

Ring Of Honor TV – April 6, 2023: They're Here...Again

Ring Of Honor

Date: April 6, 2023

Location: UBS Arena, Long Island, New York

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

We're done with Supercard Of Honor and that means it is time to get to whatever this show is going to be without a pay per view coming up. I'm not sure what that is going to mean, but I'm assuming that the Trustbusters/Varsity Athletes are going to be involved. We should be in for a fun show here as is tradition, but it might be a bit before we have another major show. Let's get to it.

[Here is Supercard Of Honor if you need a recap.](#)

Christopher Daniels is ready to take the Pure Title from Katsuyori Shibata because championships are on his agenda. Daniels has beaten him before but Shibata has gone through a lot since then. Now Shibata is one of the toughest men in the world but Daniels wants him anyway. I do like these promos for some of the feature matches. Do some more of them throughout the show.

Opening sequence.

Shane Taylor/Workhorsesmen vs. Mark Briscoe/Lucha Bros

Shane shoves Mark around to start before running him over with a shoulder. It's off to Anthony Henry, who walks into a big boot to cut him down. Fenix comes in for the top rope low stomp and the good guys clear the ring without much trouble. For some reason Penta tries a package piledriver on Taylor, which is blocked just as fast. JD Drake comes in to strike it off with Penta against the ropes and it's back to Henry for a

quickly broken chinlock.

The reverse Sling Blade gets Penta out of trouble though and it's Briscoe coming back in to clean house. The Bang Bang Elbow hits Taylor on the floor as everything breaks down. Back in and Taylor hits Welcome To The Land (over the shoulder piledriver) for two on Briscoe as the Bros have to make a save. A quick Jay Driller finishes Henry at 8:48.

Rating: C+. This was a fast paced match and it was the kind of effort that can help turn Briscoe and the Bros into a more serious team. There are only so many worthwhile trios in AEW/ROH so making someone new is a good idea. Now just let them actually be built up with some bigger wins and it could work well.

Pure Wrestling Title: Katsuyori Shibata vs. Christopher Daniels

Daniels is challenging and gets taken to the mat rather quickly. Shibata takes over with the grappling so Daniels bails away, which seems like a smart move. Back up and Daniels starts in on the arm but gets pulled into a quick Figure Four. The rope is grabbed and Shibata misses a Penalty Kick, allowing Daniels to start in on the neck.

The Downward Spiral into the Koji Clutch has Shibata in more trouble but he's fine enough to knock Daniels into the corner. The chops just annoy Shibata and there's a running dropkick in the corner to rock Daniels hard. A rear naked choke makes Daniels bail to the rope for the second break. Back up and they trade STO's before Shibata strikes him down. The Penalty Kick retains the title at 10:07.

Rating: B-. This is why Daniels is around, as he can still wrestle a nice match and look good in the process. Shibata gets his first title defense under his belt and that is exactly what he needs to do. If nothing else, it's nice to see the champion establishing himself and Daniels is as good as

you can get for a first challenger.

Claudio Castagnoli is ready for anyone.

Brian Cage vs. Ortiz

Prince Nana is here with Cage. Ortiz slips out of an early suplex attempt and gets knocked into the corner for his efforts. Back up and Ortiz sends him to the floor for the first dive but Cage is fine enough for the apron superplex. Cage does the reps before tossing him with a standing fall away slam but Ortiz grabs a DDT.

A Death valley Driver gives Ortiz two and Cage's GMSI gets the same. Some headbutts stagger Cage in the corner, at least until he comes out with a superkick. Another apron superplex is countered into a powerbomb but Cage is right back with the Drill Claw to finally put Ortiz away at 8:24.

Rating: C+. This went a bit longer than it needed to but Cage winning was the way to go in the end. Ortiz hasn't had much to do as of late and Cage is still a champion, so giving him the pin made sense. It was a pretty nice power vs. speed match, even if Cage is capable of doing just about anything in the ring at the same time.

Darius Martin vs. Jay Lethal

Satnam Singh and Sonjay Dutt are here too as Maria Kanellis, with the Kingdom, is on commentary. Darius wastes no time in sending him outside for the dive and a near fall back inside. Lethal crotches him inside and hits a dive of his own, setting up a strut on the floor. Darius is right back with a few shots of his own but has to stop and look up at Singh.

Back in and a springboard Downward Spiral gets two on Lethal. They slug it out as Maria and her husband Mike Bennett make "getting lucky" jokes. Matt Taven thinks he sees an untied shoe and heads to ringside as Darius accidentally dropkicks

Singh to no avail. Taven superkicks Darius so Lethal (with a "sure, why not" shrug) hits Lethal Injection for the pin at 5:29.

Rating: C+. This didn't have a ton of time and there was more than enough interference but the action that we got was good enough. Martin is going to have a long way to go to set himself up as a singles star without Dante around but putting him in the ring with someone like Lethal can be a nice boost. Now just win a few times.

Post match Singh gives the Kingdom his jacket and both guys fit inside (that's not normal).

La Faccion Ingobernable b. The Infantry

Preston Vance and Jose The Assistant are here too. Dean and Dralistico start things off and they trade leg trips for a quick standoff. We pause for a Code Of Honor, allowing Dralistico to kick him in the head. Bravo comes in and chops it out with Dralistico until Rush gets in a cheap shot to the back to take over. Rush adds a face wash in the corner and the Tranquilo pose gives La Faccion a break. Dralistico double underhooks Bravo and flips him into a knee to the face for the pin at 3:41.

Rating: C. Total and complete squash here, which is what should happen to a team like the Infantry. Rush and Dralistico still don't do much for me but it is nice to see the two of them getting to dominate like this for a change. Let them get built up as a bigger team and let them go after the champs, as there are certainly worse ideas.

Post match La Faccion poses over the Infantry.

Tracy Williams vs. Daniel Garcia

They go to the mat to start with Williams slipping out, earning some applause from Garcia. Some chops into a

hammerlock suplex drop Garcia but he's right back with a cheap shot to take over. Garcia teases grabbing a weapon but opts to flip off the fans instead. We pause for some Garcia dancing, allowing Williams to come back up for a slugout. Williams catches him in the corner and gives him a DDT onto the top rope, sending them into a series of standing switches. Garcia lifts him up and hits a gutbuster for the pin at 6:11.

Rating: C+. They had a nice technical match here but neither is exactly the most interesting star at the moment. Garcia got beaten up by Tanahashi at Supercard Of Honor and Williams has been here to put people over since he came back. I've never been overly interested in Garcia and giving him just a slightly above ok TV win isn't helping that.

Notorious Mimi vs. Willow Nightingale

Mimi is formerly known as Sloane Jacobs in NXT. Nightingale takes her down to start and drops a quick backsplash. An open hand shot gives Mimi a breather but the Pounce takes her down. The Doctor Bomb finishes Mimi at 2:02.

Steve Somerset/Stephen Azure vs. The Righteous

The Righteous returned to ROH at Supercard Of Honor. Somerset and Azure (in matching sweater vests and apparently called Even Stevens, making them rather awesome) get jumped to start and the beatdown is on. Azure (with his Vest In The World pants) gets chopped and beaten down, setting up an exploder suplex. A swinging Boss Man Slam into a Swanton sets up Autumn Sunshine (assisted Dudley Dog) to finish Azure at 1:55. Total squash and a nice debut/return.

Tony Nese vs. Konosuke Takeshita

The rest of the Varsity Athletes and Mark Sterling are here with Nese. They start fast with Nese kicking him down and striking a bicep pose. Takeshita even offers a handshake but gets hit in the face. That's fine with Takeshita, who knocks

him away and does a bicep pose of his own. A distraction lets Nese send him into the steps and we hit the bodyscissors back inside. The running Nese is cut off by a clothesline and Takeshita gets in a series of shots to the face, setting up a top rope backslash for two.

The Blue Thunder Bomb connects but Sterling pulls Nese outside. That means the big flip dive and Nese goes into the steps this time. Back in and Takeshita gets tied in the ropes for a springboard moonsault. They slug it out until Takeshita pulls him into a leg trap Tombstone for two. Nese hits a pumphandle piledriver for two but the running Nese is countered into a rolling German suplex to give Takeshita the pin at 10:25.

Rating: B-. Good match, but why in the world did Takeshita, who feels like a breakout star in the making, going back and forth for ten minutes against TONY NESE? I'm not sure if Nese has ever won a meaningful match on AEW/ROH TV so why is he not the next person getting squashed on this show? Takeshita hasn't won much around here, but he's way better than Nese and I do not get the thinking here. Put him in there with someone you're willing to squash or don't have the match as we just saw Takeshita win a bigger match at Supercard Of Honor.

Ring Of Honor Women's Title: Athena vs. Miyu Yamashita

Yamashita is challenging and was all over Wrestlemania weekend. Athena armdrags her down to start but Miyu misses a Skull Kick. Both of them miss some kicks until Miyu hits a spinning kick to the head out of the corner. Athena manages a trip to send Miyu throat first into the top rope.

A DDT on the leg on the floor slows Miyu down and Athena grabs a leglock back inside. Miyu kicks her away and hits a kick from the apron, only to have Athena block another one. A ram into the post doesn't do much to Miyu, who is back with a knee. Back in and a super Attitude Adjustment gives Miyu two

and there's a big kick to Athena's head. Athena is back with a half crab to stay on the leg, followed by an ankle lock.

With that broken up, Miyu kicks her away and tries another spinning heel kick, with the ducking Athena going to the floor. They slug it out on the stage with Miyu hitting another AA as commentary says the referee has relaxed the rules so the match can continue. Back in and Athena sends her off the stage, setting up a Cannonball to take Miyu down again. They get back in the ring and Athena ducks another kick, setting up the crossface to knock Miyu out at 13:34.

Rating: B-. There's your Athena match of the week, as she has now been on four out of the six episodes of the show. It was a longer match and Miyu has looked good in everything I've seen her do. The problem though is Miyu hasn't exactly done much in AEW/ROH. She's had two matches in AEW (most recently last summer) and wrestled on last week's ROH in her only appearances. The match was good, but it's hard to care about a challenger who is basically a newcomer/stranger.

Post match Athena teases more violence but leaves instead.

Overall Rating: B-. Another nice show but there's still nothing on here that really feels important. Whenever I watch this show, I get one of two thoughts to most wrestlers: "I just saw you on Dynamite" or "hey, it's this person...again", as there are more than a few people who pop up here fairly often. I really don't need to see Nese or Athena or Cage or Garcia or Nightingale as often as they're around and having them in so many matches makes them feel less and less special. If this show just has to be as long as it is every week, they need to find a way to keep things fresher, because the charm is going to be lost fast.

Results

Mark Briscoe/Lucha Bros b. Shane Taylor/Workhorsesmen – Jay Driller to Henry

Katsuyori Shibata b. Christopher Daniels – Penalty Kick
Brian Cage b. Ortiz – Drill Claw
Jay Lethal b. Darius Martin – Lethal Injection
La Faccion Ingobernable b. The Infantry – Spinning knee to the face to Bravo
Daniel Garcia b. Tracy Williams – Gutbuster
Willow Nightingale b. Notorious Mimi – Doctor Bomb
The Righteous b. Steve Somerset/Stephen Azure – Autumn Sunshine to Azure
Konosuke Takeshita b. Tony Nese – Rolling German suplex
Athena b. Miyu Yamashita – Crossface

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