

Ring of Honor TV – February 22, 2017: It Doesn't Balance Out

Ring of Honor

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Location: Center Stage Theater, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentator: Kevin Kelly

We're finally ready for the end of the Decade of Excellence Tournament with Jay Briscoe vs. Christopher Daniels in what should be a pretty obvious ending based on the story they've been going with. Other than that there's a good chance we'll be seeing more Bullet Club because that's how this place works. Let's get to it.

The opening recap of course looks at the tournament, as it should.

Opening sequence.

Silas Young vs. Bull James

An early Beer City Bruiser distraction lets Silas get in a few early cheap shots but James puts his feet on Silas' shoulders and pulls him out to the floor. That was supposed to be an ankle scissors but the lack of ANY grip around Silas' head made it clear he was flipping himself. Another Bruiser distraction lets Silas hit a flip dive to take James down and we take a break.

Back with Young working on a cravate as the fans tell someone that they're fat. It's not a good sign when you can't tell if they're yelling at the face in the match or the heel manager. Bull makes his comeback with a Flip Flop and Fly followed by an elbow for two (you're no Dusty Rhodes kid). James goes up but opts to run (work with me here) at the Bruiser for a tornado DDT off the apron instead. Back in and Misery puts James away at 7:48.

Rating: D-. Matt Borne told Bull James that he would make a million dollars in this business. I think this is proof that Borne wasn't

that bright. This is a rare match where all the good is on one guy and all the bad is on another. James is just big, slow and completely uninteresting. Young was doing what he could be he was limited by dealing with a horrible opponent.

Jay Briscoe was the first man to come through the curtain at a Ring of Honor show and it's all about the numbers. It's been fifteen years, ten years, eight time Tag Team Champion, three time World Champion or whatever. All that matters now is one, and that's Christopher Daniels.

We look back at Bobby Fish's rise to the main event, including winning Survival of the Fittest and then making Adam Cole tap last week. Those were just steps towards becoming World Champion because that's the only thing that matters. No one works harder than he does and he promises to win the World Title on March 4. Fish has dominated every title he's ever set his sight on and this will be no different. He gets in a good catchphrase with "Being Bobby Fish is good enough."

Colt Cabana vs. The Boys

Yes this feud is still going. Before the match, Cabana laughs off the idea of Dalton Castle (on commentary here) thinking he's the better man. Cabana: "I'm a legend!" Dalton names them #1 and #2 as the beating begins, despite the lack of an opening bell. Colt easily works them over until a double pose sends him outside. Back from a break (In this match?) with Cabana doing some Bionic Elbows and hiptossing #1 over the top for a big crash. Colt throws #1 into Dalton, hits the Chicago Skyline on #2 and grabs the Billy Goat's Curse for the tap out at about 6:00. Not enough to rate but it was a long squash.

Daniels lists all of his accomplishments but none of them matter without winning the World Title. It is his destiny to win the title and it will cement him as the best instead of the best that never was.

Video on the history of the Top Prospect Tournament, which starts up next week.

Mark Briscoe and Frankie Kazarian come out for commentary on the main event. That's a good idea actually.

Decade of Excellence Tournament Finals: Jay Briscoe vs. Christopher Daniels

The winner gets a World Title match at the Fifteenth Anniversary Show. Before the match, Daniels says Briscoe is the last obstacle between him and destiny. Briscoe says this isn't personal at all. Feeling out process to start and both guys fail at an early finisher. Back from a break with Jay having to fight out of a headlock with the announcers keeping things calm.

Briscoe starts swinging and kicks Daniels in the face to take over as it seems he's playing the default heel, though it's not like the fans dislike either guy. Daniels gets in an STO and scores with a Lionsault for two. There's a Koji Clutch (love that move) for a good bit until Jay makes the rope.

Angel's Wings have to be broken up and Kazarian is quoting Karate Kid. Back from a second break with Jay hitting a suicide dive but getting caught with a springboard moonsault to put both guys down on the floor. The seconds both head to ringside and it's a double crossbody to put both guys down inside. Double clotheslines have no effect so it's time for a slugout. A quick Angel's Wings gets two on Jay and frustration is setting in.

Jay is slow to get up but grabs the Death Valley Driver for a breather. Daniels misses the BME and gets his head taken off with a clothesline for two more. The drama is getting really strong here and the fans are split, as you might expect. With the Jay Driller not working, Jay takes him to the top but gets crotched for his efforts. A super Angel's Wings is enough to give Daniels the tournament at 18:03.

Rating: B. Good, clean ending here and that's all it should have been. This didn't need to be an angle filled match because Daniels is going to be the mega face going into the title match and you don't need some stupid cheating to get him there. I'm actually wanting to see Daniels win the title and that's not something I

expected. I've never been a big Daniels guy but they've nailed the story here and that's what matters.

They shake hands to end the show.

Overall Rating: D. That main event was good but it's not enough to make up for the rest of the show being such a disaster. It really is telling to see how horrible the rest of the show is compared to the one good thing they have going at the moment. Ring of Honor is a mess at the moment and I can't imagine things getting much better anytime soon. We're coming up on Wrestlemania season, which should be the biggest time of the year for any promotion, but there's nothing even lukewarm right now around here and that's a very bad sign.

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