

# AEW Dynasty 2025 Preview

We're already back on pay per view and in this case, believe it or not, it's time to do some tournament stuff. This show features a bunch of stuff in the Owen Hart Tournaments, plus the usual ton of title matches and various other shenanigans. That should make for a fun card, but this isn't exactly feeling like the biggest show in the world. Let's get to it.

## Zero Hour: Max Caster vs. ???

This is the latest edition of Caster's open challenge and things have not been going so well for him. I'm not sure what the point is in turning him into the comedy jobber that he has become but that is what we are seeing here over and over. It makes for some funny moments when someone comes out and massacres him, so hopefully this is going to be a shortened version of the normal Kickoff Show matches.

So who is going to be taking him up on the challenge? After weeks of teasing it, this almost has to be Anthony Bowens taking up the challenge and beating the fire out of Caster, likely ending the whole thing once and for all. There is nothing left for them to do after that takes place and in theory it should be wrapping up here, with Bowens getting his revenge to blow it off. I'm not sure what that accomplishes, but it should get a good reaction.

## Zero Hour: Cru/Nick Wayne vs. Top Flight/AR Fox

So this is a thing as well and it feels like the kind of match that belongs on the Kickoff Show. Let them get out there and pop the crowd with something of a feud that has been built up. I'm not sure what the appeal of Cru is supposed to be but they have been dealing with Top Flight for months now. Other than that, you have Wayne and Fox who are good for some high spots.

Give me Top Flight and Fox to win here in the Rampage Special

of the night. That's not a bad way to go as Top Flight can do their big flips and dives to pop the crowd, which is why they're in this spot. While I could certainly go for them being in a bigger spot, I've long since given up on the belief that it is going to happen, which is rather frustrating all things considered. But yeah, they should win here.

#### Trios Titles: Death Riders(c) vs. Rated FTR

Yeah let's just get this one out of the way. The Trios Titles still do not feel important and this seems like a way to get rid of the alliance between Cope and FTR. That's what they've been teasing recently and honestly, the idea of a heel FTR is not the worst idea right now. Other than that, they're still the least important titles in AEW and the Death Riders holding them for so long isn't something that gets my attention.

Naturally I'll go with the champions to retain here, mainly on the ground of there being no reason for them to lose. The titles don't add much to the Death Riders deal but it will make for a nice enough moment when someone takes them. That doesn't seem to be here though, as this feels like a way to set up the next step in the Rated FTR split than anything else.

#### TNT Title: Daniel Garcia(c) vs. Adam Cole

This is no time limit and everyone is barred from ringside. These two have been feuding for a few weeks now and it still doesn't feel like the most thrilling story. It comes off more like "well, we need something for them to do" and here we are. Cole winning the title isn't out of the question, but it feels more like which one of them is going to turn on the other first, which isn't a bad idea.

I'll take Garcia to retain here, hopefully by cheating in some way. While Cole needs the win more, Garcia has to be built up in some way and beating Cole, even by something nefarious, is as good of a way to make that happen. This match is likely to

get some time, which shouldn't be the worst idea, but dang I need something else to make me interested in this story.

### Women's Owen Hart Cup First Round: Mercedes Mone vs. Julia Hart

This is where the show starts to feel like it doesn't need to be on pay per view, as this does not feel like a match that has the most drama. Outside of some interference to screw Mone over, there is no reason to believe that she is going to lose here. Mone has been a force of nature in AEW so far and Hart is someone who was a deal for a bit and then got hurt, which took away everything she had. There is no reason to believe that the upset is taking place here.

And that's what I'll go with, as Mone wins here, just like she should. Other than someone coming in to help Hart, I have no reason to believe she's going to win. I also see no reason why this isn't on Collision rather than the pay per view, but this isn't even the only tournament match that feels that way. Mone wins here, and hopefully it isn't stretched out to a ridiculous length for the sake of being on pay per view.

### Men's Owen Hart Cup First Round: Mark Briscoe vs. Kyle Fletcher

This also feels like a match that belongs on Collision, mainly because it took place on Collision earlier this year. Fletcher has already beaten Briscoe once and that doesn't exactly make me interested in seeing it take place again. Briscoe still has so much charisma and can make things feel fun no matter what he is doing, but I'm not sure I like his chances against a Fletcher in need of a rehab win.

As was the case with the previous match, there is no reason to believe that the villain is in danger here so I'll take Fletcher to win again. Briscoe has long since become someone who is there for the sake of making other people look good. That's what he'll do with Fletcher here, who very well may be

on the way towards another rematch with Will Ospreay in the finals.

#### Men's Owen Hart Cup First Round: Will Ospreay vs. Kevin Knight

So in case you're missing the idea, the result here shouldn't be in much doubt. Knight is here to take Jay White's place following an injury and that is pretty much the extent of his resume thus far. There is only so much you can get out of Knight when he hasn't been around much and thankfully AEW seems to know that. The good thing is Knight has shown that he is capable of having entertaining matches which is where Ospreay tends to thrive.

This might be the biggest layup on the show, as Ospreay is likely getting ready to move into the World Title picture, while Knight is in his second singles match in the company. Ospreay can give him a nice rub here and that is the entire point of the match. Knight isn't supposed to be here and that is likely going to show in the result, which should not be in any doubt.

#### Tag Team Titles: Hurt Syndicate(c) vs. Learning Tree

So this is another situation where things were going in one direction and then got changed around for the sake of an injury. Putting the Learning Tree in there is a bit annoying as Bill is doing some great things, but now the team seems to be little more than a next pair of victims for the champs. That doesn't exactly make for an exciting match here but it's about all we have.

Again, there isn't much drama here as we'll go with the Hurt Syndicate to retain the titles. The only thing that makes me wonder is the chance of MJF interfering and costing the Syndicate the titles, though I can't imagine them actually going that way. The Syndicate could very well be in for a long title reign and that wouldn't include having them lose here to replacement challengers.

### Ring Of Honor World Title: Chris Jericho(c) vs. Bandido

This is title vs. mask and that is the kind of stipulation that makes things more interesting. Granted it doesn't help when Jericho has already defeated Bandido, but at least we are in for something bigger and more personal. Jericho has gone after Bandido's brother Gravity and now Bandido is standing up for his family. It has also led to Jericho being a lot more serious, which has been a great relief in recent weeks. I'm just not sure how well that works here.

Maybe it's false hope but I'll go with Bandido winning here. If that isn't the case, Bandido loses just about everything he has going for him, including his identity. It's also a case of if not Bandido, then whom, as Jericho doesn't really have another challenger set up at the moment. Bandido winning the title would not be a crazy thing to see, but it does feel like a stretch to see him taking the title from Jericho. That's where we'll go here though in a feel good moment.

### Women's Title: Toni Storm(c) vs. Megan Bayne

We'll continue with the interesting ones here as I'm not sure what to make of this match. Storm is fresh off slaying Mariah May and wrapping up that whole feud but then she runs into this monster in the form of Bayne. That's the kind of match that could spell some big trouble for her and it very well may, but it's almost hard to imagine her losing the title so soon after her big moment.

That being said, I'll actually go with Bayne winning here, which should open Storm up to do something else, like go after Mercedes Mone in a major showdown. Bayne can win and defeat Storm for good here though, as she has become a force in short order, mainly due to her size and power. I'm not sure that's what they'll be doing, but it feels like the right choice for the whole thing.

### International Title: Kenny Omega(c) vs. Ricochet vs. Mike

## Bailey

This is being billed as one of the bigger matches on the card and it really doesn't feel like one. Maybe that's due to the mini tournament to set it up or the lack of any personal issues between them, but we don't have anything here other than a tease of "they can do a bunch of big spots". The match should be fun, but the build to the whole thing has not exactly been strong.

We'll go with Omega to win the match and retain here, as things seem likely to be building towards his big showdown with Kazuchika Okada at All In. Bringing Omega back and letting him do the spotfest match is not a bad way to go and it should be fun, but I could go for something else between these people that makes me want to see them fight. Either way, it should at least be entertaining.

## AEW World Title: Jon Moxley(c) vs. Swerve Strickland

Much like the Women's Title match, the more I think about this match, the more I think that we might be seeing a title change here. I don't think there is any denying the idea that the Death Riders has not been well received. Moxley has been the champion for the better part of ever now and the fans are not exactly receiving it well, but is Strickland the one to take the title from him? That's where things get a bit hazy.

Alas, I'll go with Moxley retaining the title, rather than going with the surprise title win for Strickland. For reasons that are beyond my intellect, AEW has decided that Moxley needs to keep holding the title. Strickland needs the win and very well could be on to one last showdown with Hangman Page. That might happen without the title, as for now I'll take Moxley retaining. Again.

## Overall Thoughts

This show is not exactly getting my attention, but there is a

chance that we could be in for something entertaining. The stories have not been the best on the way in, but AEW pay per views has a tendency to overdeliver on the in-ring side. The show does not feel like a top level card though and there is not much of a way around it. What can get them around a lot of it is to have a bunch of awesome matches and that is absolutely a strong possibility.

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