

Double Or Nothing Preview



IMG Credit: Fite TV

It's about time. Nearly nine months have passed since All In and that means it's time to finally move forward. A lot of fans, myself included, have been wanting to see how Double Or Nothing goes as it could be the start of something that changes the future of wrestling. I'm not sure how things are going to go, but they have their work cut out for them. The talent is there though and that gives me some hope. Let's get to it.

Pre-Show: Casino Battle Royal

Earlier this week, the announcement came down that the winner of this will be competing for the World Title against the winner of Chris Jericho/Kenny Omega. Now that makes things a lot more interesting as the match suddenly goes from the get everyone on the card to a #1 contenders match. At the moment there are seventeen out of twenty one entrants named, meaning the big one at the end is going to be a major surprise.

I know the money move would be Jon Moxley, but I just don't think it's going to be him. He would be the big ace, but wouldn't it make more sense to have him show up at the end of

the show as the big surprise? I'll go with someone who would serve both as a surprise and as someone with some star power and pick John Hennigan (probably Johnny Elite this time around). He's a former Impact World Champion and has made a name for himself in recent months. It's a safe bet and getting him back on the big stage would be a good way to start the show. Most of the rest of the field is immaterial, which is the case in most battle royals.

Pre-Show: Kip Sabian vs. Sammy Guevara

This is the first match where you might not have heard of the wrestlers and hopefully you're in for a treat. Sabian is a British wrestler (and not to be confused with the one from CZW who occasionally wrestled in TNA as Sabian) who was on World of Sport (not everyone is perfect) and Guevara is one of the most easily hateable wrestlers in the world today. He's obsessed with pushing his social media channels and will often stop his matches to plug them.

I'll go with Guevara here as he's one of the best heels going today and someone who could get over very well in a place like AEW. Let him get out there and annoy the crowd so much that they want to see him get beaten up. The most important thing AEW needs to do is build up some stars and Guevara is the kind of person who could be a nice name for them going forward.

Best Friends vs. Angelico/Jack Evans

You knew the Best Friends would be on here somewhere. I'm not their biggest fan as some of their bits seem to be old jokes that they've done before and if you weren't there at first, you might not get what they're doing. Their matches are usually pretty good though and they're crazy popular with that big hug being one of the most over spots around today. It makes sense to have them here, even if I'm not wild on them.

And of course the Best Friends win here, as Evans and Angelico are a nice team but nowhere near as important as the Best

Friends could be. With the promotion seemingly putting a priority on tag wrestling, having another team like the Best Friends built up is a smart move. The match should be entertaining too so hopefully this will be more positive than I'm expecting.

So Cal Uncensored vs. Strong Hearts

The Strong Hearts are Cima, T-Hawk and El Lindaman and are part of the Oriental Wrestling Entertainment contingent. These guys seem like the cruiserweights from the early days of Nitro and that's not a bad group of people to have around. This place needs some talent that fans aren't familiar with but need to go out of their way to see. If that's the case with the OWE guys, so be it and maybe it can work.

I'll go with the Strong Hearts to win here as there is little reason to have them lose. So Cal Uncensored are already a known group (well more known than the OWE group) and there is almost no reason to have them lose. Let them do their shtick and get the crowd going and then lose a hot match. It gets both sides over with the fans and hopefully the masses while showing that they can both go somewhere.

Aja Kong/Yuka Sakazaki/Emi Sakura vs. Hikaru Shida/Riho Abe/Ryo Mizunami

This is another match designed to throw something different on the card, which makes sense as Japanese women's wrestling is certainly a strong niche product. The stars can become big deals in a hurry, such as Asuka who took both NXT and WWE by storm in a hurry. Much like the OWE stars, this could work very well if done right and there's a real chance it could happen here.

I'll go with Kong's team as Kong is a legend and the kind of star that the promotion would like to push for a one off appearance. This feels like an old vs. new match and at some point the old has to win something. If nothing else it gives

us an excuse to see the spinning backfist from Kong, which is always worth a look. It's going to be a fine showcase though, and that's what matters most here.

Britt Baker vs. Kylie Rae vs. Nyla Rose

This is an interesting one as Rose is the first ever trans woman to be wrestling for a major company. Baker is best known for being the wrestling dentist and Adam Cole's girlfriend. Rae on the other hand caught my attention over WrestleMania weekend and is basically the original Bayley combined with Dakota Kai. That can make for an interesting match as the women's division starts up.

I'll take Baker to win here but none of them are exactly running away with the thing. Rae is such a gimmicky character and Rose is an unknown, leaving Baker as the talented yet not exactly thrilling best option. It should be a fun match with a good look at some of the female wrestlers, though I'm not expecting to be blown away based on past experiences.

Dustin Rhodes vs. Cody

I know this one is getting some hype as of late and I'm really not sure why. They had a few matches back in WWE and none of them were anything more than ok at best. Maybe this one will be a little bit better as Rhodes doesn't have the WWE shackles on him anymore, but I'm really not getting my hopes up for this one. It's not a match that I care to see as the idea of battling brothers feels both cliched and forced.

I'll go with Cody winning here as he's the most important guy in the company and is going to be around a lot more than Rhodes going forward. At the end of the day, Rhodes is fifty years old and hasn't wrestled in a little while due to an injury. Maybe the match will be fine, but Rhodes as himself hasn't been an interesting thing to see in about twenty five years. I get what they're going for here, but that's not exactly something that is guaranteed to work.

AAA Tag Team Titles: Young Bucks(c) vs. Lucha Bros

The Bucks showed up Rey de Reyes and took the titles from the Bros the night the Bros won them. It gives the match something on the line since the AEW Tag Team Titles aren't around yet, which is as good of an idea as anything else. This is all but guaranteed to be the show stealer as these are two of the best teams in the world, even though the Bucks have only wrestled twice this year and not in over two months.

We'll flip a coin here and go with the Bros winning, though I could see this being a match that we see again for the AEW Tag Team Titles not that far down the line. These guys are going to tear the house down and that's the kind of thing the show leaves. I believe I heard something about this headlining the show, which makes sense as it's the only title match on the card. The place is going to be bananas for the Bucks in the first place and the Lucha Bros will be right there with them. It's going to be awesome though and that's what this place is built on.

Kenny Omega vs. Chris Jericho

So that leaves us with this one and I'm not sure where they're going here. Omega won the first match between the two and in a normal wrestling promotion, you would go with Jericho winning here to even the score, but AEW doesn't seem to be a normal wrestling promotion. That being said though, this is for the #1 contendership to the World Title and that makes things more interesting.

I'm going with Jericho, who seems to be the right choice to have in the World Title match. If the company is building towards the future and the masses, having someone beat Jericho for the title is the right way to go. Omega can become the star later on with his show stealing abilities, but until he becomes a bigger name, this should go to Jericho and I believe that it will.

Overall Thoughts

I was more excited for All In but this show is more important (I think). The company needs to get off on the right foot and now it's going to be interesting to see where things go when they're on their own. It's also going to give you an indication of where things are going as the next show is taking place in about a month. They're starting to do this regularly and the path has to start somewhere. That's where we are on Saturday and I'm curious to see where things are going. Hopefully it's in the right direction.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the paperback edition of KB's Complete 2000 Monday Nitro and Thunder Reviews Part 1 (also available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2019/02/22/new-book-kbs-monday-nitro-thunder-reviews-volume-vii-january-june-2000/>

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

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