

HEAT SHEET



ISSUE #14

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A Letter from the Editor

Wrestling should be fun.

That doesn't necessarily mean it needs to be funny. It can be. Personally, I love it when wrestling makes me laugh, but that's not for everyone, and I get that. But it should be fun.

Whatever we are into, whether it is blood or flips or twists or tales, we should be able to find some of what we like about wrestling in wrestling.

Whatever our place in the wrestling community, be it fan, or wrestler, artist or promoter, we should be able to have fun doing our thing. Wrestling should, in a Marie Kondo sense, bring us joy. And if it doesn't? Well I guess Marie has a solution to that too.

All of which is to say that it hasn't always been easy over the last few months, and I'm sure I'm not alone in saying there has been a lot of thinking and a little bit of soul searching about what we do, why we do it, and what it means for us and the community.

So we here at Heat Sheet would like to say a big 'thank you' to our local wrestling promotions. In a tough year, I think I can speak for all of us at HSHQ in saying that over the last month or so, wrestling has been fun again, and has reminded us how much fun this crazy art form can be. We have our local wrestlers and our local promotions to thank for that.

UPW are now fully back into the swing of regular events, even being back at The Shed at Aussie World.

IPW have rebooted at William Duncan State School, and delivered the sort of show that suggests they have been itching for months to get stuck in.

New[ish]comer Three Count is taking the first tentative steps to go from being a training school to a fully-fledged wrestling promotion.

We feel like there is something to shout about again. So take this is as our shout, and support local wrestling.

Matt McQueen

Jack Tucker won OTT3 for a shot at his old pal Malibu's UPW Title. Then 13 and the Circus of Tragedy ruined it, because that's the kinda thing they do.

BOO!!!!

The Round Up

UPW: The Showdown

By Lachlan Albert

Seeing your favourite band live is great. You know all the songs, you can guess at which ones they'll play, but it's always thrilling to see a version of them that's just for this crowd, seeing how the music gets played in this environment. I feel like going to a UPW show has that vibe. They know the Greatest Hits of Professional Wrestling, and they're going to perform some of them tonight, in their own way. It's always electric.

Ivan Black is making his debut, so he gets to cut a smarmy heel promo before his opponent's music plays. Ivan is very cocky for someone taking on Ricky Rembrandt, undisputedly one of UPW's best. Black calls himself the future of UPW, and calls Rembrandt an old man. Ricky comes to the ring ready to show why UPW repeatedly trusts him with opening the show, immediately getting the crowd pumped and taking control of Black with technical know-how. Ivan does manage to make the match swing backwards and forwards, but he's not quite used to the vitriol of the crowd and they start to get in his head. Rembrandt takes control, hits the tilt-a-whirl Russian leg sweep, and goes up for the elbow drop, but Black ducks under it, rolls through, and grabs the rope to win with a cheap leverage pin. A debuting jerk beating a local legend by cheating. A classic performed well.

The Youngblood Jesse Love hasn't been in a ring since lockdown started, which means he's very excited to impress the ladies here tonight. His opponent might make that difficult, as the warrior Moko Kai looks as imposing as ever. Kinesio tape

sits around Kai's shoulder as he takes early control, hitting a Samoan Drop within 30 seconds of the bell ringing. Kai goes for the Spear in the corner, but Love has experience and ring presence on his side, dodging out of the way and pushing Moko taped-shoulder-first into the ring post. Jesse works the shoulder repeatedly, not letting up, putting Kai in a situation he's not used to: not being dominant. Love takes advantage of Moko's inexperience in turning around a match, seeing Kai go for a less-than-full-force spear and hitting him with a running knee. Jesse mugs to the ladies in the crowd before going to hit something, but the moment of distraction is all it took to give Moko space



Tucker showing Pogo the 'down' part of Showdown

for a huge spear and the win. A dominant good guy overcoming an injury against a jerk who targets that injury. A classic performed well.

Vegas Starr wants to remind everyone that his Money Train client, the Stockman, did not lose his title match at the last event. A double count-out isn't a loss, and the Stockman is still undefeated. Kanji Kid has heard enough and comes to the ring to shut Starr's mouth. Starr is methodical, taking his time to make sure he makes impact and dodges Kanji Kid's hits. Starr was clearly watching earlier as he rolls up Kanji and uses the ropes for leverage, and the ref counts the three, but this time notices that the ropes were used and doesn't call for the bell. Vegas is celebrating but the match is not over, and Starr turns directly into a big Krane Kick to give Kanji the win. A jerk cheating but getting his comeuppance? A classic performed well.

Gospel's entrance is one of the most frustrating things about him. The ominous music, the druids, the silhouette in the entrance way. That's why it's so much fun when, after Gospel makes his entrance, the same entrance seems to begin again, but with the music replaced with chicken noises, a druid replaced with the Showerman, and Gospel replaced with fan-favourite Cluck. Jacque LeGrande is hobbling on a crutch after being attacked by the Circus of Tragedy at the last event, and the nefarious Matthew Gabriel takes advantage of this by using the crutch as a weapon when the ref is distracted by a druid. Thankfully, Cluck is able to, uh, "Cluck-up" and make his way back into the match. Gospel launches Cluck into the referee and Cluck takes advantage, grabbing the crutch from Showerman, tossing it to Gospel, and falling down, clutching his head. The ref sees the aftermath of what looks like an illegal assault and calls the DQ victory for Cluck. A good guy's brains overcoming a bad guy's brawn. Say it with me, a classic performed well. Gospel blames his druid, though, and before leaving the ring decides to lay out his minion. Despicable.

GM Marcus Crane makes his way to the ring to make an announcement that we've all felt coming, but are still very excited for – a Featherweight Championship, and the title is absolutely gorgeous. Marcus announces six entrants to a Featherweight Title Tournament, including young competitors Ivan Black and La Mosca Rosa, IPW favourite LFB, the Circus of Tragedy's Pogo the Clown, and local heroes Kanji Kid and Ricky Rembrandt. Rosa, Kanji, and Rembrandt pose on the turnbuckles, and the other three men take the chance to put some early damage on their opponents, but the good guys fight them off. An exciting tournament for a new championship? Boy howdy, that sounds to me like a classic performed well.



Rip Rielly has mastered the angry yet apathetic glare

As the good guys leave, Marcus stops La Mosca Rosa, saying that he has a match right now. His opponent's music hits and... it's the Stockman. LMR puts up a valiant fight and shows heart and athleticism, but the Stockman is an immovable object, and the Railway Sleeper causes Rosa to tap out. The win doesn't matter to Stockman, though, who keeps the hold locked in until LMR passes out. Unfortunately, this disgusting show of force hits all the criteria to be called a classic performed well.

Thirteen is banned from the venue tonight, which takes an X-factor away from the matchup between Jack Tucker and Pogo the Clown. I wrote last month that I think Tucker is extremely underrated, and I've started to think that Pogo is maybe the most underrated performer in Queensland right now. Everything he does looks amazing and the character never falters or wavers. I could have watched Tucker vs Pogo all night – these two looked INCREDIBLE working together. Unfortunately for me, a video message from Thirteen plays on the projector and a mysterious female clown appears, creating a distraction for Pogo and Kasm to attack Tucker from behind, and our new clown friend hits a double-underhook DDT on Tucker before being chased off by GM Crane. A mysterious heel debut causing trouble for a beloved babyface? Why, that sounds like a classic performed well.

It felt really good seeing Rip Rielly back in the ring. The bottom of Mr Queensland Wrestling's boots were still full of thumbtacks, a reminder of the kind of destruction and pain he was inflicting in AWL the last time he performed. Rielly was incredibly calm as Malibu made his way to the ring, UPW Championship in hand, for the main event title match. Rip played to his literal strength, leaving the ring to keep the match at his pace, making sure that this would play out slow and methodical. Malibu knew to keep his cool, dodging under a strike in the corner early to take some control. Rielly is cool too, and caught a suicide dive with no problem before planting Malibu's back into a ring post. From here, Rielly managed to maintain control for the majority of a very long match, keeping Malibu grounded, but every time Malibu kicked out it frustrated Rip a little more, until he finally snapped and attempted to grab the championship belt and smack Malibu with it. The referee thankfully intervened, allowing Malibu an opportunity to turn up the pace, using a head scissors to send Rielly to the ropes for two back-to-back Smack the Lip 619s followed by a moonsault for the victory. The hero holding on through impossible odds to overcome a monster.

The Showdown was a wrestling classic performed well.

IPW: Rebooted

By Aisling Taylor

Not even wrestling is safe from the reboot craze. Following in the footsteps of Jumanji (but this time with The Rock) and Lizzie McGuire (but this time she is 30) comes IPW, but this time with more



In this moment, I am glad I'm not
Chad Atlas

tables. No, really. Not only was there a tables match on the card, to maintain social distancing every family or group had their own table, trivia night style.

Opening the show with a promo was the one and only Flashman, who exclaimed how good it is to be back, then announced his protégé, Chad Atlas. Atlas entered, followed closely by his opponent Skhorn. Skhorn cuts his own promo about his personal wrestling philosophy: which boils down to him being the best, and sooner or later everyone becomes one of his victims. With the match underway, Atlas was seeming to hold his own, even getting Skhorn over the top rope, prompting the commentary team to describe the match as 'a dog of war vs a human atlas'. Eager to get in some shenanigans Ashe entered to annoy Flashman. After plenty of villainous antics from Skhorn and Ashe, Skhorn proves his philosophy correct by defeating Atlas, then continuing to beat him up after claiming the win.

The second match was between EC Diamond and Kiwi Thriller. EC Diamond was the obvious favourite to win this match, so going in Kiwi Thriller probably knew he would have to work extra hard. And work he did, by targeting and working Diamond's knee. Despite the compromised knee it easy to tell EC was excited to be back wrestling again, and the crowd echoed that sentiment all night. After shenanigans involving an exposed turnbuckle, a suicide dive and a final suplex to finish Thriller off, EC Diamond gained the win, probably making this the first time Australia has been better at something than New Zealand all year.

The third match was originally scheduled as a bull rope match between Dick Brutal and Reaper. Before the match began however Rip appeared and announced there was an issue with the bull rope (while suspiciously wrapped in some kind of rope). Oh, and also Dick Brutal was stuck in a different state with the borders closed. Jace the Ace (IPW's GM) announced that the match's new stipulation would be 'no rules'. Which is lucky because Reaper's new opponent, Chase Cooper, would have had no use for the baseball bat she showed up and immediately started hitting Reaper with. Neither party held back, with Reaper being hit with a DDT by Cooper, then later Chase is



There is an issue with the Bull Rope!

thrown on a pile of folding chairs, only to be pinned shortly thereafter. During the match Reaper justified his actions by saying if Dick Brutal couldn't appear someone else would experience the beat down.

In his first title defence since beating Skhorn 'Back in February', Bodhi Jackson took on Jesse Love, half of the tag team he lost the tag titles to by trying to defend the tag titles solo at the last show. Love was accompanied by his tag partner and friend Tim Hayden. Hayden was quickly ejected from ringside in the ref's attempt to quell any shenanigans. During the match Love put in much more effort than his arrogant attitude would suggest he is capable of. His effort unfortunately wasn't enough, as Bodhi was able to retain. Jackson didn't have long to celebrate however as Hayden returned to join Love in beating up the heavyweight champion. Jackson had backup though, as Jamie Luxford ran to the ring to defend Bodhi. Once Jackson was upright again, Luxford wasted no time, and super kicked his former tag partner in the face, making his intentions for the heavyweight title clear as day, meaning we might actually see some #JusticeForLuxford.

The main event had been marketed as a triple threat tables match for the unified title, but as CJ explained when he came out to the ring before the match, that wasn't going to happen. With an injured leg, CJ was unable to compete, but the match would go ahead with the winner going on to wrestle CJ for the title in October.

With the new match set, La Flama Blanca and Tim Hayden made their way to the ring and immediately began a tug of war over a table. The match stipulation had the winner putting the loser through 2 of 3 tables. Hayden and LFB instead chose to put each other through tables so hard they exploded. Hayden put LFB through the first table (a shard of which now resides at Heat Sheet HQ). LFB returned the favour by putting Tim through the second table, increasing the risk of splinters at William Duncan State School tenfold. With the third table now deciding the win, the tension rose. The match was a spectacular showcase of both men's physical prowess and justified each of their claims to the unified title. As good as it was to see some wrestling again, we all knew the match couldn't last forever. And when Tim Hayden exploded through the final table, it was over. And LFB is officially the new number one contender for the unified title.



Spent a little too long realising it says 'Duh' just backwards and upside down

*Photos by Barb's Photos

UPW: Over the Top III

By Lachlan Albert

Over the Top III may have been the best in-ring product UPW has ever presented. The energy in the Shed at Aussie World was electric, the number of wrestlers on the card was massive, and everyone brought their A-game.

UPW knows how important the opening match of an event is, which is why their previous events have started with Ricky Rembrandt, and tonight we're opening with True Blue Jack Tucker. Tucker's opening is no stranger to opening the show hot, either, with the Gospel Matthew Gabriel once again making his long and annoying entrance. Gospel is so easy to hate it's ridiculous. The match plays out the way it should – Tucker plays the plucky and athletic hero, while Gabriel uses strength and experience to slow down the pace. It's a fun match that ends with a Tucker hitting the Working Class

Cutter for the victory.

We get to see the first of several pre-taped segments reminiscent of old-school Royal Rumbles, featuring Marcus Crane backstage allowing competitors to choose their rumble number randomly from a tumbler. Vegas Starr arrives to pick a number for both himself and Stockman and he isn't happy with either number.

Our first match in the UPW Featherweight Championship



Malibu using Vegas Starr as a surfboard

tournament is a massive matchup between fan favourites, with Kanji Kid facing Ricky Rembrandt. This is no punch-kick-slam affair, with the two competitors twisting each other up with an incredible amount of technical know-how. Rembrandt focuses on the left arm while Kanji seems to target the neck, both competitors more focused on controlling their opponent on the mat than taking risks to deliver high-impact moves. A great sequence sees a number of attempted Krane Kicks reversed into cross faces rolled into pins. Finally, Kanji manages to deliver a full-force Krane Kick to progress to the semi-final while setting the bar extremely high for the rest of the Featherweight division. Kanji and Ricky shake hands to commemorate an awesome technical showcase.

Backstage, Jack Tucker pulls his number and shrugs, calling it “better than last year” before the cocky Blair Seeker accuses Marcus Crane of somehow rigging his randomly-drawn number.

The Circus of Tragedy is always a highlight at a UPW show, and Thirteen’s microphone work is superb as he lets everyone know that the Tag Team Championships don’t just belong to Kasm and Pogo, but to the entire Circus of Tragedy, and as such, they’re going to Freebird the titles. That leads to Thirteen and Pogo defending the belts against the Cluck and Duck connection, who, I am again obligated to mention, are a



Having tassels on your forearms greatly increases your speed

shower-obsessed Frenchman and a man who believes he is a chicken. Both teams show some great chemistry, each getting a turn to isolate an opponent in their corner before the Circus begins using antics to ensure the ref never sees the Showerman tagged in. Thankfully, Cluck is a clever chicken and manages to momentarily convince Thirteen to hit Pogo with some massive moves to provide him space to make the tag. When Jacque LeGrande finally does make it in, he makes sure that his impact is felt, hitting a huge Sole Foodz and an assisted Blue Thunder Bathbomb, but new Circus member Jynx pulls Showerman from the cover, and while she continues distracting the referee, Kasm hits a huge slam on Cluck and pulls Pogo over the top of him to make the cover and retain the titles.

This match had it all, but it wasn’t over yet, with Cluck thrown to the outside and Pogo once again using a chair to destroy the leg of the Showerman post-match. Marcus Crane has to come to the ring to get rid of the Circus before they do more damage. Backstage, Marcus cops some verbal abuse from the Circus as they take their turn to choose rumble numbers, and the dysfunction of the group is put on show as Thirteen steals Pogo’s number before flinging him into the distance.

Malibu makes his way to the ring for an open challenge, and the Money Train make their way to the ring to have Stockman once again take a shot at the belt. Marcus Crane interrupts, though, making it clear that Stockman is at the bottom of the UPW totem pole since his failed title match at UPW Is Back. Money Train decides that they can still make the most of the situation, and Vegas Starr becomes the challenger, declaring that he will win the title and give it to the Stockman when he

does. Stockman's presence on the outside makes a difference, but Malibu is just too good and uses a Moonsault to keep the title away from Starr.

UPW has its first women's match since returning, and Strawberry Adams (the younger, cheerier sister of Queensland favourite Lucille Brawl) makes her way to the ring for her first ever match. Her opponent, also making her UPW singles debut, is Circus of Tragedy newcomer Jynx. Strawberry is excited to be here but is totally unprepared for Jynx to attack her from behind and rip the ties from her pink hair. The crowd makes it clear that they're behind Adams, but Jynx hits a massive bodyslam before delivering her signature double-underhook DDT for a decisive victory.

Backstage, Cluck seems happy with his number before Pogo comes flying into frame (presumably having been flung around the circumference of the globe by Thirteen earlier) and steals Cluck's favourable rumble entry.

The rumble opens with Ricky Rembrandt and Vegas Starr before the craziness of the rumble cast makes itself known with Officer Robert Bishop entering at number 3. The pale Portuguese La Mosca Rosa does an amazing flip while making his way to the ring, before Ivan Black enters at number 5. Vegas Starr is eliminated right before Number 6 is revealed to be The Stockman. Starr takes hold of the microphone to commentate for the crowd as Stockman clears the entire ring, including Black, who tried to team up with the Stockman, and Officer Bishop, who attempted to give him a fine.

A large chunk of the rumble is Stockman eliminating everyone who comes his way, one by one, with Starr gloating over the speakers. Verde Tonto? Out. Popeye himself, Jack Tarr? Gone. Skinny D and Cockroach



To Yeet or not to Yeet, that is the question.
Just kidding, you always Yeet!

skirt the rules by both entering at number 9, but it doesn't make much difference as Stockman eliminates both. The debuting Yeet Stevens manages to match strength with Stockman for a moment before being clotheslined out. The Notorious M2P pulls a chokeslam attempt away from his neck, but is also quickly disposed of. Outback Adam is in awe at the size of the lad, and even an attack from Steve the Croc doesn't slow down the Stockman. Gospel holds his own for a chunk of time, but then he's goneski. Who can eliminate the immovable object that is the Stockman?

Number 14 is the unstoppable force, Moko Kai.

Moko hits a huge Superman Punch on Vegas Starr before depositing Stockman over the top rope. The game has immediately changed.

Jesse Love does exactly what he did at The Showdown and manages to use his ring-awareness to survive against Moko until Jack Tucker enters the match. Blair Seeker and Kanji Kid then enter the match, and as Kai eliminates Seeker, Tucker takes advantage and eliminates Moko. LFB enters the match followed by the first member of the Circus of Tragedy in the match, Pogo, accompanied by Jynx. I'm immediately reminded that Pogo vs Jack Tucker is my favourite matchup in Queensland right now, as we're reminded of Tucker's problems with the Circus.

Another person who has issues with the Circus arrives in Cluck, and after hitting Pogo with some big moves, Cluck dons a black belt and headband to face off with Kanji Kid. The Russian Noman Mikalov makes his way to the ring, followed by Kasm to enhance the strength of the Circus. Mikalov aligns with the sideshow and they clear the ring of everyone but themselves, Cluck, and Jack Tucker before number 24 is revealed to be a limping Showerman. Mikalov is eliminated as LeGrande enters and uses his crutch as a weapon against the Circus, but the freaks turn it around and eliminate the Cluck and Duck Connection, leaving Pogo and Kasm alone with Jack Tucker.

The Working Class Man somehow eliminates Pogo before dodging Kasm to eliminate him as well. There's still one more entrant though, and number 25 is Thirteen. The Circus rallies around its leader, but Marcus Crane comes to the ring and makes sure that this is a fair fight, threatening to take their tag team titles if the rest of the circus doesn't leave ringside. The fresh Thirteen has control, but he makes the mistake of screaming at Tucker and asking where his fight is. Tucker shows exactly how much fight he has, hitting the Working Class Cutter and clotheslining Thirteen straight over the top rope. Malibu comes to the ring to congratulate the new Number One Contender to close out an awesome show.

UPW: Caboolture 5

By Lachlan Albert

The best wrestling, at least to me, rewards you for watching closely. The more you pay attention, the more you invest in what's happening, the more you find to enjoy. UPW's Caboolture V event was full of these matches that reward a careful eye, so allow me to look closely.

Kanji Kid is an obvious crowd favourite at UPW HQ, and Matthew Gabriel is an obvious crowd bête noire. Very early in this matchup Kanji Kid gets behind the Gospel and raises one foot, ready to hit the Krane Kick, and when Gabriel turns around and sees this, he immediately ducks backwards into the corner to avoid the move. Hope you were paying attention, because this sets up that Gabriel

knows how devastating the Krane Kick is, and lets us know that Kanji wants to hit it as soon as possible. Most of the match plays out in an expected way, with Kanji getting in good, quick shots, but Gabriel using his size and power to control the speed of the matchup. When Kanji takes control for a moment and knocks the big man down, he prepares the Krane Kick, but Gospel catches it and continues to keep the White Lotus grounded. That is, until Gabriel misses some moves including a big splash straight into the mat, and Kanji sets up once more and nails the Krane Kick to take the win.

Noman Mikalov isn't very well respected by the UPW faithful, especially when compared to his opponent, Ricky Rembrandt. Mikalov knows that if this match becomes a technical contest he isn't likely to come out on top, so Noman opts to brawl, keeping Ricky on the defensive. This works for a while, even regaining control after some back-and-forth, leading to a beautiful Russian Leg sweep. If you're paying close attention, you'll know that the leg sweep is a move that Ricky uses often, and whether it's from experience with the move or pure anger at having the move used against him, this seems to amp Ricky up. Noman goes to end the match with an Iron Fist Punch, but Rembrandt dodges and delivers a Codebreaker for the win.



The Gospel demanded to be the only image for this show's recap

Those paying attention will remember that at UPW's last Caboolture show, Jesse Love took the seemingly unstoppable Moko Kai to his limit. Normally Jesse isn't very popular with the UPW crowd, but if there's one person they dislike more (and one person as unstoppable as Kai), it's the Stockman, and the hope that Jesse can end the Outback Outlaw's streak (and make Vegas Starr shut up) put the audience firmly in the corner of the Youngblood. Love makes some mistakes early by trying to out-grapple the behemoth, and takes some big hits because of it. Jesse seems fed up with this and rolls out of the ring and back behind the curtain. Look closely, though, and we see Stockman's weaknesses – he's cocky, leaning against

the ropes and bragging to the crowd about another win. Love bolts from the curtain to attack the Stockman from behind and gain control of the matchup. Dodging strikes and moving quickly to avoid running impact, Jesse amazingly seems like he may be the one to end the streak by climbing on the

big man's back and applying a sleeper. Unfortunately, Stocky's power is just too much, and he rams Love back into the turnbuckle to break the hold and hits a massive chokeslam for the victory.

Vegas brags about his client and best friend racking up another victory, but they have another concern. At the Over the Top Rumble, Moko Kai eliminated the Stockman, and they think that this is unacceptable. They call out Moko and he eventually, makes his way to the ring, demolishing Starr with a spear before encouraging Stockman to bring the fight, but Stockman doesn't want Moko right now and leaves Kai to pose for the crowd heading into intermission.

The second half of the show is all about championships, and it's electric.

Wacol's Most Wanted seem to have very quickly made a name for themselves as not just effective tag-team wrestlers, but some of the funniest people to stand in a Queensland ring. This makes them a perfect foil for UPW's staple comedy tag-team stars, the Cluck and Duck Connection. This match is for number-one contendership for the tag titles, and Cluck and Showerman are eager to regain the belts while Cockroach and Skinny D want to make their mark quickly in UPW. This match is insanity, and I don't have the word count to talk about every spot in this chaotic contest, so I highly recommend seeking this one out on UPW's Vimeo. From attempted toothbrush weapons to LeGrande pinning thin air to Skinny D crying over his hurt brother to a brutal stomping assault of mascot Tugboat, the only way to keep track of the action was to use eagle-eyed focus. Cluck and Duck eventually taking the win after an amazing Blue Thunder Bath Bomb felt cathartic as they get back into the tag title picture.

Preparing for his title match against Malibu at the end of the night, we see footage of Jack Tucker talking to GM Marcus Crane, worried that the Circus of Tragedy would interfere to cost him his title opportunity. Crane dismissed these fears, saying that Thirteen hadn't been seen since the rumble, and if the Circus did interfere they'd be punished, but Tucker astutely pointed out that Crane has made these promises before. Paying attention to this might pay off later.

Will Lachlan ever shut up about how good Pogo is in the ring? Not today. Especially not when he's up against another Featherweight favourite in La Flama Blanca in the first round of the Featherweight Title Tournament. I said before this match that I hoped that the Circus of Tragedy wouldn't get too involved, and even though Kasm and Jynx stood at ringside, I mostly got my wish as the two competitors got to put on an absolute clinic. LFB can go from standing to flipping in the blink of an eye, and Pogo is so crisp in his movement that these two guys make a technical masterclass look as easy as walking. I was so intent watching this match that I straight up forgot to cheer for large sections, and I hope UPW management doesn't take that silence as disinterest – that silence was pure, enthralled awe. Highlights included Pogo defying gravity to dropkick LFB from the top rope during a springboard attempt, and then later in the match LFB anticipating the exact dropkick again, letting Pogo slam himself into the mat before flying from the top rope. To the surprise of nobody, Kasm and Jynx made their way up to the apron to distract LFB for long enough

to let Pogo grab the luchador and plant his masked head into the mat for the victory. After the match, Kasm picked up LFB to deliver a powerslam, but Pogo acted as the voice of reason, or as much reason exists within the gang of freaks, telling Kasm to “remember the plan”. I hope you paid attention to that.

It’s main event time, and “big fight feel” is in the air. Former tag team champions are battling for the top prize. In one corner, challenger True Blue Jack Tucker. In the other, the champion Malibu. Within moments of the bell ringing, Tucker almost lands a Working Class Cutter, before saying to Malibu that he was just “this close”. Moments later, Malibu trips Tucker into position for the Smack the Lip 619, with Tucker just avoiding the move. Malibu says to Tucker that it was “this close”. The two play this back and forth over the course of an absolutely thrilling match, a turning point coming when Malibu goes for a moonsault, but Tucker rolls out of the way. Malibu adjusts on the fly to land on his feet, but lands funny on one of his legs, giving Tucker a target to lock on an ankle lock that Malibu just manages to escape. The two continue to go back and forth but Malibu’s leg is hurt, slowing him down and letting Tucker hit a massive Working Class Cutter to drop the champion and...

The lights flash, the music starts, and the Circus of Tragedy (minus leader Thirteen) arrives to clear the ref from the ring, push Malibu out of the way, and lay in an assault on Tucker. Just like Tucker predicted to Crane. Then, Kasm lifts Tucker into position for a powerslam, and it seems that this is the plan that Pogo alluded to earlier. Thankfully Crane appears to stop the Circus, and this time he’s done with empty threats. Crane strips the Circus of their tag titles, declaring them vacant. Kasm drops Tucker in anger, and Crane makes it clear that if the Circus doesn’t get out of here now, their jobs are next on the chopping block. Tucker grabs a microphone, and says it’s time for this feud to be put to rest once and for all by challenging Thirteen to a triple threat match with Malibu for the championship. I’ll be watching that match very closely.

Wrestling: Family Style

By Matt McQueen

You can’t talk to IPW owner Josh Ives about his company for too long before he mentions family. And that is as it should be: this is IPW, the promotion that he and his partner Tarryn run, the promotion that he took over from his step-father Peter “Hawk” Ball, when the latter decided that it was finally time to close the doors. That would be the Australian legend Peter Ball, the godfather of Queensland wrestling and Josh’s teenage wrestling coach, who started dating and eventually married his mother, in the sort of twist that wouldn’t be out of place in the most Hollywood coming of age movie.

But it's not that type of family. Not completely.

Josh is the first to tell us, the IPW family is more Sopranos than Brady Bunch.

And that's as it should be too, because this is wrestling and the Von Erich's were not the Von Trapps, and the Poffos were not the Partridge family, and the McMahons, for all the craziness they can come up with, are not the Munsters.

So, think Familia, rather than family, and you are not too far from the mark. It may seem a little old school, but Josh is comfortable having a few trusted consiglieres to call on, and having the buck stop with him, as he sees it, avoids politics. So long as it is his money paying the rent, it makes sense that it is him making the decisions.

IPW have been at William Duncan State School for nearly 8 years. It's a mutually beneficial arrangement and one that the promotion have worked hard to build and maintain. Initially IPW ran free shows at the venue, losing money but building the venue and encouraging the fan base to make the trip to Nerang. It is an investment that has paid off.

It is a big space and there have been multiple occasions when IPW have managed to pull a crowd of 300+, and even the occasional 400. It's a school

hall, and that means no alcohol, but even that has been turned into a positive, doubling down on the lack of alcohol to push the 'fun for the whole family' vibe.

I wanted to ask Josh specifically about this. My first IPW show had been last year's reunion show, the main event of which, you may recall, was RIP v Cruze in a no DQ, hardcore match. As I recall it was not long into that thirty-minute match that RIP had got colour.

Jesse Love and CJ fought in a brutal Street Fight match at IPW: Revolution 2019 that is still one of GM Jace the Ace's favourites. I've seen many members of the IPW roster – Reaper, Dick Brutal, and CJ and Ashe – all involved in bouts where they are more than happy to inflict serious damage on their opponent. It doesn't seem to me that IPW is aiming for a G rating.



Chase Cooper taking advantage of IPW's more hardcore style

So, I asked Josh how he reconciles the ‘family friendly promotion’ idea with IPW’s penchant for graphic violence. The short answer seems to be that he doesn’t. It may be family friendly but that doesn’t mean it’s not wrestling, and modern wrestling sometimes includes hardcore, or stiff elements. IPW have a loyal bracket of regulars, they know what they are going to get, and Josh trusts them to decide what they are comfortable seeing or having their kids see. He admits occasionally he will get a call from a fan asking for a heads up on the nature of the show planned, and if he thinks parts may be too graphic he’ll let them know, figuring he’d rather have someone miss one show than lose faith in him as a promoter, but this is wrestling and people should know what to expect.

Of course, things will happen that no one expects. Kiwi Thriller losing his teeth wasn’t in anyone’s script and still stands out as one of the bloodiest spots in Josh’s time in charge.



#JusticeForLuxford

Old School has been on the Gold Coast for years and was a fan of IPW even before it was IPW. In spite of a personal CV that includes years of surf lifesaving, personal fitness and a time as one of Australia’s top break dancers, he was never going to slip into the standard sandals and golf retirement that is often associated with the Gold Coast.

But he is a late comer to wrestling. At a time when a relationship breakdown had left him wondering what was next for him, he decided to see what IPW had to offer. No doubt I am doing him a disservice to say that he was too much the old dog to learn too many new tricks, but any don needs muscle, and he slotted into the security role at IPW. It’s one he is well suited to, and it’s not immediately clear whether the role is shoot or Kayfabe, but Old School has enough of the worn, chiseled street fighter about him that you probably don’t want to find out.

It is also a role he has made his own, often making the rounds before a show, welcoming the regulars, and chatting to the audience as they settle themselves before proceedings. He is not shy about what he gets out of it either, readily leaning into the sense of camaraderie that comes from being a part of the IPW family.

It's been a few years now and IPW is very much Josh and Tarryn's company. It has seen Josh walk the sometimes-difficult line between respecting what was there before he took over, and building his own legacy, but it is a line he is comfortable walking. He admits that in the early days after taking over there were times when his step-dad did not always appreciate some of the decisions that Josh was making, but as he stayed the course, and the audience kept coming back and growing, even someone as stubborn as Hawk had to accept that he knew what he was doing.



If you do 10 knees to the face
you get the 11th free!

There is still history around the place. Flashman comments that he can't come to IPW without feeling like he is coming home, and there are some people who Josh admits he will not work with because doing so would be disloyal to Hawk, but there is also a place for a more modern product too.

A great example of the way Josh has built on and molded what he got from Hawk comes in the form of his in-ring character RIP. Josh is a big guy, faster and more mobile than you would expect, but a big guy. It's not surprising that a wrestling trainer would look at him and try to craft him into a big man, big menace role. Josh wasn't interested in doing static power spots though, and discovered an ability to connect with the audience beyond a chain of powerslams. As the comedy of the character came out, a dangerous but endearing man child, RIP changed, becoming less undertaker and more Mick Foley. Like both of those wrestlers he manages to stay credible despite occasionally cheesy moments, and stay a legitimate threat without necessarily carrying any gold.

This is just as well because Josh has no plans for RIP to win a championship anytime soon. It's not something he needs or RIP needs, and as owner of the promotion he is wary of the impact that putting a belt on himself would have on the roster and on morale generally. When we visit, prior to the Reboot show, Josh admits he has not even booked himself in a match for night, though as we will find out, he will make a memorable contribution to the event.

Russell started as a fan. He would come along to IPW shows and sit with the kids, normally the most enthusiastic and loudest part of the audience, using his adult vocal chords to amplify whatever they

were chanting or calling out. He worked out pretty quickly that Queensland audiences could be pretty quiet, that getting a reaction out of them was not always straightforward, and keeping a reaction going not always easy. He developed a technique of riding his favourites (team CJ) and booing the heels, listening for the gaps in the live commentary being provided by Jace the Ace and his then commentary partner Lukas.

The banter between Lukas and Jace was such that Russell had initially assumed they were father and son. When Lukas decided to stop doing commentary (I wonder what ever happened to him?) Russell was left as the loudest person in the room, and the pirate king character was born. A hipster free spirit babyface optimist and natural foil to the heel GM and co-commentator Jace. It's a relationship that has blossomed, and from an outsider's perspective, sometime to IPW's detriment. I will admit that there have been occasions when I have been so wrapped up in the back and forth between the commentators that I have missed something in the ring.

It's funny, I don't get the impression that Josh is a control freak. He introduces us to his director, who even four hours before the show is running over lighting spots and music cues, and schooling his crew on their roles. Josh is happy to delegate.

We see Tarryn managing front of house, coordinating tickets. She has that under control.

Ashe is blocking out some moves in the ring, talking with Chase Cooper and no doubt making suggestions as to what she can try. Josh is happy to leave him to it.

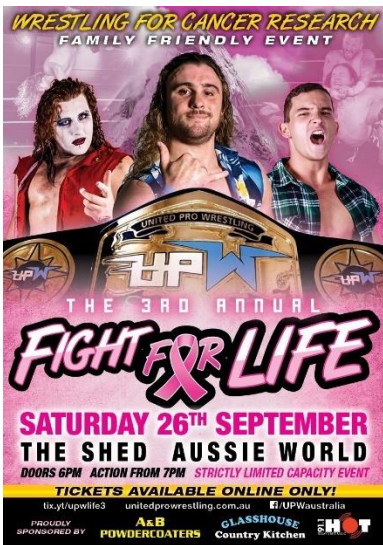
But the Buck stops with Josh, and he takes that responsibility seriously. When the show is done, and the audience go home, it will be he who takes personal responsibility for whether they had a good time and enjoyed themselves. It will be Josh who takes responsibility for whether they will be back, because that's what you do when you are the head of the family.

*Photos by Barb's Photos



Jesse Love probably had a trampoline when he was younger

Coming Up

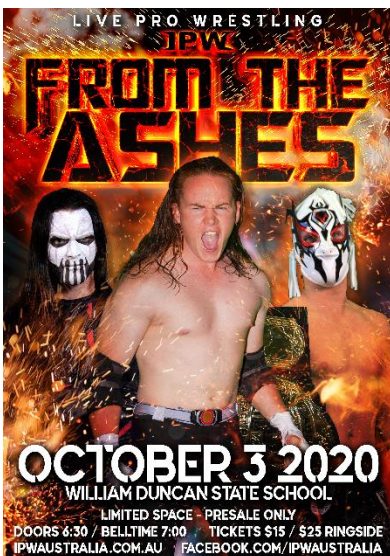


United Pro Wrestling have continued to deliver on their promise to deliver two shows per month and make full use of their UPWHQ base in Caboolture as well as their residency at Aussie World. They are at Aussie World on Saturday 26th September for their annual fight for life show with 20% of the proceeds going to cancer research. That show will be headlined by a triple threat match for the UPW title with Malibu v Jack Tucker v Thirteen, all seeking the gold. Expect more of the featherweight tournament, a format which has already thrown up one surprise in my view, and will likely deliver more before we are done.

Then just a week later UPW will be back at Caboolture south for their Halloween special.



IPW Australia will be at William Duncan State School on 3rd October so whether you are north of Brisbane or south of Brisbane there is wrestling to keep you entertained that weekend.



Luxford is heading for some form of showdown with his former tag partner Bodhi Jackson, and no doubt Flashman will be trying to drag his charge Chad Atlas back into the winners circle.

We should also mention (because we missed it when we did a merch roundup in an earlier issue) that IPW has merch available online via redbubble.com, so check that out if you are wanting to wear your IPW heart on your sleeve.

And while it is not a wrestling event it's worth mentioning that Three Count are holding a tryout on 17 October at their Sandgate base, and UPW have pencilled in another tryout for December

Coming Up in Heat Sheet

I have promised a Rip Rielly (W)retrospective, and it is definitely on its way, but we are also working on bringing you much more: an introduction to Three Count (check out our back cover), interviews with some of the freshest faces, and lots more wrestling fun and games, as well as our regular recap of all the shows that have happened in Local Wrestling.

Watch This Space...

