

# HEAT SHEET

**ISSUE  
#9**



**March 2020**  
The Round Up  
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## A Letter from the Editor

Well that escalated quickly.

Two weeks ago, I was complaining that we would be in New Zealand and miss out on seeing Robbie Eagles v Mitch McCarthy v EC Diamond. Today I am shut away, at least two metres from anyone, wondering how long it will be before we get to see live wrestling again.

The world has changed, and we still don't know how much or for how long. But it could be months before we have regular live shows happening again, and even longer before we are able to rebuild the momentum we had at the end of February. That doesn't mean we have to go cold turkey though – there is loads of wrestling online, and loads of South East Queensland wrestling online.

Impact Pro Wrestling Australia put their matches up on YouTube, and though there may be no new matches on the horizon, there are nearly sixty full matches to watch or re-watch. The newly formed Australian Wrestling League has a YouTube presence as well, and has the full PWL back catalogue and AWA's Holiday Hell and Purge event on the site, as well as their recent Enter Phase One show. Venom Pro-Wrestling have been promising to put their back catalogue up on YouTube for a while, and while that is an ongoing process, they do have a selection of greatest hits and all of the matches from their most recent 'Reload' up and ready to stream. United Pro Wrestling aren't on YouTube, but you can subscribe to their Vimeo On Demand channel to get every show, right back to April 2019's Fight for Life.

Further afield, Lachy would never forgive me if I didn't point out that Perth's EPW (home to Davis Storm) and Melbourne's MCW also have Vimeo channels, and for those with an interest in Oz Wrestling past, the Aussiewrestling.com archives have matches going back as far as 2007, including a load of Queensland content. (2010 - Obie Cartel's Retirement Event anyone?)

Queensland wrestling has made sure there is enough to keep all of us fans entertained for the next few months. But that's not the end of the story. Wrestling promotions are businesses, and wrestlers are independent contractors, and they rely on our support and our money to keep going. If there are no shows, then there is no money.

So I have a challenge to Queensland wrestling fans:

- If you love our local feds, or our local wrestlers, and
- If you want to see them survive, and come back bigger and better than ever, and
- If you are able to (because we all may do it tough in the next few months)

Take the money you would have spent on show tickets this month, or next, or the month after that, and get in contact with your favourite fed, or favourite wrestler, and find out how you can buy their merch. Spend some of what you might have spent on tickets on a t-shirt, or a sticker or a poster, and let them know that we will be back when they are.

**Matt McQueen**

**Our Cover: LFB charging up for his comeback before claiming the win against Dick Brutal**

## The Round Up

### UPW: Thy Kingdom Come

By Matt McQueen

Thy Kingdom Come Aussie World 29 February 2020

Moko Kai is an imposing performer and UPW are giving him every opportunity to show what he can do. It's not yet settled whether he is a face or a heel – in his debut against The Gospel he was well supported, and while he had some crowd support at Revival against Malibu, his petulant response to losing did not go over well with the crowd. Here he took on 13 though, so the audience were more than happy to cheer him. Early on, it looked like he was getting sucked into having a 13 style match, falling for the distractions and letting the Worm get inside his head. As the match progressed though he ignored the shenanigans, concentrated on his own game plan, and got on top. He took 13 off his feet three times before getting a pin that the ref missed. He stayed focussed, speared Pogo off the apron so he couldn't provide any further distraction, and got a roll up pin on 13 for a popular

win.

Ricky Rembrandt wants a title shot. In order to get that, he needs to go through the Stockman, and in order to get that, he needs to go through Vegas Starr. At Thy Kingdom Come he got his chance, and as one would expect from 'the one true virtuoso' he took it in slick, uncomplicated fashion. Starr talks a good game, and managed to get on top at pints in the match, but with head ref Grant Simonds, alive to any attempts at cheating, he was unable to cut the corners that might have given him enough of an edge to win. An attempted pin with his feet on the ropes was broken up, and when he donned brass (gold) knuckles the ref saw and removed them. Mano o Mano, Rembrandt finished him off with.....



What is French for "this was probably a bad idea"?

Cluck and Duck bought into the medieval theme of the evening, coming to the ring with sword and staff to defend the Honour of UPW against the nefarious pairing of Jesse Love and Sirius Lee Clean. This match was refereed by Noman Mikalov though, and it wasn't long before the Russian started to have an impact on proceedings. What started as a frustrating series of slow counts in favour of Love and Clean, descended further in farce when Mikalov actually went so far as to break up a pin.

It all became too much for Kanji Kid, who was at the Commentary table. He knocked out Mikalov, allowing Showerman to take hold of the arm of the unconscious official and count the next pin, and the win for his partner.

Jack Tucker took on Pogo the Clown in a match that was a continuation of 13's Vendetta against the working class man. Pogo was at his disturbing crazy best, breaking out a spider walk and biting the neck of his opponent, getting inside Tucker's head in the search for an advantage. In a purely physical sense, Tucker had his number. Tucker's not a big guy, but he has an athletic strength that allowed him to throw around a wrestler of Pogo's size and dominate most of the physical matchups. A ref bump proved the difference. With the official down and momentarily out, the newest member of the Circus of Tragedy made his way to the ring. A formidable big man in a leather strap mask, KASM slammed Tucker, laying him out and allowing Pogo to pick up the win.

Luchador LFB made his UPW debut, taking on the Stockman. This was a very short match. LFB tried to take the fight to the bigger man, was turned inside out, choke-slam, done.

After having avoided losing the title to Malibu at 'There goes the Neighbourhood' by getting himself disqualified, Matthew Gabriel took him on again in the main event at Thy Kingdom Come. This was a No DQ match though, so in order to retain the title, the Gospel would have to actually beat his opponent, and over the course of nearly 20 minutes that proved impossible.

He put Malibu through the commentary table, but could not beat him.

He pushed him off the top rope but couldn't beat him.

He subjected him to the usual array of bear hugs, submissions and suplexes that are the Gospel's trademark, and still could not beat him.

Because sometimes getting the victory isn't about how much you want to win, it is about refusing to lose. It is about taking the hits, the insults, the taunting and the interference and not getting your shoulders pinned, and if after all of that you happen to find yourself holding the title belt, smashing your opponent in the face with it and scoring the win.



Malibu's first order of business as champion is renaming Surfer's Paradise

So Malibu is the new UPW champion, and will take on either Ricky Rembrandt or the Stockman as his first challenge.

## AWL: Enter Phase One

By Aisling Taylor

Enter Phase One was the first show of AWL, the Megazord form of the AWA and PWL. It was also a sold-out show. When the merger was first announced, we here at HSHQ speculated and hoped that the new brand would have the production values of PWL and the frequency of AWA combined with the great wrestling from both brands. Enter Phase One was more than I could have ever hoped for. The last time Heat Sheet had been in the Kittyhawk room at Kedron Wavell was MAYhem, the show directly before our zero issue. So, this show felt a bit like an anniversary and a reminder that when we began, we had no idea how much we didn't know. It was also the first all-ages show of the year, so my 17 year old cousin Jade and her younger sister, the 9 year old Pepper, tagged along too. Before any of the wrestling even began, they both remarked how it was nothing like they expected.

We found our seats, got snacked and got settled. But before Nashy has even finished announcing



Lucille Brawl enforces both maritime law and the law of the streets

the night's matches (with the help of guest commentator Adonis, who has a freshly broken neck), Sorrow appeared, gloating about delivering the breaking blow, quickly following up his trash talk with a challenge to fight literally anyone. But not just anyone appeared: it was the Retro Kid Bobby Bishop. Bishop, who was attacked by his former tag partner Rip Rielly at The Purge: New Dawn, is probably in the midst of a soul-searching redemptive arc that will no doubt end in Bishop and Rielly facing off. For now, however Bobby would have to settle for Sorrow. The Retro Kid started fast, eager to begin proving himself, but unfortunately Sorrow's ruthlessness won out and he got the pin on Bishop.

The first official match of the night was the six-pack scramble and entering first was the Maritime Man: Jack Tarr. Upon his entrance, Pepper promptly decided that he was her favourite. The Favouritism didn't last very long, because Yng Chad was the next to enter the ring, and new

favourite! Next to arrive in the scramble was Blair Seeker, who Pepper wasn't sure if she liked yet. Her next and most favourite of the match is Queensland's superhero and owner of the best cape collection: Lucille Brawl. Before we could properly bask in Lucille's heroic green glow, something genuinely surprising happened: Rufio's music began. Rufio hasn't been seen since the 2019 Purge: Rebirth, so a return would have been a very big deal. After many pops from the audience and getting our hopes up, it wasn't Rufio. It was the newly dubbed 'Wacol's Most Wanted' Cockroach and Skinny D. Cockroach was the one actually competing in the scramble, but he couldn't do it without the support of his cellie. Last to the ring, accompanied by his fellow Wildlife Warrior Combat Wombat, was Outback Adam.

The match starting with everyone in-ring at once, making it a scramble immediately. Despite the busy ring, everyone's roles quickly revealed themselves as the match developed. Blair Seeker was opportunistic but not willing to take any risks to his personal safety. Cockroach was scrappy and devious, much like his namesake. Jack Tarr used his muscle size to throw his (and others') weight around. The match's stand out players were Chad, Lucille and Adam. Brawl and Adam continued their respectful but competitive relationship, this time including a new apathetic intensity (there isn't any other way to describe it) from Chad. It was a relatively fast-paced match that featured great character moments from everyone involved. In the end, however, Outback Adam won by pinning Jack Tarr.



Supporting your friend's achievements is very important in wombat culture

The first title match of the night was for the Tag Titles between Champs GenNext (in new Gucci flavoured gear) and JL Gold and Jason Hyde, promptly named Hydestrong by our own Lachlan Albert. This was Hydestrong's second outing, after first teaming up at Project: Revolution 2, and the second title defence for GenNext. The two (no longer) in pink tried to dominate the ring but couldn't stop Hyde's magnetic repulsion from all things: floor. They also had a slightly harder time quelling Gold's strength (even if he was still wearing weird gloves). While it wasn't enough to get the tag titles from GenNext, we want to continue to see Hydestrong grow as a team.

Next up is the triple threat match between regular AWL players Tim Kade, Jake Nova and Homecoming Cup winner E.C. Diamond. Before the match began it was announced that the cup (and its ability to cash in for a title shot) was on the line. Each of the men are main event level wrestlers, and they didn't hold back in their quest for the cup. Maybe it was Jake Nova being a literal dad and

Tim Kade's vibe being a little scary, or maybe it was the strength of E.C. Diamond's new blonde streak like Rogue from X-Men, but Diamond was pretty much straight away Pepper's favourite for the match. All of them played to their strengths, making any of them potential cup winners. In the case of the Homecoming Cup diamonds are forever (for this match at least), with E.C. Diamond retaining.

Beginning with a chant about Xander Sullivan's non-matching socks, we were reassured that despite his opponent, Xander hadn't lost his charm. CJ began reluctant to do any actual wrestling, leading to multiple stare down laps inside the ring. The match included lots of grappling and holds, making it the match most akin to Strong Style throughout the show. CJ represented the Daniels Republic by breaking rules and antagonizing Sullivan and Ref Bec wherever possible. Xander continues to develop and showcase his well-rounded move set, being able to adapt to a different wrestling style dependent on his opponent. After 15 minutes Xander managed to retain, though CJ managed to wear down the Openweight Champ quite a bit.

The Republic representation continued, as up next was the gauntlet match between The Big Boi Renegade and the entire Daniels Republic (minus CJ). But Renegade wasn't going to go through the gauntlet alone. His Tag Team partner (in the newly renamed Strong '94), Lynx Lewis Jr, turning the gauntlet match into a handicap tag match at the ruling Commissioner Syam. Staying true to their name, Strong '94 started very strong, able to face almost all of the Republic's minions individually. But the Daniels Republic also stuck to their name, by having Jesse Daniels. Even with Draegen, James Jaeger and Roberto Puccino doing most of the grunt work (which is probably some kind of law in the Republic), the uber-heel made sure to get his hits, and cheating, in. It's no surprise that Renegade was so confident in his ability to do a gauntlet alone because with Strong Lynxy in his corner they managed to take on and take down the entire Daniels Republic (minus CJ). They might not be called Street Revolution anymore, but they have definitely caused some questioning about Daniels' ability to run his "Republic" after this loss for the Republic.

At the 2019 February show Purge: Rebirth, there was a loser leaves town match between Mitch McCarthy and Rip Rielly. Mitch McCarthy lost this match, and "left town" (he was miraculously back in town by MAYhem). At the 2020 February show the main event is a hardcore match between AWL Heavyweight Champion Mitch McCarthy and winner of the Purge Rumble and number one contender Rip Rielly. A year in non-wrestling life is like three seasons of TV in wrestling world. When it was announced at intermission that the main event would be a hardcore match, I got slightly nervous. Not because I don't love hardcore matches, but because I didn't want Pepper and Jade to assume that all wrestling is one match announcement away from someone potentially getting hurt. Much to my delight, and slight worry in Pepper's case, they got into it straight away.

Trash cans, chains and my personal favourite, a give-way sign, were all in play during this match. With lots of smashes, crashes and intense traded blows, neither McCarthy nor Rielly were interested in going easy on each other. At the match's midpoint a mysterious box was pulled out from underneath the ring. At first, we wondered if it was a box of matches, but it turned out to be something much more befitting of a hardcore match: wax strips. You might wonder why wax strips

would be under a wrestling ring, and I don't know the answer, but if I had to guess it might have something to do with how crazy it is to see wax strips being chopped onto Mitch's chest, then ripped off, to audible empathetic cringes from the audience. The biggest spot of the match was when Rip Rielly was thrown onto a stack that included, from top to bottom: a chain, the give way sign, a folding chair and a ladder, by Mitch McCarthy. Tiring each other out, McCarthy had to drag himself over to Rielly in order to get the pin and retain. But any relief Mitch McCarthy felt was short-lived because before his entrance music could be played to celebrate his victory, E.C. Diamond's music hit. Diamond was cashing in his Homecoming Cup, and with McCarthy exhausted, it took less than a minute for Diamond to be the new Heavyweight Champion. After the show we learnt that very few people knew about E.C.'s planned cash-in, making it a surprise both in the audience and backstage.

Pepper was very excited to see E.C. cash in, but on the drive home mentioned that she was sad there hadn't been any actual fire during the hardcore match. Overall, both Pepper and Jade had a great night, getting plenty of photos with their favourite wrestlers, and upon returning home, Pepper breathlessly told my Aunt all the events of the night, slightly incoherently.



Now E.C. Diamond has cashed in the Homecoming Cup, Pepper has her eye on it

## UPW: Cabolture – There Goes the Neighbourhood

By Matt McQueen

There goes the Neighbourhood, March 7 2020

We kick things off with Jack Tucker taking on Vegas Starr – two performers of a similar size and a good match. Tucker is the much more experienced wrestler, but it is clear that Starr has done his homework. He had Tucker's finisher, the Aussie Cutter, well scouted, avoided it early, pushed off and rolled out of the ring to collect his thoughts. That allowed him to get the upper hand and he took full advantage: a scoop slam on Tucker led to a two count. A brutal elbow into the corner brought another two count. It didn't finish the good guy though, and when he fired up and managed to nail the Cutter, it was all over.





Pogo trying to pull down Kanji Kid's pants

According to the commentary team, match 2 was scheduled to be Kanji Kid against the new member of the Circus of Tragedy KASM, in a featherweight division match. KASM may be described as many things, but a featherweight is not one, and sure enough sanity prevailed long enough for Pogo to take to the ring and take on the Kanji Kid instead. What followed was an entertaining match between two wrestlers who have obviously fought many times before. There was very little down time as Kanji Kid and the former Mojo Powers traded strikes, kicks, chops and elbows around the ring. When the action did slow, the audience took the opportunity to let Pogo know what being a member of the Circus actually meant, showering him with 'Pogo is

Useless' chants. Pogo got the last laugh though: a low blow, delivered while KASM had the ref and his opponent distracted, allowed him to get the three count for the win.

Since winning the Tag Titles, Cluck and Showerman have faced a steady stream of challengers. At There Goes the Neighbourhood, it would be Noman Mikalov and newcomer Verde Tonto's chance to dethrone the champs. They would come up short. The Cluck and Duck Connection have grown into their role as champions and improved week on week, no longer relying, for example, on the timely and telling intervention of Tug Boat to get the win. This time their teamwork was more than enough for the confused shenanigans of the masked challengers, and Cluck pinned Verde Tonto to retain.

Moko Kai won his UPW debut against Gospel in the only previous match between these two. It may be that on that occasion, the two time UPW champion had been caught by surprise by the newcomer. There could be no such excuses this time around. Gospel is used to being one of the most powerful wrestlers in UPW – that Moko Kai went head-on with him would likely have come as a surprise. That in doing so that the Samoan was able to get over the top of him would have been a genuine shock. A leapfrog leg driver (my description) was devastating. A Samoan Drop followed by Spear finished him off, and Moko Kai has as many wins against Gospel as Gospel has had UPW title reigns.

Vegas Starr came to the ring, which means Stockman came to the ring, which means Ricky Rembrandt came to the ring, but this was a different Ricky Rembrandt. Gone was the nicely groomed, button-up shirt Rembrandt of the last couple of shows. This was a rougher, angrier, dare I say it more dangerous virtuoso, and he was not afraid to get up in the Stockman's face. After

Rembrandt delivered a sweet standing dropkick to the big man, Vegas Starr demanded a match for his charge there and then. The bell rang, and the match immediately ended in a no contest, with Starr hitting a low blow on Rembrandt before anyone had cleared the ring.

The main event had Malibu make his first defence of the UPW heavyweight title against 13. In winning the title from Gospel at Thy Kingdom Come, Malibu had shown that he could take a beating. At There Goes the Neighbourhood, he had to prove it all over again, as 13 showed the ring-craft and power that has made him one of the most dangerous men in UPW.

For nearly 20 minutes of a 25 minute match, it seemed like Malibu was on the defensive, struggling to survive and snatching rare moments of offense when he could. Even when he found a window of opportunity, it came to nothing – his first attempt at his moonsault finisher coming up empty and seeing the Worm go right back on the attack.

As the match stretched longer, the new champion pulled out the desperation moves, and a suicide dive to the outside saw him briefly on top. Within minutes though, 13 was back in control, crotching Malibu and suplexing him off the top rope, but unable to get the pin. When 13 set the champion up for a repeat, Malibu fought back long enough to find space for a moonsault, and this time he didn't miss. The ref counted 3 and Malibu retained the belt.



This is a bad example of a conga line

## IPW: Ace of Impact

By Matt McQueen

Two minutes into the tag title match between Jesse Love/Tim Hayden and RIP/Cruz, and Cruz rips out a suicide dive and I start thinking maybe they have gone hard too early. Four minutes in and RIP pulls off a dive, and I know they have. After that it settles down a little as Hayden and Love keep the ring cut in half and work over RIP mercilessly. When RIP finally manages to break out, he and his brother prove that while they may be the good guys, that doesn't mean they are nice guys, brutalising their opponents, crotching them on the ropes and doing serious damage to their dignity as well as their bodies. Team-work counts in a tag division though, and the champions got through when Love came off the top rope to flatten Cruz and leave him to be rolled up and pinned by Hayden.



Only 6 more colours and Chad Atlas will have a rainbow of mouth guards

Reaper took on Rionne Fujiwara. I never get bored of watching Reaper, and to see him here against the visiting Fujiwara was good fun. The crowd were behind the local competitor throughout as he fought through a relentless series of submission attempts by Fujiwara and took what opportunities he could to deliver some offence of his own. The effort ultimately took its toll however, Reaper succumbing to a pin, but earning the respect of his opponent.

Slammin' Sam v Dick Brutal v Sweet Ass were up next in what was listed as a triple threat match. Sweet Ass made it clear early though, that while happy to dish out the punishment, he was in no mood to take it, ducking out of the ring at every opportunity and leaving Sam and Brutal to go at each other. In the end it was Brutal who got the win, hitting Sam with a double-handed

choke slam, after the face pushed his luck with a third consecutive clothesline.

When Chad Atlas v Ashe was announced, I commented that it would be a genuine test for the newcomer. He had picked up a flash victory over Dick Brutal, and manage to get the better of Breeze, but the Kendo stick-wielding veteran was likely to be a harder hill to climb. And so it proved. Not that Atlas looked out of his depth, he had the upper hand early and no doubt his mentor Flashman will have seen something he can work with, but beating Ashe was going to require more than just intensity and fire, and Ashe picked up the win without having to take his coat off.

After the match Flashman took the mic and delivered some tough love to his charge, reminding him that getting knocked down happens, but getting back up would be the measure of him.

Popular opinion is that high-flying matches are often low on psychology, and that Face v Face matches tell dull stories. Someone should maybe tell LFB and EC Diamond then. The Diamond Brand was lured to IPW for the opportunity to fight for the Unified title, and came with a decent level of crowd support for his trouble. It was support that almost willed him to victory, his (slightly) more grounded style, controlling the Champion for long portions of the match, and seemingly preventing LFB from fighting the match on his terms. In a match as even as this though, it was always going to be decided by the slimmest of margins. EC Diamond's decision to go to the top rope cost him when he was hit with a superplex, final-calling combo for the 1, 2, 3.

The main event saw new Heavy Weight Champion and literal Babyface, Bodhi Jackson, make his first defence of the title in a fatal four way against Kiwi Thriller, CJ and BoJack. And it got me thinking: what if BoJack is actually Bodhi Jackson from the future, who has been to WWE, had his name shortened and then come back in time to support the fed he started with. It would explain why he concentrated on dealing with the heels rather than trying to damage the champion. For a good

portion of this match it felt like there were two singles matches going on in the same ring: CJ and BoJack squaring up, while Kiwi Thriller went after Jackson. Once the heels got on top though, the inevitable dissent surfaced, and it provided the opening that the ever opportunistic champion needed to snatch the win. CJ delivered a stunner to Kiwi Thriller before himself being hit by a powerbomb by BoJack. As CJ rolled to safety, Jackson came in, dropped a distracted BoJack onto Kiwi Thriller, and pinned Thriller for the win.

\*Photos from Barb's Photos



Taking social distancing  
a little bit too far

## UPW: CarnEvil

By Matt McQueen

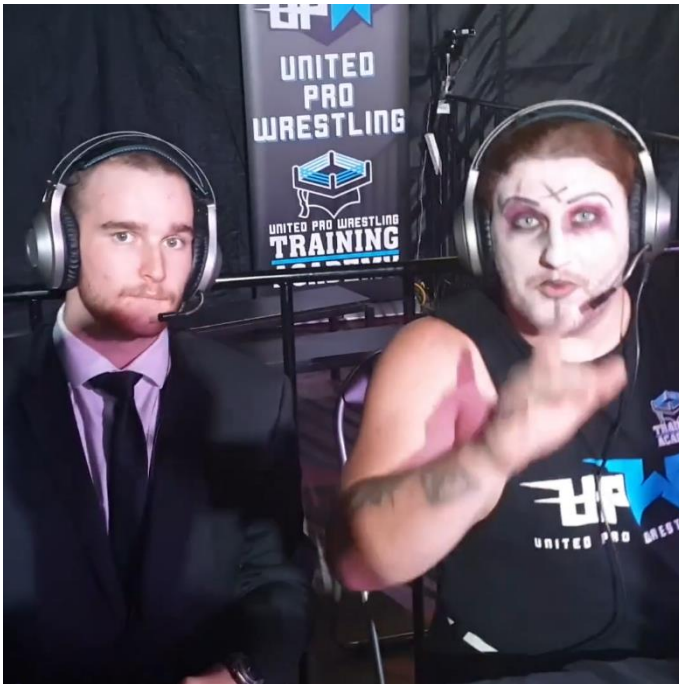
On Monday 16th UPW announced that CarnEvil would go ahead, at the Banana Bender pub (formerly the Shed) at Aussie World, but by Wednesday the goal posts had moved again and it was a no audience show at UPW HQ. It's a sign of how quickly things change that what was no doubt a difficult decision on Monday had been superseded by the only possible decision just 48 hours later. With that in mind, credit needs to go to UPW for putting on (and putting up on Vimeo) an atmospheric show in which the MVP was undoubtedly their new Caboolture South venue.

That they were able to put on a show at all was because they had a space to call their own, and no-one else deciding if the show would go ahead. UPW HQ is not a plush comfortable venue – it is an industrial shed, and while the UPW crew do a great job (in normal times) of softening the rough edges, opening up the canteen and the merch show and keeping the lighting up and colourful, for CarnEvil they leaned into the venue. This was fight club, a secret and dangerous cavern in which the UPW crew had gathered at the behest of 13, to put on a secret and dangerous show, and an entertaining show at that.

Jesse Love and Moko Kai opened proceedings and I am fast coming to the view that Jesse Love is one of the most reliable openers in Queensland Wrestling. He gets his character across quickly and can all but guarantee a negative reaction from the audience. When against a performer who the crowd may be less familiar with, the fact that they know to boo Love, and accordingly cheer his opponent, makes it easy. There was no crowd here of course, though 13 (on commentary) steadfastly refused to acknowledge that the building was empty. Moko Kai appeared to have Love covered for power, but Love is an experienced performer, and the two were evenly matched

throughout. I felt sure that Love would get the win with his second neck-breaker, leg-drop combo, but Kai got the Samoan drop and picked up the pin fall.

Gospel was out next, and at least on this occasion managed to get through his 'sermon' without being stopped by chants of Gospel Sucks from the crowd. At one point Gospel thanked the crowd for their applause, and no doubt if you are used to hearing boos, silence probably does sound like appreciation.



Consistent makeup is important, even when on comms

He was joined for the match by Kanji Kid, and the two put on a fun, 'clash of styles' match. Gospel worked his smaller opponent over, wearing him down with bear hugs and power, while Kanji Kid responded with kicks, punches and head-butts, always staying just out of harm's way. A spine-buster finished him though, and earned Gospel the three count, only for the ref (Corey) to notice after the count that the Kid had his foot on the ropes and signal for the match to continue. While Gospel argued the toss, Kanji Kid regrouped and hit a spinning back kick that floored Gabriel and gave the face the win.

At Thy Kingdom Come, we had been introduced to KASM, the silent masked muscle of the Circus of Tragedy. At CarnEvil he made his announced debut, accompanying Pogo to the ring for his match against Cluck. He was to be pivotal in the match. Twice during the match, Pogo distracted the ref while KASM choked him in a corner, and I expressed his delight from the commentary table. The finish too had KASM's beefy fingerprints all over it. With the ref floored, the big man entered the ring and slammed Cluck. The ref recovered just in time to see Pogo throw himself over the stricken chicken\* and claim the pin.

I believed that Ricky Rembrandt could beat the Stockman. More than that though, I believed he would. After months of build, and a return from injury, UPW's favourite would be the man to finally cut the Stockman down to a more manageable size. I was sure that the one true virtuoso would succeed where 22 others had failed. I was wrong.

Rembrandt clearly came in with a plan. Stick and move. Get in, hit hard and get out. A pair of drop kicks to the stockman in the corner rocked the big man and early, and for someone who is used to finishing matches in short order, this was new ground. When Rembrandt hit a code breaker and took the outback outlaw off his feet, we were all in new territory. Unfortunately after the initial promise, normal coverage was resumed. The Stockman worked his way back into the match and back on top.

By the time Rembrandt risked it all to go to the top rope he was running out of options, and when Vegas Star distracted him long enough to allow the Stockman to choke slam him off said rope, it was



No one puts Stockman in the corner, except Ricky Rembrandt apparently

all over. The Stockman goes 23-0, and despite only having been around for the last three of those, Vegas Starr seems keen to take credit for all of them.

I don't think I've ever seen a wrestler less impressed with having a title match than Sirius Lee Clean, who came to the ring for his match against Malibu in a full Hazmat suit. It was a useful precaution as Malibu started proceedings by wiping his nose, and coughing into his fist. He followed that up with a devastating sneeze. Once they got into the wrestling it was a tight little match, with decent back and forth from both wrestlers. Clean got on top in multiple places but was distracted throughout, constantly forgoing pin opportunities to disinfect himself and his opponent. It came back to haunt him when

Malibu reversed the disinfectant spray, and hit him with a moonsault for the win.

That leaves Stockman to take on Malibu at the next available opportunity.

\*Heat Sheet are well aware that Cluck is in fact a rooster, and no disrespect was meant, however the phrase 'stricken chicken' was too good to pass up.

## Foreign Correspondent: Wide Bay Pro-Wrestling

By Lachlan Albert

Australian wrestling is at its best when it's united. Unity seemed to be the theme of Wide Bay's Fight Back event earlier this month, both with stories of shifting alliances and with the real-life unity of wrestlers from Wide Bay, QLD, and Australia putting on a show together.

Before the show started, those of us new to Wide Bay Pro met a couple of important characters, with short, reedy promoter Anthony "The Bull" Romano emphasising just how massive his friend and top good-guy Gator is. The two of them spent a while before the show hanging out in the ring with a special child from the audience who loved beating up Gator's stuffed crocodile companion to the cheers of the audience.

As the show proper started, we saw just how wide-reaching Wide Bay had been collecting talent for the show. Australian Sensation and Perth native Craven was ready to overcome microphone difficulties to share his love for a local takeaway chicken joint with Melbourne's Smashmouth Ritchie Taylor, but the other Perth representative in the building, the Example of Greatness Jules Canan, was less impressed. This previewed the main event, and while chicken and chips were cleaned from the ring, an advertised Fatal-Four-Way was changed by Romano to be a six-man match for a



Piggybacks are slightly different in the United Kingdom

briefcase. Like every briefcase in wrestling, it contains a contract for any match at any time. The stakes have never been higher, and neither have the chips.

With the top end of the card set up, the wrestling was set to begin with the Retro Kid himself, Bobby Bishop. Unfortunately, Bishop's scheduled opponent (Jackson Spade) had been unable to make his flight, so Bobby prepared to leave the ring with a default victory. That is, until he was challenged by stuntman extraordinaire, Double Denim Danger Dan.

Bobby and Dan are an interesting matchup because they have a similar ring presence, both goofy and fun while being technically

proficient. Some of their antics were drowned out by the commentary being piped over speakers, but the visual goofiness was plentiful, with tests of strength, hugs, catching each other's kicks, and running the ropes straight past each other. Dan put on a strong showing in his first singles match, especially against an opponent as prominent in QLD as Bishop. In the end a MegaDrive followed by a discus lariat put The Denimed One down for the count in a great opener which potentially earns Bishop the shot at Spade's SUPLEX Championship that he's been after.

Rhys Rayzelle, a lean but skilled high-flyer and former Wide Bay champion, called out a mysterious man in a Purge mask who's been haunting the Wide Bay social media over the past little while. The masked man revealed himself to be another former Wide Bay champ in Nate Evans, swearing off his former villainous ways and offering friendship to a weary Rayzelle in front of a disbelieving crowd. The audience's mistrust was quickly forgotten, though, replaced by hatred of the two men who appeared to challenge the former champs; Blair Seeker and (my beautiful boy) Zac Reynolds. Rhys took Evans at his word to help hold off the invaders, and quickly began to regret it as Blair and Zac isolated the smaller man. Seeker and Reynolds showed off just how technically gifted they are, with classic tag-team wrestling, controlling both the ring and their opponents with relative ease. That is,

until Rhys finally made the big tag to Nate Evans who began to clear house, using Nate's power and Rayzelle's unpredictable high-flying to take the victory.

Most of Wide Bay Pro Wrestling's gold was represented in the next match, with the team of Interstate Champion Benny Whiplash and Brute Force champion Sam Driver being accompanied to the ring by Heavyweight champ Reverend De'Ath. De'Ath is a satanic mirror to Gator, the titanic villain to Gator's colossal hero. Gator's partner for the tag match was promotor Anthony Romano, and where the previous matches showed the technical side of WBPW, this match would be a large portion of the night's storytelling.

The match was back-and-forth, with the technical team of Whiplash and Driver easily controlling Romano but just as easily being overwhelmed by the power of Gator. The nasty duo managed to keep Romano in the ring for the majority of the match, until suddenly, Whiplash left ringside before he could be tagged in, walking backstage with De'Ath. Whiplash was laid out by Gator and Romano, and Gator called for a match for the "always up for grabs" Brute Force championship. Gator won this easily, and Romano congratulated him... Until, of course, Romano turned on Gator, laying him out with shots below the belt and hits from a trash can. Romano called for the Brute Force title to be on the line again, and The Bull became the new champ. This didn't stop him from continuing to beat Gator, though, who required medical attention and was taken to the local hospital as the show went to intermission.

Returning after a break, Lucille Brawl made her unannounced entrance to the ring to tell the crowd she'd been watching and had made the decision to clean up Wide Bay, meaning she would be wrestling next show. Marvel-ous.

Six men would now compete for the Ultimate Briefcase; the Bear Viking Alexünder Gunnbjorn had put his briefcase on the line to get a shot at the other Viking, Eric Steele, adding himself to the match against Sydney's Awkward Alex Irvine, Newcastle's Magnificent Mat Gauge, and Brisbane's own Big Boi Renegade. The lure of the briefcase was also enough for Adonis to surprise the crowd, wrestling around a broken neck for a chance at gold. This match was as chaotic as it sounds. Bodies and limbs flew in every direction. Gauge and Irvine both tried and failed to look like they felt comfortable in the ring, while Steele and Gunnbjorn seemed to only have their sights on destroying each other. The standout, though, may have been Renegade, who shocked the Wide Bay crowd with his combination of athleticism and power that we're so familiar with a little further south. The match came to its conclusion when Steele locked a sleeper hold on Gunnbjorn for a submission, sending the briefcase from one Viking to another.

A triple-threat match for the Wide Bay Heavyweight Championship saw Matthias Wright and Slammin Sam challenge Reverend De'Ath, who was accompanied by his remaining ally, Benny Whiplash. De'Ath seemed to have the match largely under control until a late surge by crowd-favourite underdog Sam. Unfortunately for him and the crowd, his Slammin' was put to a quick stop



when Anthony Romano once again showed how dastardly he had become, making his way to the ring and nailing Sam with the championship belt to allow the Reverend to take the victory. The Bull then officially aligned himself with De'Ath and Whiplash to form a new satanic trio, likely to be the foil of Gator for shows to come.

Finally, the main event arrived, and the trio of Craven, Taylor, and Canan wasted no time in showing why WBPW pulled them from their respective corners of the country. The trio had a fantastic mesh of styles for a triple-threat match, with Ritchie's old-school brawler style playing perfectly with Craven's hard-hitting athleticism and Canan's technical risk-taking. The match was downright chaos, with very little of it happening in the ring. Highlights include Taylor damaging a wall in the school hall by throwing Craven into it, Canan launching himself from the stage onto his opponents, and Craven loudly breaking Canan's finger, all while working their way from one side of the crowd around to the other.

Every so often you get to see a match and think to yourself "matches this good shouldn't be happening in front of so few people". Nova vs Eagles at Beers and Bruises last year comes to mind.

This triple-threat match joins that club. These guys went all-out and every person in the building got to sit or stand right next to at least one or two high-impact moves. Before the show I had told Canan that I'd never seen him wrestle before and he told me that he'd make sure to make an impression. He did just that by going toe-to-toe with two of Australia's most established and coming out on top, taking down Craven in the final moments and claiming a pinfall victory.

After the show was over, there were a couple more moments of unity. One was Craven challenging Ritchie Taylor to a one-on-one match at Wide Bay later in the year. I'm not going to tell you what the others were. Instead, I'm going to encourage you to join in on the unity. Next time Wide Bay puts on a show, put aside the day and see for yourself what wrestling can be when everyone works together for the sake of the best possible show for the fans. I'll be there.

\*Photos from Barb's Photos



Craven has a new appreciation for the cheerleaders that do lifts



# Heat Seeker

## Ryan Thorne

Ryan Thorne

**Q: What is your 'all time' favourite match?**

**A: Daniel Bryan vs Drew Gulak at WWE Elimination Chamber**

**Q: What is your favourite move to perform?**

**A: Crossing over (back suplex into a side effect)**

**Q: What titles do you hold, or have you held?**

**A: VPW tag team championship (as part of Night Terrors)**

**Q: Where and with Whom you start training to be a wrestler?**

**A: The VPW Snake pit, with Kobra Jones**

**Q: Who is your 'all time' favourite wrestler?**

**A: Shawn Michaels.**

**Q: Describe yourself in three words?**

**A: Little pocket rocket**

**Q: Where, when and against whom did you make your wrestling debut?**

**A: VPW Flatline December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, against Adam Omen**

**Q: What is the favourite match you have had? Six way,**

**A: Brass Ring Ladder match VPW Ascension IV, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Q: What is the match you haven't had but most want to have?**

**A: I want to fight in a TLC or Steel Cage match, don't care who against.**

## Wrestling's Nerd Culture

Wrestlers are nerds. Wrestling fans are nerds. And often both groups aren't just nerds about wrestling. So, I asked a couple of wrestlers and wrestling fans about their hobbies and other passions, outside of wrestling.

Before I get questioned on my nerd credibility, I will disclose some of my other hobbies, besides being a wrestling journalist. I love boardgames and Dungeons and Dragons (even if getting a reliable session together is impossible). I listen to a lot of podcasts, with a few about wrestling, which helps me focus while I am painting, embroidering and cartooning (all with varying degrees of skill). I will never not geek out over musicals or obscure trivia knowledge and I have a 'healthy' love of all the Assassin's Creeds, Tomb Raiders and Stardew Valley. But enough about me and my debatable time management skills.



Never not doing STUNTS

First on my list to sit down for coffee with was Double Denim Danger Dan. A scientist by day and a champion of STUNTS by night (well, Friday nights and weekends), it's a wonder Dan has any time for hobbies, yet somehow, he has so many. He paints miniatures that live on his shelf until they are called to battle. He is a Dungeon Master for D&D, currently taking his party through the 'Descent into Avernus' module. Dan is very easy to talk to so there were plenty of tangents: like how denim is the best zombie stopping fabric (his love of denim is real, even wearing double denim to coffee), to how frustrating it is when people rig their Magic the Gathering decks to be annoyingly efficient and ultimately unfun to play against. We also talked a fair bit about wrestling, how not even the commentary team knew about

E.C. Diamond's cash-in at Enter Phase One, and how surprising it is to learn that many wrestlers have interesting careers outside of wrestling. This sentiment is easy to understand, especially considering the generally negative perception of wrestling that exists in the mainstream media. My final takeaway from my (albeit too short) coffee with Dx4 is that I want to learn everything he knows about D&D and that he is an optimal person to have on a zombie apocalypse crew, because he brings the laughs and the lifesaving denim.

Over in the fan corner, here is what Charlie Anderson does in their free time: ‘Ideally, my hobbies don’t force me to get out of bed. Video games are good for that. I play a lot of video games. I don’t really go for AAA titles that often; I tend to go for more obscure games. I once decided I would play a Scooby Doo PS2 game and I proceeded to completely finish it in one sitting, over the course of twelve hours. I recently finished Sonic Heroes for probably the sixth time again, but actually managed to collect all the Chaos Emeralds for the first time. At the moment, I’m dividing every waking moment playing Animal Crossing and Divinity: Original Sin II. I also like tabletop games. I started with the Pathfinder system, and recently shifted over to D&D 5e, and have even been running my own games. Along with this, I enjoy painting miniatures and have even begun resin-casting my own dice. I’ll let you know when I actually make a functioning set of dice, because I have yet to.’

Want to know what wrestlers are doing in their spare time? In the video game department, Sebastian Matters is (in his own words) ‘addicted to Fortnite’. Whereas hometown hero Lucille Brawl prefers puzzle games with lovable characters like Portal, Spyro and The Legend of Zelda, and even has a soft spot for Animal Crossing.

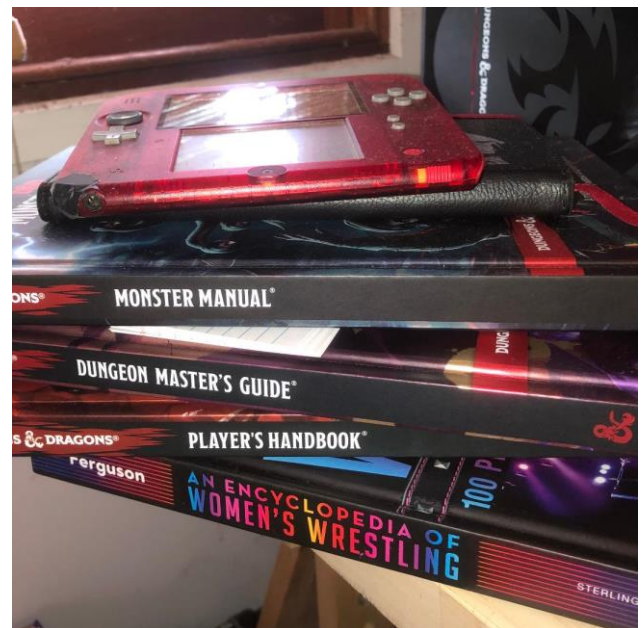
To conclude I got my dad Matt McQueen to talk about his interests: ‘I have hobbies. Lots of hobbies. having hobbies is my hobby. My capacity to show an interest in something is, as a general rule, inversely proportional to how much actual value that something has in my daily life. It’s why I write a wrestling magazine. It’s also why I am into boardgames, and computer games, and play various games with various flavours of toy soldiers. I started my geekdom early, collecting comics in the eighties and have carried it through university and adulthood, in a dizzying array of different guises.

Not all of my hobbies are completely devoid of worth though. I cook. I make cheese, I make bread, I make pickles, I smoke enormous hunks of meat for hours on end and serve it up with homemade chilli sauce and tortillas.

I don't do sudoku.’

Thanks to everyone who was open with me about their free time activities, and remember despite all of our differences in life (and hobbies) we are all united by the passions we have, and in our case, our love of wrestling.

\*Photos from Barb’s Photos and Aisling’s Desk



A literal pile of nerd stuff on my desk

## Coming Up

The Heat Sheet team have plans within schemes within plots about just how we can bring you great local wrestling content over the next few months.

We will be taking advantage of the fact that wrestlers are unable to go anywhere to finally pin them down (from an appropriate social distance of course), and do all of those articles and features we have been promising ourselves we would write. We start next month with Queensland's favourite 'Big Boi' Renegade.

We will also be taking our own advice and going back through the wrestling archives and looking at some classic matches from QLD wrestling's storied history. Get in touch and let us know the matches you think we should be watching.

Heatseeker will continue, our posters will continue and just in case you are in the mood for something new and random watch out for our coverage of ESW: Carnage.

Sometimes you just have to ride out the tough stuff.



HEAT SHEET

When you're in a match,  
but also don't want to  
miss any gossip

AW  
GRINDHOUSE

Holiday  
FIGHT