

Ring of Honor TV – March 15, 2017: Tournament Are NOT Always Awesome

Ring of Honor

Date: March 15, 2017

Location: Stage AE, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Commentator: Ian Riccabani

The 15th Anniversary Show has come and gone and...it's not clear when we'll hear about it on TV. Unfortunately that's the way this place works and there's really not a lot that can be done about it. It's hard to say what we'll get on this show, aside from the Top Prospect Tournament of course. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Alex Shelley is the first guest commentator.

Young Bucks vs. Coast to Coast

Non-title. So we're not even up to Manhattan Mayhem on this one? Sweet goodness they take their sweet time around here. Nick and St. Giovanni get things going with a fight over a wristlock, only to have Nick drop down for a SUCK IT. Some rapid fire kicks have Coast to Coast on the floor, setting up the double dives but Ali pulls them to the floor. Of course the fans eat things up because they want to be cheering cool heels despite being smart fans. Leon hits a Downward Spiral on Matt and we take a break.

Back with Nick hitting a springboard SUCK IT crossbody on Leon. Coast to Coast (the double springboard dropkick to the Tree of Woe) gets two on Nick but that means a superkick. Nick starts firing off more kicks, plus a running Sliced Bread #2. Ali gets superkicked in the back of the leg and the springboard 450 is good for the pin at 7:04.

Rating: C-. This was a decent rub for Coast to Coast though as usual, the ROH fans continue to be some of the most irritating in the world. Then again the Bucks are a big part of that problem for reasons I've covered far too many times already. This could have

been much worse though and Coast to Coast got a rub, which is more than you can expect most of the time.

Post match Leon takes a Twist of Fate and a Swanton Bomb.

We look at Lio Rush teasing joining the Rebellion before costing them a match last week.

Rush says he's sick of the Rebellion and they don't know what they're dealing with. Cue Kenny King to say this is serious and a challenge is set for next week.

Brutal Bob Evans joins Ian and Alex.

Top Prospect Tournament First Round: Curt Stallion vs. Preston Quinn

Stallion looks like Andrew Everett. Quinn has been wrestling for 23 years and has a Jim Cornette knockoff in his corner. Curt has to shake the manager's hand and gets punched in his head as a result. Some forearms set up a double stomp for two on Quinn but the manager (Andy Vineberg) trips him up.

A sitdown brainbuster (exactly what it sounds like) gets two on Curt, followed by Abyss' Shock Treatment. Something like White Noise onto the knee (Okada does it) is good for two on Quinn but he grabs a good looking piledriver. Stallion avoids a middle rope elbow though and catches Quinn with a running headbutt for the pin at 7:09.

Rating: D. This tournament needs to end REALLY soon because no one has impressed me even in the slightest and someone is going to get a contract and a title shot out of this mess. The wrestling has been nothing of note and the characters have been even worse. You might want to make sure you have the talent to pull something like this off because it's been a real problem in recent weeks.

Here's Cody to ask where Jay Lethal has been. One fan says he's seen him and Cody calls the fan a liar. Ever since Final Battle, Lethal has disappeared like the coward he really is. That's not what Cody wants to talk about tonight though because he'd rather talk about Adam Page. Cue Page with his noose around his neck so Cody talks about bullrope matches with a cowbell included. The DUSTY chant starts up and Cody says the rope is going to become a Texas bullrope. The official challenge is laid out for Supercard of Honor. Jay Briscoe is ready for his rematch with Jay White next week.

Jonathon Gresham vs. Dalton Castle

Gresham's first name is spelled differently on his video graphic and his name graphic. Jonathon sits on the mat to avoid an Irish whip and grabs a rope to block an O'Connor roll. Some arm work doesn't do much on Castle so he holds up a fist to say bring it. A nice technical exchange ends with Castle's chest thrust, followed by a running knee in the corner.

Gresham grabs both arms for a freaky rollup and a springboard hurricanrana to the floor. A running knee from the apron sets up a chest thrust from Gresham and the gimmick infringement doesn't set well with Castle. Neither does Jonathan diving off the top so Dalton catches him in the Bang-a-Rang for the pin at 4:41.

Rating: C. This was fine and a good way to warm Castle up for his World Title match at Supercard of Honor. Castle is an interesting choice for that spot as I don't think anyone believes he's going to win the title but he'll certainly get a great reaction when he's out there. Gresham is still a solid hand but he's not going anywhere.

Marty Scurll is ready for his TV Title defense at Supercard of Honor.

Mark Briscoe joins commentary.

War Machine vs. BJ Whitmer/Punishment Martinez

No DQ. War Machine jumps them from behind during the entrance and the fight starts in a hurry at ringside. Rowe takes Martinez inside for a Superman Punch, followed by another one on Whitmer for good measure. Running charges crush Martinez and Whitmer before BJ and Hanson head back inside. BJ pelts a chair at Hanson's head to take over and we take a break.

Back with Rowe hitting running clotheslines to both opponents, followed by a hard knee to Martinez's face for no cover. Instead BJ grabs a great looking release German suplex to send Rowe flying. Rowe and Whitmer trade running forearms until Whitmer's exploder suplex gets two. Hanson comes back in with a pop up powerslam for two and it's time for a table. Whitmer has to escape Fallout and all three head to the floor for Martinez's Taker Dive for a BIG pop. Back in again and Hanson takes a bit too long loading up something on top, allowing Punishment to chokeslam him through the table for the pin at 10:25.

Rating: C+. This worked well enough and Martinez continues to be one of the more entertaining people to watch on the whole roster. Just let him be something like the Undertaker and put on a bunch of flashy performances. I'm sure that's not the idea though because we can have the boring Top Prospect Tournament matches instead.

Post match Martinez chokeslams Whitmer to break up the team, which doesn't seem to be anything interesting to the announcers.

Overall Rating: C-. I've seen worse shows from ROH and oddly enough almost all of them seem to take place right after a pay per view. These are more or less filler shows and that doesn't make for the most interesting stuff in the world. At least we had a fun main event and Martinez leaving the worthless BJ. Watchable show here but nothing you need to see.

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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 15th 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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