

VIRUS VS. AVISMAN

APRIL 12

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As if to calm the jangled nerves of Virus fans everywhere who were worried that he had wrestled his final featured singles match for the foreseeable future, he spit out this this mat classic versus longtime IWRG luchador Avisman, just a week after his CMLL title loss. To make things even sweeter, this match offers something that a CMLL Virus singles match cannot – a ringside, unedited look into the fluidity and skillfulness of Virus' mat game.

Thanks to the great Black Terry Jr. and his trusty iPhone, we get an opportunity to go up close and personal with Virus as he weaves through his usual assortment of fluid and high end mat work. There are wrestlers whose matches you don't necessarily want to see from this close of a vantage point with no edits, but Virus is not one of them. It is one thing to watch Virus maneuver into a submission hold from a multi-camera edited CMLL television broadcast. It is another thing to watch him put on that same hold right in front of the camera. It adds an entire new level of appreciation to just how smooth and effortless he is when weaving in and out of holds. There were times during this match where I was intently watching all of Virus' movements and still couldn't totally comprehend how he got from point A to point B. He is that quick and smooth on the mat.

Avisman was a strong on-paper match up for Virus. Both are essentially the same size and while very few are Virus' equal on the mat, Avisman has acquitted himself quite well during his long career with IWRG. Avisman had none of the issues Dragon Lee had on the mat versus Virus a week earlier. The first three quarters of the match was chalk full of smooth and snug hold and counter hold wrestling, with Avisman more than holding up his end of the pact. These two meshed together just beautifully. Given how up close the match was filmed, any miniscule stumble or weak transition was going to pop out but there was almost none of that. For fans of Virus and fans of beautiful mat wrestling in general, this is a match worth tracking down.

Play-by-play or even a summary recap of the offense doesn't do the match justice. The greatness lies in the execution more than anything else.

One quibble from this being a surefire MOTYC is that that match sputters towards the finish. They do not exactly hit a wall, but the last minute or two before the finishing sequence lacks the punch of the rest of the mat work. The match kind of ran out of steam a minute or two before they wrapped it up. The finish involved some of the only rope running in the entire match. It was a cool ending in that it played out like Virus had enough of the inconclusive battle on the mat and decided to put a swift end to things by blindsiding Avisman with some higher impact stuff.

Fans of Virus will not be disappointed. This match is chalk full of classic Virus mat wrestling goodness, with the added benefit of unique, up close shots of all the action. The guy is amongst the best wrestlers in the world right now. Hopefully he gets many more chances this year to show it off.