

Ring of Honor – June 3, 2015: Wake Me For The Real Debut

Ring of Honor

Date: June 3, 2015

Location: Ted Reeve Arena, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Attendance: 1,500

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, King Corino

So this show just debuted on Destination America as a lead-in to Impact Wrestling. I'm not the biggest Ring of Honor fan in the world but I do have a passing knowledge of the promotion. I'm not sure how long I'm going to do this for but I'll knock out the first few weeks of it at least. Let's get to it.

Keep in mind that this isn't supposed to be a special debut episode as it was taped before the Destination America deal was announced, meaning it's hard to know what we're getting here. However, apparently these matches are from the Global Wars two day event.

This show originally aired over the last weekend in May, depending on when your area gets the Sinclair syndicated feed.

The Briscoe Brothers (the best Mark and World Champion Jay) are ready for the House of Truth tonight and Mark Briscoe is about as psychotic as you can ask him to be, which gives you a good introduction to the promotion.

Opening sequence. Nothing out of the ordinary here.

The announcers talk about the Best In The World pay per view on June 19 with a main event of TV Champion Jay Lethal vs. World Champion Jay Briscoe in a title vs. title match.

Will Ferrara vs. Kushida

This is ROH vs. New Japan. One encouraging note here: we're three minutes in and we know our main event tonight, the PPV main event and our opening match. That's efficient stuff for an hour long show. Kushida kicks

Ferrara down to start but Will comes back with a quick neckbreaker for two. Back up and Kushida fights out of a fireman's carry before kicking Ferrara in the head.

Kushida bails to the floor and eats a suicide dive into a DDT for a nice crash. They head back in with Will nailing a running elbow in the corner but getting caught in a Fujiwara armbar. A big moonsault gets two on Ferrara and he slaps on a Kimura (apparently called the Hover Board Lock as Kushida is one half of the Time Splitters tag team. It's a Back to the Future reference in case you have bad taste in movies) for the submission at 5:14.

Rating: C. Glorified squash here and a good way to get the fans used to the New Japan partnership, even though they won't be around much longer after this show. The match was fine but it was clear that Ferrara was in way over his head. Not a bad match but there's only so far you can go in a five minute match with one guy so far ahead of the other.

The Addiction (Kazarian and Christopher Daniels) say they'll give Red Dragon a title shot next week and only next week.

Silas Young vs. Takaaki Watanabe

These two split after a tag match at Global Wars Night One. Young is billed as the Last Real Man in Professional Wrestling. They slug it out to start with Young elbowing out of a German suplex attempt. That's fine with Watanabe as he plants Silas with a belly to back suplex. Now the German suplex connects and the fans are entirely behind Watanabe.

A superplex attempt doesn't work so well though and Silas nails a middle rope clothesline for a delayed two. Back up and a running neckbreaker plants Young before a clothesline puts him on the floor. Another German on the floor knocks Silas silly but can only get two back inside. Young shrugs it off, grabs an airplane spin of all things and lays Watanabe out with a TKO for the pin at 6:20.

Rating: D+. Well that exists. There's nothing else for me to say here as I have no idea why I'm supposed to care about either guy and the match was nothing interesting. Young has a decent enough character but, as is

the case with almost every guy from New Japan, I have almost no reason to care about them. If the wrestling isn't great, there isn't much to see otherwise.

BJ Whitmer vs. Moose

Whitmer is part of the Decade, a stable of veterans, and has a young boy (basically a servant) named Colby Corino (son of commentator King (Steve) Corino). The undefeated Moose is a monster in the vein of Ahmed Johnson. Whitmer grabs the mic and says he knows he can destroy Moose, but he'll let Colby do it instead. This is Colby's in ring debut.

Colby Corino vs. Moose

Whitmer tells Colby, who looks like he's about 14, to prove that he's more of a man than his father ever was. Colby slaps the monster in the face to start and Moose takes him to the floor for a big swing, sending Colby back and forth into the barricade. A wicked powerbomb onto the apron sets up a powerbomb on the floor and Colby is somehow still alive. Back in and one foot on the chest gives Moose the pin at 2:44.

Jay Lethal freaks out over having to fight the Briscoes tonight but manager Truth Martini says don't worry about it.

Donovan Dijak/J. Diesel vs. Briscoe Brothers

There are far too many people in this company named Jay. Dijak and Diesel are part of the House of Truth heel stable. Lethal sits in on commentary as Dijak drives Mark into the corner, only to eat a forearm to the face. Back up and Mark does the Karate Kit crane pose but both guys have kicks blocked, only to backflip out for a cool visual.

Off to Diesel who starts throwing punches (Golden Gloves background apparently) and Mark quickly tags out. Diesel beats up the World Champion as well, only to have Jay take J into the corner for a boot choke. Back to Mark for two off a Russian legsweep as Lethal mocks Jay's custom World Title. The House of Truth takes Jay into the corner for a quickly broken up double team before it's off to Mark for redneck kung fu (seriously).

Martini offers a distraction so Dijak can kick Mark off the top rope for

two and we take a break. Back with Dijak catching Mark in midair and driving knees into the ribs for two. Off to Diesel for a fall away slam but Mark fights out of the corner and flips over for a tag to his brother. Jay cleans house and everything breaks down, setting up a Doomsday Device on Diesel for the pin at 11:18.

Rating: C+. Best match of the night by far, but at the end of the day you can only have so much interest in a prospect like Dijak and a glorified puncher in Diesel against the best tag team in company history. It was a fairly obvious ending but the Briscoes are good enough to make it work.

Post match Dijak hits something like a GTS (camera missed most of it) on Mark. Lethal comes in to go after Jay but eats the Jay Driller (double underhook piledriver) to end the show.

Overall Rating: D+. Welllllllll.....this is a hard one to grade. To begin with, this wasn't supposed to be a debut episode as the Destination America deal came up out of nowhere. The Global Wars shows are going to take a few weeks to get through before we get down to what should be considered the real debut. That being said, this isn't the worst show ever but it's really just kind of there. The wrestling was forgettable, the stories aren't the most interesting (I've never cared about Jay Lethal. I just don't get it) and this didn't feel like anything interesting. I'll keep watching for a few weeks but they'll need to pick it up a bit.

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