

# Ring Of Honor – January 2, 2025: All Kinds Of Frustrating

## Ring Of Honor

Date: January 2, 2025

Location: Hammerstein Ballroom, New York City, New York

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

We're starting a new year and that could make things more interesting around here. I mean it probably won't as tends to be the case with this series, but we do at least have some title matches coming up at Wrestle Dynasty. I'm not sure what that is going to mean, but it's better than the usual stuff around here. Let's get to it.

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

We preview the show.

## Women's TV Title: Red Velvet vs. Hanako

Hanako is challenging after defeating Harley Cameron on the Final Battle kickoff show. Velvet poses at her to start and they fight over arm control. Back up and Hanako shoves her into the ropes, where Velvet tells her to get away. More mocking earns Velvet a hard shoulder before a slam sends Velvet outside.

Back in and Velvet starts working on the leg, including wrapping it around the post. Hanako's knee is fine enough to muscle her up with a suplex and hit some running corner clotheslines. Velvet is back with running knees against the ropes and the Stir It Up gets two. A flipping faceplant finishes Hanako at 8:36.

**Rating:** C. The match was fine, but Velvet's incredibly sudden

heel turn isn't exactly doing anything for her. The problem is she doesn't really have that much of a personality in the first place so it wasn't some shocking moment when she turned. Without a reason to care about her in the first place, the turn doesn't have any impact. Throw in Hanako having wrestled for less than ten minutes in ROH coming into this match and there wasn't much to get interested in here.

Shane Taylor Promotions wants it all. Cool. Now stop talking about it and do something already.

### Action Andretti/Lio Rush vs. Homicide/Rocky Romero

Rush jumps Romero to start before it's off to Andretti to draw Romero in. Homicide comes in legally to chase Rush to the floor, followed by a double shoulder to take him down back inside. The Forever Lariats are broken up and a double suplex drops Romero. A double flapjack sets up Rush's front facelock but Andretti accidentally decks Rush. Romero kicks Andretti in the face and it's back to Homicide to clean house. The cutter gives Homicide two and everything breaks down. Romero misses a dive to the floor, allowing Andretti to hit Homicide low for the pin at 8:08.

**Rating:** C+. This was more action packed to keep the pace up, though it definitely felt like a match that had been written out to the letter to set it up. Rush and Andretti are the new team around AEW/ROH and they are getting some wins together, which makes sense for their future. They could use a name of some kind, but getting a win is what matters most.

We look at Dustin Rhodes and Sammy Guevara retaining the Tag Team Titles at Final Battle.

After the match, Rhodes talked about how important this was and how they have grown together. They're ready for a match at Wrestle Dynasty, as the House Of Torture have challenged them for the titles.

## Harley Cameron vs. Ashley Vox

Vox takes her down to start but Cameron gets a drive into the corner. Cameron avoids a quick Cannonball attempt and grabs a suplex for two. The cross arm choke is broken up in a hurry so Vox can hammer away in the corner. The Cannonball connects as the camera rapidly cuts away from a row of empty seats. Cameron is back with some forearms into the Shining Wizard for the pin at 5:06.

**Rating:** C. The match wasn't much to see and in Cameron's case, it makes sense that she isn't running through people. She isn't presented as some kind of dominant force but rather someone who is so out there that she believes she's amazing. It makes her close to the female Danhausen and it's nice to see that kind of talent featured here.

Red Velvet is asked why she cheated at Final Battle. She's tired of being asked that but Leyla Hirsch comes in to demand a rematch. Velvet says sure but on her time.

## Shane Taylor Promotions/The Infantry vs. Iron Savages/Dark Order

Trish Adora, Jon Silver and Jacked Jameson are here too. Reynolds and Moriarty grapple to the mat to start with Moriarty getting two off a crucifix. Bravo comes in to hit Boulder in the face so Bronson comes in for his hairy chest spot to make Bravo scream. Adora gets in a cheap shot from the floor and it's Taylor coming in to take Bronson into the corner. A belly to back suplex/backbreaker combination drops Bronson but he piledrives Bronson onto Dean.

Uno comes in to clean house and everything breaks down, with Boulder hitting a double Downward Spiral. Boulder powerslams Taylor but Bronson gets posted. Moriarty gets Reynolds in the Border City Stretch on the floor and Uno is caught with a double stomp inside. Moriarty comes back in to Border City Stretch Uno for the win at 9:10.

**Rating:** D+. There is so much wrong with this match, I don't know where to start. First and foremost, the problem here is the Iron Savages, who have been the most obnoxious villains in the company for months, are suddenly good. There was no promo, no action and no explanation, but now we're supposed to cheer them. That's poor storytelling no matter how you look at it. On top of that, forgive me for believing that THIS will be the time that Shane Taylor Promotions finally starts moving up the card. I've heard it for so long that I have no reason to believe it. The action was fine, but this match was annoying on multiple levels.

We look at Athena firing Lexi Nair last week.

From Death Before Dishonor 2023 (and from a previous review).

#### Ring Of Honor Women's Title: Athena vs. Willow Nightingale

Athena is defending in the rubber match and immediately bails to the floor. Back in and Willow powers her around before they forearm it out. Athena gets two off a crucifix but Willow's fisherman's buster gets the same. A crucifix gives Athena two and she sends Willow outside in a crash. Back in and the double knees connect in the corner, setting up the chinlock.

Willow powers her way up and hammers away, only to get dropped with a quick shot to the face for two. Willow is fine enough to try the Babe With The Powerbomb but Athena reverses into a snapmare driver for two. Willow's swinging neckbreaker gets two but Athena is right back with Obliteration. She muscles Willow up and into a sitout powerbomb for two (that was impressive) before going up.

That takes too long as well though and Willow grabs a super Death Valley Driver for a rather near fall. They head outside and Athena posts her, setting up the O Face for a VERY near fall back inside. The Babe With The Powerbomb gets the same but Athena is back up with another O Face. The crossface goes on and Athena even grabs a leg. Willow passes out to retain

Athena's title at 20:28.

**Rating:** B-. Well. Ok then. I'm not sure what this weird obsession Ring Of Honor has lately with the heroes losing in the end but they did it again here. It also makes me wonder why the Owen Hart tournament wasn't just for the title shot with someone else in Athena's place, thereby giving us the same result and no Athena loss. They had a hard hitting fight, but that was one more deflating ending on a long list of them in Ring Of Honor's recent history. Someone is going to have to beat Athena, and it's going to have to be an AEW import at this point. Anyway, solid main event with a rather surprising result.

#### QT Marshall vs. Komander

Non-title Proving Ground match, meaning Marshall gets a title shot if he wins or survives the ten minute time limit. Marshall immediately bails to the floor to burn off a minute to start. Komander isn't having this and hammers away but gets sent into the corner for a chop. A kick to the ribs staggers Komander and a knee drop gets one. Marshall grabs a neck crank before switching to a basic choke, followed by a chinlock to complete the trifecta.

Komander fights up and hits the very springboardy hurricanrana to the floor. Back in and Marshall gets two off a suplex powerbomb and they go up top. Marshall's super cutter is countered into a super hurricanrana. Marshall is sent outside again for a big springboard moonsault and a springboard Canadian Destroyer sets up Cielito Lindo...but Marshall rolls outside for the time limit at 10:00.

**Rating:** C+. If there was one match that summed up why this show can be so annoying, it might be this one right here. First and foremost, Marshall hasn't won a match in AEW or ROH in over a year. Why is he getting this chance? Why not former champion Brian Cage or Survival Of The Fittest runner up Blake

Christian? No, instead it's someone who is known for losing low level matches on Zero Hour getting this shot, again with absolutely no explanation as to why.

Second, Komander, who just got the biggest win of his career and followed it up with an upset in the Continental Classic suddenly can't be comedy jobber QT Marshall. This is what I mean when I saw this show feels like it just comes and goes with no logic or reasoning behind almost anything that happens, and my goodness it is so frustrating at times.

**Overall Rating:** C. This show was all kinds of frustrating, if nothing else due to just how all of the place it felt. Case in point, you have three title matches coming up and they were earned by someone winning their only match in ROH, someone just asking for a shot, and someone losing every match they have before going to a draw. Meanwhile, how many people are THIS CLOSE to a title shot and have been for months now?

I'm not expecting this show to be the greatest, tightest booked show of all tie but having it include some sort of continuity or sense. Throw in the unforgivable sin of trying to make me like the Iron Savages and this was a really hard show to watch. As usual, the action was fine, but the show feels like it's thrown together with an excuse of "oh who cares" when it comes to structure or internal logic.

### Results

Red Velvet b. Hanako – Flipping faceplant

Action Andretti/Lio Rush b. Homicide/Rocky Romero – Low blow to Homicide

Harley Cameron b. Ashley Vox – Shining Wizard

Shane Taylor Promotions/The Infantry b. Iron Savages/Dark Order – Border City Stretch to Uno

QT Marshall vs. Komander went to a time limit draw

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