

Ring of Honor TV – October 15, 2016: Not My Cup of Good Wrestling

Ring of Honor

Date: October 12, 2016

Location: MCU Park, Brooklyn, New York

Attendance: 1,500

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Bobby Fish, Steve Corino

It's week two of Field of Honor, meaning we're only a week away from moving forward on the pay per view from the end of September. By Ring of Honor standards, that's actually a pretty big improvement. I'm not sure what to expect from this show but last week's edition was rather entertaining. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

We're back at Field of Honor on August 27.

Katsuyori Shibata vs. Kyle O'Reilly

Shibata's Never Openweight Title isn't on the line. Kyle is taken down to start and the fans give Shibata a polite golf clap. Back up and Shibata blocks a right hand, only to be taken down into a cross armbreaker attempt. I could go for some mat grappling and it's cool to see Kyle getting to hang with a big name like Shibata. Kyle ducks a big kick and looks terrified at the near miss.

Instead it's off to a pretty weak chinlock from Shibata before switching it over to a triangle choke. We take a break and come back with Shibata starting in on the arm to stick with the submission skills. Back up and we get the forearm exchange and it's Kyle taking over for the first time. A backdrop suplex sets up a kneebar, followed by some hard kicks to Shibata's chest, which are completely no sold as part of the fighting spirit or whatever it's called this time.

Shibata goes for the arm again but settles for another triangle choke as we take a second break. Back with Shibata grabbing a guillotine which is countered into something like a reverse sleeper. Shibata puts both guys down with an STO, followed by rolling German suplexes from Kyle to put both guys down again. Back up and Kyle hits two straight brainbusters. An Omoplata has Shibata in trouble and the referee stops it to give Kyle the win at 17:30.

Rating: B-. The match was entertaining but I don't care for this style. It also doesn't help that there's nothing on the line other than bragging rights. Shibata's tough guy style doesn't do much for me either, though you kind of have to expect it at this point. Kyle winning is nice though as you almost never see the New Japan champions losing.

Video on the rest of Field of Honor.

ROH World Title: Adam Cole vs. Jay Lethal vs. Tetsuya Naito vs. Hiroshi Tanahashi

Cole is defending and this is one fall to a finish. Thankfully there are tags here so Lethal wants Naito to start. Instead he gets Cole, who immediately tags in Tanahashi. Now Naito and Cole tag themselves in as we're over a minute in with no contact. And wait a bit longer as Naito isn't ready yet. We're over two minutes in with no contact because ADAM COLE BABY!

That earns him a kick to the ribs before they hit the mat for all of ten seconds. More posing ensues as we're somehow over three minutes into this. Lethal comes in for a staredown with Naito, who tags out to Tanahashi. Cole and Naito are knocked off the apron and it's time for Jay to do some dives.

Back from a break with Lethal putting Tanahashi in the Figure Four. Cole tags himself back in and Naito does the same so we can have a heel battle. Naito sends Tanahashi outside and does his signature pose as this is really, really going through the motions so far. Jay comes back in and takes a slingshot dropkick in the corner from Naito, who tags Cole back in to stay in control. The announcers start talking about the January 4 Tokyo Dome show as Cole almost superkicks Naito.

Lethal knocks them both down and we take a break. Back again with Tanahashi cleaning house and getting two off a slingshot senton splash. Naito breaks up the High Fly Flow and takes Tanahashi out, leaving us with Cole vs. Lethal again. The Lethal Injection gets two and it's time for the parade of secondary finishers to leave all four down. A Tower of Doom is broken up and another Lethal Injection drops Tanahashi but Cole hits Lethal with a Last Shot to retain at 18:32.

Rating: B. I wasn't feeling this one either but it was still entertaining. The problem here is it felt like your standard house show main event: a lot of action with little drama and none of the guys going out of their comfort zone. It's still good enough and fun live, which is the point of something like this, but it's not the best to sit through at home.

Overall Rating: B. This is a weird show as the matches were both good but I didn't get a lot of entertainment out of them. They were both just there and didn't show me anything I haven't seen before. The main event is better and the show is definitely worth watching if you have the time but it's just not my style. I'm pretty sure we get the regular shows back next week and that's the best news I can hear every time we go through this weird taping cycle.

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Ring of Honor TV – October 5, 2016: What They Do Best

Ring of Honor

Date: October 5, 2016

Location: MCU Park, Brooklyn, New York

Attendance: 1,500

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Steve Corino

It's the first show after a pay per view and that means....well I have no idea what that means actually as this could be anything for the most part. We could be getting a special look at someone or a special show with nothing to do with the regular shows. Or it could just be a stand alone show that focuses on some midcard storylines. My guess: New Japan. Let's get to it.

We're going to a special show called Field of Honor from Brooklyn back on August 27, 2016.

National Anthem.

Opening sequence.

TV Title: Bobby Fish vs. Evil

Fish is defending and gets his eyes raked to start. An early kneebar attempt sends Evil outside and Fish is right there to kick at the leg. Evil is right back up with a chair to the back before wrapping it around Fish's throat to send it into the post. It's not a DQ for reasons that aren't clear and we take a break.

Back with Fish suplexing Evil into the corner because that's a required spot these days. They trade forearms until Fish gets in a Samoan drop for a breather. A half and half suplex gets two for Evil and he takes Fish's head off with a clothesline. Fish pops right back up with a falcon arrow

into a kneebar and Evil taps at 10:40.

Rating: C+. This is the kind of match that I can always go with: simple wrestling with a random challenger coming for a title despite there being no chance of a title change (partially because this was taped six weeks ago). I'm not big on Evil but he was the perfect choice to go after the champ like this. Fun little match.

IWGP Intercontinental Title: Michael Elgin vs. Donovan Dijak

Elgin is defending and this title has never been on the line in New York before. Dijak gets powered into the corner but he punches Mike in the cut on his forehead. That goes nowhere so Elgin shoulders him down and follows with the delayed vertical suplex. Dijak avoids a charge in the corner and lifts Elgin up for some knees to the back. It's too early to finish the champ off though and he muscles Dijak up for a suplex as we take another break.

Back with Elgin hitting Dijak in the face and getting two off a really hard clothesline. The Elgin Bomb gets two and Dijak grabs a fireman's carry into a sitout powerbomb of his own for two more. A chokebreaker sets up Dijak's moonsault for two. Elgin shrugs that off too and hits a quick Death Valley Driver onto the apron. A German superplex knocks Dijak silly and it's a buckle bomb into the Elgin Bomb to retain the title at 11:45.

Rating: B-. I had a lot of fun with this as they just beat each other up for a long time. There was nothing scientific here and that's all it was supposed to be. Elgin is a beast who can run people over and Dijak is the kind of athletic freak that you only get every now and then. Fun match here as this show has been good so far.

Bullet Club vs. ACH/Lio Rush/Motor City Machine Guns

Yujiro Takahashi/Hangman Page/Young Bucks for the Bullet Club here and ACH/Lio Rush and the Motor City Machine Guns for ACH/Lio Rush/Motor City Machine Guns. We have to wait for ACH to run around the bases before it's time to get going. Matt and Lio start things off and it's a thumb to the eye to give the Club the early advantage. Rush flips around and starts

kicking both Bucks so we can take a break.

Back with Sabin headlocking Page and bringing Shelley in for a top rope armdrag. Nick gets hung over the top with three guys holding him in place for Rush's top rope double stomp. Quadruple strikes have Nick in even more trouble and the rest of the Club FINALLY comes in for the save. A bunch of superkicks have Rush and ACH down so the fans get behind the Club. Of course they do. Back in and the powerbomb into a kick to the head knocks Rush silly.

We come back from another break with Rush diving at the corner but getting suplexed over for two. Matt grabs a camel clutch so Nick can run the ropes, only to stop for a Too Sweet poke to the eyes. Rush doesn't seem interested in sucking it so he makes the hot tag to ACH. Everything breaks down with ACH doing a bunch of dives and kicks to the head of anyone he can find.

A belly to back suplex gets two on Page and the Guns hit a Magic Killer on Matt. Rush starts firing off suicide dives and some superkicks send Page into a German suplex for two. The Guns start their rapid fire offense on the Bucks but a double superkick knocks Rush to the floor. Now we get the Bucks firing off dives but ACH hits an even bigger one to take everyone down. Back in and a double superkick into the Rite of Passage knocks Sabin out for the pin at 15:29.

Rating: B. This was exactly what it needed to be with eight guys who were there to fly all over the place and pop the crowd all over the place. The Bullet Club continues to dominate the promotion because that's what Ring of Honor is about anymore. The Guns/Rush/ACH are fine enough for a group to lose to the Club so it's all gravy here.

Overall Rating: B. Now this is the kind of show that I can get into. They aren't trying anything over the top or anything stupid like the Kevin Sullivan story and just went with the wrestling, which is what you need every now and then. There's good stuff in this promotion (meaning it doesn't need New Japan) and it's fun to watch them from time to time.

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Ring of Honor TV – October 7, 2015: The Michael Bay of Wrestling

Ring of Honor

Date: October 7, 2015

Location: MCU Park, Brooklyn, New York

Attendance: 2,000

Commentators: Prince Nana, Kevin Kelly, King Corino

This is a special change of pace as Ring of Honor held an event called Field of Honor at a baseball stadium in Brooklyn back in August. Therefore tonight, we'll be taking a look at some of the bigger matches from the card before we finally get back to the updated storyline stuff that we've been waiting the better part of a month to actually see. Let's get to it.

Time Splitters vs. Briscoe Brothers

Jay and Kushida get things going. Nana: "When was the last time we saw Jay and Mark team up?" Corino: "Yesterday." It's off to Mark before

anything happens and Kushida gets stomped down into the corner. Kushida comes back and takes both Briscoes down with a headscissors and bulldog, only to have Mark punch him in the face. The Time Splitters speed things up and take over on Mark with rapid fire strikes as we take a break.

Back with Alex working on Mark's arm but Mark sends Alex into a distracted Kushida who cranks on his partner's arm by mistake. I've seen them do that spot before and it makes them look like stupid heels. They get their act together though and take turns on a wristlock as Corino lists off various Japanese wrestlers he worked with over the years. You know, because this is the New Japan show instead of Ring of Honor. A quick tag brings in Jay for a clothesline and it's off to a front facelock.

Jay elbows Shelley in the face for two and we hit the chinlock. Shelley fights up and dropkicks both Briscoes down, allowing for tag to Kushida. Things speed up again until Jay breaks up a springboard. Shelley dives off the apron to knee Jay in the face, knocking him into the infield. Mark's kung fu doesn't get him very far as Kushida kicks him in the arm and puts on the Hoverboard Lock. Jay makes the save and all four are back in with Shelley holding his jaw.

The Splitters bust out some Motor City Machine Guns style offense, complete with a You Can't See Me from Kushida. A moonsault/knee drop combo gets two on Mark but Jay comes back in for a Razor's Edge/neckbreaker combo for two on Shelley. Two straight Jay Driller attempts are broken up until Mark suplexes Kushida down, setting up the Jay Driller on Alex for the pin at 14:30.

Rating: C+. This is a great example of how Ring of Honor gets on my nerves and makes me want to stop watching it. Most of the match was spent namedropping various Japanese wrestlers that these guys have worked with like it's the most amazing accomplishment in the world to have worked a tour of Japan as a midcard tag act. It's very pretentious and makes Japan sound like it's a million miles ahead of any other wrestling on the planet.

The more Corino talks, the more he sounds like you're a knuckle dragging

moron if you don't watch every Japanese show in history, which I hear enough of on the internet. It's cool stuff, but stop pretending like it's the only thing in the world. There's other stuff out there, including Ring of Honor, which comes off like it's nothing compared to the wonders of Japan.

Clips of Watanabe winning a gauntlet match for a TV Title shot next week. We see a good chunk of Watanabe vs. Cedric Alexander until Moose came out to interfere, allowing Watanabe to get the pin with an STO. Not enough of the match was shown to rate but I still don't get Watanabe. I do however get the appeal of Veda Scott. Good lord.

Video on Adam Page vs. Jay Briscoe. Page must have something up his sleeve because he's going to get killed.

Nigel McGuinness joins commentary.

Kazuchika Okada vs. Roderick Strong

Okada's IWGP World Title isn't on the line. They trade arm work to start until Okada grabs a freaky variation of the abdominal stretch (picture an STO but instead of driving him down, Okada grabs the arm and bends Strong around to stretch his ribs. That's rather cool looking.), sending Strong to the ropes. A nice dropkick puts Okada down for two and we take a break. It's Strong in control as we come back but Okada is quickly out of a chinlock. Instead it's a kick to the face for two more as this has been almost all Strong so far.

We hit a one arm camel clutch until Okada grabs a rope. It's cool to see Strong working on a body part to set up his finisher. I love basic psychology like that and it's always going to work. They head outside and chop away until Strong drops him back first and then ribs first onto the barricade. Back in and we hit a chinlock with Okada's arm trapped to stretch the ribs. Okada fights up with some running forearms and a DDT, followed by a nipup. What rib injury?

An enziguri out of the corner and a belly to back faceplant gets two for Roderick. Well if Okada won't sell the ribs and back why not go for the face instead? Okada dropkicks him off the top and out to the floor as we

take another break. Back again with nothing having changed and Strong dropping Okada onto the apron for two. A White Noise backbreaker gets the same for Okada but Strong hooks an Angle Slam.

Strong's superplex gets two and there's the Strong Hold (Boston crab) but Okada makes the rope. It's not like he would sell it anyway so Strong was just wasting his time anyway. The Rainmaker is countered by three straight jumping knees to the face, a fireman's carry gutbuster and the Sick Kick for two. Well of course it's just two because Okada is Japanese and therefore unbeatable. Okada pops up, tombstones Strong twice and rolls some Germans for the pin at 17:24.

Rating: C-. This is Ring of Honor summed up in a single match. There's no question that this was an exciting match, but the quality isn't there. Strong wrestled a logical match (his finisher is a Boston crab and he worked the back) but Okada WOULDN'T SELL THE THING. I mean, put your hand on your ribs at least. It's exciting and entertaining, but it gets really old trying to explain to ROH and New Japan fans that there's a bit difference between exciting and quality.

Overall Rating: C. We'll go with right in the middle for this one as neither match did much for me but neither was bad. I'm sick of these New Japan shows though as you can take or leave them without missing anything. I like the stories that ROH has but we're stuck waiting for a month between the updates because of their taping schedule. In between though we get to worship at the altar of New Japan and hear the fans tell us that THIS IS AWESOME because so many of this company's fans equate excitement with being good. It's very Michael Bay-esque of them and that's only a good thing on occasion.

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