[b]VGCW Power Ranking Write-Up: 17th July 2014 Edition: Or As It's Known In Germany, "Where We Sent The Brazilian Football Team"[/b]

Business has really started to pick up as of late, with the [s]Elimination Chamber[/s] Chamber of Elimination show coming up, with the grand prize being a VGCW Championship match against either Scorpion or Ness. Alongside these two high-stakes matches, we're being treated to a slew of high-profile feuds, many of which got finalised last night. It was also a big night for movement, with action across the board, main, mid and under. Some streaks ended, others continued, others began anew once more. Old faces, new faces, tag teams that came out together, tag teams that came out separately, this show had pretty much everything you can see in VGCW. There's a couple weeks before everything comes to a head, so let's take a look at where everyone stands at this point in time.

[i]The Other Matches[/i]

The rivalry between Sagat and Bison is, on paper, very much a foregone conclusion. After his debut, Sagat went undefeated for many weeks, including a victory over the champion Little Mac, before finally falling to the AVGN. After that, he stuck around in the Top 20 for a long, long amount of time before the trashman Nappa scoop slammed him to the middle of the pack. While he's in a bit of a rocky part of his career, he's certainly looking better than his future opponent, who's gone whole years without doing anything of note. Despite this, Bison seemed to take an upper hand by eliminating the wildcat from the Royal Rumble match a few weeks ago. Looking to rebound from that, Sagat found some much-needed momentum by defeating Segata Sanshiro, returning from injury. While he doesn't move any places as a result, the gap between him and Bison doesn't close, making a loss at CoE look even more impossible. Segata, the last great Casual Champ, has fallen into a difficult spot, down at the bottom of the table. He came out fighting though, and he's in a spot now where a big win could give him huge amounts of ground, though.
That same man who put Sagat in the trash, one half of the Co-Op Champions, the Alien Barbarian, has finally been eliminated from Season 2 of Survivor. The decision occurred in a triple threat against the former Casual Champion Captain Falcon and the up-and-coming Heavy Weapons Guy. The three of them have their own histories in Triple Threats: Falcon can't seem to show off his moves without being interrupted, Heavy has a penchant for falling a little short, and Nappa will scoop slam your shit all day every day. In a weird subversion of this, Heavy was the one who came out on top, pinning Nappa after a Falcon Punch. Nappa had been sitting around the upper midcard, right next to his partner, but he takes a big fall to Rank 21. This means that, from a numbers perspective, [u]Nappa is the weak link of The Saiyans.[/u] Truly this is the strangest timeline. Heavy continues a very impressive streak of not-losses, going straight up to Rank 14. He's made real waves since his debut, only losing once, and could be quickly closing in on a No 1 Contender's Match for either belt at this point. He shown real strength in all aspects: singles, multiman and tag, so he'll be one to watch out for as time goes by.

[i]TRIED SO HAAAARD AND GOT SO FAAAAR, BUT IN THE EEEEND, IT...[/i]

Y'know, looking at it, Red wasn't [i]really[/i] on a losing streak. That being said, he's been far, far away from the man with the most Casual defenses, the man who held Rank 1, one of the men behind 5-5. A fall from grace is definitely a name for it, after failing to stand up to some of the best in the business, Red plummeted towards the bottom of the table. Unable to string together any kind of winning streak, he soon found himself a regular member of the sub-40 club. He won matches here and there against other members, but he just couldn't get it together. Last night, with a little bit of innovation, he took a big step towards getting his momentum back. While not the most decorated former champ in the world, Jensen had just begun his own slow climb to relevancy, and had slotted himself in the lower midcard for the time being. Red has managed to effectively switch places with him, coming a tiny bit closer to his CoE opponent Groose. Someone else who should be a little worried about his CoE match is the man who used to sit one place above Red. Ten losses in a row sounds like someone's finally overthrown the Badman-Flint jobbing standard, but that would only be true if all were singles matches. From a rankings perspective, these 10 losses amount to a recent record of 0-7-3, with all seven of those losses coming from singles matches. While it's very much appropriate to call Ezio the Ultimate Underdog for a number of reasons, it might only amount to optimism at this point. The beginning of 2K14 was great for the guy, as the former member of the Elite 4 was beginning to make a career for himself, doing better than he ever had before. As time's gone on, it's been a slow descent to the very bottom. His last action before getting truly involved in the Elimination Chamber match was to add to Grey Fox's recent hot streak, leaving the assassin with the most odds to overcome in a few weeks time.

[i]Last Chance Saloon[/i]

We now know who will be entering the Elimination Chamber for the opportunity to receive a VGCW Championship match. Before I do a little analysis, it's worth mentioning that Phoenix really gained some ground by giving Octodad the hard wooden Not Guilty verdict. Dracula also feel from Rank 2 as a result of the match. Anyway, from highest to lowest rank:

:darklord: [b]The Dark Lord, Ganondorf[/b] [i]Rank 4[/i]
Last Chance at VGCW Championship: vs Gabe Newell, Charles Barley, Dr Wily (470 days ago)

It's been a long, long time since Ganon's been given this opportunity. One of the all-time greatest VGCW Champions, he made a big name for himself as someone to be feared and respected during the 1000 Years of Darkness. His record of 4 defenses is still unbroken, with nobody coming close to having the true power to match up to the Lord. While he's been putting a few of the younger guys over as of late, he's still been a critical part of the Top 10 for his entire career, always lurking in the shadows, ready for one more chance at the big one. An enigma, seemingly unconquerable, the mystique surrounding Ganondorf's abilities has made him a legend in the VGCW. He's done all there is to do in this business, but there are real reasons for him wanting to claim the belt for himself one more time. Looking at his record, his very first defense during the 1000 Years was Scorpion, who now poses a real threat to his record of

defenses. If he can make it through Ness, the man out of the Chamber will be his fourth VGCW Championship defense. If it's Ganon himself, he is going to want to keep his record intact. If it's Ness he would face... so be it. He's never been pinned by either, and in fact, has pinned both in the past. Ganondorf knows how to turn it on when it matters and he is not going to take any opportunity lightly. After all, it is all part of his design.

[b]The Impaler, Dracula[/b] [i]Rank 6[/i]
Last Chance at VGCW Championship: vs Scorpion (29 days ago)

The Greatest GM in VGCW history. The One in Nine and One. A man who has risen, reborn into something more fierce. After his term as GM ended with his defeat at the hands of Little Mac, Dracula's career has transformed into something truly notable. Not known for his in-ring ability in '13, but with nothing left to rule, he decided himself that it was time to get things done. He has no care for people's emotions, and shows no mercy against fan-favourites, ending both Segata's reign and Phoenix's unrivaled win streak. In such a short amount of time, he's done far more than many other roster members. Since returning, he has a victory at Endgame, achieved a Casual Championship reign (short as it may be,) been a part of one of the most well-received matches in VGCW history and has kept a positive win/loss record the entire time. There were doubts over his skills, doubts saying that he wasn't a top-tier competitor, but he's made it his mission to prove those doubters wrong by any means necessary. He has beef with Scorpion, knowing fully well that he deserves another match against him, and he will use his full power to get it. Before him is not a group of opponents, but a miserable little pile of victims.

[b]Phoenix Wright, Attorney at Law[/b] [i]Rank 16[/i]
Last Chance at VGCW Championship: vs Dracula (43 days ago)

The Nine in Nine and One. Phoenix is a guy who's been around forever, but never really felt like a real part of VGCW. He's served a number of roles during his tenure, but they often overshadowed his potential as a wrestler. He's served as an interviewer and a plot character on a number of occasions, and generally was just kept around to advance storylines. In the ring, he was forgettable and pretty useless. Most people either forgot about him or grew sick of him, despite coming from such a cult-favourite franchise. Then a certain incident happened. After being left behind by Solid Snake in the past (just bear with me for a moment,) a little fire began burning inside Phoenix. Unable to control it, he changed his look and with it, his moves. He became much more aggressive and started to become much more of a threat than he ever used to be. Originally, his matches ended up with him getting screwed out of title shots in all kinds of ways, but once he was able to cut loose on his own, something legendary started to happen. He started off by beating The Pyro, to the crowd's delight. Then he followed it up against Flint. Then Grey Fox, then Jensen, then himself, then Sonic, capping it off by being one of three men to ever pin Bowser in singles competition. Coming up short in the first Elimination Chamber, he took out Kefka and BRAAAWK LESNAR before finally getting shut down by Dracula. In that time, he's had a number of No 1 Contender's matches, but only ever one shot at the belt.

Scorpion was the last man to beat Phoenix before his streak began, and he's shown that he wants to seek revenge against Dracula. Your honour, the defense has been ready for a while.

:salt: [b]Illidan Stormrage, <The Betrayer>[/b] [i]Rank Twent-- TWENTY TWO?! OH MAN[/i]
Last Chance at VGCW Championship: Never (Not ever)

You are not prepared. When these words echo throughout the Bazzadome, you know that it's time for a fight. Star Road was a brilliant plan created by Mr McMahon, with the intention of giving CAWs that would spend their lives being overlooked one big chance to enter VGCW through a combination of skill and popularity. It was one of VGCW's highest drawing events, with 16 courageous competitors all looking to transform their careers. The story that ended up running through was simple, can anyone beat Illidan Stormrage? Ploughing his way through back-to-back fan favourites, The Betrayer had started to get a big reaction from the VGCW Universe. Upon winning the tournament, there was outcry, a movement calling for the head of John Dudebro, and one gigantic pile of sodium. He made a big statement in his very first match, destroying the former two-time champ Little Mac. His Endgame record is spotless, as he brutalised Kefka at the following EG. He's lost his air of invincibility, taking two losses so far, but his wins have shown that he's prepared to take on absolutely anyone on the roster. He's new, but by god is he ready. He's already set his sights on the man who delivered him his first loss, ready to enact bloody, violent revenge. Still, he is hunted. Still, he is hated. He shall go forth and unleash the tides of Doom upon all those who would oppose him.

:bwoop: [b]The Dancing Mad Jester, Kefka Palazzo[/b] [i]Rank 28[/i]
Last Chance at VGCW Championship: vs Little Mac, Shinya Arino (370 days ago)

With Octodad's spine(?) crashing through a table, it seems that our Santino spot transfers over to Kefka. Unpredictable, inconsistent, entertaining, Kefka's success so far has come through sheer amounts of personality. Often acting exactly how you'd think he would in the ring, kicking back in tag matches and not giving a shit who he fights, Kefka built himself up to be a monster when he first came into VGCW. His fourth match in the company was a Contender's match, probably set up by the then-GM Dracula. He maintained a high rank for his tenure in '13, but he's found it hard to get it going in 2K14. While he ended his long losing streak by beating the former Casual Champ Segata Sanshiro recently, he's a big underdog going into the match. Having said that, Rank 28 is still far away from the bottom of the table, and the situations of the match are more favourable to him than others in that sense. It could be that Kefka still has a lot of that power that he had before being taken down a notch during his brief period of Godhood. This is a massive opportunity for him, and this is the kind of match where one wayward Cobra can make or break a man's career. If this doesn't work out, then hey, he's still got a Korner he can go back to. Of all the people in this match, his career is the most stable right now, so he should be comfortable enough to not let the pressure get to him when the lights are on bright.

[b]Ezio Auditore da Firenze[/b] [i]Rank 42[/i]
Last Chance at VGCW Championship: vs Ganondorf (596 days ago)

Having said that, the numbers say the Santino spot goes to this guy. He's the lowest ranked, one of THE lowest ranked, and has gone the longest since his last opportunity for the VGCW Championship. I said a lot about him above, and his recent form has not been good. The reason he's here and the reason he continues to be relevant is people's minds is one and the same: the people want to see him succeed. A VGCW original, he rubbed fans the wrong way big time when he was a prolific member of the McMahon Elite 4, which got him big heel heat for as long as he remained who he was. The people wanted to see him lose, which he often did, as he never really got his career off the ground in '13. 2K14 was an opportunity for wrestlers to reinvent themselves, turn their careers around and start wrestling like they wanted to. Ezio wanted support with the release of his tag partner, so he got himself some new duds and headed out from the crowd, like the assassin he was born to be. Conflicted at first, people began to warm to the guy, as Ezio started performing a little better each time he headed to the ring. Then Dracula happened, and boy did he happen hard. The rest has been outlined a number of times in different threads, and the conclusion is this: Ezio will need to bust his ass if he wants to come out on top. He's normally an honourable fighter, but he's got to get mean if he wants to succeed. Reverse a finisher, interrupt pins "by accident," hit comeback really fucking late or something, because the stars will have to align and a miracle to occur otherwise. A win would be the biggest upset in VGCW history. A loss may as well be Requesicat in Pace.