

Ring of Honor TV – August 24, 2016: A Star Is Drawn

Ring of Honor

Date: August 24, 2016

Location: 2300 Arena, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Attendance: 850

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Kevin Kelly

We're past Death Before Dishonor but given the screwy taping schedule around here, it could be weeks before we actually get around to the next ongoing TV show. The big story at the moment is Adam Cole winning the ROH World Title without any help, ushering in the Bullet Club as the top group in the promotion. Let's get to it.

Jonathan Gresham vs. Hangman Page

Page spits on his hand before the opening handshake. Gresham, a bit disgusted, starts fast with a dropkick to send Page outside. That means a tease of a dive but Page catches the real thing in a fireman's carry and LAUNCHES HIM HEAD FIRST INTO THE POST. The loud thud made it far worse and we take a much needed early break.

Back with Page getting two off a suplex but Jonathan starts in on the arm to get a breather. A dragon suplex doesn't work so Gresham settles for a German suplex and a near fall instead. That means it's time for a Crossface, only to have Page easily power his way out and kick Jonathan to the floor. The Rite of Passage puts Gresham away at 6:55.

Rating: C. This was fine as Page is really surprising me since his latest heel turn. It's really annoying watching a team just add members who go nowhere so thankfully Page is actually making something out of this. Normally I'd talk about his huge win over Jay Briscoe at Death Before Dishonor but we can't go there yet since this show's schedule is all over the place.

The Cabinet is ready to beat up Dalton Castle and the Boys next week.

Video on Shane Taylor/Keith Lee vs. War Machine before their match next week.

The Young Bucks are ready for their World Tag Team Title shot next week and superkick the cameraman for no apparent reason.

Kamaitachi vs. Stuka Jr.

Stuka is from CMLL and flips around to start, setting up a dive to the floor to take Kamaitachi out. Christopher Daniels (Kamaitachi's mentor) breaks up an Asai Moonsault and stomps away as we take an early break. Back with Kamaitachi stomping away even more and going for the mask like a true heel. Since that's a bit too evil, Kamaitachi opts to just send Stuka into the barricade and choke with a chair.

Back in and it's time to go for the mask again before Kamaitachi stomps on the knee. Stuka finally gets up and limps to the top for a moonsault into raised boots to give Kamaitachi a near fall. In something as close to cheating as you can get, Stuka loads up Shattered Dreams but hits a running dropkick to the ribs instead. That's pushing it. They trade rollups for a few near falls each before the referee gets bumped, only to have Stuka dive onto Daniels. A top rope splash crushes Kamaitachi for no count so he pulls off Stuka's mask and small packages him for the pin at 14:11.

Rating: C-. This is the kind of stuff that I can't get into in any wrestling company, including Ring of Honor. Stuka is just someone from Mexico that I've never heard of and Kamaitachi's entire character is that he's Japanese and being mentored by the Addiction. I need more than that and an ok fourteen minutes of wrestling to keep my interest. The mask thing was fine but it would be nice to be told a little more about these people.

We recap the still stupid Kevin Sullivan/BJ Whitmer/Steve Corino story. Apparently Whitmer summoned Sullivan, who he sees as his spiritual father. It's all about spreading chaos over ROH and Sullivan wanted the two of them to do it. This feels like something out of ten years ago at best and that's not a good thing.

Jay Briscoe vs. Jay White

White has the Motor City Machine Guns in his corner. The much younger White takes Briscoe to the mat and grabs a rollup for two, which makes Briscoe take this more seriously. Briscoe forearms him in the corner and hits a running boot to the face for two. Back from a break with Briscoe slowly beating on White until a running forearm puts Briscoe down.

That's enough for Briscoe who knocks White outside for a HARD suicide dive. Another big boot doesn't make things any better for White and neither does the Death Valley Driver. The Jay Driller is broken up though and a German suplex gives White his first real offense. Back from another break (yes in this match) with White hitting a dropkick and Rock Bottom for two before grabbing a Crossface.

White switches it up into something like an abdominal stretch crossface (it's better looking than it sounds), sending Briscoe's foot into the ropes. Briscoe finally throws him off the top to take over and plants White with a superplex. Both guys are gassed so it's time to slug it out from their knees as TV time expires at 16:00.

Rating: B. That ending actually got me and well done Ring of Honor for not going with the tired "well the rookie tried but came up just short" ending. I completely understand why you don't want someone who has been around about a month to pin one of your top stars but it took some guts to go with a draw here instead of the Jay Driller for the pin. White looks like a player now and that's without a doubt the best thing they could have done. Well done indeed and a very legitimate surprise.

Overall Rating: C+. You can take or leave the rest of the show but the main event was one of the better booking decisions I've seen in a good while on a TV match. Sometimes you need to make a new star and while this isn't a career making moment, it's something that's going to get him noticed. I didn't expect that coming into this nothing show and I got a good match as a result, making this show a success.

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