

NXT – April 4, 2018: NXT Needs a Hero



IMG Credit: WWE

NXT

Date: April 4, 2018

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Mauro Ranallo, Nigel McGuinness, Percy Watson

It's the final show before the big night in New Orleans and as usual, things continue to change around here. Last week saw the announcement of the six man ladder match for the North American Title and this week we have the finals of the Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic. Things are picking up at the right time so let's get to it.

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

We open with a video package on the Dusty Classic with various big names (Terry Taylor is included so take this with a grain of salt) showing up to watch the finals. Bobby Fish's knee injury is confirmed for the first time on NXT TV though and he is NOT currently cleared.

Opening sequence.

Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic Finals: Authors of Pain vs. Roderick Strong/Pete Dunne

After the Big Match Intros, Strong is sent straight into the corner

so the Authors can start the beating early. It's off to Dunne and the fans are VERY pleased as we take an early break. Back with Dunne in trouble with a hard knee to the ribs cutting him off. Akum comes in for a knee to the chest of his own and Dunne is rocked. The top rope stomp/side slam gets two on Dunne but he snaps Akum's finger and grabs a faceplant for the tag off to Strong.

Akum gets knocked off the apron and some kicks to Razar's head give Strong two. Dunne comes in for a running enziguri in the corner and top rope double stomp to the back gets two more. Akum is back in and Razar is low bridged to the floor. The assisted Bitter End gets two with Razar making the save but the Authors just run them over with raw power. Everyone is down and here's the Undisputed Era for the double DQ at 11:53.

Rating: B. The ending feels like storyline advancement and that's fine, though the match was rocking by the end. Dunne and Strong work well together and the Authors are great giants to slay. You can feel the triple threat coming because that's how anything WWE related works, but at least the match was good to set it up.

Post match here's William Regal to make the triple threat because champions attacking both challengers NEVER WORKS. As a bonus, the winners will also win the Dusty Classic.

We recap the ladder match announcement.

All six participants are ready to win the title. These are just quick sound bytes about how they should win but at least all six of them are getting TV time.

Long video on the rise and fall of DIY, leading to Tommaso Ciampa turning on Johnny Gargano. After rehabbing his torn ACL, Ciampa came back and screwed Gargano over, forcing him out of NXT. That set up Saturday's grudge match, which has been built up for nearly a year. Ciampa said he carried the team but it was always about Gargano. For the first time, this is Ciampa's moment. As usual, this was an excellent video to recap the whole thing and make you want to see the match.

Kairi Sane vs. Vanessa Bourne

Bourne goes simple by stomping on Kairi's foot, only to get rolled up for a few near falls. A flapjack works a bit better for Bourne and she sends Kairi face first into the buckles over and over. Sane cuts her in half with a spear and the sliding lariat in the corner keeps Bourne in trouble. A top rope forearm looks to up the Insane Elbow but Bourne catches her on top. That just earns her the Alberto Del Rio double stomp and the Insane Elbow is good for the pin on Bourne at 4:17.

Rating: D+. Not quite a squash but Sane got in all of her major stuff and wins clean over a game opponent. There's a good chance that we'll get Sane vs. Baszler for the title at whatever the next Takeover is and that's a very good thing. Sane certainly has the star power and look to make such a run work and the history with Baszler is already there.

Lacey Evans has shown us what a strong woman is capable of and doesn't like Nikki Cross. She doesn't like that complete psychos are getting chances instead of her. Evans doesn't think much of the rest of the division either but plans to take Sane's chance.

The Undisputed Era catches up with Regal (How hard can he be to find?) with Cole yelling about having to compete twice. Regal says there are three options: Cole wrestles twice, O'Reilly defends the titles on his own, or Cole drops out of the ladder match. None seem agreeable.

Video on Aleister Black vs. Andrade Cien Almas. Black says Almas is buying into his own hype and needs to get the monkey off his back by winning the NXT Title. Zelina Vega says there's a monster in Almas that Black will soon meet.

We look back at Shayna Baszler and Ember Moon brawling last week. Thankfully TM61 isn't cut off in mid promo this time.

Moon promises to end the war that Baszler started.

Next week: Kairi Sane vs. Lacey Evans.

Lars Sullivan vs. Killian Dain

They do the big shove off to start with Sullivan getting the better of it and knocking Dain out to the floor. Back from a break with Dain getting his neck cranked. That's broken up and a backsplash sets up a Vader Bomb, which hits Sullivan's raised knees. Lars goes up top with Dain trying a superplex but a headbutt knocks them both to the floor instead. With everyone down, here are Velveteen Dream, Adam Cole and EC3 for the staredown. Ricochet runs in and moonsaults into his pose as we'll say the match is thrown out at 5:30.

Rating: C. This is a hard one to rate as they were there for the sake of beating each other up for a few minutes until all the run-ins started. As a way to set up the ladder match this was fine, but it wasn't supposed to be any kind of a definitive match. I'm sure we'll see these two have a longer match in the future, as they should.

A big staredown ends the show.

Overall Rating: B-. Most of that is for the video packages alone, as NXT knocked them out of the park yet again. The main thing here was they made Takeover look awesome and there's even the issue of what Cole will do on Sunday about having to wrestle in two matches. The wrestling wasn't the point here and now I'm wanting to see where things go on Sunday. Good stuff.

Results

Authors of Pain vs. Pete Dunne/Roderick Strong went to a double DQ when Undisputed Era interfered

Kairi Sane b. Vanessa Bourne – Insane Elbow

Lars Sullivan vs. Killian Dain went to a no contest when EC3, Ricochet, Adam Cole and Velveteen Dream interfered

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the paperback edition of the WWE Grab Bag (also available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2018/03/23/new-paperback-kbs-grab-bag/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

NXT – March 28, 2018: Just Like the Old Days (of AWESOME)



IMG Credit: WWE

NXT

Date: March 28, 2018

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Mauro Ranallo, Nigel McGuinness, Percy Watson

We're almost to New Orleans and that means we're getting closer to the official announcement of Tommaso Ciampa vs. Johnny Gargano. Earlier today, WWE posted a video of Gargano coming to Ciampa's house at 3am, prompting Ciampa to say he would have to talk to William Regal about this. That's a very encouraging line. Let's get to it.

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

Earlier today Ciampa arrived but wouldn't talk to reporters. He came up to Regal and asked what kind of place Regal is running here. Regal agrees that it's on him so the solution is Gargano vs. Ciampa in an unsanctioned match at Takeover. If Johnny wins, he's reinstated in NXT. Regal: "This time, you're going to have to do it yourself." This was a quick segment but it felt like a conversation these two might have. It didn't feel scripted and it felt natural. Why does that NEVER happen on the main roster?

Opening sequence.

Here's Regal in the arena for his big announcement. This is the place where we determine the best in the world so it's time to announce a new championship. At Takeover: New Orleans, the first NXT North American Champion will be crowned. Regal talks about how this will be a counterpart to the United Kingdom Championship but here's the debuting EC3 (called that with no Ethan Carter III ever mentioned).

Mauro asked him what EC3 stood for and apparently it's the formula for success. The fans chant for him and EC3 says it should keep going because he deserves it. He brags about his theme song (which mentions his name several times and says that he's in the top 1%) but thinks Regal has gone above and beyond to create a brand new championship for him. Fans: "NXTTHREE! NXTTHREE!"

That's a step too far for Regal but EC3 will be competing for the title. It will be EC3 and five other competitors in a six man ladder match to crown the first champion. EC3 isn't sure about that one but the fans thank Regal. That's cool with EC3 because you can put the entire locker room against him and he'll prove that he's the top 1%. EC3 is already one of the most charismatic guys NXT has ever had so this was a very successful debut segment.

Charly Caruso updates the Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic, which is down to the semifinals:

Authors of Pain

Street Profits

Roderick Strong/Pete Dunne

Sanity

TM61 is frustrated that they can't win and keep having to go back to the drawing board. The interview is cut short as Shayna Baszler and Ember Moon are in a fight in the next room. Referees break it up as they're trying everything they can to make it seem like Ember has a chance.

Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic Semifinals: Street Profits vs. Authors of Pain

Ford yells at Razar to start and gets shoved in the face. Dawkins comes in instead and gets pummeled in the corner for his efforts. The Profits actually take the big guys down and Ford takes a sip from the cup before offering it to Paul Ellering. That's a no as the cup is knocked out of Ford's hands, allowing the Authors to jump him. The Last Chapter ends Dawkins at 2:34. This was nothing.

Charly talks about the other semifinal match tonight.

Regal announces Adam Cole as the second competitor when Velveteen Dream comes up. Dream: "You're looking well." Regal: "I know." Dream wants in the match to give the fans an experience. Regal agrees so Dream is the third entrant.

Lars Sullivan vs. John Silver

Back to back tosses into the corner and a military press powerslam sets up a top rope headbutt. The Freak Accident ends the slaughter at 1:42. In this case, better to be Quick Silver than Long John.

Regal runs into Sullivan and offers him a spot in the ladder match. Sullivan says that sounds fantastic and he will bring the destruction unequivocally and categorically. He imagines a ladder in his hands to inflict more punishment. For next week though, he wants Killian Dain. Killian is in the ladder match as well but Regal makes the match too.

Dakota Kai comes out for a match but we cut to the parking lot where

Andrade Cien Almas attacks Aleister Black, including shoving his face into a cooler. Almas drags him into the arena and throws him into the ring for a chair to the back. The title is held up as Almas shouts about being the champion.

Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic Semifinals: Sanity vs. Roderick Strong/Pete Dunne

Strong and Wolfe start things off with an early slam putting Roderick down and drawing the partners in for a staredown. Young and Dunne go into the corner and it's another staredown to annoy the referee. Wolfe takes over on Dunne and we take a break. Back with Dunne in more trouble and Young getting two.

This time it's Young getting caught in the wrong corner and having his chest ripped off with chops. A middle rope knee gives Dunne two and we hit a hammerlock. It's time to go after the arm with a double wristlock but Young powers him up with a suplex for the break. That's enough for the tag to Wolfe and a Death Valley Driver gives him two. Everything breaks down and Dunne punches Wolfe out of the air but gets caught with a neckbreaker.

Young throws Strong off the top and drops the elbow for two of his own. Dunne and Wolfe are back in and Pete kicks Young down, setting up End of Heartache on Wolfe. It's back to the legal Young, who gets caught in Strong's belly to back faceplant into a Downward Spiral from Dunne (good idea, not the best execution) for the pin at 10:26.

Rating: B-. Good match here and a smart idea to give Dunne and Strong another win over an established team. I know it's not a long tournament but it's enough to make them look like a big deal in a hurry. The fans love both guys and a match between the two of them and the Authors could be fun. Nice match here, as Sanity continues to be a great pair of hands for something like this.

Regal announces the final competitor, who happens to be in his office. That would be...Ricochet. In case the crowd wasn't hyped up enough.

Overall Rating: A-. Sweet goodness NXT is great. In an hour they set

up the grudge match of the year, introduced a new character, set up a six man ladder match for a new title, had a good match and sent the fans out with a big debut. I've said this many times but they come in with a plan and execute it to near perfection. This show breezed by and I'm WAY more excited for Takeover than I was. Great show, which happens quite often.

Results

Authors of Pain b. Street Profits – Last Chapter to Dawkins

Lars Sullivan b. John Silver – Freak Accident

Roderick Strong/Pete Dunne b. Sanity – Double faceplant to Young

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the paperback edition of the WWE Grab Bag (also available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2018/03/23/new-paperback-kbs-grab-bag/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

Ricochet Signs with WWE

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/breaking-confirmation-ricochet-mann/>

So yeah, you knew this one was coming sooner or later. Ricochet is one of the best high fliers in the world and at just under thirty years old, there's no reason to not come to the big show. He's had some success in New Japan so now it's time to go to WWE and see what he can do. Of course

it's in NXT first (as it should be), but I'm a bit scared of what we might be seeing over in WWE. That being said, Ricochet has the charisma and talking ability to make this work and could be a big star, assuming he's not just thrown onto 205 Live and left to drown.

Rev Pro – Orlando: England Comes to America...with a Bunch of Americans

Rev Pro: Orlando

Date: March 31, 2017

Location: Wyndham Orlando Resort, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Andy Quidlan, Gilligan Gordon

Somehow I hadn't gotten around to this one. This is another Wrestlemania weekend show that I got to take in live and the only regular wrestling show I went to all weekend that wasn't run by WWE. I've never seen a Rev Pro show before this so I'm coming in entirely blind. All I know is a little about their roster and that they're usually in the UK. Let's get to it.

Ring announcer Andy Quidlan (also a commentator) welcomes us to the show and thanks us for coming out. He also dedicates the show to Kris Travis, a British wrestler who died one year ago to the day. This was a major theme tonight and there's nothing wrong with that.

Sami Callihan vs. Jay White

White is billed as the Death Machine and odds are you've seen him if you've watched any indy show in the last year or two. You might have seen White in Ring of Honor where he had some outstanding matches with Jay Briscoe. Callihan starts the clapping, which normally would

imply that he's a face, even though he's against a guy named White who wears white.

Sami kicks him in the face at the bell and sends Jay outside for a suicide dive. White hits one of his own and they take turns sending each other into the barricade for running shots to the face.

Callihan does the clapping again but in a more mocking tone. So now he's the heel? Or is this one of those indy companies where there are no faces or heels? Sami sends him into the barricade and does a full run around the ring before crashing into Jay. He tries it again but this time White follows him around and scores with some chops.

Jay FINALLY gets back in, over three full minutes after he went to the floor. Now the referee starts counting, which had the fans around me wondering why he was even bothering at this point. Back in and Jay grabs a Muta Lock, only to have Sami bite the finger for the break. They chop it out again until Callihan puts him in the corner for some running kicks to the face. A Death Valley Driver into the corner puts both guys down, even though Sami hasn't really hadn't had anything done to him in a good while.

White slugs away and hits a running forearm for his comeback, followed by a suplex into the corner. Since it's a British promotion, it's time to fight over some submission attempts. A deadlift German suplex plants Sami but he comes right back with a sitout powerbomb into the Stretch Muffler (Brock Lock). Jay is right next to the ropes so Sami tries it again, only to be reversed into a Boston crab for the submission at 12:04.

Rating: C. This one didn't do much for me as it was mainly two guys hitting each other over and over. I didn't get any kind of a story out of this and that's not the best way to open up a show. It certainly wasn't bad but the match was pretty forgettable, which isn't something you want to be, especially not in this spot. The match was fine but just there.

Jeff Cobb vs. Martin Stone

Stone, possibly better known as Danny Burch in NXT, is a big deal in the promotion and a former two time British Heavyweight Champion.

Cobb is better known as Matanza in Lucha Underground, making this power vs. technical. Jeff takes him to the mat to start as the announcers praise Cobb for his wrestling abilities. The technical sequence goes to a stalemate and the sequel does exactly the same. Cobb tries to take him down into a headscissors but Martin pops up and shakes a finger in his face. After a bit of a standoff, Cobb throws him up into a delayed vertical suplex for two, which the announcers refer to as "ginormous". It's off to a waistlock on the mat, followed by a standing moonsault and standing shooting star press from the slightly rotund Cobb. Stone comes back with a dropkick and a SUCK IT (which feels incredibly out of place) into a clothesline for two.

To crank up the evil (despite seeming like a face), Stone snaps the finger and chops away in the corner. You can see the sweat flying off of Stone as Cobb chops him back and grabs a swinging belly to back. Stone shouts OUTTA NOWHERE and hits an RKO for two, because WWE is still the most influential force in wrestling companies that want to be independent from it.

A bad looking t-bone suplex and a hard right hand give Stone two and it's off to a Crossface, which was used in the previous match. Cobb drops him with a headbutt but misses a charge to the apron, allowing Stone to hit a hanging DDT (London Bridge) for the pin at 10:37.

Rating: B-. This is a match where commentary helped a lot as the announcers told the story of Stone needing a big win after time away from the company. Cobb doesn't seem to have much of a history with the promotion but he was treated as a big opponent for Stone, making the story easy to follow and something that helped a lot. Good match too.

They shake hands after the match because a broken finger is nothing between friends.

The ring announcer gets us ready for the next match when Lord Gideon Grey staggers out to the ring, looking like a zombie. He even bounces off the barricade, seemingly not knowing that it's there. He's introduced anyway, even though he's not supposed to be here at

the moment. Grey introduces himself to the crowd and says his whole life has fallen apart since Swoggle has brought Colt Cabana back into his life. People had started taking him seriously and now it's gone. That means a challenge for Swoggle.

Lord Gideon Grey vs. Swoggle

Swoggle kicks him in the knee and gets a Stunner for two less than fifteen seconds in. That's followed by a bite to the trunks area with both Swoggle and the referee getting in on things. Grey misses a charge and Swoggle does Suplex City (Announcer: "He's going to take him to Suplex Village!"), including a Brock Lesnar dance. Grey gets up and hits a sitout powerslam (50 Shades of Grey) for the pin at 2:07.

Grey's mental health seems to go up by roughly 15 points with the win.

Ricochet vs. Marty Scurll

Ricochet is a King and Scurll is a villain. Marty gets one heck of a reaction and it's easy to see why he's becoming such a big deal so fast. The announcers are smart enough to agree that it's going to be the match of the evening, which isn't really that big of a surprise. The fans are split as a technical sequence goes to a standoff.

Scurll shoulders him down but Ricochet nips right back up. Scurll: "THAT WAS SWEET! I'm going to try!" A front flip into a nipup freaks the fans out but Ricochet isn't dumb enough to go for a handshake. That turns into a YES chant with Scurll leading the way. Marty dances and offers a left hand instead, only to have Ricochet ready to block the eyepoke from the right hand.

Scurll bails to the floor so Ricochet handsprings into the ropes and backflips into a kneel. Back in and Ricochet bends him over his back and rams Marty's head into the buckle over and over, setting up Tye Dillinger's cartwheel into TEN. A spinebuster sets up the People's Moonsault (exactly what it sounds like) and Ricochet grabs a front facelock, only to stop to yell at a single fan in the crowd.

Ricochet couldn't understand what he said (I couldn't either) so he

sends Marty outside but misses a moonsault. Naturally he lands on his feet anyway but Marty pops back to the apron for a superkick. Back in and Scurll loads up the Villain's Elbow but stomps away instead of dropping an elbow. Now that's a villainous thing: set up something the fans want and then go the other way. A kick to the face sets up a chinlock, only to have Ricochet flip over into one of his own.

It's time to crank it back up with Marty being sent outside for a big flip dive, followed by a running cutter into a standing shooting star for two back inside. They both miss some strikes until Scurll kicks him in the knee and grabs a brainbuster for two. Ricochet starts the flips again but gets cut off by another kick to the chest. A cutter from the knees drops Marty again and a running shooting star headbutt has Scurll stunned.

Both guys are winded so they slap it out with Ricochet getting the better of it, including a knee to the face to avoid some broken fingers. Well that's one way to do it. The top rope shooting star press misses though and Scurll grabs a piledriver for two more. Now the finger is snapped and a piledriver into the chickenwing has Ricochet in trouble. The hold isn't all the way locked though and Ricochet kicks him in the head, only to moonsault into the full chickenwing for the tap at 16:42.

Rating: A-. This was the match that the show needed with both guys looking awesome in a great back and forth match. There was a great blend of comedy and action here with Ricochet finally trying to get a bit too high and getting caught in the hold to wrap it up. Marty's star is rising through the roof at this point and this was a big win for him over another top indy name.

Post match Marty says matches like these are why he loves professional wrestling. He thanks Trevor (Ricochet's real name) and then calls him Prince before saying he'd love a rematch anywhere anytime. Marty dedicates the match and show to Kris Travis before leaving. Ricochet says he doesn't remember his first Rev Pro show but he remembers Andy (the company's owner) and Marty opening their

arms to him. He thanks everyone for everything he's gotten to do and mentions the merch tables being set up at intermission.

Speaking of intermission, it ran about half an hour (announced as being fifteen minutes) and there were indeed a host of wrestlers outside. During the break, I got to meet Ricochet, Colt Cabana, Will Ospreay, Marty Scurll, Swoggle, Brian Cage (that man has huge arms), Jay White, Martin Stone (picture any stereotypical incredibly polite British man), Jeff Cobb, Fenix, Pentagon Dark and Shane Strickland. Everyone was very nice, which is always a perk.

Interim British Cruiserweight Title: David Starr vs. Josh Bodom

Bodom is defending and this title exists because the regular champion Will Ospreay was touring Japan. Starr's schtick is that he has about fifteen nicknames (Your Favorite Wrestler's Favorite Wrestler, the Cream in Your Coffee, Davey Wrestling, the 104 Minute Man and so on) which the ring announcer has to read off a card.

Bodom is a big time heel who makes sure to do his own introduction where he calls himself the REAL Cruiserweight Champion. Since Ospreay won't defend his title, Bodom isn't either. Well to be fair he didn't even bring the belt with him. Starr: "Hey Slim Shady. Where's the strap?"

David Starr vs. Josh Bodom

The bell rings and I think this is now non-title. Starr trips him down and it's an early crotch to the face. An Emma Sandwich gives David two but Bodom slams him head first into the mat to take over. They trade some not great chops as the announcers talk about various wrestlers Bodom and Starr have come close to beating. Yeah that'll make us care about two guys who aren't that familiar.

Starr unloads with chops and punches in the corner until something like a tilt-a-whirl Big Ending sends Bodom to the floor. Bodom is sent outside for some dives with Andy declaring Starr "very good at professional wrestling". Josh comes right back by sending him into the barricade and going to the top for a flip dive off the post (that always makes it look better, even when the dive mostly missed) to drop Starr again.

Back in and a superkick sets up the running shooting star (too common of a move anymore) for two. Gilligan: "Who does Starr think he is???" Starr avoids what looked like a Swanton and hits a draping DDT onto the apron (that's a new one). Not that it matters as Bodom comes right back with a powerbomb into a backbreaker for a near fall of his own. The big chops send sweat flying but a ref bump allows Bodom to get in a low blow.

Bodom grabs what looks like a pipe but a second referee comes in and takes it away. The distraction allows Starr to hit Adam Cole's Last Shot for a close two. Back up and Starr runs the ropes, only to eat a superkick. Bodom grabs a Bliss Buster (picture Orton's hanging DDT but he jumps on the back of the head to turn it into a piledriver) for the pin at 12:15.

Rating: B-. This was much better with the commentary explaining how evil Bodom is and Gilligan basically playing Michael Cole to Bodom's Miz. That's quite the benefit when I have no idea who either of these people are and it made the match a lot easier to watch on the second viewing. Good match here as it's nice to have another storyline based match instead of all the specials.

Rey Fenix vs. Will Ospreay

Ospreay's British Cruiserweight Title isn't on the line. Fenix takes his sweet time coming through the curtain. These guys are both very high fliers so this should be quite the spectacle. Fenix takes him down by the knee to start as the announcers suggest this might be "era defining". Oh be quiet.

Both guys flip out of wristlocks and spin around a bit until Ospreay leaves a dropkick a bit short so Fenix can pose at him. Ospreay stops a charge and looks off into the crowd. Fenix looks too and is quickly headlocked in a spot that is far too simple to work as well as it did. They head outside with Fenix kicking at the chest, followed by something like the Rings of Saturn back inside.

The hold doesn't last long as Fenix gets up and kicks him down, setting up a Swanton for two. Ospreay handsprings into his signature pose, only to have Fenix right there with a cutter to drop him

again. Smart move there. Another superkick sets up another running shooting star, followed by Ospreay's middle rope flip dive (something like a Phoenix splash into a Spiral Tap) for his own near fall.

They trade kicks to the head as the pace picks WAY up in a hurry. A reverse hurricanrana drops Ospreay but he pops up with one of his own to put both guys down. They try the same kicks and clotheslines at the same time with Ospreay knocking him to the floor. That means a Flying Space Tiger Drop (cartwheel into a flip dive and still perhaps the coolest name for a move ever) to Fenix, followed by a Phenomenal Forearm.

This is where commentary comes in again as the announcers had mentioned Ospreay facing AJ Styles a little over a year ago and learning from him. I can always go for commentators adding to a match like that and it helps a lot here. Fenix takes him up top for a super Spanish Fly, only to get shoved down for an Essex Destroyer (Canadian Destroyer with a DDT instead of a piledriver). A very high Phoenix Splash gets two and Ospreay is getting frustrated.

The Oscutter (backwards springboard cutter) is blocked and a middle rope stomp to the face gives Fenix two. Ospreay is staggered so Fenix swings around into a flip piledriver for two more. It worked so well that Fenix tries it again but Ospreay flips out and knees him in the face. His really spinny kick to the back of the head sets up the Oscutter for the pin on Fenix at 12:38.

Rating: B+. This was the indy flippy style done quite well with Ospreay looking like a killer out there. Fenix more than hung with him and it's always cool to see some Lucha Underground people in person instead of on extreme tape delay. It might not be as good as Scurll vs. Ricochet but that's hardly a criticism. Really fun match.

Unbreakable F'N Machines vs. Ryan Smile/Shane Strickland

That would be Brian Cage/Michael Elgin. I'm not too familiar with Smile but Strickland is Lucha Underground's Killshot. Smile and Cage start things off with the massive Cage towering over him. Ryan flips off the ropes over Brian and tells him to suck it before offering a

test of strength. Thankfully Smile is smart enough to kick him in the ribs and headscissor him into 619 position, only to have Cage take his head taken off with a clothesline.

Now it's Cage hitting a 619 of his own and both guys try dropkicks into nipups. I mean Cage's nipup doesn't work but he tried. With the fans laughing at the nips, Elgin comes in for a front flip into a nipup, followed by Strickland mocking Cage's failure. That's fine with Elgin, who busts out a Worm. Strickland: "NOPE!" And he grabs his jacket and walks out. He's back a few seconds later as the fans cheer for Big Mike.

It's off to Elgin, who gets caught in an ankle scissors. Everything breaks down for a second with Strickland and Smile hitting dropkicks to the side of Cage's head. That earns them a clothesline to the floor but Strickland gets right back up and kicks Elgin in the head. Mike is staggered so Strickland uses his huge chest for a springboard into a...well a mostly missed moonsault but it was a cool launch.

Back in and a pop up Big Ending gets two on Smile, followed by the delayed vertical suplex. That's not enough though as Elgin hands Smile off to Cage to actually drop him. Smile finally remembers what planet he's on and brings in Strickland for a series of dropkicks and a suicide dive to Elgin. A high crossbody gets two on Cage as the fans are oddly silent for this sequence.

For some reason, Smile and Strickland put Cage in his own corner for a kick to the face but Elgin comes back in to take them out. Perhaps for reasons of general bad psychology. Mike holds Smile upside down for a basement dropkick, followed by a powerbomb onto Cage's raised knees but Strickland makes a save. The Machines aren't done so they hit a double clothesline (one to the front and one to the back) followed by a double Hellevator but Strickland makes ANOTHER save.

Shane has worn out his welcome so it's a superkick into a German suplex into a wheelbarrow neckbreaker to send him outside. That leaves Smile to take a super Elgin Bomb and an F5 from Cage...for two. The fans IMMEDIATELY call that BS and I can't say I blame them.

There's no reason for Smile (or anyone not named Hogan in 1987) to kick out of something like that.

Elgin gives Smile a spinning backslap to the face before hitting a Samoan drop/fall away slam at the same time. Somehow Smile has the nerve to get up and powerbomb Elgin off the middle rope with Strickland adding a top rope double stomp. Shane dives on Cage and Smile adds a frog splash to end Elgin at 16:18.

Rating: D+. This match was already going long and that kickout was pretty much inexcusable. Unless Strickland was late making a save (which wouldn't have made sense after the big moves he took), there's really no reason for him to kick out there. Then again, they kind of gave away the ending when it was announced that Smile and Strickland were getting a future Tag Team Title shot. If that's the case then, don't have Smile take such a big sequence, unless his partner is there for the save. There was good action here with Elgin being a highlight as always but that kickout was just awful.

Undisputed British Heavyweight Title: Zack Sabre Jr. vs. Penta El Zero M

Sabre is defending and also brings his Evolve and PWG World Titles. I'm pretty sure Sabre is a heel, as he has a custom rap entrance theme, talking about how great of a technical wrestler he is. A sample line: "If Dean Malenko has a thousand, he's at fifth thou." As expected, the fans sing a song about him but it's quickly drowned out by CERO MIEDO. They circle each other for the first minute as the announcers talk about Sabre joining a the Suzuki-Gun faction in New Japan.

Sabre starts in on the arm but Pentagon takes him down and stretches the neck a bit. Something like an Indian Deathlock has Pentagon in trouble and Zack throws in some middle fingers as a bonus. Pentagon is right back with a modified Haas of Pain and it's another standoff.

Back up and Pentagon grabs a surfboard with a chinlock only to let go and shout CERO MIEDO. Armdrags and a superkick send Zack to the floor for a posting. Pentagon hits the post by mistake though and

Sabre sees a target on the arm. Sabre sits on the apron and throws up a peace sign as the fans serenade him a bit.

Back in and Zack stomps on the arm and cuts off a comeback with a penalty kick. A double underhook piledriver sets up a modified cross armbreaker. Pentagon makes the rope and pops right back up for a package piledriver onto the apron. Sabre is mostly dead but still manages a Canadian Destroyer into a triangle choke into a very modified Rings of Saturn to knock Pentagon out and retain at 15:43.

Rating: B. Sabre is one of the best technical guys I've ever seen and there's something very cool about a character who is quite the jerk because he knows how much better he is than anyone else. Throw in the way he tortures people's arms and it's really hard to not be entertained by him in at least some way.

A quick goodbye takes us out. On the way out, I got to shake hands with Sabre Jr. as well.

Overall Rating: B. I had a good time with this show despite not knowing any of the stories coming in. The version with commentary is much better and it cuts out a lot of the dead time between the matches and intermission, thereby shortening the show by the better part of an hour. The wrestling is good and I'd check out another show from the promotion, which is about as high of a bit of praise as you can get.

You can see the show on Rev Pro's on demand service at <https://rpwondemand.pivotshare.com/.com> for \$8.49 a month with access to dozens of their shows.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the Histories of Saturday Night's Main Event and Clash of the Champions, now in PAPERBACK. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2017/05/19/history-of-saturday-nights-main-event-and-clash-of-the-champions-now-in-paperback-plus-price-drops/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling

books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

Took in the Rev Pro Wrestling Show (And a Bit of Annoyance at WWE)

As part of the Wrestlemania week festivities, I took in the Revolution Pro Wrestling show. They're a British company with major names like Ricochet, Will Ospreay, Marty Scurll and Zack Sabre Jr. so I had to take in a card with that kind of talent included. This was part of the WrestleCon weekend events so the show was only about fifteen minutes from my hotel.

Before we get to the show though, there were two rather annoying wrestling related issues earlier in the day. At 1pm, Charlotte was doing a free signing at a Cricket Wireless store roughly ten minutes away from my hotel. Of course I went and when I got there a bit after 1, the line was wrapped around the building, down the alley behind the building and around part of another building. The fact that the line was so long isn't an issue as people are going to flock for something that's free. Cricket had also put up a sign saying "all guests after this point are not guaranteed to meet Charlotte". I was standing right at the sign.

After about an hour in line, the sign was moved about 50 people forward. One of the workers came by and I asked if things were moving really slowly. It turned out that they were, because several people had upwards of ten items for Charlotte to sign. In other words, because a bunch of people just HAD to get her to sign things so they could throw them on Ebay, we were stuck standing in line even longer. Naturally this caused the line to go so slowly that it was cut off at 2:55 before I could get in. To be fair, it was a free

event so I didn't lose anything but time (and patience).

No worries though as Bayley was having a signing at the Orlando Eye, which was about fifteen minutes from Cricket. This was a bit better as I had already bought a ticket (\$35, but you got a free trip on the Eye, which I had no interest in due to not being comfortable with heights) so I figured it would go better.

And of course not as the signing went until 4 and at 3:50, the Orlando Eye people cut it off because Bayley had another event to go to immediately thereafter. I got a refund, but these events tell me two things:

1. Maybe WWE shouldn't schedule the same people for multiple events back to back. They have a ridiculous roster and I find it hard to believe they can't stagger these out a bit better, just for something like this.

2. LEARN TO CALL THE THINGS OFF EARLIER WHEN IT'S CLEAR YOU'RE NOT GETTING EVERYONE IN! When you have over 100 people left, do you really need to wait until there are 10 minutes left to realize that not everyone can get in? Also, how long can it possibly take when there are signs everywhere saying no autographs? I know people want to talk to Bayley but it needed to be a few words, obligatory hug, photo, out. That should be 40 seconds at most but for some reason we get this instead.

So anyway, I get over to Rev Pro at 4:10 (thankfully it's less than a mile from the Eye) and luckily it hadn't started yet (indy shows almost never do). The show wound up starting at 4:25 with a bunch of empty seats on the floor, though they were mostly filled in by the third or fourth match.

1. Sami Calihan vs. Jay White

I've liked White since his first match with Jay Briscoe so I was looking forward to seeing him live. This wasn't the best match in the world though as they didn't have a lot of chemistry. They fought outside for two minutes early on before the referee FINALLY started counting, which got a rather jeering reaction from the crowd. The best spot was Calihan trying a powerbomb but getting blocked over and over. Instead of trying again, he pulls White up and punched the heck out of him before getting the powerbomb. White won with a Boston crab in about 12 minutes. D+.

2. Martin Stone vs. Jeff Cobb

Stone is also known as Danny Burch from NXT and Cobb is Lucha Underground's Matanza. This was technical ability vs. power/athleticism and that's what you got for about ten and a half minutes. Stone is just a guy in trunks but he looks very polished and kept shrugging off all of Cobb's power stuff. Martin got in a hanging DDT for the pin. C+.

3. Lord Gideon Grey vs. Swoggle

This is a storyline heavy match as Grey seemed to be a comedy/lower level guy who was just starting to turn the corner until Colt Cabana brought Swoggle to the company and somehow ruined his life. Grey walked to the ring like a zombie, even bumping into the barricade because he kept staring straight ahead. Then he wrestled a mostly normal match which saw Swoggle do a series of German suplexes and Lesnar's bounce back and forth. Grey hit a sitout powerslam for the pin in about 2:00 with a bunch of standard comedy spots. This was fine.

4. Marty Scurll vs. King Ricochet

Scurll's ROH TV Title was acknowledged but not on the line. Scurll was easily the most over guy on the show so far and he knew it, despite being billed as the Villain. You could tell these two knew each other really well and that's always going to help. There was some comedy as Ricochet did a bunch of flips into a nip-up.

Scurll, who isn't the most athletic guy in the world, said very loudly "THAT WAS SWEET! I WANT TO TRY!" He then did a front flip into a nip-up for a huge reaction but Ricochet didn't buy into the idea of a handshake. This gave us the YES/NO treatment for a big reaction. They both did their own versions of a People's Elbow with Ricochet doing a moonsault and Scurll doing an Austin style stomp and a double middle finger. Ricochet also did Tye Dillinger's cartwheel into a dropkick, followed by TEN.

They started taking things a bit more seriously by the end with Scurll teasing a big spot on the floor and then throwing Ricochet back in to annoy the crowd (because he's a villain you see). Eventually Ricochet tried a handspring elbow but got caught in the chickenwing for the tap out at just shy of seventeen minutes. Really fun stuff here and easily the best thing all night. B+.

Post match, Scurll said he loved working with Ricochet and dedicated the to a fellow wrestler who passed away one year ago to the day in a nice moment. This was repeated multiple times so this was pretty clearly a big deal to everyone.

Intermission, which was billed as 15 minutes but ran closer to 30. However, a lot of the roster was out in the lobby selling merchandise, meaning I got to meet a host of wrestlers, including:

Ricochet, Colt Cabana (who I didn't recognize at first), Will Ospreay, Marty Scurll, Swoggle, Brian Cage (the biggest arms I've ever seen), Jay White, Martin Stone (very polite), Jeff Cobb, Fenix, Pentagon Dark and Shane Strickland (Killshot on Lucha Underground).

5. Interim British Cruiserweight Title: David Starr vs. Josh Bodom

Bodom was defending but didn't have his belt for some reason. I've never heard of either guy and there wasn't much to talk about here, though Starr had about fifteen nicknames that the announcer had to read off a card. It was clear that neither guy was the biggest name as the fans didn't seem to know who they were. It was fine but nothing you haven't seen before.

This was your standard cruiserweight style match with a bunch of flips, the third standing shooting star press of the night (more on that later), a bunch of strikes to the head (the indy staple), a great looking front flip from the top to the floor and a hanging piledriver (picture Orton's hanging DDT but the guy jumps onto the back of your head to make it a piledriver) for the pin on Starr at 12:30. C-.

6. Will Ospreay vs. Ray Fenix

Ospreay is a high flying machine and one of the top stars in the promotion though his Cruiserweight Title wasn't on the line. This was a much more standard high flying match and for some reason Fenix took his sweet time coming through the curtain and didn't seem happy for a lot of the match, or after for that matter.

Ospreay flew around a lot even tricked Fenix by asking what something was out in the crowd to grab a headlock. They dove around a lot (and botched multiple things, though nothing too bad) with a Canadian Destroyer DDT as one of the cooler looking spots. Ospreay hit a big springboard cutter to win at just under thirteen minutes. This was a lot of fun but really botchy at times, which you have to

expect. B-.

7. Michael Elgin/Brian Cage vs. Ray Smile/Shane Strickland.

This was power vs. speed, though Elgin and Cage got to show off a lot of athleticism. One very funny spot was Strickland doing a nipup, only to have Elgin come in and do a good looking Worm. Strickland said he was out, grabbed his jacket, walked up the ramp and through the curtain. He was back a few seconds later but it was rather funny. Other than Elgin grabbing a delayed vertical suplex and passing Smile off to Cage in mid-air to complete it, there wasn't much here. Well not much original at least.

We did have our 5th cutter of the night, as well as the fourth person saying SUCK IT with a crotch chop. Smile also got up a bit too many times, including kicking out of a superbomb into an F5, which the fans REALLY thought should have ended the match (they were right). Instead, Strickland got Cage up for a powerbomb with Smile adding a top rope double stomp. A not great frog splash put Cage away at about 13 minutes. The match was longer than it needed to be and got too repetitive with the big power spot from Elgin/Cage and then a head kick from Strickland/Smile. C-.

8. British Heavyweight Title: Zack Sabre Jr. vs. Pentagon Dark

Pentagon is WAY over with Cero Mideo (Zero Fear) being the loudest chant of the night. The fans absolutely cannot stand Sabre, who is the British Champion, the Evolve Champion and the PWG World Champion (and came out wearing all three belts like a good heel should). This was all about trading arm holds with Pentagon surprising Sabre with some sweet stuff of his own. Sabre kept countering like the master that he is though and worked Pentagon's arm half off.

Near the end Pentagon got his package piledriver onto the apron and unfortunately, Sabre was back on his feet in less than a minute. That REALLY hurt things as it should have been a pin (if there was any chance Sabre was losing here) but was just a big spot instead. Sabre got his crazy armbars to end things a few minutes later at just shy of 16:00. This was really solid stuff, save for the lack of selling. Sabre's technical stuff is must see. B+.

As I was leaving, I got to shake hands with Sabre in the lobby for a nice way to wrap things up.

Overall the show was fun with two very good matches though not much

to support them. I certainly can't complain for a \$25 general admission ticket, especially with the amount of huge British names I got to see, along with the names that I got to meet at intermission. Rev Pro is certainly not bad and I had a fun time at the show. Overall: B-.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the NXT: The Full Sail Years Volumes I and II, now in PAPERBACK. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2017/03/24/kbs-history-of-nxt-volumes-1-and-2-now-available-in-paperback/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

Will Ospreay vs. Ricochet

I don't normally do this but I haven't seen a single match get this much talk in years. Back on May 27 at the Best of the Super Juniors Day 6, Will Ospreay and Ricochet (Prince Puma from Lucha Underground) had a match that was described as one of the best high flying matches in a very long time. However, not everyone was so happy with it. Many older wrestlers have said that it wasn't their style because the match feels like a choreographed routine instead of a wrestling match. I've seen clips of this everywhere, including on ESPN, meaning it's probably time I take a look at it. Let's get to it.

Will Ospreay vs. Ricochet

Date: May 27, 2016

Location: Korakuen Hall, Tokyo, Japan

Attendance: 1,505

Ospreay is a British wrestler who I've never actually seen outside

of a few TNA matches. At the same time, I've only seen Ricochet as Prince Puma. Ricochet is one half of the IWGP Junior Heavyweight Tag Team Champions but this is non-title. See, because it's a singles match. The fans are behind Ricochet here and he works on the arm to start. Will spins out ala Owen Hart before grabbing a surfboard which is escaped in a good half second to give us a standoff.

Both guys spin out of headscissors before doing Tajiri handsprings into standing moonsaults for another standoff. Now THAT is the kind of thing that looks fake to me. The stuff earlier was fine but I absolutely cannot buy, under almost any circumstances, that this is supposed to be spontaneous with something like that going on. Ricochet counters a whip into the corner and scores with a 619 but gets dropkicked out of the air to a nice round of applause. I'd think it was Will kicking him for swearing so much but maybe that's just me.

Off to an Octopus Hold on Ricochet (that always looks painful) but he falls into the ropes for the break. Ricochet flips forward into a DDT (cool) and Ospreay falls out to the floor for a springboard corkscrew dive to get the fans back into it. Back in and Ricochet kicks him in the chest a few times, causing Will to call him some very rude names. Ricochet bends him over his back (another Tajiri move) before putting on a hold that looks like he's setting up for a Burning Hammer but kneels while bending Will's leg around his head instead. Yeah it made my jaw hang open too.

There's a jawbreaker to stagger Ricochet and Will handsprings into an enziguri to put both guys down. Another enziguri (well a kick to the pad into Ricochet's head at least) sets up a Phenomenal Forearm (with Will adding in "Pip pip cheerio m*\$#@#*\$%#er on the way down). Ricochet bails outside again and eats a handspring moonsault plancha before a springboard sunset bomb gets two for Ospreay back inside.

Ricochet gets in an enzigurit his time and a half nelson suplex gives him two of his own. Both guys moonsault over each other and score with kicks to the head at the same time to give us another breather. The fans think this is awesome which sounds a bit odd at a Japanese show. They fight to the apron (the wrestlers, not the fans) with Ricochet hitting an AA which should knock Will silly but he snaps off a reverse hurricanrana to put both guys down on the floor instead. Fighting spirit you see.

That earns a double nineteen count and it's time for a big slugout with right hands and European uppercuts but no clear winner. Yet another enziguri staggers Ricochet and sets up what looks to be a Rainmaker. Ricochet ducks (Good. Now I don't have to explain why A FREAKING CLOTHESLINE is still an overrated move.) and grabs a suplex but gets countered into a jawbreaker. A standing C4 gets two for Will and we've reached frustration point.

Ricochet comes right back with a jumping knee to the face and a standing shooting star for a shocking near fall of his own. The 630 misses though and Will grabs a DDT, only to flip forward as a bonus. Somehow that's only good for two as well so Ricochet tells him to bring it. Will is more than willing (see what I...nah that's too easy) to do so and fires off a bunch of kicks to the head, followed by a springboard Diamond Cutter (think the Lethal Injection minus the flip) for the pin at 16:47.

Rating: B+. Yeah this was nowhere near as bad as people were making it out to be though I can see the issues. The overly choreographed stuff is there but it's certainly not the core of the match that I was thinking it was going to be. There are FAR worse examples of that over the years (see Alex Shelley vs. Chris Sabin at Genesis 2009 for instance) and it actually felt like a match where they really did know each other well enough to counter most of their big spots.

Now that being said, there are some major issues here as well with stuff like the limited selling, the ridiculous amount of enziguris, that opening where they clearly worked out every single step (which happened again a few more times to lesser degrees) and too many strikes for my taste. However, it's certainly not the kind of thing that is killing wrestling or whatever it was that was said about this.

I do however get a lot of the criticisms that people have for this kind of wrestling. The old school wrestlers were all brought up with the mindset of being physical and telling a story, which really isn't how this comes off. Yeah it's physical, but there's very little flow to the match other than "I hit a big move and then you hit a big move, then we swear a lot and kick each other over and over."

I'm much more of an old school fan so I'd much rather watch a match

being built up over time instead of going from spot to spot. This was certainly entertaining but I'd call it much more not my taste than anything else. I'm not a fan of this style in Ring of Honor or New Japan or anywhere else like that but it's fun to watch every now and then. It's very different but killing wrestling is WAY too much of a stretch. I mean, it's not like this is the Bullet Club or something vile like that.

Maybe it was all the hype this match had over the last week but I kept waiting on the big stuff that was supposed to be all horrible looking and it never came. This was your standard modern cruiserweight style match and it was the standard result for something like this: entertaining though not exactly a high level of quality. That doesn't mean it's bad or anything and there is definitely a place for it, though it's something I would get tired of after a match or two. Fun stuff, but not my thing.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up my new book on NXT: The Full Sail Years Volume II at Amazon for just \$3.99 at:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01FWZZ2UA>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

WWC Lucha Estrellas – March 8, 2015: Carlito Still Isn't Cool

Lucha Estrellas

Date: March 8, 2015

Location: Puerto Rico

Commentator: Nelson Santano

We're going down to Puerto Rico today because my e-book cover artist is from there and enjoys making me sit through this company for some sick reason. I'm not familiar with this to say the least, but my limited Spanish should be able to get me through some of the stories instead of being lost in Japan. Let's get to it.

We open with Carlito, a big star here and I believe WWC Universal (World) Champion (in his fifteenth reign to give you an idea of what we're dealing with), going to a convenience store and acting like a jerk by drinking juice he hasn't paid for yet and throwing stuff on the floor. I know you're a heel but be tidy. A younger guy comes up and yells at him so Carlito spits an apple in his face. The younger guy goes to yell at someone named Bobby, who is walking on a crutch. We get some flashbacks to Carlito Backstabbing people inside a cage in what looked like a heel turn. I'm assuming Bobby and the younger guy are brothers?

Opening sequence.

I come into this show knowing absolutely nothing, so it could be interesting to see how well they can tell their stories to someone who is clueless.

Diablico vs. Xix Xavant

This is joined in progress with Xavant (found his name through Google) dropkicking Diablico (whose name I didn't figure out until much later). Xavant nails a German suplex on Diablico but he comes back with a reverse gordbuster for two. Diablico goes up but eats a superplex for two more, followed by a powerslam for the same. The referee yells at Xix, allowing Diablico to pull out a foreign (maybe American?) object to knock Xavant cold for the pin.

Rating: D. This was pretty lame stuff so thank goodness it was clipped. Diablico is a big guy who wasn't the most energetic in the world. Xavant looked like Dale Torborg, which is quite the insult if you're familiar with your late 90s wrestlers. Bad match here and I thought Diablico was the face until the end.

House show ads.

A cruiserweight named Peter the Bad Romance (seriously?) has a question for us. He's been the best wrestler in the world for the last three years but he keeps hearing about Samuel Adams and

Chicano. Well now he's going to prove that he's the best Junior Heavyweight wrestler in the world by winning the Junior Heavyweight Title. Simple but effective here, assuming I understood it right.

Junior Heavyweight Title: Ricochet vs. Samuel Adams

Ricochet (not Prince Puma) is defending and wears a mask. Joined in progress again with Ricochet slugging away and hitting a springboard middle rope bulldog for two. Adams chops out of the corner and hits a buckle bomb followed by a hard clothesline for two of his own. That's it for his offense at the moment as Ricochet gets two more off a high cross body, only to walk into a Diamond Cutter driver. Back up and Ricochet counters a superplex into a sunset bomb for another near fall, followed by a cool spot where he bounces from one foot to another to fire off kicks to Adams' ribs, setting up a quick rollup for the pin to retain.

Rating: C-. Still not great stuff here as they were just trading spots for the few minutes they were out there. That's one of the big dangers of having matches joined in progress: you go right to the ending and there's almost no way to get into things as you have no idea what you missed before that. Not bad here but I need more between the big spots.

Universal Title: Carlito Caribbean Cool vs. Mighty Ursus

This one isn't joined in progress for a change. Ursus is challenging and is a big strong guy in a mask. The champ starts fast and rams him into the corner over and over to a limited effect. Ursus starts shrugging them off and rams Carlito into the buckle himself. Carlito is sent outside for more punches to the head, followed by a trashcan shot. A splash into the post works as well as a splash into the post would be expected to work and Carlito gets a breather.

Carlito posts Ursus again and chops him against the barricade but the Mighty one starts Ursusing up. That means it's time for chops to the champ's chest, followed by going back inside so Carlito can choke him a bit. We take a break and come back with Ursus choking with his boot. They're not exactly going nuts with the offense here. A DDT drops Carlito and a snap suplex (not bad for a guy Ursus' size) gets two. Ursus goes to the corner but some guy comes in with a flag for the DQ.

Rating: D+. Well it was better as I got to see most of the match but the ending was pretty lame. Neither guy seemed interested in

cranking it past about a three here and it showed really badly. Nothing much to see here and I'm really seeing why Carlito can only get a big push in his dad's promotion.

La Revolucion, a three man military team, comes in to take out the guy with the flag and rips off his mask. It's the young guy from the opening segment, so Carlito yells at him about his father. He tells La Revolucion to let the kid go as he loads up an apple, only to take a low blow so the kid can run away. A lot of shouting ensues. Carlito yells at a guy for being on the phone but peace is quickly made.

Carlito is ready for his showdown with Mighty Ursus.

Ursus and his manager with a very scarred head aren't worried about Carlito because it's Ursus' day.

We see the end of a Tag Team Title match where La Revolucion and Los Boricuas (the champions) had a double pin, meaning the titles are held up.

La Revolucion says they're winning the titles to take over the company.

Los Boricuas say bring it on.

The young guy goes back to tell his brother what happened but the brother is worried about him. I think the young guy is going to be fighting soon so the brother writes something down, which pleases the young guy.

Overall Rating: D. Uh...yeah. The wrestling sucked, the stories weren't all that interesting and a good chunk of the hour was spent on the same ad for the big show. I can easily see why this company isn't very well received these days if this is the kind of product they're regularly putting out.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up my new book of Complete Monday Nitro Reviews Volume III at Amazon for just \$3.99 at:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00X0UNBEA>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>