

Middle Kingdom Wrestling – September 30, 2015: Short And Short

Middle Kingdom Wrestling Episode 3

Date: September 30, 2015

Location: CWE Gym, Dongguan, China

Commentator: Eddie Strong

This show is kind of growing on me. I'm digging what they're going for with the really short TV shows and simple booking. I could go for some stories and better wrestling but that's a universal issue in wrestling, even in China. We're on to the semi-finals tonight and it should be easier now that I have an idea who some of these people are. Let's get to it.

These shows are getting even shorter as this is under fifteen minutes long.

The Slam vs. King Michael

This is incorrectly billed as a tournament match. Michael is a big fat guy and Slam reminds me of Gillberg. He even has similar music to Goldberg. Slam pounds away like he's a guy twice his size and drops Michael with some forearms to the chest. A leglock sends Michael to the ropes but he clotheslines Slam down and smiles into the camera.

The required fat man splash gets two on Slam and a fat man shoulder drops him again. Michael's chokebomb is good for two and the argument with the referee allows Slam to come back with a string of forearms, followed by a springboard clothesline for two. Something like a belly to back slam and a big stomp is enough to put the King away.

Rating: C-. This was way better than it had any right to be with Slam looking like a combination of Taz and Goldberg as he fought like a guy 100lbs heavier than he actually is. Michael was your standard fat man who

couldn't do much aside from basic power moves but Slam more than made up for it. I could go for more than big forearms but that might come against someone who can give him more back.

MKW Title Tournament Semi-Finals: Selfie King vs. Black Mamba

Da Li Sam is with Mamba again in a partnership that hasn't been explained. Mamba isn't interested in a picture to start so he loses a test of strength instead. So apparently King is really strong. I mean, he's in good shape but it's hardly great. Mamba claims his shoes are messing up and the distraction lets Sam come in with a powerbomb for the pin to advance.

Mamba and Sam take a picture over King's unconscious body. Not bad.

Wait we're not done as the promoter comes up and points out the shenanigans, meaning Mamba is disqualified. I'm not a fan of that sort of an ending and it feels like they went this way for a shortcut instead of a full on match. Even a short one would have been fine and it would have padded the show out a bit.

Roll credits.

Overall Rating: C-. This didn't do it for me as well as the previous show but to be fair a show can only be so bad in fifteen minutes. The Slam was definitely the highlight of the show and it's a good idea to take some of the focus off the tournament for a change. Good enough show here but it's a step down from last time.

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Middle Kingdom Wrestling – September 17, 2015: In Any Language

Middle Kingdom Wrestling Episode 2

Date: September 17, 2015

Location: CWE Gym, Dongguan, China

Commentator: Eddie Strong

This show wasn't terrible the first time I looked at it and maybe the second show is going to be better. If nothing else I'm kind of interested in seeing which of the two matches from the first show is the more accurate indicator of what this promotion is about. Maybe the commentator won't be as annoying this time either. Let's get to it.

I'm not sure what the deal is with the dates but I'm going with when they're posted on Youtube.

The intro is the same last week, down to the same video packages and captions.

The Slam (CWE Champion. For the first time it's confirmed that CWE and MKW are different things) is in the ring and wants to talk to the MKW GM about why he isn't in the title tournament. The unnamed GM isn't sure what to say so Slam demands a match against a big man in the future, which is granted. So we have another angle.

MKW Title Tournament First Round: Jason vs. Dalton Bragg

Bragg's entrance is in fast motion. I'm digging the way they're doing things differently like that as it's not something you see in most

promotions. Before the match we get a video on American Dalton Bragg, who brags about his success in America. I'm more interested in his South Park tattoos. He knows he's better than everyone in the tournament, including the Slam. That's still kind of confusing and they need to clear it up. Maybe with a bracket or something.

The match is joined in progress with Bragg kicking Jason in the head for two. A Codebreaker gets the same as we're told that Jason is Slam's student. Jason comes back with a PerfectPlex and a Boston crab but Dalton rolls through for two. Bragg can't get Jason up for what looked like a powerbomb and drops him into something like a Dominator instead for the pin. Too short to rate but Bragg is more polished and has a better presence than anyone else so far.

This show is already better than the first one and we're not even half done.

MKW Title Tournament First Round: Ash vs. Black Mamba

Kobe Bryant is in this tournament? Ash has an American flag on the back of his vest but there are no videos this time. Instead Mamba grabs the mic and says he knows he's underrated but he has a secret plan. He brings out someone named Da Li Sam as a coach and I guess we're supposed to know who that is. Mamba is another of Slam's students and it seems that a lot of these people wrestle in CWE. Ash drops Mamba but Sam pulls his.....whatever Mamba is to him to the floor for a conference.

Back in and Da Li trips Ash up but Ash runs Mamba over anyway. We get a chase on the floor and Mamba finally takes over with an ax handle on the way back in. A lot of choking from both Mamba and Sam sets up an STO (not STF commentator) for two on Ash. Mamba grabs a camel clutch (called a signature move) but Ash fights back with a Stinger Splash and backbreaker but Sam shoves Ash into the referee. The brawl is on and the much bigger Sam (his head is over the top rope while he's standing on the floor) sends Ash into the post for a long countout.

Rating: C. The wrestling wasn't great but there was a far more important key here: I got the idea they were trying to present even though I have no idea who these people are and know nothing about them. It's a sign of

better storytelling and that's the most important thing in wrestling. You really should be able to tell what's going on no matter what and they covered that here.

The credits and a preview for next week take us out.

Overall Rating: B. Again on the sliding scale but this was WAY better than last week. There's definitely better wrestling here with the stories being more well rounded and the ideas being easier to understand. I'll keep watching this as it's only twenty minutes and I can go for a change of pace to the simple stories and basic booking. Much better show this week though the commentator is still annoying.

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