

Ring of Honor TV – May 18, 2016: Six In A Row

Ring of Honor

Date: May 18, 2016

Host: Kevin Kelly

It's the week after Global Wars, meaning we should be getting some fresh storyline stuff instead of all the New Japan stuff that has dominated more than a month of shows now. Ring of Honor is fine on its own and can go without having all the stuff from the outsiders over and over again. Let's get to it.

And never mind as this is going to be a special episode entirely devoted to Jay Lethal. Well at least he's a Ring of Honor wrestler.

Opening sequence.

Kevin Kelly talks about how Lethal has been a champion for over two years straight, which stated at Supercard of Honor VIII (hey I was there) when he turned heel and joined Truth Martini to become TV Champion. We see the end of his match against Tommaso Ciampa to win the title.

After a quick highlight reel, we go to the 13th Anniversary Show (as in eleven months after Lethal won the title) with Lethal defending against Alberto El Patron.

TV Title: Jay Lethal vs. Alberto El Patron

Lethal is defending of course. Alberto superkicks Donovan Dijak to start and takes Lethal out to the floor for early control. A top rope clothesline drops Jay and we're already in a chinlock. Back up and Lethal crotches him in the corner to take over for the first time. The referee actually calls it accidental, which makes me want to see what intentional would be.

Truth Martini chokes Alberto a bit but Jay gets caught in the cross

armbreaker over the top rope. We take a break and come back with El Patron countering a cross armbreaker from the champion, only to be clotheslined out to the floor. The announcers talk about the KRD (Knights of the Rising Dawn, a masked group at the time) leaving, even though we didn't see them in the first place. To be fair this was aired on pay per view so there was no break live.

Jay hits three straight suicide dives to send Alberto over the barricade and the champ takes a breather on the inside. Patron sends him into the corner though and the top rope double stomp gets two. Back up and they slug it out until the Lethal Combination gets two. The top rope elbow (Hail to the King) is blocked but Alberto has to put Matrini in the cross armbreaker.

Jay tries another elbow but Patron counters into the armbreaker, only to have Truth offer a distraction so Jay can hit him in the head with the Book of Truth for two. Alberto grabs the Codebreaker on the arm, only to eat a bicycle kick. Jay's arm gives out when he tries the Lethal Injection so Truth blasts Alberto with the book, setting up the Lethal Injection for the pin at 12:33 (original match time).

Rating: B-. Certainly not bad here and a win over a former WWE World Champion is certainly a good rub for Lethal. The book cheating is still annoying but at least the right guy won and Lethal continues to look awesome. This would be about it for Alberto in Ring of Honor as he was just brought in for the title shot against Jay.

This brings us up to a discussion of Lethal vs. Jay Briscoe for the undisputed title. Here's their title vs. title match from Best in the World 2015. This is the review from Best of 2015 when more of the match was broadcast.

ROH World Title/TV Title: Jay Briscoe vs. Jay Lethal

They shake hands to start and we're ready to go. The House of Truth tries some early interference and get thrown out to make this one on one. Well two on one as Truth Martini is still at ringside. Lethal drops to the floor twice in a row to start but the fans declare it awesome anyway. Well to be fair that was indeed some AWESOME walking around on the floor.

A lockup doesn't go anywhere so they trade wristlocks with both guys challenging, only to have Briscoe take over with a front facelock.

Both guys get back up and it's time for the slugout with Briscoe being sent out to the floor. Lethal follows him out and drives Briscoe into the barricade to keep his control as we take a break. Back with Briscoe kicking Lethal in the head, only to be sent to the floor for a suicide dive. Lethal loads up another but Briscoe decks him with a hard clothesline and a big suicide dive of his own. Martini finally does something by grabbing Briscoe's leg, allowing Lethal to stomp away some more.

We hit the chinlock for a bit before Briscoe fights back up and grabs a neckbreaker. Back from another break with the Lethal Combination getting a quick two. The Macho elbow is broken up for a bit, only to have Lethal shove Briscoe off to stop a superplex. Now the elbow gets two but a Koji Clutch is quickly broken up.

They head to the apron with Lethal hitting him low to save himself from a Jay Driller through the table. Well I'd hope he broke it up as it would have meant a bad case of death otherwise. Martini's distraction earns himself an ejection and NOW the Jay Driller puts Lethal through the table as we take a third break.

Back with both guys inside and Briscoe running into a superkick, only to counter the Lethal Injection with a discus lariat. The fans are losing their minds over this stuff, though I'm still getting over the rolling out of the ring earlier. Lethal grabs the Injection out of nowhere for a very close two and Corino can barely keep going. With nothing else working, Lethal grabs a Jay Driller, followed by another Lethal Injection to finally become undisputed champion at 27:13.

Rating: B. The clipped version was good and I'm assuming the full version is even better. Lethal winning clean here, especially after going through the table like that, was a great way to make him look like the top guy in the promotion. Briscoe is pretty easily the most decorated name in the company's history so having him lose a major match like this, especially going down fighting, isn't going to cost him that much. This was good

stuff all around and felt like a major showdown so well done all around.

We talk about Lethal defending both titles at the same time until Martini caused him to lose the TV Title to Roderick Strong back in November. We see the end of the title change.

Lethal was still World Champion though and defended the title against AJ Styles at Final Battle 2015. The match is clipped on the broadcast but here's the full version.

Ring of Honor World Title: AJ Styles vs. Jay Lethal

Lethal is defending and has Truth Martini/Taeler Hendrix with him. Styles, who has a bad back coming in, is part of the Bullet Club but comes out alone. We get some big match intros and we're ready to go. Feeling out process to start as they seem to have a lot of time to work with. AJ gets the better of a technical sequence and Lethal bails out to the floor. Back in and AJ grabs a headlock as the announcers debate whether Elgin vs. Lethal will be for the title or not.

We get the drop down into the dropkick from Styles but Lethal hiptosses him down for a basement dropkick of his own. It's time for some big chops until Lethal gets caught in the Calf Cutter, sending him straight to the ropes. AJ has to avoid a book shot from Martini and gets dropped onto the apron, drawing a TRUTH MARTINI chant.

Lethal gets smart by sending him back first into the barricade and the pace slows down. We hit a camel clutch as the fans swear at someone over something. A suplex into the corner (also becoming too popular lately) rocks Styles' back for two more and Lethal grabs the world's least convincing bearhug. Shockingly enough, Jay Lethal holding a bearhug doesn't last long as AJ comes back with forearms and clotheslines, followed by a suplex into the corner of his own.

The springboard forearm is caught in the Lethal Combination for two and the champ takes over again. They fight over a suplex until AJ takes him over for a neckbreaker. I've always liked that move. Styles can't get the Clash so Lethal throws him into the air and pulls him down into a neckbreaker for two of his own.

Lethal gets tired of this wrestling stuff and throws AJ over the barricade and into the crowd. Ever the genius, Lethal tries a suicide dive with AJ still behind the barricade. AJ, also not that bright, tries the forearm off the barricade but really just collides with Lethal instead. Naturally the fans think it's awesome because you could put an ROH label on Lord Littlebrook vs. Little Beaver and they would declare it wrestling.

Back in and Jay grabs a Koji Clutch, only to get countered into the Calf Cutter, sending Jay into the ropes again. A big Lethal Injection out of the corner gets two but AJ snaps off a Pele, followed by the Bloody Sunday. Styles loads up something else but gets thrown over the top and through a table, absolutely destroying it in the crash. AJ dives in at nineteen and the Lethal Injection gets two (of course). Instead, Lethal uses Jerry Lynn's cradle piledriver (due to Jerry saying AJ would win) to set up the second Lethal Injection to retain at 22:09.

Rating: B+. This wasn't a masterpiece or even a classic but it was a pay per view quality main event. Lethal pinning Styles clean was a good way to make Lethal look great as AJ has been considered one of the best in the world for a long time now. I'm not sure how long Jay holds the title but if they want to pull the trigger on something, giving it back to Elgin in Tokyo would be rather smart.

And now, WE GET MORE HONOR RISING. Yes seriously, we're getting another match from this show because four straight weeks wasn't enough.

Ring of Honor World Title: Tomoaki Honma vs. Jay Lethal

We're joined in progress with Honma headbutting Lethal in the back to break up the Lethal Injection. Jay is knocked to the floor for a top rope headbutt to put both guys down in a heap. Honma pulls him back inside but eats a superkick, only to turn Jay inside out with a clothesline for two.

An enziguri drops Honma but again he pops up and hits a middle rope headbutt. Honma misses his top rope headbutt though and Jay gets a breather. The referee gets bumped though, allowing Los Ingobernales to interfere. A Book of Truth to the head has no effect on Honma (he has a hard head you see) so Naito kicks him low, setting up the Lethal

Injection for the pin to retain at 15:32 (original match time).

Rating: C-. Honma has a hard head and that's all I know about him from this match. He seems to be a cult favorite so it makes sense to have him get the shot on a show like this but the ending seemed to be more about setting up Honma's next feud than anything else. Still though, the match was good enough, even if there was a lot of it clipped out.

Kelly says goodbye but says next week it's a special look at Bullet Club. For those of you keeping track, that would be the sixth straight week with no new content.

Overall Rating: C. This is a tough one to rate so we'll go right in the middle. Let's take a quick look at the good and bad things here. First of all, this was about Ring of Honor (save for the required look at Honor Rising, which I'm sure we'll hear even more about next week). It also helped that the wrestling was good, which always makes the show go by faster.

Now for the obvious bad: we haven't had a new show with just the Ring of Honor crew since March 16. Think about that for a minute. We've now gone over two months since we either got a full Ring of Honor card or anything original. They've even taped TV since then but no, wait, let's look at Jay Lethal and the Bullet Club before we actually get to that. I don't know if it's a syndication issue or whatever but it's beyond ridiculous at this point and needs to be fixed immediately, as in not after at least one more "special" episode.

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<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

Ring of Honor TV – May 11, 2016: If They Don't Care, Then I Don't Care

Ring of Honor

Date: May 11, 2016

Hosts: Mandy Leon, Kevin Kelly

It's a special preview show for the Global Wars pay per view which has likely already aired assuming you don't have this show in syndication. The only match announced for the show is Jay Lethal defending the World Title against the returning Colt Cabana. Aside from that it's a bunch of Ring of Honor and New Japan stars mixed together for a single show. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Mandy and Kevin welcome us to the show and this really is just going to be one big preview.

We start with a clip from Final Battle where Bobby Fish made Roderick Strong tap but the referee didn't see it, meaning the title didn't change. Fish then pestered Strong until Strong lost the title to Tomohiro Ishii. We get a clip of the title change which we saw in full a few weeks back. Then Ishii beat the two of them at the 14th Anniversary Show, setting up a 2/3 falls match at Supercard of Honor X where Fish beat Strong 2-1.

Next up we have Tetsuya Naito vs. Kyle O'Reilly. Kyle had been in a long feud with Adam Cole, who he finally defeated at Supercard of Honor by choking Cole out with a chain. The clip of the match is the entire preview of this match.

Also at Supercard of Honor, Stokely Hathaway set up a tag match between Kazuchika Okada/Moose vs. Michael Elgin/Hiroshi Tanahashi. This means a clip of the ending of Okada vs. Moose from the Anniversary Show. Again: nothing more than that clip to show respect between the two.

There's also a fourway tag with the Bullet Club vs. Matt Sydal/Kushida/Motor City Machine Guns. That means a preview by means of Bullet Club (different combination than at Global Wars) vs. Sydal/Kushida/ACH from the Anniversary Show. In other words: that was awesome so now come pay for another version of the same thing.

We actually cover a match with a story. War Machine is defending the Tag Team Titles against the Briscoe Brothers as the Brothers haven't been around the titles for a long time now and wanted the belts back. That's not cool with War Machine so it's time for a rematch from a big match they had a few years back. War Machine has never beaten the Briscoes so there's quite the backstory here. We get a clip from the two teams fighting back in 2015.

The Briscoes say War Machine can't call themselves the best until they beat dem boys.

Video on Colt Cabana vs. Jay Lethal, which is either the same video as last week or so close that it doesn't make a difference.

We get some clips of Cabana's ROH highlights to show that he is more than just a comedy guy.

In case you haven't seen enough of Cabana, here's part of a 2/3 falls match he had against CM Punk on August 13, 2005 at Punk: The Final Chapter.

CM Punk vs. Colt Cabana

Joined in progress with Cabana grabbing a few headscissor takeovers to keep Punk on the mat and drawing a nice round of applause. Back up and Punk tries a monkey flip, only to get stomped on the face so Colt can strut a bit. Punk wants him to be serious for a change but the distraction lets Cabana grab a headlock.

We go old school (in case show a match almost eleven years old isn't enough for you) with a crisscross. Colt stops and tells Punk to look up. Punk: "No!" Colt: "There's a bear up there!" Punk: "NO!" Colt stomps on the foot instead and we're clipped ahead to Colt grabbing a Boston crab as the announcers finally let us know that we're in the third fall. Punk finally makes the ropes and comes back with a reverse hurricanrana.

We come back from a break with Colt getting in a super reverse DDT and both guys are spent. There's the Anaconda Vice (or at least a version of it as the arm isn't tied here) but Colt gets his feet on the ropes. The Pepsi Plunge (Punk's middle rope Pedigree) is countered into a super Samoan drop but Punk grabs a crucifix for two.

Punk swears at him to start a slugout before kicking away at the leg to set up a Shining Wizard for two. A quick suplex is countered into a rollup to give Colt the pin out of nowhere at about 7:00 shown. I won't rate the match since it was so clipped but what we saw was fine, for an eleven year old match with almost no connection to anything going on at the moment.

One last rundown of the Global Wars card and we're off the air after 58 minutes.

Overall Rating: F. Nope. I know what Ring of Honor was going for here but I'm not going to accept this mess. This is the kind of show that should have aired on the website or something but above all else, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN BEFORE THE PAY PER VIEW. It also might have helped if we saw some actual promos or something other than a match that took place nearly eleven years ago. Ring of Honor should be better than this but somehow they managed to mess up what should be the easiest idea in the world. Above all else here, I'm disappointed, which is about the worst thing you can be.

Ring of Honor TV – May 4, 2016: The Kind Of Thing You Read About WCW Doing

Ring of Honor

Date: May 4, 2016

Location: Korakuen Hall, Tokyo, Japan

Attendance: 1,367

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Mr. Wrestling 3

We're still in Japan for the Honor Rising tapings from February and it's still the first night of the show. Tonight it's almost all about the Bullet Club, including appearances by people who are no longer in the promotion. I'd assume we'll be getting at least two or three more weeks of this stuff so there's a long way to go. Let's get to it.

Moose/Hiroshi Tanahashi/Michael Elgin/Tomoaki Honma vs. Bullet Club

In this case it's Bad Luck Fale/Cody Hall/Tama Tonga/Yujiro Takahashi. Moose and Fale, the big monsters of each team, start things off with Fale pounding away to take over, only to eat a dropkick to take the bigger man down. Fale is sent to the floor and we take an early break. Back with Tonga hammering on Honma (a Tag Team Champion coming in here) before everything breaks down into a big brawl.

The good guys clear the ring and pose before everything breaks down again and the brawl heads to the floor. Yujiro chairs Tanahashi in his bad shoulder to take over and it's Fale standing on Tanahashi's back to keep him in trouble. Hall comes in for a few shots before it's back to the scary looking Tonga. Tanahashi ducks his head and Tonga slides around him a few times before scoring with a great dropkick.

Takahashi comes in for a bit before it's quickly off to Elgin for the scary power displays, including holding Tonga over his head with one arm for a gorilla press. We take another break and come back with Elgin suplexing Takahashi and Hall (who stands 6'6) at the same time. A

deadlift German suplex gets two on Takahashi but he gets in a low blow to slow Elgin down. Moose comes in for his fist pump punches but Hall ducks underneath one and gets in a Samoan drop.

That's no sold of course so Hall has to knee Moose in the ribs to block the spear. He can't get Moose up for the Razor's Edge though so instead it's a discus lariat as everything breaks down again. Hall chokeslams Moose for two before Elgin Samoan drops Tonga and fall away slams Takahashi at the same time. Egads that's scary power. Elgin isn't done as he throws Tanahashi onto everyone but Hall. Moose runs the corner for a spinning cross body to set up the spear to put Hall away at 11:37.

Rating: B-. This was a bit too messy at times but it was still a lot of fun. Elgin and Moose are just natural freaks and Hall/Tonga have great looks and potential. The match wound up being more entertaining than I was expecting and that's really all you can hope for out of something like this with no real backstory other than good guys vs. bad guys.

The House of Truth tours Tokyo.

We look at Lio Rush getting a World Title shot against Jay Lethal at Supercard of Honor with Rush's top rope C4 being countered into a cutter, followed by the Lethal Injection to retain Jay's title. Post match Colt Cabana came out and talked about being an independent wrestler who can't be fired by the people. Lethal accused him of running away from Ring of Honor because no one wants him here. The following night, Cabana came out and pinned Lethal in a quick exhibition to earn a title shot.

The House of Truth goes to a massage parlor when Delirious walks out the door. This leads nowhere. We cut to Lethal and Martini going to the New Japan store...and then we cut to Jay Briscoe trying to find a gym. Back in the store, Delirious is hiding among the masks. After some dinner is consumed, here's Dalton Castle at a cat cafe. Absolutely none of this meant anything other than a way to kill time.

Karl Anderson/Luke Gallows vs. Briscoe Brothers

Anderson and Gallows (Bullet Club) attack to start but Jay takes Gallows to the floor with a Cactus Clothesline. Mark's running apron Blockbuster

drops Anderson and we take a break. Back with Mark rolling across the ring and stopping Anderson with the threat of a crane kick. We're told that next week will feature a preview episode for Global Wars, which is nice for a change but unless you see it in syndication, you won't get to watch it until AFTER the show. But hey, at least we're getting to see A THIRD STRAIGHT WEEK of meaningless matches from February.

Mark gets taken out to the floor with Gallows dropping a legdrop onto the apron to keep Mark in trouble. They brawl out to the floor with the Club in full control as Wrestling 3 talks about the history of Korakuen Hall for at least the second week in a row. We take another break and come back with Jay getting the hot tag to clean house. A Death Valley Driver gets two on Karl and everything breaks down again. Gallows is low bridged to the floor but slides back in to break up the Jay Driller. Mark mostly misses a top rope dropkick to put Gallows down and it's the Froggy Bow to put Karl away at 8:23.

Rating: C. The match was fine but there was no mention of the Briscoes having an ROH Tag Team Title match against a team similar to Anderson and Gallows in FOUR DAYS because Ring of Honor has done a horrible job of setting up the show. Anderson and Gallows are long gone too, but again that's too far in the past to actually mention.

A long video package on the entire February tour wraps us up.

Overall Rating: D-. Unless you live in an area that has Ring of Honor in syndication, THIS was your go home show for Global Wars. Yeah there's going to be a preview show next week but in case you're in an area that doesn't get the show on your local station, you'll be seeing it AFTER THE PAY PER VIEW AIRS. This really shouldn't have to be explained but either record some new commentary that actually mentions the specific matches (other than Lethal vs. Cabana, zero specific matches have been announced for the show on TV) or cut out one of these shows and air the preview earlier.

This is the kind of stuff you expect to have heard about WCW doing in their dying days instead of a company that seems to be rather intelligent. I get that they wanted to brag about their big tour of Japan

but was there really any need of airing three weeks of stuff from February instead of talking about a pay per view that might make them some money? This was a very shortsighted way of doing things and that's much more disappointing than anything else.

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Ring of Honor TV – April 27, 2016: ROH Doing New Japan The WWE Way

Ring of Honor

Date: April 27, 2016

Location: Korakuen Hall, Tokyo, Japan

Attendance: 1,367

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Mr. Wrestling 3

We're still in Japan and back in February with more matches from Honor Rising 2016. At this point you almost have to expect Ring of Honor to skip most of the Dallas stuff and just do a new set of TV tapings in May with the New Japan guys again. There won't be anything major in storyline terms here but hopefully the action will be good. Let's get to it.

Jay Lethal/Tetsuya Naito vs. Kazuchika Okada/Yoshi-Hashi

Okada is the IWGP World Champion but has since lost the title to Naito, who is kind of a loner, which is why he's the leader of a stable. Lethal and Okada start things off in what's actually a pretty cool visual. They trade wristlocks to start as we get the silent treatment (not a bad thing) from the fans. An early Lethal Injection attempt is countered (amazingly enough) but Jay ducks the Rainmaker to get us to a standoff. Naito doesn't want to tag in and we take a break.

Back with Naito tagging in to jump over the apron and dropkick Naito for two. A quick Codebreaker allows for the tag off to Okada who eats a tornado DDT for his efforts. Lethal adds a roaring elbow but accidentally superkicks Naito (thankfully without a Young Bucks reference), allowing Okada to dropkick him down. The hot (minus the crowd reaction) tag brings in Yoshi for a neckbreaker and Blockbuster for two each. The Book of Truth is brought in to poor results but Naito's goon Evil (formerly known as Watanabe) shoves Yoshi off the top, setting up the Lethal Injection for the pin at 12:56.

Rating: C+. This was fine and Lethal is really starting to feel like a major player instead of someone in over his head. I'm still not a big fan of the guy but he's improved by leaps and bounds in the last year or so. Naito was fun to watch but I need to see more of him to get the idea of his whole deal.

Naito reads the Book of Truth and then uses it to pound on Yoshi. Jay shakes his hand post match to imply a future partnership.

Kazarian vs. Kushida

Kushida's IWGP Junior Heavyweight Title isn't on the line. It's a fight over a top wristlock to start as the announcers talk about the referee's career. Kushida gets in an early Hoverboard Lock but Kazarian bails to the ropes. That's fine with Kushida as he rides Kazarian on the mat to take us to a break.

Back with Kazarian snapping the throat across the ropes and getting in the slingshot DDT. We hit the choking with Kushida pointing to his throat

as he can't breathe. A Backstabber gets two on Kushida as Kelly says we'll be seeing more Honor Rising stuff for weeks to come. Kushida gets in a dropkick to send Kazarian out to the floor and there's a big flip dive to take him out again.

Back in and it's off to the submission attempts so Kazarian goes American with a rake to the eyes. An electric chair into a rollup gets two as the announcers talk about Japanese baseball. Kazarian loads up the Flux Capacitor (because both of these guys LOVE Back to the Future in a parallel the announcers miss) but Kushida grabs the Hoverboard Lock to slam Kazarian down to the mat. Another Hoverboard Lock makes him tap at 9:37.

Rating: C. I liked this more than I was expecting to but really I just want to go watch Back to the Future. Kushida still doesn't do much for me and Kazarian hasn't been the same guy I used to be a fan of back in TNA. I'm also not sure why you wouldn't make this a title match to add a little spice. The wrestling was fine though.

The Briscoes get into shenanigans on the streets of Tokyo.

Elite vs. ReDRagon/Katsuyori Shibata

Elite is a subset of Bullet Club comprised of Kenny Omega and the Young Bucks because we haven't seen them enough on the regular shows. The Elite is sent out to the floor and Shibata and Omega fight past the barricade. The Bucks try stereo sunset flips and get caught in matching cross armbreakers. Shibata puts Omega in one as well, only to get powerbombed onto his partners. Omega is left alone in the ring so he dives over the top to take everyone down.

We take another break and come back with the Elite taking turns choking Fish. A tag match breaks out of all the fighting with Nick telling Fish to suck it several times. Bobby suplexes Nick into Matt and makes the tag off to Kyle while Shibata is nowhere to be seen. Chasing the Dragon is broken up and it's off to Shibata vs. Omega for the big slugout. Shibata gets in a choke and the Bucks can't break it up.

A double superkick puts him down to one knee and the triple version gets

two. Everything breaks down and Omega throws Shibata off a tornado DDT, setting up the superkick party. Everyone kicks everyone until Kyle counters the One Winged Angel into a guillotine choke. Matt sprays something in Kyle's eyes though and it's the One Winged Angle to put O'Reilly away at 10:16.

Rating: B-. Best match of the night here as Omega continues to look like a star. Shibata is fine in the Ken Shamrock mold of cyborg submission machine and it's a good time whenever I get to see the Bucks get beaten up. ReDRagon is still one of the best things about ROH but they're at the weird point where the Tag Team Titles don't mean anything to them anymore.

Overall Rating: C. "So you know how we've been showing you these matches that don't mean anything for weeks on end? Well how about paying to see a full pay per view of them?" That's the WWE style of booking TV to a pay per view and it doesn't work for either promotion. The limited interest I had in seeing Global Wars and War of the Worlds has been thrown out the window now because I've watched these big names for the better part of a month. Where's the incentive to keep watching and even pay for another show?

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Ring of Honor TV – April 20, 2016: I'll Be Waiting Over Here

Ring of Honor

Date: April 20, 2016

Location: Korakuen Hall, Tokyo, Japan

Attendance: 1,367

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Mr. Wrestling 3

This is an interesting show as we're taking a look at matches from Honor Rising 2016, which took place over in Tokyo...in February. Yeah instead of moving forward with the post Supercard of Honor tapings, we're going back to a bunch of matches that really don't mean much. I'm not sure why they would do this but in theory it's to set up Global Wars in May. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Jushin Thunder Liger/Matt Sydal vs. Ryusuke Taguchi/Dalton Castle

Castle has the Boys with him, Taguchi has his own peacock style look and Sydal is half of the Junior Heavyweight Tag Team Champions. Castle and Liger get things going as the announcers talk about how exciting this will be even though it was filmed back in February. Liger takes him down to the mat and rocks Castle into a modified surfboard.

That means it's time for some fanning but Castle would rather strut than dive onto Liger. As you might expect, Liger slides back in, chases Castle off, and poses with the Boys instead. Back from a break with Taguchi shoving Sydal away to break up a headlock. Taguchi can't hit his hip attack so Matt gets in a spinwheel kick. Wrestling 3 to Kelly: "Now you're a guy with strong hips."

Liger comes back in and counters another hip attack into an atomic drop (smart move) but Castle lifts Taguchi up to drive him into Liger in the

corner. Sydal fires off some kicks for two on Taguchi but it's off to Castle for some running shots in the corner. A nice overhead release belly to belly gets two on Sydal as everything breaks down. Sydal kicks Castle down and hits the shooting star for the pin at 8:20.

Rating: C. Castle and Liger were fun but the rest of the match was just there. It's another match with four guys who have no real reason to be in a match together save for some stuff that happened in another promotion, which of course Ring of Honor doesn't feel the need to educate us on. That's where these shows fall apart for me: you can have wrestling for the sake of wrestling, but it better be really, really strong to make up for the lack of stories.

Video on the set being built.

Delirious vs. Gedo

These guys are the bookers for the promotions and Delirious is insane. Delirious kneels in the corner and doesn't respond to Gedo's attempt at a handshake. The bell rings and Delirious goes nuts, as is his custom. After a half lap around the ring, Delirious comes back inside to do a quick wrestling sequence. Some rakes to the chest and back have Gedo in trouble and we take a break.

Back (after a video on Moose making his New Japan debut) with Delirious charging into two boots in the corner and getting caught in a figure four. That goes nowhere so Gedo punches him in the face a few times instead. A low superkick knocks something out of Delirious' mouth as the announcers talk about a match taking place in two and a half months, or a week depending on which timeline you follow. Delirious misses a top rope splash and gets rolled up for two, only to come back with a crucifix for the pin at 7:53.

Rating: D+. As much as I hate to say this, yeah whatever and next please. It's a match between the bookers which isn't interesting on its own and again the wrestling didn't do anything special for it either. Delirious is funny but there are so many other people who can't make the show for the sake of booker vs. booker.

Roderick Strong is ready to defend the title when Bobby Fish pops up to say he's going to win the title in Las Vegas. And I'm sure this months long story will reach a satisfying and fulfilling conclusion.

Long video on Dalton Castle in Japan.

TV Title: Roderick Strong vs. Tomohiro Ishii

Ishii, a very tough man, is challenging. Strong's chop has no effect and Ishii scares him out to the floor. Back in and Ishii keeps hammering on him while no selling any of the champ's strikes. With nothing else working, Strong stomps on the open toes and we take a break. Back with Strong dropping him spine first onto the apron for his first real offense.

In a discussion that gets very stupid as soon as you think about it, Corino says we need to watch Supercard of Honor to see a legend returning. Now of course he won't say who it was because that would defeat the point of getting the show. That is of course TOTALLY different than watching a title match to see if there's a new champion WHO ALREADY DEFENDED HIS TITLE ON THIS TV SHOW. Strong kicks him in the face again before staying on the back, meaning the chops have more of an effect this time.

An Angle Slam gets two for the champ but Ishii comes back with a powerslam. A Saito suplex on Strong takes us to another break and we come back with Strong suplexing Ishii off the apron and down to the floor. Ishii starts no selling strikes again and gets two off a big powerbomb. Strong comes back with a top rope superplex and the Sick Kick for two. Some jumping knees to the head don't do much to Ishii as he headbutts Strong down and gets two more off that sliding lariat (I still don't get the appeal.). A brainbuster gives Ishii the title at 20:07.

Rating: B. Good main event here even with the ending being spoiled in the first place. Strong is a good champion but I'm not big on Ishii with his toughman stuff. I know it's insanely popular in Japan but it's never been my style. There was some good selling here though as Strong found the weak spot with his back to make the match much better than I was expecting.

Overall Rating: D+. Hey, did you know New Japan is awesome? I don't know if I made it clear enough that New Japan is awesome. Now that it's clear that you know New Japan is awesome (because New Japan is totally awesome), maybe we can get back to some actual Ring of Honor stuff instead of showcasing how awesome New Japan is (because New Japan IS AWESOME!).

Kelly said we'll be seeing more from this show "for the next few weeks". Let's assume that means two more weeks at least, meaning we won't be getting back to fresh Ring of Honor stuff until May 11 at the earliest. That's nearly six weeks after Ring of Honor taped stuff in Dallas, so unless they're just not airing that stuff, we'll probably be seeing fallout from Global Wars, meaning EVEN MORE New Japan stuff.

I get the appeal of the Japanese guys coming in but this has gone WAY too far as the promotion is basically beholden to whatever New Japan wants at this point. The thing is, that's not what I watch RING OF HONOR for. I watch Ring of Honor to see the Ring of Honor guys and whatever stories they're doing.

However, it seems that I'm going to be sitting here for the better part of a month before I get any of that because we need to see matches from two months ago which have almost no bearing on anything going on in Ring of Honor at the moment. They need to cut this stuff out but that doesn't seem to be happening anytime soon, which is one of the most annoying things I've seen a promotion do in a long time.

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Ring of Honor TV – April 13, 2016: If You Build It, The Fans Will Stay Through The Taping

Ring of Honor

Date: April 13, 2016

Location: Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Mr. Wrestling 3

It's a very big show this week with the Tag Team Titles on the line, a major star from New Japan making an appearance and a Fight Without Honor for the first time ever on ROH TV. I know these staggered shows get annoying but they've actually got a big card here and that's a rare sight on an hour long TV show. Let's get to it.

Tag Team Titles: War Machine vs. Roppangi Vice

Vice (Trent Barreta and Rocky Romero) is challenging and knocks Hansen and Rowe off the apron before the bell. Rowe says ring the bell but gets beaten down in the corner to start. A standing moonsault doesn't have much effect though and it's Hansen back in for rights and lefts of his own. Romero is kicked out to the floor as Wrestling 3 tells stories of "joysting" (not jousting but joysting), whatever that is.

We take a break and come back with Hansen taking Rowe's shotgun knees by mistake, followed by Romero kicking Rowe in the face. A quick Superman punch puts Romero down but Trent dropkicks both champs down to save his partner in a nice spot. Two double knees to the face drops Hansen but War Machine gets tired of these pests and lifts them up for powerbombs, only to slam the challengers into each other. That's a new one. The Path of Resistance is broken up though as Romero hurricanranas Hansen down. A

flip dive is countered into an apron bomb though and Fallout puts Romero away at 9:56.

Rating: C+. This was fine despite me not being a big fan of Barreta and Romero. There wasn't much of a surprise here as they had been setting up the Briscoes challenging for the titles over the last few weeks but at least we had something other than a squash to get us there. Nice little match here.

Prince Nana brings out Donovan Dijak, in a Jay Lethal shirt, for something to say. Let's get right to it with the envelopes: you're not going to find out because you don't need to know. Nana talks about how Dijak is enlightened while Donovan talks about being tired of spending the last year guarding Jay Lethal. This brings out Lethal for a brawl that security has to break up.

Dalton Castle says his goal is different again tonight because this time he wants to hurt Silas Young.

ACH vs. Kenny Omega

Omega, whose Intercontinental Title isn't on the line here, is the head of the Bullet Club in New Japan and he has some awesome entrance music. Kenny is called the Cleaner so of course he comes out with a broom, along with the Young Bucks. As expected, the fans are almost entirely behind Omega.

Feeling out process to start with ACH doing all his flips as the announcers explain the latest issues in New Japan. An elbow to the head drops Omega and a dropkick puts him out on the floor. Naturally the numbers become an issue though as Omega distracts the referee, allowing a superkick to put ACH down. In a funny bit, Matt throws out a banana peel to offer an explanation.

We take a break (and get a promo from Adam Cole about how he created the Kingdom, meaning Matt Taven has no right to reform the team) and come back with ACH holding Omega in a headlock, only to be countered into what looked like a one man More Bang For Your Buck. That goes nowhere and ACH gets up a boot in the corner, followed by another kick to the face to put

Omega on the floor.

The Jordan dive takes out the Bucks and Omega to a nice reaction as it's not all Omega fans for a bit of a surprise. Back in and a top rope double stomp to the back gets two on Kenny and a brainbuster is good for the same. A 450 misses though and Omega gets in a hard knee to the ribs to take over. ACH comes back again and gets in a Stunner, giving us a Rock style sell job. The Midnight Star misses though and the One Winged Angel (electric chair into a forward piledriver) puts ACH away at 13:31.

Rating: B. I'm not a fan of ACH but this was pretty easily his best Ring of Honor match to date. I've heard a lot of great things about Omega over the last few months and he was definitely entertaining here but not quite as great as he's been made out to be. I can go for ACH far more easily if he's acting like a wrestler instead of a guy doing scripted out flips.

Dalton Castle vs. Silas Young

Fight Without Honor, basically meaning street fight. Castle has the Boys with him but they go to the back before he hits the ring. That's the right idea for something like this. The fans are behind Castle as he clotheslines Silas to the floor while the streamers are still all over the ring. A suicide dive takes Young out again but Castle misses a running knee on the apron and gets shoved out to the floor. This hasn't gotten violent yet but you can feel a different vibe.

Back up and Castle chops the post by mistake to give Young his first target. Castle tries another chop but fakes Young out and sends him into the barricade for a smart move. We take a break and come back with Young setting up a table on the floor to go with the ladder already in the ring. Neither of those are good enough for him though as he powerbombs Castle onto two open chairs instead.

A slingshot elbow gets two on Dalton and it's time for some simple choking. For some reason Young lets him loose though and tries his slingshot moonsault but only hits ladder. They slug it out from their knees and then their feet with Castle getting the better of it until Young grabs a cutter for two. Misery gets the same so it's time for a trashcan lid and some yelling on the mic.

Silas wishes the Boys were out here to see this beating so here they come, only to have one of them jump on Young's back. That ticks Castle off all over again but he misses a running knee to send him outside. The Boys take a suicide dive to protect Dalton, who slides into the ring for a hurricanrana to send Young onto the floor again.

Back in and the Bang A Rang is countered so Dalton throws him over the top and down through the table for a YOU JUST KILLED HIM chant. Somehow that only gets two, followed by Silas hitting him low for the same. Not that it matters as the Bang A Rang onto the chairs gives Dalton the pin at 16:42.

Rating: B. This would have been a lot better if it had happened back in say.....December. It was a good brawl and a very strong win for Castle but this story went on WAY too long to have the impact they were going for. I still like the feud and it's a good blowoff match this could have been so much more if they had done it a long time ago.

Overall Rating: A-. A one hour show having two strong matches is about as easy of a layup as you're going to get. This was the first time in a long time that a show felt like something big and a lot of that is due to how much time they spent building up Young vs. Castle. No they didn't have amazing promos that made me want to see it, but just saying "it's in three weeks" made me want to see where the match was going. You don't get that in most promotions and it was a really nice change of pace which wound up working. Well done ROH, which isn't something I've been able to say lately.

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Ring of Honor TV – April 6, 2016: We Get The Concept

Ring of Honor

Date: April 6, 2015

Location: Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Mr. Wrestling III, Kevin Kelly

We're still in Las Vegas and it's time to have another show that airs after a big show with no mention of the big show's results. In this case it's Supercard of Honor from Wrestlemania weekend but we're doing the TV that deals with the fallout from the 14th Anniversary Show. It would be nice if they could find a way to work this out but I don't see it coming anytime soon. Let's get to it.

Instead of the regular opening sequence, we get a look at Donovan Dijak laying out Jay Lethal and injuring Truth Martini a few weeks back.

Lethal goes on a rant about how Dijak has injured his best friend after it was all Martini's idea to bring him into the House of Truth in the first place. Now Dijak has the ROH World Champion coming for him and that's not going to be pleasant.

Opening sequence.

Kazuchika Okada/Gedo vs. ReDRagon

Okada is IWGP Champion coming in. The Japanese guys want nothing to do with a pre-match handshake so it's a bit testy as we get things going. Gedo cranks on Fish's head to start before getting two off a rollup. That's countered into a legbar as the fans chant for the New Japan guys.

Fish wants Okada and even lays down in the ring, offering him a chance to come in. Okada does come in but it's also off to O'Reilly as the announcers talk about Kyle's ear injury. An early sunset flip attempt is countered into a cross armbreaker until Gedo comes in to break it up with a right hand to the bad ear. The Japanese guys start in on the ear and we take a break.

Back with Kyle striking away at Okada and diving over for the hot tag to Fish. Everything breaks down and Okada hits his over the shoulder backbreaker on Fish but the Rainmaker is countered into a Samoan drop. Gedo breaks up the hot tag and superkicks Bobby for two as everything breaks down again. Okada gets sent to the floor and it's Gedo getting double teamed with rapid fire forearms, followed by Chasing the Dragon for the pin at 12:24.

Rating: C. The match was fun but it's nice to see the New Japan guys get beaten for a change. I know they're a special attraction but far too often it seems there's no reason to watch the match because it's a guaranteed win. ReDRagon needs better opponents though because they're at the point of having nothing left to do in tag action.

We look back at the Briscoes picking up the Tag Team Titles last week, much to War Machine's annoyance.

The Briscoes say War Machine can't call themselves the best of all time because they've never beaten Dem Boys. That sounds like a challenge to me and it should be one heck of a fight.

Adam Cole vs. Kushida

Kushida's IWGP Junior Heavyweight Title isn't on the line. Cole shoves him around to start and for once the ROH guy seems to be the crowd favorite. Kushida doesn't take kindly to this and rides Cole on the mat to some nice applause. A Fujiwara armbar sends Cole scrambling to the ropes. Adam gets in a few shots from the apron though and we take a break. Back with Kushida hitting an atomic drop and some seated dropkicks to the head to get the fans back on his side.

A front flip kick sends Cole out to the floor but the moonsault hits

knees back inside. Cole gets two off a hard running Shining Wizard, only to have to get out of the Hoverboard lock with a small package. Kushida tries more kicks so Cole stomps on his hand, only to get kicked in the arm. There's another Hoverboard lock but Cole puts him on his shoulders for two and forcing the break. Back up and Cole superkicks him in the back of the head, setting up the suplex into the backbreaker for the pin on Kushida at 11:05.

Rating: C+. This is the kind of match that I'm not wild on: exchanging moves and then doing the finish. There's no real connection between these teams and there's no real reason to see the two of them fighting. It's certainly not bad or anything but I'm going to forget I saw it in a few minutes because it had no impact on anything whatsoever.

Dalton Castle is ready for his Fight Without Honor with Silas Young. He might even fill Young's pants with brine shrimp and throw him in a blender.

We look back at the Motor City Machine Guns reforming at the 14th Anniversary Show.

Addiction vs. The Machine Guns

Yeah no Motor City now. Sabin and Daniels get things going but Kazarian gets in a cheap shot thirty seconds in like a heel should. As you might expect, the Guns clean house and send us to an early break. Back with Shelley coming in off the top to work on Kazarian's arm, setting up the quick takedown and rapid fire basement dropkick.

The double dive sends the Addiction into the barricade, followed by a high cross body from Shelley for two on Kazarian. Daniels gets in a shot to the back though and Addiction finally takes over. Kazarian and Daniels take turns on Shelley, including a double clothesline, allowing Daniels to put his foot on the chest for two. We take another break and come back with Shelley giving Kazarian a Stunner while DDTing Daniels at the same time.

That's still not enough for the hot tag as Daniels pulls Sabin off the apron, only to have Shelley send Daniels head first between Kazarian's

legs. We finally get the hot tag to Sabin as everything breaks down. Kazarian gets kicked in the face but Daniels sends Shelley outside, setting up a big dive to take Alex out. Shelley slides back in almost immediately and starts the double team strikes on Daniels, followed by Skull and Bones for the pin at 12:21.

Rating: C. I was a big fan of the Guns back in the day but given how many fast paced teams there are now and the fact that Sabin is nothing compared to what he used to be (And somehow a former TNA World Champion. I still don't get that one.), there's really nothing left for them to do, making this a fairly worthless reunion. The match was fine but still not my style for the most part.

Post match the Addiction beats the Guns down, only to have Kushida and Matt Sydal run in for the save. The Young Bucks come in to superkick the two of them down, triggering another brawl to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. I'm really getting tired of these tag brawls to end the shows. We get it: the tag division is really competitive. Now either do something with them or stop having the same story over and over. There's almost no reason for most of them to be fighting other than "the tag division is competitive" and that's not going to work for months at a time.

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Ring of Honor – March 30, 2016: The Dead Zone

Ring of Honor

Date: March 30, 2015

Location: Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Mr. Wrestling III, Kevin Kelly

We're still in Las Vegas with the cool blue curtains and a World Title defense with Hirooki Goto from New Japan challenging ROH World Champion Jay Lethal. It's not like Lethal has anything else going on right now so having him defend against someone from outside the company isn't the worst idea. Let's get to it.

Roderick Strong vs. Adam Page vs. Moose vs. Matt Sydal

This is a Four Corner Survival match which actually means one fall to a finish. Strong and Sydal get things going with a nice running of the ropes before Roderick gets in his first backbreaker for two. Page tags himself in to go after Strong but Sydal tags himself in as well, only to get sent to the floor. That's as good as a tag so it's Moose coming in to slam Strong for two with Page making the save.

Moose and Sydal go to the floor with Matt getting powerbombed onto the apron, followed by Page diving on Strong as we take a break. Back with Page dropkicking Strong into the corner until Sydal drops both Page and Strong at the same time. A standing moonsault gets two on Adam, followed by Moose slugging it out with Strong.

Moose dropkicks Sydal and Page off the corner so everyone starts focusing on Moose to give themselves an opening. Page throws Sydal with a release dragon suplex but here's BJ Whitmer to trip Page up, allowing Sydal to knee him in the face. The shooting star press crushes Page but Strong comes back in with a knee to both faces and the pin on Page at 11:53.

Rating: C. The match was certainly energetic but I'm not a fan of these wild messes with no real story (save for maybe Moose being dominant) and action all over the place. There's a way to do these things but they have a bad tendency to turn into borderline trainwrecks like this one. It certainly wasn't bad but it just came and went with no real impact.

Here's Adam Cole with something to say. After some production guy says "I hope it's story time. I really like it.", it's story time with Adam Cole. Adam says that despite this perceived downward spiral, he's still the best wrestler in the world and the future World Champion. There is no one in that locker room who can stand up to him and Kyle O'Reilly shouldn't even be in the same ring as him. Cole may be without his Kingdom but he'll be winning that title back soon.

This brings out Matt Taven on a crutch to promise titles both in American and Japan. Well actually he'll be winning them on his own because Cole hasn't won any gold in a long time. After Cole got hurt, it was Taven who was keeping Cole relevant and he's tired of carrying Adam. The Kingdom will be rebuilt in Taven's image and that's it for Cole.

Dalton Castle isn't a fan of rules (like dress codes because he's a clothing optional man) so he loves the idea of a Fight Without Honor against Silas Young in two weeks.

Cheeseburger vs. Foxx Vinyer

Foxx pounds the much smaller man down to start and some strikes to the chest don't have much effect for Cheeseburger. Instead a powerslam gets two on Cheeseburger but he pops back up with a knee to the head. The palm strike is loaded up but here's the All Night Express to pull Foxx out for the DQ at 1:32 for no apparent reason.

The Express isn't here to attack Cheeseburger because they like him. They see the heart inside him and know that he's tough enough to go through tables and be bent over ladders, even though the fans don't care about him. Yeah no matter how badly he's been beaten up, the people aren't going to care.

The Express reads some mean Tweets from fans before ripping on the other

teams for being too small (the Young Bucks), smelly farmers (the Briscoes) and big bald guys (War Machine). The fans chant for Cheeseburger, who reads the catchphrase on the back of the Express' shirt and gets beaten down. Wrestling III: "HE'S JUST A BURGER!!!" War Machine and the Briscoes come out for the save but the Briscoes pick up the belts. The champs aren't happy with that and it's a big staredown.

The House of Truth is ready for the main event.

ROH World Title: Hirooki Goto vs. Jay Lethal

Goto is challenging after beating Dalton Castle at Supercard of Honor. Lethal's graphic still shows him with the TV Title. Jay kicks him in the ribs at the handshake but Goto easily pounds him down into the corner. With the champ in trouble, Taeler Hendrix offers a distraction to break up the top rope hurricanrana. Jay is right on him with a suicide dive and we get a Trutharooni in celebration.

Lethal hits a chinlock back inside and we take a break. Back with Goto making his comeback and blocking the Lethal Injection. A Saito suplex gets two on the champ and an AA into a backbreaker gets the same. Martini offers another distraction though and it's the Lethal Injection to retain the title at 10:17.

Rating: C. This is the kind of match that doesn't do much for me as there's no real story other than Goto won a match at a show a few weeks back. There's no connection or animosity between these two and with about seven minutes of airtime, there's only so much they can actually do. It's a perfectly watchable match but I need something else to care about or a lot higher quality.

Post match Donovan Dijak comes in to go after Lethal and easily wins the slugout. The Book of Truth to the back has no effect so Dijak kicks Martini's head off to end the show.

Overall Rating: D+. I really wasn't feeling this one as it's a collection of midcard stuff or short term angles that don't seem to have much importance. The show went by fast enough and wasn't exactly bad but nothing felt big here, save for maybe the big angle at the end. Then

again I can't imagine they'll put the title on Donovan Dijak, even though I'm a fan of the guy. This wasn't a horrible show but it's completely skippable.

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Ring of Honor TV – March 23, 2016: Can I Sign Up For Old Japan?

Ring of Honor

Date: March 23, 2015

Location: Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Mr. Wrestling III, Kevin Kelly

It's a special show this time as we have a new taping cycle including the New Japan crew. These things can go a bunch of different ways and unfortunately a lot of those ways don't often go well for the normal Ring of Honor guys. It's also the fight show after the 14th Anniversary Show so things can start moving forward. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

TV Title: BJ Whitmer vs. Tomohiro Ishii

Ishii is defending after taking the title in Japan because WE MUST PRAISE NEW JAPAN. The graphic says "Tomorhiro" but I can't find anything else that spells is that way. We're not quite ready to go yet though as Veda Scott and Cedric Alexander come out with Veda offering a check in exchange for the title shot. Whitmer is appalled at the suggestion that he could be bought off and then takes the check anyway.

TV Title: Cedric Alexander vs. Tomohiro Ishii

The match starts after a break with Ishii hitting a hard shoulder and throwing Alexander across the ring with ease. Ishii headbutts him down but Veda grabs the boot to finally give Cedric an opening. See, she's effective as well as gorgeous. Cedric starts stomping at the head before going with a far less painful chinlock.

That's enough for the champ though as he Hulks Up and scores with chops and a suplex. Cedric is up at two and climbs the corner for a spinning kick to the head. Back up and Ishii just headbutts the heck out of him, only to have the sliding lariat get countered into a crucifix for two. Ishii is done playing though and he braninbusts Alexander for the pin to retain at 6:32.

Rating: C. I'm really not a fan of the NEVER stuff that Ishii does over in New Japan but he's perfectly acceptable when he's doing more wrestling than all that strong style toughman nonsense. Alexander is way too generic for my tastes but at least Veda is awesome in her role and can carry anyone however far she needs to.

Here's the Addiction to complain about the reunion of the Motor City Machine Guns. Oh great that's a thing again. They take credit for bringing Chris Sabin back from the depths (I'd have cheered if they added "of TNA") and now they've been betrayed for a Machine Guns reunion. Kazarian gets in a few shots at Las Vegas being the land of bad decisions and thinks this was all one bad choice. Daniels thinks the fans are all thinking it's Christmas morning to see Sabin/Shelley back together again but it's time for an apology.

Cue the Guns, unfortunately without their rocking TNA theme. Before they get going, how in the world is Sabin the only former World Champion out of this group? Sabin has reached the conclusion that the Addiction are just delusional jerks. The brawl is teased but of course the Addiction bails. Daniels says they'll have a match but it's up to them, the adults, to decide when that happens.

Jay Lethal is ready to defend against Hirooki Goto next week.

Reno Scum vs. Briscoes

Scum (Luster the Legend/Adam Thorestowe) is a team who has been around before but aren't that well known. Adam and Mark get things going with the former getting double teamed in a somewhat heelish attack by the Briscoes. Back in and Adam can't get anywhere with Mark so it's off to Luster for a running shoulder in the corner. Mark gets pounded down but finally comes back with some right hands to both Scum.

It's still not enough though as a catapult sends Mark into a Death Valley Driver for two. Not that it matters as Mark flips onto his feet and makes the tag off to Jay as house is cleaned. Everything breaks down and a powerbomb into a neckbreaker gets two on Luster. A German suplex followed by a double stomp gets the same on Mark, only to have him pop up with a Death Valley Driver. The Froggy Bow is enough to put Adam away at 6:55.

Rating: C-. Scum didn't do anything for me here and I'm really not sure who is supposed to benefit here. The Briscoes were fine enough but this had that Ring of Honor style to it that doesn't get me interested. There are more than enough teams in Ring of Honor already and Scum really wasn't needed here.

Dalton Castle is excited for his Fight Without Honor with Silas Young in three weeks but the Boys aren't old enough to know what he has planned.

Young Bucks vs. Hiroshi Tanahashi/Michael Elgin

The fans are far more behind Tanahashi than the Bucks here, which is a nice sign for the future of wrestling. Elgin and Nick start with Michael actually trying a test of strength. Now since no power guy has ever

gotten a small heel to try a test of strength, I'll let you guess how this goes. The Bucks start speeding things up and a pair of dropkicks have the good guys (I think?) on the floor.

Matt dives over the top to take Tanahashi out and we take a break. Back with Elgin bicycle kicking Matt out to the floor before giving him a double suplex. Elgin and Tanahashi give Nick a double SUCK IT in a nice visual. There's a delayed vertical suplex with Nick trying a save, only to have Elgin suplex both of them at the same time. Tanahashi grabs an abdominal stretch and uses Matt's ribs as an air guitar. Eh that was amusing.

We hit the chinlock for a bit until Nick pulls Elgin to the floor for our first superkick. Nick gets in a regular SUCK IT and there's the slingshot X Factor. We take a break and come back with the Bucks still in control and getting cheered way too loudly. Tanahashi gets in a cross body though and the tag brings Elgin back in. Big Mike picks up the Bucks for a Samoan drop/fall away slam at the same time because he's got freaking strength. The Falcon Arrow gets two on Matt but double superkicks set up a double 450 for two on Elgin.

Tanahashi no sells ANOTHER superkick and gets loaded up into kind of a reverse Alabama Slam from Elgin to send him onto...Matt's knees. Now you might think we just had enough double superkicks for a lifetime, but that's not how the Bucks roll. FIVE more superkicks have them in control but the Meltzer Driver is countered with Elgin's powerbomb. The Sling Blade and another powerbomb sets up the High Fly Flow to give Tanahashi the pin at 16:10.

Rating: B. Better match here but I've made my opinions on the Bucks pretty clear over the last year. I still don't get why they're faces in this or any other promotion (well maybe PWG would make sense) but the fans go nuts over them and that's the point of bringing in acts like this. Tanahashi continues to be amazing (I'm a bit late on that one) and Elgin has that freakish strength that only a handful of people ever have, making this a rather fun match. Not exactly the kind of match I'd like as I'm not big on the styles of either promotion, but at least it was a fun performance.

Overall Rating: C+. This was good enough but the New Japan shows can get annoying in a hurry. At least we had a good match and the Fight Without Honor offers some promise, especially if it gives Castle the boost that he's been needing for months. Unfortunately I have a feeling we're in for A LOT more New Japan before we get there and that's not the most entertaining thing in the world.

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Ring of Honor TV – March 16, 2016: I Could Get Used To This

Ring of Honor

Date: March 16, 2016

Location: Nashville Municipal Auditorium, Nashville, Tennessee

Attendance: 675

Commentators: Mr. Wrestling III, Kevin Kelly

Tonight is literally all about the tag division as we'll be seeing the entire show containing one match. In this case it's a seven team gauntlet

match, which hopefully won't include any thirty second falls. The winners here get a Tag Team Title shot at some point in the future, which could make for some entertaining action. Let's get to it.

Tag Team Gauntlet

ReDRagon and Caprice Coleman/Will Ferrara (Together due to accepting Prince Nana's envelopes over the last several, several months. Normally I would say they need to get things going with that story but I don't remember the last story I cared less about so drop it already) get things going with Ferrara and O'Reilly starting us off. Kyle can't get a Kimura in so he holds the arms to avoid a dropkick.

Ferrara gets punched down with ease, allowing ReDRagon to start taking their turns on him in the corner. Fish gets two off a belly to back but Will dives through the legs and gets the tag. Unfortunately it's not the hottest tag because the fans realize they're going to see six falls before the ending. Everything breaks down and Fish backdrops Ferrara over the corner, only to have Will come back in and get caught in Fish's knee bar for the tap at 5:52.

The third team in is the House of Truth, comprised of Joey Daddiego/Chris Laruso. This seems to be Laruso's debut, who is described as a martial artist and a lawyer. The action starts after a break with Chris armdragging Fish down for little effect. Bobby comes right back with another knee bar but Laruso is fast enough to get over to the ropes.

ReDRagon starts taking turns again as they tend to be quite efficient at doing, including O'Reilly pounding away with strikes to the head. Daddiego has to break up an arm hold as the fans are still dead silent for this. A powerbomb gets Joey out of a triangle choke and everything breaks down again. Laruso kicks Daddiego by mistake and Joey walks out, leaving Laruso to get kned in the face and choked out by Kyle at 17:30 total, including entrances.

The Young Bucks are in fourth and tell ReDRagon to suck it to get things going. Fish and O'Reilly grab stereo ankle locks, only to get sent out to the floor, allowing us to get TOO SWEET and a double suicide dive. We settle down with O'Reilly throwing Matt's kick into Nick's leg, allowing

him to dragon screw leg whip both of them at the same time. It's stupid when Davey Richards does the DDT version and it's stupid here too. Everything breaks down and Nick's Swanton hits Fish's knees.

Kyle and Nick start trading kicks on the floor, only to have O'Reilly counter a superkick with an ankle lock. We take another break and come back with Fish suplexing Matt for two. It's back to Kyle, who gets caught with a spinning Diamond Cutter out of the corner. Cool looking spot, even if the flip wasn't really necessary. Nick comes in off the hot tag and superkicks Fish, only to miss another Swanton. Kyle and Nick come in off the double tag for a double superkick from the Bucks. More Bang For Your Buck puts ReDRagon out at 35:56 total.

Brutal Bob Evans and Tim Hughes come in fifth, charge into a double superkick, and are knocked to the floor for the opening bell. Hughes and Evans stall on the outside until we get another double superkick. Some might say this is a one move team. Hughes gets inside for a slow motion side slam, only to have Nick superkick him in the jaw. Evans comes in for some sweet shin music, setting up ANOTHER double superkick. A corner powerbomb into an enziguri sets up the hanging swanton for the pin on Bob at 39:57.

Next up is the Addiction, who sneak in from behind to jump the Bucks. Kazarian and Daniels start things fast and of course charge into a superkick. Another superkick drops Kazarian and a third breaks up Angel's Wings, allowing Matt to roll Daniels up for the pin at 43:30. Well that was quick.

Addiction beats the Bucks down again after the match as Roppangi Vice come in last. The Addiction beats them down too until Vice fights them off, allowing referees to break it up. The actual match starts fast with the Bucks taking a slight advantage before we go to a break. Back with Vice dropping Matt with a Doomsday Device off the apron with a knee instead of a clothesline. Well at least they're moving fast out there. Vice's double jumping knee to Nick's face gets two and it's off to a seated abdominal stretch.

Back up and Nick sends Romero to the floor before superkicking Trent off

the apron. The hot tag brings in Matt but we take yet another break. Back with nothing having changed and Matt telling Romero to suck it. The Meltzer Driver is broken up (Kelly: "That'll mess up the star rating.") twice in a row with Nick getting crotched on top during the second counter. More Bang For Your Buck is broken up as well and Strong Zero puts Matt away at 53:29 total, giving Vice the title shot.

Rating: B-. I liked most of this but they definitely could have cut some stuff out. Stuff like Hughes and Evans or Coleman and Ferrara easily could have been excluded to give more time to the bigger pairs but I get why they wanted to get as many people into this as possible. ReDRagon starting things off was a good option and they're even protected by only losing in their third fall. I could have gone for a different team than Vice winning but you take what you can get in something like this.

Vice celebrates a lot.

We end with a video hyping up next week's Global Wars, including a clip of Okada/Nakamura vs. the Briscoes from last year.

Overall Rating: B-. These show long matches are hard to pull off but if you can get an entertaining match out of it, things are about as strong as they can be. This has nothing on Zayn vs. Joe from a last week but at least there was enough entertaining stuff here to keep the show moving at a fast pace. It's nothing great or anything, though it accomplished something and set up a match later on so it's not the worst idea.

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