

Ring Of Honor – January 4, 2024: Ok, Now Do Something

Ring Of Honor

Date: January 4, 2024

Location: Frost Bank Center, San Antonio, Texas

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

We're back with another show taped a little while ago and in this case the TV Champion is actually going to be getting in the ring. Other than that, the World Title situation has since been resolved, but we won't be seeing the champ until next week at the earliest. We also have new Tag Team Champs, as in the titles that as of yesterday have not been seen on this show in five months. Let's get to it.

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

Eddie Kingston, after winning the Triple Crown at Worlds End, talks about how special it was. I'm still not sure if those are individual titles or one unified belt and they need to explain that sooner than later.

Opening sequence.

Griff Garrison vs. Serpentic

Cole Karter and Angelico are here too. Serpentic snaps off a headscissors to start and let's hit that All In tickets are available plug! Karter offers a distraction but gets taken down by Angelico. The nefarious scheme works though as Garrison hits a hard clothesline to take over. Some belly to back suplexes set up a belly to back faceplant for two on Serpentic. Garrison's torture rack doesn't work as Serpentic is out with a superkick and Downward Spiral for two. Serpentic's shooting star press is loaded up but the seconds get on the apron for a distraction. Garrison hits a discus

forearm and the torture rack bomb finishes at 5:25.

Rating: C. The match was fine, but forgive me for not believing that this is going to be the start of something important. Both teams, and as a result their individual members, have been stuck on a treadmill for months. Not having Maria out there didn't help and this was a perfectly watchable match that could not have felt less important if they tried.

Lance Archer vs. JP Harlow

Harlow slaps him for not shaking hands so it's a chokeslam and a toss suplex to start the pain. Archer misses a charge into the corner though and Harlow strikes away, only to get kneed in the corner. The Blackout finishes for Archer at 2:09. Fun squash.

Dalton Castle vs. Peter Avalon

Castle, with the Boys, comes to the ring looking rather disheveled and eating a sandwich. They start a bit slowly, with Castle shoving him around and Avalon being shocked at the strength. Avalon manages to shove Castle off the top for a nasty crash and we hit the chinlock back inside. That's broken up so Avalon hits a superkick into the Death Valley Driver for two. Avalon takes a bit too long though and it's a suplex to put him down. The Bang A Rang is countered into a rollup so Castle elbows him in the face. Now the Bang A Rang (with the Boys spinning around at ringside) can finish for Castle at 6:35.

Rating: C+. Another perfectly fine match which got a bit more time than some of the usuals around here. There is something to Castle being all out of sorts as it should set up a big match with Johnny TV down the line. What matters is they are giving us some kind of a story and that makes things more interesting going forward.

Ethan Page and Scorpio Sky talk about how they support each

other and this will be their year.

Queen Aminata vs. Maya World

Aminata takes her down with a headlock to start but Maya is right back up with a flipping forearm in the corner. A moonsault hits knees though and Aminata snaps off a suplex. Aminata German suplexes her down and hits a running hip attack in the corner for two. World is back up with a running elbow but charges into a Downward Spiral. The Juicy Lock (a Koji Clutch with leg shots to the face) finishes for Aminata at 3:48.

Rating: C. Aminata seems to be the next project in the women's division, or at least someone who will be a prospect for the future. She has a unique look and the confidence, but I'm going to need to see her doing more than jobbing and winning three minute matches. Nice enough match and I'm sure we'll see more from Aminata going forward.

The Infantry vs. The Boys vs. Shane Taylor Promotions

Moriarty and Brent start things off with the latter taking over on the arm. Brandon comes in but gets kicked down, allowing Dean to come in for some right hands. A double suplex drops Brandon but Taylor pulls Dean outside for a heck of a right hand. Shane gets in and gets caught with a double Eat Defeat and a double superkick to send him back outside. Boot Camp hits Brandon but Taylor tags himself back in to break it up. The Marcus Garvey Driver finishes Brandon at 4:12.

Rating: C+. Ok, cool. Taylor and Moriarty get a win in another multi team match. With the Kingdom winning the Tag Team Titles, there is no reason for them to not be around here. Build up a team or two around here and get them a title shot. We are coming up on six months of the Tag Team Champions not even appearing on this show so fix things already. The match itself was a way to make Taylor look dominant and Moriarty compliments him well. I don't know why we should be seeing a

heel vs. heel title program, but maybe there is another team coming up.

Serpentico interrupts Griff Garrison and Cole Karter because this feud must continue.

Red Velvet vs. Alex Gracia

Gracia takes her to the mat to start and grabs a quickly broken ankle lock. An elbow to the face and middle rope spinning crossbody give Gracia two and we hit the front facelock. Back up and Gracia misses a charge in the corner so Velvet hits some running knees to the back of the head. The Mix (which I believe she used to call the Final/Last Slice) finishes for Velvet at 3:18.

Rating: C. This was a lot more about Gracia than anything else as she got in most of the offense until Velvet hit one or two shots for the win. Velvet is another someone who seems like she has been ready for a push but I'm not sure she has the skills to make it work. Gracia wears a lot of bright pink so she stands out, though she's going to need some more time to really polish things up.

Post match Velvet says she wants the Women's TV Title.

Rachael Ellering/Leyla Hirsch vs. Diamante/Mercedes Martinez

Ellering takes Diamante down to start and it's already off to Hirsch. With Diamante taken down, Ellering is right back in for a backsplash but Hirsch gets caught in the ropes for a hanging DDT. Diamante chokes and stomps in the corner before forearming Hirsch down. The corner dropkick misses though and Hirsch snaps off a running German suplex. That's enough for the tag off to Ellering for the house cleaning as everything breaks down. Hirsch is sent outside and it's standing Sliced Bread into an Air Raid Crash to give Martinez the pin on Ellering at 7:12.

Rating: C+. This feud continues to keep going and I can't imagine that changing until we get to the TV Title tournament. As usual, there is only so much that can be done with nothing for them to fight over and since there is nothing to suggest they'll be fighting Athena anytime soon, the TV Title is about all there is left.

We look at Eddie Kingston winning the Continental Classic. I believe this is the same package from Dynamite.

TV Title: Willie Mack vs. Kyle Fletcher

Fletcher is defending and manages to power Mack into the corner to start. A headlock takeover puts Mack down but he's right back up to run Fletcher over. The running crossbody is countered into the swinging Rock Bottom to plant Mack again though as this is mostly one sided so far. Fletcher grabs the arm and knocks him down a few times, only to have Mack block a slam.

Some running clotheslines and the swinging slam put Fletcher down and the Mackarena standing moonsault gets two. Back up and Fletcher hits a running boot in the corner, followed by a delayed brainbuster for two more. Mack is fine enough to hit a running Razor's Edge buckle bomb and we hit the Texas Cloverleaf. With that broken up, Mack takes him to the top but gets caught with a super Falcon Arrow. A piledriver retains the title at 11:03.

Rating: B-. This is the kind of title defense that Fletcher needed. He was in there against someone good enough to be a bit of a threat and had to work to get there, but ultimately the win felt pretty definitive. Best match on the show by far this week and it's nice when it's the most important as well.

Dalton Castle hasn't slept since Final Battle because he's worried about the state of Ring Of Honor. Johnny TV cost him the TV Title and cut off his connection with the fans. Cue TV and Taya Valkyrie, with Castle threatening to smash his face.

Valkyrie does NOT approve and violence seems to be teased.

Gringo Loco/Workhorsemen vs. El Hijo del Vikingo/Lee Johnson/Komander

Henry kicks Johnson in the ribs to start and elbows him in the face to make it worse. Komander comes in and gets chopped by Loco but comes back with a quick headscissors. A springboard hurricanrana has Loco in the corner so it's off to Vikingo for a springboard wristdrag to Drake. Everything breaks down and Komander is sent outside, with Loco hitting a big dive onto the pile.

Back in and Vikingo gets crushed in the corner, setting up a DDT from Drake. Loco hits a powerslam for two but Vikingo rolls over and brings in Komander to clean house. Vikingo and Komander go up top for the big moonsaults to the floor but Henry powerbombs Vikingo out of the corner for two. Komander and Vikingo wind up in an electric chair on Loco's shoulders (geez) before both get planted, with Johnson having to break up the cover. Komander grabs a quick rollup for the pin on Loco at 9:31.

Rating: B-. The match was the usual fun with the AAA guys flying around and doing their usual things, but I've almost lost count of the amount of times we've seen something similar on this show or Rampage. It would be nice to see something like this go somewhere, but for now that isn't the case. I'll certainly take a high flying main event though, with that double electric chair being rather impressive.

Overall Rating: C+. As usual, this show can be entertaining if you accept that most of the matches are a bunch of one offs that aren't likely to lead very far. The show was back up to over an hour and a half so it was an even longer than usual version of a bunch of filler around two or three matches that tied into an interesting story. I'm sure next week will be back to normal with the usual two hours, but could they please

try to have some more of the champions around? It shouldn't be that complicated.

Results

Griff Garrison b. Serpentico – Torture rack powerbomb
Lance Archer b. JP Harlow – Blackout
Dalton Castle b. Peter Avalon – Bang A Rang
Queen Aminata b. Maya World – Juicy Lock
Shane Taylor Promotions b. The Boys and The Infantry – Marcus Garvey Driver to Brandon
Red Velvet b. Alex Gracia – Mix
Diamante/Mercedes Martinez b. Leyla Hirsch/Rachael Ellering – Air Raid Crash to Ellering
Kyle Fletcher b. Willie Mack – Piledriver
El Hijo del Vikingo/Komander/Lee Johnson b. Workhorsesmen/Gringo Loco – Rollup to Loco

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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

AND

[Remember to check out Wrestlingrumors.net for all of your wrestling headline needs.](http://Wrestlingrumors.net)

Ring Of Honor TV – August 4, 2021: Brackets Palooza

Ring of Honor

Date: August 4, 2021

Location: UMBC Event Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Lenny Leonard

We're on the way to Death Before Dishonor but since this promotion moves a bit slowly, we have some time before we get there. This week's show is going to have a special theme as everything is going to be focusing on the Women's Title tournament. It is about time as the thing has been talked about for months now, meaning it is going to have a hard time living up to the hype. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

We open with a look back at Chelsea Green making her Ring of Honor debut at Best in the World. Green is still injured but she will be around sooner than later.

Quinn McKay welcomes us to the show and shows us the tournament brackets. These brackets include...Quinn McKay, who voted into the tournament by the fans. Fair enough as she got cheated, but you couldn't get her a single win in there somewhere?

Miranda Alize is the Lucha Baddie and Alex Gracia is the Pink Dream. They know each other but they both want the title. These were as generic of a pair of promos as you could imagine.

Women's Title Tournament First Round: Alex Gracia vs. Miranda Alize

Chelsea Green in on commentary. Alize wears a sombrero and a half lucha mask because she is half Mexican and half American. They go with the grappling to start and trade escapes from the wristlocks. A chop slows Alize down but she springboards into an armdrag to drop Gracia as well. Back up and Alex grabs a headlock to no avail so it's a dropkick to put Alize on the floor instead. The dive doesn't work though and Gracia is sent hard into the barricade.

We take a break and come back with Gracia in more trouble. Green: "It's looking like Gracia has a better chance of getting a Chik-Fil-A sandwich on a Sunday than winning this one." Gracia fights back with a Backstabber (Green: "Gracia might be getting that Chik-Fil-A sandwich on a Sunday!") and a kick to the face gets two. Something like a Blockbuster knocks Alize down (despite Gracia not grabbing the head whatsoever) so she knees Gracia in the face for two. A cutter into a running knee to the face finishes Gracia at 8:43.

Rating: C-. I'm not sure what to make of this one but it doesn't give me the most hope for the remainder of the tournament. They did moves to each other, one of them wore pink, the other one had a lucha theme, and one of them won. The pre-match promos did nothing to make me care about them, but what can you do in about fifteen seconds of talking? I need more than some just ok wrestling and I don't expect to get that over the next several matches.

Respect is shown post match.

Mazzerati is all about her attitude and it's all eyes on her when the bell rings. Nicole Savoy is a suplex machine and knows she'll win with her half nelson suplex.

Women's Title Tournament First Round: Mazzerati vs. Nicole Savoy

They talk trash to start until Savoy takes her down by the arm early on. That doesn't last long so Savoy takes over with a

test of strength instead. It's too early for the armbars though and we take a break. Back with Savoy working on the arm some more with Mazzerati not being able to twist out.

Instead she hits Savoy in the face and calls her a loser so Savoy snaps off a fall away slam. The half nelson suplex is countered with a drive into the corner so Savoy is back with a Royal Butterfly suplex. Mazzerati gets two of her own off a bridging northern lights suplex. With the wrestling not working, Mazzerati punches her in the face to drop Savoy. Back up and Savoy snaps off a TKO, setting up the bridging half nelson suplex for the pin at 8:45.

Rating: C. Just having Savoy as the suplex machine gives her something to make her stand out, but at the same time, watching her crank on the arm that long was hardly thrilling. It's still better than the opener though, as I got a bit more of a sense of their personalities. Maybe the opener just wasn't the best match, which gives me a bit more of that hope stuff.

More respect is shown post match.

Rok-C is 19 years old and calls herself a prodigy. Sumie Sakai promises to win again, with Rok-C saying she respects her.

Women's Title Tournament First Round: Rok-C vs. Sumie Sakai

Sumie takes her down with ease and teases a right hand before rolling away instead. A cross armbreaker sends Rok-C over to the ropes so Rok-C takes her down in a hurry. The standing moonsault knees to the ribs gets two on Sakai and some running knees in the corner get the same. We take a break and come back with Sakai working on a half crab, even making sure to grab the arm to block the tap. The good arm grabs the rope though and it's time for a slugout.

A running knee to the face gives Sakai two and a springboard knee in the corner rocks Rok-C again. Sakai grabs a pretty

nasty Boston crab until Rok-C makes the rope again. Rok-C is back with a middle rope Thesz press for two and a Russian legsweep gets the same. Sakai is back with a belly to back suplex but Rok-C catches her with a spinning kick to the head. The super sunset flip sets off a pinfall reversal sequence until Sakai grabs a DDT for two. Back up and Rok-C snaps off a victory roll for the pin at 9:36.

Rating: C+. This was a bit better with the back and forth making things more interesting. I was wondering who was going to wind up pulling this off and the upset made things a bit better. Ring of Honor's obsession with Sakai had a lot to do with their previous division not taking off so it was a better choice to have Sakai put some over here while making them look better.

Remember the post-match respect? You get it again here.

Overall Rating: C. I'm not sure what to make of the tournament but the second and third matches gave me a bit more hope here. The show still isn't great and I'm not wild on the idea of seeing these matches for the next few weeks. I've never been a huge tournament fan as it feels like you are killing a lot of time before you get to the stuff that matters. That can be fixed if you have good enough action, but that wasn't really the case here. It isn't a bad show, but it also isn't an exciting one.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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

AND

[Remember to check out Wrestlingrumors.net for all of your](http://www.wrestlingrumors.net)

[wrestling headline needs.](#)

Dynamite – December 23, 2020: It's Cold Outside

Dynamite

Date: December 23, 2020

Location: Daily's Place, Jacksonville, Florida

Commentators: Jim Ross, Tony Schiavone, Excalibur

It's the holiday season and for once this show isn't going head to head with NXT thanks to an NBA game. I'm not sure what to expect from this week's show but the Young Bucks are defending the Tag Team Titles. Other than that it's time to build towards the next two weeks of New Year's Smash. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Chris Jericho/Maxwell Jacob Friedman vs. Top Flight

The fans sing Judas to make sure you know that Chris Jericho is the coolest thing in the world. Jericho and Darius trade shots to the face to start with Jericho getting the better of things without much effort. Darius gets in a shot of his own though and it's Dante coming in for a double kick to the chest. It's off to Friedman, who gets dropkicked to the floor, meaning it's a double slugout to put the Inner Circle in trouble.

Friedman is knocked outside again but Jericho clotheslines Dante down to take over. Back in and Jericho knees Dante in

the ribs and hits a belly to back suplex. There's the double flapjack to Dante and a quick distraction lets MJF choke away. A catapult sends Dante throat first into the bottom rope and Jericho throws his feet on the ropes for two like a villain should. Jericho's superplex attempt is broken up though and Dante hits a high crossbody for two.

The hot tag brings in Darius for a standing Spanish Fly on MJF and a suicide dive hits Jericho. Back in and a springboard missile dropkick gets two on MJF, followed by a DDT for the same. Jericho is back up with a spinebuster into the Lionsault for two but the Walls is countered into a rollup for the same. Darius grabs a sunset flip on Jericho and sends Dante flying over the top onto MJF with a dive (sweet) for a near fall at the same time. Jericho drops Dante onto the apron and it's the Heatseeker to give MJF the pin at 11:40.

Rating: C+. Not too bad here as Top Flight is one of the smoothest teams that I've seen in a good while. They could use some polish (as could everyone) but for as young as they are, they're a heck of a team. Jericho and MJF working well together is interesting and I'm curious to see where the whole Inner Circle deal goes.

Post match Jake Hager gets in the ring and says the team has been doing great in recent weeks, save for Wardlow that is. Wardlow has been gone dealing with his own stuff instead of worrying about Inner Circle business. It's obvious that Wardlow is an asset but he's also an a*****, so next week it's Hager vs. Wardlow. MJF tries to talk Hager out of it and Jericho is annoyed.

We get a music video from the Acclaimed talking about the Young Bucks, who suck up to Dave (just Dave) for star ratings and quit Twitter because they got upset.

Here's what else is coming on the show.

Tony Schiavone brings out Sting for a chat in the ring. Sting

knows that he has come full circle by coming back to TNT and he is glad to see that the jungle is still intact. Tony asks about Sting looking at Darby Allin but Sting says that's kind of a complicated question to answer. Instead, Sting talks about watching the matches through the curtain with Dusty Rhodes, who decided to put some bright colors on his face and tights. Then Sting was going to face Ric Flair and get funky like a monkey.

Now Sting sees Cody Rhodes in the ring and it's hard to fathom. He goes back to Darby but here's Team Taz to interrupt. Taz says that the speech would bring a tear to a glass eye and Ricky Starks says this is the jungle. Team Taz comes to the ring so Sting grabs the bat, only to have Allin and the skateboard morph in next to him. That's fine with Taz, who says they'll wait until January 6 when Brian Cage can win the TNT Title. This showed me two things. 1. A skateboard is a pretty stupid looking weapon. 2. Allin is a rather small man, as Sting is hardly a giant.

MJF comes up to Santana and Ortiz and brings up Santana losing his stepfather recently. MJF knows what it's like because he just lost his grandfather to cancer and it was the hardest thing he's done. He's here for Santana though, and Santana seems to accept the friendly gesture. They shake hands and Ortiz seems to buy it also, with MJF not even saying anything as they leave.

Dark Order/Colt Cabana vs. Jurassic Express

It's 5/10 for the Order. Jungle Boy rolls up Five to start as Excalibur explains the numbers to JR. Cabana and Luchasaurus come in with Cabana being kicked out to the floor in a hurry. That means it's time for 10, with Luchasaurus slamming Stung down onto him a few times. Boy comes back in and gets caught in a German suplex for two.

We take a break and come back with Luchasaurus getting to come

in and clean house, including the standing moonsault to 5. Marko dives in off of Luchasaurus' shoulders to take Cabana down but 5 runs him over. The frog splash gets two on Stunt as everything breaks down. Luchasaurus throws Stung over the top onto Cabana and 10, leaving 5 to be flipped into a sitout powerbomb from Boy for the pin at 10:35.

Rating: C+. I liked this more than the usual Jurassic Express match, which may be due to Stunt not being left on his own for too long (the lack of dancing helped too). Let Luchasaurus come in and wreck stuff while Boy does the bulk of the work. The Dark Order, especially this group of them, can lose over and over again so this was hardly some big waste of talent.

Post match Marko talks about how good it is to be back but Tully Blanchard and FTR cut them off, with Tully saying it's time to let the trained professionals talk. The teams meet on January 6 and this is personal because FTR wants the titles back. Stunt better be careful too, because Tully might have a flashback to the 80s. Stunt to be held back, which makes me dread the idea of Stunt getting anything over on Tully. Good promo from Blanchard here, now that he is finally getting to talk.

Kenny Omega and Don Callis are arriving at the hotel, where Callis isn't happy with Pac making Omega vs. Rey Fenix. When did wrestlers get to make matches around here? Omega is ready to destroy Fenix in a few weeks and once he's done, Konnan can take him back to AAA. Fenix is the kind of guy who gets hurt, while Omega gets titles. This promo style is starting to work for them more and more.

Butcher vs. Pac

Butcher looks like he's wearing Shinsuke Nakamura's pants that shrunk in the wash. Eddie Kingston is on commentary and Tony has to shush him for talking while trying to promote a match. Pac slugs away to start and gets sent outside, which doesn't

cause him much trouble. Back in and Pac kicks away at Butcher as Eddie and Tony continue to bicker with some surprising chemistry.

Butcher is right back with some hard shots of his own though, even as Kingston tells Tony to stop putting himself over. Pac gets crushed in the corner a few times as Eddie isn't happy with the referee. They head outside with Pac getting in a few shots and reversing a whip into the barricade. Butcher kicks him in the face and Eddie demands that commentary "put that over".

We take a break and come back with Pac kicking away but the Blade's distraction breaks up the Red Arrow. A big clothesline drops Pac again and a running layout powerbomb gets two on Pac. Butcher goes to do something and Eddie shouts to PICK HIM UP for a good while, only to have Lance Archer come out to go after Kingston. The distraction lets Pac hit a kick to the head and the Black Arrow is good for the pin at 11:53.

Rating: C+. That ending hurt this a bit as Butcher was standing around far too long until we got to the point. Archer going after Kingston is interesting, if nothing else due to how little Archer seems to need Lance Archer. Butcher looked good here and it was nice to see him get to showcase himself. Pac still needs to shake off the ring rust though.

Eddie isn't happy, but does show respect to JR. Kingston: "Schiavone, up yours."

Jade Cargill finds it interesting that Brandi got pregnant as soon as she showed up. Shaq wants Cody Rhodes and AEW better find her a better opponent, because she's tired of this s***. I'm getting rather tired of them having to work s*** into every other promo.

Miro wants Tony Schiavone to get fired up but Kip Sabian and Penelope Ford need to announce their wedding date. They load up the video announcement but here are the Best Friends and

Orange Cassidy to interrupt. Well at least their video, as we see Trent being loaded into an ambulance last week to get rid of him. Anyway, the wedding is going to be on the beach on February 3 (happy freaking birthday to me) and it is going to be the defining moment of this company's history. JR: "This is a train wreck."

Dustin Rhodes vs. Evil Uno

Lee Johnson and Stu Grayson are here too as Uno jumps Dustin to start. They fight on the floor with Uno hammering away, only to chop the post by mistake. Uno knocks him down again though and it's a Swanton for two as commentary tells us about how great Dustin is. We take a break and come back with Dustin hitting the Flip Flop and Fly, only to charge into a boot. Not that it matters as Dustin is right back with the bulldog for the pin at 8:28.

Rating: C. Not too bad here and they were putting in some effort, even with the lack of time when you factor in the break. Uno got to showcase himself a bit here but it's not like taking a loss to Dustin is that big of a problem. Dustin is in a bit of a weird place as he's a veteran but doesn't have much in the ways of storylines. Nice enough match though, as Dustin isn't going to have many bad ones.

Post match Uno offers another chance for Dustin to join but Dustin kicks him away. Grayson comes in with the Knightfall so here's QT Marshall for the save. Marshall gets taken down as well so Johnson hits a springboard dropkick to take the Order down.

Shawn Spears sits down with Schiavone and talks about how no matter what company he is in, the glass ceiling is still there. It's a management problem, and he really doesn't like Tony suggesting that Spears himself is the problem.

Hikaru Shida's interview about being attacked by Abadon is interrupted when she is attacked by Abadon.

Hikaru Shida vs. Alex Gracia

Non-title. Shida starts fast with a Falcon Arrow attempt but Alex is having none of it. After a quick trip tot he floor, Gracia gets two off a small package and nails a running boot in the corner for the same. Shida is annoyed at being hit in the face, setting up a delayed vertical suplex. The running kick to the face connects but hold on as here's Abadon for a distraction. Shida beats her up in a hurry and heads back inside to counter Gracia's headscissors into a backbreaker. The Falcon Arrow finishes Gracia at 3:32.

Rating: C-. This was more about the Abadon deal than anything else but I'm rather over the whole evil monster characters. AEW does those rather frequently and while Abadon is good at it, there have been so many characters of a similar nature that it loses its impact. Gracia was acceptable in the short bit of time that she had here.

Post match the brawl is on again with Abadon biting Shida's neck to draw blood.

Here's what's coming over the next few weeks, including the return of Jon Moxley next week.

Tag Team Titles: Acclaimed vs. Young Bucks

The Bucks are defending and Max Castor raps his way to the ring again, this time about their winning streak. Matt works on Castor's arm to start and shrugs off the comeback attempt. A dropkick into an armdrag has Castor in trouble and Nick comes in to stay on said arm. It's off to Bowens but the Bucks sent them both to the floor to send Bowens into the barricade.

Nick spears Castor down and it's time to head back inside. Matt gets taken down this time though and Castor gets in a few shows, only to have Nick get the semi hot tag without much effort. House is cleaned until Nick's Swanton hits Bowens' raised knees. We take a break and come back with the Bucks

starting to fire off the kicks, including Nick hitting Castor with a kick from the apron.

Back in and Matt hits Locomotion into the Sharpshooter on Bowens. Castor strikes away but can't break it up, allowing Nick to pull Castor outside for a Sharpshooter on the floor. Both are broken up and it's Nick being shoved off the top. A suplex/high crossbody gets two on Nick with Matt making the save. An errant superkick takes the referee out and the boom box to the head gets two from another referee (that spot still makes no sense and never has). Matt powerbombs Bowens through a table at ringside and the BTE Trigger finishes Castor at 13:47.

Rating: C-. This really didn't work as it was little more than an extended workout for the Bucks. It certainly didn't help the Acclaimed, whose big move was hitting them with a boom box. The rapping entrance helps, but that's all they had here and it showed badly. The Bucks didn't give them much here, which made for a pretty long 13+ minutes.

Overall Rating: C+. This wasn't their strongest effort, but again it feels like they're setting up for the big shows over the next two weeks and that's ok. I'd much rather step back a bit for a week to let things breathe than burn through stuff on a show that doesn't matter. As usual: if this is their weak show, they're in a pretty good place.

Results

Chris Jericho/Maxwell Jacob Friedman b. Top Flight – Heatseeker to Dante

Jurassic Express b. Dark Order/Colt Cabana – Sitout powerbomb to 5

Pac b. Butcher – Black Arrow

Dustin Rhodes b. Evil Uno – Bulldog

Hikaru Shida b. Alex Gracia – Falcon Arrow

Young Bucks b. Acclaimed – BTE Trigger to Castor

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the paperback edition of KB's Complete 2004 Monday Night Raw Reviews (also available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2019/08/26/new-book-and-e-book-kbs-complete-2004-monday-night-raw-reviews/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

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