

# Ring of Honor TV – June 22, 2016: Go Home New Japan

## Ring of Honor

Date: June 22, 2016

Location: Ted Reeve Arena, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Kevin Kelly

It's the go home show for Best in the World and my guess is that means it's time to talk about the Bullet Club instead of anything related to the upcoming pay per view. I mean, I really don't think that the last several months focusing on New Japan has been fair to them so we better dedicate another hour to them. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

## Dalton Castle vs. Gedo

The announcers use the entrances to run down Friday's pay per view card. Feeling out process to start with Silas spinning out of an Irish whip, meaning it's time for Young to bend back in a manner that freaks Gedo out in a funny bit. Gedo is sent outside where the Boys fan him down, earning themselves a poke to the eyes. We take a break and come back with Gedo hammering away but running into a forearm to the face. A facebuster has Castle in trouble but the Boys offer a distraction, allowing Castle to hit the Bang A Rang for the pin at 10:55.

**Rating:** C-. Believe it or not this actually has some meaning as Castle is challenging for the TV Title at the pay per view. I mean it's not like they actually build the thing up or anything like that, but why build it up when you can remind us that Gedo is part of the Chaos stable, which means a grand total of nothing over here?

We recap BJ Whitmer vs. Steve Corino, or at least the most recent aspects of it. They bring up the idea of Corino being run out of the promotion but Mr. Wrestling III appearing in his place. Whitmer then drew Corino back by stalking Corino's family (shown here for the first time) to

finally set up the Fight Without Honor on Friday.

Adam Cole doesn't care who wins on Friday because he's going to be the next champ.

We look at Jay Lethal becoming undisputed champion at last year's Best in the World, followed by Jay Briscoe having Jay Lethal pinned at a show back in April.

#### Will Ferrara vs. Tomohiro Ishii

They slug it out to start with Ferrara not getting very far on the bigger Ishii. A shoulder actually staggers Ishii and a dropkick puts him down. A neckbreaker gets two for Ferrara but Ishii slams him down for some two counts of his own. Ferrara comes right back with a running elbow in the corner and a Samoan drop for two. Will goes one step too far though as he tries a suplex, earning himself a beating in the corner. A running clothesline gets two for Ishii so Ferrara slaps him in the face. That means the brainbuster puts Will away at 4:06.

**Rating:** C. Not a bad power match here, especially when you keep in mind how small Ferrara is. Unfortunately it doesn't mean anything other than a way to make Ishii look good, because that's what the world was waiting for. I know I keep harping on this but there's a pay per view in two days and we're spending TV time on a nothing match that advances no story. That's just bad planning and focusing on the wrong issues.

The Briscoes are ready for the main event.

Here's Steve Corino for some thoughts on his Fight Without Honor against BJ Whitmer. Corino is an evil man and it sounds as sweet as a slogan on a t-shirt. Years ago he took barbed wire to Terry Funk's flesh and convinced people to turn on their best friends but it was always about him. A few years ago he fell in love with a woman and tried to change himself but it's just his nature to be evil.

Whitmer has accused him of wearing a mask and BJ was right. However, the mask was this suit, these glasses and under this dyed hair because it made people believe he was who people wanted him to be. At the end of the

day, he's an evil man and BJ Whitmer will be out of Ring of Honor after Best in the World because Corino is taking the trash out.

Jay Lethal likes the idea of facing the Bullet Club on equal footing because something they never try.

Roderick Strong is ready to stand up for Ring of Honor against the Bullet Club.

### Bullet Club vs. Briscoe Brothers/Roderick Strong/Jay Lethal

It's Kenny Omega/Guerillas of Destiny/Matt Jackson for the Club in a somewhat weird combination. Matt and Mark start things off with Matt sliding under the crazy man but getting stopped by the threat of redneck kung fu, which earns him a jumping kick to the face. Strong comes in and knocks Matt down with an elbow to the face, meaning it's off to Lethal vs. Omega for a BIG reaction from the crowd.

That goes nowhere though as Omega tags in Tonga Loa, who gets in a shot from behind to take over on Lethal. Now of course Omega is willing to come in and stomp away in the corner, only to have Mark take him into the ROH corner for a beatdown. Everything breaks down for a bit (of course) and it's time for the multiple dives but Omega pulls Lethal to the floor and sends him into the barricade. Strong kicks Omega in the face though and we take a break.

Back with Omega trying to fight out of the corner but getting planted ribs first onto the mat. The tag brings Matt in anyway and it's time for the superkicks because those are so hard to predict. The fifth superkick puts Roderick down for two and it's off to Tama Tonga vs. Mark. Tonga's suplex doesn't work and it's time for more kung fu. A Roll of the Dice drops Mark and it's another double tag to bring in Lethal and Omega for a slugout.

The Lethal Injection is countered but Matt starts superkicking his partners by mistake. The One Winged Angel and Lethal Combination are both countered so it's Jay Briscoe vs. whoever he can punch at the moment. Everything breaks down and the double superkick hits Lethal but the second attempt is broken up. The Jay Driller plants Loa for the pin at

15:12.

**Rating:** C+. It was nice to have them get together before their matches on Friday but as usual the Bullet Club had to be involved as well. Unfortunately that dominated the match and the pay per view matches weren't exactly touched on because there was no time for something silly like that.

Dalton Castle and Bobby Fish trade promos about Castle earning his title shot but that not being enough to make him the champion.

Roderick Strong says Mark Briscoe may have been around here longer but he's still going to be second best.

The Addiction is ready to prove that they're the best in the world and not just the best in the busi-a-ness.

Both Jay's are ready to go and prove that they're the best in the world. Briscoe hopes Lethal has enjoyed all the good food he's eaten in the last year because after Best in the World it's back to Ramen noodles. This was really good, especially with the editing going back and forth like it did.

**Overall Rating:** C-. This was a watchable show on its own but a pretty lame go home show for a pay per view. That last little bit helped but a lot of it felt like they had forgotten they needed to plug this show. Hopefully the New Japan people are gone for a long while after this because they're really dragging things down. It's one thing to have the Bullet Club around but the people like Ishii, Gedo and Kushida are just taking up TV time from the ROH regulars and that's not a good thing.

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# Ring of Honor TV – April 6, 2016: We Get The Concept

## Ring of Honor

Date: April 6, 2015

Location: Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Mr. Wrestling III, Kevin Kelly

We're still in Las Vegas and it's time to have another show that airs after a big show with no mention of the big show's results. In this case it's Supercard of Honor from Wrestlemania weekend but we're doing the TV that deals with the fallout from the 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show. It would be nice if they could find a way to work this out but I don't see it coming anytime soon. Let's get to it.

Instead of the regular opening sequence, we get a look at Donovan Dijak laying out Jay Lethal and injuring Truth Martini a few weeks back.

Lethal goes on a rant about how Dijak has injured his best friend after it was all Martini's idea to bring him into the House of Truth in the first place. Now Dijak has the ROH World Champion coming for him and that's not going to be pleasant.

Opening sequence.

## Kazuchika Okada/Gedo vs. ReDRagon

Okada is IWGP Champion coming in. The Japanese guys want nothing to do with a pre-match handshake so it's a bit testy as we get things going. Gedo cranks on Fish's head to start before getting two off a rollup. That's countered into a legbar as the fans chant for the New Japan guys.

Fish wants Okada and even lays down in the ring, offering him a chance to come in. Okada does come in but it's also off to O'Reilly as the announcers talk about Kyle's ear injury. An early sunset flip attempt is countered into a cross armbreaker until Gedo comes in to break it up with a right hand to the bad ear. The Japanese guys start in on the ear and we take a break.

Back with Kyle striking away at Okada and diving over for the hot tag to Fish. Everything breaks down and Okada hits his over the shoulder backbreaker on Fish but the Rainmaker is countered into a Samoan drop. Gedo breaks up the hot tag and superkicks Bobby for two as everything breaks down again. Okada gets sent to the floor and it's Gedo getting double teamed with rapid fire forearms, followed by Chasing the Dragon for the pin at 12:24.

**Rating:** C. The match was fun but it's nice to see the New Japan guys get beaten for a change. I know they're a special attraction but far too often it seems there's no reason to watch the match because it's a guaranteed win. ReDRagon needs better opponents though because they're at the point of having nothing left to do in tag action.

We look back at the Briscoes picking up the Tag Team Titles last week, much to War Machine's annoyance.

The Briscoes say War Machine can't call themselves the best of all time because they've never beaten Dem Boys. That sounds like a challenge to me and it should be one heck of a fight.

#### Adam Cole vs. Kushida

Kushida's IWGP Junior Heavyweight Title isn't on the line. Cole shoves him around to start and for once the ROH guy seems to be the crowd favorite. Kushida doesn't take kindly to this and rides Cole on the mat to some nice applause. A Fujiwara armbar sends Cole scrambling to the ropes. Adam gets in a few shots from the apron though and we take a break. Back with Kushida hitting an atomic drop and some seated dropkicks to the head to get the fans back on his side.

A front flip kick sends Cole out to the floor but the moonsault hits

knees back inside. Cole gets two off a hard running Shining Wizard, only to have to get out of the Hoverboard lock with a small package. Kushida tries more kicks so Cole stomps on his hand, only to get kicked in the arm. There's another Hoverboard lock but Cole puts him on his shoulders for two and forcing the break. Back up and Cole superkicks him in the back of the head, setting up the suplex into the backbreaker for the pin on Kushida at 11:05.

**Rating:** C+. This is the kind of match that I'm not wild on: exchanging moves and then doing the finish. There's no real connection between these teams and there's no real reason to see the two of them fighting. It's certainly not bad or anything but I'm going to forget I saw it in a few minutes because it had no impact on anything whatsoever.

Dalton Castle is ready for his Fight Without Honor with Silas Young. He might even fill Young's pants with brine shrimp and throw him in a blender.

We look back at the Motor City Machine Guns reforming at the 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show.

#### Addiction vs. The Machine Guns

Yeah no Motor City now. Sabin and Daniels get things going but Kazarian gets in a cheap shot thirty seconds in like a heel should. As you might expect, the Guns clean house and send us to an early break. Back with Shelley coming in off the top to work on Kazarian's arm, setting up the quick takedown and rapid fire basement dropkick.

The double dive sends the Addiction into the barricade, followed by a high cross body from Shelley for two on Kazarian. Daniels gets in a shot to the back though and Addiction finally takes over. Kazarian and Daniels take turns on Shelley, including a double clothesline, allowing Daniels to put his foot on the chest for two. We take another break and come back with Shelley giving Kazarian a Stunner while DDTing Daniels at the same time.

That's still not enough for the hot tag as Daniels pulls Sabin off the apron, only to have Shelley send Daniels head first between Kazarian's

legs. We finally get the hot tag to Sabin as everything breaks down. Kazarian gets kicked in the face but Daniels sends Shelley outside, setting up a big dive to take Alex out. Shelley slides back in almost immediately and starts the double team strikes on Daniels, followed by Skull and Bones for the pin at 12:21.

**Rating:** C. I was a big fan of the Guns back in the day but given how many fast paced teams there are now and the fact that Sabin is nothing compared to what he used to be (And somehow a former TNA World Champion. I still don't get that one.), there's really nothing left for them to do, making this a fairly worthless reunion. The match was fine but still not my style for the most part.

Post match the Addiction beats the Guns down, only to have Kushida and Matt Sydal run in for the save. The Young Bucks come in to superkick the two of them down, triggering another brawl to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C. I'm really getting tired of these tag brawls to end the shows. We get it: the tag division is really competitive. Now either do something with them or stop having the same story over and over. There's almost no reason for most of them to be fighting other than "the tag division is competitive" and that's not going to work for months at a time.

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# Ring of Honor – July 1, 2015: A Lesson To Wrestling Companies

## Ring of Honor

Date: July 1, 2015

Location: 2300 Arena, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Commentators: King Corino, Kevin Kelly

We're finally past the Global Wars stuff so it's time for something actually Ring of Honor instead of a co-promoted show. Therefore tonight...it's War of the Worlds, which is another Ring of Honor/New Japan co-promoted show from before Global Wars took place. They're entertaining, but I'm more interested in their storylines instead of shows from two months ago. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Kelly promises fallout from Best in the World next week, meaning it's FINALLY a new, all ROH show.

## Addiction vs. Gedo/Kazuchika Okada

Addiction's ROH World Tag Team Titles aren't on the line, but they do insist on being called the World Tag Team Champions of the World. Gedo and Okada are part of the Chaos stable. Kaz and Gedo get things going with Gedo firing off some Flip Flop and Fly (with the punches missing) before it's off to Okada vs. Daniels. The fans are split but Okada wins some points by teasing a big chop to the chest but stopping to gently pat him.

Gedo books his team into control with a poke to the eye but it's quickly back to Kaz. The Addiction screws up to give Gedo a rollup (with tights)

for two. At least Gedo is showing some personality here. He's one of those guys where I just don't get it so this is a mild improvement. Back from a break with Kaz putting Gedo in a freaky arm/leg hold but Daniels shoves the referee and almost gets in a fight with him, which might be an homage to Tommy Young boxing with Jim Cornette back in the day.

A top rope stomp to the chest gets two on Gedo but he grabs a quick Downward Spiral, finally allowing the hot tag to Okada. House is cleaned and the White Noise onto the knee gets two. Some double teaming slows Okada down until a double cross body gives us a breather. Back to Gedo for a jawbreaker and low superkick for two but Celebrity Addiction (belly to back into a gutbuster) is enough for the pin on Gedo at 14:41.

**Rating:** C+. This is where I get tired of Ring of Honor fans. The match was really nothing all that great, but Gedo and Okada are from Japan so the fans are going to act like this was one of the most amazing things they've ever seen. Yeah it was fine, but it was just a run of the mill tag match. Okada has his moments of awesome, but Gedo is just a guy for the most part.

Daniels takes the Rainmaker post match, and it's still just a clothesline.

#### Adam Page vs. Watanabe

This is joined in progress. Watanabe takes him down with a neckbreaker and backdrops Page to the floor. Page backflips out of a German on the floor to prevent a broken...well probably multiple broken, and a Colby Corino distraction lets Page mostly miss a shooting star off the apron. Back in and Page breaks up a half and half suplex but gets caught in a belly to back superplex. I'm still waiting on anything but a spot fest here. My suspicions are confirmed as Page hits his Right of Passage reverse piledriver for the pin at 4:54 shown.

**Rating:** D+. Well that happened. This is another good example of the problem with these shows: who are these people and why should I care? If you don't follow New Japan, there's very little reason to care about what these people are doing. I know both guys are young stars, but that's about all I know of either guy. You could have any guy fill that role,

and that's not a good sign. The match certainly wasn't bad, but I have no connection or reason to care about either guy and that hurts a lot.

### AJ Styles vs. Adam Cole

Styles' IWGP World Title isn't on the line. They shove each other around and run their mouths a bit to start before Cole cranks on a weak armbar. Styles shrugs it off and comes back with an AA into a backbreaker to take over. A seated version of the Superman forearm (minus the springboard) gets two and the drop down into the dropkick sends Cole to the floor and us to a break. Back with Cole hitting a nice wheelbarrow suplex onto the apron for the first really cool spot of the match.

A knee to the face gets two for Cole and we hit the chinlock. Cole spits on the commentators and flips off the fans (censored) but AJ will have none of that and comes back with a torture rack powerbomb for two of his own. Corino thinks AJ is sexy. Ok then. Cole's recently injured shoulder is sent into the corner but he superkicks AJ out of the air for two more. We hit the Figure Four and Corino is in full on fanboy mode. Fans: "THIS IS WRESTLING!" Oh shut up.

Styles makes the rope and kicks him to the floor as we take another break. Back with a VERY fast paced kick exchange, capped off by AJ missing the Pele and taking a low superkick for a near fall. A Canadian Destroyer doesn't work very well so Cole busts out a Styles Clash for an even nearer fall. How exactly do you nearly fall anyway? Is it like slipping and catching your balance at the last minute? Now the Pele connects and AJ is mad enough to hit a kneeling piledriver and the Clash for the pin at 22:45.

**Rating:** B-. I liked the match and they picked it way up later in the show, but again this was more for people who are long time watchers of the show than a good initiation for new fans. I've seen enough of Cole to know he's good (though not as good as he's made up to be) but they didn't do a great job of making me know that. Still though, good main event.

They shake hands to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C+. The show was fun, but I'm REALLY not a fan of this

style of show. Like I said, if you don't know how things are going in Ring of Honor or New Japan, this was mainly just a collection of wrestlers having matches with no stories or anything to make me care about them. It was a fine show for an hour, but these guys really needed some video packages or promos to let us connect to them.

A lot of wrestling companies forget about how important it is to care about the wrestlers and think it's all about the in ring action. You're almost always going to be able to find better wrestling, but wrestlers you care about having good matches are far more interesting than wrestlers you don't care about having a slightly better match. I'm really glad we're finally moving forward next week, because this stuff is getting tiresome.

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# Ring of Honor – June 24, 2015: Quality Meets Entertainment

[Ring of Honor](#)

Date: June 24, 2015

Location: Ted Reeve Arena, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Attendance: 1,500

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, King Corino, Nigel McGuinness

It's the final week of the Global Wars cycle, meaning next week it's back to the full on Ring of Honor crew for the first time in this series. Tonight we're getting appearances from some major New Japan stars, which should lead to some interesting pairings with the Ring of Honor guys. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

### Roderick Strong vs. Shinsuke Nakamura

Strong is on a roll at the moment and is known as Mr. ROH. Nakamura is a huge star in New Japan and has amazing charisma. I've always been a Strong fan and Nakamura is one of the few New Japan guys who lives up to the hype he receives. Nakamura takes him down by the arm to start but Strong reverses into a key lock of his own. Back up and Strong nails some dropkicks but can't put on a bow and arrow hold.

An Angle Slam gets two on Nakamura but he kicks Strong in the head and starts with his signature knee strikes. Another knee puts Strong over the barricade and we take a break. Back with Strong winning a slugout but falling to the mat. Strong is back up with a torture rack into a backbreaker though (he's been called the Messiah of the Backbreaker), sending Nakamura to the ropes before the Strong Hold (Boston crab) can be locked in.

Instead it's Nakamura slamming him down but missing the running knee (Bryan took it from him) and taking a jumping knee to the face. A backbreaker onto the top turnbuckle gets two as I'm digging the psychology in this one. His move is a back hold so work on the back. Why is that so complicated? A big forearm drops Strong and a jumping knee from the middle rope knocks him silly.

Strong is up first and grabs the Strong Hold, sending Nakamura into the ropes for a break. They slug it out again with Strong taking Nakamura's head off with a running boot (Sick Kick) but a suplex backbreaker (I told

you he knew a lot of them) only gets two. The running knee gets one on Strong and Nakamura can't believe it. Granted he usually gyrates around like that so it's hard to tell how mad he is. Strong hits another knee but Nakamura just blasts him with a knee/kick to the face for the pin at 17:05.

**Rating:** B+. This was a hard hitting wrestling match here and that's the kind of stuff that Ring of Honor is shooting for. Strong is a big star in ROH but Nakamura comes off like a natural performer, which makes him stand out anywhere he performs. This was a fun match that again lived up to its hype, which is what Nakamura does best.

#### Michael Elgin vs. Gedo

Gedo is a smaller guy who also books New Japan. Elgin is a big power guy who can do other things to back it up. Gedo goes to the eyes to start but walks into a fall away slam for two. Things are going slowly due to Elgin's eye but he's still easily able to suplex him back in, complete with a count of thirty from the fans. They weren't second of course but wrestling fans aren't the most patient people in the world.

Elgin's spinning Swanton misses and Gedo kicks him in the face for two. There's always something to be said about keeping it simple. Elgin gets tired of this defense stuff though and buckle bombs Gedo, followed by a helicopter bomb (Elgin Bomb, one of my favorites) for the pin at 4:48.

**Rating:** D+. Yeah this wasn't clicking. Elgin needs someone with more speed to get a decent match out of him and Gedo is more of a cheater than anything else. It doesn't help that Gedo is pushing 50 and is really there more for his name than anything else. Not horrible, but it's good that they kept this short.

#### Roppongi Vice/Kazuchika Okada vs. AJ Styles/Young Bucks

This is Chaos vs. Bullet Club with Vice being a tag team of (Trent) Baretta (with its 19,000 spellings) and Rocky Romero. The Bucks (Nick and Matt Jackson) are the IWGP Junior Heavyweight Tag Team Champions and Styles is IWGP Heavyweight Champion, making this champions vs. challengers. Styles and Okada get things going with AJ snapping off some

armdrags before they trade victory rolls for two each. An early attempt at both finishers fails as well and it's a standoff after a very fast start.

Off to Baretta vs. Nick for some missed superkicks before Matt and Rocky come in. The Bullet Club gets tired of waiting and cleans house with a single superkick. Yeah the Bucks REALLY like throwing superkicks. Baretta gets triple teamed but Romero comes in to break up a cover. The Bucks start their pretty slick double teaming before it's off to Styles for a suplex into the corner. I like it when wrestlers do normal moves into different places. It's simple yet still seems fresh, which is hard to do these days.

Back from a break with AJ taking Romero and Okada off the apron to prevent a tag, so Trent whips out a tornado DDT for the tag to Romero. Rocky cleans house by dropkicking AJ off the apron and hurricanranaing both Bucks at the same time. Matt nails a superkick to slow him down but Rocky pops off the ropes and hits a clothesline to put both guys down. Okada and Styles come in off another double tag with Okada taking over in a hurry. AJ comes back with his moonsault into a reverse DDT but Okada reverses into something like White Noise into a backbreaker.

Nick gets double teamed by Vice as everything breaks down. A Doomsday Device but with a running knee and on the floor, plants Nick but AJ plants Okada with Sunday Bloody Sunday (Prince Devitt's old move, basically a one arm DDT brainbuster). Like so many Japanese stars, Okada isn't interested in selling though and pops up with a tombstone. The Rainmaker (maybe the most overrated finisher I've ever seen. It's a standing clothesline with theatrics) misses and Nick takes Okada to the floor with a tornado DDT which clearly didn't connect.

Romero gets hung over the ropes for a swanton and More Bang For Your Buck (a quick series of dives) is broken up and Okada drops a top rope elbow on Nick. AJ's springboard forearm (I love that move) takes Okada out again but Matt starts firing off even more superkicks, only to have Okada dropkick Styles down to break up the Clash on Romero.

All six slug it out and a triple superkick staggers Chaos. Okada again

pops up and a double superkick/Pele combo and a spike piledriver into a flipping spike tombstone (the Meltzer Driver. Yes that Meltzer) puts him right back down, followed by a double superkick into a Styles Clash on Baretta for the pin at 17:25.

**Rating:** B. Here's the thing: this match was not a very well done match. It was sloppy at times, the "fighting spirit" thing still comes off as a way to not have to sell, the flips are borderline meta, the move is actually called the Meltzer Driver, Kelly has to shout SUPERKICK every single time one connects, the tagging part was forgotten halfway through (and no that's not an ROH thing. It annoys me when every company does it) and the fans cheering for the heels is always annoying because they're cool heels instead of trying to do, like, heel stuff.

However, that doesn't mean it wasn't an incredibly entertaining match. This was fun throughout with everyone moving all over the place and having a great time out there. Yeah it's a spot fest, but that normally means it's entertaining. Styles continues to be on another planet since going to Japan and this was no exception. Really fun main event here, albeit with issues I'll likely be insulted for pointing out.

**Overall Rating:** A-. This show was a really good example of balancing good wrestling and entertainment, but again, they have the problem of New Japan leaving next week. However, this was a good way to get the fans in the tent, which is going to keep them coming back later. In theory at least. This was definitely the best show they've put on so far, which is a very good sign after just a few weeks. Really fun hour here with all wrestling and no story, which can work every now and then.

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