

# Ring Of Honor – May 23, 2025 (Friday Show): Thank Goodness For Blake Christian

## Ring Of Honor

Date: May 23, 2025

Location: Masonic Temple Theater, Detroit, Michigan

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

It's another Friday show due to Collision airing on Thursday due to Double Or Nothing weekend. On paper that means we should be in for something a bit more special than usual but Ring Of Honor does not tend to follow logic. Hopefully it works out here with an entertaining outing but you never can tell. Let's get to it.

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

Athena (haven't seen her in a bit) isn't happy enough to make jokes at the moment so she's getting to the point: Billie Starkz is entering the Women's Pure Title tournament. No one can interfere to help her so for once, do your job and come home with some gold.

Opening sequence.

We run down the card.

## Marina Shafir vs. Laynie Luck

Shafir goes for the arm off the handshake to start and goes for an early cross armbreaker. Luck manages to get to the apron and goes for the legs but Shafir pulls her into a triangle choke. Some hard shots to the head set up a running knee in the corner for some near falls as the destruction is on. Luck pulls a sunset flip into an STF out of nowhere (the fans are VERY happy) but Shafir is back out. An enziguri rocks

Shafir but she pulls Luck into Mother's Milk for the fast win at 4:10.

**Rating:** C. This was more or less a squash until Luck got in a bit of offense, only to get smashed again. That's what you expect from a Shafir match and thankfully the fans are enough behind Luck that they cared what they were seeing. Shafir can be fun to watch when she gets to smash through some people and that's what we saw here.

### Gringo Loco vs. Blake Christian

Lee Johnson is here with Christian, who jumps Loco to start and stomps away in the corner. The fans are behind Loco, who gets taken down with an ankle scissors, but comes back with a knockdown of his own. A top rope spinning split legged moonsault gets two on Christian and they both go up.

Something like a DDT onto the top turnbuckle sends Loco outside and a diving DDT over the bottom rope takes him down again. Back in and Christian hits a flipping splash and drops a leg to keep Loco in trouble. The taunting takes too long though and Loco pulls him into a pumphandle swinging Downward Spiral.

Loco goes up and gets caught in a super hurricanrana, setting up a 450 double stomp to give Christian two. They both go up again, with Loco hitting a super Spanish Fly for his own near fall as the fans are WAY into this. A pumphandle piledriver is broken up and Christian hits a 619 to the ribs. Christian hits a poisonrana and the Vanilla Choke Zero finishes Loco at 8:39.

**Rating:** B. WHERE THE HECK DID THAT COME FROM? I was expecting nothing more than a generic, basic match here and they went out and came this close to tearing the house down. This was a heck of an entertaining match with one high spot after another. Rather good stuff here and I'll absolutely take this as a huge surprise.

We look at Billie Starkz winning the Women's TV Title tournament.

### Queen Aminata vs. Allysin Kay

Pure Rules. Aminata pulls her down for a full nelson with the legs and Kay uses her first rope break less than a minute in. The Rings Of Saturn send Kay straight over to the ropes again and she comes up with a right hand for the first warning. Kay gives her a fall away slam to send Aminata outside, where Kay bites her finger. Back in and they trade strikes to the face, with Kay's big kick getting two. Aminata headbutts her down and ties up...well almost everything for the tap at 6:07.

**Rating:** C. If there is a point to this division, title or tournament, it is completely eluding me. The men's division barely exists and now we are getting a third women's title for no apparent reason. It's not like there was anything special to the match in the first place and it just came and went, with a tournament of them coming in the next few weeks. Why that is supposed to be interesting is beyond me but here we are.

Serena Deeb is tired of coming here and never winning anything in years. Now she has heard about the Pure Rules Title and knows that is tailor made for her. She's done waiting and being patient and is going to win because this is hers.

Double Or Nothing rundown.

### Barbaro Cavernario/Hechicero/Volador Jr. vs. Atlantis Jr./Neon/Fuego

Fuego and Volador start things off with Fuego taking over, meaning it's time for some dancing. Cavernario comes in and gets taken down, with Hechicero getting the same treatment. Back in and some triple teaming takes Atlantis down but he fights out without much effort. Neon comes in for a springboard armdrag out of the corner but Hechicero grabs him

from the apron. A double powerbomb plants Neon and it's back to Fuego, who gets taken down as well.

Fuego gets tossed into the air for a missile dropkick and it's back to Atlantis, who gets kicked in the chest. A reverse monkey flip into a double knee to the face gets two on Atlantis, who fights up to knock Cavernario...into the Worm? Everything breaks down and Fuego and Neon hit stereo dives but Cavernario drops Atlantis. A running springboard splash hits raised knees though and a Canadian Destroyer plants Cavernario. The frog splash gives Atlantis the pin at 8:06.

**Rating:** B-. It was the usual fun match but "the usual" is the problem. Ring Of Honor has been running these matches for a few months now and while they're quick fun, there's nothing here that really stands out. Atlantis continues to be one of the least interesting stars I've seen in a long time and that was on full display here. Fuego and Neon are fun, but these matches might as well be on a loop because nothing about them is unique in the slightest.

**Overall Rating:** C+. Thank goodness for Blake Christian here, as he and Loco stole this otherwise completely forgettable show. I have no idea what was supposed to be special about this episode, but that is pretty par for the course for Ring Of Honor. The wrestlers work hard, but there is nothing about this show that feels important, special, memorable or engaging in the slightest most weeks. In other words, this was as Ring Of Honor as you could get.

### Results

Marina Shafir b. Laynie Luck – Mother's Milk

Blake Christian b. Gringo Loco – Vanilla Choke Zero

Queen Aminata b. Allysin Kay – Seated Octopus

Atlantis Jr./Neon/Fuego b. Babaro Cavernario/Hechicero/Volador Jr. – Frog splash to Cavernario

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# Ring Of Honor – April 18, 2025: They Did A Sequel

## Ring Of Honor

Date: April 18, 2025

Location: MassMutual Center, Springfield, Massachusetts

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

It's time for the second Ring Of Honor show of the week as we are coming off a bonus episode yesterday afternoon. In theory, that should mean that we are in for some better than usual stuff here, with the weaker, less important stuff burned off yesterday. We are only a few weeks away from Supercard Of Honor as well so let's get to it.

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

## Bandido/Komander vs. Infantry

No entrances here, likely to hide that Komander had the TV Title when this was taped. It's a brawl to start with Bandido slugging away at Bravo but getting taken out for a whip into the barricade. Back in and they be clubberin at Bandido in the corner before a leglock keeps him down.

A Demolition Decapitator gets two on Bandido but he gets over

for the tag without much trouble. Everything breaks down and Dean is sent outside, drawing Shane Taylor up to the apron. That's fine with Bandido, who sunset bombs Taylor onto the rest of the Promotions. Komander moonsaults onto them, leaving Bandido to hit the 21 Plex for the pin at 5:56.

**Rating:** C+. Bandido is the featured star of the promotion these days so of course he's opening the show against a midcard tag team. At least he got the win, but this feels like a match that was put together before they knew Bandido was going to be the champion. If that's the case, it makes me wonder why it still happened, but at least the right person won.

#### Six Man Tag Team Titles: Dustin Rhodes/Von Erichs vs. MxM Collection/Johnny TV

Rhodes and the Von Erichs are defending for the first time since July but get jumped from behind during their entrance. We get inside where TV beats on the banged up Ross and the bell officially rings. Marshall fights up and slugs away at Mansoor, setting up a Cannonball for two. Ross comes in for a rather aggressive headlock but Madden tags himself in for a Harlem Heat Heat Seeker.

Taya Valkyrie gets in some stomps on the floor and a Sidewinder gives Mansoor two. Rhodes, still banged up from the attack before the bell, is knocked down again but Marshall low bridges Madden to the floor. A clothesline gives Ross a breather but Madden pulls Marshall to the floor. The tag brings in Rhodes instead and everything breaks down, with a bulldog getting two on TV. Everything breaks down and the Collection gets a double Shattered Dreams. The Claw puts Mansoor in trouble and the Final Reckoning to TV retains the titles at 11:12.

**Rating:** C+. That's what we've waited about eight months to see and it's the same problem as always: Rhodes and the Von Erichs

aren't that interesting. This match was built around Rhodes getting the hot tag so he could clean house. Rhodes isn't exactly a big enough star to make this interesting and having him hold two titles for so many months isn't making it that much better. I'll take this over the titles not being defended, but not by much.

### Lee Johnson vs. Sammy Guevara

Blake Christian is here with Johnson. Guevara grabs a headlock to start but can't get anywhere and they both nip up for a standoff. Back up and Guevara hits a dropkick but Christian pulls him face first onto the apron. Johnson fires off some shoulders to the ribs but Guevara fights up to knock him down. A cutter gives Guevara two and he pulls Johnson into a rollup for the pin at 5:50.

**Rating:** C. Guevara feels like he's the partner you had to pick in Wrestlemania 2000's Road To Wrestlemania mode but he actually has to have matches. That doesn't make for the most thrilling stuff, as every bit of Guevara's star power has gone sailing away. That's a shame as he's that talented, but being Dustin Rhodes' (the main character in the game) sidekick isn't the way to go.

Post match Christian jumps Guevara but Dustin Rhodes makes the save. Johnny TV and the MxM Collection run in for the save, as do the Von Erichs. The villains beat them down and Guevara covers Rhodes from the beating.

Video on CMLL working with Ring Of Honor, setting up Grand Slam Mexico in June.

### Jon Cruz/Rosario Grillo vs. Dark Order

It's a brawl to start with the Order cleaning house, setting up Reynolds' running elbow in the corner to Cruz. That's broken up and it's off to Uno, who hits the Gory Bomb/Codebreaker combination for the pin at 3:30.

**Rating:** C. This really is the best they have for their Wrestlemania Week show. The Dark Order haven't felt important in the better part of ever and putting them out there against Cruz and his partner of the week isn't going to make that any better. The match barely had time to do anything and that might be the best way to go.

Post match the Frat House comes out, complete with recruits, who the Frat House beat up. And now, a match.

#### Frat House vs. Charles Mason/Love Doug/TJ Crawford

The Dark Order is watching from the aisle. The recruits are beaten down but Doug chops away for some reason, earning himself a discus lariat for the pin at 59 seconds.

Post match the beatdown continues until the Dark Order make the save. This passes for a personal feud around here.

Serena Deeb and Queen Aminata are in the first round of the Women's Pure Title tournament. Trash talk is exchanged. There is pretty much no reason for that title to exist but here it is anyway.

#### Atlantis Jr./Esfinge/Fuego vs. Barbaro Cavernario/Euforia/Zandokan Jr.

We start fast with an exchange of kicks to the face and a triple sunset flip for two each. Cavernario hits a running Vader Bomb for two on Fuego. Esfinge comes in and gets beaten out to the floor rather quickly. Fuego is back in for a double dropkick and it's Esfinge coming in to clean house.

An Alabama Slam out of the corner into a sitout powerbomb gives Zandokan two. Atlantis is there with a kick in the corner but he gets caught with a triple powerbomb. Euforia goes for Atlantis' mask to no avail and a double dropkick puts Atlantis down again. Fuego and Esfinge hit some dives before Atlantis' frog splash pins Euforia at 7:48.

**Rating:** B-. You know the same things I say about all of these CMLL six man tags? Update it to include this match. It's an entertaining match but there is pretty much nothing that makes it stand out in any way. You have a few new names included but I lost interest in these being anything more than fun filler a long time ago. Mainly because these things have been going on that long.

**Overall Rating:** C. Remember that this isn't just the best they have, but also the show after they got rid of a bunch of the filler yesterday. At the end of the day, this show feels so much like filler and there is no way around that. Instead of doing something interesting, it's the same people doing the same stuff with Dustin Rhodes being treated as the biggest star around. There is something that could be done with this show, but this absolutely wasn't it.

### Results

Bandido/Komander b. Infantry – 21 Plex to Bravo

Dustin Rhodes/Von Erichs b. MxM Collection/Johnny TV – Final Reckoning to TV

Sammy Guevara b. Lee Johnson – Rollup

Dark Order b. Jon Cruz/Rosario Grillo – Gory Bomb/Codebreaker combination to Cruz

Frat House b. Charles Mason/Love Doug/TJ Crawford – Discus lariat to Doug

Atlantis Jr./Esfinge/Fuego b. Barbaro Cavernario/Euforia/Zandokan Jr. – Frog splash to Euforia

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# Pandemonium Pro Wrestling: The House Always Wins: I'd Call That A Win

## The House Always Wins

Date: April 17, 2025

Location: Freemont Country Club, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Elliot Tyler, Jordan Castle

So this is Pandemonium Pro, which is an independent promotion that I know nothing about. I wanted to do one of their shows a few years ago but could never actually find it so we'll try it again here. I'm always a sucker for a gambling themed named and what are the odds of seeing one of them in Las Vegas? Let's get to it.

Note that I know nothing about this promotion so I apologize in advance if I miss any plot or character points.

Apparently there was a pre-show battle royal but it does not seem to have been broadcast.

## Sean Legacy vs. Tommy Billington

For some reason this is a separate video from the YouTube stream of the show so I'm not sure if it's officially part of the show or some kind of pre-show. Legacy takes him to the mat to start as commentary is at very different levels, with one of them sounding like they are in a different location. A victory roll gives Legacy two and he grabs a headlock takeover.

Billington flips out of a wristlock and takes him down into an armbar. Legacy is right back with a standing moonsault for two so Billington drops him with a clothesline. Back up and Billington stomps away in the corner but gets caught with a DDT for two more. They slug it out...and the video ends without a winner. Another video on the page shows Legacy leaving after a win, though there are no details about how he got there. No rating due to the incomplete match, but they were starting to pick it up when the video ended.

Here is Miu Watanabe to sing a song. I'm not sure what she's saying but the fans seem into it and it's rather fast paced.

### Jordan Cruz/Sonico/Wicked Wickett vs. Alan Angels/Duke/Fuego del Sol

Duke is better known as Duke Hudson. Angels and Sonico start things off as we lose commentary for a bit. Sonico rolls him up for some near falls and it's already off to del Sol vs. Wickett. They trade hurricanranas for a standoff...and the video ends again after just over two minutes. Apparently Cruz and company went on to win, though again I have no idea how they did it or how long it took.

### Mao vs. Masha Slamovich

Neither gets an introduction and we're seemingly joined in progress. Slamovich's headlock doesn't last long and they're quickly on the mat, which goes to a standoff. Mao flips her off as commentary reads off some sponsors and then apologizes to them. A hiptoss takes her down before Mao teases a hanging DDT, only to drop her face first instead. The half crab keeps Slamovich in trouble before a split legged moonsault (with Mao grabbing the lighting rig) gets two.

Slamovich is back up with a rolling kick to the face and the rear naked choke goes on. Mao slips out but gets it again, only for Mao to fight up with a cutter for two. They trade enziguris until Slamovich knocks him out of the air for a

crash. An exchange of German suplexes doesn't get either of them anywhere so they trade kicks to the head...and Slamovich falls onto him for the fluke pin at 9:30.

**Rating:** C+. This was a nice enough back and forth match, with Slamovich being able to hang with Mao fairly well. Granted it helps when Mao's big offense is flipping off the crowd, so Slamovich only had so much to keep up with here. Slamovich's star continues to rise and she got a good win here on the big weekend.

### Mustafa Ali vs. Ninja Mack

Ali has no interest in shaking hands to start so he drives Mack into the corner. Back up and Ali grabs an armbar, only for Mack to flip away and nip up into a standoff. Mack flips out of a hurricanrana but Ali does Mack's own pose with quite the big grin. That's fine with Mack, who hits a spinning kick to the head and they head outside, where Mack's sliding dive is countered into a DDT onto the floor (ouch).

Back in and Mack seems to be having trouble seeing so Ali knocks him down again and hits a standing moonsault. Mack catches him on top with a kick to the head, only to get German suplexed down. Ali mocks Mack again and they trade rollups until Ali backslides him with feet on the ropes for the pin at 9:35.

**Rating:** B-. What were you expecting here? Ali is one of the better stars on the independent circuit and Mack is a rather entertaining high flier. Getting Ali on the show makes things feel more important and he got to showcase his talents rather well. Mack is going to be fine as well as he's that good of a high flier and this worked well enough.

### Hyan vs. Kingsley

Kingsley is apparently replacing WWE ID Prospect Zara Zakher and is the lead singer of the Backslide Girls. Which is

apparently a thing. They circle each other to start and then trade legsweeps for a quick cover each. A dropkick sends Kingsley outside and Hyan drags her back in by the hair, which isn't very nice.

Back in and Kingsley kicks away as commentary throws us to a commercial on the local TV broadcast as this is a rather odd production. Kingsley stacks her up for two and grabs a chinlock to keep things slow. Back up and Hyan sends her to the floor and a dive takes Kingsley down again. They get back inside with Kingsley grabbing an STF variation until Hyan makes the rope. Hyan's CT Knee gets two and it's a spear into Beauty Sleep (Glam Slam) to end Kingsley at 10:09.

**Rating:** C+. This was a match where the production brought down the enjoyment as there were issues in telling which of them was which or what was going on. That's an annoying detail as the match was good enough, though it was kind of just trading moves without building towards much of anything.

### Miu Watanabe vs. Maya World

Watanabe wrestles her down to start before Maya misses a swinging kick. Maya manages to send her to the apron for a basement dropkick and it's time for a bit of a breather. Back in and Watanabe is fine enough to hit a running shoulder, only to get caught in a gory stretch spun into a knee to the face. Watanabe pops up with a comeback so sudden that commentary sounds surprised, including with World being driven into the corner.

The giant swing is broken up though and World superkicks her into a crossface. Watanabe fights up and hits a big backbreaker, which is enough to set up the giant swing. World slips out of an over the shoulder backbreaker and grabs a sunset bomb out of the corner for two. Back up and Watanabe misses a right hand and gets cuttered, only to shrug it off for a powerslam. The Tear Drop (flapjack) finishes World at

11:28.

**Rating:** B-. This was good enough, though Watanabe seemed to survive a good bit of offense and just pop up to take over again. That's not the best way to go, but World definitely got to showcase herself for a bit. Watanabe definitely has star power, though it was nice to see World doing well too.

### Kzy vs. Cappuccino Jones

Kzy is from Dragon Gate. Jones takes him down by the arm to start and they fight over a hammerlock. Back up and Jones cranks away on the arm, only for Kzy to Worm his way out. Jones isn't sure what to make of that so he has some coffee and dances a bit as well. Kzy has some of said coffee and they both do indeed dance. Jones does a reverse Worm and then gets kneed in the ribs, only to come back with a dropkick for two.

They run the ropes until Kzy hits a running Blockbuster for a big smile. Jones hammers him down and drops a fist for two, setting up the neck crank. Kzy fights up and hits a running shoulder in the corner, setting up a fireman's carry sitout powerbomb for two. A frog splash misses for Kzy and a half and half (clever) suplex gives Jones two more.

The Macchiato Driver gives Jones another near fall and they slug it out. Back up and Kzy hits a running clothesline and they're both down. A sliding lariat gives Kzy two but Jones gets to the coffee and hits a Decaffinator for two. Kzy is back with another basement clothesline into a frog splash for two of his own. They trade rollups for two each until Kzy piledrives him for the pin at 13:14.

**Rating:** B. This was a lot of fun as Jones has turned what should be a pretty basic gimmick into something rather entertaining. You wouldn't expect to see someone whose entire deal is "he drinks a lot of coffee" get somewhere but he has the in-ring talent to back it up. Kzy has looked good in his time in the ring this weekend and he got to do well again

here.

### Barbaro Cavenario/Yamato vs. Ben-K/Titan

Cavenario and Ben-K start things off and they go to the grappling, with Cavenario taking him to the mat. That's broken up and they circle each other again before heading right back down. Ben-K drops him with a running shoulder and it's off to Yamato vs. Titan, with commentary going into a discussion of wrestlers' hair. Yamato gets taken down and Ben-K comes in to work on the ribs.

A gutwrench suplex gets two and it's time to tie up the legs for something like a reverse surfboard (that's a weird one). Yamato fights up and sends him into the corner for the running dropkick, allowing the tag off to Cavenario. Everything breaks down and Cavenario hits a big dive out to the floor.

Back in and Cavenario gets faceplanted for two, leaving Yamato and Ben-K to go at it for a change. Yamato can't hit a brainbuster but he can forearm Ben-K a few times, setting up a suplex for two. Titan is back in to kick Yamato in the face and everyone is down for a bit. Back up and Titan hits a top rope double stomp on Yamato with Cavenario breaking it up. Yamato kicks Ben-K in the face and gets German suplexed for two. A quick hurricanrana gives Yamato the pin at 14:05.

**Rating:** B. Another match designed to be a bunch of people getting in some fast spots and hard hits, which worked rather well. It was a mixture of different styles but they meshed together, likely due to familiarity. Good, fast paced match here and all of them got a chance to showcase themselves.

### Ella Envy/Brittnie Brooks vs. B3cca/Joseline Navarro

B3cca, a singer, dances to start and Envy joins in before decking B3cca from behind. Navarro comes in to take Brooks down but gets dropped with a quick shot to the face for two. Everything breaks down and B3cca and Navarro drop them,

meaning we get tandem dancing. Envy fights out of the corner and hits a running hip attack in the corner to B3cca. Brooks comes back in and gets caught with a superkick, only to get kicked in the back for two.

A slightly aggressive tag brings Envy back in but she's fine enough to grab a snap suplex. Envy accidentally drops Brooks and B3cca crossbodies both of them at the same time. Navarro comes back in to clean house but Envy drops her from the apron. B3cca hits a Death Valley Driver onto the knee but she gets sent outside. A catapult into a clothesline gets two on Navarro with B3cca making the save. Navarro takes Brooks outside and B3cca hits...something we don't see off the top for the pin at 11:35.

**Rating:** B-. This was a nice showcase from four women who might not be as well known and that's one of the best things that can happen in this kind of a weekend. B3cca has a gimmick that can get your attention rather quickly and Envy/Brooks were both good as the pink obsessed stars. Nice match here, though the missed ending hurt it a bit.

#### Hechicero vs. Kevin Blackwood

We get an anxious handshake to start before Blackwood grabs a hammerlock. Hechicero grabs a leglock and they go to the mat with Blackwood having to take it to the ropes. Blackwood's choke sends Hechicero over to the ropes as well and they get up for the chop off. Blackwood gets the better of things and hits some clotheslines but Hechicero pulls him into a swinging backbreaker for two.

Hechicero pulls him into a leglock in the ropes and a top rope forearm gets two more. That's broken up and Blackwood kicks away, setting up an exploder suplex. The running corner dropkick rocks Hechicero again but he pulls Blackwood out of the air, setting up the surfboard. Blackwood powers out of that and pulls him into a leglock.

Hechicero gets out of that as well and a spinning slam gets two. They chop it out from their knees until Blackwood hits a running knee. The brainbuster gets two more but Hechicero dropkicks him into the corner. The headscissors driver plants Blackwood again and something like an Octopus on the mat makes him tap at 13:45.

**Rating:** B. This was the technical showcase match and it worked well, with Hechicero getting to work his magic and finally put Blackwood away. Blackwood was presented as a mixture of skilled and tough, which was going to give Hechicero a difficult out. Good main event here, with Hechicero feeling like a star throughout the whole thing.

Post match Blackwood shows respect and Hechicero says...something the microphone is far too low to understand.

The ring announcer thanks us for coming out to wrap it up.

**Overall Rating:** B-. There was a lot of good stuff on here and the biggest problem was the production, with the lighting being not so great and the camera angles having issues. That being said, this was a nice mixture of styles and stuff throughout, which made for a fun show. It flew by and was certainly entertaining, with enough star power to make things interesting. Maybe not a classic, but certainly a fun enough way to spend about two hours and fifteen minutes.

### Results

Sean Legacy b. Tommy Billington

Jordan Cruz/Sonico/Wicked Wickett b. Alan Angels/Duke/Fuego del Sol

Masha Slamovich b. Mao – Kick to the head

Hyan b. Kingsley – Beauty Sleep

Miu Watanabe b. Maya World – Tear Drop

Kzy b. Cappuccino Jones – Piledriver

Yamato/Barbaro Cavernario b. Ben-K/Titan – Hurricanrana to Yamato

B3cca/Joseline Navarro b. Brittnie Brooks/Ella Envy  
Hechicero b. Kevin Blackwood – Seated Octopus

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# Ring Of Honor – March 27, 2025: This Feels Familiar

## Ring Of Honor

Date: March 27, 2025

Location: The Theater At Virgin Hotels Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

We've actually got a major show set as Supercard Of Honor will be taking place in early May. That gives us something to look forward to, but in addition we are likely going to have Chris Jericho defending the World Title against Bandido at Dynasty, title vs. mask. We should get some more build towards that this week so let's get to it.

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

Athena tells Diamante that she isn't sure about Diamante

joining the Minions because she doesn't let just anyone in. Billie Starkz comes up to tap Athena on the shoulder, with Athena suggesting that it's time for someone new in the Minions.

Opening sequence.

We run down the card.

### Okumura vs. Dark Panther

Okumura clotheslines him down to start and they're quickly on the floor. Panther gets whipped into the barricade for two back inside but he's right back up with a running dropkick. A slightly modified 619 gives Panther two but Okumura grabs an Iconoclasm and a running cutter for a breather. Panther's Fujiwara armbars are cut off and they trade kicks to the back. Okumura is sent outside for a suicide dive into the barricade, followed by another dive to do it again. Back in and Panther misses a dropkick but grabs a small package for the fast pin at 6:10.

**Rating:** C+. This was the signature AEW/ROH win to get someone back on track after their big loss. Panther is at least becoming more of a regular character on the show, but we still only know so much about him. That's more than can be said about Okumura, who is apparently "a guy who has been here before", end of biography.

Post match Okumura won't shake hands.

We see a clip of a video on Komander from AEW's Youtube page.

We look at the MxM Collection stealing the Tag Team Title which has since been recovered.

### Sons Of Texas/Willie Mack vs. MxM Collection/Johnny TV

Mack and TV start things off and we actually get a handshake. TV picks up the pace a bit and slips through Mack's legs but

gets dropped with a hard shot to the face. Guevara comes in and hits a dropkick but TV forearms him down without much trouble. It's off to Mansoor, who gets taken down as well with a springboard moonsault. Rhodes comes in and gets dropped with a clothesline from the apron to cut him down.

Madden's hip attack drops Rhodes and an old Sidewinder gets two. The chinlock doesn't last long as Rhodes fights up and grabs the snap powerslam, allowing the tag off to Guevara. A big dive takes out TV on the floor and another drops Mansoor as Guevara gets to clean house. Everything breaks down and Mack Stuns Mansoor, leaving Rhodes to hit the Canadian Destroyer. Shattered Dreams hits Mansoor and Guevara drops Madden with a middle rope cutter. The GTH to TV gives Guevara the pin at 8:34.

**Rating:** C+. Another perfectly fine match, even if the Collection vs. the Sons should have been wrapped up a good while ago. Mack is kind of a random person to team with them but I do like getting to see him do something of note after being little more than a jobber for so long. Sidenote: the fact that this was Rhodes in a six man tag and his Six Man Tag Team Champion partners were never named isn't a good sign.

Post match the villains beat down the winners and steal one of the titles AGAIN.

Lady Frost and Taya Valkyrie didn't win the CMLL Women's Tag Team Titles.

#### Athena/Diamante vs. Mazzerati/Jordan Blu

Diamante and Mazzerati start things off as commentary tries to figure out why Diamante wants to be a Minion. Mazzerati quickly hands it off to Blu, who is quickly beaten down as well. It's back to Mazzerati, so Diamante gives her a German suplex. Blu gets knocked to the floor and Athena comes in with the forearm to finish Mazzerati at 2:50. Total squash.

We look at Chris Jericho challenging Bandido to a title vs. mask match at Dynasty.

### Premiere Athletes vs. Dark Order

The Frat House is watching from the crowd as the Athletes get in a cheap shot to start fast. It's a brawl to start but the Order clears the villains out to get things going for good. Reynolds gets caught with a running clothesline to the floor and the Athletes hammer away on him in the corner. A hard whip into the corner drops Reynolds again but he's able to grab a backdrop.

Uno gets pulled off the apron though and Reynolds is pulled back so Daivari can start in on his leg. Reynolds fights out of that without much trouble and it's Uno coming in for a double DDT. Nese comes back in to clean house but gets taken down by Reynolds. The Frat House throws a drink on Reynolds and Preston Vance comes in to give him a spinebuster. Daivari's Magic Carpet Splash is good for the pin at 8:02.

**Rating:** C. This was a fairly dull six man, with the Frat House stuff not exactly making it that much better. The problem is these teams all feel as low on the ladder as you can get and that doesn't make for the most thrilling matches. Throw in how many times we've probably seen them fight and it somehow gets even worse.

Post match the Athletes and the Frat House pose together.

QT Marshall has annoyed actor Paul Walter Hauser by throwing alcohol on him.

Hauser wants revenge.

Marshall says Hauser is a fan and Marshall tried to make him look good in a recent match. Hauser owes him an apology, but if he wants a match, come ask for one like a man.

### Viva Van vs. Queen Aminata

Aminata slips out of a wristlock to start as a few people are cheering for Van. An early cross armbreaker sends Aminata over to the ropes and she's right back with a running kick to the chest for two. Back up and Van hits a nice spinwheel kick for two before ramming Aminata's head into the mat. They trade some rather loud chops until Aminata knocks her into the ropes for Off With Her Head and the pin at 4:48.

**Rating:** C. I'm not sure how many times I can say something to the effect of "cool, now do something" about a match like this. Aminata is another person who gets a mini push every so often and then loses again. It's hard to get any real momentum going, even if she wins a match like this. Van had some good stuff in there, with that spinwheel kick standing out.

The Premiere Athletes are very happy with their win and they want the Tag Team Titles.

Los Titantes del Aire are happy with how things went in CMLL.

Rugido/Volador Jr./Barbaro Cavernario vs. Atlantis Jr./Titan/Fuego

They start fast and it's Cavernario vs. Fuego to officially get things going. The rapid fire tags/switches are on, with Atlantis getting to clean house. Titan comes in but gets beaten down with some triple teaming. With Titan being pulled off the top for the crash, Cavernario hits a running basement dropkick before it's time to go after the mask (as is custom).

Fuego and Atlantis both come in and are both knocked down without much trouble. Cavernario's powerslam gets two on Fuego and we hit a seated abdominal stretch to slow things down a bit. With that broken up, it's time to go after Atlantis' mask before Volador settles for just choking in the corner. Titan comes back in for a springboard double dropkick and Atlantis is back up to fight back.

Everything breaks down again and an exchange of strikes leaves

everyone down. Volador and Titan strike it out until Titan hurricanranas him to the floor for a suicide dive. Atlantis and Cavernario get to strike it out this time, with Atlantis' big boot...causing Cavernario to do the Worm. Cavernario takes way too long setting up some kind of a splash and lands on a raised boot. A Canadian Destroyer into the frog splash gives Atlantis the pin at 12:04.

**Rating:** B-. Yeah it was fun, but it was fun watching these seemingly random six man tags for the last month and a half or so. They're just kind of a feature on the shows now and while they're good, you could swap them in and out for just about any other show with nothing changing. As usual, find something for these people to do. I'm well aware that it's part of their international deal with CMLL, but that doesn't mean it makes for interesting viewing week after week.

**Overall Rating:** C. This almost felt like a rerun, as so many of the things could have been swapped in from previous weeks. You have the CMLL main event, the Collection stealing one of the title belts, and something with Aminata and the Athletes/Order. There isn't much that is worth seeing here and it wasn't overly interesting when I've seen such similar things for the last few weeks. Supercard Of Honor could help, but dang I'm worried about how random the card might be.

### Results

Dark Panther b. Okumura – Small package

Sons Of Texas/Willie Mack b. MxM Collection/Johnny TV – GTH to TV

Athena/Diamante b. Mazzerati/Jordan Blu – Forearm to Mazzerati

Premiere Athletes b. Dark Order – Magic Carpet Splash to Reynolds

Queen Aminata b. Viva Van – Off With Her Head

Atlantis Jr./Titan/Fuego b. Rugido/Volador Jr./Barbaro Cavernario – Frog splash to Cavernario

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# Ring Of Honor – February 20, 2025: This Show Takes Time

## Ring Of Honor

Date: February 20, 2025

Location: Fort Bend Epicenter, Rosenberg, Texas

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

We're back on land this week and it's another somewhat special episode as we have some guest stars from CMLL. That might not be everyone's cup of tea but it almost has to be more interesting than what we usually get around here. Other than that, we have a Ring Of Honor World Title match on Collision this weekend so it might be time to hype it up some more. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a Global Wars recap.

Opening sequence.

Wheeler Yuta vs. Fuego del Sol

Yuta jumps him at the bell and starts fast, with a fisherman's

suplex getting two. A dropkick staggers Yuta but he comes back with a running clothesline to drop Fuego in a hurry. Yuta faceplants him and hits a basement dropkick before tying up the leg. Fuego makes the rope and fights up, setting up a basement superkick. Yuta ducks something off the top and hits a running knee for the pin at 3:56.

**Rating:** C. Pretty much a squash here for Yuta and that still doesn't make him overly interesting. Fuego is one of those fun people who doesn't win much but isn't going to be a thing in AEW so this is about as far as he's going. I'm not sure what it says for Yuta to count as star power around here but it's not the best sign.

Post match Yuta grabs a chain and ties Fuego up in a surfboard for a choke.

#### Rachael Ellering vs. Abadon

Ellering grabs a headlock to start and gets her hand bitten as a result. A basement kick to the face cuts Ellering down but she's right back with a running elbow to the face. The backsplash misses though and Abadon hits an apron legdrop to take over. Ellering is right back with a suplex and now the backsplash connects for two. Back up and Abadon grabs a running cutter, setting up the Black Dahlia for the pin at 4:08.

**Rating:** C-. There is something missing from Ellering's matches and I'm not sure what it is. Granted some of the problem might be that she only exists to put people over and that isn't going to get her very far. At some point she needs to win something, or the little value that she has is going to go away rather quickly. Abadon continues to look weird, but there is a pretty firm ceiling when you're only around every few months.

Jacked Jameson is fired up about his potential stable mates, who interrupt and say the Frat House is now a thing. They

share a drink and give Jameson a hat.

### Frat House/Premiere Athletes/Mark Sterling vs. Top Flight/Outrunners/Von Erichs

The Von Erichs have been gone for six months and the Six Man Tag Team Titles have been sitting cold since then and they come back in a random twelve man tag. Because of course. Darius and Nese start things off with Nese taking him into the corner so Garrison can come in. That means Dante can come in for a jumping stomp to the back as the rapid fire tags continue.

Ross kicks Jameson down and Marshall hits a standing moonsault for two more. Magnum comes in and gets knocked into the wrong corner so it's off to Sterling to hammer away. The chinlock goes on but Magnum fights up, only for the villains to pull his partners off the apron. Magnum suplexes his way to freedom and the tag brings in Floyd to clean house. Sterling gets slammed down to set up the Mega Powers Elbow. Total Recall finishes Sterling off at 8:53.

**Rating:** C. The Six Man Titles are coming up on seven months without a defense but we needed to have the Von Erichs in here because it's TEXAS and therefore we need TEXAS wrestlers in there. Ignore the issue of the Von Erichs really not being that interesting and the Six Man Tag Team Titles feeling less than worthless and it's a bit hard to care about them. The rest of the people are the usual goons around here, which is why this match was a Dark Order short of hitting every check mark in an ROH match.

The MxM Collection celebrates stealing the Tag Team Title again at Global Wars, despite not winning the belts.

### Billie Starkz vs. Hyan

Athena is here with Starkz, who flips out of a wristlock to start. A German suplex drops Hyan again and a kick to the head

out of the corner does it again. Hyan avoids the Swanton though and grabs a suplex of her own. Starkz forearm the heck out of her in the corner though and finishes with an electric chair slam at 4:00.

**Rating:** C+. For the love of all things good and holy, tell me we are not building towards Starkz vs. Athena again. It seems that's where we're going, and my goodness I cannot fathom having to see that a third time, especially if Starkz finally beats her. The title has just gone ice cold lately as Athena has been out of major challengers for so long. The action here was at least good, which somehow is the best thing so far tonight.

TV Title: Komander vs. Lee Johnson

Komander is defending and Johnson has EJ Nduka in his corner. They trade standing switches to start before Komander nips out of a headscissors for a standoff. A springboard wristdrag is broken up so Komander sends him outside and moonsaults into a headscissors. Nduka offers a distraction though and Johnson drops Komander to take over. Johnson sends him outside for a bit, followed by a chinlock back inside.

That's broken up so they head to the apron for a slugout, with Komander grabbing a running hurricanrana driver. A springboard moonsault to a standing Johnson connects back inside but it's too early for Cielito Lindo. Johnson fights up but gets dropped with a poisonrana for two. They fight over a suplex and go out to the floor, where Johnson plants him hard.

That's not good enough so Johnson rams him ankle first into the barricade over and over. Back in and Komander unlaces his boot, allowing Johnson to hit a frog splash. Johnson gets knocked off the top so Komander dives onto both of them for the big crash. Back in and Cielito Lindo connects anyway for the pin to retain at 15:22.

**Rating:** B-. Yeah it was good, but it still feels like a match

between people who are here because they don't belong anywhere else. Komander has been treated like a loser for so long on AEW TV that it's hard to care about him being the midcard champion in the minor league. On the other hand you have Johnson, who isn't bad in the ring but keeps losing his big shots. Fix that and he might be worth something.

Video on Red Velvet.

### Gates Of Agony vs. Exodus Prime/Josiah G

A Samoan drop and Open The Gates means a double pin for Kaun at 1:15. Total decimation.

The World Title match for Collision gets a graphic. Thanks for bothering.

### Barbaro Cavernario/Hechicero/Soberano Jr. vs. Dark Panther/Fuego/Sammy Guevara

Cue the MxM Collection to watch from the stage. It's a brawl to start with Guevara's team being knocked down with a triple clothesline. Soberano bites Guevara's boot before Hechicero pounds away on his head. Guevara gets caught in a triple flipping slam (I believe BDK used to call it Ragnarok) so he rolls outside, allowing Fuego to come in.

Hechicero grabs a Rocking Horse and Soberano gets dropped down with a Fameasser at the same time. Panther comes in and gets faceplanted, allowing the villains (I guess?) to take him into the corner. Some tilt-a-whirl backbreaker get Panther out of trouble and we settle down to Hechicero vs. Guevara. The latter clears the ring and hits a dive, which counts as a tag so it isn't that nuts.

Instead of switching places, Guevara comes back in and hits a big dive of his own, only for Cavernario to take him down. Now it's off to Fuego, who seems confused by Cavernario's Worm. Everything breaks down and Hechicero is sent outside and

Soberano dives onto Panther. Fuego takes Soberano out with a dive of his own but Mansoor comes in to hit Guevara with the belt. Hechicero flips Fuego into a very spinny rollup for the pin at 12:11.

**Rating:** B. One match. Not the entire card and not some invasion angle that no one was asking to see. It was one match where the talented CMLL guys got in, did their stuff to pop the crowd and then got out. That's WAY more effective than having them around week after week in some feud that feels tacked on. Treat these guys as a special attraction, because they're good enough to warrant popping in on occasion, which was the case again here in the best thing on the show.

Post match Hechicero touches tips with the Collection but Guevara gives Mansoor the GTH. Madden escapes with the belt to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C+. This show was a good illustration of why this series rarely works. So many of the matches either feel like they're stretching out something that lasts for a long time (Athena/Starkz) or is just there to fill in time with little being gained (pick almost anything on the card) while the important stuff (the World Title match) is taking place on another show. There's nothing interesting to get behind here and it makes for a very dry show most of the time. The wrestling isn't the worst, but I need a reason to care about these people other than "they have some pretty good matches".

### Results

Wheeler Yuta b. Fuego del Sol – Running knee

Abadon b. Rachael Ellering – Black Dahlia

Top Flight/Outrunners/Von Erichs b. Frat House/Premiere Athletes/Mark Sterling – Total Recall to Sterling

Billie Starkz b. Hyan – Electric chair slam

Komander b. Lee Johnson – Cielito Lindo

Gates Of Agony b. Exodus Prime/Josiah G – Double pin

Hechicero/Barbaro Cavernario/Soberano Jr. b. Fuego/Sammy

Guevara/Dark Panther – Spinning rollup to Fuego

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# WrestleCon Supershow 2024: Vague Memories

## WrestleCon Supershow 2024

Date: April 4, 2024

Location: 2300 Arena, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Kevin Gill, Veda Scott

It's one of the biggest independent events of Wrestlemania Weekend and as usual, the card is rather stacked. You will regularly get some rather nice surprises to boost up what is already advertised and that makes it a lot more fun. This time around most of the card has been advertised in advance to change it up a bit. Let's get to it.

I was in the crowd for this, sitting near the stage (all of three feet in front of commentary, which I could hear throughout for a really weird feeling). However, I had a bad case of vertigo kick in just before the show started and it didn't wrap up until around the start of the main event so I

spent a good chunk of this show trying not to fall over. I don't remember much of it as a result so this should be fun.

ECW announcer Stephen DeAngelis welcomes us to the show and shows us a video on Mark Hitchcock, a graphic designer who passed away on his honeymoon. The show has been named in his honor ever since.

### Joey Janela vs. Nic Nemeth

Feeling out process to start with neither getting anywhere off an exchange of lockups. Nemeth wrestles him down without much trouble and Janela seems to realize he's in trouble on the mat. Janela gets over to the ropes before running Nemeth down in a bit more successful strategy. Back up and Nemeth misses a Stinger Splash, allowing Janela to hit a rather snazzy chop.

Nemeth gets sent into the ropes for a quick German suplex and Janela sends him outside as commentary talks about the paths these two took to get here. Back in and we hit the neck crank as Gill has quite the trouble remembering if it's Nemeth or Zigler (fair enough). Janela hits some more hard chops as commentary talks about how you can hear the chops throughout the arena (true).

An Angle Slam gets Nemeth out of trouble for a much needed breather as they're both down. Back up and Nemeth starts the comeback, with a ram into four different corners. The superkick is blocked though and they go into a pinfall reversal sequence for two each. They slug it out and trade superkicks until Nemeth hits a dropkick for another double knockdown.

Janela manages to grab the Death Valley Driver onto the apron but Nemeth is right back with the running DDT for two. Nemeth's Fameasser is countered into a powerbomb, followed by the package piledriver for another near fall. Janela takes too long going up and gets superplexed back down for the big crash. Back up and Janela hits a running elbow to put both of

them down again. Nemeth shrugs that off and hits a Fameasser into the Danger Zone for the pin at 18:17.

**Rating:** B. Janela likes to go long in his matches but he did well here. This isn't about some big long term story or anything serious, but rather having an entertaining match. Nemeth getting to do things outside of WWE is rather interesting for a change and facing Janela in a long match is almost a rite of passage. Good stuff here and it felt like a match that could have hung on a more traditional show.

### Los Boricuas vs. FBI/???

This would be Savio Vega/Miguel Perez Jr./Nathalya Perez (with the rest of the team) vs. Little Guido/Tommy Rich/a mystery partner in the form of...Deonna Purrazzo (and Tony Mamaluke to even things up a bit). For those of you who don't know who Nathalya is Miguel's daughter, making her the first ever third generation Puerto Rican wrestler. Miguel and Guido start things off but it's quickly off to Savio vs. Rich.

Nathalya comes in and wants Purrazzo, which does not seem to be a good idea. Nathalya actually takes her into the corner and chops away, only for Purrazzo to demonstrate it a bit better. Purrazzo drops her rather quickly so it's off to Miguel, who drives Rich into the corner. An elbow to the head gets Rich out of trouble and Guido comes in for a Paisan elbow in a nice flashback.

Hold on though as Guido is sent outside for some Boricuas cheating, meaning we have a big ejection. Miguel grabs a chinlock on Guido before Savio comes back in and is promptly crossbodied. Miguel is right there to cut him off with a clothesline but Guido gets in a middle rope...we'll call it a clothesline. The tag brings Rich back in for the right hands as everything breaks down. Nathalya slugs it out with Purrazzo and they trade kicks to the head, only for Purrazzo to grab the Fujiwara armbar for the tap at 9:33.

**Rating:** C. This was there for the sake of some goofy old school fun and there is nothing wrong with that. The fans are going to be into the FBI and their goofy dancing while Los Boricuas certainly have a reputation. Purrazzo was a nice surprise and fit in well with the team, while Nathalya's biggest flaw is she looks incredibly young. That will change with time, but for now, she looks like a teenager out there. Anyway, fun match to pop the live crowd.

### Rob Van Dam vs. Mike Bailey

Veda Scott is a bit biased here, which might be due to her being married to Bailey. Bill Alfonso is here with Van Dam for the old school feeling and yes it's Walk for the entrance music. As a bonus, Jerry Lynn is guest referee. They fight over a lockup to start until Van Dam fakes a clean break by grabbing a headlock. Said headlock takes Bailey over a few times but he headscissors his way to freedom.

Back up and they both miss kicks for a standoff, with the fans dubbing this awesome. For some reason Van Dam thinks it's time to pose, allowing Bailey to kick him down. You don't break up Van Dam's posing so he chokes on the ropes, poses, and hits a slingshot legdrop. Bailey is draped over the barricade for the spinning kick to the back for the nasty landing on the floor. Van Dam takes too long getting some water from a fan and gets taken down by an Asai moonsault. Gill worries about Fonzie being taken out as well but Scott said "don't worry, he's a resilient chap".

Back in and Bailey hits a hard Helluva Kick into a Tajiri handspring elbow into a running shooting star press for two. The moonsault knees miss though and Van Dam gets two off a rollup. That's enough to draw Fonzie in for an argument, which only allows Bailey to nail the bouncing kicks. Bailey misses a big kick but Van Dam misses the Rolling Thunder. The shooting star misses for Bailey so Fonzie throws in the chair for a Van Daminator. The Five Star finishes Bailey at 10:57.

**Rating:** C+. Oh like Van Dam was losing in the ECW Arena on a special show like this. The good thing about Van Dam is that unlike most of the former ECW stars, he can still more than hang in there and have a perfectly watchable match. That was the case here as he and Bailey had an entertaining match with the right ending. Nice stuff here and seeing Van Dam in this building was special.

#### Rev Pro British Heavyweight Title: Michael Oku vs. Titan

Oku, with Amira, is defending. They go with the grappling to start with Titan twisting out of a wristlock. Stereo dropkick attempts miss and they chop it out, with Oku sticking his chest out but getting kicked in the stomach instead. Back up and Oku sends him outside, only for Titan to jump back inside for the suicide dive.

They get back inside where Titan kicks him in various areas but Oku is back with a middle rope dropkick. With Titan on the floor, Oku hits a running shooting star over the ropes to take him out again. A high crossbody gives Oku two back inside but Titan drops him on the apron. That means a top rope double stomp, only to have Titan come up favoring his knee. Back in and Titan misses another double stomp, allowing Oku to knee him in the face.

The Lionsault sets up the half crab (Oku's finisher) but the rope is reached rather quickly. Titan's knee is fine enough to hit a springboard tornado DDT and we get a double breather. They forearm it out until Titan gets the better of an exchange of kicks to the face. Titan's top rope double stomp gets two but bangs up the knee again. Oku pulls him into the half crab and bridges back for the tap to retain at 15:32.

**Rating:** B. It was a good, back and forth match with the title helping a lot. I'm not sure I get Oku's appeal a lot of the time, but he was feeling it here and the submission/high flying combination worked well here. Titan did well with his

own stuff as well and it was a rather entertaining match that felt like it could have been on any regular show, which is a nice fit in on a show like this one.

### Rascalz vs. Matt Riddle/Mustafa Ali

That was unadvertised so all three entrances get quite the reaction. Riddle takes Wentz down without much trouble to start and they wrestle to a standoff. Wentz gets a headscissors but Riddle slips out, only to miss the big kick to the chest. Back up and Wentz slips out of a German suplex and they slap each other in the face, followed by an exchange of respectful nods.

Ali comes in and takes over on Miguel's arm but Miguel is right back up with an armbar of his own. They trade some quick near falls and that's good for a standoff. Everything breaks down and Riddle sends the Rascalz to the floor for the big dive from Ali in a nice bit of teamwork. Back in and Wentz kicks Riddle down to grab the chinlock, followed by the wishbone into stereo basement dropkicks (ouch) for two.

Miguel kicks him in the head again but Ali gets over to bring Ali in and pick up the pace. Riddle gets pulled off the apron though and Ali misses a charge into the corner, allowing the double teaming strikes to drop Ali for two more. Wentz's hard DDT gets two but Ali fights right back up (as tends to be the case) and brings Riddle back in to clean house. A snazzy German suplex gets two on Miguel but the Floating Bro is broken up. Ali is back in with the tornado DDT, only to miss the 450 and roll into a cutter from Wentz. A springboard cutter drops Riddle, who bounces back up with a double cutter. The Bro Derek finishes Miguel at 14:20.

**Rating:** B. Ali and Riddle are something of an indy dream team at the moment and it was cool to see them getting together and having a heck of a match here. At the same time, there is something odd about seeing a makeshift team beating a regular

team, which was a major focal point from commentary. That being said, it's hard to imagine most people beating Riddle when he gets into that mode and the match was rather good.

Respect is shown post match.

### Josh Alexander vs. Masato Tanaka

Alexander easily takes it to the mat for an early standoff and they fight over hammerlock control. A running shoulder puts Tanaka down but he's back up with the right hands in the corner. They chop it out until Alexander dragon screw legwhips him down. Tanaka's leg is fine enough for him to grab a suplex, only to have Alexander roll some German suplexes for two.

The C4 Spike is countered into the sliding elbow to give Tanaka two of his own. Tanaka's top rope superplex...doesn't really hurt Alexander, who pops back up for the clothesline comeback (?). The Roaring Elbow gives Tanaka two but his top rope splash hits raised knees. That means the ankle lock (the first of many I'm sure) goes on for Alexander but Tanaka rolls out, earning himself the running crossbody to the back.

Back in and Tanaka wins a slugout, even knocking Alexander's headgear off. Alexander elbows him down for two and they forearm it out again. Tanaka knocks him into the corner for Diamond Dust and another near fall but Alexander is back with a powerbomb onto the knee. The C4 Spike finishes Tanaka at 12:16.

**Rating:** B. Take two hard hitters and let them beat the fire out of each other for about twelve minutes until the bigger name hits his finisher for the pin. It was a good, hard hitting match and one of those "hmm, that's interesting" deals that you can see on a show like this one. Alexander continues to feel like a big fish in a small pond with TNA so it's nice to see him getting a moment to shine here.

The ring announcer thanks the fans.

### Team CMLL vs. Team Dragon Gate

CMLL: Averno/Barbaro Cavernario/Mistico/Star Jr./Villano III Jr.

Dragon Gate: Dragon Kid/Kota Minoura/Kzy/Shun Skywalker/Yamato

The annual ten man tag is a WrestleCon Supershow signature. Skywalker (quite the villain) bails to the floor to start as commentary is flat out saying they can't keep track of all these people. Cavernario and Kid start things off with some grappling on the mat until Cavernario pulls him into a quickly broken surfboard. Cavernario hits him in the face but Kid snaps off a headscissors.

Averno and Yamato come in with Averno taking Yamato down but getting caught with an arm crank. With that not working, we get the big staredown between Skywalker and Mistico, with the handshake not happening. Mistico snaps off a running headscissors to send him outside and there's the dive to take Skywalker out again. Everything breaks down for a brawl on the floor until we settle down to Star chopping it out with Kzy.

Star hits a jumping uppercut to put Kzy down until Star ties him in the ropes for a springboard fadeaway legdrop (ala Carmelo Hayes). A kind of flipping slam plants Kzy for two and Star hits a springboard clothesline. Villano comes in to hammer away on Minoura as everything breaks down again.

We settle down (kind of) to Skywalker throwing Cavernario into the corner, allowing Kid to come in and drop some knees. Averno comes in and gets stomped down before Yamato grabs a quickly broken chinlock. It's back to Villano, who is taken down as well with Dragon Gate holding his partners back in a smart move. That doesn't last long either as Star comes in and gets taken down in a hurry.

Kzy's elbow to the back gets two with Mistico making the save

but getting caught in the wrong corner as well. Mistico and Minoura strike it out until a swinging Boss Man Slam gives Minoura two. Skywalker comes in but Mistico is back with a handspring double elbow and it's back to Star. The big dive to the floor takes out most of Dragon Gate and Mistico hits a bigger dive to send them into the crowd.

Back in and Kid gets triple teamed but manages to hand it back to Averno. Skywalker gets caught in the ropes for a bunch of strikes to the chest/head and back to back triplebombs get two with Kid making the save. Averno gets super hurricanranaed down and a frog splash gets two and Cavernario gets kicked in the head...sending him into the Worm.

Something like a Vader Bomb hits Kid or two as everything breaks down. Mistico gets kicked down by Kzy but Skywalker shoves his own partner down, wanting the win for himself. That lets Star hit a top rope double stomp on Skywalker, setting up an arm/leg crank. Mistico adds La Mistica to Kzy for the double submission at 24:47.

**Rating:** B. This was quite the display of talent with everyone in there going nuts to get int heir own bit of offense. That being said, the match ran long as the stretch where Dragon Gate triple teamed people and cut the ring off just kept going. It was a fun spectacle but never really did anything all that huge to take it up to the next level.

Post match Skywalker goes after CMLL again and gets stomped down.

Of note: following the show, I went to dinner and wound up sitting next to most of Team CMLL (minus Mistico). They were all unmasked but I recognized Cavernario, who confirmed it was the rest of the team and apparently some others. None of them could say who they were, but it was a rather cool treat.

Gill hypes up the main event and intros the ring announcer, who isn't quite ready, resulting in a 47 second run on

sentence introduction with Gill all but begging him to start talking. You could hear the relief in Gill's voice when the introductions began and he got some applause for his efforts.

### Paul Walter Hauser vs. Sami Callihan

Street fight and Hauser is mainly an (Emmy Award winning) actor who occasionally wrestles. Callihan jumps him from behind to start and says F\*\*\* Philly/WrestleCon because he's about to cut up an Emmy winner. The stomping is on, followed by a kendo stick shot to the back. Callihan grabs a bag of toys, starting with a piece of paper to cut the creases between Hauser's fingers.

Naturally he follows with a lemon to squeeze the juice into the cuts for the real pain. The pizza cutter slices Hauser's head up as commentary brings up Hauser invading Callihan's Wrestling Revolver promotion. Back in and Callihan carves him up with the cutter again but Hauser busts out some powder for a needed breather. Callihan hits him with a table but chops the post by mistake.

It's time for a door, though we pause for Hauser to trade his torn shirt to a fan for a fresh one. Back in and Hauser misses a charge to get sent through the door and Callihan whips out some staple guns. Callihan even throws one to Hauser and they trade staples to various body parts. Hauser staples him low and drops a headbutt for two. It's time for thumbtacks but Hauser's middle rope elbow only hits said tacks.

A table is brought in and a powerbomb sends Hauser through it for two. Callihan knocks the referee down and grabs the kendo stick. Said stick is thrown down so Callihan kicks him low and gets two from Bill Alfonso of all people. The near fall doesn't work for Callihan, who decks Alfonso and grabs the kendo stick...for the Sandman's pose.

The lights go out and we get the full Enter Sandman treatment as the Sandman is here. I remember watching Sandman as a kid

and thinking this was the coolest entrance ever so getting to see it in person, in the ECW Arena, even when Sandman is 60 and has been retired forever, was an all time wrestling moment. For a bonus, we also cut back to the ring where Alfonso is just sitting in the corner watching the entrance in a funny moment. Sandman finally gets in and canes Callihan, allowing Hauser to hit the White Russian Legsweep into the tacks for the pin at 23:38.

**Rating:** C. The match itself was WAY too long, but the only thing that mattered here was getting in the big Sandman moment at the end. Hauser gets to beat the evil Callihan in a fun and special ending and it did that well enough. The problem is the match could have been ten minutes shorter, as you can only see so much of Callihan beating him up in between short comebacks. This had to headline for the sake of Sandman though and that was worth the wait.

Hauser thanks the fans for letting him into their world to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. This show is always tricky to do as it has so many things going on with all kinds of interesting matches. While some of them didn't quite work, the stuff that was good was very good, especially with just the right amount of ECW nostalgia. I look forward to this show every year and it worked again here, albeit with a few less than great spots.

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