

# Ring of Honor TV – May 30, 2018: Can We Get The Electric Paddles?



IMG Credit: Ring of Honor

## Ring of Honor

Date: May 30, 2018

Location: Odeum Expo Theater, Villa Park, Illinois

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Colt Cabana

The big story coming out of last week's show was the Bullet Club Civil War but as is almost always the case around here, you never know where that's going to lead on the next show. We're still on the way to Best in the World in about a month, meaning we might start the build to the show in a few weeks. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

### The Dawgs vs. Cheeseburger/Jushin Thunder Liger

Titus shoves Cheeseburger down to start but a quick rollup gives Cheeseburger two. Ferrara comes in and gets grabbed by the arm, meaning it's off to Liger for the first time. The Dawgs bail to the floor and that means a double flip dive off the apron to send us to an early break.

Back with stereo surfboard holds keeping the Dawgs in trouble until Ferrara gets left alone. Titus slaps him in the back of the head to tag himself in and a catapult into a clothesline puts Cheeseburger down. A northern lights suplex into back to back splashes get two but Cheeseburger spins up into a reverse DDT. That's enough for the hot tag to Liger for two off the Liger Bomb. Everything breaks down and a double palm strike sets up the brainbuster to put Titus away at 8:50.

**Rating:** D+. As much as I can't stand the Dawgs (which is kind of the point), it's a good idea to have a crowd favorite like Liger opening

the show. He's going to get a huge reaction no matter what he does and he's still more than fine in the ring. Cheeseburger still needs to fall in a hole but that's been the case for years now.

We recap Sumie Sakai vs. Jenny Rose. They used to be friends but now Rose wants to be the first champion.

Dalton Castle thinks Marty Scurll and Cody should both get the World Title shot at Best in the World since he would fight a grizzly bear over a parking spot.

Quick look at the end of last week's show when Marty Scurll accidentally hit Cody with the umbrella.

#### Women's Title: Sumie Sakai vs. Jenny Rose

Sakai is defending and Rose is another one of those interchangeable women that Ring of Honor thinks is important or interesting because they've been around for a while. Sumie takes her into the corner for some fast stomping and Rose is sent outside as we take another early break.

Back with Sakai getting two off a missile dropkick but walking into a side slam for the same. The swinging fisherwoman's suplex gives Sakai two more, only to have Rose spear her through the ropes for a big crash. Back in and a fisherwoman's suplex drops Sakai for another near fall so Rose snaps off a German suplex. Sakai pops up so Rose spears her down, only to get caught with Smashmouse to retain Sakai's title at 7:17.

**Rating:** C. And the problems for the division continue. I've been watching Ring of Honor for a good while now and I still couldn't tell you anything significant about either of these two. Rose trained with Sakai and wants the title. Fine. Now tell me something about Sakai or Rose. Let them have some promo time or a character or something, but what we're getting right now is just people having not great matches.

We look at Cody and Marty Scurll both pinning Dalton Castle lately. Cody and Scurll don't agree on who is taking the title from Castle. So Cal Uncensored needs the Six Man Tag Team Titles back (after losing them earlier this month at a live event) and promises to regain them tonight.

Silas Young is sick of people coming here with their hands out, like

Austin Aries wanting the TV Title. Next week, Aries is going to find out how big of a joke he is.

### Six Man Tag Team Titles: So Cal Uncensored vs. The Kingdom

Kingdom is defending. It's a big brawl to start (as it should be) and Daniels pops a balloon (yes a balloon) over Marseglia's head in the corner. Sky kicks Marseglia in the back to keep the champs in trouble and comes in for a headlock. Taven and Kazarian get in an argument and Marseglia gets suplexed during the melee. It's off to O'Ryan but Kazarian stomps him in the back, allowing Daniels to pull on the arm.

A hard shot to Sky's face knocks him into the corner and the triple team takedown gives the champs control. Marseglia pops a balloon over Sky's head and the fans think this is awesome. Chicago fans have really low standards. Taven comes in for the first time and knocks So Cal off the apron, followed by a suplex for two on Sky as we take a break. Back with Sky and Marseglia crossbodying each other and an escaped suplex allows the hot tag off to Kazarian.

Everything breaks down and Kazarian rolls O'Ryan up. That's no cover as O'Ryan isn't legal so Kazarian gives Marseglia a northern lights suplex for two while still cradling O'Ryan. Everything stays broken down and Kazarian gets two off a slingshot DDT. Daniels is sent outside for a big dive from Taven and a missed fall puts everyone other than Sky on the floor.

You know what that means as Sky hits a big old dive of his own and everyone is down. Daniels pulls out a pair of knuckles but gets them knocked away. Kazarian comes in with a chair but hits the rope to knock himself silly instead. The referee thinks Taven did it so that's a DQ at 13:04.

**Rating:** C+. I'm a little tired of seeing these teams fight, especially when the titles change hands fairly frequently. I get the story, but am I really supposed to buy that So Cal Uncensored can't get the titles back again before the end of the year? The match was fine, but I'm not really feeling the story, especially when you see these matches so often.

Castle vs. Cody vs. Scurll is official for the Best in the World main event. Wait it wasn't already?

**Overall Rating:** D+. This was a pretty lifeless show with neither

title match really feeling all that important. The Women's Title has to take an up elevator just to reach trying to get off the ground and the Six Man Tag Team Titles have been done to death already. Best in the World should help, but star power would be a bigger positive for the show at the moment. Not a terrible show, but nothing you need to see.

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## Ring of Honor TV – April 18, 2018: More Bang For Your Stand Alone Episode



## IMG Credit: Ring of Honor Wrestling

### Ring of Honor

Date: April 18, 2018

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

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Colt Cabana, Caprice Coleman

We're still in the vacuum of the post pay per view stretch and that means it's time for another stand alone show. This time around though we might get some videos inserted to talk about some stuff from Supercard of Honor. You never know what you might get from these shows match wise though so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Frankie Kazarian vs. Hiromu Takahashi

Hang on a second as Takahashi has to bow to Daryl (don't ask). Feeling out process to start with Kazarian getting two off an early rollup and nipping into a standoff. They head outside with Kazarian sending him hard into the barricade, which may banded up his knee. Back from a break with Kazarian hitting his spinning springboard legdrop to the back of the head. A backbreaker keeps Takahashi in trouble so he superkicks his way to prosperity and a near fall of his own.

Takahashi sends him to the floor for a running knee from the apron with Kazarian sprawling across the floor. Back in and Kazarian slips out of the Time Bomb and hits a sloppy slingshot DDT. Kazarian isn't happy with the near fall so he yells at the referee, allowing Takahashi to roll him up with trunks for two. Another superkick sets up the Time Bomb to end Kazarian at 11:04.

**Rating:** C. I was never big on Takahashi when he was Kamaitachi and the Time Bomb persona is only somewhat better. The match wasn't too bad but nothing more than a stand alone show filler. That being said, I'm MUCH happier with the New Japan guys making less frequent cameos. For a long time there it was almost every week. Now it's every few weeks and that's so much better. Don't take away the

special treat feeling they bring with them.

Earlier today, Brian Milonas and Beer City Bruiser attacked LSG before the tag team gauntlet match tonight.

Caprice Coleman is on commentary.

### Tag Team Gauntlet

There are six teams involved and the winners get a Tag Team Title shot at some point in the future. Brian Milonas/Beer City Bruiser are in first with Shaheem Ali coming in and saying he'll fight without LSG because Coast to Coast never gives up. Ali wastes no time in diving over the top to take Bruiser out but Milonas catches a crossbody back inside. Some elbows get the overly large man down and there's a dropkick to the face. A standing double splash crushes Ali though and the beating begins. Bruiser backdrops him into a sitout powerbomb for two and we take a break.

Back with Ali headbutting them both down, followed by a lifting Downward Spiral on Bruiser. Not that it matters as a superplex into a frog splash gets rid of Ali at 6:28. Next up are the Dawgs because I did something horrible in a previous life. The Dawgs offer beer but get kicked down for their efforts. The beer is spat into the monsters' faces and a pair of double noggin knockers has some effect. Milonas is low bridged to the floor and a dropkick gets one on Bruiser. The size catches up with the Dawgs again though and Ferrara gets crushed in the corner as Milonas just sits on him.

Back from another break with Milonas missing a sitdown splash, allowing the hot tag to Ferrara. Does it count as a hot tag when I want the ring to collapse and both teams to fall into a hole? Titus manages a monkey flip onto Bruiser with Ferrara adding a tornado DDT on the floor. The announcers make Punch Out references to make this a little easier as Ferrara bicycle kicks Milonas down. Not that it matters as Ferrara gets caught on top with a superplex sending Milonas and Bruiser on at 15:04.

The Motor City Machine Guns are in fourth with Milonas' falling splash crushing Sabin. Bruiser kicks Shelley into a spinning side

slam but misses the Cannonball in the corner. The rapid fire offense has the big guys in trouble and a double superkick rocks Bruiser. Skull and Bones gets rid of Bruiser at 16:52 and it's the Young Bucks in fifth.

Back from another break with a double slugout, as should be the case with these four. It's the Bucks taking over (of course) with their dropkicks until they both run into Shelley's boots in the corner. A missile dropkick puts Matt down and he's sent head first into Nick's crotch. Stereo running boots in the corner have the Bucks in more trouble and there's the Dream Sequence to Matt.

We hit the chinlock (not the move you would expect in a fast paced match like this) as the announcers talk about the Women's Title tournament without actually saying who won the thing. The first superkick gets Matt out of trouble and a few more are enough for the hot tag to Nick. That means the slingshot X Factor and apron moonsault, followed by a suicide dive as things speed way up.

Double superkicks have Shelley down on the floor but Shelley gets out of the Meltzer driver. A superkick and spear set up a springboard splash/standing moonsault for two on Sabin. Shelley comes back in and tries Sliced Bread #2 but gets taken down instead. More Bang For Your Buck is broken up but Skull and Bones is countered into a backslide to pin Sabin at 26:29.

Back from one more break with the Kingdom beating on Matt as his back has flared up again. Marseglia can't hit a Russian legsweep so he takes Matt down and puts a knee into his back for a chinlock instead. Matt gets in a shot but O'Ryan pulls Nick off the apron and takes his place. That earns him a superkick and Nick comes in off another hot tag. To be fair he's pretty good at it so it's harder to complain. A big flip dive takes both Kingdom guys down but it's too early for a 450.

Instead he gives O'Ryan a German suplex on the apron and a tornado DDT from the same apron to Marseglia. There's the Sharpshooter on O'Ryan and Marseglia's right hands aren't enough for the break. Instead he grabs the ax but murder is a bit too far. The referee

takes it away so Marseglia uses the bat to give O’Ryan two instead. Just a baseball bat shot you see.

Another shot misses and it’s off to Matt to forearm away until O’Ryan gets him in the bad back. Matt gets taken to the floor for a powerbomb on the bare boards but Nick makes the save with a kick to the face. The Meltzer Driver, with Nick helping Matt lift O’Ryan for the Tombstone, is good for the final pin at 37:02.

**Rating:** B-. See, the Bucks selling and making a comeback instead of beating the heck out of everyone for the whole match makes things that much easier to sit through. The rest of the teams, save for the Guns, were really just there for the sake of filling in time, which is the common trend for a match like this. It didn’t feel long either so it’s not that much to sit through. Good match, but really just there to set up something later on.

**Overall Rating:** C+. The main event made this a good show with one big thing taking up most of the show instead of trying to build the storylines without actually advancing any of the stories. It was fine for a way to get through an hour and hopefully next week gets us to something fresh. I can live with something like this for awhile but you’re only going to get that far with stand alone episodes. At least this one was good though and that’s all you could hope it would be.

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# Ring of Honor TV – December 6, 2017: Another Young Bucks Disaster

## Ring of Honor

Date: December 6, 2017

Location: RP Funding Center, Lakeland, Florida

Commentators: Colt Cabana, Ian Riccaboni

Things are starting to pick up with two weeks to go before Final Battle. I've been liking the shows more and more as of late, which hopefully keeps up this week. They still need some more build towards some of the matches but they've certainly been doing more good than bad as of late. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

### Beer City Bruiser vs. Marty Scurll

Marty gets tossed outside to start so he gets a bit smarter by going after Bruiser's fingers. Some forearms against the barricade have Bruiser in even more trouble as this is full on face Marty. Bruiser misses a charge and hits the barricade as we take a break. Back with Bruiser missing a frog splash and Jay Lethal coming out to watch. A superkick to the jaw and another to the leg have Bruiser staggered but a hard clothesline takes Marty back down for two.

Marty's rollup with feet on the ropes gets two and Bruiser knocks him outside again. That means another missed dive and both guys are down on the floor. Bruiser dives back in at nineteen and it's off to an octopus hold. The referee gets bumped (of course he does) and the fans say he deserves it. What a bunch of jerks. Marty hits Bruiser in the head with the umbrella for the pin at 10:16 with Jay teasing coming out for the save but standing his ground instead.

**Rating:** D+. I could go for Scurll as a face actually, even if his name is the Villain. I know it's a stretch to have a villain as a face, but in a weird way it's actually working. Bruiser wasn't the

best in the world here but having Lethal tease making the save and then allow Scurlll to be the villain makes for an interesting story heading into the pay per view.

We look at Dalton Castle winning the first Soaring Eagle Cup tournament.

Castle talks about being a wrestler his whole life and it being who he is instead of what he does. Then he showed up here and worked his way to the top. It took a long time to get himself noticed and one person to notice him was Cody. They had a match earlier this year where Cody snuck in and attacked him. Cody even shipped the Boys out, which isn't going to make him weak. Next week: they sign the contract. Castle was a lot more serious here and it worked that much better.

Earlier this week, the Briscoe Brothers went to Bully Ray's training center but he wasn't there. The trainees introduced themselves to the Brothers and of course got beaten up. The Brothers went on to break a bunch of pictures with Jay shouting at a picture of Bully, asking what it's going to take to get in the ring. One of the trainees takes a 3D to wrap this up. Another good segment here for a good story.

It's Coleman's Pulpit time and hopefully I can hear him this week. Coleman's guest is...himself. Coleman is ready for his TV Title shot and thinks Kenny King is just jealous. Kenny isn't a king, a peasant or a pawn but rather a ho. I still don't get the point of this show.

#### Tag Team Titles: Motor City Machine Guns vs. The Kingdom

The Kingdom (TK O'Ryan and Vinny Marseglia this time) are challenging and this is from a show in Fort Lauderdale. The Guns get jumped from behind to start but come right back with some clotheslines. That means a double dive to the floor, only to have the Kingdom whip the champs into the barricade.

Back in and Marseglia gets punched out of the air, setting up something close to Poetry in Motion in the corner. The champs start in on O'Ryan's leg and we hit a Figure Four. Marseglia gets one as well but both holds are pretty quickly broken. Everything breaks down with the Kingdom grabbing a spinebuster on Shelley to take over. The Kingdom holds up the titles and we take a break.

Back with Sabin hitting a high crossbody onto the two of them, only

to have O’Ryan grab a Twist of Fate. Marseglia’s Swanton gets two and the assisted Regal Roll gets the same with Sabin driving O’Ryan into the cover for the break. With nothing else working, it’s time for the baseball bat and the ax but TK hits Marseglia by mistake. Since IT WAS A BASEBALL BAT TO THE HEAD, something like a double One Winged Angle is needed to put Vinny away at 11:53.

**Rating:** C. Hopefully this helps to get rid of the Kingdom being around the Tag Team Title scene. They may not be horrible but I really don’t need to see them near the titles. Watching them wrestling is still better than listening to Matt Taven talk, though that’s not saying much. Good enough match, but they completely lost me after the ball bat to the head. I mean....really? That’s not even worthy of a cover?

#### Flip Gordon vs. Adam Page

No transition here as we’re back in Lakeland for the main event. Flip gets shoved away but he backflips to stay on his feet. Page can’t clothesline him due to a series of nipups as the announcers plug the Being the Elite series. They trade flips off the apron and there’s the handstand into a headscissors to put Page on the floor. Another flip dive takes Page down but he’s still able to kick Gordon in the face to take over. It’s chair time with Page launching up into a hard shot to the face as we take a break.

Back with Page getting two off a bridging suplex but Gordon scores with an enziguri. They kind of botch a sunset flip and both guys are down for a bit. A running shooting star gives Gordon two but Page sends him outside for a big moonsault to the floor. Rite of Passage is broken up and the Samoan Pop (a reverse Regal Roll), followed by a springboard spinning Stunner for the pin on Page at 8:44.

**Rating:** C-. So here’s the problem: Gordon is known for his flips and being all athletic and stuff. They were trying to make him stand out...and then they have Page match him move for move and flip for flip. That just makes me think Page is his equal and a win by a relative newcomer isn’t going to help that. I like the idea of pushing someone new, but they execution didn’t work.

Post match the Young Bucks come in and superkick Gordon down, drawing the big face pop. OH COME ON ALREADY! You just gave Gordon a big, clean win and THIRTY SECONDS LATER you have him getting beaten down again for the sake of ANOTHER YOUNG BUCKS MOMENT! The Bucks

didn't need to be there and it would be nice to have pushed Gordon on his own for a few minutes. But no, let's push the big stars instead because they're what matters and they might not get every viewer to their YouTube show if we don't push them as the biggest deal in the world. My goodness this made me mad and that shouldn't happen.

Cody says Gordon won't take the Six Man Tag Team Titles, just like Castle won't take the World Title.

**Overall Rating:** C-. That ending just destroyed any good things this show had going for it. I liked the Briscoes segment and the Scurll match was the right idea but none of that matters if we don't focus on the Bucks AGAIN. Would it be the worst thing in the world to have them leave for a bit? Maybe they could actually have some other names get somewhere and not be so reliant on them all the time. But nah, let's go with the Bucks every single time because that's never going to get old.

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**Ring of Honor TV –**

# September 20, 2017: Such Blatant Plagiarism

## Ring of Honor

Date: September 20, 2017

Location: Center Stage, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, BJ Whitmer

It's the go home show for Death Before Dishonor and that could mean multiple things. One option is to have almost nothing about the pay per view and focus on almost anything else. On the other hand they might actually pay attention to the show and give us something important. Yeah I'm betting on the first too. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

## Hangman Page vs. Kenny King

Feeling out process to start with Page grabbing a headlock for little avail. King takes him down into one of his own though and things slow down. An armbar (with very little torque) has Page in more trouble before they head outside with Page being sent into the barricade. King hits a dive off the apron and we take an early break.

Back with Page grabbing a piledriver and sending Kenny into the barricade. Caprice Coleman sits in on commentary to announce that the Briscoe Brothers will be his guests next week. Page hammers away some more until a spinebuster gets King out of trouble. A big spinning kick to the face puts Page down but he avoids a slingshot dive and grabs a suplex on the floor. Back in and King sweeps the leg to set up a very weak Last Chancery. Since that's easily broken up, King settles for the Royal Flush and the pin at 10:31.

**Rating:** C. King getting the win before his title shot on Friday is the right call, though it would have been nice if they actually mentioned the title match during this one. I'm a bit surprised they would have Page lose clean though as he's someone they seem intent on pushing. If nothing else they put the Six Man Tag Team Titles on him to go with the most important and amazing team ever, which is quite the rub.

## Marty Scurll vs. Rocky Romero

This is the result of the dreaded Twitter challenge. Romero tries a cross armbreaker less than five seconds in but Scurlll is already into the ropes. Back up and Romero ducks a charge to send Marty outside, which of course means a suicide dive. Marty is right in on the arm though, snapping it across the top rope and stomping away. A hard stomp to the elbow keeps Romero in trouble and we take a break. Back with Rocky getting superkicked to the floor, followed by a second one to keep Marty's Bullet Club card. Something like a reverse Angle Slam gives Marty two but it's too early for the chickenwing. Instead they hit some rollups for two each and it's a stalemate. Rocky's Sliced Bread #2 is countered into the chickenwing which is countered into a cross armbreaker.

That's broken up as well and it's a buckle bomb into the corner to snap Rocky's head back. Rocky avoids the moonsault though and hits something like a Shining Wizard for two of his own. It's back to the cross armbreaker but this time Marty gets his feet into the ropes. They run the ropes again until a heck of a clothesline drops Rocky, followed by the Bird of Prey (basically a flip into White Noise) for the pin at 9:39.

**Rating:** B-. Scurlll's in-ring work is getting better, which is a great sign considering how awesome his character stuff is. There's only so much you can get out of the average matches so it's cool that he's getting to showcase his already established skills around here for a change. Romero was fine as well, but that's pretty well known in the first place.

Here's Cody to explain what happens when the undesirable becomes the undeniable. Now that he's the best in the world, it's time for this title to undergo a change. A lackey brings out a box as the announcers tell Cody to take the upcoming title defense more seriously. Cody drops to his knees and opens the box to reveal a big ring. The Ring of Honor you see. This would be more effective if he hadn't shown off the ring in a backstage segment. From now on, the fans will be having to kiss his ring, though we go to a break before it happens.

Death Before Dishonor rundown with some quick promos.

The Motor City Machine Guns are ready to take their place as the top team in Ring of Honor.

Marty Scurlll is ready to destroy Chuck Taylor in Taylor's first

singles match.

### Briscoes vs. The Kingdom

It's Vinny Marseglia/TK O'Ryan (no Matt Taven) for the team here and Bully Ray is on commentary. Jay and Vinny start things off but let's look at the commentators instead of the match. Mark comes in for some forearms in the corner and it's off to TK to take more of the same. A blind tag allows Vinny to come back in for a bicycle kick and the Briscoes are finally in some trouble. Multiple forms of stomping ensue and it's off to TK for some biting. TK comes back in and makes sure to draw in Jay so the double teaming can take us to a break.

Back with Jay coming in off the hot tag for some hard clotheslines and a backdrop. The hangman's neckbreaker gets two on O'Ryan and Mark has to kick a chair out of Marseglia's hands. The referee won't let Jay hit the Jay Driller onto the chair so the Brothers settle for a Razor's Edge/neckbreaker combination (called a reverse 3D) instead.

Mark gets shoved off the top and it's a reverse Twist of Fate into the Swanton (such plagiarism) for two more. O'Ryan grabs a ball bat and swings it in front of the referee, who doesn't seem too upset by the whole situation. A Spin Cycle (another Hardys move) gets two on Mark with Jay making the save. Back up and the Jay Driller ends O'Ryan at 11:22.

**Rating:** B-. This was good, despite the pretty blatant Hardys stuff from the Kingdom. It helps a lot when you have the Briscoes out there as one of the best teams in the world at the moment and the best team this company has ever had. As a bonus this helped build up something for Friday's six man match, which has the potential for a heck of a heel turn.

**Overall Rating:** C+. Solid enough show here, though the big problem continues to be the lack of Minoru Suzuki, who apparently can't even do a promo or a video to help hype up the match. Knowing Ring of Honor they'll give him the title anyway for the sake of adding prestige or something, because Heaven forbid we let the ROH wrestlers build up their company on their own. Good show this week.

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# Ring of Honor TV – August 23, 2017: Boys(z) Club

## Ring of Honor

Date: August 23, 2017

Location: Cabarrus Arena and Events Center, Concord, North Carolina

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, BJ Whitmer

Tonight is all about the Six Man Tag Team Titles as yet ANOTHER team has been thrown together for the sake of giving the champions some challengers. In this case it's Dalton Castle and the Boys defending against Colt Cabana and the Tempura Boyz. And yes, it's all because both bigger names have partners called Boys(z). Let's get to it.

Dalton Castle says taking the titles from him when he's flanked by the Boys is like trying to boil a chicken so he's not worried.

Opening sequence.

## Coast to Coast vs. Best Friends

Caprice Coleman jumps in on commentary and for some reason we keep looking at the commentary booth instead of the ring. Chuckie (Chuckie T, of the Best friends with partner Berreta) and LSG start things off with some flips going nowhere. It's off to Ali vs. Berreta with some chops dropping Ali, who comes right back with chops of his own.

They head to the corner for a tag to LSG, who the announcers don't realize was in the match already. Chuckie tags himself in before

Berreta takes LSG down with a dragon suplex. That's good for a big hug and we take a break. Back with LSG cleaning house and getting two on Chuckie off a faceplant. Berreta comes in for the save but Ali is right there to block a tornado DDT out of the corner.

Instead it's a swinging Rock Bottom for two on Berreta, who bails outside for a breather. Back to back dives, including a corkscrew version from LSG, has the Best Friends reeling as Coleman is begging for them to go for a cover. Ali gets two off a frog splash but LSG's 450 hits knees. Berreta's running knee knocks LSG silly and it's the piledriver into a cradle piledriver to put him away at 11:51.

**Rating:** C+. I liked this one more than I was expecting to, even if it just became a big spot fest near the end. The Best Friends are a popular enough team to eventually become a threat to the Bucks. Coast to Coast is getting better too and looks like they're one of the better young teams who could mean something down the line. Or get split up for no apparent reason.

Jay Lethal talks about how rough it was to be put in the hospital for the first time in his career when Silas Young comes up. The brawl is on with Jay getting the better of it until the Beer City Bruiser comes up for a distraction, allowing Young to hit him in the back with a chair. Post break, Lethal demands any kind of a match against Young and/or Bruiser.

#### Matt Taven vs. Jay Briscoe

Jay tries to jump him at the bell but actually loses a slugout. Vinny Marseglia busts out an ax to distract Jay (well that could do it) so Jay grabs a chair to even things out. Since that could cause a bad case of death, they head back inside with Jay splashing Taven in the corner and adding a big boot for good measure.

Taven slips out of...something and knees Jay in the face. That's enough time to check himself out in the camera though and we take a break. Back with Raven bailing out on a frog splash and getting caught with a Death Valley Driver. Taven's Disaster Kick sets up a Lionsault which hits raised knees, followed by Briscoe's hard lariat for two.

Jay slugs him in the jaw but a Blue Thunder Bomb gives Taven two more. The Climax (1%er) is broken up so Jay kicks him outside for a suicide dive. Cue Marseglia to interfere but Briscoe cuts him off with a neckbreaker. Now TK O'Ryan gets pulled in as well but he

takes off his cast and knocks Jay cold for the DQ at 11:42.

**Rating:** C. Oh joy, the Kingdom is back. It helps to shore up the Six Man Tag Team Titles but on the other hand, it helps to shore up the Six Man Tag Team Titles. The team does nothing for me but I'll take them as a trio over random singles matches. Briscoe is still in a weird place as he seems to be teasing a heel turn a lot of the time and then he does a straight face match like this. I mean, it's hard to be a heel when you're down 3-1 and one guy has an ax.

Post match the Kingdom covers Jay with chairs and then crushes him with more chairs. Bully Ray and Mark Briscoe are nowhere to be seen.

Cody is ready to face anyone for the ROH World Title.

#### Six Man Tag Team Titles: Colt Cabana/Tempura Boyz vs. Dalton Castle/The Boys

Dalton and the Boys are defending. Colt and Dalton start things off and it's time for some dancing, followed by the champs being sent to the floor for Colt's own strut. That's a bit too much comedy for me so we take a break. Back with the Boys bent over backwards to make themselves into a table. Dalton cleans house and then has a seat on them, allowing some much needed fanning up.

Back in and Dalton shakes his knees but Colt tags Sho in instead of having a dance off. It's off to the Boys....with one getting on the others shoulders. Sho does it to Yo and we've got a game of chicken. Thankfully Colt breaks it up to take over as this match is giving me a headache. Sho grabs a Fujiwara armbars but it's Twin Magic for the save. Colt tries to make another switch but Sho does the same thing as this is what a championship match has turned into.

We take a second break and come back with the Boyz fanning Colt, allowing more Twin Magic to get one of the Boys out of trouble. The hot tag brings in Castle for some suplexes, including catching a diving Cabana. The Boys dive onto the Boyz and it's Castle with the peacock strut. A double missile dropkick sets up another German suplex for two but the Boyz come in and take over without too much effort. The Boys pull the Boyz together though and a Bang a Rang ends Colt to retain the titles at 13:44.

**Rating:** D-. I can't stand this kind of stuff as they're just doing lame comedy and it's for some of the most worthless titles in

wrestling. The fact that this whole thing is all about “hey, I’ve got my own boys now” tells you all you need to know about it. Castle is far too talented and far too charismatic to be stuck in something like this. The Six Man Tag Team Titles need to die already, even if it ticks off Papa New Japan.

Post match Castle says Cabana has been an inspiration for a long time. Colt hasn’t made it easy to like him though as Cabana hasn’t accepted that Castle is just better. Now that it’s three straight wins for Castle, can he have Colt’s respect? Cabana shakes his hand to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** D+. That main event killed what was an otherwise solid show. I’m probably not the audience for that kind of match but it just didn’t work for me. What also doesn’t work for me are these stand alone shows with nothing major in the way of storytelling. This is all about filling in time until we can get back to talking about the pay per view that was barely talked about in advance. Such is life in Ring of Honor, though it’s still rather annoying.

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## Ring of Honor TV – June 21,

# 2017: They STILL Don't Get It!

## Ring of Honor

Date: June 21, 2017

Location: 2300 Arena, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Colt Cabana

This is the go home show for Best in the World which means...well I have no idea what it means actually. We've actually had a good build to the main event with Christopher Daniels defending the World Title against Cody but the rest of the show is a combination of a mystery or really poorly built. Let's get to it.

Jay Lethal welcomes us to the 300<sup>th</sup> episode. It feels like just yesterday that he was winning the TV Title on the second episode yet here we are. He's ready for 300 more episodes.

Opening sequence.

### Silas Young/Beer City Bruiser vs. Jay Lethal/Bobby Fish

Fish and Bruiser get things going with the big man easily running him over. Bobby is smart enough to make Bruiser run the ropes over and over, eventually leaving Bruiser bent over sucking wind. Fans: "HE'S BLOWN UP!" Well at least they know the lingo. It's off to Lethal to do the same thing with Bruiser taking a knee next to the ropes. Young offers him a beer, so Young and Fish make him run the ropes again, causing the beer to be spat through the ropes.

Back from a break with Young taking a beating for a change until Bruiser clotheslines Jay down. Bruiser takes a Samoan drop from Fish as everything breaks down. Young gets double teamed but Bruiser makes a diving save. A wheelbarrow suplex of all things drops Fish and it's Misery to put Lethal away at 9:12.

**Rating:** C-. I can appreciate them mixing the formula up a bit (Coming back from the break with the faces in control?) and Lethal vs. Young has potential. The problem continues to be Bruiser, who

still feels like a glorified comedy character. Throw in Fish seemingly still finishing up with the company and it's hard to get into a good chunk of this match.

Daniels is ready to retain his title and carry ROH into the future. Jay Briscoe is STILL livid about losing that eight man tag (dude get a therapist) so Bully Ray and Mark Briscoe calm him down. They couldn't have done this weeks ago?

### Kingdom vs. The Boys

Kingdom jumps the Boys in the aisle and beat the heck out of them with the beatdown being on in full. They pull back a ringside mat so Matt Taven can load up a piledriver on the concrete but Dalton Castle comes out for the save. The Boys recover and grab a rollup just after the bell, followed by a double dropkick on Vinny. Things settle down with Taven getting in a cheap shot from behind to really take over. A reverse superplex drops Boy #1 and Marseglia's Swanton gives him the pin at 1:34.

To recap: Kingdom is having a challenge match against two guys from CMLL while the Boys are challenging for Ring of Honor Titles. The match was a complete squash, including the pre-match beatdown to make the Kingdom look great while the Boys look like the jobbiest jobbers this side of Brooklyn Brawler and Barry Horowitz. I don't know if they think the CMLL team is more important or what but this was really, REALLY stupid.

Post match Jay Briscoe comes out to yell at Dalton but Mark and Bully break it up.

Video on Punishment Martinez.

### Punishment Martinez vs. Joey Daddiego

Daddiego is easily shoved away and a clothesline takes him down again. A springboard flip splash crushes Daddiego again and the sitout chokeslam is good for the pin at 1:58.

Post match Daddiego's buddies Cheeseburger and Will Ferrara come out for the save but get beaten down as well. Jay White comes out to brawl with Martinez and clotheslines him to the floor. Good angle,

though it does nothing for the pay per view as neither is on the card.

The Briscoes are fired up about 300 episodes.

Kevin Kelly and Cody have replaced Riccaboni on commentary.

Will Ospreay/Gedo/Hirooki Goto vs. Addiction/Hiroshi Tanahashi

Well...two of them are on the pay per view. Neither of their opponents are but NEW JAPAN right? Ospreay and Kazarian start things off and fight over a wristlock as we take a break less than a minute in. Dang it Ring of Honor that's not something you do! Back with Daniels cleaning house but Ospreay breaks up his springboard moonsault.

Ospreay and company take over on the floor and it's Goto chopping at Daniels in the corner. Something like a cutter into the middle buckle drops Goto though and the hot tag brings in Tanahashi. Ospreay and Gedo take stereo elbow drops but Goto is right there with a clothesline to break it up. Ospreay comes in with a Phenomenal Forearm and a standing shooting star gets two.

Tanahashi Sling Blades him though and we take a break. Back again with Ospreay diving onto Kazarian and Tanahashi, leaving Gedo to take a Blue Thunder Bomb. Everyone gets back inside again and the Oscutter hits Goto by mistake. A Rock Bottom to Gedo sets up the High Fly Flow and the Best Moonsault Ever for the pin at 11:12.

**Rating:** B-. Well that happened. It does nothing for the pay per view, it wasn't exactly a memorable match and the biggest star in the match won't be doing anything more than special appearances for the company. The wrestling was good enough but, as usual, this felt like it was there for the live crowd instead of the TV audience, which is quite further up the food chain.

Post match Hangman Page comes in to jump Kazarian while Cody comes in to hit Daniels with Angel's Wings. Cody holds up the World Title.

We get some quick promos for the pay per view.

Marty Scurll is ready to take back the TV Title.

Jay Lethal needs to beat Silas Young.

Dalton Castle is outraged by the lack of Six Man Tag Team Titles.

Hangman Page promises to hurt Kazarian.

The Kingdom calls the CMLL guys Melvins.

The Young Bucks promise to superkick War Machine.

Christopher Daniels is ready to find out who is the Best in the World.

**Overall Rating:** D. So let's see: four matches, one of which actually built to the pay per view, two title challenges getting destroyed in the second, one that has nothing to do with the pay per view, and a showcase of New Japan wrestlers. Throw in a good chunk of the build taking place in the last two minutes thanks to some twenty second promos and you would almost never know that this was supposed to get you to want to pay \$34.99 for a pay per view where I can barely tell you three matches. As usual, Ring of Honor doesn't seem to have any idea how this stuff works, which really is hard to believe after so many years.

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# Ring of Honor TV – April 12, 2017: Now Just A Month Behind

## Ring of Honor

Date: April 12, 2017

Location: Sam's Town Live, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Kevin Kelly

I'm not even going to pretend that I know what's going on at the moment. I know we're past the Anniversary Show but I'd assume we're not up to Supercard of Honor yet, despite it taking place nearly two weeks ago. All I know is we'll still be seeing Top Prospect Tournament stuff because that thing just won't end. Let's get to it.

The Briscoe Brothers take us back to Manhattan Mayhem where Bully Ray saved them from a Bullet Club beatdown. Tonight they're going after the Six Man Tag Team Titles.

Opening sequence.

### Punishment Martinez vs. Hanson

Martinez is now completely on his own, which should be a better fit for him. Hanson blocks a spinning kick to the face to start and sends Martinez to the floor for a suicide dive. A ram into the post sets up a Whoopee Cushion from the ramp to really have Martinez reeling. Back inside and Martinez runs him over in the corner before hitting a spring Swanton of all things.

We take a break and come back with Hanson winning a fight over a suplex. Martinez is laid on the top rope for some forearms (think Sheamus' ten forearms) but one heck of a right hand puts Hanson outside. Since Martinez is an athletic freak, we hit the Taker Dive over the corner, followed by a top rope spinwheel kick for two (should have been the finish).

A chokeslam doesn't work though and Hanson gets two off a powerslam. Hanson's own spinning kick gets two and as you might expect, it doesn't mean as much after Martinez's huge one earlier. Cue Davey Boy Smith Jr. for a distraction though, allowing Martinez to avoid a moonsault. The sitout chokeslam ends Hanson at 8:45.

**Rating:** B-. Martinez is the kind of guy that ROH needs to push as he's a bit different than the run of the mill guys you see around here so often. Hanson wasn't bad and I'm glad they're letting War Machine do their own things as there's only so much they can do in the tag division. Hopefully Smith sticks around too as he's an entertaining guy. Good opener here and the right guy won.

We look back at TK O'Ryan breaking his leg at the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show.

Hangman Page attacked Kazarian in the parking lot earlier this week.

#### Top Prospect Tournament Semifinals: Curt Stallion vs. John Skyler

From Manhattan Mayhem as we flash back to March 4. A lockup goes nowhere to start as I'm going to have a hard time telling these guys apart. Stallion rolls through a sunset flip and hits a jumping double stomp while shouting YOU'RE STUPID. So he's the heel here. Fine enough and at least there's something to set them apart. They head outside with one heck of a dive sending Skyler into the barricade and us to a break.

Back with Skyler getting two off a backsplash and grabbing a chinlock. Skyler gets two off a tiger bomb but stops to spit at him. Stallion is all fired up and no sells a German suplex before grabbing one of his own for two. Some running knees in the corner get two and Stallion no sells a superkick. Skyler gets two off a slingshot spear through the ropes, only to get caught in White Noise onto the knee for the good near fall. Stallion loads up something on the top, only to get caught in Southern Salvation (the middle rope Regal Roll) for the pin at 10:14.

**Rating:** B. I liked the match more than I was expecting to but I'm REALLY sick of this tournament. For some reason we've been stuck watching a match a week so the tournament has to drag on for nearly two months. It's been getting better but I'm WAY past the point of being interested in anyone involved with the whole thing.

Adam Cole has recorded a video for the Young Bucks, asking for things to go back to the way they were.

#### Six Man Tag Team Titles: Bully Ray/Briscoe Brothers vs. Kingdom

Kingdom is defending and have Silas Young replacing the injured O'Ryan. The champs bicker before the match so Bully asks if they know who the three of them are. The fight is on in a hurry with

Taven taking the worst of it in the form of a hard clothesline to the floor. Back from a break with Bully hitting those loud chops to Marseglia's chest. Mark comes in to keep up the beating, followed by a facewash from Jay. The other champs finally get it together and crotch Jay against the post to take over for the first time.

Marseglia and Taven choke in the corner, followed by Young dropping a knee for two. Taven gets the same off a top rope elbow with Mark making the save. We take a second break and come back with Mark cleaning house. A cheap shot from the apron slows him down though and it's time for the champs to argue again. The distraction allows the hot tag to Bully, who hits a quick triple 3D on Vinny for the pin at 10:41.

**Rating:** C+. That's the right call as the Kingdom wasn't doing anything at full strength so getting the titles off a weakened version was almost a requirement. Bully and the Briscoes are a more entertaining option but they still don't solve the issue of there not being enough teams to warrant the titles in the first place. At least they got the booking right here.

**Overall Rating:** C+. That's one of the better shows they've done in a good while, assuming you can ignore the ridiculous scheduling issues. We're just now setting up the finals of an eight man tournament that started two months ago. I have no idea when the finals are going to air but I'm not sure why I'm supposed to care at this point. ROH tries to do WAY too much with one hour a week, especially when they have so many throwaway episodes. At least something happened this week, which makes things a bit better.

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# Ring of Honor TV – March 8, 2017: One at a Time

## Ring of Honor

Date: March 8, 2017

Location: Stage AE, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Commentator: Ian Riccabani

Officially this is the go home show for the Fifteenth Anniversary Show but it's hard to really imagine how the schedule is going to go based on how ridiculous some of these tapings go. We're likely going to hear about the pay per view but also the Top Prospect Tournament, which continues to not do much for me. Let's get to it.

The Briscoe Brothers, Jay Lethal and Bobby Fish are ready for their eight man tag against the Bullet Club.

Opening sequence.

### Six Man Tag Team Titles: The Kingdom vs. The Rebellion

Kingdom is defending and Dalton Castle is on commentary. Titus and O'Ryan go after the hair to start as Ian points out how similar these two are, both in style and look. I really wouldn't bring up how only one of them really needs to be employed dude. Titus seems to tweak his ankle on a leapfrog so it's off to Vinnie and Caprice, both of whom try kicks to the ribs and then poke each other in the eye.

King and Taven come in instead with Kenny kicking him in the head. Titus comes back in to chop at O'Ryan and clean some house in general. The knee goes out again though and we take a break. Back with Titus being taken to the locker room and Coleman hitting something like an RKO on O'Ryan. King gets the tag but the referee doesn't see it, nor does he see King hammering on Taven in the

corner.

Coleman somehow knocks down all three champs but here's Lio Rush dressed as a member of the Rebellion to take the tag. Lio cleans house (Castle: "HOW IS THIS ALLOWED?") with his usual fast paced stuff before he gives King an RKO and watched from the apron. Ian: "Was this a ploy all along???" All along? It lasted like a minute and a half! The Kingdom's triple powerbomb retains the titles at 8:14.

**Rating:** D. At what point does Ring of Honor realize that these teams are worthless as well as uninteresting and that having titles for a "division" that has three regular teams (including the champions) is ludicrous. Big waste of time here and time that could have gone to ANYTHING else.

Jay White wants a rematch with Jay Briscoe from their time limit draw a few months back.

Briscoe calls White dog food and accepts.

Dalton Castle and the Boys want a Six Man Tag Team Title shot at the pay per view. Castle starts quoting Pocahontas, asking if you've ever asked the grinning bobcat why he grins. Castle: "WELL I HAVE! And I got 36 stitches and a rabies shot!"

Top Prospect Tournament First Round: Raphael King vs. Brian Milonas

Bob Evans has replaced Dalton on commentary. King is a frat boy with a female manager. On the other hand, Brian is a huge guy who weighs nearly 400lbs. King does some shouting and the slugout is on with Brian's right right hand not seeming to make contact. Trash is talked and King gets in a dropkick, only to be crushed by some splashes.

Brian misses a middle rope legdrop and gets kicked in the face as this isn't exactly working. Evans asks what else you can do other than kicking and punching Brian, which isn't the best thing to point out. The manager gets in a slap of her own, setting up a good looking Rock Bottom for two. A side slam sets up a....well I guess a backwards splash as Milonas was setting up for a regular splash but

turned around and just fell backwards for the pin at 3:38.

**Rating:** D-. No idea who these guys are and it was horrible to see Milonas just being huge and not having much skill beyond that. King was watchable enough but that doesn't mean it's worth watching. I really can't stand this tournament and this is one of the weaker classes of talent I've ever seen it have.

Christopher Daniels is your new guest commentator.

### Bullet Club vs. Jay Lethal/Briscoe Brothers vs. Bobby Fish

It's Cody, Adam Cole and the Young Bucks. We'll start with Lethal and Matt Jackson but Lethal has to knock the Club off the apron before really getting started. A suicide dive takes Cody into the barricade and everything breaks down in a hurry. We wind up with Cody and Lethal in the ring and Cody taking a cartwheel into a dropkick.

It's off to Mark who gets pulled to the floor and pummeled by Matt as this match is all over the place so far. Cole hits some bicycle kicks on Fish but takes a big jumping knee to the head for his efforts. That means a Briscoes vs. Bucks showdown and of course that means superkicks all around.

The Bucks add some big flip dives to the floor but Mark gets in a running Blockbuster off the apron on Cole. Not to be outdone, Cody superplexes Mark onto the whole pile of people for a major crash. Back from a break with the Bucks working over Mark but stopping to strut because they're cool heels you see.

Mark isn't ready to fight out of the corner just yet so Cody suplexes Cole onto him for no count as Fish and Lethal have the referee's attention. A flipping slam off the ropes takes Cole out though and the hot tag brings in Lethal. Everything breaks down and Lethal hits the four pack of suicide dives. Fish wants to pin Cole though and they get in a fight to take us to a second break.

Back with the Briscoes on their own and Mark punching all four Club members. A quadruple superkick is well scouted though and the Club is quadruple clotheslined to the floor. Jay gets two off a

powerbomb/neckbreaker combination but Matt flips out of the Doomsday Device. Superkicks a go-go set up Cross Rhodes to Jay. The Last Shot sets up a Meltzer Driver for the pin at Jay at 12:46.

**Rating:** B. Well that worked. This was all about flying all over the place and letting everyone look good (especially the Young Bucks of course). Lethal and Fish are fighting at the pay per view so their brawl here makes sense, making the match a little more logical. It's easily the best thing ROH has done in a few weeks and it was very necessary on this show.

Post match Cole is left alone in the ring so here's Daniels in the ring with some scissors. A pair of Angel's Wings drop Cole but here's Kazarian to help. That leads to Kazarian pulling off his shirt to reveal a Bullet Club shirt, which freaks Daniels out as expected. Kazarian knocks the scissors away from Daniels and takes a lot of yelling. Too Sweet brings the Bucks back out for double superkicks and the Club stands tall to end the show. Note that Kazarian didn't punch Daniels once, which seems like a potential swerve.

**Overall Rating:** D+. The main event did this show some wonders but there was just WAY too much damage done by the time we got there. As usual, Ring of Honor doesn't seem capable of focusing on anything long enough to really build it up, which is why we're seeing a pay per view build and a tournament at the same time. The main event helped but the talent drops off a cliff at various point in ROH and those first two matches really showed it.

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# Ring of Honor TV – February 8, 2017: Ring of Ho-Hum

## Ring of Honor

Date: February 8, 2017

Location: Center Stage Theater, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Colt Cabana

We're getting closer to the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show and tonight it's about the minor titles. First up we'll have the Young Bucks defending the ROH Tag Team Titles against the Tempura Boyz. After that though we have a six way match to crown a new #1 contender to Marty Scurll's TV Title. Let's get to it.

### BJ Whitmer/Punishment Martinez vs. War Machine

It's a brawl to start as Cabana is in full on heel mode, talking about how awesome he is at everything in life. Rowe takes over on Martinez to start but misses the shotgun knees in the corner, allowing Whitmer to get in a cheap shot from the apron. We take a way too early break and come back with Hanson cleaning house with back and forth corner clotheslines to Whitmer and Martinez.

To make things even worse, Hanson puts Martinez on the top rope and rams Whitmer's head into Punishment's ribs over and over. An overhead belly to belly makes things worse for Whitmer as everything breaks down. Whitmer gets in his exploder suplex but grabs a table instead of covering. Cabana doesn't care for the lack of disqualifications but settles for a double countout at 9:43.

**Rating:** C+. This is what the match should have been as War Machine is a great power brawling team. Whitmer is fine once they cut off

the Kevin Sullivan nonsense and Martinez is capable of doing some very horrible looking things to jobbers if given the chance. I had fun with this one and the ending was one of the only logical ways to go.

They brawl to another break after the match.

#### Kingdom vs. John Skyler/Corey Hollis/Joe A'Gau

Non-title. The Kingdom doesn't waste time as they take Joe to the floor for a triple bomb. Hollis gets sent into the post and it's Skyler alone against all three champions. That means a triple teaming but a double underhook backbreaker only gets two. A superkick into an enziguri gets the same as we hear about T.K. O'Ryan being a sassy horse. Skyler finally slips out and of a pumphandle and dives over for the hot tag to Hollis. Everything breaks down and the Triple Bomb ends Hollis at 5:03.

**Rating:** C. Better than I was expecting here with the jobbers getting to put in a little more offense than you would have thought. The Kingdom is still not all that interesting because it's just Matt Taven (who wasn't that interesting in the first place) plus two guys who just debuted as part of the team. Give us a little more and maybe I'll care but that isn't the case yet.

Post match the Kingdom says they'll never lose the titles but here are Dalton Castle and the Boys to interrupt. Taven isn't impressed and says bring it on, which shows how short the aisle really is in this arena. Dalton gets in but Cabana shoves the Boys down.

We look back at the Young Bucks agreeing to defend against the Tempura Boyz.

Colt Cabana leaves commentary due to a zero tolerance policy.

#### Tag Team Titles: Young Bucks vs. Tempura Boyz

The Bucks are defending and it's Nick cleaning house on Sho to start, including an assisted superkick to send him outside. Back from an early break with the Bucks in full control (duh) and a big highlight reel from the champs. Matt kicks Nick by mistake though and we get stereo deadlift German suplexes on the floor.

Things settle down again with the Bucks actually in a bit of trouble...which of course lasts all of ten seconds before some kicks and dives get them out of trouble. That means a SUCK IT/DELETE chant from Matt but Nick gets caught in a Boston crab. Cue the superkick for the save and the corner enziguri sets up the 450 to retain the titles at 9:27.

**Rating:** C-. Not much to see here but that's so often the case with Young Bucks matches. I'm not entirely sure on the idea of the Bucks vs. the Hardys but it's one of the biggest indy matches you can do at this point. If nothing else it gives me a great chuckle at the idea of the Bucks never showing up in TNA, making them look even worse by comparison, which is always a good thing.

Post match Hangman Page comes out to help the Bucks lay the Boyz out.

Marty Scurll loves the idea of six people fighting for a shot at his title.

Lio Rush vs. Chris Sabin vs. Alex Shelley vs. Donovan Dijak vs. Jonathan Gresham vs. Jay White

One fall to a finish and all six hug before the match. Scurll, on commentary, wants to gag at the sight. Thankfully there are tags here so it's not quite as insane, though it's under Lucha Rules, meaning going to the floor counts as a tag. Speaking of which, that exact rules quickly gives us Rush vs. Dijak with Marty saying he can do everything Lio can do. I'm already liking Scurll and I've heard him talk for all of a minute and a half.

Everything breaks down and we wind up with Shelley calling a spot to Rush, who can't quite fight his way out of the corner. With Scurll, who is holding an umbrella, talking about the Power Rangers, Sabin and Shelley argue for a bit, only to quickly hug us to a break. Back with Sabin knocking Shelley to the floor but getting Stunned by Gresham. White and Rush get into a very fast paced exchange with Jay getting the better of it as Rush is knocked out to the floor.

Dijak gets Rock Bottomed (Scurll: "I would kick out of this.") for

two and it's time to hit the dives. Scurll: "THEY'RE ALL GONNA DIE! I could do that!" Dijak adds a springboard corkscrew dive so Gresham and Rush double team the big guy down. Gresham goes up top but the freaking Rebellion comes out to get in a big brawl. Back in and Rush kicks Dijak in the head but his top rope dive is caught by the throat. Feast Your Eyes gives Dijak the shot at 9:45.

**Rating:** C+. This was the usual over done match with too many people involved. The action was good though and that's what matters most here, along with Dijak getting the title shot. I mean, he's not going to win the thing because he's leaving but it's a nice bone to throw him on the way out.

Scurll stares him down.

War Machine is brawling with Whitmer/Martinez in the back to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C. Just a show really as they're still setting up the pay per view with a long time to go. I'm not sure how interesting that show is going to be with all the names that are rumored to be leaving the promotion but it's nice to have a show focused on the ROH names instead of everyone else possible for a change.

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# Ring of Honor TV – January 11, 2017: ...Excellence?

## Ring of Honor

Date: January 11, 2017

Location: 2300 Arena, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Nigel McGuinness

We're back to the regular schedule this week and that means the Decade of Excellence tournament continues. The winner gets a World Title shot at the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show against new World Champion Adam Cole, who won the title for an unprecedented third time at Wrestle Kingdom 11. Let's get to it.

We open with clips of Christopher Daniels defeating Mark Briscoe in the first tournament match.

Daniels talks about being around for the start of Ring of Honor. He's been around for fifteen years because there is no expiration date on destiny. I've never been a big Daniels fan but I could really go for him winning the tournament and the title. He's earned it with some excellent promos recently and it would be cool to see.

Opening sequence.

Decade of Excellence Tournament First Round: Jay Briscoe vs. BJ Whitmer

Unfortunately this means we get to hear about Kevin Sullivan, who is still at ringside. Whitmer pokes Jay in the eyes to start and chops him in the back of the head a few times. Jay's running clothesline in the corner rocks Whitmer but they head outside where Punishment Martinez offers a distraction so BJ can take over.

Back from a break as I continue to loathe all things associated with this Sullivan story, save for Martinez of course. Whitmer runs into an elbow and it's time for some snap punches. A suicide dive takes Whitmer into the barricade but Jay might have banged up his elbow. Whitmer seems to be enjoying the pain so Jay punches him a few more times, only to get caught in an exploder suplex for two. It's time for the spike but Mark Briscoe comes out for the save, allowing the Jay Driller to score the pin at 9:57.

**Rating:** C-. Not bad here and the lack of Sullivan doing anything of note helped a lot. Briscoe advancing is a big deal as he's still one of the top stars in the company and can be turned into a big dragon (albeit a friendly one) for someone to vanquish. It's not bad and the right winner helped a lot.

Whitmer says everything ends with a sacrifice next week.

#### Silas Young/Beer City Bruiser vs. Alex Reynolds/Jon Silver

Silver actually suplexes Young for two to start until the massive Bruiser comes in with a clothesline to knock Reynolds into a German suplex for two. Bruiser adds a cannonball for two more on Alex but he avoids a charge and rolls over for the tag off to Silver. The much smaller Jon manages a suplex on the Bruiser in an impressive display of strength. A Codebreaker into a German suplex gets two on Young but he kicks Silver in the head. Bruiser adds a Banzai Drop and Young gets the pin at 4:50.

**Rating:** C. This was better than it had any right to be and that's always a nice surprise. Silver and Reynolds are on a long list of names of smaller guys who don't have much of a look but can put on an energetic enough match to get by. They need some more polishing (ok a LOT more polishing) but at least it was a good first performance.

Post match Young says he and Bruiser want another partner to go after the Six Man Tag Team Titles (oh yeah those exist). They call out Bull James and then beat him up for not being the guy. Ok then.

#### Kingdom vs. Cheeseburger/Will Ferrara/Joey Daddiego

Non-title. The Kingdom jumps them to start with Marseglia beating up all three at once until Daddiego gets in a fall away slam to put the champs on the floor. Back from a break with Ferrara getting stomped in the corner as the Kingdom continues to be difficult to tell apart because no one bothered to tell us anything about them.

O'Ryan spears Taven by mistake and the hot tag brings in Cheeseburger. Everything breaks down and the Kingdom starts firing off kicks, only to be taken down by the palm strikes. There are a bit too many members of the Kingdom though and a kick drops Cheeseburger so Taven can frog splash him for the pin at 7:53.

**Rating:** D+. Here's the problem: Kelly said the Kingdom rules the six man division and I guess that's true, assuming you can name more

than three or four six man teams. There's just NO need for these titles and it's becoming more and more clear every single time they're brought up. The Kingdom is fine enough but that doesn't mean they're in need of titles.

We look at Matt Hardy promising to come after the Young Bucks. I still love the fact that, at least so far, TNA doesn't seem to be gaining anything at all from this match.

Here are the Young Bucks with something to say. Matt can barely talk because he's been screaming for joy over their new contracts. They're not spot monkeys and they won't be deleted. The lights go out and a drone (not Vanguard I) flies in, earning itself a superkick.

#### Decade of Excellence Tournament First Round: Colt Cabana vs. Chris Sabin

Alex Shelley is on commentary. They fight over a wristlock to start until Chris kicks him in the chest and gets two off a high crossbody. What looked like a thumb to the eye allows Colt to send him outside and we go to a break. Back with Colt putting on a one armed camel clutch but missing a middle rope splash. Instead Chris gets in a missile dropkick to send him outside, setting up a running kick to the chest. Back in and Cabana scores off a hip attack but here are the Boys to fan Cabana a bit. The distraction lets Chris get a small package for the pin at 8:14.

**Rating:** C-. This was fine again though I'm not wild on Sabin, who was hardly beaten down, using a very heel style rollup to win a match. Neither guy seems to have even the slightest chance of winning the thing, which hopefully is being loaded up for a Daniels win, though Jay Lethal is also a possibility.

**Overall Rating:** C. This wasn't the worst show in the world but it's much more about setting up things for the future instead of being a major show this week. There weren't a lot of big names involved this week and, save for a longer squash, most of it didn't do anything for me. It's still fine but that's not really noteworthy.

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