

Ring Of Honor – April 25, 2024: They're Doing It Again

Ring Of Honor

Date: April 25, 2024

Location: Indiana Farmers Coliseum, Indianapolis, Indiana

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

Things have been getting longer around here again and that has not often been the best thing for Ring Of Honor. It often results in matches that are just there to make the show longer and I'm still not sure how that makes for better weekly events. Odds are we'll get more on Queen Aminata coming after the Women's Title this week so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

We run down the card.

Isiah Kassidy vs. Komander

Kassidy takes him down to start and fires off some dancing as commentary talks about Shaquille O'Neal. Komander grabs an armbar into a rollup but gets dropped throat first onto the top. Stomping in the corner keeps Komander in trouble until he comes out with a kick to the face. Kassidy cutters him across the top to send Komander outside but he comes back in with a running hurricanrana.

An Asai moonsault takes out Kassidy on the floor and a springboard Swanton connects for two. A poisonrana plants Kassidy again but he's right back with a Spanish Fly for two of his own. Back up and Komander grabs a waistlock, only to have Kassidy kick him low. A reverse Twist of Fate finishes for Kassidy at 7:42.

Rating: C+. This was in fact a high flying match between a perennial jobber and one half of a tag team. They both have athletic abilities and I certainly wasn't bored with what I was seeing. At the same time though, it's a little hard to get invested in seeing something between people that AEW has made feel so unimportant. That's a big problem with ROH and I don't see it being cured anytime soon.

We look at Bullet Club Gold unifying the two sets of Six Man Tag Team titles.

The Club brags about their win but they don't have room for all of the gold.

Dark Order vs. Top Flight/Action Andretti

Silver and Darius start things off with Darius slipping out of a wristlock and grabbing a cravate. Andretti comes in to work on the arm before everything breaks down, meaning a triple superkick to send the Order outside. Back in and the Order takes over on Dante, who flips over to hand it right back to Andretti.

Everything breaks down again and an assisted tornado DDT puts Reynolds down. Andretti's running shooting star gets two with the Order having to make the save. The Order isolates Darius and strike away at him until Dante makes a save of his own. Darius and Andretti grab a double spinebuster to finish Reynolds at 6:58.

Rating: C+. This was the match designed to warm up Andretti and Top Flight before their shot at Bullet Club Gold this weekend. Andretti and Top Flight work well enough together but it feels like they are up and down all the time around here. Giving them a win is nice, but it doesn't feel like anything more than getting them ready for their latest loss against better competition. It makes sense, but it's not the most engaging stuff.

Anna Jay vs. Allysin Kay

Kay powers her into the corner to start but Jay knocks her into the corner to cut that off. A spinning kick is countered into a suplex, only to have Jay stomp her down in the corner without much trouble. Kay grabs a hotshot into a chokebomb for two but Jay is right back with a middle rope Blockbuster for the same. The Queenslayer finishes for Jay at 3:44.

Rating: C. Believe it or not, Jay goes from losing on Dynamite to winning on Ring Of Honor. That's the story of her career, as she is so all over the place with her wins and losses that it is not wonder she can never get any kind of traction. Yes she's on a winning streak around here, but it only means so much when she loses any big match she has.

We recap Queen Aminata seemingly coming after Athena for the Women's Title.

Athena has an emergency Minions meeting and offers a beating to Aminata and Red Velvet.

Johnny TV vs. Will Austin

Taya Valkyrie is here with Johnny, who takes Austin down without much effort. A springboard hurricanrana into a dropkick works well for Austin, with Ian saying "Make your name Austin!" I'm thinking that might not be the best idea as it's already taken. Taya offers a distraction so Johnny can get in a shot from behind and work on the arm. A spinning knee to the face sets up the Flying Chuck into Starship Pain for the pin at 3:16 (...hey).

Rating: C. As usual, there's only so much you can get out of what was just a step ahead of a squash. TV is back after his loss at Supercard Of Honor and now he can find something else to do. I'm not sure what that is, but it's better than having him sitting around waiting for something to happen.

Mogul Embassy vs. 1 Called Manders/Beef/Calvin Tankman

No Prince Nana with the Embassy as they're getting it right. Beef gets taken into the corner to start the beating in a hurry, with Toa hammering away. Kaun backbreakers him onto the turnbuckle and Cage hits the apron superplex for two. Beef finally gets in a shot of his own and hands it off to Tankman, who gets to clean some house. The numbers catch up with him though and it's a triplebomb to give Cage the pin at 4:06.

Rating: C+. This was more than I was expecting with Tankman getting to show what he could do if given the chance. The guy can be a wrecking ball when he is in there and that worked for a little while. At the same time, not having Nana out there with the Embassy is a good sign, as the face turn continues.

Video on the Premiere Athletes, focusing on Ariya Daivari.

Mark Sterling is impressed with how many people it took to stand up to the Premiere Athletes.

Leila Grey vs. Yuka Sakazaki

Sakazaki takes her over with a headlock to start before hitting a spinning kick to the chest. A running dropkick misses though and Grey drops a backplash for two. Grey gets two off a bulldog and there's a Hennig necksnap to drop Sakazaki again. They go up top, where Grey grabs a sunset bomb for two more before it's time to trade forearms. We go to a random replay of the sunset bomb, which has me wondering if they needed to edit something out. Sakazaki grabs a spinning hammerlock slam and hits the Magical Girl Splash for the pin at 4:44.

Rating: C-. This was a weird one with that replay/seemingly an edit feeling really out of nowhere. I'm not sure what was going on here but the ending felt like they were told to go home in a hurry. Grey has done well enough in some limited roles and was working here, but the chemistry was pretty far

off with this one.

Griff Garrison and Cole Karter are upset at their recent losses. Maria Kanellis comes in to say she is disappointed too but says it'll work in the end. This team's existence continues to confuse me.

Kingdom vs. Outrunners

Non-title Proving Ground match, meaning if the Outrunners win or last the ten minute time limit, they get a future title shot. Floyd works on Bennett's arm to start but it's quickly off to Taven for a cheap shot to take over. Back up and Magnum fights back and manages to clear the ring but Bennett drops him again. Taven chokes away and Bennett gets two off a suplex.

The chinlock keeps Magnum down but he atomic drops his way to freedom and hands it back to Floyd to pick up the pace. A spinning suplex drops Taven and Magnum hits a top rope forearm. Boot Camp is loaded up but Bennett reverses into a rollup with tights for the pin at 7:18.

Rating: C+. The extra time helped this one, along with the fact that we saw the champs go to a time limit in a Proving Ground match a few weeks back. It adds just enough drama to make this work better than that is great to see. It wasn't a great match, but the Outrunners are always fun and the champs get a win, meaning they are at least here for a change.

Queen Aminata and Red Velvet are ready for Billie Starkz and Athena.

Taya Valkyrie vs. Laynie Luck

Taya goes with the power to start and chokes away on the ropes but Luck strikes away. That earns her the running knees in the corner, followed a double underhook drop for two. The STF makes Luck tap at 3:26.

Rating: C. Pretty much a squash for Taya, though Luck got in a few shots of her own. That isn't the biggest surprise as Luck is something of an indy mainstay around this area and is a step above some of the jobbers you'll see. Taya is still someone who could be used in a bigger spot but she seems pretty stuck in the midcard gatekeeper heel spot at the moment.

The Infantry wants more but the Outrunners interrupt and brag about their own success. The challenge is on for next week, with the Outrunners repeating what the Infantry says.

Lance Archer/Righteous vs. GPA/Ren Jones/Jon Cruz

Vincent punches GPA down to start as Ian talks to students. Dutch comes in for some clotheslines before running Jones over for a bonus. It's off to Archer, who gets annoyed at Jones' dropkick. A full nelson slam plants Jones, who kicks Vincent away and hands it off to Cruz. It's back to Jones all of ten seconds later but the villains are tired of this and wreck everyone. The Blackout sends GPA onto Jones to give Dutch the double pin at 3:43.

Rating: C. Archer and the Righteous are doing well with these squashes but it's hard to believe that they're going to get a title shot. I base this on the idea that we have seen them do something similar to this for a good while now and they have never been near the titles. That's how Ring Of Honor works with a lot of this stuff and it can be rather frustrating.

Abadon vs. Nova

Nova takes things into the corner to start for a running shoulder to the ribs but Abadon is right back with some clotheslines. The Meteora in the corner sets up a running knee and Black Dahlia finishes Nova at 1:35.

Johnny TV and Taya Valkyrie (the latter of whom got a shower and changed in record time) are happy about their reality

series when Aaron Solo interrupts. Taya isn't impressed and Johnny mocks his win/loss record so Solo promises to win next week. Now we're getting an Aaron Solo story?

Blake Christian vs. AR Fox vs. Beast Mortos

Mortos runs them both over to start but gets sent to the corner as commentary talks about the things Christian has been doing with Missy Hyatt in GCW. Mortos is back inside and takes out Christian before powerslamming Fox for two. A shinbreaker puts Fox down again and we hit a leglock. Christian comes in off the top for the save and Sling Blades Mortos, who is back with a Samoan drop for two.

The pace picks up and Christian takes Mortos down for a quick splash. Fox is back in to double team Mortos to limited avail but they manage to knock Mortos down into the corner. With the other two up top, Mortos pulls them back down for a big crash but Fox kicks him out to the apron. Christian's spear puts Mortos on the floor and a springboard 450 into a Swanton connects back inside. Christian goes after Fox but Mortos is back up with a spinning piledriver to finish Fox at 6:52.

Rating: B-. Best match of the show as it was more competitive but it's not like this was anything great. There were no stakes to this and Mortos already beat Christian at Supercard Of Honor. That didn't leave much in the way of drama here, though it was nice to see a match that had a bit more time and all three were putting in some energy.

Overall Rating: C. That was Ring Of Honor all right, with a bunch of people doing a bunch of stuff and very little of it standing out. The last few weeks have gotten away from the focused version and have been back to being little more than getting as much content out there as possible. As usual, that's great for the wrestlers who get more work, but it doesn't make for an entertaining show. It's almost impossible to have this much content while also having the wins and

losses matter for the sake of title shots, especially when those shots are few and far between. Ring Of Honor is proving that and it's not working well.

Results

Isiah Kassidy b. Komander – Reverse Twist of Fate

Top Flight/Action Andretti b. Dark Order – Double spinebuster to Reynolds

Anna Jay b. Allysin Kay – Queenslayer

Johnny TV b. Will Austin – Starship Pain

Mogul Embassy b. 1 Called Manders/Beef/Calvin Tankman – Triplebomb to Tankman

Yuka Sakazaki b. Leila Grey – Magical Girl Splash

Kingdom b. Outrunners – Rollup with tights to Floyd

Taya Valkyrie b. Laynie Luck – STF

Lance Archer/Righteous b. GPA/Ren Jones/Jon Cruz – Double pin

Abadon b. Nova – Black Dahlia

Beast Mortos b. Blake Christian and AR Fox – Spinning piledriver to Fox

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Rampage – October 14, 2022: They're Still Doing It

Rampage

Date: October 14, 2022

Location: Coca-Cola Coliseum, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Commentators: Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Taz

We're still north of the border and that should make for a rather energized show. AEW has never gone international (at least on land) before and the crowds are often enough to carry the night. Hopefully they like Ring Of Honor stuff though, because that's the main event this week. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Jon Moxley/Claudio Castagnoli vs. Butcher and the Blade

Bunny is here with Butcher and the Blade. It's a brawl to start with the fight starting at the bell. They're quickly on the floor with Blade being sent over a table and then chopped up against the barricade. We settle down to Moxley chopping Blade into the corner before it's off to Castagnoli as we see Hangman Page watching in the back. A poke to the eye gets Blade out of trouble, meaning Butcher can come in to fight over a suplex with Castagnoli. Butcher gets muscled over and the running uppercuts make it even worse.

Bunny finally rolls inside to cut off the uppercut to Blade, meaning Butcher can get in a cheap shot. We take a break and come back with Castagnoli fighting out of a chinlock but Moxley has been knocked to the floor, meaning there is no one

to tag. The second attempt at the tag works just fine though and Moxley comes in to clean house.

A back rake on the top sets up a piledriver for two on Blade and frustration seems to be setting in. Butcher breaks up a series of stomps to the head (JR: "Crossbody from a big tattooed hairy man.") but Castagnoli breaks up a powerbomb/neckbreaker combination. The big showdown is on with Moxley and Castagnoli dropping them with stereo clotheslines. Blade gets Death Ridered and the Riccola Bomb finishes Butcher at 8:38.

Rating: B-. Butcher and Blade are a rather decent power team and it felt like Moxley and Castagnoli had to break a sweat to win here. This was a match where the ending wasn't exactly in doubt but it was a hard hitting fight to get there. I could go for more of Castagnoli on his own but teaming with Moxley works too.

Post match Moxley says it doesn't matter who they face, because it's time to take out Hangman Page next week.

Swerve Strickland laughs about beating Billy Gunn but what's even better is Acclaimed losing the scissoring stuff. Keith Lee doesn't like Swerve's attitude, or his cheating to beat Gunn on Dynamite. Maybe Swerve is swerving into the wrong lane. Swerve needs to think about that.

The Dark Order is disappointed with their loss but Jose the Assistant interrupts. 10 gets recruited again but he's tired of this. Next week on Rampage, 10 will face Rush and when 10 wins, LEAVE HIM ALONE. That gets rid of Jose and here is the returning Stu Grayson to join in on the team huddle. Jubilation occurs.

Here is the Jericho Appreciation Society for a chat. Matt Menard: "DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT MAKES DADDY MAGIC'S NIPPLES HARD?" Tony: "NO!" The team is rather pleased with Daniel Garcia making his loyalties known and Anna Jay gives him an

official welcome. Garcia thanks Chris Jericho for helping him see the way and even though Bryan Danielson is his hero, he will never be a pro wrestler.

Jericho taught him how to win by hitting him in the head with a title belt, and that is how he learned sports entertainers win every time. Garcia is a sports entertainer and Jericho promises to beat every former Ring Of Honor World Champion. Cue Dalton Castle to say that as a former World Champion, he is sick to see that title around Jericho's waist.

Castle broke his back for that title and now he'll break Jericho's to give the fans what they deserve. You can feel the Peacock Power in this building and his heart beating keeps the lights on. So give him a title shot next week on Dynamite! Jericho says it's on and promises to pluck Castle's feathers. All Honor The Ocho. Castle was a nice surprise and keeps the Jericho vs. Honor run going for another week.

Toni Storm and Hikaru Shida are ready to fight for Storm's Interim Women's Title on Dynamite.

Nyla Rose vs. Anna Jay

The rest of the Vicious Vixens are here with Rose, who has the TBS Title but isn't the champion. Rose takes her down to start before grabbing some rather easy looking slams. A legdrop gets two on Jay but she avoids the Cannonball in the corner. We take a break and come back with Nyla missing a top rope knee to the back of the head and getting her throat snapped across the top. Anna grabs a chinlock but Rose fights up and hits the Beast Bomb for the pin at 6:28.

Rating: C. Pretty to the point match here as Rose beat her up, didn't exactly stay in trouble for any significant amount of time, and then won clean with the Beast Bomb. Rose seems to have shifted face, or at least close to it, and with the sense of humor she has, that has some serious potential. Just don't have her lose clean to Jade Cargill and preserve the bit of

momentum she has here.

Post match Vickie Guerrero holds up a 1-0 sign. Cue Jade Cargill with the Baddies, with Jade clearing out security without much effort. The distraction lets the Vixens run off with the title.

Ariya Daivari is sick of Hook turning down the \$50,000 offer for the FTW World Title. Next week, he'll take it himself.

Isaiah Kassidy vs. Ethan Page

Matt Hardy and Marq Quen are here with Kassidy, who gets suplexed to start. A kick to the face lets Page do the Jeff Hardy dance but Kassidy is back with a tornado DDT. Page bails to the floor so there's the running spinning dive. Stokely Hathaway offers a distraction though, meaning Kassidy misses the Swanton. A Twist of Fate and the Ego's Edge gives Page the pin at 2:15.

The Best Friends want the Trios Titles.

FTR and Shawn Spears are ready for the Embassy, whose feelings are mutual.

Here's what's coming on various shows.

FTR/Shawn Spears vs. Embassy

Prince Nana is here with the Embassy and it's almost weird to see Spears doing the 10 thing again. Spears and Kaun grapple away to start with Spears grabbing something like an abdominal stretch. That's broken up and Spears is taken to the floor, where the Gates put him down as we take a break.

Back with Cage hitting the apron superplex for two on Spears but the F5 is countered into a DDT. Kaun breaks up a tag attempt but of course the diving tag goes through a few seconds later. It's Harwood coming in to clean house and the fans are behind FTR again. There's the spinebuster to Kaun but

Cage is back up to drop FTR. A top rope elbow gets two on Harwood and there's the F5 to Spears. FTR is back up though and stereo Sharpshooters go on, with Spears grabbing one on Nana for a bonus. Loa breaks that up but gets cleared out. The hart Attack hits Kaun and the C4 finishes for Spears at 10:31.

Rating: B-. The Embassy continue to be little more than warm bodies for other people to beat up but they're Ring Of Honor so they have a place on this show. Other than that, FTR was FTR and Spears got to do his stuff as Tye Dillinger rather than himself. While Spears doesn't feel like a top star, he is better this way than as the chair swinging villain so it was a nice comeback.

Post match the Kingdom (Maria Kanellis and Mike Bennett/Matt Taven) debut to interrupt and ask how FTR can be the Top Guys without ever facing them. That's enough of a distraction for the Embassy to jump FTR and Spears, with the Kingdom joining in. Samoa Joe and Wardlow make the save to end the show. I like the Kingdom, but AEW bringing in more people right now is almost hard to fathom.

Overall Rating: B-. As has been the case for a good while now with AEW, the wrestling and in-ring work bail out some pretty weak stories. This was another show with a heavy focus on Ring Of Honor and it's still hard to find a way to care. There are only a handful of interesting stories and Chris Jericho and company trying to make Ring Of Honor into a sports entertainment company isn't exactly great stuff. The wrestling here was good, as it almost always is, but they need to find something to draw in some interesting on the story side. Otherwise, they'll be more like Ring Of Honor than they probably planned.

Results

Jon Moxley/Claudio Castagnoli b. Butcher and the Blade – Riccola Bomb to Butcher

Nyla Rose b. Anna Jay – Beat Bomb

Ethan Page b. Isaiah Kassidy – Ego’s Edge
FTR/Shawn Spears b. Embassy – C4 to Kaun

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Rampage – November 12, 2021: Really? Him?

Rampage

Date: November 12, 2021

Location: Target Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Commentators: Excalibur, Taz, Ricky Starks, Chris Jericho

It’s the go home show for Full Gear but we still might get some changes, or at least a hard sell, for the show. Dynamite did that very well this week but maybe a bit more could make it even better. I’m not sure what to expect here, though Matt Hardy vs. Orange Cassidy in a lumberjack match is certainly a thing. Let’s get to it.

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

Jungle Boy vs. Bobby Fish

Jungle takes him down to start but Fish is right back with a pull off the ropes to bang up Jungle's arm. Back in and Jungle chops away, only to be knocked outside with the arm being banged up again. A posting gets Jungle out of trouble but Fish takes him down again as we take a break.

We come back with Fish staying on the arm but he charges into an overhead suplex into the corner. Jungle grabs a waistlock until he is sent shoulder first into the buckle. Fish grabs his own suplex for his own two in a very near fall. Somehow Jungle is able to pull him into a one armed Snare Trap for the tap at 10:18.

Rating: C+. This is where Jungle shines: fighting from underneath and overcoming the odds with his killer finisher. It has worked well for him before and that was the case again here, as they put together a good story and the dangerous Fish puts Jungle through some pain. That should play into tomorrow's six man tag so this was well thought out.

Post match Adam Cole runs in for the double beatdown. The Conchairto is loaded up but Christian Cage and Luchasaurus run in for the save. Cole bails and it's a Killswitch to Fish.

Video on Bryan Danielson vs. Miro in the #1 contenders match tomorrow night.

The Superkliq is bragging about tomorrow night when Hangman Page comes in. Adam Cole gets in his face but Page wants to talk to the Bucks. Page has something he has needed to say for a long time: he's sorry for what he did to them for a long time. He cost them a Tag Team Title shot but they cost him a World Title shot. That makes him think they're even, so if they get involved on Saturday, he'll kill them.

Jade Cargill vs. Santana Garrett

This is Cargill's one year anniversary and there is a cake for her at ringside. Red Velvet, who will face Cargill in the TBS Title tournament, is here too. Cargill starts fast and knocks Garrett outside, setting up a ram into the barricade. Velvet has to be held back as they head inside. Jaded finishes Garrett at 2:01.

Post match Velvet spears Cargill down and shoves the cake into Mark Sterling's face. Cargill and Velvet brawl until referees break it up.

Video on Eddie Kingston vs. CM Punk at Full Gear. Punk says he sees similarities between them but Kingston won't put in the work and will come up short, as always. If Punk has to hurt Kingston to teach him a lesson, so be it.

Dante Martin vs. Ariya Daivari

They're both hometown boys. Martin starts fast and spins around into a headscissors but Daivari breaks up a springboard. A springboard legdrop knocks Martin out of the ropes and a knee to the ribs cuts him off again. Martin is back with a sunset flip for two, followed by an enziguri to put them both down. Daivari knocks Martin down again and hits a frog splash for his own near fall. That's too much for Martin, who sends him outside for a big springboard dive. Back in and the double springboard moonsault press finishes Daivari at 5:37.

Rating: B-. As is usually the case with Martin, this was all about flying around and firing up the crowd, which works a lot better with a hometown favorite like Martin. There is something awesome about watching Martin doing his thing, as he really is that talented at everything he does. Develop him a bit more and AEW has a breakout star on their hands.

Post match Team Taz comes in to the ring, with Ricky Starks

(at commentary) offers Martin a spot. Starks tells him to read it over and they'll be waiting. Martin doesn't say yes or no.

Full Gear rundown.

Video on Tay Conti vs. Britt Baker, with the talking heads split.

Mark Henry gives us the face to face interview for the main event between Matt Hardy and Orange Cassidy. They don't like each other.

Matt Hardy vs. Orange Cassidy

Lumberjack match and Cassidy has bad ribs coming in. The bell rings and Hardy offers \$23,000 to anyone who can take Cassidy out. The bad lumberjacks get in an immediate fight with the good ones, leaving Cassidy to jump Hardy. Cassidy wins the brawl but has to escape a Twist of Fate attempt. Hardy sends him outside, where Butcher gets in a few cheap shots to put Cassidy in trouble.

We take a break and come back with the Best Friends flipping onto a bunch of lumberjacks. Cassidy adds his own dive and Hardy is sent outside. The Best Friends give Cassidy the assist for a flip dive onto the lumberjacks, setting up a high crossbody for two on Hardy back inside. Some of the lumberjacks come in for a brawl but get cleared out, leaving Cassidy to hit the Beach Break. More lumberjacks come in and a brass knuckles shot knocks Cassidy silly, allowing Hardy to steal the pin (after dropping an elbow which was at least six inches away from Cassidy, who thankfully didn't sell it) at 10:28.

Rating: D+. That's certainly one way to go, just in case building this feud up for about two months wasn't enough for you. I can almost guarantee this isn't the ending, as the hair has been too much of a focus to not have it be a factor somehow. There was way too much going on here though and the

match was an afterthought to all of the shenanigans going on.

Post match the Hardy Family Office cleans house with the brass knuckles and stands tall to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. Kind of a bizarre choice for an ending aside, this was a pretty solid final push towards Full Gear. Those videos with the talking heads make the pay per view matches feel that much more important and I want to see some of the card more than I did coming in. There was some good action to go with it so this was a completely fine use of an hour.

Results

Jungle Boy b. Bobby Fish – Snare Trap

Jade Cargill b. Santana Garrett – Jaded

Dante Martin b. Ariya Daivari – Double springboard moonsault press

Matt Hardy b. Orange Cassidy – Brass knuckles to the head

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205 Live – June 25, 2021: Fare Ye Well

205 Live

Date: June 25, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

Well this show suddenly means nothing as most of the roster has been released, meaning I have no idea what to expect from this series going forward. That may or may not be a good thing, but it is fairly clear that 205 Live is going to get a heck of a shakeup following this taped edition. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Ikemen Jiro vs. Ariya Daivari

Jiro, now in a corn on the cob jacket (I need to see the store that comes from), gets taken down by the wrist to start but comes right back with a headlock. Back up and a running knee to the ribs puts Jiro down but he is fine enough to bust out a handstand in the corner. A Delfin clutch gets two on Daivari, who is right back with a reverse DDT onto the apron. Some right hands to the head set up a chinlock on Jiro and Daivari kicks him hard in the ribs.

Jiro fights up with a suplex and some running forearms, setting up a double springboard moonsault. The Ikemen Slash misses so Jiro superkicks him to the floor instead. A Lionsault connects to set up another moonsault for two back inside. Daivari is right back with a hammerlock DDT for two of his own but the Persian Lion splash misses. The Ikemen Slash finishes Daivari at 8:42.

Rating: C-. Not much to see here but it was the usual perfectly fine Daivari match. Jiro might not be everyone's can of corn, but those jackets are a bit more memorable than almost anything else does around here. Jiro getting a win is a good sign and it wouldn't surprise me to see him as a featured piece of the new look 205 Live.

Grayson Waller vs. August Grey

Waller takes him down to start and walks over Grey's back as the cockiness is on in a hurry. Grey gets taken down again but this time Waller lets him up, allowing Grey to snap off a hiptoss. The armbar keeps Waller down and Grey twists it around a few times for some near falls. Waller uses some very fast nipups into a forearm to the head to escape and chops away in the corner.

Grey's sunset flip is countered into a triangle choke (cool), followed by some choking on the ropes. Waller snaps off a suplex and puts on Grey's headband before tying him in the Tree of Woe. A torture rack sets up a reverse Regal Roll (that's a new one) into a middle rope elbow for two. Grey fights up with a clothesline to the floor into a suicide dive but Waller snaps his throat across the top. The running stomp finishes Grey at 9:42.

Rating: C+. I'm not sure what kind of legs he'll have, but they have something with Waller for the time being. He does all of the heel stuff well and the stomp is a good looking finish. It isn't like he has anywhere to go but up and it is nice to see a heel with this kind of success. Grey was starting to get somewhere but it wasn't like he was lighting the world on fire. He had a short WWE run though and that's better than most people get.

Overall Rating: C. It's weird to see a show that has absolutely no meaning but that was the case here. I have no idea what they are going to do with the show going forward,

but hopefully they do something actually new instead of just putting new names out there with the same issues. I've grown a bit of a soft spot for some of these rather talented people over the years and hopefully they wind up doing well elsewhere, as they deserve it for putting up with this low level show for so long.

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205 Live – June 11, 2021: Not Quite A One Match Show

205 Live

Date: June 11, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

I'm really not sure what to expect around here, but my guess is that the same problems that have been around for years will still be around here. That being said, it would be foolish to expect anything else so all we can ask for is some good

action, which has been the case as of late. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Grayson Waller vs. Sunil Singh

They're both on their own, which is kind of weird for Sunil. They start fast by running the ropes until a side kick drops Singh. Back up and Singh seems to have injured his shoulder, which is made even worse as Waller grabs an armbar over the ropes. Waller kicks him in the face and we hit the neck crank, with Waller being nice enough to trap the healthy arm. A missed splash gives Singh an opening but that arm is just hanging there. Singh snaps him throat first across the rope and manages a top rope chop to the head. Another attempt is kicked out of the air though and Waller hits a running curb stomp for the pin at 3:26.

Rating: N/A. I'm not going to rate this one as the injury took away anything they could have done here. Singh was trying though and fought through the injury as well as he could, but there is only so much you can do with one arm. They did some good enough stuff, but Singh was looking pretty horrible (not his fault) with that arm hanging there.

Ariya Daivari/Tony Nese vs. Asher Hale/Ari Sterling

Hey look: old vs. new. Hale and Nese start things off as the fans rather like Hale here. Nese gets taken into the ropes so Hale strikes the double bicep for some head games. Hale takes him down by the arm and grabs a cradle for two. That's enough to send Nese bailing to the floor as things get a little too complicated. Back in and Hale works on the armbar again and chops Sterling for the tag. That's enough to send Nese bailing back into the corner as Sterling and Hale don't seem to be getting along.

Daivari comes in to crank on Sterling's arm so Sterling flips around a lot and puts on his own armbar. Back up and Daivari pulls Sterling into the corner for the double teaming. That's broken up in a hurry though and it's back to Hale as the good guys get in some double teaming. They won't celebrate because that's a bit too far, so it's Hale getting pulled into the corner for Nese's springboard moonsault.

Daivari grabs the chinlock as the fans are behind Hale again. Sterling doesn't seem that interested in stretching for a tag from Hale so Nese elbows Hale in the face and grabs a bodyscissors. It's already back to Daivari but Hale snaps off a powerslam. The double tag brings in Sterling to strike away at Nese and there's the running flip ax kick for two. A loud chop crumples Nese and Sterling plants him for two. Hale tags himself in and wins a strike off with Nese.

A DDT sets up a Crossface to put Nese in more trouble as everything breaks down. Nese takes Sterling down and kicks Hale in the face, setting up Daivari's Rock Bottom onto the knees for two. The hammerlock lariat misses though and Hale kicks Daivari in the head for two of his own. Hale loads up a superplex but Sterling tags himself in and uses Hale as a launchpad for a running hurricanrana. Now it's Hale tagging himself in, which Sterling doesn't like. The distraction lets Nese knock Sterling to the floor, setting up a Dominator/sliding cutter combination to finish Hale at 15:04.

Rating: B-. That has to be one of the longer matches in a long time around here and they had a nice story in there. This was about the lack of chemistry vs. experience and the action backed it up. Sterling vs. Hale should be a good showdown, though it is going to be another feud without any stakes and that is where everything goes to die around here. The match should work though, as it did before.

Hale and Sterling yell at each other to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. This is a bit of a tricky one to rate as the opener didn't get to do anything due to the injury, leaving the main event as pretty much the entire show. Odds are the injury is what caused it to get some more time and that works, though it isn't something they are likely to do every week. For now though, it's one of the better episodes in a pretty long time.

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205 Live – June 4, 2021: The Other Crew

205 Live

Date: June 4, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

There are some new wrestlers around here but things are already starting to sink into the same problems the show has had for months now. I'm hoping that they find some way to make

it better, but there are only so many things that can be done with the limitations that 205 Live has. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Ari Sterling vs. Sunil Singh

Nigel dancing to the Bollywood Boyz' entrance will always make me chuckle. A rollup gives Sterling a quick one but he has to fight out of a headlock. Sunil gets knocked outside so the Boyz try to make a switch...which doesn't work as they don't look alike. Then again neither did Demolition and that worked several times. The referee tells Samir to get out but Sunil uses the distraction to come in for a chop block.

Some leg cranking ensues but Sterling kicks him over the top for trying a cannonball. Sunil takes him down again though and it's a slingshot elbow to the knee to put Sterling in trouble again. The Bollywood Lock goes on but Sterling turns it over for a leglock of his own, sending Sunil into the ropes. Back up and Sterling hits the running flip ax kick into 86 for the pin at 6:25.

Rating: C-. Ignoring the lack of selling before Sunil can do the running flip legdrop, I believe this is (at least) three straight matches where someone has worked on Sterling's knee. Does no one keep a list of something like that? I mean of course they don't, but you would think someone would say something about how Sterling's matches are the same almost every week.

We look at Kushida successfully defending the Cruiserweight Title against the debuting Carmelo Hayes on NXT in a good match.

Ariya Daivari vs. August Grey

Grey goes for a fast rollup for two before cranking away on

the arm. Daivari blocks a charge in the corner and hits a kick to the ribs to takeover. Back up and a running hurricanrana sends Daivari outside, setting up the suicide dive. Grey gets sent into the barricade a few times though and it's time for some running knees to the ribs back inside.

The chinlock goes on for a bit, followed by a running kick to the side of Grey's head for two. An enziguri gives Grey a breather but the top rope spinning crossbody misses. The Persian Lion splash sets up the camel clutch but Grey is out in a hurry. The double clothesline puts both of them down until Grey stomps away in the corner.

A belly to back suplex puts Daivari on the floor and now the crossbody connects. Grey hammers away but Daivari is right back with the reverse layout DDT for two of his own. An exchange of superkicks set up Daivari's hammerlock DDT for two more. The hammerlock lariat is countered and Grey reverses into a half crab. Daivari grabs a rope so Grey hits So Much Prettier for the pin at 11:50.

Rating: B-. Pretty nice back and forth match with Grey getting what felt like more of a definitive win over Daivari. These two have fought more than a few times now and this seemed to be a bigger match than usual. I'm not sure if this is going to mean anything, but maybe they could have something new for Grey. It would be nice to have some hope at least.

Overall Rating: C. The good counters out the bad here and that's actually a bit of a downgrade for this show in recent weeks. I do like that there are at least a few different wrestlers to rotate around here as it keeps things a bit fresher. It helps quite a bit, though I'm not sure what kind of a difference it really is going to make. Perfectly fine show here, though nothing you need to see, as usual.

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205 Live – May 28, 2021: So Nice I Didn't Even Notice

205 Live

Date: May 28, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Tom Phillips, Nigel McGuinness

So...we're going to try this one again, as I accidentally watched the May 21 edition a second time and had no idea until the ending. The fact that I had no idea that I had already seen the show is rather telling, but so is me saying "It wasn't a terrible or even a bad show, but you could replace most editions of this show with any other for several months and not notice the difference.". Hopefully this one stands out more. Let's get to it.

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

Asher Hale vs. Tony Nese

Hale goes to the wrist to start and Nese has to roll to the ropes to avoid getting rolled up. Another wristlock sends Nese to the ropes for

the second time so Hale tries a headlock instead. This time Nese suplexes his way to freedom but Hale hammers away, setting up a half butterfly suplex of his own. The rapid fire kicks in the corner have Nese in trouble but he's right back with a running elbow to the face.

A spinning kick to the face drops Hale for two but the Running Nese is countered into a Downward Spiral into the middle turnbuckle. Nese is back up with a running palm strike but they both crash out to the floor. Back in and they slug it out with Hale sweeping the leg and nailing an enziguri. The tornado DDT is blocked so Nese kicks him down, only to miss the Lionsault. Hale grabs a bully choke for the tap at 8:54.

Rating: C+. Hale has grown on me a lot in recent weeks as he has a kind of scrappy style to him that works out rather well. Beating Nese still means a little something around here, though Hale isn't likely to get very far on this show. At least they are starting him out well, which is about as important of a move as they can make.

Ari Sterling vs. Ariya Daivari

The fans seem to be behind Ari, though Nigel things it's DAIVARI, which isn't that far off. Sterling slugs away to start but gets sent outside, setting up a chop block. A whip into the barricade has Sterling in trouble and it's time to crank on the knee back inside. Sterling fights up and hammers away in the corner until Daivari drops him face first onto the buckle. The knee is sent into the post a few times and we hit the Figure Four.

Sterling gets out and hits a pair of enziguris, setting up the running flip ax kick. A running hurricanrana out of the corner gives Sterling two more but Daivari catches him on top. Another Figure Four is countered though and Sterling hits a double springboard moonsault. Daivari takes out the knee again back inside and the half crab goes on. Sterling makes the rope and knocks him off the top though, setting up a Spiral Tap for the pin at 9:23.

Rating: C. Sterling not being able to sell his knee is getting really annoying. It is rather tiring to watch someone work over his knee for so much of a match and then get up and do his flips and kicks without much

effort. If he isn't going to put the work off the leg injuries, what's the point in trying anything with them? I'm glad to see Sterling win, but there are some areas he needs to fix up.

Overall Rating: C-. As usual, it's nice to see the younger guys getting a chance, but it isn't going to matter if you keep doing the same things over and over. These guys have been around for a few weeks now and while they are still fresh blood, it doesn't help to have them on the same treadmill over and over. In other words, as usual, they need something to build towards or there is little reason to get invested. Would a one off title shot be that much to ask for? Even if it's a squash loss on NXT? Just something already, and it might help quite a bit.

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205 Live – May 14, 2021: Hey New Guys

205 Live

Date: May 14, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Tom Phillips, Nigel McGuinness

Last week was quite the change of pace as we had some fresh blood around here and they actually got some big wins. It was nice to see that for a change, though odds are it does not last. There is a good chance those things are knocked right back down to normal this week, though you never can tell. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Ariya Daivari vs. Asher Hale

Hale is better known as Anthony Henry. Daivari gets shoved out of the corner to start and Hale slaps on a headlock. Hale does it a second time to prove whatever point he's going for but Daivari puts him on the middle rope instead. That means a diving headlock takeover so Daivari goes with a knee to the ribs this time instead. Back up and Hale hammers away, setting up a one footed dropkick for two. Daivari bails so Hale is right there with a running knee off the apron.

They head back inside with Daivari taking him down off a quick suplex and hammering away in the ropes. We hit the chinlock for a bit but Hale rises up thanks to the power of clapping. A scoop powerslam gives Hale two and some exploder suplexes put Daivari down a few more times. Hale enziguris him into a DDT for two but Daivari manages to crotch him on top. The Iconoclasm sets up the Persian Lion splash for two more and Daivari is stunned on the kickout. The hammerlock lariat is loaded up but Hale reverses into a bridging O'Connor roll for the pin at 8:19.

Rating: C. Hale showed me more here than I have seen from him in any other match so it seems that they are actually giving a few people a first foot in the door. That is what I've been asking for in the last year plus so well done on getting to the right idea. Daivari looked fine here too and it was a perfectly acceptable match.

Bolly-Rise is sitting around a table and talking about the new names around 205 Live. Ever-Rise brings up their talk show and the Bollywood

Boyz sound confused. They'll watch this weekend though.

We look at Kushida retaining the Cruiserweight Title in a 2/3 falls match against Santos Escobar on NXT.

Ari Sterling vs. Tony Nese

The fans want to know Daivari's whereabouts as Nese works on the arm to start. Sterling reverses to do exactly the same and snaps off an ankle scissors to put Nese in the corner. Back up and Sterling plants him again, with Nese bailing to the floor for a breather. Sterling gets pulled into the ring apron to put him in trouble for a change, followed by a whip into the barricade to make it worse.

Back in and Sterling manages an enziguiri and a northern lariat to rock Nese again. You don't do that to Nese though who hits a spinning kick to the face for two, setting up the bodyscissors. Nese picks him up and drives him into the corner, but a superplex is countered into a failed powerbomb attempt. Instead, Sterling hits a running hurricanrana to bring him back down and there's a spinwheel kick to put him on the floor.

Back in and Nese catches him with a rolling palm strike but he misses a 450. Sterling hammers away again and gets two off a neckbreaker. Nese knees him in the face though and the sunset driver gets two. A powerbomb gives Sterling the same but he misses something off the top. The German suplex into the corner sets up the running Nese to give Nese the pin at 12:07.

Rating: B-. That might be a little high but it was someone in their second WWE match against Tony Nese on 205 Live. This was another great showcase for Sterling, who has a lot of heart in his matches and it shows every time. That being said, Nese was very good here as well and they had a heck of a match, even though I might have gone with a different winner.

Overall Rating: C+. They had a pair of good matches and showcased some new names. Nese and Daivari are still good hands in the ring despite my losing any interest in them years ago, making this a good way to spend thirty three minutes. The show still needs something for these people to fight over though, which makes the complete lack of the Cruiserweight

Title all the more frustrating. Still, good stuff this week.

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NXT – May 18, 2021: Then, Now, And For A Few Weeks

NXT

Date: May 18, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Beth Phoenix, Wade Barrett, Vic Joseph

It's time for a big main event with the North American Title being defended inside a cage. Johnny Gargano has to defend against Bronson Reed, which could set up a heck of a Tsunami to crush Gargano for good. That could be quite the match as you have two talented people in there, plus a lot of other things on the show. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a look at the cage match.

Toni Storm vs. Zoey Stark

Stark starts fast and drives her into the corner to hammer away, setting up a springboard missile dropkick. They head outside with Storm getting knocked around until she manages to whip her into the steps. The running hip attack crushes Stark against the steps and Stark barely beats the count. The chinlock doesn't last long so Storm boots her down for two.

Stark grabs a backslide for two and nails an enziguri to put both of them down as we take a break. Back with Stark reversing Storm Zero into a hurricanrana for two, followed by a half nelson suplex for the same. Storm is back up with Storm Zero for two and shock exists. That's fine with Storm, who grabs a judo throw and spins it over into a DDT, which drops Stark on her head (that was TERRIFYING) for the pin at 11:30.

Rating: C+. They got me with the finish as I was thinking Stark was going to win after surviving Storm Zero. Granted I would hope they could come up with a better way to do it than by dropping Stark on her head, but at least she seems to still be alive. Storm really needed the win, and if she can get a less disturbing finisher, she should be good to go.

Post match here is Frankie Monet to stare at Storm.

Legado del Fantasma is ready for MSK but Tommaso Ciampa and Timothy Thatcher come in to say not so fast. Thatcher goes into Spanish to say....I believe "the cat does not have shoes." Ciampa: "That makes perfect sense." The match seems to be made for later.

Cameron Grimes comes up and says park his car, but he's in Ted DiBiase's spot. He gets a match with the valet, who happens to be Jake Atlas, for later.

The Way is at a spa, where Indi Hartwell admits that Candice LeRae was right about everything, including Dexter Lumis. As you might have guessed, Lumis is giving her the massage,

though she can't see him due to the cucumbers over her eyes.

We get a Prime Target on Karrion Kross vs. Finn Balor II. Kross was feeling the injuries from the match for weeks and can't believe Balor survived as long as he did. At the end though, Kross left with the title. Balor says getting back up is how you keep going though and it's time to go. Pat McAfee is ready for the rematch and Paul Heyman says everyone is interested in the match, even Roman Reigns. As for a spoiler...it's a little too close to call. Next week, it's round two. More greatness from these videos, as usual.

Cameron Grimes vs. Jake Atlas

Before the match, Grimes says everyone is glad to see Ted DiBiase, but he has a video on the REAL DiBiase, including all kinds of bad things happening to him over the years. Atlas dropkicks him to the floor before the bell and we take a break. Joined in progress after a break with Grimes hammering away but charging into a boot to the face. A springboard armdrag sets up a running enziguri in the corner, followed by the middle rope hurricanrana for two.

Grimes clotheslines him down and grinds an elbow into the chest in the corner. Atlas sends him chest first into the corner and snaps off a German suplex...as Ted DiBiase arrives in his limo. Something misses off the top and Grimes snaps off the flipping powerslam. The Cave In is loaded up but we've got Ted DiBiase in person, allowing Atlas to grab a rollup for the pin at 4:51.

Rating: C-. The action wasn't the point here and Grimes losing to Atlas in this kind of situation isn't going to hurt him. Grimes vs. DiBiase continues to be one of the best things going on in all of wrestling today and I want to see where it keeps going. I'm not sure if it is going to be but they have me wanting to see it every week.

Post match Grimes gives chase but DiBiase is in the limo,

saying that Grimes will never be a Million Dollar Man. Ranting ensues again.

Bronson Reed is ready to make everything he has put into his career worth it by winning the North American Title. He has been around the world but now he is going to be here, winning the title and telling his wife that they did it.

We get a sit down interview with Pete Dunne, talking about how he can win any title he wants at any time. He has never had a bad match and even when he loses, people leave the ring a different person. Dunne talks about being influenced by British style and everything he has put together over the years (with the required Fit Finlay reference). The fans' influence makes a huge difference and he can't wait to see what is next.

Alexander Wolfe vs. Killian Dain

The rest of Imperium (minus Walter) and the still scared Drake Maverick are here too. Dain punches him into the corner to start but gets kicked and uppercutted for his early efforts. Some uppercuts from Dain allow him to send Wolfe into the corner. Fabian Aichner knocks Maverick off the apron and there's a German suplex to Dain. Marcel Barthel throws in a chair but Wolfe takes too long, allowing Dain to hit a running crossbody for the pin at 1:49.

Post match, Imperium turns on Wolfe and beats him down, setting up the posing.

Raquel Gonzalez and Dakota Kai are done with Mercedes Martinez and are ready for the Women's Tag Team Titles. Ever-Rise come in (with coffee mugs) to say Shotzi Blackheart and Ember Moon are the #1 contenders. They plug their show, but Gonzalez doesn't watch it. Matt Martel says that sounds like she wants to hit him...and she does, dropping him with one slap. These guys are good.

Legado del Fantasma vs. Tommaso Ciampa/Timothy Thatcher

Wilde dances at Ciampa to start, who takes him outside for a ram into the barricade. Back in and we hit the front facelock on Wilde, setting up the chinlock. Thatcher comes in for a hammerlock on Mendoza, followed by a headscissors from Ciampa. Mendoza fights up and raises a boot in the corner to cut Ciampa off. Thatcher comes back in for a headlock into an ankle lock.

With that still on, Ciampa comes in with his own to Wilde but stereo rollups get...no count because two of the people are illegal. Stereo enziguris put everyone down and we take a break. We come back with Ciampa hitting a string of running clotheslines in the corner. Mendoza breaks up the hanging DDT on Wilde as we see Mendoza's busted nose being checked on during the break. Ciampa gets punched and chopped in the corner but Mendoza misses a charge into the post.

The hot tag brings in Thatcher to hammer away in the corner, with Ciampa getting to do the same. Legado gets Ciampa into the corner for a clothesline and some moonsaults get two. Thatcher breaks up the Russian legsweep/boot combination and Wilde nails the big running flip dive. Back in and the hanging DDT gets two on Wilde with Mendoza making the save. Cue the Grizzled Young Veterans to jump Ciampa though and now the boot/Russian legsweep is good for the pin at 15:41.

Rating: C+. What we got was good but we got quite a bit of it as this match felt long. Legado is a solid team, though it's weird to have heels who fly around like they do. At the same time though, it sets up the Veterans vs. Ciampa vs. Thatcher, which more than works for everyone involved. Legado likely gets a title shot too so that is a well used match.

Bobby Fish says his business is with Pete Dunne and Oney Lorcan. The torn tricep was a long recovery, but now he is back and there is a debt to be paid. First up is Pete Dunne

because they have unfinished business. Next week, they can finish it.

Back at the spa, the Way's credit card is declined. They think it is Austin Theory, but the spa employee called the credit card company and found out that it was something about a florist three weeks ago. Indi Hartwell puts the pieces together and realizes that Dexter Lumis still loves her. Hartwell runs off screaming this over and over as Candice LeRae is stunned. Beth: "Forget Bennifer! INDEX IS BACK!!!"

Johnny Gargano is ready to prove that Bronson Reed is not on his level. Gargano stops the unstoppable inside of a steel cage.

Aliyah vs. Sarray

Sarray starts fast with a springboard armdrag into a basement dropkick but Jessi Kamea grabs a leg. Aliyah gets in a few shots of her own but walks into a spinning kick to the face. There's a German suplex into a missile dropkick from Sarray, followed by a running dropkick against the ropes. The high collar suplex finishes Aliyah at 2:25.

Shotzi Blackheart and Ember Moon are ready for the Way again and it's time to get gritty and wild. Howling ensues (Moon: "That's what she said.").

Hit Row vs. Ariya Daivari/Tony Nese

That would be Ashante Adonis/Top Dolla, with the former taking over on Nese to start. Dollar hits a World's Strongest Slam/Wasteland at the same time and it's already back to Adonis for the corner stomping to Daivari. A superkick drops Nese and Dolla has to calm Adonis down. Something like an AA into a neckbreaker gives Dollar the pin on Daivari at 2:20.

Post match, Hit Row brags about the win, with Isaiah Scott promising to watch the North American Title match.

William Regal announces Legado del Fantasma vs. MSK for the Tag Team Titles in two weeks. There are going to be some new stars in the cruiserweight division, and also next week it's Dakota Kai/Shotzi Blackheart vs. Ember Moon/Raquel Gonzalez.

Here's what's coming next week, including Frankie Monet's debut, Cameron Grimes and Ted DiBiase in a Million Dollar Faceoff, plus Balor vs. Kross II.

North American Title: Johnny Gargano vs. Bronson Reed

Gargano, with Austin Theory, is defending inside a cage. An early escape attempt doesn't work for Gargano as Reed pulls him back and shoves Gargano out of the air without much trouble. Reed sends him into the cage a few times and drives his face into the steel to make it worse. A missed charge hits cage, but the slingshot spear doesn't work because of the cage.

That lets Reed snap off a hanging DDT but Theory is there to cut off a climb attempt. Gargano superkicks the knee out and we take a break. Back with Reed hitting a super Samoan drop for a delayed two. That means it's time to go up but Gargano powerbombs him back down. It's too early for Gargano to escape though as Reed pulls him back in and sits on his chest. A powerbomb is countered with a grab of the cage though and Gargano hits a poisonrana to put both of them down.

One Final Beat is countered with a toss into the cage but Theory slams the door on Reed's head. Now One Final Beat can give Gargano two so it's time to go up. Reed is right there to catch him with a superbomb but makes the mistake of climbing, allowing Theory to cut him off. Gargano gets headbutted off the top and Theory gets punched down. The splash to the back sets up the Tsunami to give Reed the title at 15:25.

Rating: B. This was exactly how such a match should have gone, with Reed overcoming the obstacles/odds and winning clean in the end. There was no fluke here either, as that Tsunami is

one of the best looking finishers going today. Gargano was a good choice as champion because he could do something like this, but is more than enough of a legend to be back just fine in a few weeks. Solid main event here, and a good example of how a telegraphed finish isn't a bad thing.

Pyro goes off for the celebration to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Pretty awesome show here as they had a bunch of nice stuff capped off by the big main event, which more than delivered. I can always go with watching NXT get to do their thing and show how a good show is supposed to be put together. They have things set up for weeks now while delivering this week as well. That's an efficient two hours and it was worth the watch here as usual.

Results

Toni Storm b. Zoey Stark – Judo throw spun into a DDT

Jake Atlas b. Cameron Grimes – Rollup

Killian Dain b. Alexander Wolfe – Crossbody

Legado del Fantasma b. Tommaso Ciampa/Timothy Thatcher – Russian legsweep/running enziguri to Ciampa

Sarray b. Aliyah – High collar suplex

Hit Row b. Tony Nese/Ariya Daivari – Fireman's carry flipping neckbreaker to Daivari

Bronson Reed b. Johnny Gargano – Tsunami

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205 Live – May 7, 2021: My Hometown Boy

205 Live

Date: May 7, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Tom Phillips

We're in for a kind of interesting show this time around in that we are going to be seeing some fresh faces. WWE has actually announced that some new wrestlers are going to be debuting here and that could make for quite the interesting night. Well maybe not interesting but at least new. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Ari Sterling vs. Samir Singh

Sunil is here with Samir. Ari is better known as Alex Zayne and is the first wrestler I've ever heard billed from Lexington, Kentucky. Samir grabs a headlock takeover but Sterling is right back up with an armdrag to the floor, setting up a slingshot springboard Lionsault to take him down again. Back in and Sterling works on a cravate but Samir

breaks up a springboard to knock him outside.

Samir comes back in for a Boston crab but Sterling makes the rope. A hurricanrana is countered into another Boston crab so Sterling has to break it up again. Now the comeback is on, including a running flip ax kick to drop Samir for two. Samir gets up and tries a tornado DDT but Sterling shoves it off, setting up a backbreaker, which is flipped forward into a faceplant to put Samir away at 7:12.

Rating: C. It wasn't a great match or anything but it was a completely effective debut. That's what Sterling needed to do here and he had enough spots to make it work. Beating one of the Singh Brothers isn't impressive, but it got his feet wet enough and he had enough charisma. Above all else, this show needs some fresh blood and if Sterling can be out there for some new matches, he should be fine.

We look back at Santos Escobar and Legado del Fantasma promising to take various titles from Kushida and MSK. Kushida popped up on the screen to challenge Escobar to a 2/3 falls title match next week.

Tony Nese/Ariya Daivari vs. August Grey/Ikemen Jiro

This is Jiro's debut and apparently Ikemen means handsome. Jiro, wearing his yellow jacket, starts with Nese, and gets driven straight into the corner. A shoulder puts Jiro down but he nips up and tells Nese to try it again. It's off to Grey, who gets double teamed in the corner to slow things down. A hurricanrana takes Daivari down but he decks Grey before the hot tag. Then the tag goes through a few seconds later so house can be cleaned, including a bulldog to Daivari.

Nese comes back in and stomps away though, followed by a sleeper from Daivari. It's already back to Nese, who rolls over to knock Nese off the apron but gets knocked down by Jiro. The real hot tag brings in Grey to pick up the pace, including the running crotch attack to the back of the head

while Daivari is in the ropes. The spinning suplex gets two on Daivari but Nese cuts Grey off, setting up the Lionsault for two.

Everything breaks down with Nese kicking Jiro straight in the face. A Dominator/sliding cutter combination gets two on Grey with Jiro diving in for the save. That means it's back to Jiro to start taking over, including a bunch of strikes to the face. The villains are sent to the floor for the Asai moonsault, followed by a Swanton for two on Nese back inside with Daivari making the save. Jiro dives onto Nese and it's a running kick to the face gives Jiro the pin at 10:25.

Rating: C. The jacket might take some getting used to but the energy was good and I wanted to see him pin one of these goofs. That's what we got here, but the most important thing is that we are getting someone new around here. It was a good enough match and while I don't think Jiro and Grey have much of a future as a team, beating Nese and Daivari is fine for a first step. Just don't make it the tenth and eleventh steps.

Overall Rating: C+. In case I didn't make it clear enough, the most important thing they did here was add in some new wrestlers. This show has had about the same ten people for months now and nothing has happened. Jiro and Sterling might not be the biggest stars ever around here, but at least they can give us something new. This has been one of the biggest problems on 205 Live for a long time now and for once, they actually did something about it. What a relief.

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