



Kaiju Saves Wrestling?

By Josh Slater

Not too long ago, WWF head-honcho Vince "I never dealt 'roids" McMahon kicked Ted Turner in the nuts when he bought Turner's wrestling league, the WCW. Around that same time, McMahon scooped up the once great, but now bloated, ECW. With those conquests, Vince began to look a lot more like the old man from Monopoly than a glorified carnie. Some wrestling fans said this was great for the "sport" and that the potential for crossovers would breathe new life into the world of "sports entertainment." (Imagine Goldberg taking on The Rock! It would be like Go-Bots versus Transformers!) Naturally, others, like myself, viewed this consolidation with suspicion, assuming that lack of competition would rob pro-wrestling of both creativity and variety.

But there's hope that wrestling can thrive outside of McMahon's despotic grip. The Che Guevara in this wrestling revolution is Kaiju Big Battle (sic), a wrestling phenomenon out of Boston, MA. Unlike the pro wrestling of old, this independent league doesn't have ex-jocks dripping with testosterone. Rather, Kaiju's claim to fame is that it is "the world's only live monster wrestling spectacle."

Imagine that the creators of *Godzilla* and *Ultraman* came to America and gave birth to a litter of art school students who were wild about wrestling and Japanese popular culture. With a predilection for anime and body slams, these boys and girls began working on a visual spectacle like no other seen in New England. This was Kaiju. It has evolved from just a couple of people in monster suits who smacked each other with ladders in front of a handful of curious spectators to full-blown wrestling spectacu-

lars that attract legions of fans — to come watch people in monster suits smack each other with ladders. For a handful of pocket change you may see the shadiest of Kaiju's characters, the evil mad scientist, Dr. Cube. Cube's the doctor of devastation with a big, boxy helmet-head. Like Madonna, Dr. Cube wants to rule the world. The only thing that can stop this evil doctor is his archrival, Uchu Chu the Space Bug, an extraterrestrial bug with a bad temper. Uchu Chu and Dr. Cube have been in some of the most epic battles known to mankind — many of which can be seen on the group's website, kaiju.com.

At kaiju.com you can also learn about cagey veterans, like the Silver Potato, a shiny hero who mixes poppin' n' lockin' with nasty Kung Fu. Then there are the "freak show" monsters: a blue scaly mess called Sky Deviler, a gigantic Muppet-like monster named Multimoog, and a "terror lizard" called Midori no Kaiju. If seeing is believing, I suggest you visit "Hello Kaiju" on kaiju.com. This online documentation of the Kaiju world explains the history of each monster and the stories behind their various alliances and rivalry.

I want to remind you folks, this is no virtual gag. This wrestling league is for real. These fights are for real. And they can be seen around the Northeast, where Kaiju brings either a full-size ring or their imposing steel "Danger Cage." For a list of Kaiju Big Battle performance dates, I once again direct you to kaiju.com. If you find out in some local rag that Kaiju Big Battle is coming to town, run don't walk, because the seats go quick. Trust me, you really haven't lived until you've seen a cube-headed dude powerbomb an alien insect through a table.

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