

CCW COMBAT ZONE

July 11, 2017

Crockett Coliseum

Coming off a very solid CCW Rebirth show in Philadelphia, Combat Corner is ready for the launch of its new bi-weekly show on Hulu - CCW Combat Zone. This will originate from the Crockett Coliseum for now, but there are some reports that the location could change in the future. We shall see.

As soon as we hit the air, "You Can't Judge A Book (By Looking At The Cover)" by Hank Williams, Jr., plays to signal the arrival of the new CCW Commissioner, Vernon Riley. As you may recall, Riley made a big impact in Philly with the announcement of tonight's main event - and only match - a Fatal Four-Way between AC Starr, Adrian Kirk, Koji Nakano, and Eli Knox for the vacant CCW Heavyweight Title.

Vern welcomes everyone to the show and praises the talent for doing such a great job at Rebirth. He says big things are in store for CCW in the future and announces yet another innovation for the developmental promotion - CCW Live! Since we have two weeks between Combat Zone broadcasts, CCW will travel the country and present 3-4 live shows during that two-week gap. Well, if you need a CCW fix, you'll have a lot of chances to get it now it seems.

Kick to Harvey Sutton and Marcus Broussard at the broadcast table to set the stage for tonight's match. Broussard makes his pick: Adrian Kirk, because Kirk has the ruthlessness necessary to survive tonight. In fact, kind of reminds the San Jose Shark of himself. Sutton goes with CCW fan favorite Koji Nakano as his pick. Broussard says dinner's on Sutton after Nakano falls short and Kirk walks away with the gold.

However, Sutton says we have a video that needs to be shown of something that went down just two days ago in the Combat Corner. You've got to see this one, so here's the clip from YouTube.

[Open inside the weightlifting area of the Combat Corner.

"Supaman" Sammy Carson lays on a bench, pushing up two final reps with what looks to be close to 400 pounds on the bar. With a primal shout, he gets the last rep up and sat back onto the rack, then sits up and moves his arms around to loosen up. He rises, still shaking his arms, when suddenly, he is blindsided by a very angry "Arawak" Jack Veles.

Shouting ensues from the few people in the gym, doing nothing to deter Veles who mounts Carson and unloads with fists and elbow strikes. Carson is able to cover his face to deflect some of the blows, but Veles clearly has him shaken and dazed.]

JV: Hey kid! You think this is over between us?

[The Arawak lays in a few more shots to the head and neck before standing up and glaring down at the fallen Carson.]

JV: Nah...this ain't over by a long shot.

[Veles walks out of the picture while three trainees gather around Carson to help him to his feet. An angry Sammy pushes them away to stand on his own, but is bent over in pain, leaving himself prone.]

JV: Get the hell out of the way!

[Shouting from off-camera, Veles comes charging back in carrying what looks to be a 50-pound weight plate. Lifting it over his head, he SLAMS it down across the upper back of Carson sending the former Olympic weightlifter crumbling to the floor! Satisfied with his work, Veles drops the plate hitting the ground with a loud clang, then grins as he looks down at Carson.]

JV: It's gonna take you a hell of a lot longer than six seconds to get up from that, kid.

[The camera tightens on the grinning Veles before the video ends.]

So, there's that. Sutton said that as a result of this incident, Vernon Riley has signed Carson versus Veles for CCW Combat Zone in two weeks. Broussard: "Everyone better get ready, because this might be the hardest-hitting match we've ever seen in CCW. A legendary striker like Veles and an Olympic powerhouse like Carson who, oh yeah, will be thoroughly pissed off? Sign me up for that, Sutton."

Sutton throws it to a brief video package highlighting the CCW Champions ahead of crowning a new champ tonight.

Coming back from the video package, the camera cuts to someone in the front row with unkempt dirty blonde hair falling around his face and a bit of a maniacal grin. For those who aren't familiar with the indy scene, that's "Wildcard" Brandon Hawkins. Sutton drops his name and a little bit of his background. Hawkins, a former NFL special teams assassin, has worked for several independent promotions but has a history of being a troublemaker. Broussard: "This guy is so talented that he can get a job based on his reputation alone, and so irresponsible that he can lose it for the same reason." Sutton says he is here to meet with officials after the show about signing an AWA/CCW contract.

Because there's still time to fill in a one-hour show with only one match, we cut to the back where Becky Larson is with the winners of the Stampede Cup qualifying tournament - Jimmy Jam Jester, Laredo Morrison, and the rest of The Band, all of whom cannot fit into the camera

view. Generic but entertaining gloating from Morrison and Jester, who plan to shred some sick licks in the Stampede Cup WHOA ALRIGHT!

OK, finally, it's time for the match! We get an overhead pan of the ring and audience, followed by a pan of the table that the CCW Heavyweight Championship belt rests upon. To the ring!

MAIN EVENT FOR THE VACANT CCW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

“The Stank” AC Starr vs. “Crusherweight” Adrian Kirk vs. Koji Nakano vs. Eli Knox

Sutton clarified that this is an elimination match and not a first-fall-wins contest. All four men got their full entrances to add to the drama of the situation. Knox was the last one in and, as soon as he got in the ring, went right after Nakano and the fight was on. There's no way to describe the first several minutes of the match as it was non-stop action, both in and out of the ring. Double-teams, a few near falls, it was pretty hard to keep up with. At one point, Starr did a plancha to the floor to wipe out the other three competitors drawing a “CEE-CEE-DUB!” chant from the crowd.

After that, Starr slid Nakano in for a pinfall. Nakano kicked out at two, then Knox snuck in and planted Starr with a vicious back suplex for two. Kirk got into the fray next, grabbing Knox and dropping him with an X-plex for a two count. Nakano, back on his feet by that point, got his licks in on Kirk with a hard enzuigiri for...you guessed it...a two-count. All four men took a well-earned breather at that point while a pumped-up crowd gave a rousing ovation.

The breather was short-lived as the pace picked right back up with Starr and Kirk again pairing off on one side of the ring while Knox and Nakano battled on the other side. The match's one official stayed busy going back and forth between them and missed a couple of rules being broken on both sides. At one point, Knox and Nakano tumbled to the floor where Nakano had the advantage until Juliette got involved, standing in front of Knox and then jumping on Nakano. Careful not to hurt her, because he's that kind of guy, Nakano shrugged her off but it bought Knox the time he needed to hit Koji with a stiff clothesline, then send him hard into the barricade and steel steps.

It got interesting here, leading to the first fall. The official got occupied with Starr and Kirk, who continued to beat the hell out of each other and ended up tangled together in the ropes. With the referee working to separate them, Juliette removed the padding from the turnbuckle in the opposite corner while Knox slid Nakano back in the ring. He scooped Nakano up, appearing to prepare to drop him face-first on the exposed steel with a snake eyes, but Koji slid out behind him and shoved Knox into the exposed corner instead. Knox's forehead hit the steel dead-center, allowing Nakano to roll him up for the first fall of the match (**Nakano pinned Knox, 17:47**) to leave Nakano, Starr, and Kirk.

Kirk knocked Starr off the top rope to send him to the floor and, seeing a tired Nakano, immediately went to take advantage of it. A quick sit-out powerbomb came within inches of a

pinfall followed by a swinging bulldog for another near fall. Incidentally, the crowd was really getting behind Nakano by this point, especially as he barely escaped Kirk's pin attempts. The Crusherweight sized Koji up, waiting for him to get to his feet, and charged right into a high roundhouse kick. An exhausted Nakano fell on top of Kirk for a one, two, and three- nope, Kirk's shoulder popped up at the last nanosecond earning a groan from the fans.

Now recovered, Starr waited on the apron for his moment to strike, which came in the form of a springboard DDT on Nakano. That had to be it for Nakano...except it wasn't! Another late kickout drew a big reaction from the crowd, and now the "THIS IS AWE-SOME!" chants began to pick up.

The trio slowly got back to their feet, taking a moment to exchange stares with each other, and the action resumed so fast and so furious that it was hard to keep up. After Kirk managed to shove Starr off the top rope the floor, he then dropped Nakano with an STO and had him in position to apply his camel clutch dragon sleeper. Nakano, however, managed to make Kirk work for it...which left Starr time to recover on the outside. Kirk finally got it locked in but, unaware of AC's recovery, left himself wide open for a running knee to the back of the head. That was enough to KO the Crusherweight as Starr scored the fall **(Starr pinned Kirk, 29:31)** and left only himself and Nakano standing.

With Nakano down and apparently out, Starr sensed victory. Sizing up the situation, he stepped to the apron and grabbed the top rope, clearly setting up for the Starr Press, his springboard shooting star press. Starr leaped off the rope, rotated in the air...and landed on Nakano's knees! "The Stank" doubled over in pain and Nakano caught his...what, 12th wind? As Starr managed to roll into a crawl position, Nakano bounced off the ropes and went for his Goal Kick...but whiffed because Starr had it scouted! AC somehow managed to get to his feet and started to deliver his patented striking combo that is capped with a spinning back elbow. The first blows connected but Nakano ducked the elbow attempt as Starr spun around with his back to Nakano - and perfectly positioned for Koji's patented Mantis-plex. Full nelson applied, quick snap backward, and the Mantis-plex hits! A cover for a one...two...and three! We have a new champion!

WINNER AND NEW CCW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: Koji Nakano (**¹/₂, absolute hell of a match. Maybe the best ever in CCW.)**

Nakano took the belt from the official, cradling it in his hands and staring at it in disbelief. He then raised it over his head to a HUGE cheer from the crowd as Sutton put over the fact that Nakano has been competing in CCW since its very first show two years ago. Broussard: "He has remained here in the Combat Corner while watching guys like Max Magnum, like Bret Grayson, like Sid Osborne move onto the AWA roster. I can tell you, because I'm there every day, he never complained. He just continued to work his ass off and take it from me - no one has earned this more than Koji Nakano."

The show went off the air with the belt raised high over Nakano's head amid a loud "YOU DESERVE IT!" chant from the CCW crowd. What a way to start the Combat Zone!