

# Thunder – November 15, 2000: Wrestlers Doing Wrestling

## Thunder

Date: November 15, 2000

Location: Evening News Arena, Manchester, England

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Tony Schiavone, Stevie Ray

We're still in England and we're still creeping towards Mayhem where the inevitable Scott Steiner title reign is coming. Things are right back down in the depths where they were a few weeks ago and now the nice run they were on is over. Hopefully the stories make sense tonight. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Monday, which isn't the best idea in the world.

Scott Steiner is angry on arrival and beats up a security guard.

## Big Vito vs. Reno

We actually get a bit of the history leading up to this, which is basically I hit you and you hit me. They slug it out on the floor with Reno taking over, including a dropkick to the ribs for the first real advantage. Vito comes back with a clothesline and the good looking Mafia kick, followed by the equally good looking top rope elbow. There's something about that move that makes it hard to screw up. Since this is starting to be entertaining, here are Jindrak and O'Haire with the former offering a distraction and the latter offering a superkick to Vito's jaw. Roll of the Dice gives Reno the easy pin.

**Rating:** D+. Not enough time to go anywhere of course here and they didn't need to have interference in a match like this. It also doesn't help that Vito continues to lose no matter who he's in there against. Reno doesn't seem to be going anywhere but at least he got a win here, even if it's over someone who should get better treatment.

Post match Reno challenges Vito for the Hardcore Title at Mayhem.

Here's Ric Flair with something to say. He wants an answer on what Mike Sanders is going to do about the Cruiserweight Title (which was brought up on Monday) and also we're getting a Hardcore Title match between Bam Bam Bigelow and champion Crowbar. As for Mayhem, it's going to be the final match between General Rection and Lance Storm. Amen to that one.

Lance Storm puts the Canadian sticker back on the US Title and wants Booker T. for the World Title tonight.

#### Hardcore Title: Crowbar vs. Bam Bam Bigelow

Crowbar is defending and stands in the ring while Bigelow pulls out the tables. Just get straight to it I guess. Crowbar goes outside and sends Bigelow through one such table leaning up against the apron, followed by some trashcan lids to the head back inside. Well to be fair, trashcans and tables go together.

Bigelow sends him into a table but it doesn't break. See, British furniture is quality. A splash misses Crowbar and puts Bigelow through the table, allowing Crowbar to send him outside for a chair shot to the back. Crowbar dropkicks a chair into Bigelow's face but he comes back with a BIG chair shot of his own, or at least a very loud one. Bigelow puts Crowbar under the table for what appears to be a headbutt, only to have Mike Awesome come out and shove him off, giving Crowbar the pin to retain.

**Rating:** D+. This was more entertaining than most of the hardcore matches and that chair shot had a lot to do with it. Crowbar continues to be the most entertaining guy in this division though unfortunately it means he's still here being wasted instead of doing something interesting. Fun enough match here though and that's all you can ask for in these things.

Booker is tired of being disrespected and would love to fight Storm tonight.

Bigelow jumps Awesome in the back.

The Misfits are devastated by the loss of Major Gunns and contemplate splitting up. Realizing that means unemployment, Rection says they should

stick together and they'll keep going for now.

Kwee Wee vs. Rey Mysterio vs. Kidman vs. Corporal Cajun vs. Lieutenant Loco vs. Elix Skipper

Elimination rules for the #1 contendership. Loco suplexes Skipper down to start and it's already time for the women to get into it because that's what they're for in WCW. Cue AWALL to yell at Gunns so the women are thrown out, which is probably best for everyone. Cajun and Loco start double teaming Skipper...until the referee does his job by disqualifying them for being in the ring at the same time.

We get a rare break in a match and come back with Kidman baseball sliding Kwee Wee in the corner so Mysterio can hit the Bronco Buster. Skipper comes back in with a dropkick, allowing Kwee Wee to faceplant Kidman for a quick elimination. Kwee Wee holds Mysterio so Skipper can add a top rope spinwheel kick to eliminate Rey, getting us down to one on one. Before Kwee Wee can get anywhere, here's Jim Duggan to help Skipper, only to have Meng come out and nail Skipper to give Kwee Wee the pin and the title shot.

**Rating:** C. They could have cut this down to three or four people and it would have been a much better match but any time I get to see Meng and Kwee Wee together, my world is just a little bit brighter. Kwee Wee vs. Sanders doesn't do much for me but the division is such a death trap right now that it doesn't make much of a difference.

The Boogie Knights aren't worried about facing Konnan and a mystery partner tonight.

Ric Flair has a mystery opponent for Sanders tonight.

This week's interview is with Buff Bagwell, who is frustrated over his lack of a chance around here. He's been around for a long time but for some reason he's never been given the ball. For some reason he's never been given the chance like Luger, Sting and Jarrett. Somehow he's never had a singles title, which actually surprises me even to this day. You would think he might get a token US Title run in there somewhere. Buff wants Jarrett at Mayhem.

Mike Sanders is on the phone with Jeff (presumably Jarrett) and thinks Buff has no respect for the veterans. So he doesn't respect himself?

#### WCW World Title: Booker T. vs. Lance Storm

Booker is defending of course and I still don't understand why the champ is always on in the middle of the show. Before the match, Storm demands respect before he brings dignity back to the WCW World Title. They trade arm holds to start before Booker kicks him down for a standoff. Storm gets in a shot of his own and they head outside with Storm sending him into the barricade to take over.

Back in and Storm hits that great looking superkick, followed by a springboard missile dropkick for two. The Bookend is countered into a neckbreaker for two and that annoying horn in the crowd keeps honking. Booker comes back with the ax kick but gets thrown into the Mapleleaf on the bad knee. I know he's not tapping but point here for actually setting up some drama here. Booker gets out to the floor for the break for a bit, only to have Storm counter a suplex into a DDT for two back inside. Storm follows Booker to the top and shoves him down, only to dive into the Bookend to retain the title.

**Rating:** B. I had a great time with this one and both guys looked awesome. It's amazing what happens when you let two talented wrestlers have some time to work a good match. Storm continues to be one of the shining stars of WCW and I almost always enjoy whatever he's doing out there. Good stuff.

Team Canada runs in after the match but Booker quickly dispatches them, including a Bookend to Gunns. Stevie loses his mind with laughter.

The Boogie Knights are in the back, talking about whether Konnan will find a partner. Disco has an idea but he'll need money. Gee I wonder what that means.

#### Cruiserweight Title: Mike Sanders vs. ???

There's no opponent yet but here's Ric Flair to say he has good news and bad news. First of all, this is going to be a non-title match. The bad

news is it's a non-title match because the opponent is almost 100lbs over the cruiserweight limit.

#### Mike Sanders vs. Kevin Nash

Nash starts with a very slow motion right hand, which Tony describes as high gear. Sanders gets thrown across the ring again and a side slam gets two as we see security holding the Thrillers back. Nash kicks him in the head and takes the straps down but here are the Thrillers for the DQ.

**Rating:** D. This was an angle instead of a match and another example of how bad things are if you're a cruiserweight in 2000 WCW. Nash was squashing Sanders for about three minutes before the Thrillers came in, showing how valuable the Cruiserweight Title really is. At least Sanders didn't get....yeah I can't finish that. This was a horrible way to treat a champion and proof that they need to keep the bigger guys FAR away from the top cruiserweights unless they change a whole lot first. Also well done on making back to back champions look bad.

The Thrillers beat Nash down.

Post break Nash is having his knee looked at.

#### The Cat/Konnan vs. Boogie Knights

Cat is of course a surprise partner. Wright grabs a wristlock to start before it's off to Konnan, who somehow is the workhorse of his team. Some cheating has Konnan in trouble and Disco gets in a few good stomps. I still feel sorry for him having such a goofy gimmick because he really good work well in the ring. Back up and Cat tags himself in for a variety of kicks, followed by that dancing elbow to Disco.

It's off to Wright for a quick double clothesline, though to be fair Cat had been wrestling for a good 45 seconds straight. Konnan comes in and blocks the Chartbuster but the referee gets bumped. Cue Kronik to chokeslam Konnan because the referee seems to be dead, allowing Disco to get the cheap pin.

**Rating:** D. What else are you expecting in a match like this? The Knights are underrated workers but Miller is one of the worst in the company at

the moment. Konnan continues to be fine while still looking horribly lazy most of the time. At least he gets a reaction though and that's what matters most.

Plug for Goldberg's book.

Lex Luger is annoyed at not being in Goldberg's book, which he can't put down. He was there when Goldberg's career began and he's going to be there when the career ends.

### Goldberg vs. Buff Bagwell

Goldberg starts fast with a gorilla press drop but Buff grabs the double arm DDT. That means it's time for posing but Goldberg is on his feet first. The spear and the Jackhammer make Goldberg 19-0 in a hurry.

Goldberg helps him up post match.

Booker leaves.

### Lethal Lottery Finals: Scott Steiner vs. Sting

Winner gets a title shot the night after Mayhem. Steiner hammers on him to start but gets backdropped to the floor where Sting hits him with a ball bat. They go to the announcers' table (Sting: "Hey Stevie.") with Steiner going face first into the wood. Back in and Steiner counters the Stinger Splash with a belly to belly. There are the pushups and a slam for two, followed by another belly to belly. Steiner is ticked off at the near fall so he cranks on both arms at once instead. We get the choking in the Tree of Woe but more pushups allow Sting to make his comeback, including a quick Death Drop for the pin out of nowhere.

**Rating:** D. So the solution to building up Sting is to have him get pinned clean in the middle of the ring. Sting winning is the only thing that makes sense here though because they built up this idea of getting a title shot the night after Mayhem. As usual they stop thinking with because they'd rather do a gimmick than set up something that makes long term sense.

Post match Steiner beats Sting down with the pipe and puts him in a

straitjacket. A huge beatdown ends the show and puts Sting on the shelf until the final Nitro.

**Overall Rating:** D+. It much be a WCW law that the shows have to get weaker as they go. They would have been much better off closing with Booker vs. Storm for the World Title instead of setting up a #1 contender in the main event but they're the "draws" I guess so therefore they must go on last. You would think the British shows would be better but somehow WCW manages to screw that up as well.

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## Thunder – September 6, 2000: Goldberg Breaks Canada

### Thunder

Date: September 6, 2000

Location: Reed Arena, College Station, Texas

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Tony Schiavone, Stevie Ray

We're getting closer to Fall Brawl and we're now past the big waste of time known as WarGames 2000. In theory that means it's time to crank up the storylines but who knows what that could mean around here. To be fair

though Thunder was actually a really good show last week so maybe I have some hope here. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

MI Smooth takes the Natural Born Thrillers to the Power Plant.

### Kwee Wee vs. Lieutenant Loco

This has potential and is a #1 contenders match. Before they can get anything going, here are Elix Skipper and Major Gunns for commentary. Kwee Wee grabs a slam to start and stomps Chavo in the corner before throwing him down with a quick suplex. That's fine with Chavo as he comes back with a quick brainbuster but can't get the tornado DDT. They're flying through this. Instead he shoves Kwee Wee away, only to get crotched by Paisley, allowing Kwee Wee to drop him with a hanging DDT for the pin and the title shot.

**Rating:** C. As usual, letting the wrestlers wrestle is the best idea they can have around here. Kwee Wee is still working hard in the ring but there's no way around this stupid gimmick. I mean, what is he supposed to do with a gimmick that is destined to stay a goofy comedy guy instead of anything serious?

Post match the three women (Tygress as the third) get in a fight, only to have Skipper pull Gunns away before the MIA can save her.

The announcers talk about the history between Goldberg and Bret Hart. I don't know if WCW knew that Hart wasn't going to be able to get in the ring again but this is pretty close to false advertising by implying that this was leading to a match.

The sitdown interview is with David Flair and Miss Hancock before their wedding on Monday. It's about time they built that thing up.

We go back to the Power Plant with the Thrillers returning to their old stomping grounds. They offer to give the guys in the ring some training but Mike Graham actually gets Sanders in a Figure Four. The beatdown is on and the Thrillers leave them laying. A guy cleaning the floor gets beaten up too and it's time for the big showdown with Paul Orndorff. They



let themselves into his office and Paul tries to throw them out to no avail. Orndorff asks what happened to them but the Thrillers beat him down as well. Security finally breaks it up but this did its job.

It's time for the sitdown interview with David Flair and Miss Hancock. Tenay gets right to the point by asking if Ric will be there. Didn't we cover that on Monday with Arn? David hasn't talked to his family but they're welcome to come if they like. Mike calls Hancock a gold digger (she was reaching into David's pockets for something) before asking if David will be a better father than Ric. They argue over whether that's personal or not (it kind of is Mike) and that's it. Mike gives them six months at most. So Gene's gimmick is that he's a dirty old man and Tenay's is that he's just a jerk while doing interviews? How does this help anything?

Goldberg is looking for Hart.

Clip from before Nitro of the Harris Twins beating Kronik down in a bar.

### Kronik vs. 3 Count

Well last week the Dragons were beaten down so I guess it's 3 Count's turn. The band calls out the big guys and the beating is quickly on. Helms gets in a quick superkick on Clark but Karagias eats the full nelson slam. Not that it matters as the Harris Twins appear, drawing Kronik up the ramp for a countout. After destroying 3 Count of course.

Post match Tank Abbott comes out and pummels 3 Count to make sure they get nothing out of this show.

Bret is here and has security guarding his locker room. Smart.

Crowbar says he's ready for Troy Martin (Shane Douglas). Again I ask: how does this help anything? Yeah that's his real name and how does that make me want to see their match any more?

It's time to make things even worse as we have the debut of the Lava Lamp Lounge, as in Mike Awesome's 70s themed talk show. Apparently he isn't just into fat chicks anymore because there's enough Vitamin A to go around. His guest tonight: Paula Pamshock (exactly as he said it).

As expected Awesome hits on her with some of the worst lines you've ever heard until Jeff Jarrett comes out for the interruption. Jarrett: "You look like a cross between John Travolta in Saturday Night Live and Austin Powers." That might be worse than Paula Pamshock. It's the big brawl with the set being destroyed but Okerlund runs out to save Pamela from the guitar shot, which takes Awesome out instead. Predictable but fine, save for the horrible screwing up lines.

### Crowbar vs. Shane Douglas

Now remember: real names were used so this is a big deal. Before the match, Shane rips on Goldberg because that's still supposed to be a thing. Crowbar has taped ribs so Shane goes after them before the bell, only to get punched and bitten in the corner. A baseball slide sends Shane to the floor and Crowbar, with the bad ribs, does his splash off the apron. Maybe it's because he's crazy?

Shane gets smart and sends Crowbar ribs first into the barricade a few times before throwing on an abdominal stretch back inside. The hold is broken as quickly as most other abdominal stretches are after 1958 and Crowbar starts whipping him with a belt. The northern lights suplex and Death Valley Driver get two each on Shane but Crowbar goes after Torrie (for interfering) and walks into the Franchiser for the pin.

**Rating:** D. This could have been good had Crowbar remembered he had bad ribs to start and if I didn't have to listen to Shane doing his really weak heel stuff before the match. I'm really not sure what they're going for with Shane at the moment as the feud with Kidman hasn't been mentioned in a week, though I'm sure it's supposed to be a big enough deal that we just go with it.

Post match Daffney comes out to brawl with Torrie. Ozzy (the boyfriend) comes out but gets beaten down by Shane. This brings out Madusa of all people to drop Shane with an enziguri.

Goldberg beats up the security guards and there's no Bret inside.

Here's Bret with something to say. He wants to know what happened to wrestling with people like Mike Awesome being wasted in stuff like that

segment he was just in. Vince Russo has the stroke around here but everyone knows he's the best in the world. Bret has beaten everyone in the WWF and now he's beaten everyone here too, including Goldberg. The only person that ever gave him a chance was Vince Russo, who gave him title shots the second he got here.

We see the Bret Killer Kick from Starrcade, which cost him millions of dollars. "I couldn't even buy that ranch I wanted." Goldberg claims to be some kind of animal activist but he treated Bret worse than any animal. Cue Goldberg to say if this was the normal version of him, he'd have already taken Bret's head off. Believe it or not, he has some remorse. There are times where he wishes it was him that got his head kicked off. Bret wishes that every day because all Goldberg cares about is his merchandise being on the shelf.

Goldberg says he was doing his job but every night he has to wonder. When Goldberg was growing up, Bret was one of the people he looked up to. Goldberg is 34 here so the timing doesn't work here, but he tries to leave because Bret isn't worth it anymore. Bret says Goldberg isn't the real thing and that's enough to get him back in the ring. Cue Scott Steiner with a pipe to lay Goldberg out and put him in the Recliner.

WCW Motorsports, with Vampiro completely out of character.

Steiner leaves the building.

#### Tag Team Titles: Filthy Animals vs. Harris Brothers

The Brothers are challenging while Konnan/Disco do commentary. Juvy starts fast with a springboard dropkick to we'll say Ron before it's off to Don for some no selling and power beating. A sideslam gets two and it's already Juvy in trouble. It's back to Ron (like it matters) who gets kicked in the face and taken down by a springboard bulldog.

Rey finally gets the tag as everything breaks down, including Tygress coming in for a Bronco Buster. Juvy gets kicked low but here's Kronik because we didn't have enough interference yet. Kronik lays out Disco for no apparent reason before Clark throws Rey at one of the Brothers for the pin to retain.

**Rating:** D. I'd still love to hear the pitch meeting where the Harris Brothers got jobs for so long. Was there really any good reason to go with the other than they're big and look alike? I'm really not sure what the appeal is of them looking alike as they wrestle the same style anyway. At least with a team like the Usos you get something entertaining more often than not. The Harris Brothers are just big generic power guys who happen to be identical. That warrants employment for some reason.

Video on WarGames, which means the whole show.

After the show, Booker and his friends/family promised to get the title back at Fall Brawl. Cool moment, which is why it wasn't on Nitro but Russo got to talk about 18 times.

Video on Sting vs. Vampiro, which is continuing for whatever reason.

#### Sting vs. Vampiro

Anything goes and we're getting the Clowns on commentary to make this show so much better. The Clowns introduce themselves and offer "Tony Zimbabwe" three dollars to shill for JCW. This is also NOT for the JCW Title because Sting hasn't beaten Mad Man Pondo. They head outside to start with Vampiro sending him into the barricade before taking it into the crowd.

We get the usual punching and walking until Sting takes it back to ringside for a whip into the barricade of his own. Sting goes face first into the announcers' table so J can get in a right hand to the head. The Iranian Judo Attack (a clothesline) puts Sting down but he pops up and sends the Clowns running away. A lame chair to the head drops Vampiro and they head back inside as the Clowns freak out that Tony has lost his coloring book.

Vampiro comes back with chops but we might have some stolen food stamps. The Olive Loaf Chop staggers Sting but he slams Vampiro off the top for a comeback. Vampiro starts in on the leg (with the Saline Sam Coconut Crunch Lock) before kicking Sting in the face. There's the Stinger Splash but but Shaggy throws the JCW Title at Sting's leg. Not that it matters as the Death Drop knocks Vampiro silly for the pin. However, JCW rules

say the loser wins and \$5 of your ticket cost will go into Violent J's pockets.

**Rating:** D+. The commentary was absolutely hilarious and the wrestling was really just there as a backdrop. The Clowns may not be the best wrestlers in the world (or really even close) but at least they're good for something around here. I really wish we could get past this Sting vs. Vampiro nonsense, but what in the world could they have for either guy next?

Post match Sting gets beaten down until Great Muta makes the save.

Goldberg is in the ring and calls out Bret Hart for a fight right here. Instead he gets Team Canada because they're all the same right?

#### Team Canada vs. Goldberg

Goldberg yawns through the Canadian national anthem and the Canadians argue over who has to start. Storm throws Skipper at Goldberg and it's a spear to the Cruiserweight Champion in about ten seconds. There goes Storm up the ramp but General Rection cuts him off. Back in and the spear into the Jackhammer ends Storm with ease. So much for the titles meaning anything around here.

**Overall Rating:** D+. This was a story heavy show but not in the stupid way that Nitro tends to go. I can live with a show that focuses on talking and setting up things for later, but it really doesn't matter if the stories don't have the chance to go anywhere when every Monday gets more and more insane. We've actually reached the point where Thunder is the bright spot in WCW and I'm not sure how to handle that.

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# Thunder – August 23, 2000: Everybody Hates Disco

## Thunder

Date: August 23, 2000

Location: Tulsa Convention Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Attendance: 2,811

Commentators: Stevie Ray, Mike Tenay, Tony Schiavone

We're coming up on Fall Brawl with Nash vs. Booker T. for the title in a match that actually makes sense on paper. They're making Booker out to be a giant killer so a win over Nash should be a good thing for his run. Now of course that brings up the issue of Nash ever doing what makes sense for the company as I'm sure Goldberg can tell you about. Let's get to it.

Chuck Palumbo comes into Cat's office and wants to be in the main event. That's exactly what he gets, as part of a tag match with Kevin Nash against Booker T. and whoever Booker can find (this company LOVES itself some mystery partners). Well at least they're doing something with one of the new guys so points for that. Ms. Jones leaves, saying she has to take care of something.

## Kwee Wee vs. Corporal Cajun

Paisley sits in on commentary because managing doesn't mean anything anymore. Cajun gets in some right hands and a dropkick to start but dives into a powerbomb as Kwee Wee's offense continues to surprise. A slam (ok so he's not always great) gets two and it's off to a camel clutch as Kwee Wee (I can't bring myself to use either half of his name) is showing some thinking by working on the back. That goes nowhere and Kwee Wee misses a middle rope legdrop to give Cajun a breather.

Back up and the Corporal does his stupid dancing punches to send Kwee Wee outside. After the Misfits take a chair away, Kwee Wee heads back inside, only to be backdropped right back to the floor. Cajun whips him into the barricade and gets slapped by Paisley for his efforts. Tony: "I'm with you girl." Back in and Cajun gets two off a belly to belly but his headscissors is countered into a faceplant (think Dalton Castle's Bang A Rang if you're an ROH fan) for the quick pin.

**Rating:** C. Leave it to WCW to put one of their better young talents with a gimmick that is going to destroy his career. Kwee Wee has been a very nice surprise since he debuted a few weeks back and he's actually making it work in the ring as well. This youth movement is going somewhere and it's nice to see for a change.

Post match Paisley and Gunns get in a brawl because they're women in 2000 WCW and that's all they know how to do.

Back from a break with Paisley and Gunns still fighting until they challenge each other for later.

Ms. Jones comes up to Team Canada and makes Storm vs. Rection vs. Awesome for the US Title tonight. Storm isn't pleased but it goes nowhere.

Here are the Natural Born Thrillers with something to say, starting with Sanders getting in his athletically stacked and genetically jacked lines. They were THIS close to winning the World and Tag Team Titles on Monday but various things got in the way. Cue the Filthy Animals with Konnan making a lot of jokes that are quickly censored. Some hero. Disqo wants Sanders tonight but before we can get an answer, Vito runs in and beats the Thrillers down with his stick ball bat. The Thrillers fight back because it's just a stick but the Animals come in and clear them out.

Booker goes to see how Vito is and winds up getting him as a partner in the main event. That's quite the jump up for Vito.

Sanders (in a different shirt than he was wearing in the ring because WCW's production staff sucks) comes in to see Cat and wants a match with Disqo's career on the line. He even gets all evil by insulting James Brown. That's enough for Cat, but he can't put Disqo's career on the line

because of his contract. Then what was the point of this?

Crowbar has candy and flowers for Daffney, but it turns out that she already went out with her secret admirer last night. Of course she can't actually tell Crowbar what his name is but he'll be here later. Crowbar caves in and says the flowers and candy were from the admirer. Again, this works way too well for what they're doing.

### Harris Twins vs. Jung Dragons

So yeah, after nearly killing themselves in that ladder match, this is the Dragons' reward. That sums up WCW so well and it's really sad to see. Ron no sells Yang's dropkick to start so Kaz comes in with a kick off the top to actually stagger the twin. That's about it though as Ron kicks Jamie-san in the face and it's a double H-Bomb for the pin on Yang. I'm sure the Dragons will have another good cruiserweight match soon and look awesome and then this will happen all over again. It says a lot when hooking up with Nidia and becoming a redneck was a huge upgrade for Jamie Noble.

Post match Kaz takes another H-Bomb until Kronik comes out for the save. This brings out Leia Meow to yell at the Dragons and take them to the back.

Skipper says he has Storm's back.

MI Smooth talks to Norman Smiley about their Hardcore Title match. For no apparent reason (save for it makes the joke work), it's going to be I Quit so Norman can give up immediately and lose the title.

### Crowbar vs. Reno

Daffney is all happy while Crowbar is depressed. Reno slugs away on him but Crowbar gets in some basic stuff, followed by a legdrop between the legs and a slingshot legdrop for two. Back up and Reno starts working on the arm, including lifting him up in an arm trap suplex. That earns Reno a jawbreaker as this is pretty back and forth so far. As the match is going on, Tony gets word that we'll be having a wedding between David Flair and Miss Hancock on September 11. Oh geez I don't want to know how



bad this is going to get.

Reno gets low bridged to the floor but Crowbar flips over after him, only to hold on to the ropes so he can kick Reno in the head and then skin the cat. Well that was cool. A Vader Bomb off the barricade sets up a Lionsault back inside for two as the match is getting better. Naturally that means it's time to go off the rails as Daffney freaks out because here's her secret admirer....who looks exactly like Crowbar. Daffney runs up and hugs him, distraction Crowbar so Reno can Roll the Dice for the pin.

**Rating:** C-. Of course. Instead of using one of the several dozen wrestlers on your roster, you bring in someone who looks like Crowbar because it's funny or something. Either that or this is something that happened to Russo when he was a teenager and he needs to find a way to get it out of his system. Almost everything else involving a woman seems to be.

Crowbar gets beaten down until the look-a-like makes the save.

Nash tells Palumbo to take care of Vito and Booker.

Booker and Vito decide to take care of Nash and Palumbo.

Lieutenant Loco tries to get Disco's career on the line as well. I think we've got a running joke here.

Tank Abbott fires 3 Count but makes them his partners in an eight man tag tonight.

This week's sitdown interview is with....Midajah, who is in a neck brace after the attack by Goldberg last week. So this one is in character I guess? She got her start in fitness modeling but didn't want to make her career by taking her clothes off in Playboy. Tenay says she's a small woman in a man's world but Midajah doesn't want to hear it. Tenay: "Yeah I've heard it before. I am woman hear me roar right?"

Midajah talks about saving Tenay from Steiner's attack a few weeks ago but Mike thinks she only did it to keep Steiner from being fined. That's enough for Midajah as she calls Tenay a jerk and ends the interview.

Tenay: "Good luck to you and your future in sports entertainment honey. You're going to need it." This really accomplished nothing, as I'm sure you expected. At least it didn't make everyone feel stupid though so it's getting better. Well that and making Tenay look like a jerk, which I'm sure makes him the face in this scene.

The Natural Born Thrillers jump Booker and Vito....who easily fight them off with stick ball bats. These aren't the brightest rookies.

Norman is really happy about getting to lose the title (why doesn't he just vacate it?) when he runs into the Dark Carnival. Muta hits him in the throat and I'm sure you get the idea here.

### 3 Count/Tank Abbott vs. Dark Carnival

Before the match, Tank makes the three of them leave so he can sing a bit. Stevie doesn't get the difference between a gigolo and a juggalo. Tank stands in a different corner than his partners as Shane is LAUNCHED across the ring with a release powerbomb. Vampiro kicks Evan in the face so Karagias sends him to the floor for a nice springboard plancha. Everything breaks down and the referee gets misted.

Tank is standing around watching all this happen as the Clowns double team Shannon with a Samoan drop into a guillotine legdrop. Now Tank comes in to start cleaning house, only to have 3 Count beat him down with baseball bats. Muta adds the moonsault for the pin. That's it for Tank (at least in the ring) and I'm actually going to miss him. The guy is such a trainwreck that he's fun to watch.

Skipper is on the phone with someone and says Awesome is in, meaning it's going to be Rection against both of them tonight. Rection overhears.

Booker and Vito are ready for tonight.

Paisley challenges Gunns again. Did they forget already?

### Hardcore Title: MI Smooth vs. Norman Smiley

Smiley is defending and this is an I Quit match. The bell rings and Norman lays down but can't speak because of Muta hitting him in the

throat. Smooth doesn't get it and "hits" him with some stuff before actually hitting him with some stuff. Norman still can't talk so Smooth pounds on him even more, only to have Smiley start fighting back out of self defense. A low blow with a kendo stick stops Smooth and Norman gets in his dancing, followed by a few trashcan shots. Smooth runs him over with a clothesline and a running seated senton. Smooth: "SAY I QUIT!" Referee: "What did you say???" Norman retains.

**Rating:** D. I remember watching this when it aired and yeah it's kind of funny. It's annoying that this is what Norman is stuck doing because they have no idea what else to do with him but at least they're giving us some funny ideas. The problem here though is Norman has to lose the thing eventually and I have a feeling there will be a lot more jokes before we finally get to that point.

Skipper is on the phone again and says Rection took the money, making it Awesome who will be down two on one. As you might expect, Awesome overhears this and is livid.

Now Okerlund is trying to get Disco's career on the line, offering Viagra as a reward. That goes nowhere so he offers money, only to get thrown out.

### Paisley vs. Major Gunns

Tygress is out for commentary but realizes she's here for the wrong match, only to stay anyway. Tygress: "Tony you want to get a little filthy with me later?" It's a catfight to start with Paisley talking a lot of trash. A handspring elbow crushes Gunns in the corner and it's back to the catfight stuff. Gunns gets in a horrible looking slap but Tygress gets on the apron for a forearm, knocking her into a rollup to give Paisley the pin.

The Filthy Animals can't get Disco's career on the line either. They leave Cat's office and most of the locker room is waiting outside to be disappointed. Again, kind of funny.

Skipper tells Storm that the plan worked. Thanks for clarifying that for us.

## Mike Sanders vs. Disqo Inferno

Remember that Disqo's career is NOT on the line. For some reason Disqo sends the Animals to the back before elbowing Sanders out to the floor. Disqo actually follows up by sending him into the barricade a few times to keep Sanders in trouble. Back in and Sanders grabs a quick hot shot to send Disqo right back to the floor.

Mike slowly pounds away and grabs a suplex for two. He isn't exactly strong on offense yet. Disqo fights up with all of his usual stuff, capped off by the Last Dance. Cue the Thrillers to attack the Animals (standing on the ramp) as Disqo gets two off a DDT. He tries it again, only to get reversed into the 3.0 to give Mike the pin.

**Rating:** D+. Better match than you would expect here as Disqo is right there in the Kwee Wee camp: a talented in ring guy who never had a chance to be taken seriously because of how stupid his gimmick really was. At least he got in some stuff here and wound up with a pretty nice career despite all those years of being stuck with a comedy character.

Nash yells at Palumbo because the Thrillers screwed up with Vito and Booker. Based on this, I'm thinking they're totally fine.

## US Title: Lance Storm vs. General Rection vs. Mike Awesome

Storm is defending, it's one fall to a finish and both challengers think the other is in league with Lance. Before the match, Storm says he may have misjudged us. He was watching some of the political campaigning and there are some lofty goals in this country. Of course, those goals have already been accomplished in Canada. Therefore, the true American Dream (Storm: "If you will.") is to become Canadian.

Mike and Rection get in each others' faces before punching Storm because they're actually smart. After a botched double clothesline, Rection holds Storm's legs for an Awesome Splash. They switch places with Rection hitting a top rope elbow, followed by a pop up sitout powerbomb from Awesome.

Storm manages to stop both in a charge but there goes the referee. Cue

Elix Skipper (who was clearly halfway to the ring before the ref got bumped, though it's understandable given how badly Storm was getting destroyed) to low bridge Awesome and knock Rection out with the ring. The Maple Leaf on the unconscious Rection retains the title.

**Rating:** D+. Dang it WCW, cut this stuff out. They set up a nice little story with Skipper trying to play both guys but getting caught. Ok, that's fine. That's an idea that could go somewhere, especially before a triple threat. Instead of letting this story build up to a pay per view match with both guys thinking the other is evil (like Summerslam 92), they blow it off on the same night in a meaningless three minute match with interference from Skipper.

Stevie goes to be with his brother before this match.

#### Big Vito/Booker T. vs. Kevin Nash/Chuck Palumbo

Jarrett is on commentary despite not having anything to do with any of these people. Vito comes out first and is promptly beaten down, only to have Booker run in for the save. We officially start with Vito pounding on Palumbo before it's off to Nash who gets some of the same from the stereotypical Italian.

That's enough of that for Nash as he kicks Vito in the face to take over, just like he did on Monday. It's time for Vito to get slowly beaten down as you would expect with Palumbo getting in some good ring time of his own. We get the required tag behind the referee's back, meaning Booker is sent back to the apron. You really would think that would stop happening at some point over the years.

Not that it matters as Vito clotheslines Chuck down and tags out anyway, allowing Booker to come in and pound on Nash. Everything breaks down and Jarrett gets in the ring with the guitar (of course) to go after Booker's knee, just as the Thrillers come in to beat down Vito as the show goes off the air.

**Rating:** D. This got more time than I was expecting but as soon as Jarrett was out there you knew the ending was going to be screwy. Ok to be fair you knew that as soon as you started watching a WCW show. I'm glad that

Palumbo got in some offense but he could have been any of the Thrillers here.

**Overall Rating:** D. Some of this show's one off ideas worked quite well for some short term comedy but I still have no desire to see much of the upcoming stuff (oddly enough save for Booker vs. Nash, which could be watchable). These shows are so much easier to sit through when they're treated like wrestling shows (albeit infused with some comedy) instead of all the shooting that Nitro has throughout. It's still not good, but this is much more dull than awful, which I'll take in this case. Oh and no Goldberg in the city where he was born. Nice job guys.

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