AAA WORLDWIDE: TRIPLEMANIA 23 RESULTS

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On August 9, AAA Worldwide a.k.a. <u>Lucha Libre AAA</u> presented its biggest show of the year, TripleMania. AAA returned to United States PPV for the first time since its Worlds Collide show in 1994, which featured the likes of Konnan in his prime and a teenage Rey Mysterio, Jr.

Emanating from Mexico City, TripleMania 23 featured AAA luchadors whom some viewers may not have been familiar with as well as several luchadors made famous in the United States by WCW in the 1990s and by Lucha Underground presently on El Rey Network.

TRADITIONAL ATÓMICOS MATCH

An atómicos match consists of nonstop action from start to finish, and it features two teams of four. Babyfaces Pimpinela Escarlata, Goya Kong, Drago, and Dinastía took on the rudos/heels Mamba, Daga, Mini Psycho Clown, and Sexy Star. Notably, Sexy Star was one of the biggest faces during her run in Lucha Underground.

In a match that lived up to its name, the high spots included an ensemble of top-rope dives and other high-risk moves such as Goya Kong's cannonball to the outside of the ring. Finally, Pimpinela made Sexy Star tap out to pick up the win for her team.

LOS VILLANOS V. PSYCHO CIRCUS

Billed as a 40-year-old rivalry between two wrestling families, the two trios teams worked a decent match. It involved mask tearing, fighting dirty, and the low blow that led to Los Villanos' victory.

The real objective was to honor the final match of ring veteran Villano III and referee Pepé Tropicasas, who participated in AAA's very first event. Before leaving the ring, both men received plaques and thanked the fans for their support.

AAA WORLD TRIOS TITLE MATCH

Los Hell Brothers (Averno, Cibernético, and Chessman) defended their titles against the team of Angélico, Jack Evans, and Fénix and the team of Texano, Jr., El Hijo del Fantasma, and Pentagon, Jr. A member of one team had to retrieve one of the three title belts hanging from the top of the cage to win the match.

Intending to steal the show with the aerial daring he is well-known for, Angélico wore a body cam and did not disappoint. Several luchadors came close to grabbing a belt only to be yanked down for a crash landing.

They also managed to get a table into the ring, and Texano became the unfortunate victim. Finally, the defending champions prevailed as Averno sat atop the cage and held up one of the title belts.

LA PARKA & BLUE DEMON V. ELECTROSHOCK & EL MESÍAS

La Parka made his infamous entrance, dancing to Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

The fight between La Parka and El Mesías, bitter rivals, looked quite convincing (emotional and a bit stiff). They waged war between the ring and the ring barrier.

The relatively short match ended with the other pair of enemies in the middle of the ring as Electroshock tapped out to Blue Demon's unique variation of the Sharpshooter. Afterward, Blue Demon received an award commemorating his 30 years as an active wrestler.

HAIR V. HAIR

In the co-main event, Current AAA Mega Champion and former WWE Champion Alberto El Patron faced challenger Brian Cage. Alberto had vowed to leave AAA if he failed to defeat Cage at TripleMania.

This was a battle of nationalism caused by Cage's disrespect toward AAA and the Mexican fans. In the run-up, Cage took out Alberto and draped the United States flag over his fallen body.

Fénix stood in El Patron's corner across from the strange alliance of Cage and Mexican wrestler El Hijo del Fantasma.

Alberto seemed to have this "lucha de apuestas" with tables and chairs won, but rudo referee Hijo del Tirantes refused to make the three count. After Alberto vented his frustrations on him, a replacement referee came in.

Fénix thwarted El Hijo del Fantasma's attempts to interfere. Finally, Alberto forced Cage to tap out to his signature armbar in the middle of the ring.

El Hijo del Fantasma was upset, but Cage sat and took the loss and the head-shaving "like a man" while Alberto celebrated with the fans.

Yet, Cage attacked Alberto afterward, only to receive a powerbomb from Alberto for his efforts. To add an exclamation point, Alberto draped the Mexican flag over Cage.

DREAM MATCH

Rey Mysterio faced Mysteziz in a match between living legends. The rivalry began brewing after they competed as teammates with Alberto El Patron in the AAA Lucha World Cup in May.

Mysterio wrestled in AAA before wrestling in the United States in ECW, WCW, and eventually WWE. He became WWE champion in 2006 and later returned to AAA after his WWE contract expired.

Mysteziz was known as Místico in CMLL, AAA's rival promotion. Although he did not fare well as the original Sin Cara in WWE, that was simply a matter of misuse and underuse.

He owns ticket sales records in Mexico, which places him in the same conversation with Rey Mysterio as arguably the biggest star in lucha libre.

Before the match, Mysteziz descended from the ceiling. Then, Mysterio made a more traditional entrance but was dressed in a shiny black outfit with expanding wings.

SHOCKING TURN

This contest of highflyers/mat technicians soon turned ugly with slams to the ring posts and the announcer's table. Both tried their finishers unsuccessfully, and each kicked out of several pin attempts and escaped submission attempts. Mysteziz also escaped Mysterio's arm bar.

Mysteziz even tried to beat Mysterio with his own finishing combo, the 619 followed by a splash from the top rope, but Mysterio kicked out. Finally, Mysterio submitted Mysteziz with his second use of an armbar.

Afterward, Mysteziz was attacked by Joe Lider, Pentagon, Jr., and archrival Averno. Mysterio came to the rescue.

Nevertheless, Mysteziz turned heel and demanded a no-disqualification, mask-versus-mask rematch with Mysterio.

HALL OF FAME

AAA inducted the late Hector Garza and Perro Aguayo, Jr., into its Hall of Fame. Their family members and friends accepted on their behalf after the audience viewed brief clips of Garza and Aguayo's careers as well as interviews with wrestlers who praised them.

FINAL WORD

This year's show lacked a Reina de Reina (women's title) match. Last year, Faby Apache lost the title to Taya Valkyrie.

Nevertheless, TripleMania 23 was action-packed, and this phase in AAA's global expansion was successful. Look for AAA Immortal Heroes on PPV on October 4.

Sources:

Lucha Libre AAA

https://www.youtube.com/user/luchalibreaaatv