

Ring of Honor TV – April 25, 2018: Timing Is Everything



IMG Credit: Ring of Honor

Ring of Honor

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So I had a full introduction written up talking about how this is the start of a new taping cycle and we finally get some storyline advancement before War of the Worlds. Then I started watching the show...and it's a special on the Women of Honor tournament. Yes indeed, we're going to go nearly a month between storyline advancement shows because Ring of Honor is really weird sometimes. Let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

Ian and Colt welcome us to the show and explain what we'll be seeing tonight. You know, as in stuff we've seen before.

We see highlights from some of the opening round matches, mainly focusing on Kelly Klein.

From the Supercard of Honor pre-show.

Women of Honor Title Tournament Semifinals: Kelly Klein vs. Mayu Iwatani

Feeling out process to start and they hit the mat for some grappling to

no avail. Iwatani sweeps the leg and kicks her in the chest as they're still in first gear. Kelly kicks her in the face to take over and drives some knees into the head. A clothesline turns Iwatani inside out and we take a break.

Back with Kelly choking in the corner and going up, earning herself a kick to the head. A super hurricanrana brings Klein down and Iwatani gets two off a top rope double stomp. That's not enough for a cover so Iwatani drops a frog splash for two instead. Klein grabs a front face DDT and something like a Samoan driver for two of her own. Instead it's the guillotine choke and Iwatani is out at 11:35.

Rating: C. Not bad here and Klein continues to look like she's a few miles ahead of everyone else in the tournament. That makes me expect someone to beat her in the finals, just for the sake of the surprise to wrap things up. Iwatani was working here and the match was entertaining, though it's odd to see her brought in for a loss on the Kickoff Show.

We look at more early round matches, including Tenille Dashwood debuting.

Again from the Supercard of Honor pre-show.

Women of Honor Title Tournament Semifinals: Tenille Dashwood vs. Sumie Sakai

Sumie grabs an early fisherman's suplex for two but Tenille is right back with the Tarantula. It's time to go after Sumie's knee with a leglock but she's right back up with a cross armbreaker. Tenille stacks her up for two so Sakai reverses into a Crossface. That's reversed as well and Sumie's misses charge hits turnbuckle.

The Taste of Tenille gets two but Sumie is right back up with Smashmouse (reverse Cross Rhodes) for two of her own. Sumie gets caught on top with a release German superplex for two and you can see the frustration setting in. The Spotlight Kick misses though and Sumie grabs a crucifix for the pin at 7:57.

Rating: C+. Well that happened. This whole thing was screaming Dashwood vs. Klein in the finals but instead we'll go with the uninteresting

choice because she's been around for a long time or something. I've seen Sakai on and off for a few years now and I still have no idea why I'm supposed to be interested in her. She's not that great in the ring and doesn't have a character, but she's been around for a long time so I'm supposed to be interested I guess.

Post match Klein comes in for the photo op and decks Sakai with a forearm during the handshake.

From Supercard of Honor.

Daffney is ringside for the finals.

Women of Honor Title: Kelly Klein vs. Sumie Sakai

Sakai jumps her during the entrances and stomps away in the corner to rock Klein. A release German suplex drops Sakai though and Klein is confident enough to put in the mouth guard. They head outside with Klein sending her into the barricade and we take an early break.

Back in a hurry with Klein getting two but getting powerbombed off the top. Klein's fall away slam and release German suplex put them both down and here's the women's division to watch from ringside. They slug it out from their knees, which doesn't work so well about five minutes into the match. Kelly's kick to the chest gets two but Sakai is right back with a fisherman's buster. A moonsault (more like a moonsault headbutt) doesn't do much damage to Klein so Sakai goes with a DDT for the pin and the title instead at 8:40. That's Klein's first pinfall loss in Ring of Honor.

Rating: C+. So after all that, the final was (without the commercial) less than eight minutes long? I know they were going for the big epic moment here but egads let them have a little more time here. I'm not getting Sakai winning the title but they backed themselves into a corner here as there's not much interest in having the champion be this undefeated monster. Sakai doesn't do anything for me though and putting the title on her because she's been here for a long time isn't the best thinking in the world.

Sakai celebrates and shakes Klein's hand.

Overall Rating: C-. The wrestling wasn't bad but this was the wrong time to air a best of/recap show. By the time we get to next week's show, nearly a month will have passed since Supercard of Honor. I'm really not sure why we have to wait this long and that gets really annoying after awhile. The show was fine for what it was, but it was the wrong time to air something like this.

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