

Ring Of Honor – November 23, 2023: There She Is

Ring Of Honor

Date: November 23, 2023

Location: Toyota Arena, Ontario, California

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

It's a special show this week as we have one heck of a major match announced for the show. Granted the match has no build and was only announced on Instragram rather than on a previous show or AEW TV. As a bonus, we're also getting a Pure Rules Title match from Katsuyori Shibata. Let's get to it.

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

Athena and Billie Starkz issue an open challenge to any team who wants to face them. They leave, with Marina Shafir coming in and making a phone call.

Opening sequence.

Commentary wonders who Shafir could have been calling...and then give us a rundown of the show, revealing that Ronda Rousey will be teaming with Shafir.

Pure Rules Title: Katsuyori Shibata vs. Trent Beretta

Shibata is defending. Trent actually takes him down for an early one They fight over a headlock takeover and headscissors escape until the PK misses for Beretta. An armbar sends Beretta over to the ropes for the first break but Shibata goes right back to the arm. Shibata kicks him to the apron, only to have Beretta hit a slingshot spear for two.

A tornado DDT gets the same so Shibata sits down, allowing Beretta to chop away. Beretta knocks him outside for the slingshot dive but Shibata is back in with a running corner

dropkick. An ankle lock goes on so Beretta has to use his second rope break. An STO gives Shibata two, followed by the PK to retain the title at 8:26.

Rating: C+. This was every Shibata title defense: it had no build, it just came and went without much of note and Shibata won with the PK. The Pure Rules Title isn't exactly interesting and it keeps going without much of note. I could go with seeing it dropped to get rid of a title, as it feels like nothing more than a way to give Shibata something to do. At least give us an actual feud with an interesting challenger. It shouldn't be that hard.

Diamante vs. Trish Adora vs. Kiera Hogan vs. Willow Nightingale

Nightingale clears house to start but gets knocked outside for a dive from Hogan. Back in and Hogan strikes away at Diamante before heading up top. That means a Tower Of Doom to leave everyone down, followed by Diamante getting triple teamed. Nightingale hits a Death Valley Driver but gets superkicked by Hogan for two. Adora kicks Hogan in the face but walks into the Babe With The Powerbomb for the pin at 4:57.

Rating: C. This is Nightingale in a nutshell: she wins the matches that don't matter and makes the fans care about her all over again, only to likely lose the important matches. There is only so much you can get out of a four way that doesn't last five minutes and that was rather clear here, with no one having the chance to showcase themselves before they had to wrap it up.

We look at Ronda Rousey and Marina Shafir beating Athena and Billie Starkz via DQ at a Pro Wrestling Revolver event a few days ago.

Tony Nese vs. Ethan Page

Mark Sterling is here with Nese and GROUP TRAINING IS CANCELED

until this is settled. We get a pose off to start until Nese pounds him down into the corner. Page is back up to unload with shots to the head but gets taken outside for a whip into the steps. A spinning kick to the head gives Nese two and he grabs a bodyscissors. Page fights up and strikes away in the corner, setting up the springboard cutter for two. Sterling offers a distraction and gets ejected, leaving Page to boot Nese in the face for the pin at 6:13.

Rating: C+. It's good for Page to win, but you can almost guarantee that this isn't over yet. For some reason Page can't just get the big win and be done with the whole thing but at least he didn't lose again. Page had a bunch of momentum on the way into this feud and now he's having to make it up, which can only be done so well with an act like Sterling and Nese.

Post match the brawl stays on with security breaking it up.

We look at the ROH World and Tag Team Title matches from the Full Gear Zero Hour show. Like those things would ever happen around here.

Workhorsesmen vs. The Infantry vs. Iron Savages vs. West Coast Wrecking Crew

The Crew is Royce Isaac/Jorel Nelson and they don't get an entrance. Drake lets Bravo chop him to start before taking over with chops of his own. Bronson comes in and gets taken down by the Infantry but one heck of a flapjack puts Dean down. It's off to Isaacs for a forearm off with Bronson, leaving the Crew to take over on Bravo.

Everything breaks down and the infantry hit stereo dives to a bunch of people on the floor. Bronson hits his own dive before catching a diving Drake. Isaacs German suplexes both of them at once, leaving the Crew to beat up Dean with a Death valley Driver onto raised knees. Drake dives onto the Savages, setting up an assisted Downward Spiral to finish Nelson at

6:35.

Rating: C+. Another four way that didn't get much time, especially with the amount of people involved. It was impossible for any of them to really stand out here and that was always going to be the problem. The Workhorses are only so interesting in the first place, though they do feel bigger than any of the other teams.

Mark Sterling and Tony Nese rant about the Ethan Page match, which will be stricken from the record. This is NOT over.

Lee Moriarty vs. Wheeler Yuta

Pure Rules. They start with the slow grappling and fight over a test of strength on the mat. Moriarty pops the elbow out and strikes away, with Yuta's chops not having much effect. Yuta can't get an Octopus hold so he goes with a sunset flip for two instead. A frog splash gives Yuta two and he fires off the elbows to the head.

Moriarty's Border City Stretch is broken up so Moriarty catches him on top for a top rope superplex. They trade right hands for a warning each until Yuta snaps off a German suplex. Moriarty goes back to the arm until Yuta bites his hand. The elbows to the head set up the mouse trap to finish Moriarty at 8:34.

Rating: C+. Pretty much just a regular match here with some rope breaks being counted. Yuta is all but guaranteed to get the Pure Rules Title match at Final Battle, which isn't exactly interesting. Then again the Pure Rules division isn't interesting either, mainly because there is little resembling a division. Unless you could Josh Woods that is, but Ring Of Honor doesn't seem to count him either.

Lee Johnson vs. Fred Rosser vs. Jack Cartwheel vs. Willie Mack

Rosser wants them to bring it before Mack clears the ring.

Cartwheel is back in with a headscissors into the big running flip dive to the floor. Back in and Rosser belly to bellys Cartwheel, setting up the showdown with Mack. Rosser gets dropped but Cartwheel and Johnson are back in to take Mack down. Now it's Rosser back in to take over but Mack is there again. A Sky High hits Cartwheel, leaving Johnson to roll Rosser up for the pin at 5:13.

Rating: C+. Remember what I said about the previous two four ways that didn't get much time and left everyone scrambling to get in everything they could? Well this is the latest edition as they did all of those things again. There's nothing to the match, though Johnson seems to be getting a nice little push in recent weeks. Just do something with him already.

Respect is shown post match.

Ethan Page wants to know why Mark Sterling and Tony Nese get to decided this isn't over. Everyone saw him shake Nese's hand after Nese cheated to beat him but then he had to say they weren't done. Page is the one who says we're not done and Nese will shake his hand.

Athena/Billie Starkz vs. Ronda Rousey/Marina Shafir

Athena is more than shaken up as Rousey starts with Starkz. Rousey takes her down without much trouble so it's off to Athena...who immediately bails out. Another suplex drops Starkz again and Shafir comes in. Athena gets in a cheap shot from the apron to cut Starkz down and now Athena will come in for a knee to the face.

A spear gives Athena two as we hear about her and Rousey being partners in WWE (mainly on house shows but true). Shafir suplexes her way out of trouble and it's back to Rousey to clean house. A knee to the head puts Athena on the ropes for some choking but Starkz tags herself back in. They all head outside where Athena throws back of them down at once. Back in and Rousey armbars Athena until Starkz makes the save with a

Swanton.

Everyone is down until Rousey armbars Athena again. This time a bite into an electric chair gets Athena out of trouble, allowing the tag back to Starkz. Rousey breaks up some kind of top rope dive and slams Starkz onto Athena. Rousey's knee gets two on Athena but she's back up with the big forearm. A Gory Special/middle rope Codebreaker combination gets two on Shafir, who kicks her way to freedom. Rousey comes back in for a quickly broken ankle lock, leaving Athena to hit the O Face. Starkz is legal though and tries a Swanton, only to land in Rousey's armband for the tap at 16:02.

Rating: B. Easily the best thing on the show/in Ring Of Honor over the last several weeks and that shouldn't be a shock. Rousey is rather good when she is motivated and that was the case again here. I could see her getting the title shot at Final Battle, which might come after a hard left turn but if you can get Rousey on the show, you forget about the title picture and go with her. Other than that, this was a heck of a showcase for everyone else, as Athena has a real challenger and the other two looked solid in their big chance.

Post match Rousey grabs the title and taunts Athena a bit to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. And that is Ring Of Honor in a nutshell. They had what could have been a heck of a card with the title match, Page vs. Sterling in a grudge match and a big main event (plus maybe a shortened version of Yuta's match) but that's not what we got. Instead they added in three other matches featuring SIXTEEN other wrestlers over about sixteen minutes of ring time. Cut out one or two of those four ways (or all three) and this is a heck of a show. As it is, all we got was another long show that left them trying to get through the extra stuff until we could see the important/interesting stuff. Figure that out already.

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