

HEAT SHEET

**ISSUE
#4**



October 2019

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A Letter from the Editor

Most people like to pretend they are experts at everything, judging film, tv and wrestling with a holier than thou smarky mentality. But sometimes, if done right, a scene, twist or spot can suck you in to the events so deeply, all of the judgement falls away. Internationally these moments seem few and far between, but in Queensland wrestling we at Heat Sheet can't help but get invested. These moments are why we love local wrestling, and why we want to share it with you, because nothing feels better than sharing something you love. Most recently I experienced a moment where I forgot that I was meant to be a professional and was turned into a six year old having a tantrum. This moment happened at AWA's Beers and Bruises and was during the Heavyweight Title match.

(If you don't want spoilers, scroll down and read The Round Up first).

What was meant to be a match between Heavyweight Champion Hugh Manatee and challenger Rocky Menero quickly became the latest in the long list of matches that Jesse Daniels has made all about him. Besides the weariness that can be felt by having Daniels in so many titles matches this year, it still had the potential to be a great match. Even with the usual Daniels Shenanigans, Hugh was doing a great job of proving that he deserved the title.

That is until Jesse Daniels went full Heel and pulled off Hugh's mask. While Hugh was covering his face and was trying to put his mask back on, Jesse stole the pin.

Yes, *stole*.

In that moment I was consumed with a rage that could be compared to the feeling of watching a terrible modern remake of your favourite childhood show. Or finishing a video game but forgetting to save, or maybe even the sadness you feel when you find out a celebrity you admire is actually really mean. I felt that sadness and anger for Hugh, who lost his title only two shows after getting it, and I know I wasn't alone. The whole crowd was angry, and in that moment, we were all united in our hatred of Jesse Daniels, so much so that there was a second intermission, to quell our anger. No one will ever be able to convince me that Jesse Daniels is a toothless Heel, Beers and Bruises is the proof that Daniels is very good at being a Heel and enjoys it.

Luckily the new Heavyweight Champion isn't straying too far from his usual hobby of inserting himself into matches, by already putting the title on the line at PWL's Project: Revolution 2 in November. The main event is now a fatal five-way ladder match with both the PWL and AWA Titles on the line. If nothing else, my experience at Beers and Bruises makes me even more eager to watch Jesse Daniels lose both belts to any of the four other opponents in the upcoming match.

This issue is dedicated to Hugh Manatee, a mammal that deserves more than a two-event title reign. And to Renegade, Mick Moretti, Jaxon Cross and Mitch McCarthy: put Jesse Daniels through a ladder for me.

As always, support local wrestling.

Aisling Taylor

Our Cover this month:

Jett Rouka giving us an unconventional look at his back muscles. Photo by Barb's Photos

The Round up

AWA: Beers and Bruises

By Aisling Taylor

Beers and Bruises was setting itself up to be an eventful season finale for AWA. The show was the second part of the Homecoming Hangover Tour after Biff at the Triff in August. I decided that this would be the show to bring a friend to. Tehya had never seen any wrestling and was sick of me and Charlie discussing it, so she finally gave in and came with us to a show.



Outback Adam giving Rip Rielly a preview of what to expect at Beers and Bruises at July's Zoo show

The first match of the night was the tag title match between The Retro Bros and Outback Adam and Combat Wombat, and almost immediately there was a chant applauding both teams' sportsmanship. It was a great match to give someone with no context of SEQ rasslin, the vibe of the night. Retro Bros were able to retain their belts but were quite polite about pinning Adam and Wombat. With many teams failing to challenge The Bros for their title, the question is: who is the next number one contender?

The three man tag was the culmination of brewing heat between the Daniels Republic and Nashy + Gen Next, however with Nashy already working as the ring announcer, taking his place instead was Yng Chad, who will be now referred to as Tall Nashy. With Roberto Puccino also out of commission because of a toe injury, head of the Republic Jesse Daniels had to step in. It was a close to fair fight, though nothing is truly fair with the Republic involved. CJ and Draegon put in the work of tiring out Tall Nashy who was then strangled by Jesse Daniels himself. The Nashy Fan Base tried but ultimately failed to defend his honour with the Republic securing the win.

Then it was the triple threat between JL Gold, Zac Reynolds and Sorrow, who is continuing his run of proving he is over the Divine Darkness breakup. He proved to not be fully over it however when Adonis came over the announcing system challenging Sorrow to come find him. Sorrow did just that and left the ring for Zac Reynolds to claim the win over JL Gold. Reynolds' win was revenge for JL Gold beating him at Biff at the Triff.

Beers and Bruises saw many people debuting and returning to AWA, one such return was that of Lynx Lewis Jr in a match against Tim Kade. Lewis Jr was a regular on the AWA roster more than four years ago, the match served to get anyone who wasn't around in Lewis' Grindhouse days acquainted with his wrestling style. Tim Kade won the match and was again attacked by the masked assailant we have nicknamed Turbo Wolf. Kade had had enough of this however and proceeded to challenge Turbo Wolf to an actual match at the next show in the future.

Immediately after intermission there was the night's women's match between Arm Collector Jessica Troy and AWA's hometown hero making her singles debut, Lucille Brawl. Brawl and Troy put on a great match that was over with the crowd instantly. In the end Jessica Troy prevailed in collecting another arm, with Lucille Brawl submitting. Brawl is continuing the streak of having great matches, having participated in both Homecoming 5 and 6, the Troy match is building on heat that Brawl is using to establish herself as a force to be reckoned with.

Next came a match Heat Sheet was very excited for between Charlie's favourite Xander Sullivan and my favourite Sebastian Matters for the Openweight Title. Both men were equally matched for the entire match, with them throwing each other around the ring and around The Zoo. While Heat Sheet couldn't agree on who to back in the match, we do agree that we could watch Sullivan and Matters wrestle each other forever. And we might just get our wish. The match was cut short after Matters hit the ref, then Sullivan hit the ref, then they both hit the ref, leading to a double disqualification. This fell on deaf ears however because both Xander and Sebastian kept fighting through GM Syam's ruling and needed to be separated for the match to end. After the match however Sullivan invited Matters to challenge again at PWL's Project: Revolution 2 in a no holds barred match.



The beloved feud between Xander Sullivan and Sebastian Matters started at Homecoming VI back in August

After that explosive match came the heavyweight title match between Hugh Manatee and Rocky Menero. But before Todd Eastman could even cut a full promo on Menero's behalf, Jesse Daniels inserted himself into the match, and made the match a triple threat. Daniels wasted no time making the crowd hate him, by acting entitled and being a cheater. What could have been a great match between Menero and Manatee became the Jesse Daniels Shenanigans Show. Daniels even went so far as to pull off Hugh's mask before stealing the pin to become AWA's Heel Champion. Jesse Daniels' actions made everyone at the event mad enough that there was a second intermission.

After 10 minutes most people's rage had subsided, until Nashy (not Tall Nashy) reminded us about it. The main event was a sight to behold because it was a match between former 482 day champion against world renowned Robbie Eagles. The match featured lots of high flying despite the low ceilings and was engaging from start to finish. In the end Robbie Eagles managed to win via submission and ended the night thanking Jake Nova for the match, when Nova rejected a handshake, saying that his show of respect was giving his all to the match. Eagles then went on to thank the audience for helping Queensland wrestling grow.

It was a great introduction to Queensland wrestling for Tehya, her favourite match was understandably the women's match. Tehya got on board straight away because of the comedy of the tag title match. Tehya has also decided she wants to see more wrestling if only to see the next part of the Sebastian Matters and Xander Sullivan match.

*Photos Courtesy of Callum Rule Media

VPW: Survival IV

By Matt McQueen

Venom Pro Wrestling were at Yatala Showman's hall on 26 September for Survival IV.

Three title matches had been scheduled with three new titleholders making their respective first defences of the gold.



Jaxon Cross giving Xander Sullivan a close personal view of his knee

Todd Eastman had demanded Jaxon Cross get a rematch against Xander Sullivan, and that was the first match up. Sullivan came out to a great reception from the crowd and looked every bit the champion wearing the Venom belt.

When they got down to business both performers went hard. Cross continually attacked the right arm of Sullivan, weakening it for the inevitable submission attempt. Sullivan took it and returned serve with his own repertoire of suplexes and power headbutts. Eastman thankfully stayed out of the action, urging Cross on but not interfering. This made sense – Cross may be a despicable, obnoxious brutal bully, but he doesn't need to cut too many corners. As the

match went on though, he became more and more frustrated, unable to finish the job, and unable to lock in the armbar that would bring an end to Sullivan's resistance. In the end, after a brutal series of running knees, it was locked in and Sullivan was forced to tap out

It actually took me a couple of days to process this match. It was a very good match, the psychology was good, and it played to the strengths of two very solid and improving performers. At the time though, I was so shocked by the finish, so wrapped up in Sullivan's anguish at losing, so disgusted by

the mockery which ensued from Eastman and Cross that I was genuinely angry at the Heels. Well played gentleman.

Zac Reynolds took on Edward Dusk in a number one contenders match for the Origins title. This was Dusk's Venom debut and he came across as an interesting character. Despite Dusk getting some early offence, Reynolds always seemed in control, and picked up the win. He's been saying for months now that he should be fighting for title opportunities rather than fighting just to get on the show, and the Natural now has a chance, calling out Tequila Young after the match. If the role of the Origins title is to showcase young and developing talent, then this is a match (or feud) that should work well.

The second of the title matches was up next with Gen Next Level (and Todd Eastman) looking to defend the titles they had been gifted by Eastman against the Night Terrors (with Kobra Jones). This was solid Tag team fare, with the arrogant Heels cutting the ring in half, and working the smaller of their opponents over with quick tags and the occasional double team move. When Ryan Thorne managed to get the tag to his partner, the tables turned, and Damien was able to dish out the hurt on both of the Heels. The champions were in real trouble before the ref signalled time and the match was called as a time limit draw. As Gen Next celebrated, it was announced that the match would go another five minutes to try find a winner, and with the restart, Night terrors got the upper hand and scored the pin for the win.



Gen Next giving Night Terrors a time out in the naughty corner

In a fun match that was to have significant repercussions for the rest of the show, Flashman put his spot in Team Renegade on the line against Bobby Bishop in a Face v Face match. This was a crowd pleasing match with both performers getting some space to show their stuff, and with Bishop picking up the win and joining Team Renegade for the night's elimination tag main event.

Steph De Lander won the Venom Women's title in August thanks in no small part to interference from Brandy Alexander. Since then Tarlee has bided her time, dealt with Alexander and waited for her chance to get her hands on De Lander. Tonight was that chance. In an entertaining match that had De Lander doing everything in her power to get under the skin of her opponent, Tarlee kept her cool and her focus long enough to pick up the win. It was a popular result – Tarlee has really

connected with the Venom crowd, and it will be interesting to see how the women's title travels in the coming months.

Sebastian Matters has been dodging Renegade for months now, using his main thug Bruiser to avoid a one-on-one confrontation with the big boi. The main event was a further wrinkle in that story, a five man elimination tag match with team renegade made up of Renegade, RIP Reilly, Tommy Asguard, Jason Hyde and Bobby Bishop taking on Bruiser, Matters, Diablo, Blackjack and John Skyfall.



Flashman establishing himself as the biggest dog in the ring

Bishop never made it to the ring, with it being announced that he had been laid out backstage and his place on team Renegade would revert to Flashman.

Personally, I love an elimination tag match. Alliances of convenience formed just for the night, with rivals putting aside their differences to 'try' and work together. The possibility of one team getting a run of eliminations and their opponent having to fight back against the numbers. The opportunity to see performers against a number of different opponents without the reduced space and focus that so often comes in a rumble or a multi man match. There is ample scope for storytelling, in ring and out, and this was no exception.

Two eliminations by Jason Hyde seemed to have swung it in favour of the good guys, until Bishop struggled out from backstage to reveal the identity of his attacker, 'Flashman' and the biggest little man turned Heel, delivering chair shots to Rip Reilly and swinging the momentum in favour of team Bruiser.

From there the Heels made short work of Team Renegade, picking up the win and continuing the attack until the save was made by Giant Kyote, who made it clear he had Renegade's back.

So far Matters has relied on his wiles and his back up to stay one step ahead of Renegade. With the fan favourite finding himself with some heavy artillery in his corner, Matters has nowhere else to hide, and the two will settle it once and for all in an unsanctioned match at High Voltage.

*Photos Courtesy of Barb's Photos

IPW: Reunion

By Matt McQueen

I'm notoriously poor at judging crowd numbers, but I'm confident in saying that there was more than 250 at William Duncan State School for **IPW: Reunion** on 4 October, and if the official crowd came in at more than 300, I wouldn't be surprised.

It was a mixed audience, as you'd expect for a show billed as a chance to celebrate the new talent and the older hands, and it served as a tribute to the late Peter 'Hawk' Ball, who carried Wrestling in Queensland for a long time.

The night started with a fatal four way as NJP put his unified title on the line against Sorrow, Tim Hayden and Slammin' Sammy. This was a cracking opening, with Hayden getting all sorts of heat for his entitled antics, Sammy living up to his name and Sorrow playing the dangerous villain. In the end it was NJP who retained the title, much to the delight of the crowd.

Hayden wasn't finished yet though, yelling at Jace the Ace for his opportunity and getting more than he bargained for when IPW Heavyweight Champion Skhorn came out and put his belt on the line, there and then. I guess this was a match: there were two competitors and a referee, it started with the bell ringing and ended in a pinfall, but the outcome was never in doubt. While some credit should go to Hayden for lasting longer than I anticipated, the crowd were just there to see the champion wipe the smile off his face, and Skhorn obliged, destroying Hayden and getting the win in fairly short order.

As befits a tribute show, Reunion had a rumble, the prize in this one being the new Peter 'Hawk' Ball Memorial Trophy. The match started with 8 wrestlers in the ring, a nice touch to get straight into the action before reverting to the familiar countdown to individual entrants. Reaper stood out, going deep into the match despite taking a barbwire-wrapped lumber shot across the back from Troll. Zero made a cameo, not as an entrant but as a run-in, hitting a clean standing moonsault and then getting out having done his damage. Kyote was a dominant force throughout the back end of the match and looked to have the match in hand before overreaching and being bundled out by Ashe, in what was a popular win.



Tim Hayden regretting asking for the match

After the chaos and confusion of the rumble we got a complete change of pace, with Aussie Wolf returning to an IPW ring to take on the veteran and local favourite Obie Cartel. This was a lovely technical match and a great palate cleanser from two guys who know each other well. Wolf was happy to play the Heel on this occasion, and the crowd were satisfied to see Cartel pick up the win.



Aussie Wolf and Obie Cartel making The Revival proud

Tag action next, as Team Australia, Bodhi Jackson, Jamie Luxford, the Jackaroo and Sledgehammer took on Team New Zealand, Island boy SI, the UnAustralians and Dallas Mead. I'm not a big fan of patriotism angles and to be frank this match didn't need it. SI was genuinely

scary, Kiwi Thriller and Sweet Ass heeled it up magnificently, and Bodhi Jackson spent a good portion of the match being the Babyface in peril as his opponents threw him around the ring and took turns hitting their finishers. With four man teams the action regularly spilled out of the ring, giving the match a sense of chaos reminiscent of the rumble. The match ended with the home team getting the pinfall win after Team New Zealand took their eyes off the main game.

In a match that was billed as a tribute to Hawk and promoted as a battle over his legacy, Cruz and RIP went toe to toe in the main event. After RIP won via DQ, the match was restarted with a no DQ stipulation, and things got even more dangerous. RIP showed some colour very soon after the restart as the two systematically took each other apart, using ladders, chairs and three tables. An emotional match ended with Cruz getting the win, and a show of respect from the competitors.

*Photos Courtesy of Jason Kryger

UPW Halloween Bash

By Matt McQueen

I hadn't planned on attending UPW Halloween Bash, but I had to drive up to the coast to see my mum, and between work, traffic and rain I found myself at Aussie World around 6pm and figured I might as well. And I wasn't the only one – by the time Abbey Mac took the mic to start proceedings, there were upwards of 200 in the Shed.

Jamie Luxford and Mohamed Ali Vaez opened proceedings, with both wrestlers feeling each other out in the early going before the match picked up pace. Luxford took the pinfall victory in a straightforward but solid opening match.



Cluck Bawking at his new pumpkin ally

Ricky Rembrandt continued his feud against Sirius-Lee Clean in match number two. Like the first bout, this match started with a series of lockups that saw neither wrestler able to get much of an opening, before Clean got the upper hand. Rembrandt was able to make his comeback though and reversed the result from last time, getting the pinfall win. It was a popular result with everyone except Clean, who returned to the ring with a cheap-shot beatdown of the crowd favourite and drew the vocal ire of the crowd.

Vegas Starr came out to shed a tear for the recently departed Mojo Powers and introduce Noman Mikalov as his new client. In what may be the shortest client-manager relationship ever however, Starr and the

Russian took umbrage with a pumpkin-clad punter in the front row, only for Mikalov to flatten Starr in the ensuing fracas and be sacked as a client. It was not lost on even the youngest members of the audience that the pumpkin had a body shape reminiscent of a certain green haired UPW alumnus.

More pumpkins in the next match as Thirteen and Cluck fought in a pumpkin (piñata) on a string match. This was a mismatch in every sense of the word, with Cluck neither having the size, experience nor athleticism to pose a credible threat to the Worm. And then he won. Despite the shock winner it was a well put together match, with Thirteen brought down by his insecurity and crowd distraction rather than being out-fought, and the crowd absolutely loving the bout and the result. After claiming the pumpkin, Cluck smashed it over the head of the Worm before being joined by Showerman and the skinny pumpkin mystery man from the last angle to share the candy and celebrate.

With the Stockman out following a backstage attack, Matthew Gabriel tried to claim the UPW title. Abbey Mac was having none of it though and introduced the crowd and the Gospel to newcomer Moko Kai. Kai made short work of Gabriel in an impressive and imposing debut.

Another debut followed with Constable Robert Bishop making his first appearance to take on Showerman Jacque Le Grand. There is something inherently silly about a wrestling policeman

fighting a Frenchman armed with a rubber duck, and both performers looked at times like they were going to lose it before Showerman picked up the win with the help of Tugboat.

With the Stockman MIA, the main event was always going to be for the Tag Team belts, with Jack Tucker and Malibu throwing down an open challenge to the UPW Locker room. As they waited for an answer from the entry ramp, they were jumped from behind by Thirteen and The Gospel coming through the crowd. This was a repeat of the Aftermath main event, however while that match had been fairly open, this match was all about Jack Tucker taking a beating. Malibu was largely left on the apron to work the crowd as his partner endured the punishment dished out by the Heels. There is only so much that anyone can take though, and the Circus of Salvation picked up the win and the UPW Tag team Titles... only for Cluck and Duck to cash in, snatching the gold from out of the arms of the bad guys before they knew what had happened, and going home as new Champs.



Officer Robert Bishop laying down the law

Get to know our newest writer!

Hello Heat Sheet!

I'm Charlie, and I love wrestling. I love wrestling so much.

I'm a relatively new fan of wrestling. I only picked it up in 2016, but I fell hard for it. Ever since then, wrestling has been everything to me. Recently, however, I found myself becoming bored with larger, more popular, wrestling products, and decided to try and branch out into independent wrestling. I got out into the Brisbane wrestling scene and fell in love all over again. I can't quite articulate it, but there is something so special about Australian wrestling, that sets it apart from the rest of the world to me.

That's why I've joined Heat Sheet! My goal here is to add something, even if it's small, to the wonderful world of Australian wrestling.

Here at Heat Sheet, we focus mostly on SE Queensland, but I watch wrestling all over Australia, anything I can get my hands on. So, if you have some wrestling you think I ought to see, message me over at @heatsheetcharlie on Instagram, or through @heat_sheet on Instagram as well. If you see me at a show, feel free to come up and have a chat with me! Let's gush about wrestling together.

- Charlie Anderson

Manager, Booker and GM, Oh My!

By Matt McQueen

I tried to interview Manager Todd Eastman.

In a quiet moment before PWL: Day of Reckoning, I sat down with the best manager ever, meaning to really get to his handle on being a manager in the South East Queensland wrestling scene, but it didn't work out that way and it's mostly Todd's fault. You see, Eastman is a polymath, there is not a lot that he hasn't done or isn't doing in wrestling. And he is pretty talkative. So what was meant to be an interview soon devolved into two old guys talking about wrestling, and me getting in trouble from Aisling for not having asked what was, in her view, the single most important question I should have asked.

Luckily for us all, Eastman likes talking about wrestling, and Aisling got the chance to ask that question herself later in the show, and this is the result.

Todd Eastman loves wrestling, he wears his love of wrestling on his embarrassingly kitsch tracksuit sleeves.



Toddy experiencing the true danger of selfies

He's not subtle in his dress sense and not subtle about his influences either.

To the younger wrestling fan there is an air of Paul Heyman in Todd Eastman: Manager, but for Eastman himself, it is all about going back to the source. For those of us who started watching wrestling in the eighties and early nineties, Heenan was 'the manager'.

Like Heenan though, Eastman is more than just a manager, able to fit in and deliver wherever there is a microphone, and like Heenan he once had ambitions inside the ring.

Eastman's wrestling journey started in Adelaide with Riot City Wrestling. He had grown up watching the American product

and, like most of us, never grown out of it. When he became aware that there was local wrestling, live, it was a given that he would want to check it out.

Not long after, when Riot City advertised a try-out, and a mate suggested they have a look, being the wrong side of thirty didn't seem like enough reason to not give it a try. That mate was Brodie Marshall.

So they tried out, got through, and the same Riot City try-out that launched Big Brodie Marshall on the unsuspecting public gave us Eastman. After tryouts it was into training, and whilst he will admit to never having been the most talented or athletic in his training class, Eastman worked out pretty early that he could talk as good a game as anyone.

Before long he was doing announcing and commentary and working towards an angle that would see him throw down the headset and get into the ring for his match debut. That never happened though. We can't all be Diamond Dallas Page, and Eastman – already a late starter – realised that his body would likely not allow him to perform inside the ring at the level that he wanted, and Riot City needed.

But rather than waste all that training, he became a manager and began his career as a fulltime heat magnet.

It would probably be unfair to call Eastman a control freak. Although he is ubiquitous in Queensland wrestling and has a significant role (both behind and in front of the curtain) in a number of promotions, he is actually pretty laid back. You get the impression that responsibility tends to find him rather than him going looking for it.

From his earliest days in Riot City he was interested in everything about the business. He wanted to know all about the wrestling machine, and why it worked, and even why, when you pulled that lever, it didn't. So, when the opportunity came to learn about booking, he learned about booking. When the opportunity came to learn about production, he learned about production.

When the opportunity came to talk about wrestling with a mate and record it and maybe put it out there for others to listen to, he became a podcaster, and while Wrestle Radio Australia may have started as a promotional idea for Riot City, it soon became something bigger and broader.

Since then Wrestle Radio Australia has become Australia's longest running wrestling podcast, and a regular platform not just for Eastman but for performers to make themselves and their thoughts known. It is fundamentally Eastman indulging two of his great talents (talking and wrestling), to talk about wrestling, and to catch up and chat to some of the names in the growing Australian Wrestling



That feeling when shenanigans pay off!

Scene. In its current format it is also an enormously positive space. At the time of talking to Todd I had only caught snippets of the show, but since sitting down to write I have gone back and listened to more. It's hard not to be encouraged by the state of Australian wrestling and by the commitment of the people involved when you hear it from their own mouth.

I've said it before, fundamentally wrestling is storytelling and wrestlers are storytellers.

Todd Eastman is no different, save of course that he's worked out that wrestlers – for all their sweat, training, risk and athleticism – might get to tell one or maybe two stories a night. As the booker, Eastman gets to tell all the stories.

There is a challenge in booking a wrestling show though. Todd may say differently but I'd argue that there are only so many plausible stories you can tell through the medium of violence, particularly in a once a month promotion. There are also egos involved: performers want to win, and if they can't win, they want to look strong in defeat or to have an excuse for the loss.

It's the job of the booker to manage all of that. To build plausible stories, in why wrestlers are fighting, and to assist the wrestlers to tell the story when they get in the ring, all while trying to keep people happy and put on a show that the audience will want to come back for.

And when it comes off: when he has set the story up just right, and the in-ring performers deliver just so, and the crowd pops, just as loud as he had hoped, at the moment that he had planned – that is his Pulitzer Prize moment.

Eastman didn't plan to stay involved in wrestling when he moved to Queensland. His wife got work here and he followed, and he thought his career in wrestling was over.

After five or so years working with some of the best wrestlers and highest quality productions in the country, he had seen how well Australian wrestling could be done. He had also heard and seen how far behind Queensland was in production quality and development and didn't really see the attraction in going back to square one.

The Burning Question

Sometimes it costs a lot of money to look cheap.

Exhibit 1: Best Manager in the World Todd Eastman

One of the first things that you notice about Eastman as a manager is the shiny synthetic glare reflected off whatever tracksuit he is sporting this time around. It's a constant parade of questionable sartorial decisions that scream 'look at me' and 'you want to hate me'. And you need to see a lot of Queensland wrestling before you see the same outfit twice. Which leads us to Aisling's 'most important question to ask Todd Eastman'.

Readers, we can confirm that the tracksuits are not custom made.

I'm not sure if this is good news. While I am delighted that Eastman is not actually going to the time and effort to have these designed, he has sported some pretty ugly tracksuits, and it does mean that there is a dark corner of the internet where these things are being sold to a wider audience, that there may be other examples of these things out there, and that Eastman has not yet scratched the surface of just how bling he can be.

The force was strong though, and he found himself going to shows. And once there, he saw past the limitations, recognised talent and potential, and saw a way that he could add value. Before long he was back in the fold and could be seen at a number of the Local Feds.

While he makes no secret of his backstage involvement at AWA, he is probably best known to Queensland audiences as the manager of Jake Nova, masterminding Showtime's 420+ day run as AWA champion. It's a role he particularly enjoys. When recently appointed as General Manager of PWL he in fact insisted that he be allowed to continue to manage Nova.

It's a space in which he can embrace his inner Bobby the Brain, though he and Jake are never quite full blown Heels, instead sitting perfectly in that modern tweener space. Too bad ass and sure of themselves to be Faces, but popular enough and too over to be Heels.

It's a character space that gives them room to play. Eastman will admit that it can be much harder to be a good guy in modern wrestling, and that he and Nova will change it up from time to time, adopting a more good guy persona when it suits, or when they feel it will make the story more interesting.



Eastman fulfilling his role as the best shadow in the business

Where Eastman does get to play the full Heel mastermind is in Venom, where he and his Next Level stable plays as the principle antagonist to GM and Owner Anthony Fermanian. Watching him at a Venom show, one could almost form the view that Todd enjoys the hate a little too much. At Survival 4 last month, when Jaxon Cross forced Xander Sullivan to tap out, and Cross and Eastman proceeded to mock their ex stablemate and the booing crowd, I had a visceral reaction. In that moment, and for the rest of the night, I hated Todd Eastman.

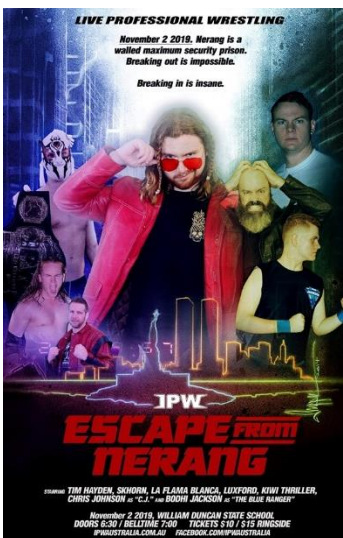
As far as Eastman is concerned there are grounds for optimism about Queensland wrestling. He is a key figure in the ongoing and developing co-operation between AWA and PWL, about which he is

enormously positive. He is a strong advocate for Queensland performers on his podcast, and he has been instrumental in getting some of the more seasoned southern names to look north of the border for bookings. Kelly-Ann v Jessica Troy at Homecoming for example (one of the matches of the night) was an Eastman production.

He admits on his podcast, and said as much to me, that there are times when he is doing too much, and he has to occasionally take stock and make sure the stuff he is doing is working for him. There are no signs yet of him hanging up the track suit though, and we expect and hope that we will continue to see Eastman's influence on Queensland Wrestling for a while yet.

Coming Up

Venom Pro Wrestling are at Beenleigh Bowls Club this Saturday 26 October for **High Voltage 4**. The card will see two Tasmanian performers making the trip north to challenge for gold, as Eddie Jones takes on Jackson Cross for the Heavy Weight Title and Tarlee scheduled to defend against 'the fire starter' Charli Rose. We are also looking forward to seeing Renegade finally get his hands on Sebastian Matters, and Tequila Young take on Zac Reynolds in a match for the Origins title to decide who really is the rising star of the venom roster.



IPW: Escape from Nerang is on November 2nd at William Duncan High School, and will feature the IPW debut of AJ Istria, in a match against local favourite Obie Cartel. Also on the card, Tim Hayden is going for the gold against Skhorn, in a steel cage match.

PWL have been putting some serious hype into **Project Revolution2**, which is happening at Griffith Uni Bar on 9 November. The match will see the return of PWL champion Mick Moretti, and throw him into a FIVE (5) man ladder match, for not just the PWL but also the AWA title. Xander Sullivan will be up



against Sebastian Matters for the QLD Openweight title, and the Retro Boys, Bobby Bishop and Rip Reilly, have issued an open challenge to the PWL roster to come and try take their AWA tag titles. The Show will also feature Rat Daddy v. Jake Nova.

15 November will see **UPW: Ascension** at the Shed at Aussie World. We were expecting that this show would see the aborted Stockman v Gospel match, but in recent news the Champion is unable to perform and will vacate the title at Ascension, leading to a tournament to crown a new champion. Cluck and Duck can also expect their first tag title defence.



Coming up in Heat Sheet.

Next month, we are looking forward to bringing you our interview with Anthony Fermanian, the GM and brains behind Venom Pro-Wrestling, together with our regular recap and rundown of what has happened and what is happening in SEQ Wrestling.