

Ring of Honor TV – May 31, 2017: Timing is Everything

Ring of Honor

Date: May 31, 2017

Location: 2300 Arena, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Colt Cabana

We're back to the regular shows this week after a quick trip to Japan (and back in time about three months). That means it's time to deal with the War of the Worlds fallout along with starting the build towards Best in the World on June 23. Christopher Daniels is still World Champion but it's hard to say who challenges him next. Let's get to it.

We look back at War of the Worlds where Adam Cole seemingly finished up with the promotion with a Bullet Club sendoff. Bullet Club leader Kenny Omega came on screen and said this was the end of Cole's fairy tale because there was a new member of the team. This brought out Marty Scurll for the big beatdown to a very strong reaction.

Opening sequence.

Here's Bullet Club to open things up. The Young Bucks brag about what happened and say no one saw that coming, unless you watch their YouTube series. They bring out Scurll to talk about how it's time for a new era in the Bullet Club because they needed some villainy. Instead of a Superkick Party, let's have a tea party. Scurll: "Bring out the crumpets!"

Actually it's Adam Cole to a huge reaction. Cole thinks we should have story time instead of a tea party. He lists off his resume and talks about what a mistake it was for Bullet Club to make an enemy. Hangman Page says he's going to run Cole out of this company and a match is made for some point.

Clip of David Starr laying out Josh Woods. Who is Starr you ask? Eh not important as you're just supposed to know that coming in.

David Starr vs. Josh Woods

Despite being the heel, Starr is the hometown boy and has a bunch of monikers, including "Your Favorite Wrestler's Favorite Wrestler." Woods takes him into the corner and strikes away, earning quite a few boos. A springboard clothesline sends Woods outside but he grabs a fall away slam on the floor.

They head back in with Starr grabbing a DDT on the apron, followed by a hard clothesline. Starr's superkick gets two but Woods reverses into a LeBell Lock. Back up and they slug it out with Starr kneeing him in the face but getting pulled down into a heel hook. Woods takes him into the corner and grabs a kneebar for the tap at 4:35.

Rating: C. As I've asked every time he's been mentioned: WHO IS DAVID STARR??? I've seen him twice now and still have no idea who he is, why he attacked Woods or anything else, other than he's from Philadelphia. Maybe this was explained elsewhere but would it be asking too much to have the announcers tell us about that?

Video on Punishment Martinez.

Cole vs. Page next week.

Here are Silas Young and Beer City Bruiser for a chat. Young is coming off a victory over Jay Lethal (not mentioned until now) who he also attacked backstage after the loss. We saw the attack but not the win, which is why this company is so hard to follow at times. Young brags about his victory over Lethal and says he has Jay's number. Cue Lethal to say let's fight so Silas bails, setting up this.

Beer City Bruiser vs. Jay Lethal

Bruiser punches away in the corner to start as Young is on commentary. Lethal dropkicks him outside and chops Bruiser up against the barricade for a running Cannonball. Back from a break with Bruiser hitting a running right hand in the corner as the fans think Bruiser still sucks. It's off to some shots to Lethal's knee but Jay is quickly out and kicking Bruiser in the face. Lethal can't hit the top rope elbow but can hit a dive to the floor, only to have

Young start a brawl for the DQ at 10:13.

Rating: D+. I'm still not buying into the idea of Young as a star as they've teased pushing him multiple times not but haven't gone anywhere. Having him beat Lethal is fine but is there a reason that we only saw/heard about his win now, after they did the angle with the knee injury. The match was just a way to set up a rematch and that's fine.

Bobby Fish comes out to save Lethal.

We look back at the end of the War of the Worlds Main event with Daniels pinning Cody, who had Lethal in a Figure Four.

Cody vs. Frankie Kazarian

Before the match, Cody says he wants a rematch with Daniels because, as Cabana said on the pay per view's commentary, the Figure Four should have had Lethal pinned. Kazarian goes right after him to start and we head outside for a Frankie dive. A swinging neckbreaker takes us to a break but we come back with Kazarian in trouble on the floor.

Cody gets two off a delayed gordbuster and an Alabama Slam as the fans are split on their favorite. A butterfly arm crank keeps Kazarian down for a bit before it's time to stomp on the ankle. The Beautiful Disaster sends Kazarian outside, only to have him catch Cody with a crossbody as we take a second break.

Back again with Cody's kick to the ribs and another Beautiful Disaster for two. Kazarian grabs an Unprettier for two, followed by a cutter for the same. Not that it matters as Kazarian kicks him in the face and tries a neckbreaker but gets caught in Cross Rhodes for the pin at 17:35.

Rating: C+. This was an easy way to keep Cody looking strong before what is likely a one on one rematch for the title against Daniels at Best in the World. Beating the best friend is a classic idea, even if it's basically the same story they did in the previous match. You can't expect them to come up with another idea so soon though.

Hangman Page comes in to beat on Kazarian but Daniels runs in for

the save to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. I think I could go for more of this building to the pay per view several weeks in advance. I've never understood how their taping schedule works but at this rate they'll have three weeks to build to a pay per view, which actually feels like something that could work for a change. Good show this week with stories being advanced and the build towards what is likely the World Title match being started.

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