

**HEAT
SHEET**



**ISSUE
#1**

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Wrestlenado Review

“tell me a story”

What’s Coming up

A Letter from the Editor

I suspect it is the same for all of us but my first experience of wrestling was not through live indie show. I saw wrestling on television, and saw wrestlers in the movies and became interested, I sought out wrestling on the internet and on streaming services and became a fan. Seeking out, going to and falling for my local indie promotions was just the latest in a long development of my wrestling watching journey.

A natural consequence of that is that I tend to describe what I am learning about with reference to what I already know. It's an attempt to provide a context, rather than a suggestion of a lack of originality.

When I describe Mitch McCarthy as the Kasius Ohno of south east qld, it is to say that he presents as a true fan of the art form, able to work with anyone, and make them look great in doing so.. It's the natural ability, not just the look that sees me looking at GenNxt and wondering why Pink Matt Riddle has teamed up with Pink Dash Wilder, and there is something almost 'GoldDustian' in Adonis's commitment to the character.

I do it when I see visiting performers for the first time too. There is something of Colt Cabana in a Corndog match, by which I mean there is real crowd engagement and knowing humour, in a form that also includes sound fundamentals.

Which is a long winded way to say that the spark, the talent and the drive that exists in some of the biggest names in wrestling, also exist in many of our local performers, and unfortunately I have no way of explaining that without making those references.

This month in Heat Sheet, we look at how our local promotions and performers are connecting with their audience beyond the mat. On the eve of "The Price is Wrong, Bitch" we offer a match by match review of "Mayhem", and revisit Venom's "Redemption IV", including the title change in the women's division. And, as always we look at what is coming up next month, what matches have been announced and what we are looking forward to.

Thanks for reading, and remember to support local wrestling.

Matt McQueen

Our Cover

At Mayhem, JL Gold was more interested in beer than brawling and he was happy to share his distraction with his tag partner.

Photo by Callum Rule Media

The Round up

AWA Wrestlenado Recap

A solid opening match saw JL Gold (one half of the tag team Headstrong) emerging from his injury depression to take the win from GenNext's Mitch Ryder. Gold appeared to gain steam as the match progressed while Ryder tired, which cost Ryder in the home stretch.

The tag match between Big Fudge and Hugh Manatee vs The Daniels Republic came next. It was the first match of AWA newcomer CJ, who was immediately inducted into the Daniels Republic upon his arrival but ended with the aquatic mammalian and desert based luchadores claiming the win.

The third match had Outback Adam successfully defending Combat Wombat's honour against wombat hating Zac Reynolds. The match included a number of comedic moments as well as the return of Outback Adam's crocodile Steve, (wearing a neck-brace, to recover from mayhem).



Zac Reynolds takes out his frustration on a blow up toy

The Retro Bros' took on the good men in their first defence of the AWA Tag Belts. It had been Bobby Bishop (at Mayhem) who had won them the belts, with his partner Rip Rielly down at ring side nursing a damaged knee, but it was Rip Rielly successfully defended them. Sebastian Matters was away prompting John Skyfall to take out Bobby Bishop in a pre match attack. That led to some unlikely substitutes. Savage joined Skyfall to become a "good man" for the night, and Combat Wombat subbed in to The Retro Bros, assisting Reilly to pick up the win.



Cedric brave taking to the air against Sullivan and Yng Chad

Following the match Rip Rielly was attacked by Divine Darkness' Sorrow and a suddenly more emo Adonis, getting payback for losing the tag belts at Mayhem and vowing to be the tag champions by the end of Homecoming 6.

Next we had one of the stand out matches of the night, the triple threat between Yng Chad, Headstrong's Xander Sullivan and GenNext's Cedric Brave. Everyone in the match had their own strengths so a winner of the match was difficult to

predict. It featured high flying, intense submission holds and great character moments, while Brave managed to pick up the win, the match got everyone over. We don't know whether to be more impressed with the performance of Brave and Yng Chad, two fairly inexperienced in ring performers for the progress they have made, or with the ever reliable Sullivan for being able to work effectively with such green talent, so we will give Kudos all 'round.

Even in the low-ceilinged Zoo the high flying ability of Zeke Andino was evident in his match against Tim Kade, unfortunately the flips and tricks weren't quite enough to get Andino the win, with Kade coming out the victor. This was a return to the winning column for Kade who had come up short in two title shots in may.



Zeke Andino took to the sky against Tim Kade

The main event match between Champ Jake Nova and number one contender Jesse Daniels had something for every type of wrestling fan. It started at a slower pace, based mostly around the crowd, Jake Nova and Todd Eastman reacting to Jesse Daniels

peculiar hair horns. Brutal physicality, hits on the apron (which we all know is the hardest part of the ring), faction and manager meddling, and the action spilling out of the ring. As Daniels and Nova beat each-other around the Zoo it quickly became clear that either man could win the AWA Heavyweight Title, Nova ultimately managed to triumph retaining the title to continue his streak as the longest AWA heavyweight champ having held it for 469 days as of 20th July.

This was another successful show from AWA, but one that clearly has them with one eye on Homecoming on the 10th August. It's not yet clear who Nova's challenger will be at that event, though he will be up against Hugh Manatee at the next AWA event before Homecoming. Other match announcements include some of the entrants in the Homecoming Cup Battle Royal, and theories surrounding who will compete for the soon to be debuted open weight championship.

– Aisling Taylor

Venom: Redemption IV

Venom Pro Wrestling were at Beenleigh Bowls Club on 29th June for their Redemption IV event.

Next Level currently hold all of the gold in Venom Pro Wrestling, and Jaxon Cross thought that had earned them the night off. GM Anthony Fermanian wasn't having it though and booked the entire stable to defend their respective titles.

Challenged to put up or shut up, Next Level delivered though, with JL Gold successfully defending the Origins title against Bobby Bishop.



everybody loves a coronation

Xander Sullivan and Jake Nova, getting the win over MDCAU and Night Terrors, and the man himself Jaxon Cross, surviving the twin heavyweight threat of Spaceman Dacey and Rip Reilly in a triple threat main event.

The night also saw Renegade throw Adonis at Sebastian Matters with the divine one getting the win. In return Sebastian Matterts booked Renegade to face (wait for it) ... Hugh Manatee, their pick your poison stipulation. Renegade picked up the win, leaving the two protagonists free to finalise matters at overload.



De Lander on her way to the title

Flashman bit off more than he could chew against Diablo, getting a beating for his trouble and setting up another match at Overload. Zac Reynolds crossed the line against Kobra Jones and was disqualified.

Though Next Level retained all their titles, Women's Champion Tarlee was not so lucky, going down to Steph De Lander, after the champ was distracted by Brandy Alexander. This was a hard hitting match, which either competitor could have won. In another sign that Venom is right behind promoting women's wrestling in QLD, they had the entire match up on facebook live. Find it and check it out, there is really no excuse for not watching this one.

We have bought our tickets to Overload 4, and are looking forward to bringing a full review of Venom's July show in the next issue.

IPW: Ladder Wars

At IPW Ladder wars The Impact Rangers retained the IPW Tag Team Belts against LFB and Tim Hayden.

Rip Reilly leaves as the number one contender for the IPW Heavyweight Championship after winning the IPW Battle Royale . Obie Cartel was awarded the win by DQ over Dick Brutal after interference from Order 66.

Franco Varga defeated Skhorn to retain the Infinite Pro Wrestling World Championship.

The main event saw Zeke Andino def. Youngblood Jesse Love. Both performers had gold on the line and the win saw Andino leave with both his IPW Heavyweight Championship and the IPW Unified Championship, in the winner take all bout.

Photos courtesy Callum Rule Media, Australian Wrestling Alliance and Venom Pro-Wrestling

Tell me a story

Wrestling is storytelling.

Crazy, violent, lycra and leather storytelling, but Storytelling just the same.

There are good guys, and bad guys, conflict, and resolution, all wrapped up in a package of armbars and dropkicks and suplexes. The wonderful thing about wrestling isn't just the athleticism but how it uses that athleticism to tell those stories. Successful promotions, successful performers are not always the ones who pull out the best moves but the ones who can draw you in to their narrative.

That's hard, and it's even harder for local independent promotions who don't have the luxury of seemingly unlimited airtime to move things forward.

The WWE has 5 hours of network television a week. It has the WWE network, it has a dedicated you tube channel, and a cultural footprint which all but guarantees an audience for its social media and the social media of its performers. Drake Maverick and R Truth have hit gold with their 24/7 shenanigans, before that Becky Lynch tweeted her way to the top of the card, Bray Wyatt (like the Fashion Police before him) has re-established himself as one of the best characters without having got near a wrestling ring.

It's all good stuff, but given the time, space and opportunity afforded by their position on the roster of the sports entertainment titan, the success is also not that surprising.

What is harder, what takes real skill is to find a way to tell as story when you time is limited. When you have maybe 10- 20 minutes in front of a live audience a month, its all the more difficult to get yourself across to the audience. Which is why I am so impressed by the quality of story telling in our local promotions, and pleased that they are all in various ways taking steps to further their storytelling beyond the ring.

It starts in the ring of course, and from my first show I was amazed by the ability of the performers to get their characters across. It takes Spaceman Dacey about 5 seconds to sell himself as an arrogant big man heel who you want to see taken down a peg, the perfect foil to the loveable Rip Reilly. Tim Kade is the cocky little guy with a chip on his shoulder and a point to prove, and races around the ring with the pace and ferocity of a terrier. Xander Sullivan, is the blue chip in ring performer with the technical chops to take on all comers.

And the audience play their part too. Calling out performers for past deed and misdeeds. Its smarky,



NOOOOO... don't do that to Rip.

but it also clues in the new crowd. But when the lights go up and the venue shuts there are still stories being told.

Facebook's not cool. We know that. But it is the most ubiquitous social media platform, and the easiest way to track down Local Wrestling.

An active Facebook page is probably the absolute minimum as marketing and story telling tool. . Venom, AWA, IPW and Pro Wrestling League Australia all have that regular presence and use it to share results and announce upcoming shows and matches.

Recently though, we've noticed a trend of promotions pushing to get more out of facebook.

Venom's highlight packages are great fun and go up on facebook, quickly after their shows. It is no substitute for being there, but it highlights the athleticism of their performers and shows off the high spots in a well produced format. They have also recently announced that they will be putting their entire back catalogue on you-tube over the coming month and even that has been used as a chance to build on existing storytelling, with a recent vignette seeing Flashman cut across Anthony Fermanian's planned announcement to demand another shot at his nemesis Diablo.

We need to talk...

We probably can't discuss alt-media and wrestling without mentioning podcasts. Wrestling loves podcasts, and Australian wrestling has it's podcasts too. Look out for Todd Eastman's 'Wrestle Radio Australia' and Big Fudge's 'Conco and the Fudge'

The Bite, is Venom's regular news and recap format, providing an opportunity to move stories forward in an uncomplicated way. The latest episode was a great example. Zac Reynolds's character is that of the entitled kid, impatient for his shot and not willing to respect the business or pay his dues, this was sold well in the most recent episode of the Bite where Reynolds literally demanded that Fermanian hire him to wrestle not to referee. Fermanian's response, booking 'the natural' in the upcoming Rumble match, promotes both the match and the performer, and immediately puts Reynolds into the picture for what would be the biggest win of his short career.

Whether the promos are driven by the promotion or the performers though it is good stuff. In the lead up to Redemption venom posted a half dozen promo videos from a variety of talent, including Tarlee and Step De Lander and Jaxon Cross, hyping their upcoming matches.

AWA has recently been running vignette's updates and highlights using '*Enter the Grindhouse*', hosted by Lucy B and Alex Sheppard. This has been some great stuff a nice blend of highlights with some backstage gossip and cheesy interplay between the two hosts. When I first got into AWA I went onto Youtube to look at older videos. One of the best, and still one of my favourite videos was Alex Sheppard, explaining the history of AWA Grindhouse, while he wandered around his flat, casually beating Adonis (to death) with the AWA title belt, and disposing of the body. It's the same casual, almost careless style he brings to '*Enter the Grindhouse*' and it bounces nicely off the more professional attitude of his co-host.

Special mention should also go to Pro Wrestling League, Australia. As a newer promotion they've been running a show every two months. In a crowded market it can seem like a long time between drinks They bridge some of that gap by releasing highlight packages from individual matches at regular intervals over the break. You may not get a chance to see a show every month, but you won't forget they are around.

So Facebook is great for the promotions but for the individual performers, particularly those down the card their individual storytelling can get drowned out on facebook.

Enter Instagram.

Perhaps more importantly though Instagram gives the opportunity for performers to develop their characters and connect with their audience beyond the ring. It is a forum for challenges, inside jokes, shared thoughts and shared photos. It can also be enormously personal. Instagram promotes the performer not just a performance. From Adonis's road trip shenanigans, to Jake Nova's baby photos, to Todd Eastman's pugs.

It is easy to pass social media off as a series of throw away moments, but life is ultimately throw away moments and wrestling has often been considered a throw away art form. As far as the mainstream is concerned it's scripted, its pre-planned, none of it actually matters, it is a disposable performance that will be repeated next week or next month or next year and each individual match doesn't matter.

But again that is life. It's less about what moments happen and more about who we share them with that turns it into a narrative.

Wrestling is about storytelling and storytelling is about connection, and our South East QLD performers are all about that connection. Think outside the box, support local wrestling.

So what is a loop boi?

Only on Instagram could an indie wrestler's love of donuts morph into a mini-phenomenon in it's own right, complete with it's own insta page, photo posts and the inevitable anti-donut backlash. But that's exactly what has happened with the loop boi gang. A 'faction' that transcends the usual paradigm of the face/heel divide to unite its members around a mutual appreciation of, deep fried batter.

When your rivals are posting vision of themselves punching baked goods you've officially started something.



Reach Out

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What's Coming Up



Venom has announced Overload 4 for Saturday 27 July at The Showmen's Club Yatala announced a few matches via facebook. Those include a serious challenge for Champion Jaxon Cross, taking on visiting Eddie Vergara. While Cross may have the height and reach advantage, the Chilean has nearly eight more years of in ring experience to call on in what should be an intriguing match up. JL Gold is slated to defend the Origins Title against Tequila Young. Overload will also

see the 3rd Annual Guy Fermanian Rumble, in honour of GM Anthony Fermanian's late father Sheik Rahim Abdullah. As mentioned, Heat Sheet will be there live for this show.

AWA will be running "the price is wrong bitch: Lethal Lottery edition" at the Zoo on 20 July. The Lethal lottery format will see a draw of random tag partners, with winners wrestling again for a chance to be inserted into the picture for the new open weight belt being decided at homecoming.

Jake Nova will defend his title against Hugh Manatee, and Tim Kade will fight PWL champion Mick Moretti and Jack Pain, in what may be one of the last chances to see Moretti before he heads off to the United States for another shot at Chikara's King of Trios.

For AWA though it is all about Homecoming VI on 10 August at Kedron Wavell Service Club, which in addition to the abovementioned Open Weight tournament, will see a returning AJ Istria take on Juicy Gambino, a potentially explosive women's match between Jessika Troy v Kellyanne, and divine darkness trying to wrest back their tag title belts from the Retro Bros.



Pro Wrestling League Australia has also announced it's next show "Day of Reckoning" on 17 August from Southport Church of Christ. We will have more details on this show in our next issue, but at this stage they have announced matches for Renegade v Jake Nova v Davis Storm and Jesse Want to reach out?

photos courtesy Venom Pro Wrestling, Australia Wrestling Alliance and Pro Wrestling League

Coming up in Heat Sheet

We are really pleased with the reception and support we've had from readers, wrestlers and promoters so far. We look forward to bringing you more SEQ wrestling content in the coming months including a backstage look at Pro Wrestling League, an interview with GenNext's Mitch Ryder and a deep dive into the mind of Venom GM Anthony Fermanian.