

Dynamite – April 9, 2025: In Search Of A Compass

Dynamite

Date: April 9, 2025

Location: Baltimore And Chesapeake Employers Insurance Arena, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Taz

We're done with Dynasty and that means both Double Or Nothing and All In are on the horizon. Well the distant horizon but the horizon nonetheless. Jon Moxley is still the World Champion and will need a new challenger, which we should get closer to finding if the Owen Hart Cup continues tonight. Let's get to it.

[Here is Dynasty if you need a recap.](#)

Jon Moxley, with the Death Riders, talks about how the roster might be talented but no one can get together to take him out. The Young Bucks have returned and Moxley sees it as a power play. He doesn't recognize the Bucks anymore and he hasn't in a long time. They better think before they make a move.

Jon Moxley vs. Katsuyori Shibata

Non-title and Marina Shafir is here with Moxley. They go with the grappling to start and Shibata gets on a quickly broken headscissors. Back up and they fight over a lockup until Shibata hits a rather loud chop. Shibata then stands still so Moxley can chop him, with the exchange of chops going to Shibata as Moxley staggers. An Octopus goes on but Moxley slips out and grabs a piledriver...with Shibata not even going down and kicking Moxley in the chest. Moxley goes to the eye though and gets a rear naked choke for the win at 5:39.

Rating: C+. There wasn't much to see here as this was more

about seeing Moxley get a win over someone talented. Yes Moxley cheated to get the win, but this didn't exactly make me think much of Shibata as a result. Moxley being in the ring is slightly better than him talking, but that's not much of a bar to clear.

Post match the Young Bucks come out, with Moxley saying something we can't hear and leaves with Shafir. The Bucks talk about costing Swerve Strickland the World Title, which was a favor to Hangman Page, who is still their friend. As for helping the Death Riders, consider it a peace offering. The Bucks and the Death Riders have a lot in common, as they both want the locker room to rise up and make AEW better so they can change the world. They couldn't even get the World Title so what about the Death Riders and the Elite together?

Cue Kenny Omega to say the Bucks didn't seem to remember him as part of the Elite. The last time he saw them, they were shoving Omega off a stretcher during the height of his diverticulitis. When Omega was in high school, he had a friend with two dogs who were kind of annoying. The dogs kept relieving themselves and it became a bit hard to take, so Omega suggested that they move it to his house instead.

That's how AEW was without Omega around to clean up after the Bucks. The last time we saw the Bucks, they were shredding documents, which was to cover up various expenses they had billed to AEW. Omega didn't like the Bucks trying to kill the company he gave his life to so let's just fight.

Cue Kazuchika Okada but Swerve Strickland comes through the crowd with a chair (Omega looks surprised) to chase the Elite off. Omega shows some respect/thanks to Strickland before leaving in peace. Strickland says it is time to go Buck hunting and he's ready to blast them. The Bucks just couldn't leave well enough alone...and here is Pac from behind to jump Strickland before their scheduled match. The more I see the Elite talking about their backstage stuff, the more it feels

like a less interesting McMahons saga.

Pac vs. Swerve Strickland

We come back for the opening bell, with Swerve hitting a Snake Eyes into a running big boot. Swerve knocks him outside but Pac flips over him, only to get buckle bombed for his efforts. Pac gets sent outside...and he grabs his ankle and goes down. The referee holds Swerve back as Pac gets up and rolls back inside. Swerve hits a superkick and the Swerve Stomp finishes Pac off at 4:16.

Rating: N/A. I'm not going to rate the match, which was only getting going before Pac seemingly got injured. Assuming that's a legitimate injury (and it seems to be given how fast they went home), we'll just have to hope for the best. Swerve was probably going to win anyway, but they just stopped cold out there and that's never a good sign.

Ricochet, Cru and the Beast Mortos are ready for an eight man tag for \$400,000. The other three aren't happy about the idea of Ricochet being the captain.

Mark Briscoe, Will Ospreay, Mike Bailey and Kevin Knight talk about what they might use their winnings on. Bailey wants shoes, Knight wants to go to Atlantic City, Ospreay wants to go to Disney World and Briscoe...wants to diversify his portfolio.

Commentary recaps the evening so far.

We look back at the first round of the Women's Owen Hart Tournament, including the matches still to come.

Renee Paquette talks to Hangman Page, who doesn't know what to say because he's facing a wild card in the Owen Hart Cup. He storms into Swerve Strickland's locker room but only finds Prince Nana. Page was NOT trying to help Swerve at Dynasty and if Swerve gets involved in his tournament matches, he'll pick

up where he left off. Nana goes to say something to Page, who cuts him off and storms out.

Ricochet/Cru/The Beast Mortos vs. Mark Briscoe/Will Ospreay/Mike Bailey/Kevin Knight

The winning team gets \$400,000. Ricochet starts with Bailey but immediately tags out to Mortos instead. Bailey is fine with kicking away before scaring Ricochet outside again. Ospreay comes in and gets taken down in the corner, where Cru gets to stomp him down. Everyone comes in and Ricochet runs his mouth enough that he gets pummeled. The villains are sent into the corners for right hands to the head, followed by a toss to the floor.

A string of dives, capped off by Bailey's moonsault, drops everyone again. Ricochet tries a dive but has to land on his feet, earning a quadruple shot to the head in a funny bit. We take a break and come back with Bailey kicking away at Mortos, who catches him with a Backstabber. Ricochet comes in but misses Bailey, instead settling for knocking Bailey's partners to the floor.

Bailey does the same to Ricochet's partners but gets caught with a jumping double stomp. Everything breaks down and we hit the parade of knockdowns, including Ospreay hitting a double backflip kick to drop Cru. Ricochet Death Valley Drivers Bailey, who comes back up with some crane kicks to Mortos. The Oscutter hits Mortos and Knight hits his spinning frog splash for two with a big save (they got me on that one). The Hidden Blade finishes Mortos at 12:00.

Rating: B. This was a lot of fun and I can go for the occasional adding in of a prize that isn't a traditional title. The money means nothing going forward (in theory, as I could go for more of Briscoe's stock tips) but it did make the match feel a bit more interesting. They had talented people doing their stuff, with that look on Ricochet's face after he

landed on his feet being great. Just a fun match here and I can always go for something like that.

We look back at FTR turning on Cope and laying him out at Dynasty. Cope is out indefinitely and Tony Schiavone goes OFF on FTR, calling it the worst thing he has ever seen in wrestling. Dax Harwood's daughter is probably disappointed in her father too.

Here is the Hurt Syndicate to celebrate their successful title defense, albeit with an unexpected assist from MJF. They bust out the champagne for a toast but here is MJF to interrupt. MJF stands next to the team and is happy to be with them, because it means he can skip the line and get his World Title back sooner than later. He helped them retain the Tag Team Titles and now they can help him win the World Title. So what is the initiation process?

Bobby Lashley tells MJF to shut up because they didn't need MJF's help. The Syndicate does not need him and Lashley gets into an argument with MJF (who insults Lashley's new glasses). MVP and Shelton Benjamin break that up and MVP says it's time to vote, with MJF needing three thumbs up to get in. MVP is a yes and Benjamin is in the middle...but says no. That's enough for the Syndicate to leave and MVP just shrugs at MJF. This is going to keep on and I'm curious to see how MJF tries to change the team's minds.

Megan Bayne and Penelope Ford are ready to move forward, with Bayne being at Collision.

Women's Owen Hart Tournament First Round: Kris Statlander vs. Thunder Rosa

Toni Storm is on commentary, having stolen one of the commentators' cars and returning their keys, albeit apologizing for the tobacco juice she left in there. Statlander runs her over with a shoulder to start but Rosa grabs an armbar. Back up and Statlander hits a running

dropkick but misses a slingshot elbow. The running dropkick in the ropes knocks Statlander to the floor, setting up a seated senton off the apron. Back up and Statlander knocks her to the floor as well and we take a break.

We come back with Rosa grabbing a springboard hurricanrana into a northern lights suplex for two. Statlander gets a Blue Thunder Bomb, with Storm admiring her "juicy muscles". A Canadian Destroyer gives Rosa two but Statlander powers up and hits Saturday Night Fever for the pin at 9:46.

Rating: B-. This was a strong showing from Statlander and that's kind of weird to see when she is in there against Rosa. While Rosa didn't get squashed here, it was more about Statlander looking dominant. Statlander might be a long shot to win the whole thing, but she's already on a nice start.

Don Callis is ready for Kyle Fletcher and Konosuke Takeshita to win the Owen Hart Cup. The team has injuries though and now it's time to recruit some new members.

Adam Cole is happy to have gotten his moment but Kyle O'Reilly and Roderick Strong want their own moment. Cole says they're back and seems to dub the team the Paragon.

Here is an angry Chris Jericho for TV Time. Jericho is no longer the Ring Of Honor World Champion as he lost his match, his tooth and his title. He gives credit where credit is due to Bandido, who won the match, albeit with help from his brother and his STOOGE of a mother. Bandido has his family but so does Jericho, who brings out Big Bill and Bryan Keith.

Jericho gets on them for losing at Dynasty but Bill cuts him off. He joined up with the Learning Tree because Jericho is one of the best ever, but he is not here to be a punching bag when things go wrong. If all Jericho is going to do is berate him, then let him know now and it's over.

Jericho says that's not why he brought them out here, but

rather so he can yell at them for not helping him retain the Ring Of Honor World Title. But that's not what Jericho believes at all, because he isn't angry. He's just disappointed. Then he hits his TV monitor with a baseball bat, shouting about how he is disappointed...in Bill. Jericho wants Bill to fix this and leaves. I really could have gone with no Jericho for a bit but that's just not going to happen.

We look at Anthony Bowens returning to take out Max Caster.

Here's what's coming on various shows.

The Hurt Syndicate is in the back and Lashley says they don't need or trust MJF. Benjamin thinks MJF is kind of funny and Lashley walks off, with Benjamin going to talk to him. MJF comes in to yell about how badly the rest of the Syndicate is treating him. MJF: "I'M MJF!" MVP: "That's the problem." He suggests that MJF find out what the rest of the team wants and give it to them.

Chris Jericho goes to leave and bashes more things with his bat.

Death Riders vs. Opps

Yuta's waistlock doesn't work on Joe to start and a forearm just annoys Joe even more. Castagnoli comes in for a strike off, with Joe sending him into the corner for a jumping enziguri. Hook comes in and gets slammed by Castagnoli but sidesteps Yuta's dive in a nice tribute. Some rolling German suplexes have Yuta in trouble but he sends Hook to the apron for a double stomp from Castagnoli.

We take a break and come back with Yuta hitting an Angle Slam on Hook. A suplex gets Hook out of trouble but Yuta knocks Joe off the apron. That means a powerbomb/top rope clothesline combination (that looked good) for two on Hook, leaving Joe to go after Castagnoli. Hook goes for Redrum but here is Jon Moxley to offer a distraction. Cue Katsuyori Shibata to choke

Moxley and Redrum has Yuta down for the tap at 11:40.

Rating: B-. It was a nice enough main event tag match and I can go for seeing the Death Riders lose. While it seems like we are coming up on the Opps getting a Trios Title shot and Pac is injured, Moxley could be swapped in to defend the titles if necessary. That might be what the ending was setting up, but for now, it's nice to see the Opps getting somewhere.

Post match Marina Shafir comes in with a chair to take down the Opps. Castagnoli gives Hook a Neutralizer onto an open chair so Joe comes in to chase them off. Joe says the Opps are coming for the Trios Titles to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. The wrestling was good here but the storytelling wasn't holding up as well. The Young Bucks, the Death Riders and Jericho got a lot of focus here and that didn't help the show. There was a lot of doubling down on stars who have not seemed to be getting the best reception in recent months and that's quite the way to go. Hopefully we get more of the fun stuff that AEW has been doing and less of the annoying stories, because AEW can be very entertaining when they don't go in the wrong directions.

Results

Jon Moxley b. Katsuyori Shibata – Rear naked choke

Swerve Strickland b. Pac – Swerve Stomp

Mark Briscoe/Will Ospreay/Mike Bailey/Kevin Knight b. Ricochet/Cru/The Beast Mortos – Hidden Blade to Mortos

Kris Statlander b. Thunder Rosa – Saturday Night Fever

Opps b. Death Riders – Redrum to Yuta

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