

Wrestler of the Day – October 19: Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker

Today we have one of WCW's best known jobbers: Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker.

Parker got his start in the late 1980s and we'll pick things up on June 16, 1990.

Rock and Roll Express vs. Buddy Lee Parker/Rick Fargo

Parker drives shoulders into Gibson's ribs to start but it's quickly off to Morton for a double back elbow. The Express knocks both guys out to the floor and we get a breather. Back in and it's Fargo getting the tag to face Gibson. Off to Morton to crank on the arm as the Express really doesn't seem all that worried here. They take turns slamming Fargo until Ricky cranks on a wristlock. Back to Gibson for a chinlock until everything breaks down and Gibson is sent outside. The Express sends them together a few times and the double dropkick ends Fargo.

Rating: D+. This was long and dull for the most part but man alive did people love the Express. They were the young(ish) and fast team with that awesome double dropkick, making it hard to not like them at least a little bit. It's weird to see the heels in control for about thirty seconds of a match and they were barely in control that long.

Still on WCW TV on September 22, 1990.

Junkyard Dog vs. Buddy Lee Parker

Parker jumps him from behind but gets caught in the worst hiptoss I've ever seen. El Gigante is on the apron for some reason. A slam puts Parker down and there are the crawling headbutts. Back in and a big headbutt ends Parker quick.

Here he is at Clash of the Champions XIV.

Brian Pillman vs. Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker

Parker is a cop character who would have much more success as a trainer. They fight over a test of strength to start until Brian takes over with an armdrag. Parker is sent outside but gets pulled back in over the top rope with ease. Buddy gets sent to the ramp and gets taken out by Air Pillman in a nice dive. Back inside and the high cross body is good for the pin on Parker to complete the squash.

Parker actually got a PPV title shot at WrestleWar 1991.

Six Man Tag Titles: Junkyard Dog/Ricky Morton/Tommy Rich vs. State Patrol/Big Cat

Where do I even start? Ok so odds are you haven't heard of these titles before, and there's a good reason for that: they were only around for less than nine months. The titles were first won seven days before this show at a live event. Now one might ask why they didn't have the first champions crowned here on PPV. It's WCW in 1991. There's your answer and it'll answer most of your questions. The State Patrol is Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker and Lt. James Earl Wright, who is most famous for being one half of the State Patrol. Big Cat is Mr. Hughes and he's one of the challengers here.

Cat and Dog start things off. I think you can see JYD's gut expanding from here. He hits Cat with some headbutts and it's off to Morton and Wright. Morton speeds things up with armdrags and it's off to Rich. Rich slams him down and hooks an armdrag followed by an armbar. Off to Parker who gets the exact same treatment. Back to Morton for some atomic drops and then back to the same armbar again.

The Dog comes back in to crank up the fat levels of this match. Big Cat comes in again and wants a test of strength. That goes nowhere so it's back to Morton to face the State Patrol on his own. The numbers catch up with him and it's time for Morton to start selling. Parker drop toeholds him down and Cat hits an elbow for two. Dropkick gets two. Morton slugs back against Parker but gets powerslammed down for two.

The State Patrol keeps up the double teaming, hitting a bulldog for two. Back to Parker as I'm seeing why this team never went anywhere. Cat comes back in for a big old backbreaker for two. Parker misses a charge and

there's the hot tag to JYD. He hits the Thump (powerslam) but Cat makes the save. In a smart move, Morton immediately dives on Parker and gets the pin to retain.

Rating: D. Technically this was barely passable but what in the world was the point to this match? On second thought what was the point to these titles? The match wasn't any good as it was in essence just a bad TV main event, which doesn't exactly fire me up for the rest of the show. This was an odd choice all around.

He was in the Battlebowl competition at Starrcade 1991.

Ricky Steamboat/Todd Champion vs. Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker/Cactus Jack

Champion is a tall strong guy and half of the tag team called the Patriots. Parker is a police themed character and little more than a jobber. Jack is, to put it mildly, completely insane. Steamboat is Rhodes' partner as world tag team champions You might remember those locker room cameras I mentioned to you. We see Parker getting ready to go, but Abdullah the Butcher attacks him because he wants to be Cactus' partner. Abdullah DESTROYS Parker, ramming his head into a locker over and over again before breaking a broom over Parker's back. Cactus is basically in a handicap match now.

Parker somehow makes it to the arena but the Butcher beats him with a staff on the stage, including some HARD shots to the head. Steamboat knocks Jack off the apron and into the barricade at ringside. Now Butcher knocks Parker off the stage and into the crowd for good measure. Cactus and Steamboat slug it out with Cactus screaming a lot. He pounds on Steamboat in the corner as Parker has managed to crawl back up onto the ramp.

Steamboat gets back up and fires off some chops, only to be thrown over the top rope. As is his custom though, Steamboat skins the cat and throws Jack out to the floor as well. Steamboat dives on Jack and rams him into the barricade before heading back inside. A superkick staggers Jack and another kick takes him down. Off to Champion with a shot to the back but Cactus punches him in the face to come back. Parker is literally crawling on his hands and knees down the ramp to get to the ring.

Champion puts Cactus in a chinlock but Jack fights up with more right hands. Off to a bearhug instead but Cactus goes to the eyes to escape. Todd is thrown to the floor and Cactus drops a middle rope elbow on Champion for good measure. Parker has finally made it to the ring the match isn't happening in. The fans chant for Buddy out of sympathy as Cactus avoids a legdrop. Champion tries a bulldog but gets shoved off, causing the two of them to ram heads. Cactus falls into the corner and tags off to Parker, who is literally thrown into the ring. His prize for working this hard? A cross body from Steamboat for the pin.

Rating: C-. I don't know why, but it was hilarious watching Parker get beaten up like that. Steamboat and Champion were toying with Cactus here as Steamboat is one of the best ever and Champion wasn't completely awful in the ring. Cactus would get his day in a few more years, albeit in another company.

From Saturday Night on April 4, 1992.

Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker vs. Nikita Koloff

The idea here is Sting is going to have Nikita on his team for WarGames but Nikita may not be trustworthy. Koloff throws him around to start and runs Buddy over with a shoulder. Parker rolls outside before Koloff throws him around and nails a suplex. The Russian Sickle ends this quick.

Here he is on Saturday Night on August 15, 1992.

Ron Simmons vs. Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker

Simmons is World Champion and for some reason this isn't a title match. He shoves Parker to the mat and then to the floor before no selling a right hand and ending Parker with a powerslam.

We'll jump ahead a bit to WCW Pro on May 28, 1994.

Terry Taylor vs. Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker

Feeling out process to start with Parker getting caught in an early wristlock, only to come back with a wristlock. A northern lights suplex gets two for Taylor and it's off to an armbar. Back up and Parker drives

in some knees to the ribs before cranking on another chinlock. Terry pops up and nails a superkick of all things before winning a slugout. A Rock Bottom and knee drop set up the Five Arm for the pin on Parker.

Rating: D. I really wasn't feeling this one as it was mainly forearms and knees before some power moves at the end. Neither guy does anything for me most of the time and this was a great example of why. The match just didn't click and that can make for some ugly stuff when it gets time, like it did here.

Off to the Nitro era now with Parker as a Leprechaun named Braun. From Nitro on July 22, 1996.

Jim Powers/Alex Wright/Joe Gomez/Renegade vs. Leprechaun/Hugh Morrus/Kevin Sullivan/Barbarian

Yes that's the jobber team. The Leprechaun is just that: a leprechaun who is more famous as Sargent Dwayne Bruce. Morrus vs. Renegade to start. Leprechaun is running around the ring like an idiot. And now let's have the camera go to the back because there's some disturbance. Wright beats up Barbarian and we go to the back again. The Outsiders are in the control truck.

We're not even watching the match at all. We haven't seen the ring in almost two minutes now. Hall says back on the movie stars and we get a quick flash of the ring and now back to the truck. We're looking at the crowd now and here's security to get the Outsiders out of the booth.

We finally go back to the ring after three minutes of Outsiders stuff. Tony says it's been a hard hitting match. Wouldn't it be nice to SEE THE MATCH? Anyway Powers is sent to the floor and Teddy Long is here for no apparent reason. That fires him up so he goes back in and hammers away on Morrus. Everything breaks down and here's Giant to chokeslam everything in sight that isn't in his stable and it's a DQ win. We might have seen 100 seconds of this match so no rating.

Time to get beaten up by a video game character on Nitro, December 23, 1996.

Glacier vs. Buddy Lee Parker

Glacier kicks a lot, chops a lot, then kicks a lot more. He hits his Cryonic kick which Parker kicks out of for no apparent reason. A second one finishes this.

We'll jump ahead a few years to Nitro on May 17, 1999.

David Flair vs. Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker

Robinson is refereeing in Flair trunks and a regular shirt. For those of you that don't remember him, Parker is a career jobber who later became an insane trainer in WCW. He's the guy that told Batista he had no future in wrestling. Parker grabs a headlock to start and gets one off a clothesline. They head into the corner where Sarge can hammer away even more, drawing the Horsemen up to the apron. Flair misses a horrible elbow drop but Buddy misses a top rope knee drop. The Figure Four makes Parker give up. Well more like Charles rings the bell as soon as the hold goes on but whatever. Parker sells the heck out of the leg.

From the following week on the same show.

Chris Benoit vs. Buddy Lee Parker

Hennig is still on commentary and talks about how young guys like Benoit aren't respecting the veterans that came before them. A black arm band can be seen on Chris' arm for Owen. Parker actually gets in a few shots in the corner to start and I don't see him getting in much more offense.

As you would expect, he charges into a boot in the corner and gets caught in the Rolling Germans. Benoit chops the fire out of him in the corner before hitting a quick belly to back suplex. Parker comes back with a powerslam, only to get drop toehold into the middle turnbuckle. The Swan Dive sets up the Crossface and Parker taps very quickly.

Rating: D+. It's always fun to see Benoit run someone over like this. Parker was older than dirt at this point and had been getting beaten up for years now. That's probably why he was such a jerk down in the Power Plant. The match was just there for Benoit to show how awesome he was, because somehow that wasn't an established fact to the WCW brass at this

point.

As mentioned, Parker ran the Power Plant and trained Goldberg. Here he is against his student in what is supposed to be a big emotional match. From Nitro on December 11, 2000.

Dwayne Bruce vs. Goldberg

At this point, Goldberg has to match his old winning streak if he wants a shot at the World Title again. Goldberg doesn't know his opponent until he comes through the pyro so he stops cold. They stare each other down in the middle and Goldberg says he isn't doing this. Bruce says bring it on but Lex Luger comes out and says Bruce can't face him on Thunder if Goldberg doesn't fight tonight. Why that's a thing I'm not sure but this is WCW.

Bruce hammers away and ticks Goldberg off so it's spear and Jackhammer for the pin. Here's the problem: at the end of the day, this was Goldberg vs. Buddy Lee Parker and the fans weren't going to buy it. The fact that Bruce got in about as much offense as anyone else on Goldberg didn't help things out.

They had a tag match together at Sin.

Sgt. Dwayne Bruce/Goldberg vs. Totally Buff

Sarge has a broken arm and the entrances take about five minutes. Goldberg vs. Luger get us going here. You know, Russo made the deal about Goldberg having to win 176 in a row. Why doesn't Flair just overturn that? Goldberg throws Luger around and throws him to Bagwell who says "Who me?" "Yeah you!" For some reason that was funny for me. Bagwell hammers away and no sells a suplex.

Goldberg beats down Bagwell and brings in the career jobber Sarge. Sarge beats on him for a bit with a middle rope elbow. I forgot that this is no DQ. Sarge runs into some double teaming, so why doesn't Goldberg just come in and destroy them? He can't get disqualified. Actually he does that and the

referee throwing him out. How does that make sense?

Luger hammers on Sarge for awhile and Bagwell adds a double arm DDT. Off to the chinlock now as the fans are still in this. Luger gets one of the worst forearm smashes you'll ever see for two. Thankfully they remember the plate that is allegedly in there. So it can knock out Bret Hart but it barely puts Dwayne Bruce down for two? Only in wrestling would that make sense.

Double tag brings in Goldberg and Luger. HUGE pop for Goldberg. Seriously how in the world did they manage to mess him up? Now we get to the stupid part here. Remember the kid from earlier with the autograph? He's like 17 or so and Luger goes after him. Goldberg makes the save and the kid maces him.

Goldberg pulls him over the railing and security dives on the kid...then just let him go and stand at ringside. Punk was right. Wrestling security sucks. Back in the ring Goldberg fights blind for awhile until Luger pops him with a chair a few times and a double Blockbuster (think a Domsday Device) ends the career. For the month at least.

Rating: D. Weak tag match that was hurt even worse by the ending. Yes a fan that he signed an autograph before earlier was the big answer. Why Luger or Bagwell didn't bring the mace in themselves is anyone's guess but hey why not just let a young looking guy do it instead? Either way at least it's over and they can quit ruining Goldberg for now. HHH got to do that in 03 which is the next time he would be seen.

At the end of the day, this is Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker. He's almost the equivalent of the Brooklyn Brawler in WCW and it's hard to get annoyed at him most of the time. It's not like he got a push for the most part with his only moderate success coming in a team called the State Patrol that wasn't even important enough to find matches from. Nothing wrong with him, but he just wasn't all that good. That being said, his training seemed to be about as bad as you could get but that's another story.

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