

Ring of Honor TV – July 26, 2017: Happy Humphrey Would Be Proud

Ring of Honor

Date: July 19, 2017

Location: Lowell Memorial Auditorium, Lowell, Massachusetts

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Rico De La Vega

It's back to the title picture tonight as Kushida is defending the TV Title against Jay White in what could be a good match, assuming Punishment Martinez doesn't interfere. There's also a six way match because where in the world would we be without throwing a bunch of people into a match with no particular rhyme or reason? Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

De La Vega is from Future of Honor and Women of Honor and sounds like an Armando Alejandro Estrada knockoff.

The Young Bucks and Adam Page are in the ring to start. They want the Six Man Tag Team Titles you can consider the title match booked. That's enough from them though as they bring out Marty Scurll for the opener.

Marty Scurll vs. Frankie Kazarian vs. Josh Woods vs. Vinny Marseglia vs. Will Ferrara vs. El Terrible

One fall to a finish with tagging required, though lucha rules apply. We do the fast paced tagging with no action to start until it's Ferrara vs. Kazarian to really get us going. Kazarian grabs a hiptoss to start but Woods tags himself in to face Ferrara. Will's thrust to the neck has no effect so he tags in Marseglia instead.

Terrible comes in to chop it out with Vinny and the rather gutty Terrible gets sent into the corner where he no sells a forearm to the jaw. Scurll breaks up a cover off a DDT and it's Kazarian vs. Terrible. A hard clothesline drops Kazarian and we take a break. Back with Marseglia and

Ferrara in the ring as everything breaks down around them. Woods sends Ferrara outside and hits a slow motion running knee to the jaw.

Cue Shane Taylor to beat Woods up, leaving us to hit the parade of secondary finishers, capped off by Marseglia's Swanton on Ferrara. Scruell tries the chickenwing but gets chased off, leaving Kazarian to hit a Backstabber and Unprettier on Terrible. Scurll runs in to throw Kazarian out though and pins Terrible at 11:07.

Rating: C. I really don't care for this kind of match as there's too much going on and nothing really gets advanced. Scurll breaking up pins and then stealing the fall was a good way to push him, though I could have gone for this meaning something (maybe a title shot or a spot in a #1 contenders match). It was a way to fill eleven minutes but nothing with much value.

Christopher Daniels agrees to face Cody for the ROH World Title in two weeks but wants it to be 2/3 falls.

Beer City Bruiser vs. Brian Milonas

Milonas is a rather large tub of goo from the Top Prospect Tournament where he didn't do much for me. They do the big collision of the stomachs to start and Milonas actually hits a fall away slam. Silas Young offers a distraction though and Bruiser sends him outside for the Cannonball from the apron. Back in and Bruiser hits a running shot to the face, followed by a boot the same general area for two. Milonas catches him on the top with a superplex but misses the middle rope legdrop. Bruiser kicks him in the face again and hits the frog splash for the pin at 4:59.

Rating: D-. See, they're both big and overweight so it's interesting. Ring of Honor is a company that is supposed to be the next generation of wrestling or whatever but this was straight out of Vince McMahon's playbook in the 1980s, if not far before in the days of people like the McGuire Twins or Happy Humphrey. Milonas is embarrassingly huge and made Bruiser look good by comparison.

Post match Young says it's going to be a long time before Jay Lethal is back.

TV Title: Kushida vs. Jay White

Kushida is defending and this has potential as I like both guys. Feeling out process to start with White taking him down by the arm. De La Vega is getting even more irritating as he starts telling Ian to shut up in Spanish, just like almost every other evil Hispanic wrestling character ever. Back up and Kushida hiptosses him down for the basement dropkick to take over. White trips the champ up though and we take a break.

Back with White slamming him out of the corner for two and we hit the chinlock. A Muta Lock with White pulling on the arm for extra leverage sends Kushida bailing to the ropes. Kushida sends him outside for a dive though and it's time to get fired up. White grabs the rolling single underhook suplexes to cut him off, including a third into the corner. Another suplex is countered into the Hoverboard Lock with a bodyscissors, only to have White power out.

A Flatliner and dead lift German suplex give White two but Kushida is right back with another Hoverboard Lock. White gets to the ropes and we take a second break. Back with White elbowing the heck out of White's head and grabbing a cobra clutch on the mat. That doesn't do much for White so he tries the Kiwi Crusher but Kushida reverses into a small package for two.

A kick to the head drops White again and we get a breather. White is up first and hits the Kiwi Crusher but the bad arm means a bad cover so Kushida can kick out. Back up and White slugs away to put both guys down again. Kushida catches him on top and grabs the Hoverboard Lock up there. That's not enough as he superplexes White down and hits Back to the Future to retain at 14:40.

Rating: B. That's what I was expecting with the arm work playing into the match and the finish. Kushida is pretty easily my favorite New Japan guy and he works some of their best matches every single night. White was no slouch here either as he wrestled his usual good match, which has a simple style but does everything it needs to do.

Post match they shake hands as #1 contender Kenny King (Then why did White get the shot here?) comes out to stare Kushida down and end the

show.

Next week: Women of Honor! Uh...great.

Overall Rating: C+. Good show this week and we have something special to look forward to in two weeks. The main event is solid and makes Kushida, as well as the title, look more important, though hopefully we get the talented King instead of the one who feels like the Gold Standard Shelton Benjamin. I liked the show more than usual and, save for the bad yet short middle match, it's worth checking out.

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