

Ring Of Honor TV – April 13, 2022: The Talent And The Influence

Ring Of Honor

Date: April 13, 2022

We're still in the vault years and that has been a lot of fun so far. There is so much great material throughout Ring Of Honor's history and it is a blast to pull out some random matches and see what else is in there. I have no idea what to expect here and that is always a nice feeling. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

From the 2nd Anniversary Show, February 14, 2004.

Pure Wrestling Title: CM Punk vs. AJ Styles

For the inaugural title. Feeling out process to start with Punk being sent into the ropes, which counts for the first (of three rope breaks). Styles gets backed up as well and grabs the rope for a reversal, which means a break of his own (even if it didn't seem intentional). They run the ropes until AJ slips to the floor to go after Traci Brooks (Punk's manager).

The distraction lets Punk take him down with a dive but Styles sends him into the barricade. They fight into the crowd and you can't see a thing. It's Punk in control as they come back to the ring for a Boston crab. Styles uses his second break and we take a break of our own. Back with Styles hitting a discus lariat to send Punk outside for a breather.

Back in and Punk hammers away in the corner before hitting a quick piledriver. Something like a half crab Liontamer sends Styles to the ropes, but apparently he used his last break so

he has to climb the ropes instead. There's the Styles Clash for two but Punk is back with a hammerlock DDT for the same. The Pepsi Plunge is broken up and Styles hits a Pele, setting up the Styles Clash for the pin and the title at 16:37.

Rating: B. Oh come on, it's Punk vs. Styles in a big time match getting time. Of course this was good, with Punk kicking out of the Styles Clash being quite the surprise. It's almost weird to see Styles still coming up like this but you can see all of the talent there. The same is true of Punk, who still feels like a bigger deal at this point. Good match, which shouldn't be the slightest surprise.

From Ring Of Homicide, May 13, 2006.

Ring Of Honor World Title: Bryan Danielson vs. Delirious

Danielson is defending but gets jumped before the bell to start fast. Delirious knocks him to the floor and Danielson needs to get the belt off before getting back in. After more than a few moments, and some OVERRATED chants from the fans, Danielson gets back in and goes after the mask but can't get the Cattle Mutilation.

Something is censored as Danielson drops a knee and starts working on the arm. Now Cattle Mutilation can go on and we take a break. Back with Danielson coming off the top but diving into a cutter for two. Some strikes to the face get two more before Delirious rolls over into a cobra stretch. Danielson escapes (of course) and hits a middle rope elbow to the face to take over again.

A roaring elbow sets up a dragon suplex for two and the chickenwing has Delirious in a lot of trouble. The foot reaches the rope for the break and Danielson is looking a little frustrated. Delirious sends him into the corner and Shadows Over Hell gets two. The cobra stretch goes on again and this time Danielson needs the rope for a save. Cattle Mutilation sends Delirious to the rope as well but Danielson

goes with the small package to retain the title at 24:50.

Rating: B-. They told a story here of Danielson not being intimidated by Delirious and getting in some trouble as a result. Delirious kept hanging on and escaping the Cattle Mutilation so Danielson had to catch him with something quick instead. Good match, as Danielson was on a roll during this title reign and could do nothing wrong.

From the 8th Anniversary Show, February 13, 2010.

Ring Of Honor World Title: Austin Aries vs. Tyler Black

Black, better known as Seth Rollins, is challenging. Before the match, Aries says he wrestled the kind of match he wanted to see last time and the fans didn't like it. Now he is going to wrestle the match the fans want, but they still won't like it. Cue Jim Cornette to say if there is a countout or a DQ, the decision goes to the judges, so one of them needs to beat the other. Aries gets sent outside to start and has to glare at Roderick Strong (a judge, along with Cornette and Kenny King for quite the group).

Back in and Black chops away, setting up a clothesline for an early two. Aries starts in on the arm but misses an elbow so Black can punch him down in the corner. Some rollups give Black two each until Aries kicks him into the corner to take over. Some choking on the apron sets up a neckbreaker for two on Black, followed by a missile dropkick for the same. We take a break and come back with Black hitting a superplex and rolling into an F5 for two of his own to leave them both down.

Black knocks him off the apron and over the barricade, setting up the huge dive for the crash. The judges are a bit terrified but Aries is fine enough to hit a Death Valley Driver onto the apron. The Rubik's Cube gives Black two on the way back in and they slug it out. Aries' brainbuster gets two more but the 450 hits knees, allowing Black to roll him up for two.

Another strike off lets Black grab God's Last Gift for two but King gets on the apron for no logical reason. Strong takes him down but knocks Black off the top by mistake, earning himself a superkick. Cornette gets up as well and gets superkicked down too, leaving Black to hit a buckle bomb. The low superkick sets up the Phoenix splash to give Black the pin and the title at 22:40 (with commentary sounding bored).

Rating: B+. Yeah this great and it is easy to see why WWE wanted Black in the fold sooner rather than later. They were going back and forth and the judges were a nice distraction as Black won on his own rather than needing something screwy. Black was clearly the new flavor at this point and giving him the title was the right way to go, with Ring of Honor getting the point (eventually).

Overall Rating: B+. Another heck of a show and exactly what I was hoping for here, as they opened the vault and showed what kind of things they had. You got three pretty random matches here featuring top current stars, which shows you just how much talent and influence Ring Of Honor has had over the years. I had a good time with this and I'm starting to look forward to this show again, even if this isn't going to last.

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