

Ring of Honor TV – December 21, 2016: How to Treat a New World Champion

Ring of Honor

Date: December 21, 2016

Location: 2300 Arena, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Kevin Kelly

Final Battle has come and gone and we've got a new World Champion. Other than that we have a heel Cody Rhodes in Kevin Sullivan's back pocket because ROH has decided to sacrifice one of the biggest free agents on the indy scene for the sake of KEVIN SULLIVAN AND THIS HORRIBLE STORY. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the Final Battle main event with Kyle O'Reilly winning the ROH World Title.

Opening sequence.

Wait....why are we in an arena? I was promised a Best Of show last week and we've got an arena? Cool actually as I don't want to wait around for the storyline advancement.

Here's Kyle to open the show for his first address with the title. He's going to defend the title with honor like all of the former champions, such as Samoa Joe and Bryan Danielson. He says he could go on and on but I'm not sure for how long given that he's the 24th champion.

Cue Adam Cole to say he didn't sign up for a No DQ match because he's a wrestler. This brings out Dalton Castle to say he doesn't like being a peacock left out of the conversation. He's a dangerous man in the ring but more importantly he's related to a math teacher, which means he's next in line for a title shot after defeating Cole at All-Stars vs. Champions.

Now it's Bobby Fish to come out and congratulate his brother on winning the title. Oh and he'd like a title shot too due to winning Survival of the Fittest. Cole goes on another rant about wanting the title shot so Kyle tells them all good luck because anyone can have

a shot.

We'll be having a tournament (because one just ended at the last show) called the Decade of Excellence Tournament with the winner facing the champ at the net pay per view. The participants are all people who were here over ten years ago, which might not be the best marketing plan. And we've got brackets!

Mark Briscoe

Christopher Daniels

Chris Sabin

Colt Cabana

BJ Whitmer

Jay Briscoe

Jay Lethal

Jushin Thunder Liger

Nigel has made a six man tag between Cole/Young Bucks vs. O'Reilly/Castle/Fish. I've heard worse.

Decade of Excellence Tournament First Round: Mark Briscoe vs. Christopher Daniels

Apparently Daniels mentored Mark when he first got here. Feeling out process to start with shoulder blocks having no effect all around. The threat of Red Neck Kung Fu backs Daniels up but he does his own crane pose. Mark hammers away in the corner until an STO gives Daniels a breather.

Back from a break with Daniels still in control and something like a neckbreaker getting two. Briscoe fights back and hits a running uppercut in the corner, followed by a high collar suplex to send Daniels flying. Christopher comes right back with a Blue Thunder Bomb into a Lionsault for two. They head outside as this just kind of keeps going with Mark dropping the Cactus Jack elbow from the apron. Back in and the Froggy Bow misses, setting up Angel's Wings to give Daniels the pin at 11:03.

Rating: C. The match was fine enough for a pair of veterans with no real animosity towards each other but needing to have a match in a tournament. That's the problem I have with most of these things but at least Daniels is getting rewarded for his awesome talking in

recent weeks. Good little match here.

Lio Rush vs. Caprice Coleman

Before the match, King offers Rush a spot on the team but that doesn't seem to be happening because Rush stands for respect. Coleman: "I see why they don't hand you the mic too much." This turns into a huge rant about Coleman beating Rush like he stole something and getting thrown in jail for it, only to come back here and beat Rush again even more. Rush wins off a missed charge into a rollup at 20 seconds.

The Rebellion beats Rush down until Donovan Dijak and Jay White make the save.

Young Bucks/Adam Cole vs. Kyle O'Reilly/Bobby Fish/Dalton Castle

The Bucks beat down the good guys to start because the Bucks are the most popular wrestlers in the company. Cole takes the advantage but gets into a slugout with Kyle, who actually loses early on. Kyle sends him outside for a running knee from the apron as all six are on the floor.

That means a bunch of superkicks from the Bucks so the fans can chant TOO SWEET for a long time. A triple dive takes the good guys down and a bunch of apron bombs allow even more Bucks dominance. Things settle back down to Cole putting Cole in a camel clutch while the Bucks kiss Adam's cheeks because this is yow you push a new WORLD CHAMPION.

Back from a break with Nick getting crotched on top but the Bullet Club breaking up the tag attempt. Three straight superkicks knock Kyle out and the Swanton off the apron keeps the Bucks looking perfect. Kyle finally blocks a splash with raised knees and the hot tag brings in Dalton for three straight German suplexes.

Stereo German suplexes get a triple two count on the Club, followed by a double clothesline to put Matt and Castle down. That means the hot tag off to Fish and everything breaks down with ReDRagon taking over. We've had enough offense from one of the best teams ever so let's have some more superkicks, only to have Kyle pull Nick into the triangle choke. The cross armbreaker makes Nick tap at 11:41.

Rating: C. The win helps a lot but GEEZ was there no other option than having the Bucks go crazy like that on the brand new World Champion? I get it: the Bucks are the most popular act in the

company right now and can do superkicks. That doesn't mean we have to have them beat up anyone they want like this.

Next week is the Best of 2016. Kind of odd to have a regular show and then the compilation but I've heard worse ideas.

Overall Rating: D+. This was a rather up and down show as some of the booking made me want to pull my hair out but the wrestling was good enough to make up for parts of it. I like the idea of Kyle fighting half the roster for the title but I could go for less Bucks being treated like the most untouchable thing ever. Then again, Kyle did make one of them tap out to end the show and that helps a lot.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up my new book, KB's Complete Monday Nitro and Thunder Reviews Volume V at Amazon for just \$3.99 at:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01MQKDV50>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>