

Explosion: 3

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EXPLOSION

The feed opens in the backstage area, with the Naughty Girls making their way down the hall accompanied by Pet who is still clinging tightly on Katalina's arm. Katie can't help but look over at the pair smiling as they approach the Gorilla position.

Katie: Wow.

Katalina, who is in the midst of latching on Pet's leash, looks back over her shoulder at the younger Naughty Girl.

Katalina: What?

Katie: I don't know, it's just funny I guess. Seeing the two of you so close like that.

Katalina: What do you mean?

She asks, focusing back on Pet's collar so she can tighten the leash's latch in place.

Katie: It's just with Pet always clinging to your arm like that, the two of you kinda sorta look like a couple dating.

The dominatrix can't help but laugh over that as she quickly works her hand down the thin chain to its handle, patting Pet over the head a couple times before turning beside Katie.

Katalina: Of course you would see it that way. Pet's just really comfortable with me.

Katie: Are ya sure it's not a loving relationship? I saw her the other day, she was resting her head over your shoulder.

Katie's smile only widens when she notices the fair deal of blush coming over Katalina's face. The dominatrix steps around a bit before looking back at Pet and then the curtains in front of her.

Katalina: This is a very important match we're heading out to, Katie, please don't distract me.

Katie Alright...but we're talking about this later though.

Something Katalina doesn't appear overly thrilled about but as Katie steps out through the curtains, the dominatrix can't help but look back over at Pet who blindly stares ahead of her while a thin trail of drool slides

Explosion: 3

through a couple of holes of the wiffle ball stuffed inside her mouth. After a momentary sigh and a gloved hand gently brushed over her ruby painted lips to clean them off, Katalina gives the leash a short tug,

Katalina: C'mon, Pet.

And disappears off-camera.

The intro sequence for GPW appears at this point. It showcases several of the promotion's athletes, in a pink-and-black graphic display set to Joan Jett's 'Bad Reputation, and terminating in the promotion's logo. After this, we cut to a nicely filled-out ring area, where the pyro display is just ending to the cheers of the 150 or so people in attendance. Greeting us from the announcer's table, as usual, is wrestling's only spinster commentating duo!

Cher LaTour: Good evening, everyone! Welcome to GPW Explosion! I'm Cher LaTour, and by my side as always, Ms Kerry Buckingham! Kay, can you feel the Rush?!

Kerry Buckingham: Darling, please. Don't be tacky!

Cher: But it's the first round of the Gold Rush tournament! Aren't you excited?!

Kerry: Yes, dear. But do let's keep a bit of composure!

Cher turns to the camera again:

Cher: We have a very special show in store for you tonight, as we are set to witness the first round of matches in the Gold Rush tournament! We remind viewers at home that the eventual winner of this tournament will have earned a shot at our Champion, Jo McFarlane, at the time of their choosing!

The Manhattanite pauses to let that sink in, then continues:

Cher: But first, a tag match. Let's take you back to two weeks ago, when the Naughty Girls faced Boomschequa in a handicap match. Boomschequa's partner and manager interfered in the match, costing her the disqualification, and our largest athlete wasn't happy!

The feed cuts to a replay of all this as Cher narrates.

Cher: As such, tensions have been high in the Bikini Kill camp, and rumour has it a split is imminent. Do you believe that is the case, Kerry?

Kerry: Nonsense, darling. I spoke to Alex earlier this week, and he assured me everything is perfectly fine! You know, you really oughtn't believe everything you hear, dear...

Cher: Well, whatever the case may be, we are about to know for certain, as here come the Naughty Girls!

Explosion: 3

Tag Team Match: The Naughty Girls v Bikini Kill

DING DING DING!

Alexandra Roxbury: The following is a tag team contest, scheduled for one fall! Introducing first, at a combined weight of 274 pounds, Katie Klein and Katalina Star...THE NAUGHTY GIRLS!

The Naughty Girls come out, with Pet in tow, and waste no time sliding into the ring. Or rather, Katalina doesn't. Katie gets a little bit lost in fan interactions, leading to a sharp word from her partner. The youngest of the Girls looks up apologetically and hurries to the ring, not before apologising to the fans she had been indulging. There, her and Kat wait together for their opponents...

...and keep waiting, as although 'Brick House' starts on the speaker system, no one comes out.

Cher: Bikini Kill do not seem to be coming out here...how odd.

Eventually, Alexander Hamilton Cray and Alessandra come out, looking behind them nervously and conferring with one another. They stop short of the ring and seem to be waiting for something to happen.

Kerry: Wait just a moment...where's Boomy?

That seems to be exactly what the manager and the Brazilian model are asking themselves, as well, as they continue to glance towards the curtain. Suddenly, the mystery is solved, as a new theme song starts:

BOOM! HERE COMES THE BOOM, READY OR NOT!

No sooner has P.O.D. begun to play that Boomschequa stomps out, with the usual scowl on her face. Alexander and Alessandra seem delighted to see her, but the wrestler cannot be said to share the same sentiment. She makes her way towards the ring, ignoring her manager and tag team partner, and slips in. Without asking for anyone's permission, she heads towards the Naughty Girls who try a double-team attack. They never stand a chance, however, as they are caught in a double chokeslam by Boomschequa! The monstrous woman then takes her sweet time picking up first Katie, then Katalina, and dropping each of them with a Brick Bomb!

Cher: Boomschequa seems to be going into business by herself here... does this means the rumours were true?

Kerry, distracted by the match: Of course not, dear...woo-hoo! You go, girl!

On the outside, Alex and Alessandra are just as happy with their third wheel's display, and cheer Boomschequa on. The heavysset wrestler steps off the ring, however, and stops just long enough to glower at them before giving them the exact same treatment she has given the Naughty Girls: double chokeslam, then a Brick Bomb apiece...except these are not onto the mat, but rather the hard concrete! The crowd 'ooooh's,

Explosion: 3

but Boomschequa could not care less, and simply begins to make her way backstage, as the referee counts her out:

FIVE....

SIX....

SEVEN...

Cher: It does not look like she is coming back...

Kerry: She has to...there's a match going on, Boomy dear!

The wrestler, however, can obviously not hear the announcer, and the referee inexorably continues the count:

EIGHT...

NINE...

TEN!

Roxy: The winners of this match, as the result of a count-out...THE NAUGHTY GIRLS!

The Girls look just as surprised as anyone by their win, as the camera zooms in on Alessandra lying unconscious at ringside. On commentary, Cher is frantic:

Cher: The rumours were true! Bikini Kill are no more! Boomschequa has broken away!

Winners by count-out: The Naughty Girls

The feed cuts to a brief interlude - a replay of the theme-song montage for those who have AdBlocker active. As we come back, the camera once again focuses on the announce table:

Cher: Ladies and gentlemen, moments ago we witnessed the implosion of Bikini Kill as Boomschequa attacked her tag team partner and her manager! During the break, both Alessandra and Alexander Cray were stretchered out by our team of EMTs and rushed to the back!

The camera shows exactly this, as we hear Cray protesting loudly that he is in pain. Alessandra does not seem to have regained consciousness yet. Cher continues:

Cher: What the consequences of this will be for GPW as a whole remain to be seen...and one does wonder as well about what manner of action our management will take against Boomschequa. Our bosses have been

Explosion: 3

known to react harshly for less than this...

Kerry: Oh, darling, don't be silly! Boomy deserves an award for standing up to all her bullies!

Cher chooses not to reply to this, instead changing the subject:

Cher: Right now, however, we have more important matters at hand. Coming up next, it's the first leg of the Gold Rush tournament, and ladies and gentlemen, there has been an alteration to the card. Kayley Hale could not be present here tonight due to professional conflicts, and Tracy Webb has been released after remaining incommunicado for the past three weeks. As such, their respective opponents will now be squaring off against one another - it will be Cheerleader Cherry taking on 'The Nihilist' Emma Carlisle for a place in the Gold Rush tournament quarter finals! That, ladies and gentlemen, is later tonight. First, however...

A shuffling of papers is heard, followed by a groan.

Kerry: What is it, dear?

Another brief rustle comes through the commentary mics, followed by a second groan, just as a familiar theme song starts on the PA!

Cher: Just a moment...that is...it's our Champion, Jo McFarlane!

The first - and so far, only - GPW World Champion appears on the entrance platform to a substantial cheer. She high-fives fans as she strides purposefully towards the commentary table.

Cher: What is our Champ...? Oh, hello Jo! To what do we owe the pleasure?

Jo McFarlane is shown sitting down to the left of Kerry and putting on a headset. Soon, her thick Scots brogue comes through the commentary mics, in stark contrast to the ladies' refined tones.

Jo McFarlane: Well, I thought I'd come down here and assess my competition first hand! You ladies dinnae mind, do you?

Cher: Of course not, dear! Welcome to the team!

Jo: And by the way, Kerry, I think that bollocking you got on account of drunk tweeting was proper bullshit! Nobody has the right to tell you what to do with your personal stuff!

Kerry, slightly taken aback: Oh...well...thank you, dear!

Jo McFarlane is just about to thank the most sensible of the two announcers as another familiar song starts up!

Explosion: 3

Gold Rush Qualifying Match #1: Molly Cyrus v 'Jersey Whore' Tammy Tits

DING DING DING!

Roxy: The following match is a Gold Rush Tournament qualifying round, and it is scheduled for one fall! Introducing first, from Disneyland, weighing 112 pounds...MOLLY! CYRUS!

Cher: What do you make of Molly Cyrus, Jo?

Jo: Well, I haven't seen an awful lot from her, but she does not look like much of a threat...

"Hannah Montana" begins to play. When the bass kicks in, Molly walks out into the arena with a foam finger on her hand. She twerks, dances, and gives old people/little kids/Republicans seizures the whole way down to the ring. She twerks on the ringpost before she gets into the ring. Inside the ring, she gestures with her foam finger and throws it into the crowd, squatting in her corner while holding the rope, making sure to twerk a couple of times too.

Cher: Ugh...! I just cannot get my hand around this twerking business!

Jo: It's a daft fad. Only airheads do it...

Here, the commentators' table comes into focus once more, as Kerry is seen trying to emulate Miley's moves, while the other two look on in horrified disbelief. Thankfully, the camera quickly cuts away...or maybe not so thankfully, considering what it focuses on!

Roxy: And her opponent, from Seaside Heights, New Jersey, weighing 107 pounds, she is the 'Jersey Whore', TAMMY! TITS!

Jo: And speaking of not being a threat...

Cher: Ugh...not This Creature!

Kerry: Breathe, dear...it should be quick...

As the two announcers share a rare moment of empathy, Tammy comes through the curtain, accompanied as ever by Slick. This time, however, she holds back on showing her lovely lady lumps, and instead asks for the music to be cut. The usual chant of 'YOU SUCK DICK' is replaced by a generalised groan as the streetwalker brings a microphone to her lips:

Tammy Tits: Ya wanna say I'm a haw-ah...? Go 'head! I'll be the last one laughin', when I win the G-P-W World Championship!

Cher: Perish the thought!

Explosion: 3

With this, Tammy makes her way into the squared circle. On the corner, Molly is crouching, waiting for her. As the bell rings, however, she stands up and prepares to fight...

...but then holds back, as she notices Tammy has not rushed at her, and is instead studying her moves. The 'Jersey Whore' begins to try and emulate Molly, giving twerking a fair shake. The Twerkmaster seems mystified by this behaviour, but eventually, a very definite grin invades her features. She twerks her way to the centre of the ring and signals for Tammy to play the role of Robin Thicke - which the streetwalker does willingly. As the fans look on, aghast, the two begin to give a twerking demonstration in the middle of the ring!

Cher: I cannot believe what I'm seeing.

Neither, apparently, can Slick, who is close to having an apoplectic fit outside the ring. When his protests fall on deaf ears, the manager decides to take care of business himself, climbs onto the apron, and whacks Molly over the head with his cane! To his misfortune, however, the referee is standing right next to the incident, and promptly disqualifies Tammy!

Roxy: The winner of this match, as the result of a disqualification...MOLLY! CYRUS!

Tammy, evidently, is not best pleased. However, she seems to be yelling at slick more for having attacked Molly than for having gotten her DQ'd. She keeps pointing at the fallen wrestler as she rants, and eventually - when Molly stirs - offers her a hand to bring her to her feet. The crowd are still uncertain of just exactly what is going on, and only erupts when the two most hated wrestlers in GPW unite in giving Tammy's manager a double lariat!

Cher: Serves him right! I never thought I'd side with That Creature, but here we are...!

Jo: Does this mean those two are friends now? Save yourselves, GPW!

The feed cuts to commercial with Cher chuckling along with the Champion.

Winner by disqualification: Molly Cyrus

After yet another promo package for GPW, we come back to ringside for the second qualifier!

GPW Gold Rush Tournament Qualifier #2: Cheerleader Cherry v 'The Nihilist' Emma Carlisle

DING DING DING!

Roxy: The following match is a Gold Rush Tournament qualifying round, and it is scheduled for one fall! Introducing first, from Allen, Michigan, weighing 107 pounds, CHEERLEADER CHERRY!

Explosion: 3

Cherry comes out waving her poms to 'The Entertainer', and engages the crowd in the usual call-and-response. This week, there is a decent response, as the audience is progressively getting less self-conscious and joining in the fun.

Cher: Cherry Oliver is certainly a very enthusiastic young lady, and a fan favourite! What do you make of her, Jo?

Jo: Well, she's extremely young and...has she ever actually wrestled, like?

Cher: Not thus far. This will be her first showcase, and against a tough opponent at that!

As if on cue, the opening lyrics of Nemesea's "In Control" reverberate through the PA system, as Emma Carlisle slinks through the curtain with an unhinged look in her eyes. Her approach to the ring is slow and gradual while she alternates between glaring at the fans reaching toward her and 'listening' to her manager, Melchior.

Roxy: Her opponent, from the Land of Broken Dreams, weighing in at 124lbs, 'The Nihilist', EMMA! CARLISLE!

When she reaches the ring, Emma pulls herself onto the apron via the bottom rope and rolls in between the bottom and middle strands. She remains on her knees, clutching Melchior close to her chest as she crawls to her corner and very carefully sets him beneath the bottom turnbuckle. Grasping the ropes, she arches up to her feet and tilts her head this way and that as though hearing something peculiar, perhaps far-off music or voices, as she awaits the bell. In the meantime, Cherry Oliver looks scared to death of this manic-looking lady.

Cher: Look at the expression on the face of Cherry Oliver! The poor thing is scared witless!

Jo: I don't blame her. I wouldn't want to face Emma in the finals, I'll tell you that!

Kerry: Would you two stop bullying the poor girl? She has the most adorable stuffed pet!

As the enhanced announce team discuss GPW's most unhinged competitor, the bell rings, kicking this one off!

Straight away, Emma is on the attack. Cherry - being green - never sees it coming, and gets plowed with a clothesline. As she hits the ground, Emma sits atop her and uses some of the tassels in her outfit to choke the cheerleader out a bit. By the time the referee comes around, however, she is relatively innocently punching Cherry, with no evidence of the choking from a moment ago.

Cher: Wait just a moment...she was choking Cherry a moment ago!

Kerry: Choking? No, darling, you must be seeing things. She was simply punching the other girl!

Explosion: 3

Cher: Jo? Didn't you see it?

Jo: I *think* I saw it...but I dinnae want to say for sure...

Be that as it may, the fact remains that Emma is in control, and currently has Cherry in a tight side headlock. The cheerleader squirms in pain, calling for crowd support and getting it. The hold, however, is locked in tight, and only when Emma decides to release it does the teenage blonde manage to catch her breath. It does not last long, however, as Emma comes charging with a jumping kick, driving Cherry to the ropes. She then charges at the young blonde. Cherry pulls the ropes down just in time, however, and out to the concrete goes Emma!

Cher: Cherry has an opening! Can she capitalize?

Apparently not, as Emma has picked herself up quickly enough that the cheerleader's attempted crossbody is met with a Melchior shot to the head. The penguin must have been loaded, as the younger wrestler topples to the concrete.

Kerry: Oh, good heavens! It's a stuffed animal! How frail *is* this Cherry?

Jo: Obviously there must be something inside the penguin that really bloody 'urts....

Kerry: How DARE you accuse Emma?! She has a disorder, the poor dear! That is bullying!

Bullying or not, the fact remains that that shot hurt. Emma, however, does not immediately go for the pin. Instead, she 'listens' to Melchior, replying something in hushed tones. Only then does she pick up Cherry and roll her back in the ring. Along with the cheerleader, the deranged heel also slides in a chair, in extremely obvious fashion, and goes about the theatrics of preparing to hit Cherry with it. The referee spots it - not that it was too hard - and pries it from the hands of the unresisting Emma. As he goes to put it away, however, 'The Nihilist' exposes the turnbuckle and promptly bashes Cherry's head into it.

Cher: Wait just a moment...!

Jo: Ref! Cheater at three o'clock!

When the referee returns to where the action is, however, all he finds is a groggy Cherry standing next to a turnbuckle with a stuffed penguin on top of it. Seeing nothing illegal about the situation, he does nothing to punish Emma, and 'The Nihilist' is free to set up her opponent for - and perform - Dream Slayer! The rest is a formality.

ONE!

TWO!

Explosion: 3

THREE!

Roxy: Here is your winner...EMMA CARLISLE!

Jo: That's not right...that's just not right!

To the announcers' surprise, the Champion leaves their side for a moment and goes to complain to the referee about Emma's cheating. Her protests are ineffectual, however, as the referee claims to have seen nothing wrong. Eventually, knowing herself defeated, Jo leaves to return to the announce table, but not without dispensing some comforting words to Cherry.

Winner, by pinfall: Emma Carlisle

The camera goes backstage once more, and fades in to see Red West dressed in her black top and loose fitting pants a pair of fingerless MMA style gloves over her hands as she throws few punches. The camera zooms back a bit as we see non other than Anne Brandies in full ring gear wearing punch mits. Red throws a right straight followed by a left hook.

Anne: Remember Ursula always keeps her chin straight out... if you get her off her feet she's wide open.

Red: Gotcha...

Anne: And how do we get her off her feet?

Red: You told me before... she always leads with the left leg. Two quick kicks to the thigh, one to the knee. Or I could just do what I normally do and...

Anne: What did I tell you not to do...

Red: Don't jump at her until you're sure she's off her feet.

Anne: Yes...

Red: But I'm REALLY GOOD at jumping at people...

Anne: Trust me on this... Now let's work on that Superman Punch Aron taught you.

Red rears back for a moment fainting left before pausing mid-strike as she sees a familiar face enter the room.

Red: Oh... hey 'suko! Anne's giving me some advice for my match. It's what trainers who don't torture people with shock collars do....

Explosion: 3

Anne: Very deadpan...

Red: I learned it from watching you.

Red waves in a friendly manner as Anne nods her head in a matter of fact fashion. Her expression turning decisively more stern as she faces Etsuko.

Anne: *Coldly* Hello...

Etsuko slows her approach arching up a brow wondering what she could have said or done to earn that sort of welcome. But it isn't Anne she's here to see so after giving the woman a simple nod she fixes her attention toward Red.

Etsuko: Hello, Miss. Red. Um...I do not know how to break it to you, but Miss. Nikki is not my trainer. She is simply a guide to keep my mind on focus. If Miss. Nikki were my trainer, my actions in the ring would perhaps be...more sexual in nature.

Is that a joke? Etsuko delivers it in such a serious way that it just has to be. But even after there's no hint of a smile or laugh from the Asian miss. Anne pauses for a moment quietly shaking her head a bit.

Red: So the collar is a Sex thing?

Anne: Too much information.

Awkward silence.

Etsuko: I just came to do two things; the first to apologize for improperly titling you the last time we met.

That's where the sudden "Miss. Red" name came from it seems.

Red: That's really not... something to apologize for. Though technically it would be "Miss West."

Etsuko: Unfortunately no, Miss. Red, as I am not of the servant class.

There's a servant class now to this thing with the Red Lady? So that would mean there are some actually beneath Etsuko? Nikki allows that?

Etsuko: And...okay, three things. I wanted to offer you thanks and once more inform you that I do intend to repay that act of kindness toward me. Thank you.

Red: No problems... if I ever find myself locked in a closet I'll keep you on speed dial.

There's something of a smile there. It comes off as rather small and nervous like she doesn't want either of

Explosion: 3

them to notice it. Why hide the smile?

Etsuko: Lastly,

Composure regained.

Etsuko: I came to wish you luck in your match. While it would have been...fun...to team with you again, I believe it can be just as fun to watch you from the back. You understand that if the brackets remain the way they are, we may see each other in the semi or even the finals themselves.

Someone seems confident in her own abilities, especially considering her next opponent could be Anne herself. Although Etsuko does seem to know this as she eyes over at the woman herself momentarily as though she were some sort of target not just for a possible match but something else entirely. She then goes back looking toward Red as though those silent moments with Anne didn't happen.

Red for her doesn't seem to notice she's being sized up, playfully throwing a few practice strikes into the air almost as if she's playing a game. Anne for her part gives Etsuko a fairly cold look very much like she's very much sizing her up.

Red: Hey... no problem it's the nature of the sport. Sooner or later you might end up in the ring you respect and like. What's important is no matter who wins is that after the bell you can still respect that person.

Anne: Yes if you can still respect yourself. It can be a viscous cycle really. I mean if someone were to say... betray the trust of one of my students, I might do something to them I might regret. Food for thought...

Anne gives Etsuko another stern glare before quietly walking out of the room. Red just gives a big shrug.

Red: Oh don't mind her Etsuko. She's a nice enough person once you get to know her. Hey after the tournament we can team again. I was thinking maybe we could get matching T-shirts. How's "Code Red" sound for a team name? I mean I'm "Red" and you got the whole Red Lady thing going on?

Etsuko: I do not think she trusts me.

Said more to herself but also loud enough for Red to hear.

Etsuko: Yes, teaming with you again would be a good experience I believe. Though I do not believe building a name solely after my Goddess would work...unless you were to undertake the vow of servitude toward Her.

Is she seriously asking her that now? No, she seems to know Red wouldn't just run into something like that. After all, Etsuko certainly didn't either. When one comes up to you and claims they're a Goddess you either just play along knowing it's a joke or distance yourself. So then just why did Etsuko enter into this world?

Etsuko: That is not to say the name itself is bad, it is not, but if it were that for another reason... Say perhaps

Explosion: 3

Red as in yourself and Code as in...what I follow?

So then the team name would translate into; "Etsuko follows Red".

Etsuko: I do not know.

Looks like Etsuko is once again trying to hide a smile. She turns her head this way and that before finally coming up with a distracting topic.

Etsuko: So puppies? Were you genetically modified and sent into the future for further completion based on the simple fact that we do not hold current technologies to produce such a soldier as yourself. I mean it would make sense when one thinks about it. I mean they create you, send you to the future to complete you, something goes wrong but you still have a duty from your creators so you came back. I find it very...heroic of you, Miss. Red.

Red pauses for a moment doing a double-take as she can't even remember the last time that someone took one of her films seriously. Slightly scratching her head a bit before giving a large grin.

Red: Well I can't reveal too much about my past. Confidentiality agreements, redacted documents... *shrugs* but the past isn't as important to me as the here and now. Because the here and now is everywhere and you can get to it from anywhere. And speaking of the here and now I've got some Prussian Oppression to stop.

Red gives a determined looking grimace as she nods to Etsuko before walking out of the room.

The feed cuts back to the arena as another match is just about to start!

GPW Gold Rush Tournament Qualifier #3: 'The Bombshell' Crystal Taylor v 'The Parkour Princess' JJ Allen

DING DING DING!

Roxy: The following match is a Gold Rush Tournament qualifying round, and it is scheduled for one fall! Introducing first, from South Beach, Florida, weighing 120 pounds, 'The Bombshell', CRYSTAL! TAYLOR!

Cher: Crystal Taylor appearing here on her own for the first time, after debuting alongside her best friend, Morgan Alvertz, two weeks ago!

Kerry: Crissy-darling told me she wants to improve her wrestling ability so she can defend Morgan better! Isn't friendship wonderful?

Cher: What do you make of this girl, Jo?

Jo: Well, she doesn't *look* like a threat, but looks can be deceiving...she didn't do badly at all last week, but she had backup then...no backup now.

Explosion: 3

Once in the ring, Crystal takes the microphone briefly to rant:

Crystal Taylor: Seriously? I'm the one coming out first? Shouldn't the *newbie* come out first?

The fans begin to boo, and 'The Bombshell' rolls her eyes:

Crystal Taylor: What-EVER!

Just then, the opening twangy guitar chords from "The Gun Show" play throughout the place. The crowd is in a mixed reaction as the lights come back to normal, and we see JJ Allen standing on the stage. She looks around at the fans and runs for the ring, sliding in, with enough momentum to almost send her the entire way across it. She gets to her feet and runs back across the ring, jumping up and bouncing off the top rope, executing a perfect 720 front flip, while jumping backward back into the ring.

Roxy: And introducing her opponent, from Phoenix, Arizona, weighing 127 pounds, 'The Parkour Princess', JJ ALLEN!

Cher: JJ Allen is our newest signing, and I have to say, at least *she* bothered to show up. Points for that at least...

Jo: Well, just showing up is not enough. We'll see how this girl can fend for herself. I'd never heard of her before a few days ago, when they said she'd entered the tournament...

Cher: Apparently, she has experience wrestling in Pennsylvania...she fought men there as well, apparently.

Jo, interested: Oh. That's something...I guess I underestimated her!

Just then, the bell rings, and all three women focus their attention on the match at hand!

Right off the bat, JJ goes for the big moves, as she climbs the turnbuckle and lands a tilt-a-whirl headscissors. Crystal is caught unawares and eats the move, which leads to a pin predicament!

ONE..!

Easy kickout for 'The Bombshell'!

Crystal is visibly enraged by the newcomer's cheek, and performs a hair pull, which JJ forces her to break by grabbing the ropes. The blonde continues, however, to hit the newcomer with elbows to the back, and eventually a backfist that topples her to the outside.

Cher: Crystal beginning to gain control here...

Kerry: Of course she is, darling. Crissy is clearly the prettiest of these two!

Explosion: 3

Cher and Jo: What does that have to do with...?

Meanwhile, Allen and Taylor are brawling on the outside, exchanging punches as they walk around the ringside area. Eventually, Taylor gains advantage by bashing Allen's head against the apron before throwing her against the ring-post shoulder first. As JJ writhes in pain, Taylor rolls her into the ring and covers.

ONE..

TW...Kickout!

Crystal expresses her frustration through a grimace, but quickly goes back to work on the newcomer, picking her up for a powerbomb. Allen squirms and writhes, however, and eventually counters the powerbomb into yet another headscissors! She quickly runs to the ropes and catches Crystal with a baseball bat slide, which sends her to the outside! Allen grins mischievously and winds up again, vaulting over the top rop in a springboard crossbody!

Although the move lands, it causes damage to Allen's shoulder, and she is not quick enough on the uptake. Crystal regains control, and this time she is REALLY mad! She bashes Allen's head repeatedly against the turnbuckle, and is going to wreck her other shoulder against the post, but the spunky newcomer reverses the move, and Crystal goes flying towards the ring post instead! Allen takes this chance to roll back into the ring, walking to the far side and patiently waiting for Crystal to come back in. In the meantime, she mugs to the crowd, winking and signalling 'watch this'. The crowd react with a cheer of anticipation.

As Crystal finally rolls into the ring, she spots Allen at the far end and runs towards her, in a rage. Cool as you please, JJ jumps onto a tornado DDT, being careful to perform it on her 'good' shoulder. Then, as Taylor topples to the mat, she jumps onto the turnbuckle and lands a picture-worthy corkscrew moonsault! Still careful to use her undamaged shoulder, she advances for the cover!

ONE!

TWO!

THREE!

Roxy: Ladies and gentlemen, the winner of this match...J! J! ALLEN!

JJ Allen picks up a debut win and advances to the quarter finals!

Winner by pinfall: JJ Allen.

A GPW placeholder graphic briefly appears, after which we cut back to the announce table.

Explosion: 3

Cher: An impressive win by JJ Allen here tonight, on her debut for GPW. She advances to the quarter-finals of the Gold Rush tournament, along with Emma Carlisle and Molly Cyrus!

Jo, interrupting: I still cannae believe that...

Cher: But that's not all, ladies and gentlemen. Still to come, Anne Brandeis takes on the latest in a series of mystery opponents hand-picked by General Manager Samantha Bevins. Red West takes on Miss Bevins' former protege, Ursula Von Rossbach...and of course the anticipated final, Etsuko Mitsuzaka taking on Maria Dainelli!

Jo: That is going to be a corker of a match!

Cher: It certainly is! All still to come here tonight!

Another placeholder graphic appears before we cut to backstage, where Anne Brandeis is seen walking to Gorilla position. A cheer arises, but before it can go much further, Anne is attacked by a previously unseen wrestler! The woman goes straight for 'The Atheist' 's knee, taking it out viciously until another figure comes into frame: none other than the General Manager of GPW, Samantha Bevins, who is greeted by a chorus of boos. The new wrestler turns to her boss and asks, in a surprisingly girly tone:

Woman: Did I do real good?

The GM nods:

'Sensuous' Samantha Bevins: You did real good. Now go get the other one, or you won't get a treat!

The newcomer grins from ear to ear and skips off happily. Samantha follows close behind, as the camera zooms in on an injured Anne.

Straight afterward, we see Boomschequa also preparing to head to the ring, as she puts on her boots in an otherwise empty locker room. Suddenly, from off-camera, a click is heard, capturing the big woman's attention. Boomschequa frowns.

Boomschequa: What the hayull...?

She walks over to the door and tries it, only to realise it is locked from the outside and she cannot get out! Furiously, she punches the door and works the lock, all to no avail. As we still hear her scream, the camera pans to the outside to reveal the door is not only locked, but has several crates up against it. Boomschequa is not going anywhere anytime soon.

GPW Gold Rush Tournament Qualifying Match #4: Anne Brandeis v Boomschequa

Instead of the theme songs we *should* be hearing at this point, we are instead subjected to the metallic

Explosion: 3

stylings of Shinedown, as Samantha Bevins steps through the curtain with her new signing in tow. Ignoring the rain of boos, she brings a microphone to her smirking lips and introduces the mystery woman:

Samantha: This is Iris. Say hi, Iris.

Iris takes the mic and says, in her girlish voice:

Iris: Hi Iris!

The crowd are left not knowing how to react, until Samantha cuts their work out for them:

Samantha: And since neither Boomschequa nor...Anne Brandeis...are here, I guess that means the match is a no-contest! And that, in turn, means Iris here gets an immediate bye to the quarter finals!

The crowd boo even more, if possible, as in the announce table disbelief reigns:

Cher: What?! She's not even signed up!

Jo: Oh, that Samantha makes me right bloody mad, she does!

Kerry: What, for thinking on her toes and trying to work around problems?

Cher: Problems SHE created!

On the stage, the General Manager continues:

Samantha: And after Ursula also gets a bye...well, I think my team will be rather dominant in the tournament!

Cher, apoplectic: HER team?! HER TEAM?! She is supposed to be impartial!

Kerry: Calm down, dear, you'll ruin your make-up!

Rant as she might, however, there is nothing Cher or anyone else in the arena tonight can do to prevent Samantha's actions. Hence the General Manager's smug smile as she retires backstage among a symphony of boos!

Winners: Iris and Samantha Bevins

Immediately after this shocking announcement, the mood is lightened up considerably with a replay of one of Red West's 'Redorable' hype packages, specifically the one where she is portraying a freedom fighter from the future. This segues nicely into the next match, where Red is one of the key figures!

GPW Gold Rush Tournament Qualifying Match #6: Red 'Rock' West v Ursula Von Rossbach

Explosion: 3

The lights go dim as a magenta hued laser-show lights up the arena, shimmering pink glitter starts to fall from the ceiling. Red West steps out wearing a leather jacket with the word "Brandeis" school etched across the back of it. Lowering her head for a moment, her wild pink hair falling over her face. She closes her eyes for a moment as "Loyalty" cues up among a shower of Red Pyro. As the music fires up she pumps her hands into the air jumping up and down before dashing to the ring.

Roxy: The following is a Gold Rush Tournament qualifying match, and it is scheduled for one fall! Introducing first, from Lake Wobegon, Minnesota, weighing 105 pounds, RED! ROOOOCK! WEST!

Cher: And here comes another one of my personal picks to win this whole thing!

Kerry: HER?! Oh, please, darling, you shall kill me from laughter if you carry on saying those things!

Cher: What?! Red is a consummate athlete! I'm sure Jo is worried about her...

Jo: I'd like to face her, I won't lie...

Kerry: Of course you would, dear. It would be an easy win!

Red rushes into the ring and climbs a turnbuckle before throwing off her jacket revealing her T-shirt herself. She raises a hand before doing a moonsault backwards landing on her feet. Should her opponent not make it into the ring in time, she may start doing highspots herself.

Roxy: And introducing her opponent, URSULA VON ROSSBACH!

Kerry: Unfortunately, Red-darling will not last two minutes against Ursie!

Cher: I wouldn't be so sure. Ursula proved last week that perhaps she is not made of such tough material after all...

Kerry: Nonsense, darling. She will destroy that girl!

Cut to the ring where Ursula Von Rossbach is telling Red West exactly that. The much tinier Red West does not seem threatened. As the official calls for the bell and it sounds, UVR goes right after West. West is quick and ducks a clothesline by the big woman. Red West goes against the ropes and rebounding, she slams into Ursula with all her force. This doesn't even make Ursula budge. Instead, it just angers Ursula.

Kerry, holding back laughter: Uh-oh...better luck next time, dearie!

Red somewhat gulps as Ursula grasps Red by the throat and lifts her up by one arm. Ursula is going for a choke slam, but somehow Red is able to wiggle out of it. Red West goes for a springboard elbow on Ursula, but a pissed off Ursula catch her right into a bear hug. Ursula SLAMS Red down onto the canvas! She goes for a cover on Red.

Explosion: 3

ONE!

TWO!

NO! Red West kicks out before the three count!

Kerry: Oh, come ON! That was a three! Such blatant favouritism! Shocking!

Cher and Jo simply stare at the Brit in disbelief, as on the mat Red West is obviously a little shaken up from the big tumble she just took. Ursula is pissed she did not get the win. Red shakes the cobwebs and gets to her feet. She looks up Ursula, and she motions for the MASSIVE TEST OF STRENGTH!

Cher: Has Red lost her mind?! A test of strenght?

Kerry: Let her, dear...this should be fun...

Jo: Ursula is laughing! Ursula thinks this is hilarious! Red is putting her hands up! Red says she can prove she stronger than Ursula!"

Kerry: Ursula saying she is stronger than Red, which is of course right. They're going to do the test now! Oh my!

Cher: Ursula too busy mocking Red! Red able to brush past UVR...Red under Ursula...SHE ROLLS HER UP!

ONE!

TWO!

THREE! ...NO! URSULA KICKS OUT! Wow!

The crowd boo heartily, as they had clearly foreseen a Red West upset win.

Cher: That was close! Red almost beat Ursula!"

Jo: Ursula is livid! Look at that! Ursula is so pissed! Red is screaming it was a three count! Ursula says it wasn't! Ursula threatening the official! Official says it was only a two count!

Kerry: Bullies...one and all! BULLIES! Poor Ursie!

The match continues, and Red West ensues her antics, trying her best to keep Ursula off guard. After the close pinfall, Red rolls out of the ring and runs to the crowd. She leaps the barricade and stands in the midst of fans. The fans are cheering for Red as she taunts UVR, telling her to come and get her. The camera shows Ursula who is irate, throwing obscenities toward Red. Red is making herself at home by hanging with

Explosion: 3

the fans and eating some of their popcorn.

Jo: Red West is clearly not taking this too seriously.

Cher: Maybe she should...that's no pushover in there with her!

Ursula points toward Red, mentioned something about killing her and keeping her soul, and well, this does it. The official is counting, but the big woman goes to the outside. She stomps down onto the outside mat and points at Red, telling her to run and hide, because she is about to die. Red seems to laugh, eating more popcorn. The official continues the count and it up to about seven or so. Ursula groans as she goes to climb over the barricade and go after Red. Red makes a beeline for the ring, and climbs in right before the ten count.

Ursula is even more pissed as she slithers into the ring. She is met by Red kicking her right in the head, then following up with a series of elbows on Ursula's head. It doesn't keep Ursula down long, and Ursula is making a comeback. Red grabs Ursula and gets her in a running Bulldog. The big woman goes down and Red West knows better than to go for a pin. She continues elbows in Ursula's sternum as Ursula is already grunting and getting back up.

Cher: Red seems to have come up with some sort of alternative game plan here...and it seems to be working.

Ursula raises up and Red comes forth with a kick to UVR's head. UVR, however, grabs Red by her leg and spins her around. Ursula applies major pressure to Red's ankle before Red is turning well...red...and screaming. Ursula has had enough of that, so she lifts Red up like a rag doll and throws her into the turnbuckle. UVR comes in for a clothesline, but Red moves! Red pounces forward and is able to grab Ursula and springboard off the ropes with a Tornado DDT! Ursula is down and out as Red climbs on top of the big woman for a pin.

ONE!

TWO!

THR... NO! NO! Ursula's foot is on the rope!

Kerry: YES! Wonderfully done, Ursie, you brave girl!

Ursula with her foot on the rope! That was close. Ursula is angry. Ursula is on her feet in a flash, but Red West is quicker. Red West hits Ursula with a dropkick to her knees. This doesn't take the amazon down, it only makes her fall into the ropes. Red West bounces against the ropes and flies forward with a clothesline, hoping to take Ursula over the top rope, but again, Ursula hangs on. Ursula comes to, wrapped in the ropes a bit, her face all sweaty and red with anger, and she is again on the prowl for Red West. Red pounces forward, ready to attack again, but Ursula catches her this time in a Samoan drop!

Explosion: 3

Kerry: That's it! Bye-bye, Red dear...!

Ursula lands the move with ultimate power, finally gathering her composure from the previous DDT Red hit her with. Ursula drags Red to the center of the ring and lands a fierce leg drop right across her chest. UVR attempts a pinfall.

ONE!

TWO!

NO! RED WEST KICKS OUT!

Kerry: Oh, SURELY you're joking!

Ursula is in disbelief the tiny 105 pound Red West is still alive. UVR brings Red up by her bright pink hair, pulling it hastily. The official warns Ursula who simply grunts at him and picks up the lifeless Red West. Ursula scoops Red West up over her shoulder, ready to go for a running powerslam, and perhaps put an end to this all. Ursula is a bit slow, however, because Red West wiggles free from the hold! Red lands on her feet, and a bewildered Ursula turns around, and she's met with...

Jo: YAKUZA KICK TO THE HEAD!

The smack of the kick is heard across the arena, as Red begins to taunt her larger opponent.

Cher: Red is signaling!

Jo: No way this can be over!

Cher: SONIC RAINBOOM! Wow! What an amazing double flip moonsault that was! RED LANDS IT!

ONE!

TWO!

THREE!

Cher: RED WINS! RED HAS DEFEATED URSULA HERE TONIGHT! Oh, hooray! Well done!

Jo: SSB is going to be so mad!

Roxy: Ladies and gentlemen, the winner of this match...RED! ROOOOCK! WEST!

Ursula looks livid and perhaps...a little scared?...as Red gets up on the turnbuckle to celebrate with the

Explosion: 3

ecstatic fans.

Winner by pinfall: Red 'Rock' West

After the match, the camera cuts backstage once more. Etsuko is in a back room, seated down on a chair and leaning a little forward so she can get at her boots and properly lace them up. It seems aside from the general movements she makes with this there's actually something of a mild shiver going through her and why not? Sitting across from her, playing with the remote to her shock collar, is Nikki who looks to be deep in thought as she watches the remote work its way between her fingers.

Nikki: That...*thing* called what we have a cult, did you hear that?

Etsuko: Yes, Miss. Nikki.

Nikki: She compared our Goddess to a bunch of script following, skin showing whores who wouldn't be *anything* in the public's eyes were it not for the characters they portray. She's saying that pretenders are in the same league as the Red Lady!

Etsuko: I heard her, Miss. Nikki.

Etsuko is worried after saying that one, she looks up eyeing the remote through her bangs hoping Nikki doesn't take that statement as anything arrogant. Luckily for her, Nikki doesn't take it to mean much of anything as she closes her fingers over the remote.

Nikki: Our Goddess has accomplished miracles no writer could ever create and no actress could ever perform.

Etsuko: I know all of this, Miss. Nikki.

Perhaps the hint of fear in her voice will convince Nikki that Etsuko doesn't want any sort of confrontation here but it's true. Etsuko full well knows of the Red Lady's miracles and that's part of the reason she's been so willing to follow her.

Nikki: If you do, then you know how severely I want you to *hurt* her. I never agreed with your tree more than I do right now. I want her blood to be drawn over that tree of yours. Do you understand that, Etsuko?

Etsuko: Yes, Miss. Nikki.

Good. Nikki rises up from her chair still looking a little uncertain with Etsuko over her chances of accomplishing that and gives her a mild shock through the collar. Etsuko winces from the pain as Nikki looks the remote over and smiles.

Nikki: Just making sure it's working tonight.

Explosion: 3

GPW Gold Rush Tournament Qualifying Match #6: Etsuko Mitsuzaka v Maria Dainelli

The feed cuts back to the arena, where our Main Event is about to begin!

DING DING DING!

Roxy: The following match is a Gold Rush Tournament qualifying round, and it is scheduled for one fall! Introducing first, from Osaka, Japan, weighing 120 pounds, ETSUKO MITSUZAKA!

"Cure for the Itch" starts up as Etsuko comes out looking around the crowd as Nikki steps out close behind her. With the two standing side by side, they clasp their hands together and eye up at the rafters saying something to themselves almost in unison before bowing their heads. After their prayer has finished, Etsuko and Nikki make their way down to the ring with the former's eyes dead set on the squared circle ahead of them while Nikki's switch between her and the crowd. Once at the ring, Etsuko hops up onto the apron while Nikki finds a spot outside watching as her charge steps in through the ropes where she afterward starts stepping around the ring awaiting for the match to start tugging a little at her collar. Outside of the ring, Nikki pulls out the shock collars remote and waits patiently as well.

Cher: What a great match we have in prospect here!

Jo: Yes, definitely two to watch out for...

Cher: Now, Maria has had some pointed comments towards Etsuko, implying that she is in a cult and putting herself in danger. Personally, I'm inclined to agree, I mean that shock collar is just not right, is it?

Kerry: Oh, you just don't understand the *culture*, dear. I have told you many times, one must never pre-judge...

Cher, sarcastically: Oh yes, you are the *least* judgmental person I know...

The announcers' banter is suddenly interrupted by an increasingly familiar cry:

FORZA MARIA!

Roxy: And introducing her opponent, from Turin, Italy, but residing in Los Angeles, weighing 123 pounds, 'The ALPHA Female', MARIA! DAINELLI!

The intro of "Too Young" then storms through the PA, bringing out Maria Dainelli. "The ALPHA Female" sweeps her hair back and looks at the fans cheering for her before marching towards the ring. Maria walks around the ring, high fiving fans, then hops on the apron and gets in the ring between the ropes. She climbs one of the turnbuckles where she poses before the music dies out.

Explosion: 3

Cher: There, for my money, is the favourite to win this entire thing!

Kerry: Oh, come now, dear, you haven't seen anywhere *near* enough of her to say that! Anyone can beat a streetwalker in a few seconds...

Cher: Speaking of which, both these ladies have one thing in common: they both defeated That Creature in under 30 seconds...

Kerry: Well, of course they did! That still doesn't make them favourites...

Jo: I agree with Cher, actually. Maria has had good training, and I'll definitely be paying attention to this match...

As Kerry sulks, in the ring, Maria climbs down and goes to offer Etsuko a handshake. The Japanese wrestler is uncertain at first, but eventually motions to take her opponent's hand...only to have Nikki shock her for good measure. Etsuko glowers towards the outside of the ring, and her 'handler' adopts a slight look of disbelief, promptly shocking her again. Wincing in pain, Etsuko gets her head in the game just in time for the bell!

Cher: We're under way here, in what could and should be the match of the night!

The bout begins with a bit of circling, as the two women study each other. They lock up in the centre of the ring in a long tie-up, which Maria eventually wins, driving Etsuko to the ropes. The Stryke Dojo's first female graduate then begins to connect with knees to the joshi's midsection, wearing Etsuko down even as she tries to fight back.

Cher: Strong start for Maria, displaying her credentials here, but Etsuko is fighting back!

The Japanese wrestler gains advantage the only way she can - by tugging at Maria's hair. While not totally effective, this throws the Italian off just long enough for Etsuko to land a Pele kick of her own, rocking her opponent for the first time. The joshi then quickly gets out of the corner, even as Maria rams into it shoulder-first!

Jo: Nobody home! It seems Etsuko has managed to rattle Maria early on.

Seeking to recover, the Italian takes a breather for a moment. Across the ring, her opponent takes off, looking for some form of kick, but Maria reacts just in time, moving out of the way and dropping Etsuko with a drop toe hold. As the Japanese hits the mat, her opponent quickly goes for Sofferenza!

Cher: Sofferenza attempt by Maria! This is the move we saw in action two weeks ago against That Creature.

Jo: Yes, but Etsuko is a little harder to defeat. Especially because her tamer won't let her!

Explosion: 3

In fact, seeing Etsuko in a precarious position, Nikki is going crazy with the shock collar. The force of the jolts cause Etsuko to spasm, and somehow, in this way, she is able to break the hold! She turns around and nails Maria with a clothesline!

Cher: Reaction by Etsuko, and this is still an even contest!

As her opponent gets up, the joshi hits the ropes and connects with a vicious kick to the face! The crowd 'ooh's' as the echo is heard across the arena. Etsuko wastes no time, however, and cements her momentum with a quick snap DDT! Then, as she rolls out of the move, she grabs hold of Maria's back with her legs and throws her overhead, in the move she calls the Mitsuzaka Driver! In the stands, a chant erupts, cheering the fan favourite on:

"FORZA MA-RI-A!"

Hearing this gives Maria a renewed drive, and she quickly gets up and hits the ropes, looking for the clothesline. However, Etsuko ducks and reverses it into a suplex!

Cher: Etsuko still in control, but the fans are behind Maria it would seem...

Kerry: The fans know nothing, darling. Do they not have eyes on their face? Etsuko has this one in her pocket!

Jo, slightly annoyed: We shall see about that. Your record isn't exactly stellar so far tonight...

Kerry chooses not to deign that with an answer as, in the ring, the two women are now exchanging strikes. A sporting spirit seems to have come back into the match, even as the two competitors are aware of the danger the other represents.

Cher: A bit of sportswomanship...that's nice to see!

Kerry: It won't win any matches, though, will it?

Eventually, however, the kid gloves are dropped once more, as Maria lunges forward with a clothesline. Etsuko sees it coming, but does not duck quickly enough, and eats the move! Maria, continuing to think quickly, begins to kneel down to apply a Fujiwara armbar. This time, however, Etsuko is alert, and reverses it into an arm drag.

Kerry: 'Suko has an opening! She must capitalise!

The joshi seems intent on doing just that, as she goes for the Mitsuzaka Special, ignoring the mild shocks emitting from her collar. Maria, however, applies an arm drag of her own, reversing the reversal! She quickly hops onto the turnbuckle and lands a diving moonsault, for the cover!

Explosion: 3

ONE...

TWO...

Kickout!

Cher: High impact move from Maria, but not enough to keep Etsuko down!

The Italian is, however, once again in control, as she whips her opponent to the ropes, then catches her on the rebound with a huge spear! Another cover!

ONE...

TWO...

Kickout!

Cher: Maria wants to end this, but it seems to be affecting her composure a little...

Kerry: Of course! She is not at all Championship material, unlike what you two think!

Cher, sighing: Yes, Kay, you're the voice of reason...

Maria does indeed seem to be getting a little frustrated, as she brings Etsuko to a seated position and begins trying to lock in Sofferenza once more. The joshi, however, is alert enough to shift her body and prevent the hold. She rolls up and out, leaving Maria to lift herself back to a vertical base, only to eat a dropkick! It only rocks the Italian, however, and she gives chase as Etsuko hits the ropes. Mistake - the joshi applies a headscissors takedown for the cover!

ONE...

TWO...

Kickout!

Jo: No, not yet!

Cher: What a fantastic match!

Etsuko, once again in control, begins searching for Maria's wrists, but a double-kick to the gut puts an end to that. As the joshi staggers slightly, the Italian performs a nip-up, to a huge cheer! She runs at Etsuko with a spear, but the Osaka native reacts quickly and reverses it into a suplex! She rolls out of the move and once again goes to set up the Mitsuzaka Special, only for Maria to throw her two feet against her stomach again!

Explosion: 3

This time, however, Etsuko keeps the hold locked in, making the crowd gasp.

Kerry: Uh-oh!

Cher: Could she do it here?

Maria is bucking wildly with her legs, but Etsuko seems to have a firm hold of her opponent's wrists this time. Carefully avoiding Maria's attempts at rocking her, she manages to get back to a somewhat upright position, without however releasing the Italian's wrists. Then, in a single, fluid move, she hits Maria in the stomach with a double-stomp of her own, in the move she calls the Mitsuzaka Bunny Hop! She once again ignores Nikki's button press and the ensuing shock, as she drops for the cover!

Cher: She's got her here!

ONE...

TWO..

THREE!...Maria kicks out just a split-second too late!

Roxy: Ladies and gentlemen, the winner of this match...ETSUKO MITSUZAKA!

Winner by pinfall: Etsuko Mitsuzaka

The camera zooms in on Etsuko, across whose face a smile is spreading, then Maria, who looks livid at herself for the loss. Finally, it pans across to the announcer's table, where Cher is on her feet applauding!

Cher: Bravo, girls! Fantastic match!

Jo: I agree. Fair play to Etsuko for picking up the win, but Maria put up a hell of a fight as well!

Kerry, miffed: Sit *down*, dear!

Then, to the camera, in a somewhat hurried tone:

Kerry: That's all the time we have for tonight I'm afraid. See you again in two weeks, as the Gold Rush tournament continues!

The feed cuts on an image of Etsuko, still smiling, offering Maria a handshake, which the Italian reluctantly takes as the transmission slowly fades to black.

CREDITS

Explosion: 3

Naughty Girls promo: Jo

Retsukanne promo: Jo & Paul S.

Red/Ursula: Sam B.

Etsuko promo: Jo

Everything else: Pete

Final revision & added commentary: Pete