

HEAT SHEET



June 2019

**A Conversation with AWA's Jesse
Moon**

Review- AWA Mayhem

Review- PWL The Fire Rises

July Preview



A Letter from the Editor

Welcome to our almost first issue of “Heat Sheet”, Brisbane and South East Queensland’s very own online wrestling Magazine.

Beyond the sport entertainment headlines of WWE.

Beyond the inscrutable Strong Style theatrics of New Japan.

Beyond even the upstart confidence of AEW or the fight club credentials of ROH or the comic book superhero shenanigans of Chikara... there is wrestling, right here on our doorstep.

Our wrestling, and it is Brilliant, and it deserves your attention.

Heat Sheet is our attempt to give it that attention, to shine a light on the performers and the promotions plying their trade in our own backyard. Every month, we aim to give you a rundown of what happened where, and what is coming up, to let you know what you may have missed and what you’ve got to look forward to, as well as a feature article to help you get under the skin of the Wrestling scene.

This month we had the opportunity to speak to AWA promoter Jesse Moon and chat to him about his plans and hopes for his company. We hope you enjoy that article.

Finally, Heat Sheet is independent, it’s free, its not sponsored we are wrestling fans, but we can’t get to every show and see every match, so we want to know what you think, what you’ve seen what you liked and what you hated. Get in contact, by email, facebook, follow us on twitter and Instagram and most importantly, get out there and support your Local Indie

Matt McQueen

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Our Cover this Issue

Mitch Ryder, one half of AWA Tag Team GenNext, waiting for a tag at AWA- Mayhem.

“Sometimes ringside isn’t the best view in the house.”

The Month in Review

Australian Wrestling Alliance ran Mayhem, as an all-ages show at Kedron Wavell Services Club. This was a solid show, with some good support matches and a very good main event.

A surprise win for the Retro Bros, (Bobby Bishop and Rip Reilly) over Adonis and Sorrow in the tag team title match, with Bishop picking up the pin after his partner had been felled with a knee injury. A surprise also with the Good Men, (Sebastian Matters and John Skyfall) fluking their way to the number one contender-ship over GenNext and Headstrong.

SmashFace Mitch McCarthy pulled double duty, calling out the entire roster and going down in quick succession to Young Chad (too tall), and Arya Reign (presumably not tall enough). Both matches were good fun with the latter being one of my favourites of the night. McCarthy putting Arya over in style.



Arya Reign on the attack

Jesse Daniels became number one contender for the top belt, with a win over Hugh Manatee.

The main event saw Jake Nova retain over Tim Kade in a two out of three falls match. These guys started at top speed and the first two falls were dramatic and well paced. The final fall fell a little flat for me. Even so this was probably my match of the month.

Pro Wrestling League were at Southport Church of Christ for The Fire Rises. This was a good tight show, helped by a good-humoured crowd of 150+ who got into most of the matches. The show included solid performances from Corndog over Alex Cross, GenNext getting a win over AWA tag champs the Retro Bros, and Renegade coming out on top in a fairly even 4-way match over Xander Sullivan, Spaceman Dacey and Caveman Ugg.



PWL Champion Mick Moretti

Mitch McCarthy and Jesse Daniels destroyed each other (and at least two baking trays) in a 20+ minute No-DQ match before McCarthy got the win.

Adonis retained his contract after a chaotic six-man scramble, that saw New Zealander Jade Diamond make a strong impression and Jake Nova show that he can work all over the card. Outback Adam took a horrible looking bump but seemed to have suffered no ill effects.

Tim Kade failed to take the title off The Rapsallion Mick Moretti, in a great main event. That saw Tim Kade fail in his second title bid in the space of 8 days.

Impact Pro Wrestling gave us Love and War.

The impact Rangers (Luxford and Bodhi Jackson) won the tag titles from the UnAustralians.

Jesse Love and Zeke Andino fought to a draw in the main event, both wrestlers managing to pin each other at the same time and setting up a ladder match to finally decide the IPW undisputed champion.

Australian Wrestling Alliance- “It’s not that sort of Zoo”

It’s a Saturday night in early February.

The tickets say doors open at 7.00 for a 7.30 show. Its 7.25 though and the doors are still shut, and a line stretches 80 metres down Ann street and around the corner.

A taxi stops in traffic and an exquisitely made up young woman winds down the window and leans out. “*Who is playing?*”, she calls out, to everyone in the line, and no one in particular.

“*What?*” someone calls back

“*What band are you seeing?*”

One of the big bearded guys in front of me answers for the queue.

“*It’s not a band, it’s a wrestling show*”

And with that, the window goes up, the lights change, and the beautiful people drive off.

Welcome to the Valley. Welcome to Brisbane. Welcome to AWA.

The way Jesse Moon, AWA Promoter tells it, Brisbane has not always been kind to wrestling. There aren’t a lot of venues able or willing to give over crowd space and ticket sales for a full-size wrestling ring, and promoters have often found themselves paying over the odds for those venues that do.

A history of poor booking and questionable quality control, combined with the inevitable peaks and troughs of an already cyclic industry have seen promotions, in recent memory, running shows in front of a literal handful of paying customers.

The Australian Wrestling Alliance was born from that cycle, formed by Esteban Molina, on an ethos of creating a space in which the performers could challenge themselves and each other to do their best work. That is an Ethos that Jesse continues to drive. It is a promotion

that demands that their performers earn their spots, and any performer who thinks they can get away with phoning it in at an AWA show will soon be disabused of that notion.

Wrestling is a competitive industry. Whilst the wrestlers are working together to put on a good performance, they are also well aware that getting to the top means getting over the other



AWA Champion Jake Nova works a hold

competitors. The Australian Wrestling Alliance is happy to encourage that competitiveness if it brings out the best in its roster.

AWA has a solid phalanx of regular fans. Fans who know the characters, and who through there heckles and cat calls help to move the in-ring stories forward. The promotion caters to those fans, calling back to past matches and feuds and incidents. Engaging directly with the audience, and on occasion breaking the fourth wall to have an inside joke with the 50- 100 punters that may count as insiders for a local indie promotion. AWA does not take itself too seriously, but while there is regular comedy, the AWA remains a wrestling promotion built around a core of consistent and consistently good in ring performers.

There is a stacked, if slightly chaotic tag division, anchored by the blue-chip consistency of HeadStrong (Xander Sullivan and JL Gold).

A hard hitting and athletic main title picture. With current Title Holder Jake Nova, a genuine star and a supporting roster of performers such as Tim Kade, Jesse Daniels and visiting stars, who are able to hang with Nova at the top of the card.

The undercard is equal parts warm up act for the crowd, and gateway for new talent. With comedy crowd favourite Combat Wombat, and experienced Local performers putting new and visiting performers through their paces. It all makes for a balanced and entertaining show.

There is no AWA women's division, though Arya Reign has made regular appearances on the card in intergender matches and Jesse was happy to confirm that there are a number of women currently in training. When and if they make their debut will be purely determined by when they are ready with the promotion having no plans to rush into presenting a women's division or women's matches until they can be confident, they will be AWA quality.

The Zoo is a venerable and well-established licensed venue in Brisbane. Home to bands and live performances for more than thirty years. Since December 2018, it has also been home to the Australian Wrestling Alliance and it's Grindhouse 18 + shows.

Jesse admits that Fortitude Valley is the natural home for AWA and their 18+ shows. The AWA was based at the New Globe Theatre for many years until that venue's closure in 2018,



Just another quiet night in the Valley. Blair Seeker putting the hurt on Hugh Manatee

sent them further afield. The Zoo, right in the heart of the Valley then is a return home for the promotion and is a fun atmospheric venue, albeit one with some natural limitations.

A low ceiling limits the opportunities for the genuine highflyers. It is possible to go to the top rope, but once there all but the smallest performers need to mind their heads.



Cedric Brave wrestles Sebastian Matters at AWA TFIF

The shape of the room means that the audience can only watch the action from three sides, and 80% of those are on one side of the ring.

There are bar tables, and the occasional stool but it is a standing venue, and a sound desk and stairway right in the middle of the room cut down the lines of site for those not at ring side.

It's a bar, with all of the connotations and limitations that that conveys, but that is also its charm. AWA plays to the room it has, with performers working primarily to the crowd in the front, and the action that spills out of the ring, making use of the natural geography wherever possible.

With 200 people in the room, it feels intimate without being pokey, on edge without being uncomfortable. AWA also run all ages shows at Kedron Wavell Services Club. A bigger room, with seating and a more traditional shape, these have the feel of a Chikara show but my personal preference is for the low ceiling and lower lights of the Zoo.

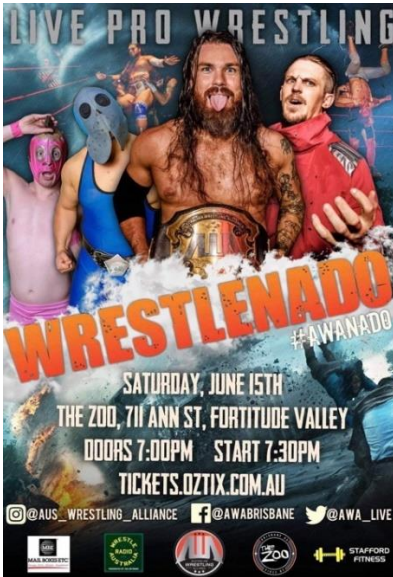
There is something of a wrestling boom happening in Australia at the moment. But to most of the world that is a boom happening in Melbourne and Sydney. Brisbane doesn't always get a look in. The AWA hopes to change that, the next few months will see the introduction of a new "open weight" title, the guest return of National star A J Itria and appearances by some time Bullet Clubber Juicy Gambino at their premier "Homecoming" Event.

Building on those foundations it is hoped that more international and national talent will make the trip to Brisbane. It's an organic process, and at a time when the wrestling market all around the world is changing, it's an exciting time to for the industry at all levels. If AWA can continue to offer a quality show right in the heart of Brisbane, if they can turn their 200+ crowds into 300 crowds and their 300+ into 400, if they can bring in name talent, and see some of their roster go on to establish their own name here and abroad, then it's all set to be an exciting time for the Australian Wrestling Alliance.

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**photos courtesy of AWA and Callum Rule Media*

Upcoming in June/July



June 15th – AWA Grindhouse's Wrestlenado – The Zoo, 711 Ann St 7pm

Wrestlenado's main event has been announced as a match between current AWA heavyweight champion Showtime Jake Nova and the winner of the number one contender match at Mayhem Jesse Daniels. While some matches at Wrestlenado are currently a mystery the event poster hints at who will appearing, including Hugh Manatee, Big Fudge and Adonis. The Retro Bros are also likely to defend their tag titles against the current number one contenders, The Good Men. With the new open weight championship being debuted soon, a number of singles matches are likely to occur in preparation.

June 29th – Venom Pro Wrestling's Redemption 4 – Beenleigh Bowls Club, 11 Hanover St 5:30pm

With the faction formerly known as Anti-Venom (now Next Level) in possession of all Venom Championships, chances are Redemption will give multiple contenders the opportunity to redeem themselves by challenging Jaxon Cross for the Heavyweight championship, Jake Nova and Xander Sullivan for the Tag Team Championship or JL Gold for the Origins Championship. Flashman called out Diablo challenging him to a no DQ match at Redemption after Diablo and Flashman's match at Aftermath earlier this month. Tarlee is also expected to defend her Venom Women's Championship, after retaining against Arya Reign at Aftermath. Renegade is also likely to have a match at Redemption though there has been no announcement about who he will face.



July 6th – Impact Pro Wrestling Aus's Ladder Wars – location not yet announced

After the draw between Zeke Andino and Jesse Love at Love and War, a ladder match has been announced to crown the Undisputed IPW Aus Champion. No other matches have been announced for the upcoming show though it is likely that we will see The Impact Rangers defend their new Impact Tag Championship, as well as a number of singles matches, with an appearance of Big Papi Franco Varga announced.

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**Photos courtesy of AWA and Venom Pro Wrestling*

Want to reach out?

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