a secondary Commonwealth city. In addition to that, Tozawa doesn't know his place and needs to learn to keep his mouth shut. Tonight, Tozawa

is taking the beating that he deserves. Kendrick bails to the floor to start so Tozawa dives onto both he and Gallagher. Back in and the hard kick to the chest sets up the screaming backplash as Kendrick is in big trouble early on. Gallagher offers a distraction though and Kendrick knocks Tozawa out to the floor.

They head back inside with Kendrick nailing a butterfly suplex and slapping on a chinlock. The Captain's Hook doesn't work and Tozawa snaps off a hurricanrana. It's too early for the top rope backplash so Tozawa goes with the suicide headbutt instead. Back in and the extra aggressive Tozawa wraps the leg around the post before a Saito suplex knocks Kendrick silly. Three straight corner dropkicks to the knee set up a missile dropkick and the top rope backplash finishes Kendrick at 6:15.

**Rating:** C-. This was just a step below a squash win for Tozawa, who needed something like this to get him back to normal after the losses to Lio Rush. Kendrick is fine for someone to put Tozawa over as he's going to stay relevant due to his past success. In other words, a perfectly fine bit of booking.

We look back at Buddy Murphy costing Kalisto a match against Buddy Murphy. Last week, Kalisto made up for it by costing Murphy the fall in the tornado tag.

Murphy and Nese are ready to get rid of Kalisto and the Lucha House Party.

#### Hideo Itami vs. Michael Blaise

Before the match, Itami talks about feeling bad over Mustafa Ali. He should have hurt Ali even worse a few weeks ago. Itami hammers away in the corner as Vic name drops Hulk Hogan being at his debut press conference. Some kicks put Blaise down and some shots to the back have him in even more trouble. A Falcon Arrow gets two as Itami pulls him up. That GTS thing gets the same but Itami would rather hit the running corner dropkicks. Before he can hit the third, here's Ali to interrupt. That's enough for Itami, who bails into the crowd for the no contest at 3:50ish because countouts don't exist when they're not scripted.

**Rating:** D. Just a squash with an angle finish here and there's nothing wrong with that. Itami still needs more than RESPECT ME and maybe some different gear would help. He's a very small, skinny guy and that doesn't exactly make him intimidating. They're still looking for the right formula for him and I'm not sure how much longer that search can go on.

We recap Drew Gulak wanting a rematch with Cedric Alexander but running off when Alexander showed up.

Alexander says Gulak was a hypocrite last week but next week, he'll be waiting in the middle of the ring for Gulak to come finish things.

### Buddy Murphy vs. Kalisto

Tony Nese, Lince Dorado and Gran Metalik are at ringside. Murphy wastes no time in throwing Kalisto down and the fans are behind him here. Back up and Kalisto does the pose but makes the mistake of trying a test of strength. Of course he's powered down with ease so it's time for some nips. Kalisto finally gets smart by walking the ropes, setting up a hurricanrana to take Murphy down for the first time. Nese blocks a dive though and the noisemakers are already out.

The rescheduled dive takes the two of them out instead so everyone tries to come inside. The distraction lets Murphy hit Kalisto in the back to take over as things settle back down. Back in and another hurricanrana is countered so Kalisto tries a suicide dive...which is caught and reversed into a suplex. Well ok then. Another skirmish on the floor gets the House Party ejected while Nese is allowed to stay.

Murphy takes him back inside but misses a kick to the back. Kalisto slaps on a sleeper but Murphy powers out again, this time hitting Kalisto in the face for two. Nese tries a grab of the ankle and that's enough to get him tossed as well. Things settle down and it's Kalisto hitting a springboard seated senton and kicking away, followed by the reverse hurricanrana. The hurricanrana driver has both guys down and the referee has a quick chat with them. Murphy blocks the Salida Del Sol but gets his head kicked off to give Kalisto two.

They head to the apron and Kalisto gets launched hard into the

announcers' table for the loud crash. Murphy would rather send him into the barricade over and over than go for a pin but he's smart enough to break the count. Kalisto tries a springboard (minus the spring) off the barricade, only to get kneed out of the air.

Now Murphy is willing to take the countout but Kalisto taunts him right back out. A monkey flip puts Murphy in the timekeeper's area for nine but Kalisto catches him with another hurricanrana driver for another two. Murphy hits a helicopter bomb for two and we have a rare 205 chant. Murphy's Law is reversed but Murphy knees him in the head again, followed by Murphy's Law for the pin at 16:45.

**Rating:** B. They could have had a better match had it not been for all the shenanigans with the seconds but what we did get was quite good. Murphy continues to be someone way too good for this show, though the same thing is true of Kalisto. But they don't weigh enough (allegedly in Murphy's case) so they're stuck here instead. Such is life in WWE, though the match was rather awesome.

**Overall Rating:** C+. The main event saved what was a pretty much otherwise lame show and there's nothing wrong with that. Gulak and Alexander not being around isn't the best idea in the world as the show is little more than a good standalone night, but you can only do those shows so often if the series is supposed to mean something. Good main event, but they've done better.

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# 205 Live – July 31, 2018: They Need To Be Careful



IMG Credit: WWE

## **205 Live**

Date: July 31, 2018

Location: Amalie Arena, Tampa, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness, Percy Watson

For the first time in the better part of a year, we actually have a pay per view match to build towards. Last week Drew Gulak became #1 contender by winning a four way match, earning himself a shot against Cruiserweight Champion Cedric Alexander. Other than that we have Lio Rush vs. Akira Tozawa in a pretty nice feud. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a long recap of the four way, which was quite good.

Opening sequence.

Kalisto vs. Tony Nese

Feeling out process to start with Nese shoving him around but not stopping to count the abs. You can tell he's serious here. A hard running elbow drops Kalisto again and Nese sends him hard into the corner. After mocking the lucha dance (as everyone does), Nese whips him again even harder, this time tying Kalisto in the Tree of Woe for some kicks to the ribs.

We hit the waistlock for a long time until Kalisto rolls out and kicks him in the face, followed by a good looking springboard crossbody. Nese trips him up but tweaks his knee coming off the top. He's still strong enough for a buckle bomb but the kickout frustrates him even more. The delay lets Kalisto grab a very quick Salida Del Sol for the pin at 7:28.

**Rating:** C-. Nese is a good character but his offense doesn't exactly inspire me. There's only so much you can get out of having Nese work on the waist the entire time and that's about as far as we got here. Buddy Murphy being there will definitely help in the eventual tag match so there's hope for the feud. If nothing else though, Nigel going full heel on commentary here was a nice change of pace as something like that can enhance a show in a hurry.

Post match Murphy comes out to block Kalisto from leaving and gorilla presses him until Lince Dorado comes out for a save. A double superkick drops Murphy.

Earlier today we had the contract signing for the Cruiserweight Title shot. Drew is ready to sign first but has something to say. Cedric knows this is going to take some time and signs first to save some time. Gulak talks about how Cedric is undefeated this year but that doesn't mean anything yet. Where was Cedric when the title wasn't on the line? It was people like Gulak who built the show up while Cedric wrestles whenever he wants to. Cedric will be known as the Brock Lesnar of 205 Live and his reign ends at Summerslam. Gulak signs and leaves.

### Lio Rush vs. Ricky Martinez

Before the match, Rush says fans aren't happy with him for not giving Akira Tozawa a rematch. The problem is that he's a hot commodity and everyone wants a piece of his time. That's why he's found a new opponent

who is much more worthy of his time. Rush thinks this guy could put up a better fight than Tozawa so let's see what he has. Martinez gets in a kick to the head in the corner but Rush flips up and hits two kicks of his own. There's the suicide dive (ala Tozawa) and a rolling kick to the head. The frog splash (the Final Hour) puts Martinez away at 1:11.

Post match Tozawa chases Rush off. This will continue and that's not the worst thing in the world.

### Brian Kendrick vs. Cedric Alexander

Non-title and Cedric has a taped up thumb. Feeling out process to start with Alexander nipping out of a headscissors, sending Kendrick backing into the corner. Kendrick's headlock works a bit better until Cedric snaps off a good looking armdrag. A chop brings Kendrick to his knees as they're still in pretty slow motion early on. Cue Gulak for a distraction, allowing Kendrick to roll underneath the ring.

The sneaking around lets Kendrick send him into the steps and it's time to choke on the ropes as Gulak joins in on commentary. An armbar keeps Cedric down but he pops back up for some forearms. The springboard clothesline is broken up though and Alexander takes a nasty fall onto the ropes. Those always worry me a bit but he's fine enough to send Kendrick outside. The big flip dive to the floor drops Kendrick and Alexander is down next to him. Gulak: "What a bonehead."

Alexander gets two off the springboard clothesline but he can't hit the Lumbar Check. He can however hit the Neuralizer to send Kendrick out to the apron. Back in and Kendrick grabs a quick Captain's Hook but Cedric makes the rope, much to Gulak's chagrin. Another Hook is countered into a Michinoku Driver and Alexander can't follow up. Kendrick superkicks him and tries Sliced Bread, but Cedric pulls him into the Lumbar Check (with a great sell job) to finish Kendrick at 12:20.

**Rating:** B-. This match did something that is almost impossible to pull off: having a match that has no drama turn into something rather entertaining. Cedric isn't going to lose in a non-title match just before Summerslam but Kendrick helped turn this into a fun match. Piling up wins before Summerslam is going to make the likely title change mean more and

Gulak seems primed to take the belt away. Much better than it should have been here.

Post match Gulak gets on the apron for a distraction, allowing Jack Gallagher to come in for a shot to the face. Gulak: "Cedric my boy! What happened to you?" Drake Maverick comes in and threatens to take Gulak's title match away if anything else happens. Gulak and company back off to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. They've figured out the right balance around here and I'm sure none of that has anything to do with the title becoming a more active part of the show. They've found a good structure to the show and that's exactly what they needed to do. If they can keep this going for a few more weeks and months, they might just have a good show on their hands.

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# 205 Live – May 15, 2018: 92.9864 Taped



IMG Credit: WWE

## 205 Live

Date: May 15, 2018

Location: O2 Arena, London, England

Attendance: Vic Joseph, Percy Watson, Nigel McGuinness

Since we're over in a foreign country, it makes sense to have some guest stars. As you might guess (or know if you watched last week's show), that would be a bunch of the United Kingdom wrestlers, many of whom are likely going to be in the upcoming United Kingdom Championship Tournament. This could make for a fun night, especially if it's done right. Let's get to it.

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

Drake Maverick narrates the opening video, which tells us about the guest stars and the two matches we'll be seeing tonight.

Opening sequence.

We get some bios for some of the names that we'll be seeing tonight. That's a really good idea as while they're not much, it at least puts a name with a face and lets you know a little something about these people. Their heights, weights, styles and finishing moves, among other

information, is all given.

### Tyler Bate vs. TJP vs. Kenny Williams vs. Kalisto

One fall to a finish. Bate and TJP nearly get into a fight before the bell over issues when Bate was here last time. Kalisto wastes no time in going for a rollup on a distracted Bate with Williams making the save. At least someone is on the ball. TJP pulls Bate to the floor and sends him into the barricade before heading back inside to get headscissored by Kalisto. A takedown sets up a quick Boston crab on Kalisto with TJP grabbing Kalisto's arms to pull him off the mat.

Williams comes in and dropkicks TJP before diving out to take out Kalisto. That allows Bate to come back in for some right hands to TJP in the corner as the pace stays slower than you might expect for a match like this. We hit the airplane spin and Bate spins back the other way to unwind, taking out Williams and Kalisto at the same time. I love that spot.

The dizzy Bate gets sent outside and TJP spins through the ropes before going after Kenny's leg. Bate's save attempt earns him an armbar while TJP has Williams' leg barred as well. We'll throw in a front facelock on Kalisto at the same time for a rather ridiculous looking spot. The hold is broken up and it's Kalisto kicking away until Williams crotches him on top. That means the required Tower of Doom spot but it's Williams up first with some kicks through the ropes.

Bate adds a no hands dive over the top to take Williams and TJP down, followed by a flip dive from Kalisto to put everyone down again. Back in and Williams tornado DDTs Kalisto for two with TJP making the save. A double clothesline puts Bate and TJP down as Kalisto and Williams fight to the floor. The Detonation Kick is blocked and Bate's rebound clothesline sets up the Tyler Driver 97 for the pin on TJP at 10:33.

**Rating:** B-. This took some time to get going but wound up being fun at the end. Williams didn't get much of a chance to shine but did well enough. Bate winning is the right call as he's a big enough name and the fans were going to love seeing him do his thing. If nothing else it gives us another mustache pose and that alone is worth it.

We look at Buddy Murphy vs. Cedric Alexander, which is set for two weeks from tonight. This focuses on Murphy, who certainly has more charisma than Alexander. I know Cedric was the sentimental pick to win the title but he's reminding me more of the bad days of Bob Backlund without as high a level of skill.

Next week: Akira Tozawa vs. Hideo Itami.

Cedric is in the back when his partners for tonight, Flash Morgan Webster and Mustafa Ali, come in to talk strategy for the main event. Webster is a bit over the top, to put it mildly, with a helmet, what appears to be pajamas with an ascot and mirror sunglasses.

Here's Drake Maverick to do commentary on the main event.

Joseph Conners, Drew Gulak and James Drake are ready for the six man.

Cedric Alexander/Mustafa Ali/Flash Morgan Webster vs. Joseph Conners/Drew Gulak/James Drake

Alexander and Conners get things going with Joseph taking him into the corner and hammering away with elbows to the head. Cedric's dropkick gets him out of trouble to a very limited reaction, which isn't the most surprising thing in the world. Webster comes in to stay on the arm and a running armdrag sends it off to Drake. That lasts all of ten seconds and it's Gulak coming in for the first time. A hurricanrana has Gulak in trouble as well so let's try Conners again.

Ali gets two off a spinwheel kick as the silence from the crowd is almost eerie. Gulak organizes a huddle, which he calls a team building exercise. We settle down to Drake vs. Ali and the team building seems to work with Ali getting stomped down without much effort. The latest hot tag brings in Webster, who is quickly kicked down but Gulak ignores his partners' requests for tags. Drake comes in for the chinlock on Webster (with a bloody mouth) but gets sent into the corner.

That's enough for the hot tag to Ali as things speed up (with the crowd not getting up to join them). The rolling X Factor hits Conners and a super hurricanrana sends Conners into Drake for two. Alexander comes back

in and it's time for a parade of secondary finishers to put everyone down. Gulak charges into a boot (with the camera AGAIN showing that it doesn't make contact, which is a major problem as of late) and Morgan hits a double dive. The Neuralizer is countered into an ankle lock but Cedric rolls Gulak into the corner. Ali is back in with the tornado DDT, setting up the 054 for the pin on Gulak at 12:40.

**Rating:** B. Webster caught my eye before the match and looked good during the match itself. The rest of the match was your usual 205 Live stuff: an above average match that didn't show off any kind of interest because it's just people doing moves to each other. Either way, it's still more than good enough and for a stand alone show, this was a fine main event.

**Overall Rating:** B+. This was a show with one idea and they did it very well. The matches didn't last too long and they didn't try to do anything more than mixing the 205 Live guys with the UK wrestlers which is all it needed to be. Both matches were entertaining and I had fun watching what felt short. They also announced a title match in a few weeks until they get back to America to set things up. Good show here, even if it means nothing whatsoever.

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# 205 Live – May 1, 2018: And Then He Grew Up To Be Gillberg



IMG Credit: WWE

## 205 Live

Date: May 1, 2018

Location: Bell Center, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Percy Watson, Vic Joseph

It's a strange time around here as we have a few stories going on but nothing is all that interesting. In other words, we're back to close to where we were before the tournament started with a different champion. Buddy Murphy needs to make weight to get back around here (or for the Greatest Royal Rumble to be over as they likely just didn't want to burn through that match) but other than that, Cedric Alexander doesn't have a challenger. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of last week's gauntlet match and Cedric defeating Kalisto in Saudi Arabia to retain the title.

Opening sequence.

Murphy has made weight and will be back in action tonight. So Greatest

Royal Rumble can add last week's 205 Live to its list of victims.

### Jack Gallagher/Brian Kendrick vs. Akira Tozawa/Hideo Itami

Tozawa yells at Gallagher a lot and stomps away in the corner to start. Gallagher gets back up and hits him in the face, allowing the double tag to Itami vs. Kendrick (remember that Itami put Kendrick on the shelf a few months back). Itami wastes no time in going after the face with some forearms to the orbital bone but Kendrick will have none of that and goes off on Itami with shots to the face and chest.

Itami finally slows him down and brings Tozawa back in for a missile dropkick. Tozawa even kicks Gallagher off the apron but Jack gets in a cheap shot of his own to change control. It's time to start taking turns on Tozawa, who shouts a lot as Kendrick hooks something related to a crossface chickenwing. A few shots to the face are enough for the hot tag off to Itami and the striking gets even harder.

The top rope clothesline gets two on Kendrick and there's a running hesitation dropkick in the corner. Kendrick is right back up with a big boot but Tozawa tags himself in and suicide dives onto Kendrick and Gallagher at the same time. Back in and a spinning kick to the head drops Gallagher, setting up the top rope backsplash. Tozawa gets crotched on top by an errant Itami though and Gallagher headbutts Tozawa for the pin at 8:11.

**Rating:** C+. This deserves a higher rating for how hard they were hitting each other alone. Some of those shots to the face sounded rather hard and while I'm not big on Kendrick and Gallagher as a team, it's a good idea to have them get a win to reestablish themselves. Itami and Tozawa aren't bad and it's better than watching Itami fail as a singles guy.

Post match Itami shoves Tozawa away and leaves on his own. Tozawa is stunned.

We look back at Buddy attack Cedric a few weeks back.

Drew Gulak isn't happy about losing to Kalisto last week so tonight, he's making Kalisto tap.

### Buddy Murphy vs. Liam Louis

Louis looks like a younger Gillberg. Murphy throws him around like the tiny jobber he is so Louis slaps him. The fans chant GILLBERG as Murphy hits two straight powerbombs (without letting go) for two with Murphy pulling him up. The referee stops it at 1:45.

Post match Cedric is here to beat Murphy to the back.

### Kalisto vs. Drew Gulak

Kalisto gets an inset promo saying the Lucha House Party has brought him back to his feet after he lost in Saudi Arabia. They fight over a lockup to start with Gulak taking it to the mat and slapping him in the back of the head. Gulak lets him up so Kalisto does the Lucha Dance to a pretty weak reaction. It's off to a wristlock with Drew's foot on Kalisto's head. We hit the headlock with Kalisto's arm trapped as Gulak is doing quite well at keeping him on the mat to start.

Kalisto fights up and does a backflip, which certainly doesn't impress Gulak. Nigel thinks that might have been impressive at the circus as Gulak calmly takes over again. This time it's a leglock but Kalisto rolls him away for the break. Kalisto finally gets up and sends him outside for a corkscrew dive but Drew gets a knee up. All Gulak so far as Kalisto can't get anything going. Back in and Gulak tries a Gory Stretch, squatting down so low that he's almost touching the mat.

Kalisto slips out so Gulak puts on something like a Boston crab, pulling the legs back so far that they're tucked underneath Gulak's thighs while his hands are wrapped around Kalisto's stomach. With the holds not working, one heck of a clothesline gives Drew two. It's off to a bow and arrow, followed by a hard forearm for two.

Now it's time to go for the mask and gets it almost halfway off until Kalisto sends him out to the floor. A slingshot dive into an armdrag shows you just how angry Kalisto is for the attempted demasking. The slingshot front flip with the bounce off the ropes takes Gulak down again. Back in and the Salida Del Sol is reversed as the fans are busy paying attention to something else. Kalisto tries a moonsault but gets

pulled into the Gulock for the tap at 12:46.

**Rating:** B-. Gulak has been on another level of late with the submission stuff not only looking devastating but also incredibly smooth. You get the feeling that he really could beat anyone at any time and that makes him a threat to the title, or anyone on the show for that matter. It makes him a good villain, especially with Cedric as champion. Good match here with Gulak getting to shine.

Lucha House Party checks on Kalisto to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C+. Not bad here, but with Gulak and Murphy looking awesome and a ticked off Itami yelling at people and hitting them really hard, it's not making Cedric look great on top. He's a pretty generic guy who can have good matches, which doesn't exactly make him into a thrilling champion. Odds are his title loss will be a big deal, but for now he's not exactly thrilling me with the title.

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# 205 Live – April 24, 2018: All In One



IMG Credit: WWE

## 205 Live

Date: April 24, 2018

Location: KFC Yum Center, Louisville, Kentucky

Commentators: Percy Watson, Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

We're three days away from the Greatest Royal Rumble and we still don't have a #1 contender for the Cruiserweight Title. That's why we're having a gauntlet match tonight with five men facing off for the right to face Cedric Alexander in Saudi Arabia. There's a good chance this is going to be the entire show so let's get to it.

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

The opening video explains the gauntlet match and introduces the competitors, all of whom get in a quick statement.

Opening sequence.

## Gauntlet Match

Mustafa Ali and TJP start things off. TJP takes him up to the ropes and gets in some dabbing, earning himself a crank on the arm. The armbar goes on and there's not much TJP can do early on. They hit the pinfall

reversal sequence for some not very near falls until Ali dropkicks him in the back of the head. A kick to the head sends TJP outside and we'll take a little breather.

With the breathing out of the way, TJP gets in a few shots to the head to take over back inside. We go split screen to hear Cedric Alexander say he'll defend the title in Saudi Arabia and then make his own statement against Buddy Murphy. Back to full screen with Ali fighting out of a double arm crank but getting dropped with a Russian legsweep. TJP grabs Naomi's reverse Rings of Saturn hold for a few seconds before Ali chops the heck out of him.

Ali gets in a kick to the head and the rolling X Factor (with TJP's face not hitting the mat) gets two. The double chickenwing gutbuster is reversed into a rollup for two on TJP but he shoves Ali off the top. A missile dropkick to the knee (cool) sets up the kneebar, sending Ali bailing to the ropes. Back up and a tornado DDT on one leg drops TJP, setting up the 054 to send Ali on 9:53.

Drew Gulak is in third and you should be able to see the tap out from here. Ali is limping around and Gulak couldn't be happier. A quick rollup gets two on Gulak but he slams the knee into the ropes to really take over. Ali does manages a drop toehold on the floor for a break, followed by a high crossbody back inside. Gulak rolls through into a leglock but Ali kicks him away in short order.

After an inset promo for Friday's show, we come back to Gulak cranking on the knee even more. Ali tries a hurricanrana but gets pulled into a half crab. That's reversed as well and an enziguri puts Gulak down again. There's a kick to the head (and a shot of several empty seats in the lower arena) but Gulak is right back with the half crab. He even cranks back on the arm for a bonus but lets go, this time allowing Ali to make the ropes AGAIN. Ali likes the ropes so much that Gulak sets him on top of them, only to have Ali pull Gulak into a half crab in the ropes.

For some reason Ali decides that it's a good idea to try a high crossbody to the floor, furthering the damage to the knee. Gulak chop blocks him down but Ali is right back with the tornado DDT. The 054 takes too long

though, allowing Gulak to shove him off the top and into the steps. Ali is DONE so Gulak throws him back inside for the Gulock and the elimination at 22:41 total.

Tony Nese is in fourth and doesn't even waste time counting his abs, meaning you know he's serious. Nese pounds away and drags Gulak away from the ropes to keep up the stomping. Gulak gets knocked outside and sent into the barricade, followed by a toss over the announcers' table.

They head inside again with Nese running him over and Nese yells at Gulak for saying they're on different levels. There's the running knee in the corner but Nese looks at the corner instead of covering. Nese lowers the knee pad but takes too much time, allowing Gulak to grab the Gulock for the tap at 30:34. That's about it for Nese meaning anything as he got caught in a clean submission after beating the heck out of Gulak for a good while. Nese is crushed as Kalisto comes in last.

Gulak is chilling on the announcers' table as Kalisto stands in the ring doing the LUCHA dance. Nigel isn't exactly thrilled with this strategy and the stalling keeps going for well over another minute. Gulak finally gets in and is promptly dropkicked back to the floor. This time Kalisto follows so he can LUCHA dance right in front of him. Back up and Gulak sidesteps a suicide dive to send Kalisto hard into the barricade.

With Kalisto down, Tony Nese...has nothing to say. A snap suplex gives Gulak two and it's off to a chinlock. Kalisto gets in a superkick but a tornado DDT is countered (maybe because it would be the third of the match). The Gulock goes on but Kalisto sends him into the buckle (again, countering the third attempt). Kalisto grabs the Salida Del Sol for the pin at 39:18.

**Rating:** B. I can go for this idea of having one match through the entirety of a show. It makes things feel more important and like a big deal, which is what you want for something like this. On top of that, the falls took about ten minutes each, which fits a lot better. Kalisto vs. Alexander should be fun and that's all the match needs to be as Cedric can get a big win.

Lucha House Party celebrates to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. What else can I really say when the show is literally one match long? They did a good job with making Kalisto into a quick title contender, which makes sense given that he's the most decorated name on the roster. That being said, the show is starting to lose steam after the tournament. There's a good chance that the place is going to turn into a show that you can skip most weeks, which isn't a good sign for the future. Good stuff this week, but I'm worried about where things are going.

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## **205 Live – April 10, 2018: What Day Is It Again?**



IMG Credit: WWE

## 205 Live

Date: April 10, 2018

Location: Smoothie King Center, New Orleans, Louisiana

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Percy Watson

It's the final show of Wrestlemania Weekend and that means things are starting to run out of steam. There's not much left to say at the moment, but Cedric Alexander is the new Cruiserweight Champion as the title isn't vacant for the first time in over two months. Buddy Murphy is waiting in the wings though so let's get to it.

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

I was in the arena for this show, sitting in the (freezing) upper deck, opposite the hard camera.

We open with a recap of Alexander defeating Mustafa Ali to become the new champion in a pretty good, though not great, tournament final.

Opening sequence.

Percy Watson is here as Nigel McGuinness is out for two weeks. The word PERMANENT is used. Egads why?

Kalisto vs. Akira Tozawa

Kalisto wants to set the stage for next week's tornado tag and Tozawa wants Lucha House Party FIRED. The fans, at least the ones still there, seem to favor Tozawa as there's really no heel here. Tozawa works on the

wristlock to start as the announcers talk about how awesome it is to have this be one on one with no seconds. Kalisto handwalks away and moonsaults into a headscissors to really put Tozawa in trouble.

Back up and Tozawa shouts a lot, which is rather customary for him. A big kick to the head misses but so does Kalisto's rolling kick. Tozawa goes with the stiff shot to the head and it's time to stomp away in the corner. The screaming backplash gets two and it's off to a chinlock. They're not exactly burning the mat up so far. Kalisto finally avoids a charge in the corner and hits that head kick as things speed up a bit.

The hurricanrana driver gets two and another kick to the head staggers Tozawa on top. One heck of a super Spanish Fly (becoming VERY popular in WWE these days) gets two on Tozawa and it's time for the slugout. Tozawa misses a charge in the corner and gets shouldered in the ribs, setting up the big running kick to the chest.

Kalisto seems to have him stunned but charges into a monkey flip with Tozawa sending him knee first into the corner. The top rope backplash hits knees but Kalisto is too banged up to capitalize. What a horrible development. We hit the pinfall reversal sequence until Kalisto grabs the Salida Del Sol for the pin at 11:24.

**Rating:** B. Nice match here with a nice story being told as Kalisto tried to go strike for strike with Tozawa, only to mess up his knee in the process. When that wasn't working he shifted to his bread and butter with the speed and won without much trouble. That Salida Del Sol is an awesome finisher and never stops looking great. Good stuff here and I'm kind of interested in seeing where this group feud goes.

Mark Andrews is getting ready to face Drew Gulak when Tony Nese comes in. Tony talks about how he and Gulak used to be friends but Drew isn't the same man anymore. He wants Andrews to go take care of Gulak for good.

#### Drew Gulak vs. Mark Andrews

Gulak, in a rather small robe, says he was thinking about needing to offer the people an explanation. That should mean a POWERPOINT PRESENTATION but it's not the time for that. This isn't Microsoft Office

aficionado Drew Gulak. This is the best submission wrestler on 205 Live and he will make you tap. Some armdrags annoy Gulak to start and he bails to the floor in short order.

Back in and the threat of the Gulock has Andrews scurrying away but coming right back with a bulldog. A hurricanrana on the apron is countered though and Gulak sends him hard into the post to start in on Andrews' neck. That means a cravate and then a chinlock as Gulak picks Andrews apart with relative ease. Andrews fights up with a jumping enziguri for a breather, followed by a 619 to the ribs.

The standing corkscrew moonsault gets two but a HARD clothesline to the back of the head gives Gulak two. The fans are completely distracted by something behind the announcers' table (I never could figure it out but it was something about a fan falling asleep. Andrews hits the Stundog Millionaire as the fans are asking HOW WAS YOUR NAP. Gulak sends him into the corner and the Gulock is good for the tap at 10:28.

**Rating:** C+. The storytelling continues here as Gulak is the cold and calculating villain waiting to find a mistake while Andrews is making things up as he goes. It makes sense that it would make Gulak (who hates flips and dives and non-scientific wrestling) angry so having him crank on Andrews that hard was the right ending.

Post match Gulak puts the hold back on but here's Tony Nese for the save and a big beatdown. We have a face turn, which is the first thing about this show that makes it feel special.

Drake Maverick is skeptical of having a pair of guys on his roster. I was hoping for Sami Zayn and Kevin Owens but it's Jack Gallagher and Brian Kendrick, the latter of whom is back from injury. They'll be teaming again and Hideo Itami injuring Kendrick is water under the bridge. Uh, yay for Kendrick being back?

Here's Maverick for Alexander's big celebration. Drake talks about sitting ringside when Cedric won the title (Drake: "I was sitting there, John Cena was sitting right over there.") and how proud it made him. This brings out Cedric to the YOU DESERVE IT chants. Two years ago the fans chanting PLEASE SIGN CEDRIC and then this Sunday his friends and family

saw him win the Cruiserweight Title.

Cedric thanks the fans but here's Ali to cut him off. Ali congratulates him for winning the title as his friend, but also wants to remind Cedric that he's in the line of competitors. Cedric doesn't seem to mind and we get a hug. Cue Buddy Murphy's music with Buddy coming from underneath the ring to botch Murphy's Law (not at all surprising as tricky as that move is to pull off) at first before planting Alexander. Maverick is livid and yells at Murphy to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. The show's hot streak continues but I couldn't help wondering where the big moment was. After Raw and Smackdown had debuts, big matches and surprises, this could have been any given week of 205 Live. Now I can appreciate that in a sense as they've got a good thing going, but this was quite the low key (I don't want to say downer because the show was good) way to end the week. Hopefully the momentum keeps going, because this show has become a lot more fun to watch.

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# 205 Live – April 3, 2018: What A Waste That Was



IMG Credit: WWE

## 205 Live

Date: April 3, 2018

Location: Bridgestone Arena, Nashville, Tennessee

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

It's go home week for Wrestlemania and that means it's the go home show for 205 Live as well. In this case we have a Cruiserweight Title match set for Sunday's Kickoff Show, which means they might be able to set up some extra stuff this week. It's hard to say what else is going on, but Buddy Murphy is being pushed strong as well. Let's get to it.

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

The opening preview focuses on Hideo Itami/Akira Tozawa vs. Lucha House Party. It's a smart move to focus on things other than the title match as they need something to go with after Sunday. We'll also get a preview of the tournament final.

Opening sequence.

Akira Tozawa/Hideo Itami vs. Gran Metalik/Lince Dorado

Itami and Metalik start things off with Hideo wasting no time in taking

him to the mat and posing. Instead of following up, Itami shoves Dorado in the face, allowing Metalik to score with a superkick. Dorado comes in for two off a standing moonsault but it's off to Tozawa to kick Metalik down without much effort.

The backsplash connects but Metalik reverses into a crucifix for two of his own. A hard right hand drops Metalik again and the villainous dominance continues. Metalik gets in a right hand and is promptly kicked down. A kick of his own is enough for the hot tag to Dorado, who strikes away as well. Itami's demands for respect earn him the Golden Rewind and a big flip dive to the floor drops Itami again. Tozawa adds a dive of his own and a BIG twisting corkscrew dive from Metalik drops everyone at once. Back in and Itami goes for Metalik's mask and everything breaks down, drawing the double DQ at 7:27.

**Rating:** C-. I wasn't feeling this one but you can see the Tag Team Title feud being set up from here. Itami is better in this role as Tozawa has more than enough charisma to make up for Itami's severe lack thereof. Lucha House Party is a nice team in this role and that's all they need to be until we get a big threat to beat them down.

Itami and Tozawa leave the masked guys laying.

Drew Gulak isn't disappointed that his match with Mark Andrews has been canceled due to injury, but he wants Andrews to be healthy. He had a PowerPoint presentation ready about why he would keep the Gulock (dragon sleeper) on for a long time, but one slide summed it up: because he could. If you step to him, you tap out. Serious Gulak is a fun Gulak.

Andrews says he's coming around the world to make things right against Gulak.

### Tony Nese vs. Jonathan Pierce

Pierce brings it to Nese to start but Nese moonsaults over him and nips into a kick to the ribs to take over. That's enough for Pierce who tries to walk out but gets clotheslined for his efforts. Back in and a springboard into a Lionsault gets two, followed by Pierce getting caught on the top. The running knee in the corner ends Pierce at 2:56.

Kalisto is checking on his buddies when he runs into Buddy Murphy. Buddy says tonight isn't personal but Kalisto is standing in his way of being Cruiserweight Champion.

### Kalisto vs. Buddy Murphy

It's an early stalemate to start until Murphy uses the size to run him over, meaning it's time to crank on the arm. Back up and Kalisto tries a headscissors but Murphy cartwheels out in a bit of a surprise. Kalisto goes up top for a spinning armdrag (not much of a move for such a big start) and it's another stalemate. With nothing else working, Murphy slaps on an abdominal stretch but Kalisto climbs the ropes and spins onto Buddy's back for a sleeper. Cool counter.

A DDT gives Kalisto two and they head to the apron with Murphy suplexing him onto the apron in a sick crash. Back in and a hard Irish whip into the corner keeps the pressure on Kalisto's back but a spinning kick to the head drops Murphy. Kalisto springboards into a reverse hurricanrana but Murphy drops him back with an electric chair for a sweet counter. A hurricanrana driver gives Kalisto two and it's back outside, this time with Murphy hitting a monkey flip onto the announcers' table.

That's only good for nine as the fans are WAY into this. Back in and a powerbomb gets two on Kalisto as we get 205 and FIGHT FOREVER chants. Kalisto's rolling kick to the head sets up a Code Red for two of his own as the fans are losing their minds over these kickouts. Back up and a bad looking Murphy's Law (Murphy didn't get underneath him enough) is enough for the pin at 14:49.

**Rating:** B+. This is the kind of match that the show should have been built around in the first place. These guys were beating the heck out of each other with as many high impact moves as they could think of until one of them couldn't get up. I have a blast with this and Murphy is clearly the top challenger for whoever comes out of Wrestlemania as champion. Check this out if you have the chance.

Drake Maverick talks about how many great things have come from the Cruiserweight Title tournament. He pleads with us to make sure to see the Kickoff Show because Cedric Alexander and Mustafa Ali are going to tear

the house down. That's the match that everyone is going to be talking about. As usual, Maverick is a heck of a hype man and has some incredible emotion in his promos.

We get a long and very well done video on the Cruiserweight Title match. Both of their paths to the title match is chronicled, including how they're both ready to win the title on the grandest stage of them all. Ali is making his pay per view debut on Sunday, which is quite the way to start.

**Overall Rating:** B. The main event and final hype video alone are worth checking out and I want to see the Cruiserweight Title match. This was a solid episode of the show and showcased what these people are capable of doing. It also makes you feel like so much of the first year was such a waste as this style is as entertaining as you can get. Really solid show here and the title match should be a blast.

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# 205 Live – March 27, 2018: I Can't Get Used To This Show Being Good



IMG Credit: WWE

## 205 Live

Date: March 27, 2018

Location: PPG Paints Arena, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

There are two shows left to get through before Wrestlemania and that means we need to finish the build to the Cruiserweight Title match. As for tonight though, we have a four way match to find a new top contender. Drake Maverick didn't officially call it a #1 contenders match but that seems to be the case. It's almost like this show has a plan now and is actually follow through. Let's get to it.

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

The preview looks at tonight's four way with comments from all four entrants. As usual, this is a great way to throw you into things and get you ready for the show. Why can't WWE understand that?

Opening sequence.

Mark Andrews vs. Tony Nese

Nese throws him down and we hit the bicep pose. They hit the mat and Andrews tries a headstand to get out of a headscissors. For once though, Nese picks him up and drops him down like a piledriver while sitting down. That's a new one and rather smart. Andrews' neck is fine enough to armdrag Nese into an armbar but Nese nips up to avoid a clothesline. That always looks cool.

More armdrags have Nese in trouble (I mean, as much trouble as an armdrag can cause) but a hurricanrana sends him to the floor. Back in and the flip dive is cut off with an elbow and it's Nese taking over for a change. We hit a bodyscissors to work on Andrews' ribs and a running knee makes them even worse. Back up and a Rey Mysterio sitout bulldog plants Nese and a tornado DDT does it again for two. Andrews sends him outside and hits a moonsault to the floor in a good looking landing.

Nese goes back to the power with a hard running clothesline and a heck of a forearm. A double springboard Lionsault only hits mat though (Nese shouldn't go with the flying) and they trade the hard/rapid fire shots to the face. A double stomp to the ribs rocks Nese again and Andrews is stunned at the kickout. Back up and Nese tries a slam but gets countered into the Stundog Millionaire. The shooting star press gives Andrews the pin at 11:14.

**Rating:** C+. Andrews certainly isn't the biggest or best guy in the world to watch but I have a good time with his matches. There's something about him that makes the matches all the more entertaining and the shooting star press works well for him. Nese isn't much more than a low level heel but at least the physique makes him seem like a bigger deal. You have to have people like that on the roster, just for stuff like this if nothing else.

Post match Andrews tells Maverick that he wants Gulak. The match is made for next week.

Gulak wants to know why Andrews is on 205 Live. The win over Mark, and keeping the dragon sleeper on longer than he needed to, was a lesson. Drew is the best submission specialist in WWE. If you step to him, you will tap out.

Earlier today, Maverick oversaw a face to face interview between Cedric Alexander and Mustafa Ali. They agree that they're friends and it's an honor and a privilege to face off in their first Wrestlemania. Their friends and family will be there and Cedric can't wait to be a real champion for his daughter.

Ali brings up Cedric's failures in the title matches before but Cedric can never finish his story. He's writing his own story too and his also ends with his daughter calling him a champion. Cedric is ready to stomp out Ali's heart, which Ali says is exactly what he'll have to do. They're teasing both of them turning and that makes for an interesting match.

#### TJP vs. Kalisto vs. Buddy Murphy vs. Akira Tozawa

One fall to a finish and the winner probably gets a title shot at some point in the future. Kalisto takes Tozawa into the corner while the other two just watch. Tozawa gets sent outside for a falling flip splash and Buddy is tossed as well, leaving TJP to casually chill in the ring. Murphy comes back in and will have none of the headscissors into the dab. Back in and Kalisto breaks up Murphy's dive but here's Tozawa to kick him down for two.

TJP offers Buddy a handshake and turns on him almost just as fast. I mean, did you expect anything else? Just to show off, TJP puts Tozawa in an Indian Deathlock while putting Kalisto in an abdominal stretch at the same time. Kalisto fights out and chops TJP down, hurting Tozawa's leg even more. The hold stays on while TJP gets two off a northern lights suplex to Kalisto.

Tozawa finally gets a breather and it's Murphy coming back in for a neckbreaker on TJP. Buddy cleans house but TJP takes him down this time. Another convoluted spot sees TJP put Tozawa in a Gory Stretch and Kalisto in a Rocking Horse at the same time. That goes nowhere so it's just a Texas Cloverleaf on Tozawa. Kalisto runs in for the save but gets taken down as well, putting all four down at once. This time it's Tozawa coming in and cleaning house with a series of kicks.

We unleash the dives until Tozawa loads up the top rope backsplash. That's broken up as well but Kalisto gets sent down to the mat in a

crash. In a crazy spot, TJP puts Kalisto in a surfboard, Murphy covers TJP, and Tozawa comes off the top with the backplash to crush Kalisto. I know it's contrived but dang that looked cool. Tozawa's Shining Wizard gets two on TJP with Kalisto breaking it up. TJP grabs a kneebar but Buddy makes the save and hits a big twisting dive onto Tozawa and Kalisto. Back in and Murphy's Law ends TJP at 13:17.

**Rating:** B. This was a heck of a cruiserweight showcase match with Murphy looking especially strong. The announcers made sure to go out of their way to talk about Murphy beating three former Cruiserweight Champions. They're treating this as a big deal and creating a new star in Murphy is a good idea.

**Overall Rating:** B-. The sitdown interview wasn't the best stuff but it's a good idea to create some tension between the two of them. The main event was much better with the four of them beating each other up with some crazy spots. As has been the case for about two months now, they're doing exactly what they need to do and getting things accomplished. That's more than 205 Live did for well over a year and now things are picking up. Well done all around and a good show.

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