

Ring of Honor TV – February 17, 2016: An Actual Prospect

Ring of Honor

Date: February 17, 2016

Location: Cabarrus Arena and Events Center, Concord, North Carolina

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Nigel McGuinness

The Anniversary pay per view is almost here and we're also getting closer to the end of the first round of the Top Prospect Tournament. However, we're also getting closer to the end of this taping cycle which means things have a tendency to start dragging. Ring of Honor isn't the best at going week to week so there's little connection between shows. That can make things hard to keep track of but hopefully it isn't a major issue here. Let's get to it.

Top Prospect Tournament First Round: Jason Kincaid vs. Lio Rush

Two smaller guys here with Kincaid looking like Erick Rowan minus about 100lbs (but with some hair) and with pictures of a woman and a skull on his thighs. Nigel thinks Lio is in the vein of ACH. Well at least they don't look the same. Lio kicks at the leg to start but Kincaid heads to the apron for a slingshot flip neckbreaker. Off to a Gory Stretch on Rush, followed by something like a standing abdominal stretch (as in Lio isn't twisted around) into a jawbreaker.

Kincaid takes off his shoulder pads vest (that helped) but Lio knocks him outside for a flip dive. Back in and something like a spinebuster into the corner has Lio in trouble, though he's still able to head outside before Jason can go Coast to Coast. That's fine with Jason as he does it anyway, actually hitting the Coast to Coast with Lio on the floor. He's not done though as Kincaid dives through the ropes into a flip Diamond Cutter. Jason's top rope double stomp misses though and Lio catches him in a standing C4 for the pin at 5:05.

Rating: C+. Best match of the tournament so far and I'm really hoping Kincaid gets another look after that performance. One important thing

here was Kelly putting over Jason's backstory as coming up from pure poverty to get where he is today. That helped set Kincaid apart and let us connect to him a bit, which is the best thing you can do here. Unfortunately ROH felt the need to add another generic high flier because they don't have enough of them yet. I mean, Nigel said Rush is exactly like ACH, so why would they want to go with him when they already have ACH?

Will Ferrara/Caprice Coleman vs. Beer City Bruiser/Silas Young

Prince Nana is on commentary to continue this story which feels like it's been going on for six months despite not actually going anywhere. Coleman and Young get things going with a slugout as Kelly asks Nana about going after Donovan Dijak. Nana says the pieces of the puzzle are all in the letter and that's all Kelly needs to know. Coleman takes over but Ferrara tags himself in, much to his partner's annoyance.

A rollup gets two for Will but he goes with a much more effective German suplex to send Silas into the corner, meaning it's off to the much bigger Bruiser. For some reason Ferrara tries to slam the big man and gets crushed as he deserved after something that stupid. The villains take turns beating on Ferrara until Bruiser misses a charge and Coleman gets the lukewarm tag.

Everything breaks down and Bruiser tries a superplex on Coleman, only to have Ferrara run in for a powerbomb. The Sky Splitter is broken up but here come the Boys (so much for selling a big beatdown) for a distraction, allowing Ferrara to DDT Bruiser on the floor. Now the Sky Splitter is enough to put Young away at 6:10.

Rating: C. Not bad here but again I lost all interest in whatever Nana is doing months ago. If he wants to reform the Embassy or whatever then so be it but that's just it: so be it already. Instead of just giving people envelopes and showing them the way or whatever, do something because a Ferrara/Coleman/whoever else he has stable isn't exactly thrilling in the first place.

Here's the Decade with something to say. Whitmer has been hearing Steve Corino promising to come here tonight and have someone deal with BJ.

Corino has three friends in wrestling and most of them are gone from this company already. This brings out Corino, who doesn't exactly seem ready to fight.

No one wants to hear Whitmer talking week after week (I don't mind it) and now BJ thinks Corino is the one coming for him. That's going to happen one day but it's not just yet. Someone has come to Corino and offered to take Whitmer out....and apparently it's Adam Page. The brawl is quickly on and the fans have no issue cheering for Page as security comes in to break it up. This makes as much sense as anything else if Corino is too hurt to fight.

We run down the PPV card, including a video of All Night Express beating War Machine via DQ to set up their No DQ match. The triple threat main event gets a quick video as well.

Mark Briscoe vs. Tim Hughes

Hughes is small and very pale. Mark knocks him into the corner as you would expect from a star beating on a jobber in a squash match on the weekly TV show. A Russian legsweep gets two on Hughes but Tim comes back with a long sidewalk slam. That just earns him some Redneck Kung Fu and a fisherman's buster, followed by the Froggy Bow for the pin on Hughes at 3:50.

Rating: D. This was what it was with Mark getting a squash that he really didn't need. I'm not sure what they were going for here as Briscoe is ready for a big tag team showdown, so why give him something like this? Nothing to see here and on top of that it wasn't even all that entertaining.

ACH/Matt Sydal vs. Young Bucks

The IWGP Junior Heavyweight Tag Team Titles aren't on the line here and for the sake of simplicity I'll only refer to Matt Jackson as Matt. The handshakes take a while but thankfully they wait until after the break of the opening bell. Sydal slaps a belt out of Matt hand to start and it's an early superkick party to send the non-champions to the floor but Sydal dives out to drop both Bucks.

Back in and ACH dives in, followed by a leg lariat and dropkick to Matt. A bit too much posing allows Nick to score with a superkick though and it's time for a double superkick to send Sydal to the floor. The Bucks superkick an invisible ball into the crowd and we take a break. Back with Nick riding ACH's arm and posing on the apron like a heel should, even though he's a face here.

It's time for more invisible basketball but ACH trips them up, allowing Sydal to come in off the hot tag. Everything breaks down and the slingshot X-Factor drops ACH and it's yet another superkick party. More Bang For Your Buck is broken up but Sydal misses the Shooting Star, allowing Matt to hit another superkick. Nick's Swanton is good for two but More Bang For Your Buck is countered again with some raised knees. Now the Shooting Star connects on Matt for the big upset win at 10:11.

Rating: C. I'm not wild on the teams here and I'm not sure how much I like champions losing clean, even if they're champions in another promotion but there was something about that ending I did like. The Bucks' offense was countered and Sydal/ACH get another win over them, which again I know because Kelly told us that at the start of the match. It sounded like a minor detail to start but knowing that helps the story they're going for here. Again, well done and something so easy to do, which is what makes it so frustrating when most companies don't do it.

Overall Rating: C. This was fine for the most part, but again they're not exactly doing a great job of building up the pay per view. I know the World Title isn't always the most important thing in Ring of Honor but they seem to go out of their way to not have Lethal out there. It's nice for a change, but at times it becomes a bit annoying as whether Ring of Honor likes it or not, the World Title is going to be seen as the most important thing in the promotion. Still though, totally watchable show here, even with the midcard getting the focus.

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