

## DRAGON LEE VS. NEGRO NAVARRO

APRIL 12

CHILANGA MASK

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Dragon Lee, the other half of the CMLL Light-weight title switch, was also in action in Coacalco for Chilanga Mask, once again wrestling a maestro.

It is always fun to watch wrestlers like Negro Navarro and Black Terry work with inexperienced, high upside luchadores. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy the maestro vs. maestro match ups when they come along. The February Navarro/Solar match that just recently aired on Leyendas Inmortales TV was very entertaining and those guys rarely – if ever – disappoint versus one another. At the same time, they have their formula as would be expected after spending the better part of the past six years trading around the FMLL Master's Championship and the South American Light Heavyweight title. They have a great routine and great chemistry together, but at the same time it is fun seeing them work with a wider variety of opponents both in terms of style and experience level.

Dragon Lee certainly does not need to be carried (relatively speaking) and in no way this Navarro completely carrying Lee along. Dragon Lee brings a lot to the table in terms of big time high impact spots and a strong sense of timing for someone so young. He's also shown himself to be rather competent on the mat, even if the Virus match did not strike me as his best showing in that area.

That did not seem to be the case here. Without the benefit of distant camera shots and full television editing, there was far less room to cover up any non-smooth exchanges and for the most part, there weren't any. Navarro took the lead as would be expected but Dragon Lee was more than just a spectator. His selling of Navarro's holds and submissions was top notch and he rolled along with everything just fine.

As mentioned, it is fun watching Navarro and his peers work with a guy like Dragon Lee because it tends to give you a new look into both wrestlers. It was cool watching Navarro figure out some different ways to highlight Lee's strengths, many of which were selling related but also some nice escapes. It is also neat to watch Lee and guys in his peer group work a straight up old school lucha mat

match like this one was. Even when wrestling someone like Virus in a title match, Dragon Lee is going to be able to pull out his impressive flying and high impact moves in the 2nd and 3rd falls. This match was not structured in the way that allowed for Dragon Lee to do what he probably does best, but he still adapted just fine.

We like to talk about guys "getting their stuff in" regardless of the circumstances. I thought this match was a strong example of the opposite. The match was not designed to be a Kamaitachi/Dragon Lee high impact, crazy match and likely wouldn't have worked very well had they attempted such. Shoehorning a token segment at the end so Dragon Lee could show off his impressive offense would have felt out of place. Instead, they stuck to a game plan and with Navarro's guiding things along, Dragon Lee was able to pull it off just fine.

The Virus match is the better overall match in part because it is more complete. There is the first fall mat work and the high spot heavy third fall, both of which Virus is adept at doing. From a strict mat work sense, Navarro/Lee might have been slightly better or a wash at worst. Like a lot of matches on Chilanga Mask and Cara Lucha cards, this one is worth checking if for no other reason than the uniqueness of pairing.