

Ring Of Honor TV – October 14, 2020: Maybe The Best TV Show Going Today



IMG Credit: Ring Of Honor Wrestling

Ring of Honor

Date: October 14, 2020

Location: UMBC Events Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

It's time to start the quarterfinals and that's a nice thing to see. The Pure Title tournament is such a pallet cleanser after so many things are so bad around here and I could go for a lot more of it. Thankfully that seems to be what we are going to be getting for a long time to come and I can't say I'm complaining. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a look at the tournament, as we should.

Opening sequence.

Quinn McKay welcomes us to the show and runs down the quarterfinal participants.

We look at Tracy Williams advancing last week.

Williams says that was round one and he's here for the best competition. He thanks Rust Taylor for knocking the rust off and hopes he never has to wrestle someone that tough again. Now he has Fred Yehi, who was part of Catch Point with him. So bring it on, because Yehi was what Catch Point was all about.

PJ Black beat Tony Deppen and knows he can use enough moves to make people burn through his rope breaks. Now he's ready for round two.

We look at Jay Lethal beating Dalton Castle to advance to the second round. He's ready for David Finlay.

We look at David Finlay beating Rocky Romero to advance to the second round. He's ready for Jay Lethal.

Pure Title Tournament Quarterfinals: Jay Lethal vs. David Finlay

The time limits are extended to twenty minutes in the second round. They fight over wristlocks to start with Finlay knocking him to the mat but having to fight out of a cross armbreaker attempt. Lethal takes over on the arm and then drives him down into something close to a Fujiwara armbar. Back up and they fight over a hiptoss with Lethal being sent out to the floor in a crash.

They switch places with Finlay hurting his knee on the landing but still being able to get away before Lethal can dive. Back in and Finlay uses a headscissors to escape a headlock, only to get pulled into another headlock. With the holds not working, Lethal hits the hiptoss into the basement dropkick as we take a break. We come back with Lethal in trouble thanks to a backbreaker (with commentary calmly explaining the main point of what we missed during the break, because this show is treated as an actual sport).

Lethal escapes but can't get a Figure Four as his knee is banged up, instead settling for the Lethal Combination for a

double knockdown. That gets a very delayed two but Lethal takes way too long going up top because of the knee. Finlay pulls him down into something close to an Indian deathlock. Lethal is smart enough to use his first rope break and they fight out to the apron. Finlay is left on the apron and it's a springboard dropkick to put him on the floor. The bad knee means Lethal can only hit one dive but the Lethal Injection connects for the pin to eliminate Finlay at 14:58.

Rating: B-. Lethal's knee was banged up throughout the second half but it only held him back so much as he was still hitting almost all of his usual stuff. Finlay was a bit more interesting so far but I completely get why it's Lethal moving on. He's the biggest star Ring of Honor has at the moment and there is no reason to have him eliminated early on. Good match, but not quite as good as I was expecting.

We actually get an in-ring promo with Vincent coming to the ring to talk about how everyone is talking about change. He doesn't need to change though because he is righteous. At one time, he stood there in the shadows and almost needed someone to bring him in. Now though, he's here as the face of horror and it tastes so good man. He wants us to get closer and dig what he is saying. If you want to be successful you need friends, but if you want to be even more successful, you need to have some enemies.

Cue Matt Taven to take Vincent out and the beatdown is on in a hurry. Taven rips the canvas up and hits a knee to the face, followed by the Climax onto the exposed wood. That's not enough as Taven whips out a table and drives Vincent through it at ringside before walking away. Face Taven is still a mile better than the heel version and this is a good way to build things up aside from the tournament.

We get a vignette on the importance of freedom. Three lines come up and we see the words YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

We look at Jonathan Gresham moving on by defeating Wheeler Yuta. He's ready for Matt Sydal.

We look at Matt Sydal moving on by defeating Delirious. He's ready for Jonathan Gresham.

Pure Title Tournament Quarterfinals: Jonathan Gresham vs. Matt Sydal

The break takes place before the bell for a nice relief. Sydal takes him down by the leg to start and cranks away before switching to an armbar. You know Gresham is fine on the mat and starts pulling on Sydal's foot but Sydal gets in a kick to the face for the escape. Sydal puts on an ankle lock, only to get taken down into Gresham's hammerlock. Gresham ties the arm around his leg and pulls back on Sydal's leg at the same time for a bonus. That's broken up so they trade some headscissors.

With that going nowhere, Sydal takes him down and starts working on the arm some more. This time they stumble into the ropes for a break, which is somehow not a rope break. We take a break and come back with Sydal striking away but not being able to get the cobra stretch. Sydal takes him down by the leg instead and kicks away at the knee. A big kick to the chest drops Gresham but it's quickly off to a pinfall reversal sequence. Gresham's knee is fine enough to pull Sydal into a surfboard but drops Sydal down to horribly bend the ankle and Sydal taps at 13:27.

Rating: B. This was more like it and the kind of thing that made the time worth it. The whole point here was two guys being technical masters with Gresham being just that much better. If nothing else, it's great to see the two of them trying various methods of destroying the other's limbs and Gresham's big finishing hold was awesome. Really good stuff here and that's what I was hoping to see.

We get another CONTROL YOUR NARRATIVE video and it's confirmed to be EC3.

Overall Rating: B+. Seriously what else could you want from an hour long show? They had two good to very good matches, a surprise at the end and a story being brought back after several months away. Ring of Honor is doing the most basic stuff right now but they're doing it well, and I'll take that every single time.

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Ring Of Honor TV Results – September 23, 2020: They Have A Point



IMG Credit: Ring of Honor Wrestling

Ring of Honor

Date: September 23, 2020

Location: UMBC Events Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Caprice Coleman, Ian Riccaboni

It's the second week of both the return and the Pure Title tournament and things have gone pretty well so far. Having a tournament under these circumstances is one of the smartest (and only) thing that they can do but it's better than nothing. If it lives up to last week, they're going to be just fine. Let's get to it.

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

Quick look at the tournament.

Opening sequence.

Quinn McKay welcomes us to the show and throws us to a clip of Jay Lethal defeating Dalton Castle last week.

Lethal says that's the first step towards becoming the first ever two time champion. He doesn't care who he faces next week because he wants the best.

We look at the end of Jonathan Gresham defeating Wheeler Yuta.

Gresham says no one is stopping him and it doesn't matter who he is facing next week.

David Finlay talks about being part of a big wrestling family but he was

never forced to stay in the business. Then he went into the New Japan Dojo and was started from scratch because they break you down. He hasn't been in Ring of Honor since January 2019 because he hurt his shoulder against the Briscoes and missed eight months. Finlay has been working on a variety of offense, including a leg submission.

Rocky Romero talks about everything he has done in Ring of Honor and everyone he has shared the ring with over the years. He loves the idea of the Pure Title tournament because it is everything he loves about wrestling. Romero has wrestled Finlay because and knows all of his weaknesses and strengths. The experience is what is going to matter here though because he has done this for a lot longer than Finlay. Romero is going to win the tournament and put it on his resume, but Finlay is just going to be a footnote.

Pure Title Tournament First Round: Rocky Romero vs. David Finlay

They trade standing switches to start and that's an early standoff. Finlay headlock takeovers him down but Romero is back up with a headscissors. They go to the corner where Finlay gets in a kick to the ribs, setting up the chinlock. We take a break and come back with Finlay getting two off a dropkick and faceplanting him down. The camel clutch goes on, with Finlay switching it into a cobra clutch for a change.

Rocky fights up into a springboard tornado DDT for the break though and it's time to kick away at Finlay's shoulder. Romero goes up and drives a middle rope knee into the arm. Sliced Bread is broken up and Finlay slams him into the ropes, with Romero's knee getting banged up.

The leglock goes on but Romero reaches over to use his first rope break. The slugout goes to Finlay but Romero is right back with Sliced Bread for two, plus a warning for a closed fist. Romero slaps on the armbar with kicks on the face but Finlay gets his feet on the rope for the break. Another Sliced Bread is countered into a backbreaker and Finlay hits a Last Shot for the pin at 13:03.

Rating: C+. I'm not much of a fan of either of these two but they had a rather nice match here. This was more what the idea of the tournament was supposed to be and they made it work out rather well. It's nice to see

someone younger get the win and Finlay will probably get something from a match against Jay Lethal in the next round.

Matt Sydal talks about having a mind, heart and soul advantage over everyone here. He took Tae Kwan Do and his foot has a big calcified growth on his foot thanks to an injury to make his kicks even worse. When he was starting with wrestling, Delirious was the first person to open his eyes to see how much more there was to this world. They had a match in 2004 and it meant so much to him. Now he needs to win the title to honor those who came before him.

Delirious, with subtitles, talks about being in Ring of Honor for sixteen years but never winning a title. He is a completely different breed and now things are going to change. This is a different Delirious because there is no crowd to make laugh so he is coming in as a beast. He and Sydal first met in 2004 and they have both won over the years. They are different but they are the same and there is no Delirious without Sydal. Delirious is in the tournament because he is bored and wants to be the best in the world.

Pure Title Tournament First Round: Delirious vs. Matt Sydal

The more muscular than usual Delirious dives after Sydal's leg to start and it's time to grapple. With that broken up in a hurry, it's off to a test of strength for a change of pace. They go back to the mat with Delirious' leglock being countered into a headscissors, which is countered right back into the leg hold. Sydal reverses into another headscissors but Delirious snaps the arm over the top rope, which counts as a rope break. Delirious is smart enough to stay on the arm and we take a break.

Back with Delirious holding a short armscissors but having used a rope break while we were away. They run the ropes into a double clothesline, followed by some kicks to the face to give Sydal two. Sydal kicks him in the legs and head for two more but Delirious is back with a cobra clutch suplex. They go into a pinfall reversal sequence until Sydal slaps on Delirious' cobra stretch for the tap at 9:57.

Rating: C. This was a bit shorter than I was expecting but you don't have

to stretch things out a long way to get nice results. Sydal winning is fine as Delirious is kind of the designated wrestler if Ring of Honor is in need of a name. It works out well enough and the match was completely watchable, even with a surprise ending as Sydal is now in AEW.

Overall Rating: C+. They have something nice going on with this tournament and we could be in for a nice long run of matches as a result. It's very structured and given ROH's history with storylines, that is hardly the worst idea. As has been the case for most promotions restarting, it's much more about getting ANYTHING out there so while the tournament may not be for everyone, it's a lot better than nothing.

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Ring of Honor TV – February 6, 2019: One Of The Best Shows They've Ever Done



IMG Credit: Ring of Honor

Ring of Honor

Date: February 6, 2019

Location: Center Stage Theater, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Colt Cabana, Juice Robinson

We're onto a fresh set of TV tapings here with a big match between Eli Isom and Silas Young for a future TV Title shot. This is actually a tournament final, though I thought it would be slightly bigger than four people. Other than that we have the continued rise of Villain Enterprises, which could go somewhere with the right push. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Tracy Williams vs. David Finlay

This is Finlay's debut. They trade headlocks to start with Williams taking him down and stomping on the arm. A rollup sets up a failed Crossface attempt so Finlay dropkicks him to the floor. Back in and Williams snaps off a suplex for two, setting up a quickly broken chinlock. Some loud chops just fire Finlay up for a jumping elbow to the face.

Back from a break with Williams rolling out of a Rock Bottom and hitting a DDT onto the turnbuckle. A discus lariat gets two on Finlay but he's right back with an Irish Curse for the same. Finlay kicks him in the face for another near fall and slips out of a Crossface as a bonus. Williams gets two of his own off a Death Valley Driver, followed by a jumping piledriver for the pin at 11:10.

Rating: B. This is the kind of match that ROH built itself on: two younger, lesser known guys getting to trade big moves until one person won. It might not be the most classically structured match in the world but that's not what they were going for here. Sometimes you need to showcase new talent and that's what they did here, with the popular Robinson pushing how much fun it was in a very good addition.

Video on Bandido.

The Kingdom tells Villain Enterprises to get their umbrellas.

Mark Haskins vs. Bandido

Feeling out process to start with the aggressive Haskins grabbing a headlock but getting shoved up against the ropes. Bandido starts the flipping and it's an early standoff. More flipping ensues but Haskins kicks him down and avoids a charge to the floor. That means a suicide dive to drop Bandido and we take a break.

Back with Haskins charging into a boot in the corner, setting up Bandido's corkscrew crossbody. The big running flip dive takes Haskins down again and, amazingly enough, the fans are way into someone who can fly like this. Bandido gets two off a pop up cutter but gets kicked right back down. That just earns Haskins a superkick but they kick each other in the chest for another double knockdown, which the fans seem to appreciate.

They (the wrestlers, not the fans) slug it out until Haskins charges into a torture rack, with Bandido flipping him forward into something like a GTS for two. Haskins is right back up and spins him into a Sharpshooter (a fast one at that too) but Bandido is right next to the rope. A top rope double stomp gives Haskins two so Haskins goes back to the leg. That's broken up in a hurry so Bandido knocks him against the ropes (619 position but standing instead of kneeling), flips forward and bounces off the ropes (ala the Tajiri handspring) for a snap German suplex and the pin at 12:12.

Rating: B+. Well that was insane. This was all about showcasing both guys and I had a great time watching it. Bandido really impressed me last year at various times and Haskins looked great as well, which is exactly what the point of this was supposed to be. I want to see these two do this more often and I'd buy a ticket to see it. Well done here, with exactly what they were shooting for.

Nick Aldis is ready to defend the NWA World Title against PJ Black next week. I know the NWA World Title has been around ROH before but it's nice

to have it actually mean something (not much of something, but something) this time around.

We look back at Bully Ray, Silas Young and the Briscoes attacking the Elite (not named) a few weeks back.

TV Title #1 Contenders Tournament Finals: Eli Isom vs. Silas Young

Silas takes him down with a hammerlock before going with the strikes instead. A quick rollup gets two on Isom and it's off to a front facelock. Isom gets in a forearm to knock Young back a bit but misses a springboard missile dropkick. We take an early break and come back with Isom still in trouble and getting stomped down in the corner.

A release gordbuster (appropriate in Atlanta) lets Young talk some trash (as he always does) and we hit the chinlock. Isom fights up and gets two off a rollup before just unloading with right hands. White Noise gets two and we take a second break. Back again with Silas holding a full nelson of all things before dropping Isom again.

Silas' springboard moonsault COMPLETELY misses (John Morrison would think it looked bad) but he covers for two anyway. Young hits a heck of a top rope superplex (drawing the Barry Windham comparisons) for one as Isom is getting fired up. They chop it out with their chests going very red until Misery plants Isom for the abrupt pin at 13:04.

Rating: C. This was nowhere near as good as the two previous matches, mainly due to there being no doubt as to the winner. Young beat the heck out of Isom for most of the match and I couldn't imagine them setting up Isom as a major challenger to a monster champion. Silas won in a hurry too, as they didn't exactly building anything up other than a quick comeback until Misery got the pin. Not bad, but just kind of there.

Post match Young talks trash about TV Champion Jeff Cobb, including insulting his family. This brings out Cobb but Shane Taylor runs in as well, putting Cobb in the middle of the villains. The fight is on with Cobb getting the better of it until a low blow cuts him down. Young and Taylor stand tall to end the show.

ROH is still beginning anew.

Overall Rating: B. That's one of the better episodes they've done in a long time and if the main event had been better, it would have been an all timer. The main thing that Ring of Honor needs to do at the moment is build up new stars and they pulled that off very well here. With all the big names leaving, there's all kind of space at the top of the card to make new names and if they're built right, the transition could be rather smooth. Very fun show here and a breeze of an hour.

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