

# Ring of Honor TV – November 2, 2016: It's All The Rage In Japan

## Ring of Honor

Date: November 2, 2016

Location: Lowell Memorial Auditorium, Lowell, Massachusetts

Commentators: Steve Corino, Kevin Kelly

We're still in Lowell and things are slowly starting to get ready for Final Battle. Kyle O'Reilly is probably on his way through the Bullet Club to get to Adam Cole and that's likely going to include a tag match with Cole and Adam Page against ReDRagon, which has the potential to be a lot of fun. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of ReDRagon vs. the Adam's.

Opening sequence.

### Donovan Dijak vs. Danny Miles

The fans know this is going to hurt. Dijak kicks the handshake away and mauls Miles into the corner with forearms. The chokebreaker and back to back Feast Your Eyes wrap this up at 2:17.

Prince Nana says Dijak will never quit.

We look at the Motor City Machine Guns brawling with the Bullet Club after last week's show went off the air.

The Briscoes are ready for the Addiction.

### Briscoe Brothers vs. Addiction

Actually hang on a second as the Addiction is in street clothes. Frankie says they're too banged up from Ladder War to compete here before going into the Briscoes' legacy here in ROH. When Kazarian thinks about legacies, he thinks about Christopher Daniels, who has given everything

he has to Ring of Honor and it's Kazarian's privilege to stand beside him and fight the wars with him. The Addiction leaves as I wonder what has lit a fire under them with these promos lately. I'm not a big Daniels fan but I'd love to see these speeches go somewhere.

The Briscoes say they didn't lace their boots up for nothing so let's get the Young Bucks out here right now for a World Tag Team Title shot.

#### Adam Page/Adam Cole vs. Briscoe Brothers

The Adam's are here because the Bucks are still banged up. The Briscoes fight off an early ambush and it's Page vs. Mark to start, only to have Cole jump Mark from behind. It's Page sending Mark into the corner as the villains take over early on. The announcers use the stumping time to talk about Cole's long list of challengers, which is one of the better uses of such time that you're going to see.

We come back from a break with Mark having to fight off the double teaming with an enziguri to Cole. The hot tag brings in Jay (who is oddly booed) for a hard clot and neckbreaker on Page. Jay loads up the Jay Driller on the champ but takes a World Title shot to the head for the DQ at 7:30.

**Rating:** D+. This didn't have time to go anywhere but I'm digging Page getting a push. He showed he can go in the feud with Jay Briscoe and it's not like you can ever have too much talent. The Briscoes are one of those teams who can be fine no matter how many times they lose and I'm sure they'll get another Tag Team Title feud soon enough.

ReDRagon makes the save despite Fish barely being able to move due to bad ribs.

Matt Taven says the Kingdom debuts next week.

Jay Lethal thinks he'll get the World Title back in London.

We recap the Six Man Tag Team Title tournament so far.

Caprice Coleman says the Cabinet is ready to win the belts.

## Six Man Tag Team Title Tournament Semifinals: The Cabinet vs. ACH/Jay White/Kushida

This is for a spot in the finals, despite the other half of the bracket not even starting yet. The Cabinet does their protest of the handshake but jump the good guys, meaning it's time to stomp on White. We come back from a way too early break with White still in trouble until he kicks Coleman and Titus off the apron.

It's off to ACH (now Super ACH apparently, which I actually kind of dig) and everything speeds up in a hurry. The announcers talk about how this is more traditional in Japan, which is as close of an admittance to "we're doing it because New Japan did" as you're going to get. The Hoverboard Lock sends Coleman to the ropes for a hilarious "GET HIM OFF ME!" in a high pitched voice.

Coleman's arm gets worked on with a variety of wristlocks. King low bridges ACH to the floor as everything breaks down again. We come back from another break with King suplexing ACH for two as Corino thinks he and Kelly can get Nigel McGuinness to come out of retirement and win the belts.

ACH sends Coleman and Titus together and brings in Kushida to clean house. Everything breaks down and Titus gets triple teamed until Coleman and King have to save a pin. The Sky Splitter gets two on White and Kushida kicks King and Titus to the floor. A Rock Bottom plants Coleman and the Midnight Star gives ACH the pin at 21:07.

**Rating:** B-. I really can't stand this tournament, though the Cabinet being eliminated helps a lot. They're really not hiding the fact that these titles exist because New Japan has them and that doesn't do much for me as a fan. You have three guys thrown together against a team with a stupid gimmick and if you win three matches in a row you get titles? These things just exist and I need more than that to care.

**Overall Rating:** C. This show was kind of all over the place with the tournament eating up a bunch of time, a quick squash and a long segment involving the Briscoes. It's certainly not a bad episode but it basically comes down to your stance on the tournament. If you like that, you'll

like this show. If you've grown sick of all things New Japan like I have solely because of ROH, this probably isn't your favorite show.

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# Ring of Honor TV – July 6, 2016: Enough

## Ring of Honor

Date: July 6, 2016|

Host: Kevin Kelly

We're at a special show this week with the 250<sup>th</sup> episode, which is going to showcase the best of 2016 so far. This could mean several things, though I have a feeling we'll be seeing a lot of the New Japan wrestlers who have basically dominated the year so far. Unfortunately that means even more time away from the new stuff ROH is doing but that's a common problem for the promotion. Let's get to it.

TV Title: Tomohiro Ishii vs. Bobby Fish

From Global Wars with Ishii defending after taking the title from

Roderick Strong, the champion that Fish had been chasing. Fish actually runs the much bigger Ishii over to start but Ishii does the same to send Fish outside for a bit of his time. Back in and Fish fires off some kicks to put Ishii in trouble, which isn't something you see happen to him that often. Ishii wins another slugout though and a headbutt puts Fish down with ease.

Fish makes the mistake of headbutting Ishii and the referee has to check on him as a result. The champ gets knocked off the top but Fish misses a flying headbutt, only to start back in with kicks to the knee. We take a break and come back with Fish hitting an exploder suplex for two but getting headbutted for his efforts. Ishii gets his own near fall with a delayed vertical superplex, followed by a Saito Suplex.

Fish looks mostly dead so Ishii powerbombs him for two more but Bobby grabs a sleeper. I could go for a small vs. big match without the smaller guy jumping on his back with a sleeper. It's just so overdone. Ishii, seemingly annoyed with how lame Fish's strategy was, German suplexes him down.

They head to the apron with Fish back on his feet and slugging it out. As expected, Ishii easily knocks him down but Fish kicks the leg out to put both guys down on the floor. Back in and a hard lariat gets two for the champ but Fish goes back to the sleeper. He fires off some elbows to the head and survives a flip attempt to actually knock Ishii out at 15:30 (original time).

**Rating:** B. The match was a good, hard hitting brawl but Ishii is the definition of a guy that had no business winning the title or being involved in this story whatsoever. Strong vs. Fish had been a well built up story but instead of getting the payoff we had been set up for, Ishii got the belt despite having no connection to either of them. That's becoming too common of a tradition and it's getting old in a hurry. This match was good but Fish vs. Strong would have been as well and had a strong story to go with it. Which sounds better?

Briscoe Brothers vs. Hiroshi Tanahashi/Michael Elgin

From the 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show and no real story here other than ROH vs. New Japan in a “dream” match. Jay and Michael get things going with Jay kicking him in the face but getting gorilla pressed to put him right back down. We get the very cool delayed vertical suplex with Mark’s interference not doing a thing to stop Elgin. That’s such insane power.

It’s off to Mark vs. Tanahashi for the air guitar vs. Redneck Kung Fu battle which results in Tanahashi grabbing an armbar. Naturally that means it’s time to talk about Hiroshi’s hair but Jay is tagged in, only to stay on the floor while Mark hits a Blockbuster off the apron to take Elgin out. We get the big showdown (which isn’t treated as big or a showdown) with Jay getting two off an elbow to Tanahashi’s jaw. Mr. Wrestling 3 finally realizes what we saw there but it’s already off to Mark for a Russian legsweep.

The fans chant for Elgin but get a commercial instead. Back with the tag bringing in Elgin for some running strikes to Mark’s chest. Jay has to save his brother from Rolling Germans as everything breaks down. A back elbow/German suplex combo sends Mark flying but Jay breaks up the High Fly Flow.

Mark shouts a lot and flips Mike off the top for two. With Tanahashi down on the floor, the brothers take turns with headbutts until Mark is backdropped over the top. Elgin no sells a boot to the face (he’s from New Japan remember) and clotheslines Jay down for a breather. The hot tag brings in Tanahashi for some dragon screw leg whips but he walks into a neckbreaker.

Froggy Bow gets two before Elgin breaks up the Doomsday Device. In a cool move, Elgin gives Tanahashi a reverse Alabama Slam onto Mark for two more with Jay making the save. Jay is dispatched so it’s a powerbomb into the High Fly Flow for the pin on Mark at 14:50 (original match time).

**Rating:** C+. The match was fine though I’m rarely a fan of these matches where the only story is one great team against two guys who might team together for a few months. Oh and of course the New Japan team goes over clean. Heaven forbid Tanahashi isn’t treated as the biggest star in the history of ever over here.

Clips from the Fight Without Honor to blow off Silas Young vs. Dalton Castle. We see less than a minute of the match which ran over sixteen minutes. To recap: we can see a full TV Title match where a New Japan guy took a spot from an ROH guy for no reason other than "we need ROH vs. New Japan" and then we can see a full meaningless "dream" match where the freshly created New Japan team defeated the undisputed best team in ROH history. The blowoff match to a year long ROH only feud can't even get a minute of TV time though. I've said it many times now but this isn't an ROH show. This is New Japan TV: America.

### ReDRagon vs. The Kingdom vs. Young Bucks

From ROH TV on January 20. It's Cole/Bennett for the Kingdom here and this is a street fight. The Bucks jump O'Reilly and Fish during the entrances and we're starting fast. The injured Taven gets a double superkick, as does ring announcers Bobby Cruz. ReDRagon gets back in to work on the Bucks, only to have the Kingdom come in again to turn this into a wild brawl that is going to be almost impossible to keep track of.

Bennett punches Fish down and it's Cole setting Matt in a chair in the middle of the ring. A running charge sets up a chinlock and even Kelly has to acknowledge that it's a spot they've seen before. Kyle backdrops Nick on the floor for a thud before diving into a superkick. We take a break and come back with Cole in a shopping cart and being wheeled into a superkick.

The Bucks set up a table at ringside but it's ReDRagon double teaming Matt inside. The Kingdom brings in a ladder (Mr. Wrestling III: "It's amazing what you can find in south Philadelphia") to take out ReDRagon and it's Cole putting the ladder around his neck. That only allows ReDRagon to blast the ladder with chairs before setting the ladder on top of those chairs.

Bennett comes back in to spinebuster Kyle onto the steel but the Bucks powerbomb him (Bennett) through the ladder. A Swanton onto the ladder sets up More Bang For Your Buck but Cole pulls the referee out at two. Kevin Kelly accidentally eats a superkick and Mr. Wrestling III freaks out while still shouting SUPERKICK in a funny moment.

We take another break and come back with Cole hitting the Canadian Destroyer on Matt but walking into a superkick from Nick. Bennett takes Chasing the Dragon on the floor, leaving O'Reilly and Cole to fight in the aisle. That leaves Fish alone against the Bucks but he stops to spear Bennett through a table on the floor. A double superkick off the apron gives Fish the weakest table bump in history with Nick having to splash him the rest of the way through.

Back in and the Bucks put a party hat on Bennett for a superkick party, only to have Maria hit them both low for a save. This brings out AJ Styles to hit Bennett in the ribs with a chair before laying him out with Bloody Sunday. Maria gets a Meltzer Driver and the Indytaker into the Styles Clash puts Bennett away at 16:45.

**Rating:** B. Totally wild brawl here and a lot of fun at the same time. This wasn't about anything more than carnage and that's all they delivered the entire time. The piledriver to Maria was a good way to write her off TV and the Kingdom goes out in a great performance, especially considering it wasn't their usual combination.

**Overall Rating:** F. The wrestling wasn't the problem here (obviously). The problem is the same thing I covered earlier: this isn't about Ring of Honor anymore. I know the next set of TV tapings doesn't feature the New Japan wrestlers but look at what they consider the best of the first half of 2016: New Japan wrestler, New Japan wrestlers, one minute of ROH only and the New Japan stable.

Also this was somehow their usage of the 250<sup>th</sup> episode. No mention of the history of the show, no classic matches (or even match), nothing but "Hey here's a bunch of New Japan stuff in case you haven't seen enough of it yet." ROH should be better than this by now and it's not like they can't stand on their own feet without New Japan.

I really can't imagine their ratings go up that high when they're there, especially when they're around that often. It's not even a novelty anymore as they're around so much that we just had a highlight show featuring them in every match. Having them around every once in awhile for a set of tapings here and there is fine as they're certainly an



attraction but this is WAY too far and has been for a long time.

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## **Ring of Honor TV – May 25, 2016: OBNOXIOUS YELLING!**

### **Ring of Honor**

Date: May 25, 2016

Host: Kevin Kelly

It's another special show, this time focusing on the Bullet Club. In other words, yes again we're looking at something that is going to be centered in Japan and will likely feature something from Honor Rising. I don't know when Ring of Honor plans to go back to normal but ANYTIME SOON would be appreciated. Let's get to it.

Since most of these matches are heavily clipped, I won't be rating them unless most of the match is shown.

Kevin Kelly opens things up and promises to show us some clips from Global Wars, which could actually be something pertaining to the current

storylines.

We look at Bullet Club showing up in Ring of Honor and one of their first major matches from War of the Worlds 2014.

#### IWGP Tag Team Titles: Briscoe Brothers vs. Doc Gallows/Karl Anderson

Anderson and Gallows are defending and we're joined in progress with Jay and Anderson slugging it out in the ring. Jay kicks Anderson in the face as Mark is backdropped on the floor. Gallows splashes Jay and the Boot of Doom (not named here) gets two. Mark gets back in to break up the Magic Killer and chops away at Doc. Now it's Jay back up with a discus forearm on Karl, followed by the Froggy Bow for a close two. Jay gets knocked to the floor and Mark dives into a Gun Stun (Diamond Cutter). Now the Magic Killer puts Mark away at 3:14 shown of 10:40.

From Global Wars 2015.

#### Bullet Club vs. ROH All-Stars

AJ Styles/Doc Gallows/Karl Anderson/Young Bucks

War Machine/Briscoe Brothers/Roderick Strong

Joined in progress (of course) with Ray Rowe diving off the top onto everyone. Strong superplexes Matt and AJ in succession before Nick breaks up another one on Gallows. Instead Strong superplexes Nick onto a big pile on the floor. Back in and Gallows hits his choke bomb on Hanson, followed by Bloody Sunday from AJ. Styles swears and Corino is shocked. Strong breaks up the Styles Clash and Jay superkicks Matt into a jumping knee, followed by the Jay Driller. Mark's Froggy Bow puts Matt away at 3:49 shown of 17:25.

TIME FOR MORE HONOR RISING!!! You didn't think they were forgetting about this one did you?

#### Never Openweight Six Man Tag Team Titles: Elite vs. Briscoe Brothers/Toru Yano

Elite, challenging here, is a subset of the Club comprised of the Young

Bucks and Kenny Omega. Fellow Club member Cody Hall jumps the Briscoes before the bell and Yano is triple teamed, which draws little more than a hard stare from the referee. The Briscoes get back in to clean house with Nick being thrown over the top and onto Hall for a big crash.

Yano leans against the ropes until Hall grabs his legs, allowing the Bucks to hit a double superkick. A triple dive from the Elite keeps the champions in trouble and it's time to choke Yano in the corner. We take a break and come back with Omega holding Yano in an abdominal stretch. Nick cartwheels into a backflip into a...backrake. Eh that's no running into a Kevin Owens chinlock.

With nothing else working, Yano pulls the buckle pad off (remember that it's a big column instead of individual pads) to block superkicks and then nail Matt. The tag brings in Mark as things speed up. The threat of Redneck Kung Fu deters Nick for a bit but Omega superkicks Mark down. Mark gets powerbombed into an enziguri in the corner, followed by the Swanton Bomb while Mark was hanging from the ropes for two. A triple superkick (Are you getting the concept yet?) gets two with Jay making the save.

Yano gets the tag for some low blows, though this time the referee just didn't see them. Omega hair sprays Hall by mistake and gets low blowed and rolled up for two. The Briscoes come back in and it's a double Indytaker, followed by More Bang For Your Buck for the pin on Yano at 12:55.

**Rating:** C+. The match was entertaining enough, assuming you can tolerate all the superkicks. If there's one thing that the Club (and ROH in general) don't get, it's the concept of less is more. These titles don't really mean anything either as they were introduced in January and we're already on the sixth reign.

Here's MORE from Honor Rising with the final match from Anderson and Gallows before they head to WWE.

Bullet Club vs. ReDRagon/Hirooki Goto/Katsuyori Shibata

It's Bad Luck Fale (a monster), Tama Tonga, Anderson and Gallows for the

Club here. The Club attacks to start (of course) until we settle down to Kyle firing off kicks at Karl. Goto comes in and we take a break. Back with Fale pounding on Goto in the corner before it's back to Karl for a chinlock.

Tonga comes in for a running splash and dropkick with Shibata making the save. He even kicks his partner for some motivation, which actually drives Goto to clothesline Tama. Instead of tagging though, Goto would rather yell at Shibata. Fish is smart enough to tag himself in as everything breaks down. Tonga gets kicked down but still comes back with a fireman's carry flapjack to plant Fish.

The double tag brings in Shibata to forearm Gallows down in the corner but Doc comes out with a hard uppercut. Everything breaks down again and a reverse 3D gets two on Shibata. Goto saves Shibata from the Magic Killer and escapes the Gun Stun. The Gallows Pole gets two on Shibata but he comes back with a quick choke, followed by a running kick to Doc's chest for the pin at 10:22.

**Rating:** C. As usual, this was fine though I have no reason to care about who wins and who loses. It's a three and a half month old match with people I might have heard of if I watch enough New Japan. Nothing to see here other than some watchable action, which isn't enough after a show of nothing but that.

We go back to this year's Global Wars with Colt Cabana holding Jay Lethal in the Billy Goat's Curse. Cue the Young Bucks to superkick the referee and Taeler Hendrix before getting in the ring to hand Lethal and Cabana shirts. Then the lights go out and come back up with Adam Cole in the ring, of course sporting the shirt. More superkicks (with Mr. Wrestling 3 doing his obnoxious yelling every time) drop Lethal and Cabana and Cole says this is their house. Security runs in and eats a bunch of superkicks, meaning it's time for some crotch chops (Wrestling 3: "THAT'S HOT!").

Tama Loa and Tama Tonga (fellow Club members) come out and more security is beaten up with superkick after superkick. We cut forward to a security member being powerbombed through a table, which of course has been spray

painted BC. The announcers eat superkicks so the Bucks take their places and do what sound like Jim Ross/Jerry Lawler impressions. Lethal is tied to the ropes as Cole picks up the ROH World Title. That means EVEN MORE SUPERKICKS before Cole runs around with the belt. The cameraman gets superkicked and the Club talks into the camera to end things.

Cole says this is a long time coming because this isn't about little kids like the Kingdom anymore. Lethal has been saying he has no challengers but everyone knows that Cole is the man around here. He's coming to take the title because he can.

**Overall Rating:** D. Uh...yeah. The last little bit was good because it actually addressed something going on in Ring of Honor but the rest felt like more "WE LOVE NEW JAPAN" stuff, which has been going on for months now. I'm sure you've heard all my standard issues at this point so I won't bother doing it again, but they need to get back to regular stuff and soon. This is just making me care even less about ROH and I'm already forgetting most of the stories they're doing. There was no indication that next week is another special but it's almost too late to get back there, especially if the Club is going to be the focus now.

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# Ring of Honor TV – April 27, 2016: ROH Doing New Japan The WWE Way

## Ring of Honor

Date: April 27, 2016

Location: Korakuen Hall, Tokyo, Japan

Attendance: 1,367

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Mr. Wrestling 3

We're still in Japan and back in February with more matches from Honor Rising 2016. At this point you almost have to expect Ring of Honor to skip most of the Dallas stuff and just do a new set of TV tapings in May with the New Japan guys again. There won't be anything major in storyline terms here but hopefully the action will be good. Let's get to it.

### Jay Lethal/Tetsuya Naito vs. Kazuchika Okada/Yoshi-Hashi

Okada is the IWGP World Champion but has since lost the title to Naito, who is kind of a loner, which is why he's the leader of a stable. Lethal and Okada start things off in what's actually a pretty cool visual. They trade wristlocks to start as we get the silent treatment (not a bad thing) from the fans. An early Lethal Injection attempt is countered (amazingly enough) but Jay ducks the Rainmaker to get us to a standoff. Naito doesn't want to tag in and we take a break.

Back with Naito tagging in to jump over the apron and dropkick Naito for two. A quick Codebreaker allows for the tag off to Okada who eats a tornado DDT for his efforts. Lethal adds a roaring elbow but accidentally superkicks Naito (thankfully without a Young Bucks reference), allowing Okada to dropkick him down. The hot (minus the crowd reaction) tag brings in Yoshi for a neckbreaker and Blockbuster for two each. The Book of Truth is brought in to poor results but Naito's goon Evil (formerly known as Watanabe) shoves Yoshi off the top, setting up the Lethal Injection for the pin at 12:56.

**Rating:** C+. This was fine and Lethal is really starting to feel like a major player instead of someone in over his head. I'm still not a big fan of the guy but he's improved by leaps and bounds in the last year or so. Naito was fun to watch but I need to see more of him to get the idea of his whole deal.

Naito reads the Book of Truth and then uses it to pound on Yoshi. Jay shakes his hand post match to imply a future partnership.

### Kazarian vs. Kushida

Kushida's IWGP Junior Heavyweight Title isn't on the line. It's a fight over a top wristlock to start as the announcers talk about the referee's career. Kushida gets in an early Hoverboard Lock but Kazarian bails to the ropes. That's fine with Kushida as he rides Kazarian on the mat to take us to a break.

Back with Kazarian snapping the throat across the ropes and getting in the slingshot DDT. We hit the choking with Kushida pointing to his throat as he can't breathe. A Backstabber gets two on Kushida as Kelly says we'll be seeing more Honor Rising stuff for weeks to come. Kushida gets in a dropkick to send Kazarian out to the floor and there's a big flip dive to take him out again.

Back in and it's off to the submission attempts so Kazarian goes American with a rake to the eyes. An electric chair into a rollup gets two as the announcers talk about Japanese baseball. Kazarian loads up the Flux Capacitor (because both of these guys LOVE Back to the Future in a parallel the announcers miss) but Kushida grabs the Hoverboard Lock to slam Kazarian down to the mat. Another Hoverboard Lock makes him tap at 9:37.

**Rating:** C. I liked this more than I was expecting to but really I just want to go watch Back to the Future. Kushida still doesn't do much for me and Kazarian hasn't been the same guy I used to be a fan of back in TNA. I'm also not sure why you wouldn't make this a title match to add a little spice. The wrestling was fine though.

The Briscoes get into shenanigans on the streets of Tokyo.

## Elite vs. ReDRagon/Katsuyori Shibata

Elite is a subset of Bullet Club comprised of Kenny Omega and the Young Bucks because we haven't seen them enough on the regular shows. The Elite is sent out to the floor and Shibata and Omega fight past the barricade. The Bucks try stereo sunset flips and get caught in matching cross armbreakers. Shibata puts Omega in one as well, only to get powerbombed onto his partners. Omega is left alone in the ring so he dives over the top to take everyone down.

We take another break and come back with the Elite taking turns choking Fish. A tag match breaks out of all the fighting with Nick telling Fish to suck it several times. Bobby suplexes Nick into Matt and makes the tag off to Kyle while Shibata is nowhere to be seen. Chasing the Dragon is broken up and it's off to Shibata vs. Omega for the big slugout. Shibata gets in a choke and the Bucks can't break it up.

A double superkick puts him down to one knee and the triple version gets two. Everything breaks down and Omega throws Shibata off a tornado DDT, setting up the superkick party. Everyone kicks everyone until Kyle counters the One Winged Angel into a guillotine choke. Matt sprays something in Kyle's eyes though and it's the One Winged Angle to put O'Reilly away at 10:16.

**Rating:** B-. Best match of the night here as Omega continues to look like a star. Shibata is fine in the Ken Shamrock mold of cyborg submission machine and it's a good time whenever I get to see the Bucks get beaten up. ReDRagon is still one of the best things about ROH but they're at the weird point where the Tag Team Titles don't mean anything to them anymore.

**Overall Rating:** C. "So you know how we've been showing you these matches that don't mean anything for weeks on end? Well how about paying to see a full pay per view of them?" That's the WWE style of booking TV to a pay per view and it doesn't work for either promotion. The limited interest I had in seeing Global Wars and War of the Worlds has been thrown out the window now because I've watched these big names for the better part of a month. Where's the incentive to keep watching and even pay for another



show?

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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 TV – March 16, 2016: I Could Get Used To This

## Ring of Honor

Date: March 16, 2016

Location: Nashville Municipal Auditorium, Nashville, Tennessee

Attendance: 675

Commentators: Mr. Wrestling III, Kevin Kelly

Tonight is literally all about the tag division as we'll be seeing the entire show containing one match. In this case it's a seven team gauntlet match, which hopefully won't include any thirty second falls. The winners here get a Tag Team Title shot at some point in the future, which could make for some entertaining action. Let's get to it.

## Tag Team Gauntlet

ReDRagon and Caprice Coleman/Will Ferrara (Together due to accepting Prince Nana's envelopes over the last several, several months. Normally I would say they need to get things going with that story but I don't

remember the last story I cared less about so drop it already) get things going with Ferrara and O'Reilly starting us off. Kyle can't get a Kimura in so he holds the arms to avoid a dropkick.

Ferrara gets punched down with ease, allowing ReDRagon to start taking their turns on him in the corner. Fish gets two off a belly to back but Will dives through the legs and gets the tag. Unfortunately it's not the hottest tag because the fans realize they're going to see six falls before the ending. Everything breaks down and Fish backdrops Ferrara over the corner, only to have Will come back in and get caught in Fish's knee bar for the tap at 5:52.

The third team in is the House of Truth, comprised of Joey Daddiego/Chris Laruso. This seems to be Laruso's debut, who is described as a martial artist and a lawyer. The action starts after a break with Chris armdragging Fish down for little effect. Bobby comes right back with another knee bar but Laruso is fast enough to get over to the ropes.

ReDRagon starts taking turns again as they tend to be quite efficient at doing, including O'Reilly pounding away with strikes to the head. Daddiego has to break up an arm hold as the fans are still dead silent for this. A powerbomb gets Joey out of a triangle choke and everything breaks down again. Laruso kicks Daddiego by mistake and Joey walks out, leaving Laruso to get kneed in the face and choked out by Kyle at 17:30 total, including entrances.

The Young Bucks are in fourth and tell ReDRagon to suck it to get things going. Fish and O'Reilly grab stereo ankle locks, only to get sent out to the floor, allowing us to get TOO SWEET and a double suicide dive. We settle down with O'Reilly throwing Matt's kick into Nick's leg, allowing him to dragon screw leg whip both of them at the same time. It's stupid when Davey Richards does the DDT version and it's stupid here too. Everything breaks down and Nick's Swanton hits Fish's knees.

Kyle and Nick start trading kicks on the floor, only to have O'Reilly counter a superkick with an ankle lock. We take another break and come back with Fish suplexing Matt for two. It's back to Kyle, who gets caught with a spinning Diamond Cutter out of the corner. Cool looking spot, even

if the flip wasn't really necessary. Nick comes in off the hot tag and superkicks Fish, only to miss another Swanton. Kyle and Nick come in off the double tag for a double superkick from the Bucks. More Bang For Your Buck puts ReDRagon out at 35:56 total.

Brutal Bob Evans and Tim Hughes come in fifth, charge into a double superkick, and are knocked to the floor for the opening bell. Hughes and Evans stall on the outside until we get another double superkick. Some might say this is a one move team. Hughes gets inside for a slow motion side slam, only to have Nick superkick him in the jaw. Evans comes in for some sweet shin music, setting up ANOTHER double superkick. A corner powerbomb into an enziguri sets up the hanging swanton for the pin on Bob at 39:57.

Next up is the Addiction, who sneak in from behind to jump the Bucks. Kazarian and Daniels start things fast and of course charge into a superkick. Another superkick drops Kazarian and a third breaks up Angel's Wings, allowing Matt to roll Daniels up for the pin at 43:30. Well that was quick.

Addiction beats the Bucks down again after the match as Roppangi Vice come in last. The Addiction beats them down too until Vice fights them off, allowing referees to break it up. The actual match starts fast with the Bucks taking a slight advantage before we go to a break. Back with Vice dropping Matt with a Doomsday Device off the apron with a knee instead of a clothesline. Well at least they're moving fast out there. Vice's double jumping knee to Nick's face gets two and it's off to a seated abdominal stretch.

Back up and Nick sends Romero to the floor before superkicking Trent off the apron. The hot tag brings in Matt but we take yet another break. Back with nothing having changed and Matt telling Romero to suck it. The Meltzer Driver is broken up (Kelly: "That'll mess up the star rating.") twice in a row with Nick getting crotched on top during the second counter. More Bang For Your Buck is broken up as well and Strong Zero puts Matt away at 53:29 total, giving Vice the title shot.

**Rating:** B-. I liked most of this but they definitely could have cut some

stuff out. Stuff like Hughes and Evans or Coleman and Ferrara easily could have been excluded to give more time to the bigger pairs but I get why they wanted to get as many people into this as possible. ReDRagon starting things off was a good option and they're even protected by only losing in their third fall. I could have gone for a different team than Vice winning but you take what you can get in something like this.

Vice celebrates a lot.

We end with a video hyping up next week's Global Wars, including a clip of Okada/Nakamura vs. the Briscoes from last year.

**Overall Rating:** B-. These show long matches are hard to pull off but if you can get an entertaining match out of it, things are about as strong as they can be. This has nothing on Zayn vs. Joe from a last week but at least there was enough entertaining stuff here to keep the show moving at a fast pace. It's nothing great or anything, though it accomplished something and set up a match later on so it's not the worst idea.

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# Ring of Honor TV – February 4, 2016: There's Something Fishy Around Here

## Ring of Honor

Date: February 3, 2016

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

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Mr. Wrestling 3

We're rapidly approaching the 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show but we're a few weeks back in the syndication run. The big story coming out of last week was Michael Elgin offering to bring in Hiroshi Tanahashi to team with him against the Briscoes in a dream match, though I'm not sure how many people were dreaming of it. Let's get to it.

### TV Title: Roderick Strong vs. Masada

Strong is defending and Masada is a death match guy. They go to the mat to start with Masada grabbing a knee bar to send the champ bailing into the ropes. Back up and they chop it out to take it outside with Masada taking over. That actually doesn't last long as Masada sends him back inside for a knee to the face and a backbreaker onto the apron as we take a break.

Back with Masada chopping away but Strong slips out (or might have been dropped) of a powerbomb. Instead Masada grabs a Death Valley Driver for two but Strong starts cranking things up with another running knee and a belly to back for two of his own. Masada pulls out some weapon but gets it knocked away, meaning he has to settle for a powerbomb instead. That means it's time for some bamboo but Strong is a wrestler so he hits his third knee to the head to retain at 8:16.

**Rating:** D+. Masada had some better moments in there than I was expecting but Strong was getting repetitive in there with the knees to the head. Like, throw a dropkick or something dude. I really don't see why Strong had to turn heel in the first place as he's lost some of his steam since

the turn and isn't as entertaining as he was before.

Post match here's Bobby Fish to say he better move to another planet if Strong wants to be the best wrestler in the world. Apparently Roddy vs. the World is about Strong defending the title against anyone not named Bobby Fish. Strong things Bobby is having issues dealing with his age catching up with him but Bobby offers to go to war whenever the champ wants.

We look back at Elgin's challenge to the Briscoes from last week.

### Top Prospect Tournament First Round: Colby Corino vs. Punisher Martinez

Martinez is a good sized guy who towers over Corino. Colby tries some quick strikes and gets his head taken off with a clothesline. Some hard throws send Colby into the corner and an over the shoulder backbreaker gets two. A Liger Kick staggers Punisher and a middle rope Diamond Cutter gets two on the big man and a flip dive to the floor drops Martinez again. The fans are getting behind Corino here but Punisher gives him a Last Ride onto the apron for a SICK crash. Back in and a sitout chokeslam advances Punisher at 3:28.

**Rating:** C. Martinez looked good here and could have a future in this place. Colby is a good choice for a ragdoll and ROH is the kind of place that could go somewhere as size doesn't mean as much around here. Nothing to see here but that Last Ride bump looked great and made up for some of the other stuff.

Post match BJ Whitmer gets in the ring to tell Colby that he did well but now it's time for Steve Corino to take off that mask. Steve Corino is the man who spent Christmas with his new family while Colby was with Whitmer over the holidays. Wrestling 3 denies it again so Whitmer grabs Colby by the throat and yells at him for calling his father on Christmas. Colby is forgiven for that, but not for the sins of his father, meaning it's time for another beating. Whitmer throws Colby in front of Wrestling 3 and tells the masked man that he's proven what BJ has been saying.

We look back at the announcement of the #1 contenders match from last week.

Nigel McGuinness has replaced Mr. Wrestling 3 on commentary as the masked man helped Colby to the back.

### ReDRagon vs. Adam Cole/Jay Lethal

Adam won't come in for the pre-match handshake so it's Lethal vs. Kyle to get things going. Cole actually offers to tag in but tags right back out after a quick circle of the ring. We get a standoff until Lethal grabs a headlock, only to get countered into a cross armbreaker. Lethal is too close to the ropes but it's off to Fish to keep the champ in trouble. The announcers talk about the incoming New Japan guys as Kyle stays on the arm.

Cole finally comes in to face Fish but freaks out when Kyle is about to be tagged in. Lethal gets Fish to the floor and whips him into the barricade before the tag can bring in O'Reilly though, allowing the heels to take over. We take a break and come back with Lethal dropkicking Fish in the back of the head to set up some posing. Cole comes in and eats a clothesline, allowing the tag off to Kyle as things speed up again.

It's back to Lethal who gets caught in another cross armbreaker as everything breaks down. Cole and Fish go to the floor so it's time for Lethal and O'Reilly to trade their forearms, because that's how you fight in ROH. Chasing the Dragon is broken up and the Lethal Combination sets up a Shining Wizard on Kyle for two. We take another break and come back with Lethal dropping a top rope elbow on Fish but getting caught in a dragon screw legwhip.

We finally get the showdown of Cole vs. O'Reilly, meaning it's time to grab each other by the head and fire off forearms. Kyle, who can barely stand up, no sells a German Suplex and keeps hammering away, though he's nice enough to sell a superkick. Lethal comes back in and kicks Kyle in the head but gives Cole the Lethal Injection by mistake. Chasing the Dragon puts Adam away at 16:55.

**Rating:** B. Nice long tag match here with the right ending as I can't stand it when a makeshift team who doesn't even like each other beats one of the best teams the company has ever seen. I'm still not wild on ReDRagon as singles guys but they're a very entertaining tag team who

work well together.

**Overall Rating:** C+. The main event more than carried this show, as is almost always the case with the tag division. The rest of the show worked more than well enough though with Corino vs. Whitmer shaping up quite well, even though I'm not sure how strong of a match it's eventually going to be. I'm liking this show far better than I was expecting to and it's really found its niche in recent months.

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# Ring of Honor TV – January 20, 2016: Thy Kingdom Goes Away

## Ring of Honor

Date: January 20, 2016

Location: 2300 Arena, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Attendance: 600

Commentators: Mr. Wrestling III, Kevin Kelly

It's the final night of the Philadelphia tapings with a Philadelphia Street Fight between the Young Bucks, the Kingdom and ReDRagon. If they

give this match this time, it could be quite an entertaining match. We're getting closer to the 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show for the next pay per view but nothing has been set up yet. Let's get to it.

### Addiction vs. Alex Shelley/ACH

This is more about building up Shelley vs. Sabin down the line. Kazarian takes Shelley into the corner to start but accidentally forearmwrestles Daniels off the apron for some good old fashioned heel miscommunication. Alex grabs a dragon sleeper but lets it go when Sabin gets on the apron for a distraction.

ACH dropkicks Kazarian down and it's quickly off to Daniels who is taken down just as quickly. Everything breaks down for a bit and some fast double teaming puts ACH in trouble, including something like a Diamond Cutter onto Daniels' knee as we take a break. Back with ACH rolling over for a hot tag so Shelley can speed things up.

A Downward Spiral sends Kazarian face first into the middle buckle but Daniels comes back in with a top rope stomp to the chest, only to allow the hot tag a few seconds later. Everything breaks down and Shelly kicks Daniels into a German suplex for two. Sabin shakes the ropes to break up the Midnight Star, setting up Celebrity Rehab to give Addiction the pin at 9:48.

**Rating:** C-. Shelley and ACH are firmly in that category of wrestlers that I just don't care for. I get the idea behind both guys but they both seem to be going off more of a set pattern than wrestling naturally, which rarely works for me. Addiction is fine in the ring but I'd like to see them get more mic time as it's definitely their strong suit.

Post match Addiction beats on Shelley even more until Daniels punches the referee, which brings out Nigel to suspend him indefinitely without pay.

### Mark Briscoe vs. Adam Page

Page won't shake hands to start because he's a good heel. Some early Redneck Kung Fu doesn't work but Adam misses the standing shooting star press. Mark kicks him into the corner and now the crane kick connects for

Briscoe. A brainbuster gets two for Mark but he charges into a powerslam into the corner for two. The fans are all over Whitmer as the announcers talk about the Top Prospect Tournament.

Mark dropkicks Page to the floor and hits the running Blockbuster off the apron. They chop it out a bit until Page gets two off a jumping DDT (ala Dolph Ziggler). Mark sends him to the apron but can't kick him out to the floor, allowing Page to slingshot in for a clothesline to take over. BJ Whitmer yells about Mr. Wrestling III being Steve Corino, only to have Briscoe come back with a fisherman's buster and the Froggy Bow for the pin at 6:32.

**Rating:** D+. This whole match was a collection of spots. I didn't see a single instance of psychology, trying to put something together or either guy doing anything other than his signature spots. It wasn't bad or boring or anything, but could you at least work an arm or something instead of just doing the stuff you always do?

Post break, Whitmer tells Mr. Wrestling III to unmask and be a father to Colby Corino. Mr. Wrestling III gets in the ring and asks Whitmer if he has a question for him. Whitmer tries to reply but he can't get a word out before the fans boo him out of the building. BJ says everyone knows that it's Steve Corino under the mask but Mr. Wrestling III denies it again. He does know Corino however, and Corino knows someone that wants to take Whitmer out. However, instead of saying who that is, Mr. Wrestling III just tells the Decade to leave. Well that ended flat.

Silas Young comes out and calls what happened with the Boys at Final Battle a disappointment. Whether the fans believe it or not, the Boys appreciated learning how to mow his lawn and shovel his driveway. The Boys have one chance to do the right thing and learn to be men.

#### Young Bucks vs. ReDRagon vs. Kingdom

It's Cole/Bennett for the Kingdom here and this is a street fight. The Bucks jump O'Reilly and Fish during the entrances and we're starting fast. The injured Taven gets a double superkick, as does ring announcers Bobby Cruz. ReDRagon gets back in to work on the Bucks, only to have the Kingdom come in again to turn this into a wild brawl that is going to be

almost impossible to keep track of.

Bennett punches Fish down and it's Cole setting Matt in a chair in the middle of the ring. A running charge sets up a chinlock and even Kelly has to acknowledge that it's a spot they've seen before. Kyle backdrops Nick on the floor for a thud before diving into a superkick. We take a break and come back with Cole in a shopping cart and being wheeled into a superkick.

The Bucks set up a table at ringside but it's ReDRagon double teaming Matt inside. The Kingdom brings in a ladder (Mr. Wrestling III: "It's amazing what you can find in south Philadelphia") to take out ReDRagon and it's Cole putting the ladder around his neck. That only allows ReDRagon to blast the ladder with chairs before setting the ladder on top of those chairs.

Bennett comes back in to spinebuster Kyle onto the steel but the Bucks powerbomb him (Bennett) through the ladder. A Swanton onto the ladder sets up More Bang For Your Buck but Cole pulls the referee out at two. Kevin Kelly accidentally eats a superkick and Mr. Wrestling III freaks out while still shouting SUPERKICK in a funny moment.

We take another break and come back with Cole hitting the Canadian Destroyer on Matt but walking into a superkick from Nick. Bennett takes Chasing the Dragon on the floor, leaving O'Reilly and Cole to fight in the aisle. That leaves Fish alone against the Bucks but he stops to spear Bennett through a table on the floor. A double superkick off the apron gives Fish the weakest table bump in history with Nick having to splash him the rest of the way through.

Back in and the Bucks put a party hat on Bennett for a superkick party, only to have Maria hit them both low for a save. This brings out AJ Styles to hit Bennett in the ribs with a chair before laying him out with Bloody Sunday. Maria gets a Meltzer Driver and the Indytaker into the Styles Clash puts Bennett away at 16:45.

**Rating:** B. Totally wild brawl here and a lot of fun at the same time. This wasn't about anything more than carnage and that's all they delivered the entire time. The piledriver to Maria was a good way to

write her off TV and the Kingdom goes out in a great performance, especially considering it wasn't their usual combination.

**Overall Rating:** C+. This is a one match show and there's nothing wrong with that, especially when one match takes up so much of the hour. The only annoying thing here was the syndication schedule causing some issues as Mike and Maria debuted in TNA two weeks before this aired. Still though, the show was fun enough with the main event being a really good time.

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## 2015 Awards: Group/Tag Team of the Year

Ok....work with me here.

Yeah it's New Day. These guys went from nothing to the most entertaining team since maybe Edge and Christian. WWE clearly just lets them do whatever they find funny and the goofier they get the more entertaining they are. It helps that they can have good matches if they need to, but the entertainment value more than makes up for any in ring deficiencies.



Let's knock out some of the teams fighting for second place.

Getting it out of the way quickly: I do not like the Young Bucks and that's the end of their discussion.

ReDRagon still isn't my style in the ring but they're still entertaining enough to last for a few more years. I know they're a sought after team and I hope they get a spot on a bigger stage. I'm much higher on them as a unit than individually though so hopefully they're not split permanently anytime soon.

Then there's Enzo and Cass, whose pop in Brooklyn speaks for itself. These guys keep getting more and more over as the ultimate underdogs and when they finally win the NXT Tag Team Titles (say, in Texas?), the reaction is going to rival Bayley's title win.

Finally there's Jason Jordan/Chad Gable. These guys are clearly something special and are going to be a huge deal once they've gotten some more experience under their belts but their time isn't quite here yet. Keep an eye on them though.

That's about it really. The other main WWE teams (because there are really only about four or five at any given moment), meaning the Usos and Cesaro/Kidd, were too split up due to injuries and the Lucha Dragons were ok at best. This was ALL about the New Day and it's just not even close.

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# Ring of Honor TV – January 13, 2016: That's A Lot Of Tag Teams

## Ring of Honor

Date: January 13, 2016

Location: 2300 Arena, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Attendance: 600

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Kevin Kelly

The show started the new year on a roll so hopefully things can keep up this week. If nothing else this week won't have build up for a show that already took place. Nothing has been announced for this show but that's normally the case for this company and things tend to turn out fine. Let's get to it.

### Roppongi Vice vs. All Night Express

The Express are the #1 contenders to the Tag Team Titles so this should be a nice test for them. King and Barreta go to the mat to start and it's a quick standoff. The Express gets smart by taking Barreta into their corner for some double teaming, only to have Titus get backdropped out to the floor. King clotheslines Barreta but gets taken down by Romero. Nice starting sequence.

Romero gets kicked in the face for his efforts and Barreta gets pulled off the apron, sending him head first into the buckle as we take a break. Back with Barreta getting double teamed again but King takes a breather to shout at the crowd for a bit. Barreta gets in his double stomp out of the corner though and the hot tag brings in Romero.

House is cleaned until it's back to Barreta for a slugout, only to have Vice double knee Titus in the chest. King gets taken down by a suicide

dive and there's Strong Zero (a springboard spike Fade to Black) on Titus but there's no count. Instead King, the legal man, runs in and rolls Barreta up for the pin at 10:48.

**Rating:** C+. I liked this a lot more than I was expecting to as I'm not a fan of either team. Instead they had a nice back and forth formula based match which worked far better than I thought it would. The right team won and they did so legally while still being heels, making everyone come out looking fine. Much better match than I was expecting.

Here's the Kingdom (including Mike and Maria who have both left and Taven who is out for the better part of a year) for the first time since Final Battle. Cole says it's time for Story Time with the Kingdom. There's security around the ring so Kyle O'Reilly can't come out here for another cheap shot. Cole says that he won but the other two dropped the ball. How can they hold all the gold without Taven and Bennett holding the Tag Team Titles?

Cue ReDRagon to say they remade tag team wrestling in this company and if they have to run through the Kingdom to get their belts back, it's time for Nigel to make the match. That's fine with McGuinness, who makes the match for next week. This brings out the Young Bucks who says if anyone is taking out these Bullet Club marks, it's them. Therefore, Nigel makes it a three way Philadelphia street fight. Well that was quick.

#### Donovan Dijak/Joey Daddiego vs. War Machine

Non-title. Rowe gets kicked in the face to start and Dijak knocks Hanson off the apron as well. Donovan isn't done as he takes out both champions with a corkscrew dive but he isn't interested in using the Book of Truth. Instead it's off to Daddiego, allowing Hanson to start slamming both guys. He piles the two of them on top for some forearms to Dijak's chest, followed by a double Bronco Buster. A tilt-a-whirl backbreaker into a Superman Punch drops Dijak and there's a double chokeslam to Daddiego. Fallout ends Dijak in a hurry at 3:22.

**Rating:** D+. Total squash here but Dijak looked solid. Daddiego is still just a small guy without much upside but Dijak is another example of a guy who really shouldn't be able to do the things he does at his size.

That never ceases to impress me, though the thing with the Book of Truth would suggest a split in the future.

Post break Truth Martini says Dijak is the weak link in the team, which even the announcers find stupid. There was no Dijak at the main event of Final Battle, which was a slap in Martini's face. Truth slaps Dijak in the face and Daddiego punches Dijak down. Martini's trash talk earns Daddiego a Feast Your Eyes so Martini fires Dijak. The fans seem very pleased. Cue Prince Nana to applaud as well.

ReDRagon is ready for next week.

We look at Dalton Castle reuniting with the Boys at Final Battle.

### Dalton Castle vs. Jay Briscoe vs. Matt Sydal vs. Moose

This is one fall to a finish despite being called a survival match. You have to tag but there are lucha rules so going to the floor counts as a tag. Briscoe doesn't seem cool with Castle, which really isn't all that surprising. Sydal vs. Moose gets us going with Matt teasing a test of strength as a ruse to kick Moose in the thigh. A running curb stomp misses though and Moose tells him to bring it.

Now we actually get the test of strength with Matt going down in about half a second. Thankfully it's off to Jay for the big staredown and the fans aren't sure who to cheer for. Castle tags himself in to face Briscoe though and we get a much different showdown. The Jay Driller and Bang a Rang are both broken up to take us to a staredown, followed by a break. Back with Briscoe headbutting Castle before it's off to Moose. The announcers say the two of them have been tagging in and out to work on Castle during the break, which may or may not be true but at least they're trying to make it work.

As expected, Moose and Briscoe quickly break down and they trade some big left hands. Moose gets the better of it but stops to dance a bit, allowing Castle to get two off a German suplex. Everyone but Sydal winds up on the floor so Matt busts out a big moonsault to take them all down. The Boys start fanning until Moose's manager Stokely Hathaway steals a fan to cool Moose off.

Back in and Sydal hurricanranas Moose for two until Jay makes a quick save. Moose spears Jay down but walks into a missile dropkick from Castle, who is taken down by Sydal's reverse hurricanrana. The shooting star misses though and Castle Bang a Rangs Sydal for the pin at 9:18.

**Rating:** C. This was fine though more of your standard Ring of Honor formula. I know the name is a longstanding tradition in this company but when I hear the word "survival", the first thing I think of is an elimination tag. I get the idea but I still wish they would change that. Castle winning is a nice touch and a surprise as he could definitely move up in the ranks soon enough.

**Overall Rating:** C. It was another totally watchable show from a company that specializes in such. The Kingdom basically crumbling is sad but at least they'll have a good blowoff match next week to send them off. I'm not sure where a lot of this stuff goes but they have some time before we get to the next pay per view in late February.

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