

Major League Wrestling Fusion – December 23, 2020: Fighting Over Opera

Fusion #115

Date: December 23, 2020

Location: Gilt Nightclub, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Jared St. Laurent, Rich Bocchini

It's time for the finals of the Opera Cup, which has been an improvement over last year's edition. This time around we're going to be seeing Low Ki vs. Tom Lawlor in the finals, which should be a heck of an MMA inspired match. I'm not sure how important the rest of show is going to be but at least the main event should work. Let's get to it.

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

The opening video looks at the history of the Opera Cup and talks about how important tonight's match is going to be.

Opening sequence.

Dirty Blondes vs. Ariel Dominguez/Daniel Starling

I liked the Blondes back in the day so this is a nice surprise, even if they have Ariya Blake with them instead of Colonel Robert Parker. Leo Patrick runs Dominguez over and boots Starling in the face. A middle rope powerslam finishes Dominguez at 1:37. Total squash to remind you what the team is all about.

We look at Alex Hammerstone and Mads Krugger brawling last month.

Hammerstone says being put on the shelf for a month makes him more dangerous and now he can break free at Kings of

Colosseum. All that matters is the World Title.

Salina de la Renta will have a surprise at Kings of Colosseum.

Low Ki is ready to claim the Opera Cup against a man he knows better than anyone in MLW.

We go to the Kings of Colosseum Control Center with Simon Gotch vs. Jordan Oliver and the Dirty Blondes challenging the Von Erichs for the Tag Team Titles.

Myron Reed says his match with Lio Rush is the biggest match in Rush's career. The title has Reed's name on it and the win will too.

Contra hacks the feed so Mads Krugger can say the Black Hand is coming for Hammerstone.

It's time for the Top Ten.

10. Calvin Tankman

9. Laredo Kid

8. ACH

7. Mads Krugger

6. Richard Holliday

5. Myron Reed

4. LA Park

3. Low Ki

2. Tom Lawlor

1. Alex Hammerstone

LA Park demands his sons get a Tag Team Title shot or he'll retire.

Opera Cup Finals: Tom Lawlor vs. Low Ki

Team Filthy is here with Lawlor so Low Ki brings out the Von Erichs to even things out. They go with the grappling to start with Lawlor taking him down but Ki pops up to drive him into the ropes. Lawlor's armbar attempt is blocked but a short arm scissors works a bit better. Ki slips out of a bow and arrow and they're back up. Ki can't get a choke as the grappling exchange continues.

Lawlor pulls him down by the arm again and it's another standoff. Ki takes him to the mat so Lawlor slaps his way to freedom. With that not working, Ki pulls on the arm a bit more but gets reversed into an ankle lock. They get up again with Lawlor mixing it up a bit by grabbing a gutwrench powerbomb. Lawlor elbows him in the head before cranking on the leg for a change.

That's broken up as well and Ki hits a quick double stomp. A Figure Four necklock has Lawlor in more trouble and he can't roll out of it. He can slip out though and it's an Indian Deathlock to work on Ki's leg a bit more. Ki makes the rope and heads outside for a breather, only to come back in and kick Lawlor to the floor for a change. Some elbows to the top of the head rock Lawlor again but he comes out of with a backbreaker for two.

Lawlor switches over to the arm for a change and cranks back on it, followed by the forearms in the corner. Ki is back up and manages a Dragon Clutch with Lawlor biting the rope for the break. It's back to Ki's leg, this time with a Sharpshooter to crank on it a bit more. The rope is grabbed again so Ki kicks at the leg to slow him down. There's a Figure Four to put Ki in more trouble but this time he rolls it over.

That's rolled over as well so Lawlor grabs a keylock at the same time. Ki rolls to the ropes this time and hits a few

elbows to the head. A middle rope kick to the face gets two and there are the Kawada Kicks to keep Lawlor down. Ki charges into something like a Boss Man Slam for two more but Ki is right back with the Ki Crusher. They're in the ropes so Ki tries the rolling Liger Kick....but the unconscious Lawlor falls on top for the pin and the cup at 24:41.

Rating: B. This is a match where your taste is going to play a big role, as it was built around grappling and submission attempts rather than your traditional match. What we got worked rather well though, with both guys doing everything they can. The ending keeps Ki looking strong, but there was a good story being told throughout with Lawlor being better with the submissions and Ki hanging in there to prove that he could beat Lawlor. Good stuff, and a rematch wouldn't shock me.

Team Filthy celebrates with Lawlor to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Total one match show here but it was a rather good match to build the show around. They did something interesting here by having a big time match on the show before the pay per view level event but it worked out well enough. Rather good show here, and it's something that they could use going into their first major event back.

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Major League Wrestling Fusion – December 9, 2020: More Than Air Pods

Fusion #113

Date: December 9, 2020

Location: Gilt Nightclub, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Jared St. Laurent, Rich Bocchini

Last week's show was the best since the Restart and we're in for some good stuff if they can keep that up. What matters here is capitalizing on the momentum and the big piece is in place as the Von Erichs defend the Tag Team Titles against Contra. That could go either way so let's get to it.

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

Contra says MLW hasn't taken control of anything and promises to bring the heroes to their knees. Look at what they have done to Davey Boy Smith Jr. and Alex Hammerstone. Tonight, they come for the Tag Team Titles.

Opening sequence.

Zenshi vs. Calvin Tankman

Zenshi's legsweep has no effect to start and a dropkick to the back just annoys Tankman. A hurricanrana sends him into the corner and a kick to the head staggers the monster a bit. That's about it for the offense though as Tankman plants him with a spinebuster and chops away in the corner. Tankman sends him flying but Zenshi knees his way out of a suplex. A handspring Pele rocks Tankman for a bit but he hits Zenshi in the throat. The Tankman Driver finishes Zenshi at 3:44.

Rating: D+. This was designed to make Tankman look like a cross between a

tank and a man, which worked out well enough. Having him shrug off everything Zenshi threw at him made for some good visuals, as Tankman seems to be someone they want to push. Given how many names they have lost/are losing, that is one of the most important things they can do at the moment.

Tankman says that's just a small taste so line him up some more opponents. Heavyweight Hustle is going to knock them all down.

We look back at Richard Holliday and Low Ki winning their first round Opera Cup matches.

Salina de la Renta is at the Aztec Ruins (labeled as such) where she is looking for a certain man. Salina talks about a man being caught in a horrible earthquake in Mexico City in 1985 (uh oh) but a witch brought him back to life. She whips out a knife, licks it, and says she is summoning Pascal Mendoza. This isn't going to go well.

Dan Lambert doesn't like Low Ki moving forward in the tournament while King Mo is sitting on the sidelines.

Violence Is Forever vs. Jason Dugan/Robert Martyr

Violence Is Forever is Team Filthy's Kevin Ku/Dominic Garrini and the jobbers don't even get first names to start things off. Garrini takes Dugan over with a quick judo throw but a cross armbreaker attempt sends Dugan bailing to the ropes. Ku comes in to step on Dugan's arm and a brainbuster/kick to the head combination (better known as Chasing the Dragon but not called that of course) finishes at 1:54.

Low Ki is ready to kick Richard Holliday's Air Pods out.

Holliday hopes Low Ki's bravado can handle his rarefied air.

We look at Myron Reed challenging Lio Rush.

Rush says he needs no introduction as he is on the way to the studio to record another hit. He won't be facing Reed on December 23 because Rush is coming for the title on the first show of the new year. Until then, Reed can eat his off brand cereal and train like never before.

We get a sitdown interview with Alex Hammerstone, who isn't worried about Mags Krugger. He's also cleared to wrestle so he'll be back in the ring next week.

Contra hacks the feed and Krugger wants Hammerstone at Kings of Coliseum on January 6.

Opera Cup Semifinals: Low Ki vs. Richard Holliday

Holliday starts fast by stomping Low Ki down in the corner, followed by a hard elbow to the face. Ki is right back with a running elbow of his own and a hard chop, only to get dropped face first onto the turnbuckle. It's time to start working on Ki's leg and a belly to back suplex gets two. Holliday switches gears by moving to the arm...followed by a backbreaker as he is certainly mixing things up.

Ki comes back with a choke out of the corner but Holliday falls down into the ropes for the break. Back up and Holliday hits a quick clothesline and they're both down for a bit. It's Holliday back up with a heck of a pop up sitout powerbomb for two, meaning it's time to yell at the referee. A spinebuster gets the same as commentary is getting way into this. Ki dropkicks him into the corner, setting up the Warrior's Wrath (top rope double stomp) for the fast pin at 9:19.

Rating: B-. This started picking up the pace at the end and that's great to see from Holliday. I know he gets most of his attention for the talking but he has surprised me in the ring more than once. Ki has been WAY better in MLW than anywhere else I remember seeing him and that's a great surprise. Both guys were working here and I could have gone with five more minutes.

Post match Ki grabs the Caribbean Title. Sweet on a possible rematch.

We go to the Kings of Coliseum Control Center with Reed defending the Middleweight Title against Lio Rush confirmed.

Reed says it's time but Rush isn't taking the title from him.

Tag Team Titles: Contra Unit vs. Von Erichs

Simon Gotch and Jacob Fatu are challenging for Contra. The brawl starts on the floor with the music still playing and the champs taking over. Ross and Simon get in the ring to officially start with Ross snapping off a fisherman's suplex. Fatu isn't having that and comes in with the superkick to take over.

Some kicks to the chest don't do much as Fatu pulls him back in by the leg. It's back to Gotch for the chinlock for a bit but Fatu comes back in and gets low bridged to the floor. The hot tag brings in Marshall to clean house as everything breaks down. A hurricanrana sends Fatu outside and Marshall claw slams Gotch through a board at ringside. Cue Jordan Oliver and Violence Is Forever for the brawl and double DQ at 7:14.

Rating: C-. This didn't have time to get very far and that might be for the best. You absolutely don't want Contra losing but I can see why you don't want them to win the titles yet. I wouldn't be surprised to see a rematch at Kings of Coliseum or on a big Fusion, but for now it was just an ok at best match and the ending came when it should have.

Overall Rating: C. The show had more energy this week and hopefully that keeps up because it helped a bit here. The wrestling wasn't as good as it was last time around but at least they had a nice show for the most part. They still aren't hitting their stride with the big matches most of the time but at least the show was decent enough as a whole. I want to see where some of these people go and that's a good sign for the future.

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Major League Wrestling Fusion – December 2, 2020: The One I've Been Waiting For

Fusion #112

Date: December 2, 2020

Location: Gilt Nightclub, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Jared Saint. Laurent, Rich Bocchini

The Opera Cup continues this week with another first round match. Other than that we are going to be seeing more from Contra, whose reign of terror continues over the whole show. I'm not sure what that is going to mean but it could be interesting see where they are heading from here. Let's get to it.

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

We open with Low Ki and Davey Boy Smith Jr. talking about their rematch from last year's Opera Cup when Smith escaped with a win.

Opening sequence.

Contra hacks the feed to start and says that they are preparing for their next strike while everyone in American is eating their chemistry infused poultry. We are introduced to Mads Krugger, the masked man who took out Hammerstone two weeks ago. He is the poison that has been injected into MLW

and carnage will follow.

Opera Cup First Round: ACH vs. Laredo Kid

Kid's AAA Cruiserweight Title isn't on the line. They trade arm control to start until Kid grabs a rollup for two. The quick headlock is broken up and it's another standoff. Kid shoulders him down and a missile dropkick puts ACH on the floor. That means the big dive to take ACH down again because that's what a good luchador is going to do.

ACH sends him outside for a change though and it's a kick from the apron to drop Kid again. There's a snap suplex on the floor and a backbreaker gives ACH two back inside. A tilt-a-whirl backbreaker gets the same and ACH dropkicks him out to the floor. Kid is back in with a neck snap and Three Amigos get two on ACH for a change.

There's a Michinoku Driver into back to back moonsaults to give Kid two more but ACH is right back with a sunset bomb out of the corner for the same. Kid crotches him on top though and it's a springboard cutter for the next near fall. ACH is back up to crotch him on top though and the brainbuster finishes Kid at 14:10.

Rating: B-. This was all about having two people go out there and do their flips and dives and cool looking moves for a long time and that's exactly what they did. I've lost a lot of interest in ACH since his crazed tirades against WWE, but at the same time he can do some rather impressive stuff in the ring. Kid is the same, and they had a very entertaining match here.

Post match ACH says he's the new game and wants his next opponent.

We look at Tom Lawlor advancing to the semifinals last week.

Lawlor says Team Filthy is coming for the Tag Team Titles with

Kevin Coo coming next week.

The Von Erichs are still in Hawaii and are going crazy about Contra. Ross thinks he might have clawed a shark to death.

We look at Davey Boy Smith winning the Opera Cup last year.

Salina de la Renta is in Mexico because she has business getting rid of Konnan. She sings in Spanish and it seems to be a threat.

Another clip from Smith vs. Ki.

Mads Krugger vs. Ariel Dominguez

Krugger is wearing exactly the same gear (down to the colors) that Braun Strowman wore in the Wyatt Family. The much smaller Dominguez gets thrown around the ring with ease to start before diving into a one armed chokebreaker. A half nelson facebuster (think a Glam Slam but with a half nelson instead of a double chickenwing) to finish Dominguez at 1:47.

Post match Contra's Death Squad comes out to put Dominguez in a body bag.

We look at the end of Smith winning the Opera Cup. It wasn't that memorable of a match.

We look at Richard Holliday arguing with Gino Medina last week.

Holliday dedicates his first round win to Alex Hammerstone and....yeah let's dedicate the second round match to him as well.

Next week: Contra vs. the Von Erichs for the Tag Team Titles.

Opera Cup First Round: Low Ki vs. Davey Boy Smith Jr.

Low Ki has Masahiro Chono inspired gear and it's a feeling out process to start. Smith powers him onto the apron so Ki is

right back to take it to the mat. That's reversed into a headlock on the mat as commentary recaps the history between Low Ki and Dan Lambert and company. The headlock is switched into an armbar but Ki gets to his feet and strikes away. A dragon screw legwhip takes the knee out and Smith seems to be hurt. That works for Ki, who stomps away on the knee, only to get snap suplexed back down.

Ki gets in some elbows to the head in the corner until Smith dumps him outside in a heap. A suplex brings Ki back in for two more and it's back to Ki's arm. Smith takes him down by the arm and it's a seated armbar to keep Ki in trouble. Ki manages to get in a quick victory roll for two so Smith hits a German suplex. The armbar goes on again but Ki escapes another German suplex attempt and hits the double stomp.

A springboard kick to the head connects and it's something like a Black Widow to send Smith bailing to the rope. Ki dropkicks him into the corner but Smith catches Ki on top. The superplex is broken up but Ki charges into a powerslam. The running powerslam is countered into a dragon sleeper in the ropes. That's broken up as well, so Ki goes with a victory roll for the pin at 20:13.

Rating: B. This was a heck of a match with both guys doing their thing really well. Smith is a unique mixture of power and submissions while Ki is the striking and submissions. It was a great back and forth match with the two of them looking awesome. Word on the street is that this is it for Smith in MLW, so at least he went out with a good one.

Here are the updated brackets:

ACH

Tom Lawlor

Low Ki

Richard Holliday

Low Ki says his opponents have options: pinfall, submission, go to sleep. It's all the same to him.

Overall Rating: B+. Now that was a good use of an hour with a pair of awesome matches and the new Contra monster looking awesome. I had a great time with this show and it's the kind of thing I was hoping for with the whole relaunch. Very good show and hopefully we get more like this going forward.

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Major League Wrestling Fusion – November 25, 2020: Just Like Last Time



IMG Credit: Major League Wrestling

Fusion #111

Date: November 18, 2020

Location: Gilt Nightclub, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Jared Saint Laurent, Rich Bocchini

I'm not sure what to make of things around here. Last week's show wasn't the worst but it also didn't exactly live up to the expectations I was hoping for around here. It's time to start the Opera Cup again and while it's a nice idea, it's not like the first one was a blow away idea. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a quick preview of tonight's first round Opera Cup matches.

Opening sequence.

We look at the end of last week's show with a new member of Contra attacking Alex Hammerstone.

Earlier today, Richard Holliday didn't think much of Contra and promises that Hammerstone will be fine. He runs into Gino Medina, who claims he quit the Dynasty while Holliday insisted he was fired. Medina implies violence by the end of the night.

Opera Cup First Round: TJP vs. Richard Holliday

Holliday has the Caribbean Title held up but makes it clear that this is non-title. The bigger Holliday shoves him down without much effort to

start so TJP runs the corner for a headlock takeover. A basement dropkick sends Holliday bailing into the corner for a breather and the threat of the Octopus sends Holliday to the ropes a moment later. We settle down to TJP working on a hammerlock, followed by an armdrag to frustrate Holliday even more.

TJP slips out of a suplex attempt and hits a dropkick to the back. Holliday is knocked outside and that means it's the Wrecking Ball dropkick to keep him in trouble. Back in and TJP gets crotched on top to finally give Holliday control. Holliday starts stomping away at the leg before switching over to the arm. TJP is right back up and slides through the legs to grab a Sharpshooter. Make that a Muta Lock, followed by a Pentagon arm snap.

Holliday's arm is fine enough to drop TJP onto the apron but TJP snaps off a top rope hurricanrana. Holliday plants him back down and grabs the chinlock, which is enough to start TJP's comeback. A not great looking tornado DDT sets up Three Amigos but Holliday hits a spinebuster. The Market Crash finishes TJP at 10:25.

Rating: D+. Not their best showing here as it was just a collection of moves that took up about ten and a half minutes. I've seen better from both of them so maybe it was just an off night. Either way, this wasn't quite the best way to start off the tournament, which isn't exactly thrilling in the first place.

The Von Erichs wish you a happy Thanksgiving. They're coming for Team Filthy too.

We look back at Myron Reed retaining the Middleweight Title over Brian Pillman Jr. and calling out Lio Rush as his next challenger.

Lio Rush likes the idea of a big debut with a big title shot.

We look at King Mo knockout out Low Ki (thanks to some interference) earlier this year.

King Mo wants the doctors to keep Low Ki out of the ring because his head is too scrambled.

Dan Lambert wants to know why Low Ki is in the Opera Cup but King Mo isn't.

Salina de la Renta interrupts the announcers and wants to know who tried to get her contract broken. She is running the January 6 episode and no one is canceling that.

Calvin Tankman vs. Robert Martyr

This is Tankman's debut and he's a rather large guy who can move around well. Tankman starts fast with a dropkick and chops Martyr down in the corner. Martyr runs into a backbreaker and the Tankman Driver (Drill Claw) finishes at 1:14. Total destruction.

Tankman dedicates that to his baby and now he wants to beat everyone in his path to the World Title. That was to the point.

Alex Hammerstone has ribs, neck and back injuries.

Hammerstone calls in and says the injuries aren't even keeping him out of the gym, let alone the ring. Contra hacks the feed though and promises to end Hammerstone.

Opera Cup First Round: Rocky Romero vs. Tom Lawlor

Team Filthy is here with Lawlor and I've missed the I HAVE COME TO KILL YOU theme. Romero blocks an early takedown attempt and grabs a headscissors on the mat as the grappling begins. Romero's rollup gets two and it's off to a cravate, which Lawlor reverses into one of his own. That doesn't go anywhere either so Romero grabs a headlock to slow things down.

Lawlor wins a battle of shoulder blocks but Romero dropkicks him to the floor. A running knee off the apron drops Lawlor again and we hit the chinlock back inside. There's the Octopus to have Lawlor in even more trouble so he slowly walks to the ropes. A headscissors takes Lawlor down but he pulls Romero into a bow and arrow hold. With that broken up, it's a Hennig necksnap into a sliding clothesline for two on Romero. Lawlor grabs a Fujiwara armbar before switching to a double arm crank.

That's reversed into something like a crucifix with a Crossface (that's a new one) with Lawlor making it over to the rope. Lawlor starts cranking on the leg until Romero uses the good one for an enziguri. Romero's guillotine choke is countered into an exploder suplex but he's right back with another tornado DDT.

Lawlor gets tied in the ropes for a middle rope stomp to the back. A running Sliced Bread gives Romero two but Lawlor is right back with Lars Sullivan's Freak Accident. They strike it out until Lawlor gets two off a backslide. With the rear naked choke not working, Lawlor uses his legs to grab a cradle for the pin to advance at 17:43.

Rating: B-. Good back and forth match here which might have gone a bit longer than necessary. The most important part here though was that it felt like an important match with Lawlor hanging in there to win in the end over a game Romero. It wasn't a classic, but it did what it was supposed to do and worked well enough.

Post match Lawlor says he is coming for the Opera Cup to add his name to the list of winners.

Overall Rating: C. This was almost all about the tournament and Contra, which seems like it could be the case for a long time to come. Much like last week, what we got here was fine though it wasn't anything memorable. MLW has a tendency to not have the big fight feeling and that has been the case so far. Maybe they need more time, but it isn't exactly promising so far.

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