

[b]VGCW Writeup 13/10/2015 - The New Beginning in Combined Show Discussion[/b]

While we may already find ourselves in the latter half of the first season under new management, it's been some time since I've last visited the roster in a purely analytical way. A lot has happened across the board in terms of the power rankings, the momentum rankings, and the overall storylines as we start to see EGX1 on the horizon. While we already have #1 Contenders to both singles titles lined up, now is the time when winning streaks matter the most, as having momentum in the lead up to the next contendership matches is, obviously, damn important. [i](PR=Power Ranking, MR=Momentum Ranking)[/i]

[b]Break Man breaks Dan, belt, hearts of fans.[/b]

[i]Break Man (MR 3 [+8]) vs Dan Hibiki (MR 33 [-15]) - Bazza Special[/i]

In a lot of ways, the careers of Blake and Dan are pretty similar these days. Both have recently hit a local career peak and have fallen quite considerably since then. Break Man in particular has been laying a little low this season outside of his mini feud with Jensen, the match at Infinite Summer actually being his last in ring appearance before last show. Because of this, it's easy to forget that he's been doing pretty well for himself as of late, climbing all the way to MRank 3 and winning three of his last four solo outings. Even if his tag team endeavours haven't been working out as well now as they have in the past, Blake presents a real threat to a large chunk of the roster at this point. It's been 17 months since he lost the title in that fateful match against Scorpion, but it's starting to look like he's made a slow and low-key climb back into contention.

Dan totally could've been VGCW Champ. In fact, it was looking scarily likely in the last few shows of Season 10. Obviously at this point it's easy enough to look back and write it all off, as he hasn't really shown enough ability to hang at the top for an extended period. It's funny to think that his last singles win was Zubaz, and the one before that is our current VGCW Champion, Sabin. While his protégés have grown up considerably through his teachings, it looks like it's back to the midcard struggle for the Saikyo master.

[i]Guile (MR 24 [-10]) vs Ezio Auditore da Firenze (MR 10 [+22]) - Tables[/i]

You'd think that after a disheartening loss to the Dragons for the belts that Ezio would have a little less spring in his step in his own matches, but one of the biggest and most inexplicable rises to the top continues regardless. Remember that this is the Ezio that almost became the first man to tie the BADMAN's record losing streak at one point, and who's name is well known among the staff at the Bottom 10 Bar & Pizzeria. There's a clear and obvious result to point to when looking at the cerebral susassin's recent form, when he outlasted solid top carder Dante and Mr High Elo Nappa, shooting him up over 20 places on the PR table. A follow up win over Guile means that he's becoming harder and harder to overlook, as it puts his winning streak at 3 in a row now. This could be his best chance at taking it all he's ever had, even more than when he lost to Ganondorf 3 years ago.

Meanwhile, Guile's been visibly struggling since he lost his title at EGX. Twice in a row now he's lost to opponents who many would consider to not even be close to the All American American's level. While it means great things for the careers of Edgeworth and now Ezio, it seems that he's falling victim to his natural career cycle. Every time he gets close to or even takes the title, he flies a little too close to the sun, and falls back down to where he has to

prove himself once again. In no way is he washed up or 100% donezo, but he has to prove his strength once more before some real doubt starts to set in.

[b]This Is Just Like One Of My Japanese Animes[/b]

[i]Kanji Tatsumi (MR 13 [-10]) vs Solid Snake (MR 20 [+17])[/i]

A rematch of their respect-driven, old/new match in May, Snake and Kanji once again put on a hard fought battle with neither of them truly suffering as a cause of the results. Both men have built up a good head of steam since their first meeting, both in their performances and in their popularity, which makes this little rivalry reasonably high stakes. Being tied at 1-1 pretty much means that one final showdown is completely necessary, if not mandatory at this point. With how both their careers have shaped up to this point, with Snake trying his hardest for years just to fall short over and over again contrasting Kanji's immediate and explosive impact on the main roster, it should convert into great things for the winner. Not to speculate too much, but with the next End Game in the near future...

[i]Groose and His Bully vs Deadly Alliance - Tornado Tag Elimination[/i]

Hey look at that a new tag team! Last time they tried out this partnership, Cage and Scorp did pretty well for themselves to say the least, knocking off the team of the champion & Knuckles, by pinning Sabin of all people. While the Gameshark decided that we shouldn't be allowed to read too much into the match, a win is a win in the grand scheme of things. With the tag scene pretty much wide open at this point, the two of them might be looking to take the fast lane to the top, which would give Johnny his first championship with the company. At this point there's not that much to say about what remains of Groose's adventures in tag teaming. They lose a lot and it's normally pretty fun, and that's kinda it.

[i]Donkey Kong (MR 30 [-4]) vs Knuckles the Echidna (MR 32 [+13])[/i]

As much of a shocker Ezio beating Guile was, this was easily the biggest upset of the night. Knuckles pretty effectively bungled the opportunity of a lifetime at Infinite Summer, as he was unceremoniously dumpstered by Scorpion. So in this matchup against another competitor noted for his dominance, things were definitely not looking good for him, no matter how sick his gains have been since then. It was looking like a standard Donging for much of the early stages, especially after reversing the RKOhNo. What followed was an incredibly spirited comeback, with two straight finishers giving Knuckles an honest-to-god win over a true topcarder. It's a good omen for the big guy, and his future is in his own hands at this point. If he can follow up with another strong win, his name might start coming up in a few more discussions real soon.

[i]Barret Wallace (MR 14 [+15]) vs Goemon (MR 12 [-7]) - 2/3 Falls[/i]

Well, if Goemon was looking to showcase himself, he sure does look pretty inconsistent right about now. In fact, this was a battle of two of the most inconsistent members of the roster for my money. Barret's story is well told at this point, mostly because it keeps happening. Win high profile match into win contender's match into get blown out in championship match. Goemon's pattern is almost like a mini-Barret in some sense: win high profile match into lose against midcarder. It's difficult to say if Barret can get a look into the title scene as a result of this win, considering how many options there are for challengers to the throne after Dracula. In fact, he may have already passed the title shot event horizon, with people becoming worn

out after his multiple consecutive failures. Goemon, while still holding a decent spot in the Momentum Rankings, has been completely disrupted as a result of this match. In his quest to showcase his true potential to the VGCW audience, he's hit a serious roadblock at the first hurdle. He has to get it together in the future if he wants to make a real impact and turn his sinking ship around.

[b]EXTRA EXTRA! TODD WINS[/b]

[i]Sonic the Hedgehog (MR 22 [+11]) vs Toad (MR 36) vs Flint (MR 8 [+1]) vs Kefka (MR 26 [-12]) - Fatal Fourway, Casual #1 Contendership[/i]

Like most multiman matches with a clear favourite, the least likely outcome happened.

Toad's career has been up and down (mostly down), although it has also been admittedly short. He's had one or two flashes of momentary brilliance, most notable pinning Zangief, but he's mostly kept to the lower ranked members of the roster, and going even with them too. In essence, he had pretty much no pressure to perform when it mattered, as even not getting eliminated first would've been a success. Going up against Goose seems like a massive mismatch, but the strengths he's shown in this match in particular means that things could get a little more dangerous for the man with the silver belt.

His friendly(?) rivalry with Sonic certainly pushed the Fasthog to improve, as a new attitude and finisher helped him pick up his first singles win in over a year. The match coming down to those two was like pottery, even if Sonic had a return to form by falling just a little bit short this time around. It's very clear to see that he's on the up, and who knows what will happen next go around. With his partner looking better than ever, there's a chance that this could translate into some serious tag team momentum for the Heroes.

The third-last man standing was also the odds-on favourite to win the whole match, but Flint once again had some trouble bringing his recent singles dominance into a multiman scenario. It's always been two steps forward and three back for the poor guy, as he's shown himself to be capable of gathering large amounts of momentum before all of it being quickly whisked away via a string of bad luck. After shaking off a disastrous losing streak, his singles record has been genuinely impressive, but he's suffering from a similar fate to his tag partner. By law of averages, he'll get his chance eventually, but who knows when that will be. Kefka is Kefka. With Waluigi becoming less and less dangerous, the moniker of the ultimate wildcard rests firmly with the mad clown in my eyes. He's perfect for filling out casual contenders matches, as while he won't win most of them, Kefka vs whatever Casual Champion is always a worthwhile option. Hell, even if he wins the belt, that's pretty good too, as Kefka's main strength is his entertainment factor. In fact, Kefka is all around a pretty valuable member of the midcard right now. Good for him, I say.