

On This Day: March 28, 1991 – USWA Championship Wrestling: Tomorrow's Superstars Today

USWA Championship Wrestling

Date: March 28, 1991

Location: USWA Television Studios, Memphis, Tennessee

Commentators: Dave Brown, Michael St. John

I haven't done one of these in about two months now. This is the last episode I have at the moment so it's hard to say when I'll get back down to Tennessee. I don't really remember anything from this company other than Lawler is world champion and Bill Dundee is trying to get his son to love him again. Oh and Steve Austin is here somewhere too, although he'd be in WCW by the summer. Let's get to it.

Danny Davis is in the opening match but before the match, Eric Embry and Tom Pritchard are here. Pritchard is the new Southern Heavyweight Champion, having won the title about two weeks ago. We get a clip of Jackie Fargo and Jerry Lawler beating some Texas guys in the Mid-South Coliseum but the Texans destroyed the Memphis dudes. Eric is Texas Heavyweight Champion as well and brags about it a lot. Eric and Pritchard run into the ring and beat up Davis and his opponent, the Scorpion.

Back from a break and we talk about the Mid-South show on Monday.

Jackie Fargo tells the Texas guys they're not going to come in here and run over everyone. Steve Keirn is coming in to help Lawler in the fight.

Sgt. O'Reiley vs. Eddie Gilbert

Eddie jumps him to start and pounds him on the back a lot. A suplex and a DDT both put Sarge down as we're in pure squash territory here. Here are the Texans again to talk trash about Steve Keirn who has nothing to do with this match. The camera is on them talking at the moment so I have no idea what is going on in the match. The Texans run in for the DQ a few

seconds later.

Gilbert gets beaten down for awhile until Steve Keirn makes the save. Keirn says that you have to earn a reputation instead of taking one from someone else. Fargo called him and asked for some help in getting revenge. Keirn owes Fargo everything so he came as soon as he got the call.

Video on Steve Keirn.

We hear about the King's Hotline which is a real thing.

Here's Jeff Jarrett to talk about losing the Southern Title to Pritchard in Dallas. We get a clip of the end of the match which saw a ref bump and Tojo Yamamoto, the Texans' manager, ran in. Jarrett stole a foreign object to hit Pritchard with, but Embry ran in and hit Jarrett with a boot so Pritchard could get the pin and the title.

Back in the arena, Jarrett says he lost the title in Texas. Well yeah we kind of knew that. Apparently he'll be getting a rematch but Pritchard won't sign for it. Jarrett will be following Pritchard no matter where he goes until he gets his rematch.

Jeff Jarrett/Billy Joe Travis vs. Keith Roberson/Mickie Jay

Travis starts with the guy that isn't Roberson. We've only been given the name of one of the jobbers and it doesn't seem like the announcers know the other guy's name either. Billy works on the arm and it's off to Jarrett quickly. The announcer says that the guy is named Mickie Jay. That was the name of a WCW referee...and sweet goodness I think it's the same guy. I really didn't need to see him in leopard trunks. Off to Roberson who is immediately taken down into an armbar.

Travis comes in and it's back to the arm. Roberson gets caught in a double backdrop for two and Jeff stays in. Jay comes in again and the big fat tub of goo (Jay) gets his arm cranked on as well. Travis suplexes him a few times and Jarrett gets two off a cross body. They tag in and out very fast here. A Vader Bomb from Travis gets the pin on Jay.

Rating: D. Nothing to see here but it gives us a tag team that could take

on the Texans which is the right idea here. This was a squash but that's what jobbers were for. This was a different era where these kind of matches were perfectly acceptable for the majority of the shows so that's what we've had so far in the first half of this episode.

House show ads. Eddie Marlin, the boss, comes out to say that Keirn will be on the card for tonight. That's the house show tonight, not this show.

Here's Jerry Lawler to brag about the 400th episode of their show. You can hear Vince counting shows from here.

Steve Austin vs. Chris Frazier

Austin is now managed by J.C. Ice. Total squash with Austin hitting what we would call Eye of the Storm and a top rope splash gets the win in about 80 seconds.

Deuce Mason vs. Bill Dundee

Dundee takes him to the mat almost immediately and works on the arm a bit. They go to the mat and it's off to a spinning toehold. Now it's a hammerlock followed by a sleeper to end this.

Rating: D. You wouldn't think that the match I just recapped would have lasted over three and a half minutes would you? It was nothing of note but the idea here was to get Dundee on TV so we could talk about the J.C. Ice feud which is fine. This was a slow and long squash which could have lost a minute or two.

We get a clip of Austin vs. Dundee where J.C. Ice slipped Austin a loaded glove so Austin could get the pin. Back in the arena, Dundee says that Austin can't beat him on his best day. Next week it's a loaded glove on a pole match.

T.D. Steele/Curtis Thompson vs. Texas Hangmen

Thompson gets double teamed but comes back with a double clothesline. Thompson looks like a more compact Chris Masters. Steele comes in and I think Psycho beats him down. The Hangmen are Psycho and Killer in case you were wondering. Off to Killer and it's time for some double teaming.

A belly to belly puts Steele down but Killer pulls him up. Curtis breaks up a pin because Steele made him mad I'm guessing. Why else would you keep this going? After about three minutes of beating it's finally off to Thompson who cleans house. Not that it matters as a side slam/forearm combination called the Texas Whirlwind gets the pin.

Rating: D. This is another match that went on WAY longer than it needed to. I think the idea is that the Hangmen are evil and don't care about the rules (they were disqualified for shoving the referee so the pin doesn't count), but you could cover that in about half the time. Nothing to see here and the Hangmen would finally win the titles soon after this.

Billy Joe Travis comes out for the save but gets beaten down too. They hang him with a rope until Jarrett makes the save.

Here are Lawler and Keirn for a chat. Lawler says he has a bad neck now but that's not the point. He talks about how a lot of the time when you team with someone, it doesn't mean you're friends. Lawler references the problems he had a few months ago with the Fabulous Ones (Keirn being half of them) and Cornette. Lawler and Keirn aren't friends, but they both respect Jackie Fargo. They'll be able to take care of Embry and Pritchard and run them back to Texas.

Keirn says that they're not friends but he respects Lawler more than anyone else around here. Keirn is serious about avenging Jackie Fargo and while Pritchard and Embry want to make a name for themselves, they need to find someone else to try it on because they can't get it done on Lawler and Keirn. Really good promo here but I smell a swerve coming in that match.

The announcers wrap the show up.

Overall Rating: C-. The wrestling here wasn't great but the promos were on fire tonight. I want to see the main events on Monday at the big show which is the idea behind these TV shows. In the true spirit of a territory, both Austin and Keirn would be gone in a few months to the major shows. Not a great show here but it makes me want to keep watching which is more important than anything else.

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On This Day: March 9, 1991 – USWA Championship Wrestling: Terry Funk Comes Back To Memphis

USWA Championship Wrestling

Date: March 9, 1991

Location: USWA Television Studios, Memphis, Tennessee

Commentators: Dave Brown, Michael St. John

We had to skip ahead about a month here but it shouldn't be a big problem. As far as I know there haven't been any major changes, although at some point before the 15th, Jarrett's Southern Title was held up after a match with Steve Austin so there's no champion. Other than that everything seems to be the same. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Night Train Jackson vs. Sgt. O'Reilly

The show is starting a little early so some fans aren't there yet. Jackson throws him around and dances a bit. He hits something like Old School and no sells a headbutt. See Jackson is black and in wrestling that means he has a hard head. Dropkick and a fisherman's suplex get the pin. Squash.

The announcers talk about the Open Door Policy, which means if you want a match, talk to the promoter and they'll try to get you one. That leads us to a video on the Texas Hangmen who are

apparently violent. They shout a lot and no one, including the announcers, can understand it.

We talk about last week where Jeff Gaylord surprisingly joined up with JC Ice and we get a clip of Gaylord jumping Superstar Bill Dundee. Gaylord bailed on Downtown Bruno in the process.

Ronnie Leach vs. Jeff Gaylord

Gaylord is a power guy so he picks Leach up in a bearhug position and rams him into two corners. Backbreaker hits and he throws Ronnie to the floor. Apparently Ice has stolen all of Bruno's talent, which means Bruno is heading to the WWF I believe. A modified powerbomb, the Dehumanizer, kills Leach and eventually a pumphandle slam gets the pin. Squash #2.

Dundee jumps Gaylord before Gaylord can go for an interview. Dundee rams him into the post to get rid of him. He talks about how he's fighting to get his son Jamie (JC Ice) back. I forgot about that. Dundee says he'll do whatever it takes to get him back and that includes beating up everyone that Jamie brings in.

Jerry Lawler will be at some hardware stores next week.

House show ads.

We hear about how Terry Funk won't show up and defend the world title. We get a clip of him winning the title off Lawler in November. Eddie Gilbert tried to interfere and wound up costing Lawler the title. We also hear about the bounties that Funk put out over the last few months.

We finally hear from Funk for the first time in the nearly three months I've been watching this show. He's being forced to come back to face Lawler in a rematch which will be two days after this show. Thinking of Memphis makes him spit and the people are even worse. Lawler is the worst of all of them but isn't man enough to take the title from Funk. Apparently

Jackie Fargo is going to be the referee again and Funk thinks he's an old pervert. The match should be in Amarillo, Texas where men are men. Funk is only 46 here and he's as evil as ever. Maybe he'll stomp Fargo so Fargo's heart will stop. That could be awesome.

Video on the career of Jerry Lawler. We get clips of him fighting probably 25 legends in a very impressive package. Pretty much every big name from the era (other than Flair, who I've seen Lawler face in Memphis when Flair was NWA Champion) is shown with Lawler beating them up, including both Funks, Hogan, Race, Savage, Rude, Hennig, and about twenty others. It's really cool stuff. We also get a look at his work outside of the ring with kids. We also see clips from the Jerry Lawler Show, which is exactly what it sounds like and was a real talk/variety show that aired in Memphis. The whole thing runs almost nine minutes.

Mid-South show ad, including the Lawler vs. Funk match.

Lawler comes out and talks about the match coming up. It's taken forever to get here but he's ready. He's not really fired up for it but is more calm and cautious. Win, lose or draw it'll be his last match for awhile to heal from some injuries.

We get highlights from El Gran Pistolero vs. Danny Davis for the Light Heavyweight Title. Are there any matches on this show? The match is thrown out.

Davis says he was expecting a match and got a fight, and that's not cool. He'll fight Pistolero anytime.

Curtis Thompson/Brad Collins vs. Eric Embry/Tom Pritchard

Pritchard and Collins get things going. Tom and Eric are Texas guys so they keep explaining how awesome their home state is. It's off to Embry who gets in some shots and then back to Pritchard. Both heels keep jumping between the apron and

commentary. Pritchard tries a slingshot suplex that goes so badly it would make Tully Blanchard shoot himself so he could roll over in his grave. Embry hits a top rope headbutt for the pin. Thompson was never in the match.

The Texans make fun of Lawler and Tennessee.

Southern Heavyweight Title: Jeff Jarrett vs. Steve Austin

The title is vacant coming in. Austin takes over quickly and stomps him down into the corner. JC Ice has the referee and Jeff's small package is missed. Austin hooks a chinlock which only lasts a few seconds. Jeff tries to speed things up but walks into a knee to the stomach. Austin rolls him up in the corner and puts his feet on the ropes for two. A foreign object shot gets the same. Jeff hooks a quick sunset flip and gets the title back.

Rating: D+. Not the worst match ever but it was only a few minutes long and neither guy was all that great yet. This was more about pushing the Monday matches forward because of the post match stuff. Not much to see here and Jeff has the title back that he never really lost in the first place.

Jarrett gets beaten down by Austin and the other Texas guys but Eddie Gilbert makes the save. Jarrett says it ends Monday. Gilbert says bring on the blood.

Overall Rating: C+. This was much more like a go home show rather than a regular show which is an interesting change. The Lawler video is awesome and could easily be a HOF/retirement video all on its own. The matches were short here but it set up Funk vs. Lawler on Monday which is the whole point here. Good stuff but it could have been great with some better wrestling.

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USWA Championship Wrestling – March 9, 1991: The Champion Speaks

USWA Championship Wrestling

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Commentators: Dave Brown, Michael St. John

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We talk about last week where Jeff Gaylord surprisingly joined up with JC Ice and we get a clip of Gaylord jumping Superstar Bill Dundee. Gaylord bailed on Downtown Bruno in the process.

Ronnie Leach vs. Jeff Gaylord

Gaylord is a power guy so he picks Leach up in a bearhug position and rams him into two corners. Backbreaker hits and he throws Ronnie to the floor. Apparently Ice has stolen all of Bruno's talent, which means Bruno is heading to the WWF I believe. A modified powerbomb, the Dehumanizer, kills Leach and eventually a pumphandle slam gets the pin. Squash #2.

Dundee jumps Gaylord before Gaylord can go for an interview. Dundee rams him into the post to get rid of him. He talks

about how he's fighting to get his son Jamie (JC Ice) back. I forgot about that. Dundee says he'll do whatever it takes to get him back and that includes beating up everyone that Jamie brings in.

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The Texans make fun of Lawler and Tennessee.

Southern Heavyweight Title: Jeff Jarrett vs. Steve Austin

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minutes long and neither guy was all that great yet. This was more about pushing the Monday matches forward because of the post match stuff. Not much to see here and Jeff has the title back that he never really lost in the first place.

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USWA Championship Wrestling – April 21, 1991: Steve Austin Comes To Memphis

USWA Championship Wrestling

Date: February 9, 1991

Location: USWA Television Studios, Memphis, Tennessee

Commentators: Dave Brown, Michael St. John

This is the last USWA show that I have at the moment but hopefully that'll change in the near future. These shows have been really entertaining and there are some people coming in

that I'd really like to see. Lawler and Jarrett won the tag titles on Monday over the Fabulous Ones so I'm sure we'll talk about that a lot today. Let's get to it.

Eric Embry is here today as is Eddie Gilbert. I haven't seen them in awhile.

Tom Pritchard vs. Jerry Lynn

Jamie Dundee is refereeing and he pulls Pritchard's arm to prevent him from throwing a punch. Pritchard is a doctor because he's a psychologist in the ring. It's about time they explained that name. Pritchard controls to start with some very basic stuff, getting two off a suplex. Sunset flip and small package get two each for Lynn. The referee gets knocked down but wakes up quickly enough to count a pin by Pritchard while his feet are on the ropes. I smell shenanigans. Too short to rate but this was fine.

We see the tag title match from Monday which was a total brawl. Cornette had powder but Fargo knocked it back into his face. Lane was going to hit him with the racket but Keirn made the save, allowing Jarrett to hit a dropkick for the titles. Post match Eddie Gilbert returned and beat down the new champions to try to collect the bounty. Lawler got up and beat up Gilbert. They went into the crowd and Gilbert threw a fireball at Lawler.

We get a clip from the dressing room with Lawler being interviewed about Gilbert. Lawler says that Eddie Gilbert and the Fabulous Ones were in it together all along and split Funk's bounty money. There's nothing Gilbert can do to get rid of Lawler no matter how much he tries. Eddie shows up but a suit says if Gilbert doesn't leave he'll be arrested. Gilbert yells into the camera that no one knows where he's been and this is his town now.

Eric Embry vs. Cody Michaels

I thought we got rid of Embry. Embry takes him to the mat with ease but gets backdropped. They go to the mat and Eric punches him into the corner. They collide and Eric drops a headbutt for a pin even though Michaels was in the ropes. Dundee was the referee again.

Here's Jerry in a suit and tie. Now there's something you don't see every day. He talks about going to someone's house that you don't know that well and they have a small dog. The dog might nip at your heels when your back is to them but when you look at them, they run and hide. The fire only burned his shoulder apparently. Here's Gilbert and it's on. They turn over the desk and Lawler loses his suit jacket. The locker room empties out to tear them apart.

Mid-South ad. Jeff Jarrett is defending against a guy whose name I won't say because he'll be here later in the show.

Actually that challenger is here now. He's been named Rookie of the Year by PWI and says that things are going well for him and his girl. Here's his match.

Danny Davis vs. Steve Austin

His girl is named Jeannie, who is more famous as Lady Blossom, whose chest is probably bigger than Trish Stratus'. Jamie Dundee is refereeing again and doesn't see a quick sunset flip by Davis. Austin works the arm and pulls Davis' hair but denies it to the referee. Davis backslides him but Jamie is over with Jeannie again. Into the ropes and Austin hits the Stun Gun (not named yet) but Davis has his feet on the ropes.

It's so weird seeing Austin with shoulder length blonde hair and flower shorts. Small package has the same result for Davis as the other two. Austin charges into the post and Davis hits the neckbreaker, but Dundee turns away to talk to Jeannie. Eddie Marlon, the boss, comes out and stops the match with no winner declared.

Rating: C. This was way more about the angle with Dundee than the match, but it's always cool to see a future legend out here when he's first starting out. Austin had the fire in him and was ok in the ring, but he was far from the awesome level that he would become. It's amazing to think that in four months he would be WCW TV Champion. They had some good scouts in that company.

Marlon and Dundee argue a lot and Dundee says that Max Andrews, I think the owner of the place, hired him so Marlon can't fire him. No he can't, but he can take him off the job. Bill Dundee (Jamie's dad) comes out and says that Jamie is going to quit rather than be fired. Bill yells at him and Jamie says he's not quitting. Jamie says that he doesn't live with his dad anymore so it's not his rules. That's why Jamie's mom left too: Bill had to have it his way. Bill pulls the belt off Eddie and whips his son with it. That's awesome.

Here's Gilbert for an interview where he says that he doesn't care about what anyone says: he wants Lawler to look him in the eye and get out of his way so that he can have his time in the spotlight. Here's Lawler and they're at it again. It's broken up just as quick.

New Kids/Bill Dundee vs. Uptown Connection

That's the Lee/Doug Gilbert/White Boy team's name now. Eddie Marlon is refereeing because Dundee got fired. Tom Pritchard comes out to ask when he gets an interview and is mad when he finds out he's not on the schedule. The New Kids dropkick down everyone so White Boy brings in a chair. He drops it on the floor as the announcers try to throw Pritchard out.

Christopher and Gilbert start but it's quickly off to Anthony and then back to Lee. Lee drops Christopher across the top rope and it's off to Gilbert. More pounding follows and it's White Boy in. He gets rolled up for two and it's back to Lee. The Uptown guys tag in and out very fast, which is a recurring

idea in the USWA. Everything breaks down and Marlon goes down, so the locker room all comes in for the DQ.

Rating: D. The match was nothing of note here and the referee didn't mean a thing until the very end. The post match stuff which we'll get to in a moment was a lot more interesting, which is the usual case in this company. The Uptown Connection just wasn't that interesting, but they served well as the heel team.

Bruno chokes Marlon while Jamie comes out and whips his dad with a belt. The US Males and some other guys come in for the save.

Mid-South stuff.

We get a clip from Monday with Chris Walker (who has a small chance at being Renegade from WCW. His last name was Walker and they look almost identical) vs. Pritchard. Walker was throwing him around when Gilbert and Anthony came in for the DQ, only to be saved by US Male.

The US Males come out and say exactly what you would expect them to say about Gilbert and Anthony.

Jarrett comes up and talks about his upcoming title match with Austin. He's still REALLY bad at talking. Here he seems to advocate domestic violence against Jeannie, who used to be married to Chris Adams. Cue Jeannie who says Jeff wouldn't know a lady if one was standing in front of him. She slaps Jeff so Jeff takes his jacket off and grabs her wrist as she tries another slap. Cue Austin for the required brawl. They go into the ring and Austin clotheslines him down but Jeff punches him to the floor.

Sgt. O'Reilly/Keith Eric/Eli The Eliminator vs. US Males/Jeff Jarrett

Marlon is refereeing again. Walker vs. Eric to start us off

but it's quickly off to the other Male. Jarrett in now as the quick tagging continues here. Eli comes in and pounds on Jeff, including one of the weakest slams I can remember in a long time. Legdrop gets two. Sarge comes in and just like every other time he's been in the ring, things go badly for him. Back to Thompson (the other Male whose name I couldn't remember earlier) who gets two as Eric has to make the save. Jarrett works the arm and it's back to Walker again. Things break down and it finally ends with a top rope Jarrett cross body to Sarge.

Rating: D. This was really boring as it was in essence a squash. It only ran four and a half minutes but it felt about three times that, which is never a good sign. Jeff had it in the ring but he really didn't click in full for a few more years. Granted being Simply Irresistible didn't help him that much.

The announcers wrap it up.

Overall Rating: D+. I really didn't like this show that well. That being said, there was a huge angle going here with Gilbert vs. Lawler and the Austin match is exciting, but it just wasn't that interesting overall. The six man tags were pretty boring but maybe it's because you see the same guys every week. In essence, the big stuff is good but the lower stuff is weak.

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