

One Night Only: Clash In The Bluegrass: Yesterday's Superstars Tomorrow



IMG Credit: Impact Wrestling

One Night Only: Clash In The Bluegrass

Date: March 2, 2019

Location: Davis Arena, Louisville, Kentucky

Commentators: Gilbert Corsey, Don Callis, Josh Matthews

I don't usually do these shows but since I was in the audience, it might be appropriate this time around. The Davis Arena is the longtime home of Ohio Valley Wrestling and I've always wanted to go there for a show so it was a great surprise when it was announced that Impact was coming around for a One Night Only. Sami Callihan and OVE had been around for the last few weeks and even stole the OVW Title. This is a bunch of promotion vs. promotion matches so let's get to it.

I was sitting in the last row with the hard camera on my right. Given that the arena might have held about 350 people (it's a warehouse with a ring inside, which does offer some charm) so the last row is a perfectly good seat).

There was a meet and greet before the show with Eddie Edwards, Moose, Sami Callihan and Brian Cage, plus a bunch of the OVW wrestlers. Nothing

of note, but for an extra ten dollars on top of the ten dollar ticket, you can't exactly complain.

In a dark match, William Lutz defeated KTD. Yeah you might not have heard of a lot of these people but it was a short match and completely fine for two guys on their level.

We open with a look at Sami stealing the OVW Title from champion Tony Gunn. This set off a fight between OVE/various other Impact wrestlers and Team OVW, a group of five people thrown together with nothing significant in common. Fair enough for something like this.

Opening sequence, which is the OVW TV opening, thankfully including name graphics for the wrestlers.

The announcers give us a quick welcome with OVW commentator Gilbert Corsey getting a chant from the crowd.

Dimes vs. Sinn Bodhi

Yes his name is Dimes and Bodhi (better known as Kizarny) is a freaky guy and a big villain in OVW. After laying on the ropes, Bodhi picks Dimes up for an airplane spin at the bell. With the serious stuff not working, Bodhi pulls him face first into the back of his trunks. That's good for a series of one counts, which seems to confuse Bodhi. Sinn: "ONE PLUS ONE PLUS ONE IS THREE!" You can't fault his addition skills. Dimes' one right hand has no effect as he gets sent outside, leaving Bodhi to hang in the Tree of Woe and bite his face.

Bodhi ties him upside down in the ropes and...tickles Dimes from the floor. Back in and Bodhi gives him an electric chair drop into a Garvin Stomp. A reverse falling headbutt and some funny faces at the crowd give Bodhi two but Dimes rolls him up into a crucifix for the same. Bodhi gets two more off a clothesline but Dimes is right back with a handspring cutter for the pin out of nowhere at 5:21.

Rating: D+. The ending felt like a shocking TV upset and I'm not sure how good of an idea it is to open the show like that. Dimes is hardly someone with a ton of appeal outside of a place like OVW where he can be a local

star. Bodhi on the other hand actually felt weird, as opposed to someone who is just called weird and then does whatever lame bits he's been given. That worked, and I could go for more of him in the future.

Colton Cage vs. Brandon Espinosa

Cage's TV Title isn't on the line but his girlfriend Dani is in his corner. Cage jumps him from the apron and hammers away on the floor before the opening bell. They get inside with Dani choking on the ropes, allowing Cage to get in a clothesline for two. Some shots in the corner miss Espinosa but Cage snaps him throat first across the top. Espinosa pops up and hits some running clotheslines, followed by a low superkick for two. Dani grabs Espinosa's foot and Cage hits a Side Effect for two. A powerbomb out of the corner gives Espinosa two more but he misses a charge, allowing Cage to hit an ax kick for the pin at 5:25.

Rating: C-. Nothing match, but the commentary here was a nice addition as Josh and Callis praised the OVW talent and threw some softballs at Gilbert in regards to history between the wrestlers. It helped a lot with setting up what was going on here (though there isn't a story between these two) and Callis sounds like he's scouting talent. It's better than having the Impact commentators take over the broadcast and talk about people they don't know.

The War Kings (Crimson/Jax Dane, the Tag Team Champions) explain the rather complicated rules for tonight's #1 contenders match: the two challenging teams will have a ten minute match. If either of them win, they get a title match immediately thereafter. If neither win and it's a time limit draw, the title match still takes place as a triple threat. This is one of those promos where no one would talk this way and it's rather forced exposition.

Jay Bradley vs. Cash Flo vs. Moose vs. Zo

Bradley used to wrestle in Impact as Aiden O'Shea. These guys are all rather large in one way or another so it's a four way hoss fight. Moose immediately heads to the floor and it's Flo and Zo going after Bradley, knocking him to the floor with a running corner splash. That leaves the two of them to chop it out (Flo is known for his chops) but the bigger Zo

knocks him into the corner.

Bradley comes back in but gets tripped by Moose. Zo covers and now Moose is willing to come in for the save, putting all four inside for the first time. Moose gets triple chopped before heading outside with Zo. With Flo being knocked down in the corner, Moose comes back in and teases a dive but says screw the fans because the dive isn't happening. Bradley is willing to dive and Flo follows suit with a rolling dive onto all three of them. It's another slugout between Flo and Zo with the latter knocking him into the corner for a cartwheel splash. Not bad for a 400lber.

Bradley slams Zo but gets clotheslined down by Moose, who nips up in the always impressive display. Moose sends Flo outside as the Impact announcers start insulting Kentucky. With Moose up top, Bradley turns it into the Tower of Doom, which is all the better looking due to the total amount of size. Bradley is up first and throws Flo and Zo to the floor. Moose pops up with the lariat but gets suplexed by Flo, who is spinwheel kicked by Zo. Back up and it's another chop off, but this time Zo small packages Flo for the pin at 11:28.

Rating: C. I know it's not the best match in the world but I had a good time with this one. It was designed to be a spectacle with four big, strong guys beating each other up and that's exactly what we got here. The match did its job and while Moose's left leg has more talent than the other three combined, he wasn't exactly thrilled to be here.

Madison Rayne vs. Cali Young

Cali's (your standard good looking blonde who may or may not be dumb) Women's Title isn't on the line. This is Rayne's return match after signing with the company again only days before. Cali works a wristlock as we hear about her basically stealing the title. A legsweep gives Madison two but Cali runs her over and gets in a cartwheel, only to have Madison run the ropes for a springboard wristdrag.

Back up and Cali sends her outside for a baseball slide, followed by a basement dropkick for two back inside. Some choking on the ropes has Madison in more trouble and a suplex sets up a front facelock. They both try...I think crossbodies and it's a double knockdown. Madison fights up

with a running forearm into a sliding basement clothesline for two of her own. An X Factor gives Cali two more but she misses a charge into the corner, allowing Madison to grab a reverse DDT for the pin at 7:35.

Rating: C-. This was a good way to show that while Impact isn't the most beloved company in the world, their talent is still better than a lot of companies'. Cali was passable but didn't exactly show anything all that great. Madison looked polished and like a much better overall worker, which is why she's in a much bigger and more prominent role.

Moose talks about wanting to get out of this terrible town because he has a nice massage planned.

Team OVW vs. Team OVE

OVW: Dustin Jackson, Melvin Maximus, Sam Thompson, Shiloh Jonze

OVE: Crist Brothers, Madman Fulton, Rohit Raju

Jackson and Thompson are both generic guys, Jonze is OVW's Grandmaster Sexay and Maximus is a middle aged guy who is rather strong and pretty limited (to put it mildly). Fulton is a good addition, even if he hadn't joined OVE on TV yet. Raju is here because...well they needed a fourth. Jake and Thompson start things off with Jake not exactly taking this seriously.

Thompson gets in an enziguri and it's off to Raju vs. Jackson. Raju takes him down and the bigger Jackson sends him into the corner, allowing the tag to Maximus, who gets two beat up Dave. The wrist crank is about as good as Melvin can go so it's time for the hometown guys to work over Dave's arm. Everything breaks down and Fulton hits a fireman's carry flapjack on Thompson to take over.

We settle down to Fulton hitting rolling delayed vertical suplexes to rock Thompson and it's Dave coming back in. Another near breakdown just lets Fulton slam Thompson onto Jake's knees and we hit the chinlock. Thompson finally gets in an elbow and brings in Jonze for house cleaning and dancing.

The Running Man gets broken up by Fulton though and now it's Jonze in

trouble for a change. Raju gets in a few knees to the head before handing it back to Fulton for more hard forearms. Melvin breaks up a cover, sending Josh into hysterics about how OVE had the match won in one of the first us vs. them lines of the night. Raju's snap suplex gets two but Jonze fights out of another chinlock so Jackson can come in to clean house.

A big dive takes out all of OVE and there's a double missile dropkick to Jake and Raju. Fulton runs Melvin over and it's Raju stomping on Jonze. Everything breaks down (again) and the Crists hit their superplex into a powerbomb for two with Jackson making the save. With everything going nuts, here's Sami Callihan to jump Jackson for the DQ at 15:53.

Rating: D. A DQ? In an eight man tag on a one off show? They really couldn't go to a finish on this one? This was another good example of showing how much more talented Impact is, as Melvin was old, Jonze felt like he was twenty years in the past, Thompson just didn't stand out and Jackson...well ok he has a lot of potential but it wasn't like I was buying OVW as being on OVE's level. Other than maybe a quick fall on Raju, it wasn't looking likely for the hometown boys to pull this off.

Post match the brawl is on with OVW clearing the ring.

Brian Cage is going to have the match of the night and steal the spotlight, as he always does.

Brian Cage vs. Justin Smooth

Smooth is tall, lanky and in great shape. He's one of the standout stars on the roster and I could see him going somewhere someday. Cage takes him straight down into a headlock but Justin powers out, only to get his knee taken out. Back up and Justin uses the long legs for a dropkick and a clothesline cuts off the Terminator clap. Smooth pounds away in the corner but gets caught in a Cheeky Nandos kick.

Something close to a One Winged Angel (or at least a prototype version) gives Cage two but Smooth is right back with a spinebuster. Cage's apron superplex gets two more, as does a powerslam from Smooth. Street Justice (a bicycle kick) just fires Cage up more (he has a thing about no selling

kicks to the head) and it's a buckle bomb to knock Smooth silly. The helicopter bomb gives Cage the pin at 7:34.

Rating: C+. The point of this match was to make Smooth look good and that's exactly what he did. He's big and muscular enough that this kind of offense looks like it can hang with Cage, which is quite the accomplishment for anyone. Smooth made an impression and while he has a long way to go, he looked awesome here and that's a rare instance here.

Adam Revolver and his manager Shannon the Dude (local DJ) are ready for Eddie Edwards. They've studied him you see.

Eddie talks to a mannequin and asks if Kenny is ready for Revolver.

Eddie Edwards vs. Adam Revolver

Revolver, with Shannon the Dude, has been around forever and has won everything in the company. Actually hang on a second as here's Impact World Champion Johnny Impact (who got his start here, meaning it's a WELCOME HOME chant). He has a surprise.

Impact Wrestling World Title: Johnny Impact vs. Adam Revolver vs. Eddie Edwards

Impact is defending. Revolver bails to the floor and tells the two of them to fight so Johnny runs the ropes, allowing Revolver to trip him down. Eddie's clothesline gets two with Revolver coming in for the save, which gives the Impact guys an idea. Revolver gets surrounded on the floor and caught in between some alternating forearms. The same thing happens inside with a series of right hands knocking Revolver silly and a double superkick putting him on the floor again.

That leaves Johnny to headlock Eddie down but Revolver breaks up a springboard. Eddie gets sent into the post so Impact knees Revolver in the head. The champ takes too long going up though and gets knocked down, leaving Eddie to come in and crotch Revolver. A double superplex puts all three down and it's a three way slugout with Eddie getting the better of it.

Eddie has to go after Shannon though, sending Johnny to the back in

chase. Shannon comes back out and there's no Impact as Revolver starts hammering on Eddie, which just fires him up. Here's Johnny again, only to have Eddie catch him in a Blue Thunder Bomb. The Backpack Stunner is countered into a Russian legsweep to give Revolver two.

Impact throws Revolver down for two with Eddie making the save, earning himself the flipping neckbreaker. This time it's Revolver pulling Johnny out and getting punched in the face for his efforts. The Boston Knee Party gives Eddie two as Revolver makes yet another save. Revolver's sleeper (finisher) is broken up by Impact and Starship Pain to Revolver retains the title at 14:04.

Rating: B. This was quite good with everyone working hard and Revolver more than holding his own the entire time. Yeah Eddie and Johnny did the heavy lifting but it was nice to have the OVW guy look more than comfortable instead of having to be walked through his part of the match. Good stuff here and easily the best part of the show so far.

Post match Johnny praises Eddie, who gets decked by Shannon. Eddie beats him up but Revolver hits him low and bails with Shannon before Impact can kill both of them.

Madison says she's back.

Here's OVW boss Dean Hill to talk about the issue with Sami Callihan and OVE stealing the OVW Title. He asks Impact President Scott D'Amore to come out here so here's Scott, with the OVW Title. Dean recaps the story between the two companies and says D'Amore has answered his calls every time...until Sami stole the title when it was just voicemail.

D'Amore says he's a little busier than someone running OVW but he understands the problem of dealing with Sami Callihan. Looking around the building, it doesn't seem that dealing with OVE is hurting business around here. D'Amore hands the title back to Hill and says all he wanted was a thank you but here's OVE to interrupt. Sami likes the sound of those OVE chants but wants the sheep to shut up so he can talk. The chanting continues so Sami sits down and tells them to shut up in Spanish.

Sami yells at D'Amore for giving OVE the shaft again before talking about signing a two year contract. There were some clauses in that contract though, like OVE being at ringside for the title match. Second, if the title isn't on the line, there's no match. This brings out OVW Champion Tony Gunn, with Dean saying that the title being on the line is up to the champ. Gunn says it's on the line and brings out Team OVW for backup. OVE gets cleared out and Hill makes the title match official.

We see a clip of Gunn and Callihan getting in a fight at a comic book store. Always cool to see some local stuff like that.

The Void vs. King's Ransom

This is the #1 contenders match, which is billed as a Tag Team Title match. Since the champions aren't in here though and a fall can take place without them involved, I'm not calling it a title match. The Void (two rather small guys) is Nigel Winters/Chace Destiny and King's Ransom are Maximus/Leonis Khan, who are either twins or brothers who look enough alike that they might as well be twins. They look like the Usos if you inflated them and somehow they've only been wrestling for about a year and a half. They're also #1 contenders after winning a tournament but the champs have been running from them.

Winters goes for a headlock on Leonis to start and gets tossed into the corner with raw power. Chace comes in and rolls up Maximus for two but gets his head knocked off with a jumping clothesline. It's Chace getting beaten down in the corner until a shot to the throat allows a tag off to Winters.

A double back elbow gets two on Maximus, who comes right back with a double clothesline. The chinlock has Nigel in trouble and it's back to Leonis for a chinlock of his own. A third chinlock is countered with a pull of the hair to reverse into another chinlock (that's a new one). Leonis gets a shoulder for the double knockdown as time expires at 10:12.

Rating: D+. This was a weird one with both teams wrestling a similar style, which didn't make a ton of sense given how different they really are. It wasn't exactly a surprise that this was going to a time limit draw and there's nothing wrong with that. If nothing else it saves the

big King's Ransom vs. War Kings showdown and title change for later.

Tag Team Titles: The Void vs. King's Ransom vs. War Kings

The War Kings (Crimson/Jax Dane) are defending. After we come back from looking at the champs' entrance, Leonis is in trouble thanks to a chop block from Winters. Crimson makes the save and throws Leonis into the corner so Jax can tag himself in. Dane beats up the Void on his own (it doesn't look that hard) and we hit the chinlock on Chace.

Crimson comes back in for a suplex, followed by a nerve hold from Dane. The comeback doesn't take long though as Maximus tags himself in to clothesline the heck out of Nigel. King's Landing (double spinebuster) gets two but Crimson makes the save, setting up the fireman's carry flapjack into a cutter to finish Destiny and retain the titles at 8:33.

Rating: D. The rules didn't do this one any favors as the champs came in and basically squashed the already beaten up Void while ignoring the interesting team. It makes sense from a long term storyline perspective but that doesn't make for a good match in this case. It wasn't very good, but the way the match was set up made it seem like this was the way it was supposed to go, which is a pretty strange way to proceed.

OVW Title: Sami Callihan vs. Tony Gunn

Gunn is defending and OVE/Team OVW are all at ringside. They start fast with an exchange of chops in the corner until Gunn dropkicks him to the floor. The stalling ensues until everyone gets inside for the big staredown. We settle down to Gunn knocking Callihan outside and following with a dive this time to keep Sami in trouble. Back in again and Sami flips him off for not chopping hard enough.

A suplex keeps Sami down but he shakes the ropes to knock Gunn down and take over. Gunn gets sent outside for the group stomp and another staredown, because a match and a staredown aren't enough. Sami grabs a chinlock back inside, followed by something close to a People's Elbow. The chinlock goes on again but Gunn reverses into a Brock Lock of all things, sending Sami slowly crawling over to the ropes.

Sami bails to the floor and catches a sliding Gunn in the ring skirt to keep up the beating. Back in again and we hit the nerve hold to keep extending the match. That's reversed as well, this time into an ankle lock of all things. There's another rope grab for a break, allowing Sami to dive over for a rollup and a near fall. Sami starts in on Gunn's knee, sending Tony to the ropes as well. It's Gunn getting fired up this time and spitting in Sami's face for a change.

A superplex attempt is countered into a powerbomb out of the corner and Sami slaps on a pretty quickly broken STF. The baseball bat is brought in and the tug of war gives us the required ref bump. Gunn's Five Arm discus forearm connects for no cover so Gunn loads it up again. That's a smart move but everything breaks down again, as you knew was coming.

We get the big parade of people being knocked down in a row until Gunn hits another Five Arm for no cover. Raju goes up and gets shoved through the announcers' table (that was LOUD in person), setting up a piledriver for two on Gunn with another referee coming in for the count. Callihan loads up the bat to chair spot but gets low blowed, setting up the third Five Arm to retain the title at 27:58.

Rating: C+. This was long, though it didn't feel all that long for most of the match. Gunn needed some smoke and mirrors to make up for his limited (though it could have been much worse) offense. I still don't get the appeal of him in my limited time seeing him but he's not the most thrilling guy. Sami still comes off like a star, though it might be a case of being a big fish in a small pond.

Team OVW celebrates to end the show. After the show was over, D'Amore offered Gunn a spot in Impact but Gunn turned him down.

Overall Rating: C. You have to consider the situation here. OVW is a smaller promotion and there's nothing wrong with that. This show was designed to give OVW a rub and that's what they did. There are people on the roster who look good and have a future, though they need some more seasoning, which is why they're in OVW at the moment. Some of the talent is much better than others, but what we got here was perfectly watchable and that made for a rather nice show. It was a little long live, but

getting to go to the Davis Arena was a cool moment and for the \$20 ticket, I can't complain.

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Ohio Valley Wrestling TV – February 11, 2019: I Don't Remember It This Way



IMG Credit: Ohio Valley Wrestling

Now this is going to be very different. I spent a lot of years watching OVW TV and got to see a bunch of people in the WWE developmental system before they came up to the main roster (hence the old motto: "Tomorrow's Superstars Today!"). However, Lexington stopped getting the TV show years ago so I haven't seen this promotion in probably ten years. Then I heard

that Imp

act Wrestling was doing a One Night Only show in Louisville with OVW this Saturday and since that's only about an hour and fifteen minutes away, I'm taking in the show. So I won't be lost, I'll be looking at the three most recent OVW TV's.

I'm not sure what day the TV actually airs so we'll go with their dates on YouTube.

Ohio Valley Wrestling

Date: February 11, 2019

Location: Davis Arena, Louisville, Kentucky

Commentators: Gilbert Corsey, Ted McNaler, Josh Ashcraft

In something that I don't get to say very often, I'm coming into this completely blind. I don't know these wrestlers, I don't know their stories and I don't know what they do. That can be fun though as it lets me see what kind of stuff I'm getting into as an outsider, meaning they need to show me something. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence, featuring a bunch of shots of wrestlers with their names included. That's very helpful indeed.

The announcers (two of whom I recognize from back in the day) recap the recent Saturday Night Special (their big shows) and talk about everything we'll be seeing, including a new OVW Champion and a tag team winning a tournament to get a guaranteed title shot.

Here's OVW owner Al Snow to thank everyone for allowing OVW to exist. He has a big announcement though: on March 2, Impact Wrestling is coming for a super show. Didn't I just say that? Snow wants the best of OVW on the show, which is why champions are guaranteed to be on the card, though there will be some other spots available. This brings out to guys who seem to be named the Entourage and are rather white rappers.

Shiloh Jonze wants in on this show but the other one (unnamed) wants in as well, triggering a fight. A big guy names...well Big Zo actually, comes in to say that they're both stupid. This brings out Melvin Maximus, who

says he's a two time TV Champion and a former OVW Champion. On March 3, Snow is going to have to make a choice. Actually not as the show is on March 2, which thankfully Snow points out. Now it's Adam Revolver (another guy I remember) to suck up to Snow as the small entrance way is getting very full.

We're not done yet as Cash Flo comes in to say the grown folks are talking right now. Flo insults them all (rather badly too as he sounds like he's having to think of every show) until Drew Hernandez comes out to say he's proven how worthy he is. He's proven how much better he is than Heavyweight Champion Tony Gunn and Justin Smooth, which brings out Smooth as well.

Snow has had it and says that it's true a champion is guaranteed a spot, including possibly the TV Champion (Smooth). He explains the TV Title, which is defended every week in a gauntlet match where the title can change hands on a countout or a DQ. Therefore, let's have everyone here in a gauntlet match tonight with the winner being guaranteed to be on the big show.

This was really long and felt like a WWE segment with some people who feel like just slightly above average indy wrestlers. Now that being said, they all want something and their motivations are clear, so at least the segment made sense and wasn't something where you needed an explanation of what was going on. I did however need an explanation of who these people were as even some name graphics would have helped.

Dimes/Eddie Knight vs. The Void

Yes Dimes, who looks to be about sixteen. The Void are Chace Destiny and Nigel Winters, two guys in Void shirts. The audio is really off here as the ring announcer comes in very clearly and sounds great but McNaler sounds like he's about three feet from the microphone and can barely be heard over the entrance music. Dimes and Knight take turns working on Winters' arm as the announcers talk about Destiny being suffocated by a plastic bag last week. It's off to Destiny for his own arm cranking as all four of them are barely above the top rope.

The arm work continues as they're certainly in first gear but it's

looking crisp enough and I'll take that over bad execution of more complicated stuff. A legsweep takes Dimes down and a double Japanese armdrag does it again. Dimes manages to get up top but gets dropkicked out of the air as we hear about the Void being the minions of the evil Crazy Steve and Aamon who broke away from their control. That's a fine explanation of a backstory and explains their rather heelish sounding names. Something close to a Demolition Decapitator (with a fist drop instead of an elbow) finishes Dimes at 3:53.

Rating: D. This seemed to be a starter win for the Void, who felt like faces in gear that looked heelish, which actually fit the backstory. In other words, while the wrestling wasn't all that great, the commentary was a nice feature and kept me from having a bunch of questions about what I was watching. The arm work dominated this match and that's not the most thrilling stuff in the world, but I'll take it over botching everything left and right.

Before the Void can be announced as the winners, Aamon appears in the balcony to say the worms have forgotten where they came from. The sheep wander away from their home but a good shepherd will bring them back to the flock, no matter what they have to go through first. This was effective stuff as Aamon sounded really creepy and came off like a threat to the Void, who aren't the most impressive looking people in the first place.

We get a sitdown interview with new OVW Champion Tony Gunn, though the audio is now just only coming through one ear instead of both for some reason. We see a clip of Gunn defeating Abyss to win the title and Gunn talks about being away from OVW for over a year due to an injury. He's worked hard to get here and is ready to face anyone either from OVW or from outside.

His first title defense will take place at a house show on February 16 against the winner of a Rumble that night. Gunn is cool with that because he's ready for anyone. As for Impact Wrestling, he took the title from their Hall of Famer, so he's ready for anyone else. Gunn isn't a bad promo and I can see his star power, at least on this level.

King's Ransom (the winners of the Nightmare Cup tournament, two guys with a great look) want their Tag Team Title shot against the War Kings RIGHT NOW so here are the champs (Crimson/Jax Dane). However, they want to be defending the titles at the Impact show. After some insults from the champs, Ransom (Leonis Khan and Maximus Khan) jump the two of them and the match is on.

Tag Team Titles: King's Ransom vs. War Kings

The War Kings are defending and wrestling in street clothes. Maximus slips out of Dane's fireman's carry and it's quickly off to Leonis for a splash in the corner. A double hiptoss keeps Crimson in trouble and a rollup gives Leonis two. It's back to the bigger Dane, who shoves both challengers away without much effort. Leonis gets two off a crossbody as everything breaks down. The referee gets crushed by a Stinger Splash and the King's Landing (a double spinebuster) plants Crimson. Another referee comes in after a fifteen second cover to count two. Dane comes in with a belt shot to the head for the DQ at 4:12.

Rating: C-. Now this was more like it with two teams who looked like professional wrestlers. The War Kings are established names (Dane is a former NWA World Champion) and the King's Ransom have a great look (almost like muscular Usos). I could see the latter team going somewhere with some more polish, and that's exactly the point of a place like this.

Sinn Bodhi (you might remember him as Kizarny) can't wait to be back. This was another creepy visual as his face is inside a floating TV screen which keeps moving around with a windup monkey and another creepy clown in the background. OVW knows how to do the evil stuff well.

We look back at Snow setting up the gauntlet match.

TV Title: Gauntlet Match

Justin Smooth is defending and it's Dave Low (the other rapper from earlier tonight) in first and Zo in second. The huge Zo misses a charge into the corner but shrugs off a kick to the face. David dives off the top but gets caught in a World's Strongest Slam. A Zo Bomb (Vader Bomb) gets rid of David at 39 seconds.

Shiloh Jonze is in third and charges right into a shoulder block. Zo clotheslines him out to the floor and Big D. (the rappers' friend, a big man in a black wig) gets on the apron, only to have Zo take the wig away. That means some hairy dancing, followed by rapid fire elbows in the corner. Low offers a distraction so Big D. can come in...and get knocked outside again. Jonze charges into Zo's hips in the corner and another Zo Bomb gets rid of him at 2:34.

Melvin Maximus is in fourth and has the muscles to match up with Zo. The lockup doesn't go to either of them so Zo spinwheel kicks him down. It's too early for the Zo Bomb though and Melvin electric chairs him down for the elimination at 4:41. Adam Revolver, who has been having issues with Maximus, is in fifth as we take a break. Back with Melvin punching his way out of a Figure Four so Adam's manager Shannon the Dude comes in for a failed interference attempt. They brawl on the floor where, in a classic booking move, Shannon grabs Melvin's foot from underneath the ring so Adam advances by countout at 8:03.

Smooth is in sixth and hits a quick flapjack to take over in a hurry. Revolver slaps on a sleeper but gets driven into the corner in a hurry. What looked to be a bicycle kick (or maybe a running knee to the chest) gets rid of Revolver at 9:30. Drew Hernandez is in seventh but before anything can start, Colton Cage and Dustin Jackson fight their way to ringside. Jackson's girlfriend Dani comes to the barricade to yell at them to cut it out as Smooth and Hernandez stand around and watch.

Dani comes over the barricade and Colton accidentally knocks her down. Drew FINALLY remembers that he's in a title match and jumps Smooth from behind...with a low blow for the DQ at 12:23. Another low blow connects and it's Cash Flo in eighth to complete the field. Flo chops away on the downed Smooth with a seated senton busting up the ribs. A release German suplex has Smooth in more trouble so Flo goes up and dives (despite Smooth being in the opposite corner) into Street Justice (now clearly a bicycle kick) to retain Smooth's title at 15:18.

Rating: D+. I'm really not sure what the point is in a gauntlet match unless it's a way to get this many people onto the show at once. The wrestling wasn't anything great but some of the people stood out more

than others, with Smooth having a great look but clearly in need of a lot of ring time. Smooth retaining is fine, though I'm not sure how many weeks in a row something like this is going to work.

Overall Rating: D+. This was up and down to put it mildly, with some people looking like they have potential to go somewhere with more seasoning and some looking like low level indy talent who have no business being out of a training class. That being said, I had a good time with some of what happened here and kind of want to keep going with the show. There's enough stuff to keep my interest and the stories are certainly easy to follow. Hopefully the next two weeks hold up a bit better, but what we got here was acceptable.

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