

HEAT SHEET

ISSUE #6



December 2019

The Round Up

2019 Heat Sheet "Fave Fives"

Foreign Correspondent

What's Coming up

A Letter from the Editor

We've never claimed to be experts on SEQ Wrestling, we are just fans.

There is more happening in wrestling than we know, and certainly more than we have been able to cover in the six short months since our first (0th) Issue. By our count there have been 52 shows in SEQ this year, and that is without counting community performances like UPW's Beerwah Market Day or Venom at UQ Union.

We've done the maths and reckon we have been to about 18 of them.

We'll also admit we haven't spread ourselves evenly amongst the feds. It's something we aim to improve on in 2020, but we'll be the first to admit we didn't get to enough IPW or UPW shows in 2019. Which is a kinda long winded way to say that it's not our place to try and tell anyone what was the 'best' of the scene over the last 12 months.

What we can tell you though is what were our favourites.

So unapologetically subjective as it may be, this issue is all about our 'Favourite Fives', and it hasn't been easy.

Matt McQueen

We've been lucky enough to get to a lot of shows (by any non-wrestling standards), making a point to get to at least one show from each of SEQ's major brands, and in 2020 we will be working to get to even more shows.

A big part of us being able to get to so many shows is because of how welcoming all of the brands and communities have been to us as we find our footing and realise just how deep the wrestling rabbit hole goes, so to everyone at AWA, PWL, VPW, IPW and UPW, thank you. And a special thank you to the wrestling fans who support local scenes and help SEQ wrestling to continue getting better and evolving.

Thanks for supporting local wrestling, and Happy Holidays from everyone at the Heat Sheet team.

Aisling Taylor

Contents

Venom: Flatline 4	3
AWA: Hot Valley Nights	4
UPW: Jingle Jam 2	8
IPW: Santa Rumble	11
AWA: Holiday Hell	13
Foreign Correspondent	17
2019 Fave Fives	20
What's Coming up	28

Our cover this issue is hometown superhero Lucille Brawl. Brawl (like Heat Sheet) has had a big year so we wanted to celebrate her. (Also, Aisling threatened to riot if we got to the end of the year without a woman on the cover).

The Round Up

VPW: Flatline 4

By Matt McQueen

The ticket said doors open 6.30 for a 7.00pm start, so we were all set to get there in heaps of time before the show started.

Venom are cleverer than us though, and put on a dark match for the crowd who got there early. Although a newcomer, Bruiser has come in this year and been a genuine force and continued here, brutalising Charlie D and Dick Riggs in a handicap match.

The first “official” match then was Jason Hyde against the debuting Matthias Clock. Clock really is one of the prettiest young men in wrestling, so it was a given that the Yatala crowd would want to see him beaten up, even before he took to the mike and mispronounced their home town. This was a good opener. Hyde is not a small guy, but he is a spectacular aerialist, seemingly able to get higher (and take longer coming down) than a lot of much smaller guys. It was clever booking then that saw him only go to the top rope on one occasion, limiting his most impressive moves and keeping them special on his way to picking up the win.



Matthias Clock, not getting to grips with Jason Hyde.

Xander Sullivan was looking for a measure of revenge on Todd Eastman and Next Level, and had his

Headstrong teammate JL Gold making a return to back him up. Eastman was never going to throw a returning Jake Nova into a handicap match, so a team mate was needed. Enter Tim Kade. The arrogance and skill of Kade would fit neatly into Next Level but there is too much history between Nova Eastman and the King for this to work for long. And so, it proved. After a competitive back and forth, and with Nova and Kade starting to get on top, showtime turned on his partner and made a quick exit, allowing Headstrong to pick up a hollow victory.

This was a show dominated by tag teams, and while Diablo and Bobby Bishop may have been fighting solo, both were backed by their partners. This was an interesting clash. Bishop is a fun character, a long way from the intensity of Diablo. We’ve already seen Diablo take Flashman to a darker place though, and the retro-kid was dragged into that intensity too, the match ending by double count out when all four got sucked into a brawl outside.

Zac Reynolds was meant to defend his VPW Origins in a triple threat match, which would have been no DQ. John Skyfall couldn’t wait the two minutes for the bell to ring though, and was ejected before the match started, leaving Reynolds to go one on one against Tequila Young. In a wide ranging match

that spilled well outside the ring but did not hit the heights of their previous encounter, Young did manage to pick up the win and regain the Origins title.



Lynx Lewis Jr knows what it takes to make a VPW crowd happy

Gen Next had had an interesting run in Venom in 2019. They held the belts, without winning them, and lost them in somewhat controversial circumstances at the first opportunity. Then, even with Ryan Thorne out for Halloween Havoc, they could not win them back. A match against Street Revolution was always going to be a test, both of their quality as a team and their ability to win. They came through with flying colours. Lynx Lewis Jr and Renegade still have great chemistry, and that the heels were able to overcome that, and parochial crowd to win re-established them as a genuine threat. A threat that wasn't lost on the Tag Champions as the night terrors made an appearance to watch the end of the match.

Just as he has for most of 2019, Jaxon Cross sits at the top of the VPW tree, and having dispatched Xander Sullivan and Renegade in recent months, it is difficult to see who is ready to challenge his dominance. A match against 21st Century Success was therefore a nice Christmas present for the Yatala audience. Seeing one of Queensland's best against one of Australia's best was fun, and though the ending in a DQ through interference would normally be considered 'cheap', it was fair enough in circumstances where no one needed to be made to look weak.

*photos by Barb's photos

AWA: Hot Valley Nights

By Charlie Anderson

After saying they were done for the season, AWA announced two extra shows for the end of year, one of which was Hot Valley Night, a fundraising show whose proceeds went to the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. The point of the show was to enjoy wrestling for a good cause, and I did just that. Between the crowd atmosphere and unique matchups, the show felt cosy and laidback, a perfect way to end the week.

Venue is always very important to me. I'm a disabled person and struggle mainly with mobility. Because of this, I always end up nervous when a show is at a venue that's new to me, and I was very nervous coming up to the event. Thankfully, Backdock Arts had seating available. Unfortunately, there was no ceiling (due to the show being outside) and just as the show was meant to start, it started to rain on us. I sat in my chair, very confused about what I would do next, so I could only imagine being backstage and suddenly seeing the ring getting soaked! After ten minutes of rain and confusion, it began to clear up, and the show started. Nashy was away this event but luckily a suitable replacement was found: the totally radical Double Denim Danger Dan!



*Did we mention Mitch McCarthy has two belts?**

The reigning champion of both AWA and PWL, SmashFace Mitch McCarthy, made his way to the ring and began Hot Valley Nights with a promo. He called out someone in the back he said had been working hard and impressing massively: Outback Adam. Instead, out came the Daniels Republic, sans their leader. They tried to beat up McCarthy, but the Wildlife Warrior along with his tag team partner Combat Wombat came to the rescue, and the three scared off the Republic. As a form of resolution, a six-man tag match was slated for later in the night.

Our first actual match of the evening was Zac Reynolds vs Jason Hyde. The crowd spent a long time heckling Reynolds, who played the role of the smarmy shit-heel very well. The two put on a solid bout (I've said it before,

and I'll say it again – Jason Hyde is so impressively athletic for man who doesn't initially appear very flippy) until they left the relative safety of the squared circle. Once they found their footing on the still wet concrete, they brawled amongst the crowd. Reynolds threw Hyde into Spaceman Dacey, who was just trying to enjoy his night, Poor Spaceman. Next Reynolds stole the ring bell, and attempted to knock Hyde out with it, but as the referee was distracted returning the bell, Spaceman sneaked into the ring, delivered a spear to Reynolds, and quickly left the ring before the ref could return. Hyde capitalised on the opportunity, and pinned Reynolds for the win.

Once again, it's Lööp Gang civil war. But this time instead of Bobby Bishop vs Sebastian Matters like at Biff at the Triff, its The Retro Bros up against resident superhero Lucille Brawl, and resident super-tall-person, Yng Chad. Starting the match were Bishop and Brawl, who rolled around the ring in a great pinning sequence. Brawl is always great to watch, she's very over with crowds and is visibly improving every time she steps in the ring. In my opinion, she's one to watch closely in 2020. Not to discredit Bishop – he's looked great in this recent tag run with Rip. He brings this childlike-glee to the ring that's so much fun to watch, and paired with Reilly's not-so-gentle but still lovable giant

presence, the Retro Bros are the sort of team you just want to win. Once both teams make the hot tag, Yng Chad and Rip Reilly duke it out – and Yng Chad takes a beating. Bobby and Rip hit their finisher, and it was game over for the youngster, with the Bros picking up a pinfall victory. Even in defeat, Yng Chad makes it a point to make everyone feel short, as he reached up to the *balcony* from the top rope to high-five the crowd.

An AWA debut is next – as Jack Tarr made his entrance to face fan-favourite Adonis. Tarr insisted that this match will contain “NO SEXY!” but Adonis begged to differ. After his nasty break-up with toxic ex Sorrow, Adonis is ready to get out into the world and... *see the sights*. Tarr tried his best to just have a wrestling match, while Adonis just wanted to try some sailor boy. Tarr has impressed me very quickly – as of this show, I had seen him in only two matches, but I really enjoyed his work. I hope to see him even more next year. Tarr continued to fight with Adonis, as well as the crowd, to just have a *normal match*. But the people! They want body oil! These two have great chemistry, and put on a great back-and-forth, until after a cannonball gone awry from Jack Tarr, Adonis hit a belly-to-belly suplex and won via pinfall. Before he even had a chance to celebrate, however, out of the shadows slinked Sorrow. He attacked the unaware Adonis from behind, and even attacked the referee trying to intervene. Sorrow beat down Adonis, physically and verbally. As Adonis lay in the ring, beaten down, the crowd tried to encourage him back up, and refused to take Sorrow seriously as they serenaded him with Blink-182 and Linkin Park. Whenever these two get their hands on each other, it’s not pretty. After the tag match at Holiday Hell, I hope we get to see some kind of stipulation singles match – maybe even a street fight.

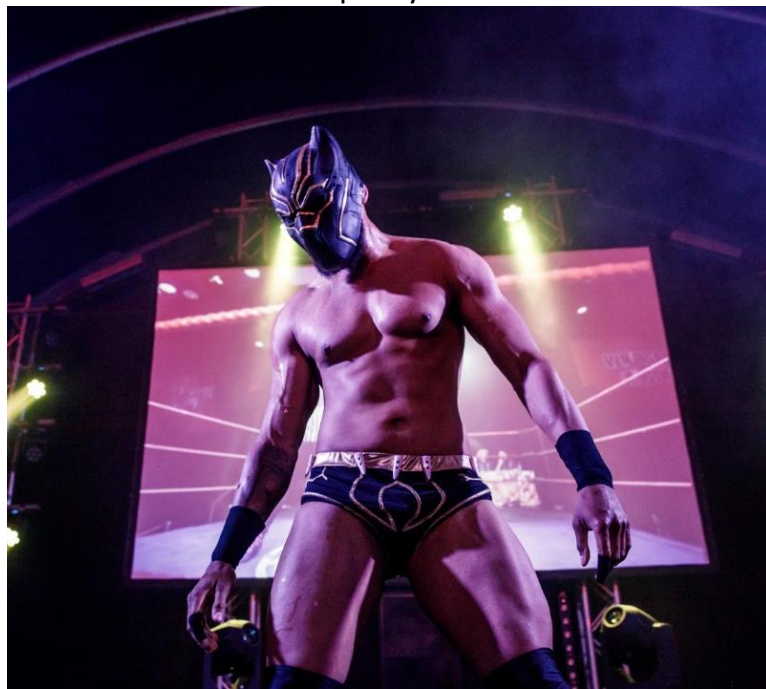
Up next was the six-man tag made official earlier in the night. CJ, Draegen, and ‘renowned’ ASMR ‘artist’ Roberto Puccino represented the Daniels Republic. Outback Adam and Combat Wombat came to the aid of Mitchy Two Belts, looking for retribution from the earlier attack. The two teams brawled before the bell rings, spilling to the outside onto the (still wet) pavement. My mind kept wandering during this match. Where is the Republic? Do they have a meeting place they’ve declared sovereign land? Are they still working on that? Do they just hang a flag over Jesse’s house and confuse passers-by? I *need* answers. The Republic took a ton of punishment this match, between Outback Adam chomping down on Draegen’s boots and McCarthy giving Draegen a wet willy – OK, it was mostly just Draegen who took the punishment. Draegen tried to retaliate in this psychological war by wiping his sweat on Combat Wombat’s face, but Wombat



Outback Adam parachuting in*

remained unperturbed. When all three Republic members tried to cause some shenanigans in the ring, they all ended up in a different corner, and that called for a triple stink face from all three of their opponents! For further embarrassment, McCarthy hit the SmashFace knee on Puccino, and won the pinfall victory. Not a very good night for the Republic, but their leader could turn their luck around later in the night.

Jake Nova vs John Skyfall was an interesting match-up. I don't think I've seen these two in the ring together before, let alone in singles competition; but Skyfall made it clear that he's set on taking over and that involves taking down the biggest name in AWA. I think it's worth mentioning that after his entrance, Skyfall threw his bat out the ring, but it rolled under my seat and I didn't know what to do, so I did nothing. Nova was his usual brand of arrogant and he arguably has a right to be. But Skyfall was too crazy to be scared. He let us know this by repeatedly chomping down on Nova's digits and laughing away his offense. Skyfall got the advantage early on in this match, and even after Nova begs him to stop biting people, Skyfall lets us know he's gotten a taste for human flesh. They spill to the outside and every bump on the concrete looks *nasty*. Nova slowly regains control, until they return to the ring and Skyfall hits a swinging reverse STO and looks to have the match won. But Nova has an insurance policy called Todd Eastman. Eastman distracts the referee long enough for



*JL Gold knows how to make an entrance**

Nova to recover. Nova turns the tables, hits a tombstone *and* a frogs splash and wins the match.

Next it was time to defend the Openweight title. JL Gold looked to pay back Sebastian Matters for the vicious way he beat down Xander Sullivan at PWL earlier in the month. Matters, however, was still high on his victory, and as smarmy and confident as he's ever been. Gold rushed him early in the match, looking to gain the upper hand. The two exchanged brutal chops and stiff forearms, and even brawl up to the (very excited) balcony above the ring. It looked as if someone was going to fall, but they both saved themselves and brawled back down

to the ring. As the fight went on and the two started to become weary, Matters decided it was time to end things. While the referee was distracted, he zip-tied Gold's hand together – the same strategy he used against his tag team partner – and goes to hit him from behind. But the referee noticed and demanded he stop. However, Matters still picked up the win, and continued the assault on Gold even after the bell. Matters decked the referee as he tried to stop him. Gold was helpless as Matters battered him, but then Xander Sullivan rushed out from out the back to save him. As Xander helped Gold get his bearings, he called out Matters just one more time – for a 3 STAGES OF HELL MATCH at Holiday Hell. And, since neither of the two can stand being in the same company as each other,

Xander declared it as *loser leaves town*. This feud is about more than the Openweight title. It's about how far both men are willing to go to maim each other. Gold looked excellent in this match, even post beatdown, hopefully he will continue to look good at Holiday Hell.

Our main event of the evening was upon us – Jesse Daniels vs Hugh Manatee for the #1 contendership to the AWA Heavyweight Title. These two know each other very, very well at this point. After cutting scathing promos on each other, the match began slowly as the two felt out the other's strategy. They both knew exactly what the other was about to do – and a big double clothesline that laid out both competitors exemplified that. Hugh seemed to have the match won after his signature stunner and a spin-out powerbomb, but the Republic invaded the match. They took out the referee and worked their heel-ish fairy magic on the match. Jesse hit a swinging reverse STO on Hugh as the referee regained his senses, and pinned Hugh for the three count. The Republic brutally ganged up on Hugh and beat him down, until Mitch McCarthy ran out from backstage to give the assist. Hugh challenged Jesse just one last time at Holiday Hell – and if he were to lose, Hugh would lose not just the match, but his *mask*. This was the intrigue that we were left on, as the show finished, and the crowd started to make their way home.

My initial reaction to Hot Valley Nights was that it felt somewhat like a filler show. I want to stress that's not a negative, especially as the show was a charity event. After reviewing it, I don't feel that way. The major storylines in AWA were moved along nicely, and newer talent was showcased effectively. Backdock Arts was an interesting venue – it felt nice and cosy, good for the single show, but not a very effective wrestling venue. Overall, the show was enjoyable and pushed me further to make sure I would be at Holiday Hell – as if I was going to miss it!

*photos by PWL and AWA from previous events

UPW: Jingle Jam 2

By Lachlan Albert

Some of the fans at UPW Jingle Jam II told me that they had missed some recent events due to members of the audience swearing, and only returned when UPW management made a specific point to confront any fans pushing the event above a PG rating. It's a refreshing feeling, with heels being admonished as "scoundrel", "loser", and my personal favourite, "useless" in crowd-wide chants rather than some of the more adult insults that get thrown around at other shows. It reflects also that UPW management know their market, while



Malibu, Jesse Love and the Ref comparing squat styles

wrestling in South East Queensland is generally 'family friendly', few promotions actively cater to the Under 18s as well as UPW.

Don't mistake UPW as a kiddie promotion, though, because UPW's (mostly exclusive) roster are there to wrestle, and the semi-finals and final of a tournament for the vacant UPW Heavyweight Championship showed this in spades.

The show kicked off with a semi-final matchup between Malibu and Jesse Love. If you're not familiar with Youngblood Jesse Love, imagine if Rick Rude looked barely 18. Malibu has a surfer gimmick. This isn't rocket science. In a very quick but explosive match, Jesse took control early but got crotched on the middle rope when attempting to steal Malibu's 619 finisher. Malibu hit the 619 followed by a moonsault that got him the three while keeping him fresh enough for the final later in the night. Again, not rocket science, but a fun opening to a show.

UPW has made the (very cool) decision to have a featherweight division, which doesn't lock talent away from each other but acts as a nice setting for the lighter competitors to battle it out.

Match 2 saw Mojo Powers, a green-haired 60s disco dude, against Kanji Kid, who gets a big pop from the crowd for his Karate Kid schtick. These two put on a really impressive match, with a story that developed through the moves. Powers got tripped running the ropes. He tried it again with a stepover but got tripped off the second rebound. The third time he did a stepover, then a second stepover, and hit a clothesline. The fourth time he did two stepovers, but Kanji dodged the clothesline and hit a leaping heel kick. It makes you believe that these guys are fighting, learning from their opponent, and improving their strategy as the match goes on. This could have been an absolute clinic if it hadn't been interrupted by Goth fashion icon Thirteen, who ran in and destroyed the much smaller Powers.



Mojo Powers fundamentally misunderstands how to leave town

The second semi-final in the Heavyweight Championship tournament finally presented local favourite Ricky Rembrandt to his fans, but his entrance was interrupted by a beatdown from his opponent, "the Gospel" Matthew Gabriel. Gospel smashed Ricky on the outside, slamming him into ring posts and aprons and barricades, before throwing him into the ring. Despite the beating he has just taken, the babyface says that he's ready to wrestle, and Rembrandt shows why the crowd has

been cheering for him all night. He comes out of the gate like a house on fire, jumping and running and making the action, but Gospel brings it back quickly. A big backbreaker moves into a big F5 and a camel clutch and gets the submission. After the match Gospel makes sure everyone understands that he's the bad guy by locking in the camel clutch again, but his opponent for later in the night, Malibu, arrives to save Rembrandt and help him to the back.

I'm not 100% clear on the point of the backstage vignette that plays next. It shows Mojo escaping the clutches of Thirteen by biting his fingers and running away. An angry Thirteen is then approached by Gospel (who has clearly changed clothes VERY quickly after his match) who is maybe asking for backup in the main event? Thirteen says he has to go hunt down Mojo, but he wishes Gospel luck.

The tag team championship is on the line in what seems like a setup to a joke. An Arab-American and a masked Russian walk into a ring with a rooster and a French man who's just had a shower (stop me if you've heard this one before).

Cluck and Duck take control early, but when Showerman throws Tugboat at the villains they dodge the flying duck, and Vaez uses the ensuing chaos and distracted referee to take control of Cluck in the ring. Eventually Cluck escapes the double-team beatdown of the foreign menaces for a hot tag to Showerman. Showerman fakes throwing Tugboat, and after the bad guys dodge, Cluck hits them with an inside out dive. Showerman misses a big senton and it looks like the heels have it, but Mikalov can't keep hold of Cluck and Vaez accidentally hits his partner in the noggin with Tugboat. Oops. Good guys retain.

After intermission Santa appears with a sack full of gifts, but it turns out it's actually heel personality Vegas Starr! Thankfully EC Diamond, fresh from a stint in the US with OVW, is here to deliver a massive superkick to Fake-Santa and give every kid in the audience a candy cane.



Malibu, presumably looking for waves

Thirteen now has an actual match against "True Blue" Jack Tucker, who comes to the ring to the tune of Barnsey classic Working Class Man and elicits chants of "Jack works hard!" from the fans. Thirteen quickly takes a microphone and admonishes the crowd before producing the crowbar that "ended Jack Tucker and will end him again". The ref takes the crowbar, but it returns in the finish when the two grapplers fight over the weapon, leading to the ref being taken out and Thirteen taking the bar to Tucker's shoulder. Thirteen covers Tucker but lifts him up at two, to carry on the attack, hitting a massive sit out powerbomb for the three count.

To cleanse the palate before the main event, Moko Kai takes down the germaphobe Sirius-Lee Clean in a fun squash match. Sirius enters the ring with a surgical mask over his mouth and sprays Glen 20 on every hand that tries to give him a high-five.

Sirius hits some sickening chops and Moko doesn't react at all, which might be the scariest no-sell I've ever witnessed. Moko then delivers some chops of his own, followed by a huge Samoan drop. As Sirius tries to recover, Moko Kai spears him into another plane of existence as Glen 20 sprays everywhere. As far as short matches go, this was incredibly fun.

For the main event, Gospel makes a full entrance accompanied by two biblical druids, genuinely taking longer to get to the ring than Moko took to win his match. Malibu heads straight to the ring, ready for war. The two put on a pretty solid match, with the first highlight coming when Malibu flips out of an F5, hits a 619, and goes to the top rope only to be distracted by one of Gospel's druids, allowing Gospel to get up and crotch Malibu on the top rope. The ending comes when Malibu goes for a moonsault but is once again stopped by a druid, getting pushed from the top into a nasty landing which nets Gospel the win and the title.

As the crowd boos Gospel's victory, EC Diamond's music hits and he makes his way to the ring for the second time, this time teasing a challenge for the title at UPW's next event. Gospel lifts Diamond for the F5, but Diamond flips out and hits a superkick to stand tall with the belt to close the show.

IPW: Santa Rumble

By Lachlan Albert

"You have to write in your magazine that Jesse Love sucks."

For my first time at an IPW show, it was very helpful to be seated next to an expert. The fact that this particular expert was both a Jesse Love hater, and a primary school student, didn't bother me too much.

Santa Rumble starts with a title match. LFB a Luchadore who wears a Mascara Sagrada mask, defended his IPWA Unified title against Dick Brutal. Working out who is the heel and face between those two comes down to a matter of personal taste, but after spending much of the match being beaten down by Dick's superior strength, LFB used his agility and high-flying moveset to take down the bigger man and retain his title.



LFB picked the wrong time to do a trust fall.

IPW's promoter, Josh, spoke to me before the show about how keen they are to develop a women's division, so the match between Morgan Frye and Zara Delarosa was a good place to start. In her first match, heel Morgan Frye seemed right at home talking trash to the crowd, even if her ring-work is

still developing. Cartwheeling cheerleader babyface Zara Delarosa benefited from being accompanied by the more experienced Frost, who kept the crowd as loud as he could while Zara and Morgan put it together in the ring. A returning Chase Cooper gave the distraction which let



Ais had come up with a great caption for this photo and I forgot it

Morgan lock in a submission, and Cooper went to the announce table to declare herself the Nightwolf. Josh had mentioned that both Zara and Morgan had been nervous about their in ring debut but they delivered a sound match first time out and there is obvious potential for a future women's division at IPW.

Local favourite Obie Cartel put on a brutal show against Melbourne stalwart Carlo Canon. Carlo started the match with a lot of jaw jacking, calling Obie a bitch and saying that he "isn't the Obie you used to be". After a few minutes of this, Cartel tapped into the "old Obie" that Canon had been looking for and the match got extremely rough. The two men exchanged just about everything they had and then did it all again from the top rope. Obie eventually came out on top, pinning the bleeding Canon, before

announcing that hwas stepping away from being a full time wrestler. An extremely emotional speech had the crowd applauding the local legend and thanking him for everything. Obie told me after the show that he sees Carlo as the future, telling me he "lives and breathes" wrestling, and if we don't see as much Obie in local rings, I for one hope this isn't the last we see of Carlo.

The IPW Heavyweight Championship match had to follow a big match, and the men involved did a great job by being purely aggressive. Reigning champion, the Viking, Skhorn, took on challenger, Mr Queensland Wrestling, Rip Rielly. There was a definite split in the crowd for this bout, with the IPW faithful supporting Skhorn and a small contingent of fans that might look familiar to AWA attendees vocally backing Rip. The two men literally smashed into each other at top speed until one wouldn't get up. And it was Reilly. Skhorn retaining and setting an imposing challenge for whoever earned a title shot by winning the main event.

The titular Santa Rumble made up a massive part of the show, as twenty-one men entered to try and lay claim to a shot Skhorn's title.

The ironman of the match was the number two entrant, Jesse Love. He was a surprise return for many IPW fans despite being a highlight of UPW just the night before. Another popular return came in the form of Flashman, who made himself known by squaring up against the much bigger R.I.P. The lanky and excitable Ben "The Fan" Shaw entered to a full ring and stood in the middle, encouraging every other entrant to take a piece of him. Every other entrant in the match stared at him, took a moment, and then went back to the fights they were already having. Meanwhile, Ashe and CJ finally managed to bring me joyby eliminating each other from the match. The only problem

with Ashe leaving the match was that we wouldn't get to see his festive companions any more, which included a deliriously joyful Skhorn with a beard full of Christmas lights.

The final three pitted fan-least-favourite Jesse Love against the IPW tag team champions of Bodhi Jackson and Luxford. Surprisingly, Bodhi turned on Luxford and eliminated him to put himself in the final two. Luxford stood on the ramp to watch incredulously as Bodhi took advantage and eliminated many people's predicted winner in Love to earn himself a title shot (and likely death at the hands of Skhorn).

IPW's events have their own atmosphere. William Duncan State School hall, their regular venue, is a big open space. It has enough space for a healthy crowd but there were times when that crowd reaction appeared to get lost. I was also struck by their use of live commentary, useful for a newcomer but not always easy to follow and at times jarring.

There were a lot of things to like about IPW's Santa Rumble. The wrestling was solid, they are family friendly and they have got a solid core of regular fans who have bought into their unique roster and unique vibe. There are performers I am interested in seeing more of and handing out programs with a list of some of the night's matches was a great touch and I'd love to see other promotions take that up. It's going to take a few visits before we've really got our head around IPW though, so with them returning from February 2017, we will look forward to seeing you there.

*photos by Jason Kryger

AWA's Holiday Hell

By Aisling Taylor

Despite the season supposedly ending in September, AWA put on two post-season shows to round out the year. For Holiday Hell we return to the Triffid's high ceilings and green train tunnel tile for the last event of the decade. AWA was determined to go all out before 2020, and they delivered.

The night started like a train at top speed with the Tag Team Gauntlet for the Tag Team Titles. First up in the gauntlet were Zac Reynolds and IPW regular Tim Hayden up against the Wildlife Warriors (Outback Adam and Combat Wombat). The WW made quick work of Hayden and Reynolds, who were never likely to play well with each other, but not before Hay and Rey got a



*Outback Adam and Rip Rielly promise to hug once a match to keep things fresh**

couple of hits in. Once WW won the pin it quickly became clear that if they were to be the new Tag Champs, they had a long road.

Next in the ring were the Daniel's Republic and they wasted no time being uber heels. As usual, Draegen took the bulk of the attacks from the Wildlife Warriors on behalf of the Republic. Adam and Wombat were still able to get the pin despite the nonstop wrestling in which they were partaking. Their fortitude and stamina mixed with their lovability make the Wildlife Warriors my pick to be 2020's first number one contenders.

Next on the scene were the Tag Champs themselves: The Retro Bros. The Bros brought a newfound sportsman to the match but Bishop and Reilly by no means went easy on The Wildlife Warriors, eventually able to defend their claim to the title (for now) by securing the victory.

Just when we thought that The Retro Bros had managed to retain the titles yet again, the final gauntlet opponents emerged, GenNext. The Bros did a great job of trying to defend the titles, but with the combination of having already wrestled a whole other match, as well as shenanigans from Todd Eastman, they just couldn't retain, crowning GenNext as the new Tag Team Champions.

For such a complicated match, the Tag Gauntlet was incredibly well paced and engaging from start to finish. GenNext are starting the new year with their first AWA title, which bookends a big year for the boys in pink, debuting as a tag team at Hold My Beer after a team up in the Purge: Rebirth rumble. This also marks a new phase for the tag division after The Retro Bros held the belts for most of the year (winning them at MAYhem). We have no doubt, however, that the Bros will let this go anytime soon.



Seriously, JL Gold really knows how to make an entrance

The second match of the night was a singles match between JL Gold and sailor man Jack Tarr. It was a solid match that showcased the athletic ability of both Gold and Tarr. Gold has had a varied year after an injury at Hold My Beer, but it's good to see him back in strong fighting form. While a relative newcomer at AWA, Tarr is already making waves (ocean pun intended). In the end Gold won out, making the match a good singles match in a night bookended with countless stipulations.

This was a grudge match, harking back to Sorrow and Adonis's run as tag champions and the Divine one's refusal to act on instructions at homecoming: it was very much a case that Jason Hyde and Ashe were there as supporting actors to

the Sorrow and Adonis show. Having said that, the chemistry between Sorrow and Ashe meant they always looked likely to win. Individually they are interesting, together they exude a malevolent intensity which was in sharp contrast to the playful hedonism of Adonis. After a decent back and

forth with all performers getting some time to shine, Adonis snapped. Apparently pushed over the edge by his ex-partner, he overreached and found himself caught outside the ring as his partner took the three count.

The last match before intermission was a controversial one: a number one contendership match between Hugh Manatee and Jesse Daniels, with the twist that if Hugh loses, he loses his mask. Before the match, Daniels arrived with his dollar store entourage, but the Daniel's Republic were quickly ejected from ringside by Commissioner Syam (a formal complaint has been brought against Syam since the show). Daniels was also forced to remove his wrist guards by Pat the Ref to prevent cheating. Regrettably, via classic Daniel's shenanigans, Pat the Ref was knocked out and was promptly replaced by Ref James Jaeger.



*Holiday Hell was not the first time Hugh and Jesse have fought**

Hugh gave Jesse a run for his money, dominating for most of the match. Unfortunately, there was a shenanigan that no one saw coming: a crooked referee. When Hugh had Jesse rolled up for a pin, Ref Jaeger slow counted it like he was channelling his inner sloth. Later, when Daniels had the pin, the count was so fast it left everyone dazed and confused. Jaeger then revealed his Daniel's Republic shirt underneath his Ref uniform. The rest of the Republic returned from backstage to hold down Hugh while his mask was being revealed. The Masked Mammal was revealed to be none other than Big Boi Renegade. Renegade left the ring to the applause of the audience, proving that he is over regardless of whether or not he wears a mask.

The fifth show of the night saw EC Diamond, freshly returned from time at OVW in America, to take on Jake Nova, who spent most of the last year as Heavyweight Champion. Overall it was a great singles match that highlighted both men's talents, with The Homecoming Cup Winner Diamond getting the win.

Next up was Tim Kade versus his mysterious attacker who has been targeting Tim since Homecoming VI. Kade's attacker was quickly revealed to be none other than Kade's ally and gym buddy: Jaxon Cross. In the second unmasking of the night, Kade responded in shock and anger at his friend's betrayal. Both men gave each other hell (Holiday themed Hell) and after an arduous battle, Cross prevailed, pinning Tim via armbar submission.

The decade's final main event came down to a Three-Stages-of-Hell match between Openweight Champion Sebastian Matters and Former Openweight Champion Xander Sullivan. The three stages were: 1. Standard Singles Match, 2. Submission Match, and finally 3. No Holds Barred (Falls Count Anywhere) Match.

The first two stages were over relatively quickly, with Matters conceding the first round to brutalise Sullivan. Matters then continued the onslaught through the second round, gaining a win via submission. It all came down to the third round, where chairs, tacks and barbed wire were used to their full extent to make this match the thrilling conclusion to one of the year's best story arcs. Xander and Sebastian gave everything they had, throwing each other into boards and chairs, denying the crowd of shoeys, and making each other bleed. The end came when Sullivan donned a barbed wire crown and headbutted Matters, winning back the Openweight Title.

This match had been built to since Beers and Bruises, but the seed of this feud began all the way back at MAYhem when Matters, as part of the tag team The Good Men, won the number one contendership by beating Headstrong, sparking animosity between Matters and Sullivan.

While Matter's loss means he is leaving AWA, the feud between him and Sullivan has made the Openweight Title a prestigious belt despite only being a few months old. Wherever Sebastian Matters shows up next, he will no doubt make waves.

Despite the official season ending in September, the Holiday Hell show was truly the best way to end the year. The matches were strong and doing the work of giving great ends and new beginnings to storylines. I am super excited for the next show already: The Purge on Jan 18th.

*photos by Callum Rule Media from previous events



It's not even Christmas and Sullivan is already doing promos for Easter

Foreign Correspondent

By Lachlan Albert

Night Two of PWA's Colosseum event had one of the biggest announcements in Australian wrestling history. Three words flashed on the screen and sent the crowd into a frenzy:

JYUSHIN

THUNDER

LIGER

I leapt to my feet. I pointed at my mate in the balcony. I tried to scream "We are going!" to him over the commotion of the rest of the crowd.

One of the greatest wrestlers of the last 50 years. In person, in an Australian ring, on his retirement tour. Just the name had hit the crowd like lightning, so I couldn't wait until December 14th to see the man in person.

Spoiler: I never saw the man in person.

As the Colosseum tournament wraps up and brings an end to one of the best wrestling events I've ever been to, I head back to my friend's place where I've graciously been given a place to sleep. I say that I've had such a great time, and would they mind if I visit again, say around the fourteenth of December? Yes, they'd love to have me. First hurdle cleared.

Two days later I make the drive back to Brisbane. Somewhere during the drive, I decide that I'm not driving next time. This is partly because Liger is on a Saturday night. If I was driving it would have to be on the Friday, the last day of the school term, and I'd feel terrible taking the absolute last day off in order to drive to Sydney for wrestling. It's also partly because the drive is long and boring, and I don't want to be stuck in the car for this long ever again.

About a week after I arrive home, I get a call from my mother. "Your birthday is coming up in December" she says (I already knew this), "and I don't know what to get you." I make a play. "Well, there's this wrestling event in Sydney that's on, like, five days after my birthday. I was thinking about going to the show and the meet and greet beforehand. Maybe you could get me the tickets?" She says yes. Boom. Second Hurdle cleared.

Time to book flights.

It may surprise you to know that being Heat Sheet's "Foreign correspondent" doesn't pay very well and keeping in mind that I'm flying out to NZ for Christmas, I have to do this on a budget. Jetstar has a flight from the Gold Coast to Sydney for just under \$60 on the Friday night right after school. Tiger Air flies back for \$65 on Sunday. Long-term parking at the Gold Coast airport is \$40. This is all coming together. Under \$170 for the whole trip seemed like a massive win. Accommodation was free (with a friend), my tickets were free (paid for by my parents as a birthday gift), and everything was booked way in advance. All Systems go.

Late November. A problem arises. My friend and her roommate have had a huge falling out. My friend has moved out and doesn't have room for me. Okay. We can recover from this.

Airbnb to the rescue.

I book a room for two nights that comes to about \$110. Not bad for Sydney accommodation, and I haven't had to pay for the tickets.

December 11. A problem arises. I get a text message announcing that my flight (set for the night of December 13th) has been cancelled due to a Jetstar strikes.



A Liger. Not the one that Lachy didn't get to see, but another one (which he also didn't see).

But wait, this isn't a problem at all. They offer to book me on another flight for no extra cost. This includes the more expensive flights on Saturday morning. I can fly out Saturday morning and I'll get to see AWA Holiday Hell on Friday night! This is a win.

Sure, I'll have to organise to check into my Airbnb later and I've paid for a night I don't need, but that's not the end of the world - it's worth it to see Xander vs Matters and Liger in the same weekend.

December 13th. 11pm. A problem arises.

As I'm leaving Holiday Hell, A text message. "Your flight has been cancelled". Really? Again? Okay, they've cut down the list of remaining flights, so these must be only the ones that definitely won't be cancelled due to these strikes. The problem is that now none of these flights will get me to Sydney in time for the Meet and Greet. Damn. If I'd known this flight was going to be cancelled, I would have skipped Holiday Hell and started driving as soon as work finished. It would've sucked but I could've pulled over for a sleep in my car half way through the drive and been in Sydney in plenty of time. Oh well. At least I'll make the show.

December 14th. My flight is now booked to leave at about 1:45. It's about 11am and I'm getting in the car to head to the airport.

A problem. A text message. This can't be happening.

My flight has been cancelled.

It's all over now. Nothing can be done. I should've called it after the second cancellation and paid the \$400 for the Qantas flight. Damn.



A Jetstar Plane: Not Lachy's JetStar Plane though, this one is actually flying.

I apologise to Mum that I'm not getting to use my birthday present. I apologise to my friend that I'm not going to visit after the show. I apologise to myself because, since there's no way I can afford to fly to the Tokyo Dome in January, now I'll never get to see Liger perform live.

I streamed the show on PWA's platform, OVOPlay. It's good. Madison Eagles hasn't lost a step and seeing her tag with Jessica Troy is a perfect match, two of the most talented women Australia has ever seen. Ricky South once again stole the show, this time with technical Marvel

TreeHugger Luchi. Mick Moretti and Adam Hoffman showed why The Nations are world class. Jack Bonza wrestled with three NJPW stars and didn't look out of place for a moment. And, of course, Liger was charismatic and magnetic and technically proficient and a joy to watch.

And all of it happened without me.

It's not what I had planned for my weekend. It's not what I had planned for my Heat Sheet "Foreign Correspondent" Debut. But... I'll be back.

I'm looking into attending PWA's January event, Sword Fight, to see the massive headline bout between the winners of the two Colosseum tournaments, Mick Moretti and Matty Wahlberg. Hopefully I get to write an article on that that's a little less about travel trouble and a little more about wrestling.

*photos by google

Foreign Correspondent will be a regular feature of HeatSheet in 2020 as Lachlan travels the country and the world, keeping us apprised of some of the goings on in AUS wrestling outside South East Queensland.

2019 Fave Fives

We'll say it again, these are our Favourites. We aren't saying they are the best, but these are the performers, the characters and the matches we most enjoyed watching in 2019, and the ones who we will be at the top of our wishlist to see again in 2020. So without further ado and in no particular order (these aren't power rankings) lets get into it Starting with...

Favourite Five Wrestlers

Xander Sullivan

2019 was "Warhead" Xander Sullivan's coming out party. Over the course of the year he held the AWA Tag Titles (with JL Gold), the Venom Tag Titles (with Jake Nova), The Venom (Heavy Weight Title), and most notably, the Queensland Open Weight Title. In the case of the last of those he was the first title holder, and after successfully defending it against Tim Kade and Matty Wahlberg, embarked on a trilogy with Sebastian Matters that established the title as something worth fighting for. In the course of that feud, he went from

being a talented technical performer who often seemed too nice to succeed at the top of the card, to a genuine warrior with an intensity and drive to do whatever it took.

Sebastian Matters

While Sullivan may have been swimming in Gold in 2019, Matters had just one title reign, and it lasted little more than a month, but he was still well deserving of being amongst our favourites. The character of Sebastian Matters evolved from a lightweight (figuratively and literally) entitled millennial shouting that he be taken seriously and getting beaten up for his trouble, to a legitimately vicious bully who demanded our attention.

Every hero needs a good villain, and Sebastian was the perfect foil for Sullivan in the Open Weight title picture. He feuded with Renegade in Venom, a program that not only worked for them, but introduced us to Bruiser, gave Jason Hyde his Venom debut, and provided the stage for the Flashman heel turn. In 2019, Sebastian mattered.



Xander Sullivan is always ready to help you perfect your yoga pose



Winning before loops, but just barely

Jake Nova

422 days. We first met Nova at AWA's The Purge: Rebirth, where he cut a promo against Rufio while complaining that he didn't even have his shoes on yet. Accompanied as always by his manager (and best friend?) Todd Eastman, Nova's reign continued all the way to Homecoming VI, where he lost it in the fatal four way ladder match to Hugh Manatee. Even without his title, Nova continued to dominate the SEQ scene with matches against Rat Daddy and Adonis in a triple threat at PWL, E.C. Diamond and Robbie Eagles in singles matches at AWA shows, and that doesn't even cover his many matches as part of Next Level (formerly Anti-Venom) at Venom Pro-Wrestling.



Jake Nova with his manager and babysitter Todd Eastman

EC Diamond



EC Diamond as the best Hair-vyweight Champ in the business

There is probably something perverse about a Fave Queensland Wrestlers list including a wrestler who wasn't even in the country for a good chunk of the year, but when he was here, EC Diamond showed he was something special. He held the UPW Championship for multiple shows, won the homecoming cup, and went from start to finish in the Guy Fermanian rumble at VPW Overload four, before finally being eliminated by Xander Sullivan. Ultimately though, Diamond makes the list for what he achieved when he was away, stepping in and stepping up to the level at OVW, in a manner that belies his youth. We might not get to see a lot of EC Diamond in the next few years as he stretches his wrestling wings, but he is one of ours, and for that reason is one of our favourites.

Jaxon Cross

Armbar Jesus has been the Venom Pro Wrestling Champion for most of 2019, in that time he lost, then won the title from Xander Sullivan, wrestled Matty Wahlberg and led Next Level through multiple superstar shakeups. He also snatched the PWL contract from Adonis and used it to gain entry into PWL's five man ladder match for both the PWL and AWA Heavyweight Titles, all while plotting the downfall of his gym buddy Tim Kade. Finally revealing himself as Kades masked attacker after 5 months.



Jaxon Cross knows all the best ways to pose for photos

Honourable Mentions

There was a lot of love for IPW champion Skhorn, which was surprising because he doesn't come across as the most loveable guy. We were also delighted to see Ricky Rembrandt back in a wrestling ring. I've previously described Mitch McCarthy as the Kasius Ohno of Queensland Wrestling – it was great to see him ending the year with gold around his waist.

Favourite Five Newcomers

Gen NEXT

OK, maybe it is cheating, as neither Mitch Ryder nor Cedric Brave made their in-ring debut in 2019, but the tag team Gen Next did, and they almost immediately established themselves as a viable threat wherever they went. The pink ring gear, the arrogance and the shenanigans marked them out as classic tag heels. Interestingly it was a role they embraced most readily in IPW and in Venom, more than in their 'home' promotion of AWA, where they seemed to hold off going full 'Arn and Ole' until the final show of the year. It was always going to happen though, and with a deft sleight of hand from Todd Eastman and a tag belt to the face of Bobby Bishop, Gen Next ended the year as AWA tag Champs.

Lucille Brawl

Debuting officially at Homecoming VI, Brawl was the only woman in the Homecoming Battle Royale and needed a spear from Spaceman Dacey to take her out. At Beers and Bruises she made her singles debut against Jessica Troy, and while she lost to the Arm Collector this time, she went on to wrestle Troy again, also adding Shazza McKenzie to her growing list of opponents. Having so many dream matches out of the gate hasn't slowed down Brawl's drive, however, in her quest to clean up wrestling and be the superhero we deserve. And after winning PWL's Revolution Royale and gaining a contract, she will do just that. You might not see her coming, but you will know when she is here.



Lucille Brawl is the coolest and scariest wrestler we know

Jason Hyde

We have been hot on Jason Hyde since we first saw him, which is a big call because the first time we saw him he was getting destroyed by Jade Diamond, alongside John Skyfall and Dolph Fin at PWL: Day of Reckoning. Since then he has appeared as a tag team wrestler in PWL and AWA, and recently made his singles debut in Venom, picking up a win over Mathias Clock. He has a surprising top rope move-set for a tall guy, which guarantees a few spectacular spots in any match he is involved in. We are hoping that in 2020 Hyde will get the opportunity to turn those great spots into great matches, and cement his place on the SEQ scene.

Outback Adam

It's really very silly. I mean he's got an inflatable crocodile (called Steve), he dresses in khaki shorts and work shirts (like that other Steve), and he jumps around the ring with the manic energy of an eight year old six hours into a red cordial binge (kinda like that other Steve). And it works. From the frankly ridiculous entry music, coming out to home among the gum trees, Outback Adam comes across as someone who is having the most fun in his life, and it is impossible for the audience to not get caught up in that fun. It helps of course that Adam has four years of training behind him, and a very solid skill base as a result. It may be very silly, but Outback Adam is serious about the silly.



This is Outback Adam's facial expression 99.99% of the time. Yes, really.

Tequila Young

Tequila Young made his debut at VPW Overload, and promptly dethroned JL Gold as Origins champion. It was an auspicious start, which spoke volumes for the confidence that Venom GM Anthony has in one of his pet projects. So far Young has lived up to the faith that has been shown in him, putting on solid matches against Gold and what was in my view the most enjoyable Zac Reynolds match I saw. Perhaps most importantly he has managed to connect with the Venom Audience. Now that he has established himself as an in-ring worker, we look forward to seeing the development of Tequila Young, the character.

Honourable Mentions

There have been many debuts this year, so mentioning some extras won't hurt anyone. Bruiser however will hurt many people, beginning the year at Venom as Sebastian Matter's muscle. We also have to mention Yng Chad who has taken many chops to his infinitely long torso. Finally props need to be given to Daniel's Republic member Draegen who can only be described as a cross between a crash test dummy and the perfect Team Rocket henchman.

Favourite Five "out of Towners"

AJ Istria

"Punch Drunk" Istria is no stranger to Queensland Wrestling. He trained under IPW's Obie Cartel and the less said about Rufio's sister the better. So when 2019 saw him holding the Wrestle Rampage Australian National Championship it was good to see that he hadn't forgotten the Queensland scene: Istria made the trip north to take on Gino Gambino at AWA homecoming VI in a clash of styles match that was as fun as it was visually disturbing. He then returned late in the year to take on his mentor Obie Cartel in IPW in a technical tour de force. He may have lost his title to Rat Daddy but in his time as fighting champion, Istria did not shirk fighting in Queensland.

Tarlee

Early in 2019 the Venom Pro Wrestling booking committee decided to reinstate the women’s championship and put it on Suplex Wrestling’s Tarlee. And just like that, the title meant something again. In a wrestling scene that still relies on bringing in name talent from down south, Tarlee was here often enough to feel like a local champ and to get over with the rabid VPW audience. So much so that she regained the title after a mid-year loss to Steph De Lander, only adding to her allure.



Tarlee is not finished with us yet

Robbie Eagles

On multiple accounts Robbie Eagles should be what many new wrestlers strive to be: a great wrestler with international appeal and a nice approachable guy who wants to give back to his community. The Sniper of the Sky will leave it all in the ring but then be in the crowd taking photos 10 minutes later. A technical powerhouse who gave Jake Nova a run for his money at Beers and Bruises, Eagles deserves all the praise he has earned and will continue to gain.

Mick Moretti



Mick Moretti working on his IT: Chapter 3 audition

You could argue that starting a brand new promotion, aimed at growing and improving Queensland wrestling, and then putting the title belt on an out of townner, was a bit of a risk for PWL. On the other hand, if you’ve got the chance to get The Rapsallion Mick Moretti to perform on multiple shows in your first year,

that’s not an opportunity you pass up. We’ve not spoken to Mick Moretti, but between his PWA commitments, his second King of Trios appearance with Nations, and tearing the house down at PWG, he is a performer who can afford to be pretty selective about what he puts on his dance card. His run with the UPW belt, and his appearance at IPW against Mitch McCarthy, brought well deserved attention to those promotions and the Queensland scene.

Jessica Troy

I would hazard that there are two types of wrestling fans: Jessica Troy fans, and people who have never seen Jessica Troy wrestle. Thankfully with her making the trip north for Homecoming and for Beers and Bruises there fewer of the latter in Queensland at the end of 2019. Her first match saw



Jessica Troy regretting her career choice as a human windmill

Troy play face to Kelly-Anne’s heel, and the chemistry and quality of two of Australia’s best women shone through to deliver one of the highlights of homecoming. Five weeks later she played heel to local super hero Lucille Brawl in Brawl’s singles debut.

Honourable Mentions

Corndog and Jaxon Cross traded barbs in two of the best video promos of the year before facing off at the fire rises. Davis Storm also followed up on the fire he had lit under Queensland wrestling last year in his appearance at Day of Reckoning. I found Matty Wahlberg much more entertaining in the ring than I found him when he was stuck on an island somewhere.

Best Matches

Jake Nova v Robbie Eagles – AWA: Beer and Bruises

Beers and Bruises was a show jam-packed with quality wrestling, and its main event matched. Watching Robbie Eagles and Jake Nova simultaneously respect each other and beat the crap out of each other was a trip. Throwing each other around the Zoo is a mainstay of Nova’s matches and while we haven’t seen Eagles wrestle live anywhere else, we can only guess heartfelt promos are a mainstay of his.

Xander Sullivan v Sebastian Matters – PWL: Project Revolution 2

The second instalment in the Sullivan and Matters trilogy set the tone for just how deadly each of these men is to the other. In a no-holds-barred match that saw Matters get thrown through a give way sign on chairs, then through the commentary table, and still manage to zip tie Sullivan and knock him out to gain the win, is going to be in our top 5 for the year.

Mitch McCarthy v Jesse Daniels – PWL: The Fire Rises

The first no disqualification that Heat Sheet saw live was McCarthy vs Daniels at our first PWL show, and it is still one of the best no DQs we have ever seen. Thanks to that match we learnt how insane baking trays sound when someone gets hit in the head with them, how ruthless Jesse Daniels can be if given the chance, and looking back, why Mitch McCarthy deserves to hold 2 titles at once.



A large part of official astronaut training involves being held upside down by Xander Sullivan

Obie Cartel v Aussie Wolf – IPW



Obie Cartel keeps forgetting to not volunteer for magic tricks

Maybe it was just a nostalgia thing. Maybe it was just getting a chance to see a match that between the vagaries of geography, health and the passage of time, I figured I would never get the chance to see, but Obie Cartel v Aussie Wolf at IPW: Reunion was a highlight of the night and a highlight of the year. On a card that had the chaos of the Reunion Rumble, and the brother v brother brutality of R.I.P v Cruz, Obie v Wolf, stood out as a lesson in technical wrestling.

Jaxon Cross v Matty Wahlberg – VPW

It's a pretty simple formula. Matty Wahlberg is one of the best performers in Australia at the moment. Jaxon Cross is one of the best performers in Queensland. Give them a main event, in front of a rabid crowd in the last show of the year, sit back and

enjoy. The purist in me may lament a cheap finish. The fan in me is still waiting for someone to wipe the smug obnoxious grin off Cross's (and Eastman's) faces.

Best Characters

Combat Wombat

We first met Combat Wombat at the 2019 Purge and were in love with his character 0.2 seconds later. Having such a wholesome adorable character at hardcore Grindhouse 18+ shows might seem out of place, but his presence reminds the audience that you don't have to be a smark, you can just fully mark out over the fur patches on his butt being consistent with his wrestling style. Thank you for your service CW.

Adonis

There is commitment to a character... and then there is shaving your stomach hair into a faux six pack and oiling yourself up before the matches. No-one would accuse Adonis of being the most subtle character, but he is one of the most entertaining and one of the most memorable, playing as he does on a heady mixture of a lack of boundaries and self-delusion as to his own attractiveness. The crowd want to see him, and they want to see him win. The challenge for 2020 will be for Adonis to take an entertaining and well realised character and turn himself into a credible in-ring threat.



Combat Wombat on the prowl (do wombats prowl?)

Cluck

At Halloween Bash, at Aussie World, in a pumpkin on a string match, the UPW featherweight Champion took on 13. Midway through a match that Cluck would inexplicably win, he was shoulder-charged by his opponent and took flight. In that moment, as Cluck sailed across the ring, all flailing legs and arms (wings) and squawks, looking for all the world like an actual rooster who had just been shot out of an actual cannon, it all made perfect sense. Forget the fact that he is completely over with the children or that he is one of the faces of the company. Forget that he never lets the character slip even on social media, forget his bizarre co-dependent relationship with a Frenchman with a shower fetish. In that moment on that October night, Cluck was the king of the barnyard.



Not quite flying @cluckupw

Flashman



We are still Flashman guys.

It seems almost disrespectful to celebrate Flashman as a ‘character’. He has been a Queensland wrestling institution for years. He has held multiple titles and had a key role in the development of many of the current stars of the Queensland scene. Having said all that, it is the in-ring character of Flashman that resonates, and continues to resonate, notwithstanding his mid-year VPW heel turn.

Tim Hayden/Sirius Lee Clean

This was a tie. They can fight it out between themselves as to who is most deserving of the honour. But both are a solid testament to the proposition that to work as a wrestling character, you need to be able to work as a wrestler. There are lots of slimy wankers who are not nearly as cool as they think they are – the number of them who can look the part while getting tossed into a steel cage by Skhorn are significantly fewer. There are (probably) not lots of clean freaks with a germ phobia and a spray fetish, but I know of only one who can hang with Ricky Rembrandt.

Honourable Mentions

Mentions for sassiness and pizazz go to Double Denim Danger Dan, Jack Tarr’s sailor suit and Roberto Puccino.

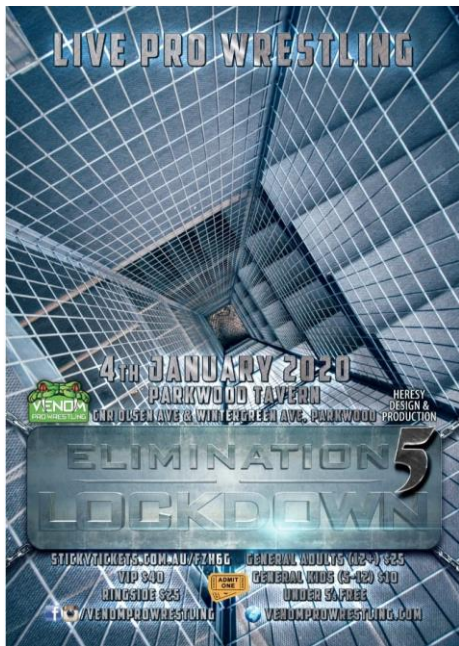
*photos by Barb’s Photos, Callum Rule Media, Jason Kryger and United Pro Wrestling.

**** Special thanks to all the photographers who let us use their photos this year, our mag would just be essays without you!**



DDDD is too stylish not to show

Coming Up



Venom Pro Wrestling are at the Gold Coast for the first time, with Elimination 5: Lockdown on 4 January at Parkwood Tavern. Already announced is Tequila Young v John Skyfall for the Origins Title and Women’s Champion Tarlee up against Jasmin Vittora. As the name (and poster) suggests, there is also the promise of violence inside a steel cage.

appearing, and after the events of Jingle Jam 2 we can probably expect EC Diamond to be there as well. Expect all the UPW regulars like Cluck, Showerman and Malibu.

In other UPW news, they have announced their first show at their new Caboolture training base. That show is scheduled for February and we will have more details in our next issue.



United Pro Wrestling kick the year off with Revival on 17 January at the shed at Aussie World. The new champion Matt “The Gospel” Gabriel will be



Australian Wrestling Alliance will start the year (as is traditional) with “The Purge” on 18th January at the Zoo.

I’ve not seen any matches announced but I’m willing to wager it will include a multi-person rumble with weapons/ and or shenanigans.

Coming up in Heat Sheet.

This issue we welcomed Lachlan Albert to the Heat Sheet team, and he will be back next month with his thoughts on Matty Wahlberg. We will have our regular roundup and a look behind the scenes of a UPW: Academy try-out day. With the New Year we will also be introducing you to new writers and new features, but we will keep those as a surprise for now. Stay tuned though as Heat Sheet continues to bring you our thoughts on the Queensland scene, and, as always, “Support Local Wrestling”.

HEAT
SHEET

Santa Skhorn
says: 'don't be
on my naughty
list'

IPW

IMPACT PRO WRESTLING AUSTRALIA