

Lucha Underground – September 20, 2017: Just Lucha Already

Lucha Underground

Date: September 20, 2017

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

It's the go home show for the first (of many) week of Ultima Lucha Tres. Therefore, it's time to get ready for the biggest show of the year and the card, as long as it is, seems mostly set. The question now is what will we be seeing on the shows, which could be in quite the interesting order. Let's get to it.

The opening recap, uh, recaps things, like the Gift of the Gods Title match and Melissa Santo being drawn into a mixed tag to deal with the Martinez family.

Fenix is training Melissa Santos for her in-ring debut. She pins him down and asks to take his mask off but he slips out. He says he's Fenix with or without the mask and he'll lose everything if he loses it. Melissa says he won't lose her and bends him back for a kiss.

Famous B. is doing commentary. I doubt he'll rock the outfits as well.

Dante Fox vs. Texano

Texano yells at B. so Fox jumps him from behind to take over. A big dive to the floor is teased but Fox settles for a moonsault off the apron instead. Killshot is watching from the balcony and Fox throws him a point before hitting a Swanton for two. Texano gets the same off some clotheslines and elbows to the jaw. A cutter out of the corner drops Texano but he's right back up with the powerbomb. That's countered as well though and Fox gets two off a crucifix bomb. A tiger backbreaker plants Fox....and B. gets in the ring to declare Texano the winner. The distraction lets Fox grab a rollup for the pin at 5:40.

Rating: D+. This was fun while it lasted but I'm getting tired of this Famous B. stuff. He's not funny and he's not interesting but for some reason he's been around for the entire history of the show. Fox vs. Killshot has serious potential, though that was barely getting any kind of focus compared to the Famous B. stuff.

Texano tries to kill B. but Dario Cueto says no because he needs a ring announcer. Instead he'll be facing Texano next week at Ultima Lucha. Famous B.: "But I have a broken arm!" Dario: "Then I guess it will be a handicap match!" And that's why he's awesome. If Famous B. wins, Texano is his new client.

The Aztec Medallions are turned in before the Gift of the Gods Title match tonight. Dario calls in medics for later.

Marty Martinez/Mariposa vs. Fenix/Melissa Santos

Melissa is uh, shale we say.....sweet goodness what was I talking about again? Mariposa cranks on Fenix's arm to start until he smacks her upside the head. It's off to Marty as things speed up, including some forearms and a kick to the head. A Lethal Injection gets two on Marty and there's a big dive to the floor. Back in and Fenix keeps backing into the corner so Melissa can tag herself in. For some reason it doesn't count and Marty drags Fenix back to the corner.

Mariposa kisses him before it's back to Marty for a chinlock. Fenix fights up and shoves Marty into a kick from Melissa. The hot tag brings her in for a top rope seated senton and a double superkick to Marty. Mariposa gets sent face first into Marty's crotch as Fenix drops Melissa onto Marty a few times for some near falls. Fenix gets crotched on top though and Mariposa ties him to the ropes. Oh this could get bad in a hurry. Mariposa and Marty surround Melissa and it's an assisted Pedigree for the pin at 8:43.

Rating: C. This was much more storytelling than anything else and there's nothing wrong with that. Melissa was great for a one off though I'm glad it seems to not be something they're going with long term. Fenix vs. Marty should be a lot of fun, especially if the women get involved as a bonus. This probably should have been the Ultima Lucha match but I get

why they went with it here...I think.

Fenix breaks out and makes the save before anything else can happen.

We run down the Ultima Lucha Tres card.

Gift of the Gods Title: Paul London vs. Mala Suerte vs. Saltador vs. Cortez Castro vs. Drago vs. Son of Havoc vs. Pentagon Dark

One fall to a finish. It's a wild brawl to start and I'm in trouble trying to keep up with this. Pentagon and Havoc clear the ring to start but Saltador breaks up the showdown. Saltador gets kicked like he owes Pentagon money, only to pop up with a hurricanrana. Drago cleans house for a bit until Pentagon takes care of everyone else and stands tall. London is thrown over the top onto a pile of people as this is just random spots so far. It's Suerte coming in with a crucifix for two but Drago comes in with his running Blockbuster for the same

Saltador gets his own near fall off a springboard Fameasser but Havoc saves Castro. Drago kicks London down but Saltador comes in to take him down as well. It's Havoc diving onto various people until London and Saltador double team Pentagon. Not that it matters as he package piledrives both guys, only to have Son of Havoc add a shooting star for the pin on Saltador at the same time Pentagon pins London at 6:44.

Rating: C. I have no idea what to say about a match like this as it's just carnage until the ending. Havoc and Pentagon winning is fine as you can imagine the next match being added for one of the next four weeks. It's an entertaining match but don't waste your time if you want anything more than a spot fest.

Dario makes a ladder match for the title at Ultima Lucha.

Dario gets into a limo to meet Councilman Delgado's replacement. He has the gauntlet with him but the replacement isn't happy. Dario suggests that either Jeremiah Crane or Mil Muertes would be a good choice to hold it so we'll have a triple threat with those two along with Cage for the gauntlet. The replacement is offered to come to the temple next week and a cigar is lit by someone in shadow to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. We're to the point now where they just need to do Ultima Lucha and probably end the series once and for all (hopefully not on a cliffhanger). The wrestling wasn't much of a point here and there's nothing wrong with that on a show designed to set up the biggest month of shows of the year. Good show but more important for the future than this week.

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Lucha Underground – September 12, 2017: There Is No Way This Can End Well

Lucha Underground

Date: September 13, 2017

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

We're two weeks away from the start of Ultima Lucha Tres but tonight is the 100th episode and we have a big match which could have been a

featured attraction on the show. Tonight we have Mantaza vs. Rey Mysterio, which should be a squash but Mysterio isn't exactly one to go down without a fight. Let's get to it.

The opening video recaps Rey vs. Matanza, which will see Rey go after Dario Cueto next.

Ricky Mandel has changed his last name to Mundo. Johnny Mundo isn't cool with this but has to worry about their tag match tonight instead.

Prince Puma/Cage/Sexy Star/Fenix vs. Johnny Mundo/Taya/PJ Black/Ricky Mundo

Johnny isn't cool with Ricky's name change so we've got a replacement.

Prince Puma/Cage/Sexy Star/Fenix vs. Johnny Mundo/Taya/PJ Black/Marty Martinez

Star slaps away at Marty to start (I wonder if she's thought about an armbar) before grabbing a headscissors. It's off to Fenix vs. Black as things speed way up, only to have it be off to Cage vs. Mundo without much effort. Cage actually takes the gauntlet off, allowing Taya to dropkick him in the back. The Worldwide Underground quadruple teams Cage to very little effect until Cage suplexes Mundo. Cue Jeremiah Crane to steal Cage's gauntlet though, leaving Puma to kick Mundo in the head. Star and Fenix hit some dives, but it's Puma getting superkicked down. The End of the World finishes Puma at 5:43.

Rating: C-. Much more about the angle than the match here and there's nothing wrong with that. The matches are set for Ultima Lucha and you can probably add Cage vs. Crane to it as well, which doesn't sound bad at all. Puma vs. Mundo has some serious potential if they do the match right, though I'm starting to get scared of what they might try at the biggest show of the year.

Marty grabs Melissa Santos and gets slapped away until Fenix makes the save.

Crane comes in to see Catrina and offers the gauntlet in exchange for sleeping with him. Mil Muertes spears him down and Catrina gets the

gauntlet, only to have Cage show up to take it back. Catrina disappears and it's a three way fight with Dario showing up to get the gauntlet. There is no way this can end well.

Next week it's Fenix/Melissa vs. Marty/Mariposa.

Aztec Medallion: Pentagon Dark vs. El Dragon Azteca Jr.

Pentagon dropkicks him in the corner at the bell and scores with a superkick for good measure. Things speed up with Azteca sending him outside for a dropkick through the ropes. Pentagon will have none of that though and sends him into the barricade as the fans chant for lucha.

Back in and Azteca takes him down for a legdrop but a handspring is easily broken up. The running tornado DDT works a bit better but Pentagon kicks him down again without too much effort. Back up and Azteca gets sent into the corner where he lands on the top in a very nice display of athleticism. Unfortunately he gets pulled right back down into the package piledriver for the pin at 6:35.

Rating: C+. Fun match between the two as Azteca continues to be one of the more entertaining guys on the show. Pentagon is probably the most over though and that's what matters more than anything else. There's no reason to go with anyone other than Pentagon for the Gift of the Gods though and this was the first step.

Post match Pentagon goes for the arm but Matanza of all people comes out to send Pentagon outside. Rey Mysterio finally comes in for the save, as well as the main event.

Matanza vs. Rey Mysterio

Rey slugs away to start with as much success as you would expect. Matanza takes him outside for a throw into the apron and some good heelish choking. Back in and Matanza rips at the eyes with Rey swinging away as well as he can. A crucifix gives Rey two but Matanza runs him over again and knocks him outside a second time.

Rey gets tossed over the announcers' table but bites the hand to avoid a superplex back inside. A sunset bomb drops Matanza for no cover though

and both guys are down. Instead it's the tornado DDT for two and a springboard seated senton for the same. Matanza finally kicks him in the face to take over though and it's chair time.

That takes too long though and it's a 619 into the chair, only to have Matanza chair him in the knee to cut him off in a hurry. You can imagine Striker's reaction to the knee attack. Matanza's charge hits post but he catches Rey in the Gift of the Gods for the pin (with Dario shoving Rey's foot off the ropes) for the pin at 11:17.

Rating: C. This was all about Rey selling as only he can and that makes for an entertaining match. Matanza is the monster around here and he's someone who could be a big deal in another promotion if he wrestles like he did here. Dario vs. Mysterio is fine enough too and it made for a good, albeit not great, spectacle main event.

Matanza Pillmanizes Rey's throat and carries him off to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. It's a very nice feeling to have us finally be ready for the biggest show (or month of shows) of the year. The wrestling wasn't the point here but rather getting us ready for the major matches. They can even add in some things, though I'm much more interested in the behind the scenes stuff, which is probably the case for a lot of people.

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Lucha Underground – September 6, 2017: Donuts, Coffee and Medallions

Lucha Underground

Date: September 6, 2017

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

We're less than a month away from Ultima Lucha Tres and that means it's time to start filling out the card. The big story this week is a street fight between Cortez Castro and Joey Ryan, who have been feuding for months now, partially due to the whole...I'm going to stop there because this company's storylines are really complicated. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the tournament finals before moving on to the Worldwide Underground and the collection of the seven medallions. Above that though, Matanza is coming for Rey Mysterio, which can only end badly.

Aztec Medallion: Drago vs. The Mack

Drago wastes no time with a running dropkick and a tornado DDT, only to have Mack shove him away without much effort. Mack does a headstand in the corner, earning himself an enziguri. La majistral gets two and Mack is in some trouble. He's fine enough to elbow Drago in the mask but Kobra Moon gets on the apron for a distraction. A quick Dragon's Lair gives Drago the pin and the medallion at 3:46.

Rating: D+. I wasn't feeling this one as it didn't have much time and the whole Drago/Moon thing has killed off a lot of interest I've had in both of them. Mack hasn't done much since losing to Johnny Mundo and this is a pretty big loss for him. He doesn't have anything as we head towards

Ultima Lucha and hopefully he's not stuck with these people.

Post match Mack Stuns Drago and gets beaten down by the rest of the Tribe.

Back from a break with Dario Cueto in the ring. Next week will be the 100th episode so we'll be having some big matches. First up, we'll have the Worldwide Underground vs. Prince Puma and a team to be announced later tonight. In the main event though, Rey Mysterio will face Matanza. Dario brings Rey out and tells him to leave the building before Matanza's match tonight. If he doesn't, Dario will fire Dragon Azteca Jr. That's cool with Rey, who promises to destroy the Cueto legacy next week with Dario coming next.

Aztec Medallion: Cortez Castro vs. Joey Ryan

5-0 street fight, meaning there's a bunch of police themed stuff around the arena. Dario runs to start so Castro follows him outside for some chops. A tornado DDT on the floor has Joey in trouble, because dropping someone head first onto concrete doesn't knock them cold like it used to.

Back in and Joey gets in a slam and sets up a riot shield in the corner. Joey hammers on him with some handcuffs to bust open Castro's head. Now it's some nightstick shots to the back so Striker can make Big Boss Man jokes. With nothing else to do, Joey puts on a plastic glove and lubes up his hand to....yeah you can figure that one out for yourselves. That's enough to fire Castro up (not the most shocking thing in the world) and he knocks Joey outside, sending him through some of the cops. Fans: "WE WANT DONUTS!"

Joey goes face first into the police cruiser but Castro misses a swing with a ball bat. Instead Joey grabs a sledgehammer (HHH jokes abound), only to hit the windshield by mistake. Castro gets dropped onto the hood of the car anyway but it's time to go to the snack table.

That means hot coffee down Joey's trunks and Castro tases him there for a bonus. Naturally Joey is right back with a superkick to drive a box of donuts into Castro's face as Striker talks about an Aztec medallion. The balance from the commentary to the match isn't exactly working. Back in

and Castro maces him, followed by a running Samoan Driver onto the riot shields for the pin at 13:02.

Rating: C. I wanted to like this match and they were getting somewhere in the beginning with the blood and violence, but then they went flying off a cliff. I really don't need to see Joey lubing up his hand, having hot coffee poured down his trunks and superkicking a box of donuts. Yeah it's a police themed match, but you can either go with the theme or go with the story. Trying to do both turns it into a mess, which is what happened here.

Rabbit Tribe vs. Matanza

Matanza is offered a hat to start but dancing doesn't work so well. Vampiro explains various drug cults as Matanza is sent outside for a dive from Saltador and a plancha from Mala Suerte. Back in and a series of dropkicks has Matanza reeling but they stop for some more dancing. Matanza actually dropkicks the trio down but Easter eggs to the head are good for a distraction. A pair of superkicks sets up London's shooting star for two and that's enough for Matanza. House is cleaned in a hurry and the Wrath of the Gods ends Saltador at 4:46.

Rating: D. Now this one missed a lot more than the previous match. I really like the Rabbit Tribe as they actually feel like chaos instead of what usually passes for such in a wrestling promotion. However, this was a lot of running around being goofy yet still having success against a monster like Matanza. The ending was the right call but dang I didn't like how they got there.

Here's Prince Puma to announce his team for next week. Before he can get to the announcement though, here's Mundo to say he's going to take Mundo to Slam Town at Ultima Lucha, just like he did on the first episode. Puma brings up beating him to become the first champion, which Mundo takes as confidence. If Puma is so confident, let's make it title vs. mask. The deal is made but here's Dario to interrupt. Since we already have a mask vs. mask match at Ultima Lucha (We do?), let's make it title vs. career. Puma decks Mundo and holds up the title because it's on.

Overall Rating: C. They're firmly into the stretch to build up Ultima

Lucha Tres though I'm not sure if they have enough time to set up four hours worth of matches in just two more shows. It's cool to get to a milestone like the 100th episode but this season, which is now at A YEAR long really needs to wrap up. I'm still liking the show but it's nothing I'm really looking forward to anymore, which is quite the shame given how much fun it used to be.

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Lucha Underground – August 30, 2017: It's About Time

Lucha Underground

Date: August 30, 2017

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

We're into the final stretch of the season now (after what feels like 183 years) and that means we're on the way to Ultima Lucha Tres. With the main event set, there shouldn't be too many more weeks to go before we

get to the big show. That being said, this is Lucha Underground so we'll likely have three tournaments and ten new characters before we get there. Let's get to it.

The opening video looks at Marty Martinez being creepy, Cortez Castro being unmasked, Son of Havoc vs. Son of Madness and Johnny Mundo retaining last week.

Dario Cueto comes in to see Matanza, whose protection he now requires. In two weeks, Matanza gets to face Mysterio one on one.

Ultima Lucha Tres starts in four weeks and will be four weeks long this year.

Son of Madness vs. Mascarita Sagrada

Sagrada comes out in the biker vest given to him by Son of Havoc. Madness kicks him in the back to start and stomps him down in the corner as this is looking squashish. Sagrada gets in a kick of his own but a suplex puts him away at 2:13.

Son of Havoc comes in for the save as Dario makes Havoc vs. Madness in a Boyle Heights Biker Brawl for an Aztec Medallion later tonight. As he's making the announcement, Paul London comes out to carry Sagrada away.

Marty Martinez vs. Argenis

Marty drives him into the corner for some rapid fire shots to the face and chest but misses a charge. A springboard...something is broken up with a faceplant and it's time for Marty to start after the mask. Marty gets sent outside for a big dive and a hurricanrana off the steps. Since it's just a hurricanrana, Marty sends him into the post to draw some blood. With his blood on Marty's shoulder, Argenis comes back with a neckbreaker as Striker talks about platelets falling. Marty loads him up for a Dominator and flips it into a Codebreaker (cool) for the pin at 5:11.

Rating: C-. The blood was a nice touch and the finisher was cool as Marty looks like a killer all over again. That's the kind of thing you get around here that's missing from other promotions and it helps a lot. You can pretty much guarantee Fenix vs. Marty at Ultima Lucha and I'm

actually looking forward to that one a bit, especially with Fenix's great in-ring performances more often than not.

Post match Marty beats on him even more and steals the bloody mask. Marty gets in Melissa's face, saying he wants Fenix's mask. He'll get it at Ultima Lucha Tres. Fenix comes out for some kicks and issues a challenge for mask vs. hair.

Joey Ryan vs. Sexy Star

Watch your arm Joey. Star hammers away in the corner as Striker babbles about smart women loving smart men. A tornado DDT gives Star two and a victory roll gets the same. Joey pulls her down by the hair and here's Taya with a sign to mock Sexy and her fans. I'm not sure how many fans she has but then again Lucha Underground has blown her importance WAY out of the water for a long time now. Star biels him around by the chest hair, followed by Three Amigas for two. She dives onto Taya instead of following up though and it's a superkick to give Joey the pin at 4:57.

Rating: D+. Just a match here but Star's recent actions have somehow made me care about her even less. She's already one of the most overpushed wrestlers I've seen in a long time and now there's only one thing you can think about when she's out there. Joey getting the win is a nice surprise, though we're just waiting on Castro to come out for the brawl.

Post match Joey tries to put the lollipop in Star's mouth so Castro comes in for the save with a kendo stick.

Back from a break with Castro coming into Dario's office. He should arrest Dario right now but Dario gives him a street fight with Joey for an Aztec Medallion next week.

Aztec Medallion: Son of Havoc vs. Son of Madness

Street fight. Havoc knees Madness (thankfully in a vest so we can tell them apart) in the face to start as the vest is already off. A trashcan shot drops Havoc and they fight into the crowd as Striker makes Repo Man jokes. They take turns being sent into various objects with some fans catching Havoc as he's thrown into the crowd again.

Madness gets thrown back to ringside for a dive out of the crowd, only to have Havoc knee the barricade by mistake. A backdrop sends Madness into the same barricade though as Striker talks about how you would do some of this stuff in a bar fight. Back in and Madness clotheslines him down (I think. Having these two looking identical is really annoying.) as Striker keeps making jokes about the beards, completely missing the point of something that is supposed to be so serious.

Havoc sends him outside again and into the steps, setting up a handspring elbow in the corner. A cutter gives Havoc two but Madness drops him again and goes to find a toolbox. Instead he picks up a garbage can for a Death Valley Driver. Now it's time for a hammer but Havoc charges into a beer bottle to the head. The shooting star gives Havoc the pin at 13:03.

Rating: B-. Good brawl here with both guys beating each other up, though it was rather difficult to keep track of which was which most of the time. Havoc winning is the right move as Madness seems like a one off character. The match was fun enough and felt like a fight, save for Striker being more annoying than he's been in months with all of his unfunny jokes and talking about how you wouldn't do this stuff in a biker brawl. But Striker isn't going to change and the match was still good so it's hard to complain about all that much.

Overall Rating: C+. The fact that this season finally has an end date in sight helps a lot but sweet goodness does it really matter at this point? Next week will be a year since this "season" started and it's still got the better part of two months to go after. At least they're starting to set up some more stories for Ultima Lucha Tres than just the main event, which is really needing the build up with so little time to go. Good show this week though and that's important right now.

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Lucha Underground – August 23, 2017: When Great Isn't Enough

Lucha Underground

Date: August 23, 2017

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

It's time for a big show with the finals of the Cueto Cup along with the Lucha Underground Title match between Rey Mysterio and champion Johnny Mundo. This has been hyped up for months now and I'm actually looking forward to what they've got in store. If they do this right, it might be the biggest show they've ever done. Well close to it at least. Let's get to it.

The opening video recaps tonight's events, including a mask vs. mask match between Sexy Star and Veneno, which is just a glorified storyline advancement.

The announcers give us a quick opening.

Veneno vs. Sexy Star

Mask vs. mask. Star kicks away at him to start but here's Joey Ryan to unmask Veneno as Cortez Castro, which we already knew. Castro and Ryan get in a brawl and the match ends at 52 seconds...I think with it being

thrown out but it could also be a DQ or a countout. Striker says Star wins so we'll say countout as the referee looked like he was counting.

Johnny Mundo and his agent come in to see Dario Cueto because the boss doesn't appreciate Johnny anymore. Johnny could get better offers with one phone call but Dario swears everyone is banned from ringside tonight because he can beat Rey on his own. Mundo threatens to leave with the title if anything screwy happens tonight.

Cueto Cup Tournament Final: Pentagon Dark vs. Prince Puma

The winner gets the title shot at Ultima Lucha Tres, whenever that is. They trade shots to the head to start until Pentagon charges into a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker. He makes the mistake of bailing to the floor and gets caught with a flip dive to give Puma what is likely to be a short lived advantage.

Back in and Pentagon hits a Backstabber before they trade some hard chops. Puma kicks him in the face again and it's a 619 into a springboard high crossbody for two. A tornado DDT is countered into a backbreaker for two on Puma but he's right back with his rolling suplexes. Puma jumps into a pumphandle driver for a VERY near fall though and Striker starts yelling a lot.

A Mexican Destroyer plants Puma but of course he's right back up and hits one of his own to put both guys down. They slowly slug it out until Pentagon is sent to the apron and then to the top. Puma kicks him in the head again for a super hurricanrana and, after a nod from Vampiro, drops the 630 for the pin and the cup at 9:32.

Rating: B. Sometimes you just need two people to fly around the ring as fast as they can while kicking each other in the head over and over. This was a heck of a match and Puma winning while seemingly going full on evil (though not necessarily heel because Lucha Underground is an odd place) is the right call. Him vs. Mundo (or Mysterio again) would be a heck of an Ultima Lucha main event as Puma has been on fire as of late.

Pentagon leaves as Puma and Vampiro shake hands.

Post break Dario gives Puma the cup but it's time to find Puma's opponent.

Lucha Underground Title: Rey Mysterio vs. Johnny Mundo

Mundo is defending. No seconds to start but you know this isn't going to be a straight match. Rey slugs away to start and a kick sends him outside for a sliding headscissors into the barricade. Back in and a springboard crossbody gives Rey two but Johnny chokes him down and grabs a rear naked choke which switches into a chinlock. The Flying Chuck gives Johnny two and there's a hard running knee to the head.

It's off to a crossface chickenwing of all things until Johnny dumps him outside. Mundo misses a corkscrew dive though and gets ankle scissored down again. Rey's springboard is blocked with a superkick and the kickout makes Johnny panic in a rare visual. A hanging corkscrew neckbreaker gets two on Rey and it's time for the required ripping at Rey's mask.

With that going nowhere, Johnny puts him in the Tree of Woe but crotches himself against the post. Rey reverses an Alabama Slam into something like a Canadian Destroyer (too common of a move tonight) for two. It's off to an Octopus Hold on Johnny (I'm surprised Rey can actually do that move) but he escapes and grabs an over the shoulder backbreaker for two. The End of the World is broken up and Rey drops a split legged moonsault of his own.

Johnny bails outside and gets taken down by a top rope seated senton. They head back in with Striker FINALLY taking a break from shouting about how big and amazing this is. A victory roll takes the referee out (you knew it was coming) and Johnny breaks up the 619. Johnny grabs the belt but Rey's son Dominic takes it away and drops Mundo. Security chases him off and it's the 619 into the springboard splash....so Dario pulls the referee out. That earns Dario a 619 but Mundo takes Rey down and hits the End of the World for the pin to retain at 18:11.

Rating: B. The Dario stuff is interesting as you could have Rey fight the boss for a bit (and only a bit) though the ending wasn't the biggest shock. Puma vs. Mundo sounds like a heck of a main event for the biggest show of the year but that could change as things aren't exactly normal

around here. Other than that though, this was what you would expect from Mysterio vs. Mundo: well done, entertaining, and a big fight feel. It's not their Intercontinental Title match from all those years ago but it wasn't supposed to be.

Overall Rating: B+. This is a weird one as the matches were both good (I'm not downgrading a show over a match that didn't last a minute) but it still feels underwhelming. After the tournament being built up over two months, you kind of expected an epic show here and just got a show. This needed to be a pay per view style show with some extra stuff to set up the big matches. It's still very good, but it doesn't feel epic, which is what they were going for. Still worth checking out though as we FINALLY enter the home stretch for the season.

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Lucha Underground – August 16, 2017: They're Back

Lucha Underground

Date: August 16, 2017

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Matt Striker, Vampiro

Now this should be a big one as we have the two semifinal matches in the Cueto Cup tournament. The tournament took a long time to get here but the final four are all possible winners, which makes for a very interesting final four. Other than that we're a week away from Rey Mysterio vs. Johnny Mundo for the Lucha Underground Title, which should be one heck of a match. Let's get to it.

We look at how the four semifinalists got here, along with their various issues over the last few weeks. The opening video also focuses on Mysterio vs. Mundo and Captain Vazquez being Catrina's mother.

Cage is working out when Catrina appears to ask about the gauntlet. She says no one can maintain that much power but Cage says he can do it. He takes a swing at her with the gauntlet on but she vanishes again.

Joey Ryan comes in to see Dario Cueto and tells him that Veneno is Cortez Castro under a mask. Dario is surprised and makes Veneno vs. Sexy Star in a mask vs. mask match next week.

Cueto Cup Semifinals: Fenix vs. Prince Puma

Melissa blows Fenix a kiss during his entrance. They actually go technical to start with a battle over the wristlocks until an exchange of kicks to the face keeps us at a standstill. A slugout puts both of them down again as Vampiro goes on about gypsy boxing. One heck of a superkick sends Fenix outside for a big dive over the top but Fenix reverses the rolling suplexes into a good looking hurricanrana for two. The 619 in the corner sets up a springboard leg lariat for two more but Puma misses the Phoenix splash.

Code Red gives Fenix two so Puma hits a spinning kick to the chest for two. A Lethal Injection drops Puma again and Fenix kicks him in the head rather hard. Fenix gets two more off a snap German suplex and Vampiro goes into a rant on the near fall. Cue Marty Martinez so Fenix dives onto him, only to walk into a reverse inverted DDT driver for a very hot two. The 630 sends Puma to the finals at 10:28.

Rating: B. This is the kind of match that got fans interested in Lucha Underground in the first place and there's nothing wrong with seeing it all over again. Fenix can fly around with almost all of the best of them but sweet goodness Puma is awesome. He looks so smooth out there and it's almost impossible to not be awed by what he can pull off.

Mil Muertes is beating on punching bag so hard that it shakes the Temple. Cage comes in and attacks him from behind, including dropping a big weight on his back. Catrina wakes him with the stone and says use the rage on Pentagon.

Cueto Cup Semifinals: Mil Muertes vs. Pentagon Dark

Muertes is holding his ribs on the way in. Pentagon is smart enough to kick away at the ribs to start, including a kick to knock him outside for a big flipdive. Back in and Pentagon hammers away until Mil throws him to the side to take over. Muertes throws him into a fireman's carry to ram him head first into the post a few times.

Pentagon makes a comeback until Catrina grabs his leg, allowing Muertes to hit something like a spear. An enziguri puts Muertes down for two, followed by the Backstabber out of the corner. Pentagon finally has enough of Catrina and kicks her down, setting up a top rope double stomps to the bad ribs for the pin at 7:30.

Rating: C. This didn't have time to go very far but that's the right choice for the finals with Puma vs. Pentagon as a pretty awesome match. Muertes being injured is interesting as well as I'm not sure where they're going with him at the moment. He'll be fine as the Catrina pairing works well, but I could go for some more details instead of a lot of the vague stuff they use so often.

Muertes avoids the broken arm thanks to the power of the stone.

Dario is in the ring to introduce Mysterio and Mundo, because he loves it when they talk trash to each other. Mundo comes out flanked by security (makes sense) and makes fun of Rey's son Dominic, who must have gotten his size from his mother. Johnny asks if Rey is the real dad (well no, which we know from Storytime with Eddie Guerrero) and the fight is on.

After security is quickly dispatched, here's the Worldwide Underground to take Rey down.

Cue Sexy Star, El Dragon Azteca Jr. and the Mack for the save and a big brawl until Rey and Mundo are left alone. Now it's Puma and Pentagon coming in as Dario watches with a bit of a gleam in his eye. Muertes comes out to take everyone out but it's Cage (no gauntlet) for the big staredown.

Marty Martinez starts down the ramp but gets jumped by Fenix. The rest of the roster comes out (with the Rabbit Tribe sitting on the balcony as Paul London talks into a carrot because they're just that awesome) for the fight with Killshot and Dante Fox fighting in the balcony. Puma flip dives onto a bunch of people, leaving Rey to hit the 619 and hold up the title to end the show. This was GREAT with some incredibly intricate stuff, including all of the roster being right where they were supposed to be. That's some outstanding planning and it worked very well.

Overall Rating: A-. And that is the kind of show that made Lucha Underground the hottest wrestling show around in the first place. The action was great, the closing angle was outstanding and I REALLY want to see next week's show. I haven't felt that way about Lucha Underground in a very long time and it's nice to have that back. The finals and title match have the potential to be excellent and Ultima Lucha Tres, with whatever they'll have for that, is going to be amazing. Great show this week and worth watching for the brawl alone.

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Lucha Underground – August 9, 2017: Anyone Could Win

Lucha Underground

Date: August 9, 2017

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

It's time to set the final four in the Cueto Cup as we'll be having the final two quarterfinal matches tonight. In addition to that though, we're restarting the process of putting together the Gift of the Gods Title and that means it's time to find some people to possess the medallions. Let's get to it.

The opening video of course looks at the tournament so far, plus the Worldwide Underground getting a chance to win three medallions tonight.

Aztec Medallions: Rabbit Tribe vs. Worldwide Underground

The winners all get medallions of course. Before the Worldwide Underground comes out, the Rabbit Tribe (Paul London/Saltador/Mala Suerte) dance around Melissa Santos, who doesn't seem to mind. Taya and Saltador start with the latter sliding between her legs and shoving her down by the back of her trunks. Ricky Mandel comes in and takes a hurricanrana, followed by a standing moonsault for two.

Taya charges into a clothesline but sends Suerte into the corner. All three members of the Tribe get in the corner for a Bronco Buster because we've somehow teleported back to the Attitude Era. Everything breaks down and the Underground is knocked out to the floor, leaving Mandel to get caught in a neckbreaker. London adds a shooting star for the pin and the

medallions at 4:36.

Rating: D+. Not long enough to get anywhere but the Tribe's oddness is starting to grow on me. I get that it's the idea but for once it's actually working. It's also interesting to see the Underground lose as you would have guessed the three of them would make it to the seven way but a bit of a surprise can be a nice thing.

Post break, the Underground's agent yells at the losing team and says they would be fired if not for Johnny Mundo's intervention.

Cueto Cup Quarterfinals: Jeremiah Crane vs. Mil Muertes

Muertes jumps him in the aisle and the fight is on in a hurry. Muertes throws him through some boxes and we take a break with no bell. Back with Crane being thrown through a door as Striker says this is going to be a No DQ match. They fight in the balcony above the announcers' area with Crane being thrown down to a lower balcony as this has been one sided so far. Crane fights back but gets sent into the post for his efforts, followed by going into the apron.

They finally get inside and I guess the match has already started as there's no bell. Crane is quickly sent back outside and through some empty wooden chairs. Some chops have no effect on Muertes so Crane tries a lap around the ring, only to get cut in half by a spear. Muertes throws some chairs into the ring and a backbreaker puts Crane through them for two.

Crane gets all fired up and hits Muertes in the head with a chair over and over to get a breather. The chair is set over Muertes' throat and Crane pounds it down with the other chair. Now it's table time (duh) but Muertes spears him down instead. Muertes drops him face first onto the apron and it seems like it's time to wrap things up.

Back in and another spear is countered with a guillotine choke but Muertes drops him down for the break. Muertes throws in a table but Crane puts him through it instead for a very close two. Jeremiah goes to the middle rope and dives right into the Flatliner to send Muertes to the semifinals at 10:15 (with the clock starting when they first got into the

ring).

Rating: B-. Crane has gotten a huge rub from this tournament and it's kind of sad to see him eliminated. Muertes is the right choice to go forward though as even though he's not as dominant as he used to be, there's always the chance that he could go on a tear and destroy everyone else to win the tournament.

Catrina kisses Crane, who seems to like it. That earns him a hard kick to the head and the villains leave.

An FBI agent comes to see Dario Cueto and says that the Order has chosen him to replace Councilman Delgado. The death seems to be news to Cueto but he's a bit shaken by the agent's presence. The agent says he's a big Pentagon Dark fan but even his skin will burn when the war comes. All that matters is bringing the gods back to power.

Cueto Cup Quarterfinals: The Mack vs. Pentagon Dark

Texano goes right after him and gets two off a leg lariat. Pentagon knocks him outside though and nails a big running kick to the head. A Codebreaker with Pentagon hanging over the ropes gives Texano control again and he sends Pentagon hard into the barricade. Cue Famous B. and Brenda for a distraction, allowing Pentagon to hit back to back Sling Blades.

Texano kicks him down again though, only to charge into a Backstabber out of the corner. Something like an Indian Deathlock has Pentagon in trouble but he's quickly in the ropes. Texano puts him in the Tree of Woe for a delayed dropkick, followed by a middle rope leg lariat for two. Famous B. tries to throw in a horseshoe but Pentagon takes it away and knocks Texano out for the easy pin at 6:08.

Rating: D+. The Famous B. stuff feels so out of place in the tournament, which is one of the biggest things Lucha Underground has ever done. B. is pure comedy (not exactly funny comedy that is) and that's not what you should be having with one of the most serious characters in the company.

The semifinals are now set:

Pentagon Dark vs. Mil Muertes

Prince Puma vs. Fenix

Post match Pentagon loads up Texano's arm but B. calls him out. That earns B. his second broken arm but Pentagon isn't done. After leaving for a bit, Pentagon comes back to break Brenda's arm to end the show.

Catrina is meeting Captain Vazquez, who she seems to know. Catrina says the gods don't fear her and Vazquez talks about the gods using Cage's gauntlet as a gateway. They both pull out their halves of the medallion and Vazquez says only one man in the Temple can take the gauntlet from Cage. He just so happens to answer to Catrina (Muertes' name isn't mentioned but it's heavily implied), but she points out that without her half of the medallion, Vazquez will no longer be immortal. Catrina says the gods will learn to fear a thousand deaths and leave, after saying goodbye to her mother. Now that's a twist.

Overall Rating: B-. This show did what it needed to do as we can see the end of the tournament from here. Things have really picked up and now that we have two great matches next week and then the big show, things should start getting back to the point that made this show such a hit. Throw in the storylines FINALLY picking up and this was one of the more entertaining shows they've done in a good, long while.

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Lucha Underground – August 2, 2017: He's Grown Up

Lucha Underground

Date: August 2, 2017

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

The tournament is really starting to pick up and that means it's time to start winding it down. We're three weeks away from the finals and at the moment, we're down to just eight to go. On top of that, the build towards Johnny Mundo vs. Rey Mysterio for the Lucha Underground Title is really taking off. Let's get to it.

The standard opening recap gets things going with a focus on the title match and Mysterio vs. PJ Black from last week.

Dario Cueto brings Matanza some raw meat while saying that Matanza is shaken by his recent loss. If he doesn't control his human desires, the powers of the gods will be taken from him. Matanza refuses the food.

Cueto Cup Quarterfinals: Pindar vs. Fenix

Melissa still seems to have a thing for Fenix. Pindar wastes no time in kicking Fenix down and hammering away. A backbreaker gets two but Fenix flips out of a second one and kicks Pindar in the head. Fenix tries to get all fired up but Pindar charges into the corner to crush both Fenix and his comeback.

One heck of a monkey flip sends Fenix flying and a double underhook spinning slam gives Pindar two. That's enough for Fenix as he elbows Pindar in the jaw and muscles him over for a German suplex. Melissa is openly cheering for Fenix now and a springboard C4 (or close to one) sets up the top rope double knees to advance Fenix at 5:18.

Rating: C. Fenix winning is the right idea as he's a valuable person to have in the tournament. While he isn't likely winning, there's the slightest chance that he could pull off a big upset and win the whole thing and that makes his matches more interesting. Even if he doesn't win, whoever beats him is going to get a big rub as a result.

The Worldwide Underground comes in to see Dario with Jack Evans' jaw wired shut. The short version: next week Taya/PJ/Jack are getting a Trios Titles match and they're all involved in the Gift of the Gods title matches (there are a series of medallions, whoever gets all of them together can cash in for a Lucha Underground Title shot).

Cueto Cup Quarterfinals: Dante Fox vs. Prince Puma

They run the ropes to start with Puma flipping all over the place and avoiding a dropkick, only to have Dante take him down with a dive. That's fine with Puma who hits a dive through the ropes and another over them to really wake the crowd up. Fox is right back up and tries a running shooting star off the apron but gets caught in the air. That's fine with him as he spins around into a tornado DDT on the floor. The fans are all behind Puma as Dante chokes him on the ropes like a villain is supposed to be doing.

Puma jawbreaks his way to freedom but gets caught in a twisting suplex for two. A 619 in the corner into a springboard crossbody gives Puma two of his own as the Fox chants are starting to sprinkle in. Fox is right back with a springboard Codebreaker for two, followed by a pinfall reversal sequence. One heck of a Blue Thunder Bomb gives Puma two and he snaps off some running knees in the corner.

Puma misses a charge though and Fox hits a slingshot dropkick. Fox's 450 hits knees though and both guys are down again. Some kicks to the head and a brainbuster give Puma two more. A reverse exploder suplex of all things plants Fox again but he STILL kicks out. Puma has finally had it so a shotgun dropkick into the corner sets up the 630 to put Fox away at 11:03.

Rating: B. Now that's more like it. This was a match where they just kept hitting each other with bigger and bigger spots until one of them

couldn't get up. Puma is of course the right call for the win here and it makes sense to have him go one gear further than Fox. There's a good chance that Puma is winning this thing, especially with the extra gear he's had in recent weeks thanks to Vampiro.

Post match Killshot comes in and hits something like a One Winged Angel before saying it's not over between them.

Captain Vazquez (Cortez Castro's boss) isn't happy with him getting crushed by Cage, but to be fair Cage is a god. Cortez says no man alive can get the gauntlet away from him. He leaves and Vazquez agrees but looks at her half of the medallion.

Johnny Mundo vs. El Dragon Azteca Jr.

Non-title and Rey Mysterio's family is in the crowd. Mundo can't get a suplex so Dragon smacks him in the chest. An enziguri drops Johnny and he bails to the ropes for a staredown. A hurricanrana sends Johnny to the floor but he catches a flip version and plants Dragon on the floor with a spinebuster.

Back in and we hit the chinlock for a bit before Mundo rams in some shoulders in the corner. A backdrop puts Mundo on the floor though and that means a BIG flip dive over the top to take him down. Back in again and some kicks to the face give Dragon two more, only to have Johnny grab a standing C4 for two of his own. Dragon's super victory roll of all things gets two more but he gets pulled off the top, setting up the End of the World to give Johnny the pin at 9:00.

Rating: B-. Dragon Azteca is good but he's clearly a step or two behind some of the top names. Having Mundo beat Mysterio's protege is good storytelling though and you can tell there's going to be something involving Rey's family to wrap things up. I really like how they've been setting up the title match as it feels like something important that they're actually building for a change instead of just doing it all of a sudden. You don't get that enough anymore and it's working for me.

Post match Johnny wraps a chair around Dragon's neck but here's Mysterio for the save. Johnny bails and Rey leaves but Mundo comes back. Since Rey

apparently isn't watching, Mundo gets in Rey's son Dominic's (who has grown WAY up) face and here's the Worldwide Underground to beat Dominic down, including a belt shot from Mundo.

Fenix and Melissa Santos seem to be getting rather comfortable in the parking lot with Melissa asking if Fenix ever takes that mask off. He says on special occasions and they leave together. Marty the Moth Martinez is shown watching from the shadows and promises to take Fenix's mask.

Overall Rating: B. I had a great time with this show as it flew by but more importantly it made me want to see the big show in three weeks. The tournament finals should be a lot of fun and there's a major match on top of it. They're also starting to tie some of the bigger stories together for once instead of having things all over the place. That's plagued this season horribly and it would be a great thing to fix, which it seems like they are for the time being.

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Lucha Underground – July 26, 2017: The Old Lucha Way

Lucha Underground

Date: July 26, 2017

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

I believe the second round of the Cueto Cup wraps up tonight but the bigger deal is Rey Mysterio getting back into the ring for the first time in a good while. Worldwide Underground has a new pesky agent who has gotten PJ Black a match with Mysterio. That could be a lot of fun and when you couple it with the tournament stuff, this show has potential. Let's get to it.

Standard opening, looking at the tournament as a whole and the matches for those competing tonight.

Striker mentions that the tournament final is in four weeks, which will also see Mysterio vs. Johnny Mundo for the Lucha Underground Title.

Cueto Cup Second Round: Texano vs. The Mack

They actually speed things up to start instead of going with the power brawl, including a series of near falls into a standoff. That's quite the surprise. It even warrants a handshake before Mack grabs a headlock for a negligible advantage. Mack sends him outside for a running flip dive, followed by a running basement Blockbuster for two inside.

Some very loud chops have Texano in even more trouble but he comes back with some softer chops. They head outside again with a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker dropping Texano, only to have Mack go down as well. Back in and Mack gets two off a swinging slam but here's Famous B to spray him with a water gun. That earns B. a Stunner but the distraction allows Texano to grab a Batista Bomb to advance at 7:19.

Rating: C+. Good power brawl here though the ending felt like a cop out

rather than a win for Texano. It's not like either of them are going to win the tournament but the ending didn't work for me. The match was fun while it lasted though and that's a good thing, but Famous B. isn't doing anything for me and hasn't in a long time.

Son of Havoc is at a bar when Son of Madness comes out and takes his drink. They were in the same biker gang and Madness is here to bring Havoc back whether he likes it or not. At least it's a story.

Mascarita Sagrada brings the Rabbit Tribe a present, with the card saying it will bring them good luck. It's a rabbit's foot, meaning panic ensues.

Cueto Cup Second Round: Pentagon Dark vs. Drago

They hit the mat to start, which is a lot more technical than you would expect from someone as violent as Pentagon. Drago sends him outside for a big flip dive, earning himself some rather loud cheering. Back inside and they trade some hard running kicks in the corner with Pentagon getting the better of it because he's rather good at the whole beating people up thing.

Pentagon suplexes him into the corner for two but Drago grabs a hurricanrana for the same. A running Blockbuster gets the same, only to have Pentagon catch him in a half nelson driver for another near fall. Drago runs up the corner for a tornado DDT followed by a top rope hurricanrana but the top rope splash only gets two. Pentagon is tired of playing around though and hits a Mexican Destroyer....for two. Well of course that doesn't finish it. The package piledriver finishes Drago a few seconds later at 7:57. Then just have the Destroyer finish the thing.

Rating: C+. Ending aside, this was a nice back and forth spot trading showcase with each of them hitting most of their big stuff. Pentagon is coming off like a bigger star every single week and they would be crazy to not put him back into the title picture, likely destroying everyone in his path, very soon.

Post match Pentagon lays out Kobra Moon and goes for the arm but Aero Star makes the save. Drago lays out Aero Star and Pentagon breaks Star's arm as a trophy.

Pentagon runs into Catrina in the back where she reminds him of his issues with Mil Muertes. Catrina promises that Mil hasn't forgotten and will take him out of the Cup.

PJ Black vs. Rey Mysterio

They start fast with Rey grabbing a hurricanrana and a victory roll for two, sending us to a standoff with Black smiling. An ankle scissors sends Black outside but he catches a dive and drops Rey with something like a reverse Rack Attack. A top rope fist to the face gives Black two and it's off to a double arm crank.

Back up and the 619 is broken up by a superkick but Rey misses a springboard. They slug it out until Rey flips him out to the floor for an Asai moonsault. The spinning crossbody gives Rey two but he gets caught in the Tree of Woe for a top rope double stomp. Can we please ban that spot all over wrestling? I've got money. A Styles Clash gives Black two but he gets caught in a tornado DDT.

The referee gets bumped though and here's Johnny Mundo to lay out Mysterio. Jack Evans comes in to make it a triple team but here's El Dragon Azteca to make the save. Taya takes him out though, leaving Black to get a close two. Azteca chases the Worldwide Underground off, leaving Rey to reverse a Razor's Edge into a hurricanrana. The 619 sets up a springboard frog splash for the pin at 11:29.

Rating: B-. Black has really showcased himself over the last two weeks and that's quite the improvement. I've never been the biggest fan of the guy in the world but it's a good sign that he's able to do a lot more than just have a flashy finisher. Mysterio might not be what he used to be but he's still far better than many other cruiserweights and he gives Lucha Underground credibility, which they really can use.

Mysterio says everyone here will win the title from Mundo in four weeks.

Overall Rating: C+. Not a great show this week but we're down to the final eight in the tournament and are starting to get some real build towards the title match. As usual, the best way to make TV seem important is to give it a long form build and that's what we've gotten so far.

These shows have been FAR more entertaining than what we had been seeing in the months leading up to it and that's a very important upgrade.

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Lucha Underground – July 19, 2017: How Rudo of Him

Lucha Underground

Date: July 19, 2017

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

It's another night of the Cueto Cup as we're getting closer to the quarterfinals. The wrestling is starting to get better too as we have more matches worth watching between talents who have chances to win the whole thing. We should also be in for some more build towards Rey Mysterio vs. Johnny Mundo. Let's get to it.

We open with the now regular recap of the Cueto Cup so far, including some of the wrestlers in action tonight.

Prince Puma is on the roof and looking nervous. Vampiro comes up and says the only way to get rid of the memories is to become the champion again. Puma has flashbacks to facing Johnny Mundo and calls Vampiro his master.

Cueto Cup Second Round: Cage vs. Pindar

The referee wants Cage to take off the gauntlet so Cage drops him for a DQ before the match ever started. Cage beats up Pindar for fun. This makes sense as they had to have a way to get rid of Cage without beating him so this was their best option.

Cueto Cup Second Round: Dante Fox vs. Son of Havoc

Hang on a second as Son of Madness jumps Havoc from behind and chokes him down. A shot to the head with a chain knocks Havoc even sillier but Dario Cueto comes out and says fight or be out of the tournament. Naturally Havoc is ready to go and the bell rings after a break. Fox knocks him outside for a running flip dive over the post.

A guillotine legdrop over the apron gets two but Dante misses a dive and gets sent hard into the barricade. Back in and a jumping knee to the head gives Havoc two. Striker calls Havoc the diesel fueled maniac of the open road and even Vampiro isn't sure what to make of him.

The Foxcatcher is broken up and Havoc bounces off the ropes into a cutter for two. A Death Valley Driver is broken up and something like a C4 2000 gives Dante two of his own. They slug it out on the apron and a Death Valley Driver/AA (somewhere in between) to the floor knocks Fox silly. The shooting star, nearly to the middle of the ring, misses and the Foxcatcher sends Dante to the next round at 9:12.

Rating: C+. Fox has some skills but I can only get so much out of the ex-military guy. These guys beat on each other for a good while and it was nice to see Havoc get a pass on the loss. I'm not wild on seeing Havoc vs. Madness again but the backstory could carry it far enough, especially around here, where such a thing could actually work for a change.

Johnny Mundo has hired an agent (Benjamin Cooke) for the Worldwide Underground. PJ Black comes in and we get a pretty solid speech from

Benjamin about how far the team could go with the right representation. We're talking cereal boxes here.

Cueto Cup Second Round: PJ Black vs. Prince Puma

They fight over the arms to start with Puma actually using the ropes for the break. How rudo of him. Back up and one heck of a right hand staggers Black and some rollups give Puma two. A monkey flip doesn't work though and we wind up with a standoff. That's fine with Puma who sends Black to the floor and stops for some posing.

A running kick to the back of Black's head keeps him in trouble and Puma stomps a bit of a mudhole in the corner. You can hear the pride in Vampiro's voice too, making him all the better of a choice for an evil boss. Black grabs a seated dragon suplex but Puma slips out without too much trouble.

That's fine with Black who cranks on the arm before going with a hard shot to the head to drop Puma again. It's off to an abdominal stretch to turn things a bit more simple but Puma slips out again. Puma heads up top for a clothesline, followed by a rolling DDT and a standing shooting star for two. A cutter into a belly to back gets the same but Puma is a bit spent. Now it's Black coming back with something like a Dominator (the Wellness Policy because making fun of WWE is funny) for two of his own.

They slug it out with Puma getting the better of it, capped off by a northern lights suplex for two. Black kicks him in the face and gets two off a top rope Lionsault. He gets crotched on top though, allowing Puma to hit a reverse super hurricanrana for a near fall of his own. A shotgun dropkick sets up the 630 to finally put Black away at 15:53.

Rating: B+. Yep. Now that's a lot more like it with the kind of match that makes Lucha Underground work so well. These two were beating the heck out of each other and trading big spots until one of them couldn't get up. Puma is looking like a world beater in this tournament and him looking stronger is a good thing for the promotion. Really solid match here.

Black comes into Dario's office and is told that Cooke has already set

him up with another match. Next week, Black gets Rey Mysterio. He leaves and Cooke calls Dario again, causing him to throw his phone in the trash.

Overall Rating: B. I had a lot of fun with this and it was flying by. This tournament needed a match like Black vs. Puma and it was one of the more entertaining matches they've put on in a good while. It's also nice to have them add something else to the card besides just the tournament matches as you can only get so far doing one story per show. Good show this week though, which the show needs a lot more of at this point.

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