

Monday Nitro – November 6, 2000: Well, It Didn't Suck

Monday Nitro #265

Date: November 6, 2000

Location: United Center, Chicago, Illinois

Attendance: 7,000

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Mark Madden, Scott Hudson

It's a new month for Nitro and hopefully things stay on the good path that Thunder put WCW on. The big story is Scott Steiner vs. Booker T. for the World Title in a few weeks at Mayhem but unfortunately we have a lot of TV left for them to screw up. We also have a new boss in Ric Flair, who wasn't even on Thunder. Let's get to it.

The opening recap focuses on Ric Flair returning and the Stasiak turn, followed by Steiner vs. Booker.

Earlier today, Midajah distracted an arriving Sting (head to toe in red) so Steiner could attack him. Buff Bagwell made the save.

The Thrillers talk about putting Jeff Jarrett in a tag match for no apparent reason.

Here's Lex Luger, the hometown boy, to open things up. Instead of getting in the ring he goes over the announcers' table and asks Mark Madden to stand up. Apparently Madden insulted Luger's body last week despite being in horrible condition and having no business to talk about anyone. That's about it, save for the other announcers ripping on Madden a little bit.

Luger gets inside and talks about all the big names that have been around this company over the years before getting to Goldberg. That Streak isn't happening again because someone like Luger isn't going to let that happen. They'll be meeting at Mayhem and that Streak is already going to be history.

It also seems that Goldberg has been working on a book for eighteen

months. Now after Luger got over the shock of finding out that he meant writing it, he was lucky enough to get his hands on a chapter. Lex calls up one of the writers from WCW Magazine, who says there's nothing in the magazine about Luger himself. As you would expect, Luger beats the guy down and racks him. I get the idea here but Luger wasn't exactly the best talker.

Goldberg arrives.

The guy from WCW Magazine was taken away on a stretcher.

Nash and the Thrillers look through Goldberg's book before saying the Thrillers are now down a member. That makes them a better team though because Stasiak was making a bunch of crazy statements like wanting to be a World Champion. You know who should be a champion? Kevin Nash, who wants Booker tonight. Stasiak comes in and begs to be on the team again but is brushed off. He promises to be there for the team tonight.

Lance Storm vs. Kwee Wee

Before the match, Storm tells us to not vote because we all lose due to being Americans. Madden thinks Storm won't want to fight Kwee Wee due to all the glitter. Tony almost calls Ric Flair the WWF CEO because he'd rather work for the other company too. Storm jumps Kwee Wee during the entrance as Paisley is on commentary. They get inside with Kwee Wee hitting a high cross body for two, followed by a tilt-a-whirl into a reverse sitout powerbomb for the same. A quick spinebuster sets up the Maple Leaf to make Kwee Wee tap.

Post match the Canadians keep the hold on so Paisley calls out Code Blue. This apparently means Meng who comes out for the save. Now wouldn't Meng have been a more interesting option than Rection over and over?

Goldberg is ready for Bam Bam Bigelow tonight and isn't worried about Luger either. Cue Luger to list off his resume but it's a ruse for Bigelow to attack.

Now we get to another sad moment on the show as Tony brings up Battledome. What's Battledome you ask? It's an American Gladiators ripoff

with WWF elements added including characters and storylines etc (along with Terry Crews as one of the Warriors). It was a pretty low budget show but I always had a good time with it, albeit partially because I was twelve years old. The idea of putting it together with wrestling was awesome at the time but looking back now it's just sad.

Anyway Tony and company talk about how lame it is that the Battledome guys are to challenge WCW wrestlers to a fight. This led to a brawl on Battledome with Diamond Dallas Page and Cat with Page stealing their Warriors title belt (yeah they had a title belt) and spitting on it. This is actually worse than I remember.

Hardcore Title: Shawn Stasiak vs. Reno

Reno is defending and I suppose this is Stasiak's punishment. Just like last week on Thunder, there's no opponent for Stasiak though as we see Reno down in the back. Apparently Reno is still champion though because it wasn't a pinfall or a submission.

Nash and the Thrillers look at Reno, who says more than one person was behind this.

Here's Ric Flair with something to say. Flair sucks up to the Chicago crowd and says it's time to change this company for the better. As for Mayhem, we'll be seeing Rection vs. Storm for the US Title for the last time, along with Goldberg vs. Lex Luger. That only leaves Flair with the World Title and it doesn't matter if it's Scott Steiner or Booker T. because both of them will be walking into a cage at Mayhem. However, Steiner needs to behave himself better because it's time to be a man around here.

Cue Steiner to get right in Flair's face and grab him by the lapel. This brings out Booker to clean house in very short order. Steiner is taken out so Flair makes the cage match a straitjacket cage match, meaning a straitjacket is above the ring though you still win by pinfall or submission. Flair still isn't done yet though and says if Steiner touches any non-wrestler, he's out of this company.

Jimmy Hart has gotten some responses from various DJ's for his fight. As

soon as he says Howard Stern, it's clear that this isn't exactly on the up and up. Mancow comes in (Wearing a Creed shirt. Yeah there are going to be jokes but I was a fan.) because this is STILL a thing. A fight nearly breaks out with Mancow running his mouth until 3 Count comes in to beat him down.

Tag Team Titles: Mark Jindrak/Sean O'Haire vs. 3 Count vs. Jung Dragons

Jindrak/O'Haire are defending against Moore/Helms and Yang/Hayashi respectfully. The challengers all brawl to start but the champs hit the ring and start cleaning house. They stop to pose though and Hayashi slingshots in with a DDT while Yang comes off the top with a good looking headscissors. Now it's Jindrak and O'Haire getting double teamed in a smart move from two teams that can't stand each other.

Yang stops a comeback with a double poke to the eyes as the champs bail to the floor. They're in good enough shape to catch the Dragons as they come over the top, including the beat from the floor on Yang. Helms gives Jindrak the Nightmare on Helms Street (Final Cut) but Evan Karagias runs in for the save. O'Haire comes off the top with the Seanton Bomb to give Jindrak the easy pin.

Rating: C+. This is easily the highlight of the week time after time and most of it is because they're just letting the people do their thing. It's very similar to what the cruiserweights did back in the day: have meaningless matches to pop the crowd before everyone else screws things up.

Post match the Battledome Warriors appear (off camera that is) to yell at Jindrak and O'Haire. At the same time the unmasked Jamie-San comes in and chairs the Dragons. Jamie and Evan stare each other down.

Diamond Dallas Page is back after several months away and Hudson is WAY too excited. Page talks about having a non-televised match about four months against WCW World Champion Booker T. It was that moment that he realized how negative a person he'd become. Then he heard the crowd popping louder than they have in a long time and it made him realize how happy he is with this job and this life. Now he's back to have the time of his life thanks to a call from Flair.

Page says he's back and does the usual celebrating but he stops to yell at the Battledome guys. He calls out some boys from the back so here are Buff Bagwell, Cat and Rick Steiner for a showdown. All of them talk trash and a brawl breaks out. This would lead to Steiner showing up on Battledome to compete in a game.

Stasiak says he had nothing to do with attacking Reno.

Buff Bagwell/Sting vs. Jeff Jarrett/Scott Steiner

Jeff and Buff get things going as the announcers get on Madden for suggesting that Steiner could kill a fan. Bagwell gets in a quick swinging neckbreaker and it's off to Sting vs. Steiner. A belly to belly suplex sends Sting flying and the heels take over with Jeff coming in for a middle rope elbow. It's already back to Steiner to crank on Sting's arms as they're certainly not going anything beyond average so far.

Jeff gets caught in a sunset flip with Buff adding in a right hand to knock him backwards, only to have Steiner take over again. A DDT on Scott allows the hot tag to Bagwell and everything breaks down. Sting and Jarrett fight to the floor as Buff gets in a Blockbuster on Steiner, only to eat a guitar shot. The Recliner puts Bagwell away.

Rating: D+. It's your standard main event tag formula but of course the match was short and had a weapon spot because it's not like this was something that could have gone through clean. Bagwell not being on this level didn't do him any favors either but I'm really not sure why Sting and Jarrett are STILL fighting. Isn't that story done yet?

US Title: Alex Wright vs. General Rection

Wright is challenging and Lance Storm is on commentary. Before the match, Wright speaks German and Disco gives a questionable translation though there's no big punchline at the end. Rection takes him into the corner before catching a charge in a powerslam. The fans sound like they want to see Gunns' puppies as Rection gets two off a legdrop. Madden: "Legdrop never wins anymore."

Wright gets in a spinwheel kick to take over but it's time for dancing.

An impressive slam sets up a Vader bomb for two on the champ and a top rope stomp (might have been a botch) gets the same. Disco tries to get in a chair shot so here's the MIA for the save. A splash in the corner sets up No Laughing Matter to retain Rection's title.

Rating: D. Rection really isn't very good. They're trying something with the US Title push but there comes a point where that's not going to get you far enough. Wright was a good challenger but at the end of the day, there's only so much you can do with what you're being given.

Jim Duggan says America sucks because it doesn't work.

Booker will defend against Kevin Nash tonight but he's also ready for Mayhem.

Goldberg vs. Bam Bam Bigelow

We get the full Goldberg entrance and his right leg is heavily taped. Bigelow is right on him to start with an early splash as Madden thinks the taped leg might be injured. He's not sure of course. Cue Luger as Goldberg is in trouble early on. A single right hand sends Bigelow flying across the ring but a Luger distraction lets Bam Bam get in a belly to back. There's the top rope headbutt for two so Goldberg pops up for the two moves and the pin.

We come back from a break with Steiner ranting a lot before joining commentary for the main event.

WCW World Title: Kevin Nash vs. Booker T.

Nash is challenging of course. Feeling out process to start with Nash getting the better of it off those big right hands to the head. They head outside for more punches before Booker gets in a chair shot to take over. Well that's pretty heelish. Nash doesn't bother selling it anyway though and kicks the champ in the face for two. Booker fights up again and gets the ax kick, only to have another kick hit the referee by mistake. Cue Shawn Stasiak with brass knuckles to knock Booker out but then he knocks Nash out too (duh), giving Booker the pin to retain.

Rating: D-. Just a bunch of punches and kicks before all the screwy stuff

that makes sure they both look equally weak. Booker is turning into a lame duck champion in a hurry as he hasn't looked strong in weeks. If you don't want your champion to be strong, it's probably time to find a new champion. Then again they haven't exactly been going out of their way to hide what Steiner is getting at the pay per view.

Steiner grabs Booker to end the show.

Overall Rating: D+. Well it didn't suck and that's a step in the right direction for WCW. There isn't much to say here as we're coming up on Mayhem and the shows aren't looking great but at least they're coherent and seemingly going somewhere. It should probably be Goldberg vs. Steiner for the title at Starrcade (which is next month) but that stupid Streak thing is getting in their way. If only there was a way to change things in wrestling with almost no ramifications. Anyway, another not awful show here and that's an improvement.

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