

Ring Of Honor TV – March 2, 2022 (CM Punk Hall Of Fame): He Deserves It

Ring Of Honor

Date: March 2, 2022

We have one more Hall of Fame special here and this time we are looking at CM Punk. This is one of the big ones as Punk played such a role in putting Ring of Honor on the map. Between his feuds with Raven and Samoa Joe, plus the Summer of Punk, there is a lot to pick from here and that makes things all the more fun. Let's get to it.

We open with Punk's Hall of Fame video, including a look at straightedge, plus the highlights of his Ring of Honor career.

From Death Before Dishonor III on June 18, 2005.

Ring of Honor World Title: CM Punk vs. Austin Aries

Aries is defending and drives Punk up against the ropes off a lockup. With that not going anywhere, they fight over a series of standing switches until Punk backs him into the corner for a break. Aries is back up with a middle rope elbow to the face before grinding away on a headlock. Punk reverses to a headscissors to work on Aries' bad neck, allowing commentary to talk about all of the great things Punk will be able to do after joining WWE. Like main eventing Wrestlemania!

We take a break and come back with Punk dropping a knee for two and staying on the neck. After escaping Aries' brainbuster attempt, Punk grabs a neckbreaker for two and the nerve hold goes on. Back up and Punk hits an elbow to put him on the floor, setting up the big suicide dive. Commentary: "When there is a Ring of Honor Hall of Fame in twenty years, Punk

will be on the first ballot." Eh 17 but close enough. Aries manages to pull him to the apron and the two of them crash out to the floor.

We take another break and come back again with Punk striking away, including some running elbows to the face. Some Hulk Hogan pointing YOU'S set up more forearms and a crossbody gives Punk two. The fans are all over Aries as he comes back but still can't hit a brainbuster. Punk gets two off a backslide but Aries grabs a quick piledriver. A Regal Roll looks to set up the 450 but Punk slams him off the top and hits a Shining Wizard for two.

Aries catches him on top for a change and what looks to be a super brainbuster gets two of his own. Punk breaks up the 450 again but this time Aries hits his own Pepsi Plunge, setting up the 450. This time Punk pulls him straight into the Anaconda Vice until Aries slips out as well. A TKO of all things gives Punk two and the Pepsi Plunge makes Punk champion at 30:26.

Rating: B+. This was a good one with Punk finally getting to the gold, which is something that had seemed to be set up for a long time. It's still strange to see this version of Punk who could work at such a high, fast paced level but you can certainly see just how good he was back in these earlier days. WWE certainly seemed to get it and that is where the history really got started. Heck of a match.

We look at Punk winning the Tag Team Titles with Colt Cabana as the Second City Saints.

Then the Second City Saints won the titles again!

From Escape From New York on July 9, 2005.

Ring of Honor World Title: CM Punk vs. Roderick Strong

Strong is challenging and is the next big hope as Punk is WWE bound soon and has to lose the title before he leaves. Punk

chops him into the corner to start and then runs into the other corner when Strong tries to come back. They fight over arm control until Punk takes him down for a chop to the back. Again, the threat of Strong coming after him sends Punk outside but he comes back in for a headlock. Back up and Strong hits a running clothesline but goes so hard that he hits the floor before Punk.

We take a break and come back with Punk chopping away in the corner and grabbing another headlock on the mat. Strong fights up again and gets in his own set of chops to knock Punk outside. That means the suicide dive before Punk gets sent into the barricade. A big chop knocks Punk into the crowd so Strong brings him back inside for the first backbreaker. Fans: "BREAK HIS BACK!"

A belly to back suplex puts Punk down again and we take a break. Back again with Strong charging into a hotshot and Punk hitting a basement dropkick to the back of the head. Strong hits a middle rope spinning crossbody but gets his head clotheslined off. A delayed vertical suplex gets a delayed two and Punk grabs another chinlock.

We take another break and come back again with Strong hitting another backbreaker. Strong strikes away and gets two off a dropkick. A Rock Bottom backbreaker gets two but Punk slips out of the half nelson backbreaker and hits a Shining Wizard. The Anaconda Vice goes on but Strong gets a boot on the rope for the break.

The Pepsi Twist sets up a missed springboard legdrop and Strong grabs the Stronghold. Punk goes straight to the ropes and is back up with a hammerlock DDT for two. The kickout annoys Punk so much that he takes his elbow pad off but the running elbow is countered into a series of backbreakers for a close two. Strong tries an O'Connor roll but Punk stacks him up and gets the pin to retain at 26:28.

Rating: B. Strong is a weird case where he can have a good match with anyone but there is a pretty firm ceiling above those matches. He can only reach a certain level, but at the same time, the level he reaches is better than just about anyone else. Another pretty awesome match here as the desperation to get the title off of Punk continues.

One more Punk video wraps us up.

Overall Rating: A-. Like these shows could be anything less than great, which is what we got here again. Ring of Honor knows how to open up the vault really well because there is a lot of amazing content in there. I have had a blast with these Hall of Fame shows and it is going to be awesome when the content winds up on some bigger streaming service so we can see some of that stuff. As for Punk, he's one of the Ring of Honor legends for a reason and it was cool to see something like this, even if it was pretty condensed.

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