

Ring of Honor TV – October 25, 2017: I'm Not Really Laughing

Ring of Honor

Date: October 25, 2017

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

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Colt Cabana

I'm assuming it's time to start the build towards Final Battle and aside from bringing in an outsider to challenge for the title, things seem to be heading towards Cody defending the World Title against Jay Lethal. I know there's no story there yet but it's not like there's anything else to do. Let's get to it.

We recap everyone wanting to challenge Kenny King for the TV Title. Tonight it's a four way for the #1 contendership.

Opening sequence.

Marty Scurll vs. Jay White

Now this could be interesting. Marty grabs the ankle lock to start and takes White to the mat. Jay can't shake off a front facelock but can manage to put Marty on the top. That means a bird pose and it's a standoff. Back up and Jay takes him down with little effort, setting up a full Muta Lock.

Since that hold can't last long, they hit a pinfall reversal sequence for some near falls. Ever the cheater, Marty gets caught putting his feet on the ropes. The referee gets in his face and the distraction lets Marty poke Jay in the eye. Back from a break with Marty hitting something like a reverse Angle Slam for two. It's time to start in on the arm but Marty takes his time with a charge, earning him a chop.

White wastes no time in swinging away and grabs a suplex for two. A

deadlift German suplex gets two more but Marty is back with something like an octopus hold. That goes nowhere so Marty switches into the standing chickenwing. White slips out and gets two off a rollup, only to have Marty throw him the umbrella. Since the referee is half blind, he grabs it as well to take it away from White. That allows Marty to hit a low blow, setting up a small package for the pin at 12:27.

Rating: B-. The ending didn't work very well for me but these two are both favorites of mine. I'm hoping White doesn't go back to Japan anytime soon as he's one of the most consistent wrestlers on the roster. Scurl is someone who always seems to have potential but I'm not sure he's going to be moving up to the next level anytime.

The Addiction is ready to take care of Jay Lethal Kushida whenever that match takes place.

Lethal is ready to deal with the Addiction because they don't show Ring of Honor the respect it deserves.

Dawgs vs. Tempura Boyz

The Boyz charge in and start the fight in a hurry before snapping off some German suplexes to take Titus and Ferrara down. The bigger Dawgs are right back though with Sho being sent outside for a suicide dive. Rhett runs Yo down and we settle into a regular match. Will chokes Sho down and a dropkick gives Titus two as we take a break. Back with Rhett grabbing a quickly broken chinlock. Sho gets in a knee to the ribs and the hot tag brings in Yo to clean a few rooms of the house.

Some running knees in the corner (think Sasha Banks) give Yo two as everything breaks down. A superkick into a powerbomb backstabber gets two on Ferrara but Titus slugs the Boyz down with ease. The Boyz start firing off kicks to the head, followed by something like a Shining Wizard for two on Rhett. Ferrara blasts Sho with a wind up lariat and a gordbuster/top rope clothesline to the back (it's kind of hard to describe) ends Yo at 10:20.

Rating: D+. Neither of these teams are doing anything for me and the fact that the Boyz are heading back to Japan doesn't cause me any issues.

They've never been interesting and the Dawgs don't seem much better. I'm also not a fan of the "screw the tagging" formula and it was in full blast here. It wasn't a miserable watch but this was almost everything I didn't like about tag wrestling at once.

The Bullet Club talk about Cody's contract and laugh hysterically.

Back from a break and they're still laughing. That made this so much better in an odd way.

Mark Briscoe vs. Chuckie T. vs. Punishment Martinez vs. Shane Taylor

One fall to a finish for a future TV Title shot with Caprice Coleman on commentary. Thankfully there are tags here so it's Chuckie vs. Martinez to start. A single chop has no effect on Martinez so it's off to Mark instead. Briscoe hammers away with strikes and punches, only to get clotheslined inside out. Now Chuckie is willing to come back in, only to have his crossbody countered into a World's Strongest Slam. Well that didn't work.

Martinez stares Shane down but it's a missile dropkick from Chuckie to take both of them down. Stereo dives take the monsters down again and we take a break. Back with Mark and Chuckie speeding things up, only to have Mark cut it off with some Red Neck Kung Fu poses. The monsters come in again and punch Chuckie down for daring to interfere. Mark is back up and kicks Shane into the corner, only to get destroyed by Martinez.

A release falcon arrow of all things (looked great) gets two but here's Shane to clear out the ring again. Shane's middle rope splash gets two on Chuckie and NOW we get the big showdown. The entirety of the fight: a double clothesline to put them both down and a pair of missed splashes. Back from a second break with Shane and Martinez slugging it out with Punishment getting the better of it until a headbutt staggers him into a corner.

The normal sized guys come back in with Chuckie hitting a sitout powerbomb for two on Mark. Martinez is back up though and it's a springboard flip dive (geez) to take out everyone else. Back in and a hanging piledriver (think Orton's DDT but with a piledriver instead)

plants Shane, only to have Mark come in with a Death Valley Driver. The Froggy Bow gives Mark the pin and the title shot at 13:30.

Rating: C+. This was the kind of all over the place match that it should have been, which makes the tag match look a little more out of place. Mark winning the title shot is a great idea as him winning the TV Title later in the year while Jay has his match against Bully Ray at Final Battle is an interesting plan. Good enough match here and it did its job.

Post match Jay comes out and says Mark needs to be more loyal to the team. Mark is confused to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. This feels like the build to the last big set of TV before Final Battle, which is where the real stories will take place. Mark vs. Jay has potential, though we might be a long time away from that. The rest of the show wasn't great, though the lack of star power didn't do the show any favors. Good enough episode but nothing you need to see.

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Ring of Honor TV – October 18, 2017: The Bullet Bites the Burger

Ring of Honor

Date: October 18, 2017

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

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Colt Cabana

We're still in Las Vegas and still dealing with the fallout from Death Before Dishonor. It's not clear if Global Wars, which will have ended by the time this show airs, will get any focus. That's what keeps confusing me about this company: some of their pay per views matter and some are just big time specials. At least TV has been good lately so let's get to it.

Addiction isn't allowed in, despite being awesome wrestlers.

Opening sequence.

Kushida vs. Scorpio Sky

Sky is a PWG legend. A technical sequence goes nowhere so Sky takes over with a backbreaker for two. Kushida starts in on the arm and it turns out that his mom is in the crowd. Well that's always cool. Hopefully she's fine with her son working on the arm with kicks and a stomp until Sky takes him down with a neckbreaker. Sky goes up but his frog splash is countered into a cross armbreaker. It's too close to the ropes though and here's Daniels with an air horn. Kazarian comes in to kick Kushida low for the DQ at 3:27.

Rating: C. This didn't have the time to mean much but it was nice while it lasted. Sky is someone I've heard a lot about but I've only seen him a few times. I wouldn't be complaining about him being around here more often. At least Kushida was around as that's always a good thing.

Kushida gets beaten down until Jay Lethal makes the save. During the

break, a challenge for a tag match was made and we have a match...at some point in the future.

We look back at Jay Briscoe injuring Bully Ray and Tommy Dreamer's promo with him last week.

Here's Bully in sunglasses to no music. He apologizes for everything being low key and says he has to worry about the head trauma at the moment. Right now he doesn't know if he's ever going to get his hands on Jay Briscoe, even if he'd love to more than anything else. For the first time in his career, he's thinking about stepping away for the sake of his family. These people have been his wrestling family all these years but for once he has to think about his family at home. Bully goes to leave and Mark Briscoe comes out to say Bully's issues are with Jay, not the family. They're cool with each other.

We look back at Kenny King saying he'll fight anyone for the TV Title anytime. A small army came out to stare him down and King didn't seem to mind. Next week, it's a four way to crown a new #1 contender.

Here's the Bullet Club for a celebration with the promise of a big surprise. Shane Taylor follows the team out with Cody handing him a wad of money along the way. Cody talks about having the most lucrative contract in ROH history. We hit that YOU DESERVE IT chant before Cody talks about the Young Bucks getting offers from every wrestling company in the world about two years ago.

That's where Cody is now, but he is officially signing the exclusive contract with Ring of Honor. This...pretty much changes nothing but it's the Bullet Club so that makes it awesome. Everyone else leaves and Cody thinks he should do something special for his first official night on the roster. How about a title defense right now? Cody hints that it's going to be Dalton Castle but instead it's...Cheeseburger.

Ring of Honor World Title: Cody vs. Cheeseburger

Cody is defending in a suit with Shane Taylor at ringside. Cheeseburger gets taken down and slapped in the head a few times, only to come out of the corner with a high double kick to the chest. Cody bails to the floor

and that means a slingshot dive as Cheeseburger gets in his early offense. A shot with the big ring cuts Cheeseburger off though and it's time for a belt whipping.

Cheeseburger takes it away and gets two off a crucifix but a delayed superplex cuts him off in a hurry. A quick springboard knee to the head (ala Seth Rollins) gives Cheeseburger two but the palm strike is countered into Cross Rhodes...for two as Cody picks him up. The delay lets Cheeseburger get in a few whips, only to have Cody slap on the American Deathlock for the tap at 5:44.

Rating: C+. That's the kind of Cheeseburger match I can go for: he gets in some hope spots but is overwhelmed by the size and skill. It gets old watching him do the same things over and over again so this was fairly refreshing. Cody wasn't going to lose here but it came off like a weaker version of HHH vs. Taka Michinoku (that's a compliment), which is just fine.

The Kingdom is ready.

It's time for Coleman's Pulpit with his guests the Dawgs, Will Ferrara and Rhett Titus. Apparently they're wearing the wrong suit jackets and Ferrara isn't happy. So yeah, they're a bad comedy act. Ferrara hates cheese and he hates Cheeseburger. Titus on the other hand isn't happy with Kenny King not appreciating Titus getting him his job back. They're ready for the Tempura Boyz next week. This team doesn't look promising.

Kingdom vs. Search and Destroy

It's the Motor City Machine Guns and Jonathan Gresham for Search and Destroy here. Taven jumps Sabin from behind to start and we start...well not that fast really. Everything breaks down in a hurry and the Kingdom is sent outside for a triple dive. Back in and some triple kicks take Taven down but Marseglia's blind tag breaks up a tornado DDT attempt. The Kingdom takes over on Sabin in the corner with a variety of stomping as we're told how interesting Marseglia really is. O'Ryan hits a good looking spinebuster and a running knee gets two as we take a break.

Back with Sabin escaping Rockstar Supernova and getting pummeled for his

efforts. Sabin DDT's and dropkicks his way to freedom as his partners have no issues with all three opponents being in the ring at once. It's off to Gresham to clean house, including a moonsault onto O'Ryan off a belly to back from Taven in a nice counter. Gresham ankle locks O'Ryan as the Guns dive onto Marseglia and Taven. It's Taven coming back in with a Disaster Kick for the save so Gresham tags Sabin back in for a fairly dumb idea.

The Guns come right back with the Dream Sequence and a suicide dive on O'Ryan. Marseglia takes them both down with a springboard dive, followed by Taven hitting a no hands version. Gresham moonsaults from the middle rope and grazes a few of them. Back in and Skull and Bones is broken up, allowing Taven to get in a walking stick shot for the rollup (with tights) pin at 10:24.

Rating: C+. This could have been better if I cared about the Kingdom in any way, shape or form. The Guns are starting to grow on me again, especially now that they actually got the belts off the Bucks. That being said, it's not a good idea to have a new champion take a fall like this. Just pin Gresham.

Overall Rating: C. It wasn't a bad show but there was nothing that blew me away. The Bully promo is good and while I don't think there's any secret tot he fact that this is setting up Bully vs. Jay at Final Battle, at least they're giving us a good story along the way. Not a bad show here but it's a filler episode, even with big names around.

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Ring of Honor TV – October 11, 2017: Tommy Dreamer Actually Got Me

Ring of Honor

Date: October 11, 2017

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

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Colt Cabana

It's time for a new taping cycle as we're finally able to talk about what happened at Death Before Dishonor. That could mean a multitude of options around here but hopefully we get some actual stories instead of just doing a bunch of one off matches. To be fair though, the last few weeks of TV haven't been that bad so hopefully the trend continues here. Let's get to it.

We open with a quick highlight package from Death Before Dishonor.

Opening sequence.

Here are Silas Young and Beer City Bruiser for an opening chat. Young takes his shirt off to show the welts from his street fight with Jay Lethal. Those marks are the proof that he walks the walk to back up his talk. As for now though, he and Bruiser have a goal of winning the Six Man Tag Team Titles but they need a partner.

That brings them to Death Before Dishonor, where they saw another real man. They have a partner now though and his name is Minoru Suzuki and the challenge is officially made to the Young Bucks and Hangman Page. Cue the champs to say they're annoyed at Young for interrupting their autograph session. Matt dubs the team the Hung Bucks (just kill me now) and the

match is on for the main event.

TV Title: Josh Woods vs. Kenny King

Woods is challenging in his official shot for winning the Top Prospect Tournament. King is the new champion and the hometown boy after defeating Kushida at Death Before Dishonor. I'm not wild on the outsiders winning titles but at least Kushida held it for a long time. Woods takes him to the ground to start for an early two before working on the arm.

That's reversed into an armbar from the champ but he gets suplexed into the corner as we take a break. Back with Woods having to grab a rope to escape something like a Last Chancery. King kicks him out to the floor and hits a dive and Woods is in trouble. That lasts all of ten seconds as Woods scores with some knees to the head and a string of suplexes, followed by a triangle choke. King is perfectly fine though and stacks Woods up for the pin at 8:59.

Rating: C+. Nice match here as Woods is growing on me. The MMA stuff works fine as he mixes in enough wrestling to make it work. You know what you're going to get with him but he does it just fine, which is all you can ask for. King is a bit flashier than he needs to be at times but he should be great in this role.

Josh shakes his hand post match and King grabs the mic to praise him a bit. Woods leaves and King says he's a fighting champion who will defend his title on every show. This brings out Shane Taylor, Chuck Taylor, Punishment Martinez and Mark Briscoe, all of whom King is more than willing to face for the title.

Marty Scurll invites us to a Bullet Club celebration next week.

Six Man Tag Team Titles: Hangman Page/Young Bucks vs. Silas Young/Beer City Bruiser/Minoru Suzuki

Page and the Bucks are defending. Suzuki won't shake his partners' hands so I don't see this team lasting long. Bruiser throws Nick into the corner but Matt comes in to throw his brother into a dropkick. Young comes in before too long and it's a triple basement dropkick to the face

so the fans can cheer the Bucks a bit.

Page wants Suzuki for some reason and it's time for the slugout with the chops making Page cringe. A quick Kimura has Page in more trouble and the Bucks get one each of their own. Everything breaks down and it's Young and Bruiser putting on Kimuras of their own. The champs all bail to the floor and we take a break. Back with Young slamming Matt down and Suzuki putting on a legbar over the apron.

Some choking in the corner has Matt in more trouble but he finally gets a boot up in the corner. A flipping cutter off the top takes Silas down but Bruiser breaks up the tag attempt. For reasons of general stupidity, Bruiser gets into a chase and lands in a superkick. The hot tag brings in Page to clean house, including a dropsault for two on Young. Everything breaks down and Suzuki's piledriver is broken up with a double superkick. Bruiser crossbodies the Bucks and Cannonballs onto Page as the fans are WAY into this (with good reason).

Back in and Suzuki's piledriver sets up the frog splash for two on Page with the Bucks making the save. We take another break and come back with more superkicks dropping Bruiser but Nick gets caught in Suzuki's sleeper. That gives us a showdown with Page, who actually wins a slugout. Young comes back in for the Regal Roll but the moonsault is broken up by more moonsaults. Page hits a huge moonsault to the floor and it's a shooting star off the apron into the Indytaker to kill Young dead. Back in and the Rite of Passage ends Bruiser to retain the titles at 14:40.

Rating: B. As usual, when the Bucks don't do all the superkicks, they're a lot of fun to watch. Hence why the best part of the match was the stuff between the breaks, where there were only a few of the kicks. Suzuki still doesn't do much for me but Bruiser and Young are growing on me more and more every time they get in the ring. Good match here that was starting to look great at times.

Post match Bruiser and Young blame Suzuki so the brawl is on until the referees make the save.

Here's Jay Briscoe to address his turning on Bully Ray at the pay per view. Before he gets very far, here's Tommy Dreamer to cut him off.

Dreamer talks about cutting off Bully Ray's cast the night before Barely Legal (I always thought the ankle was broken during the show) and a variety of bar fights.

One time Chris Jericho accidentally knocked Bully out during a match (I believe that was TLC III in 2002) and he couldn't remember that his mom had died a few months earlier. Dreamer knows how dangerous head injuries can be and he spent another night with his friend in a hospital because of what Jay did. Jay doesn't say anything and Dreamer leaves to end the show. I'm not big on Dreamer but this was effective and opens a few more doors for this story to continue.

Overall Rating: B+. Really good show here with a lot of storyline advancement to go with a pair of solid matches. Maybe it's just the show being fresh after a long layoff or just a good night but I had a much easier time watching this than on most weeks. It also helps to have some top names around instead of people like Cheeseburger and the other interchangeable small guys who aren't all that thrilling. Solid show here and a very nice surprise.

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Ring of Honor TV – October 4, 2017: Bad Business As Usual

Ring of Honor

Date: October 4, 2017

Location: Center Stage, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, BJ Whitmer

It's World Title week here as Frankie Kazarian is getting a shot at Cody after winning last week's Honor Rumble. That's quite the turnaround but you can't expect them to give him the shot on a pay per view as a spot like that is reserved for people from real promotions like New Japan. Let's get to it.

We recap last week's Honor Rumble with the Addiction cheating to give Kazarian the win.

War Machine vs. Coast to Coast vs. Tempura Boyz

One fall to a finish and War Machine's IWGP Tag Team Titles aren't on the line. There are no tags either so this is going to be a heck of a mess. War Machine cleans house to start and Rowe throws both Boyz at the same time just because he can. Hanson throws Rowe at LSG and it's pure dominance to start.

Coast to Coast gets their faces punched in on the floor but the Boyz are up with double dives to the floor as we take a break. Back with War Machine down for a bit, only to come back in with Rowe slamming Sho onto Yo. The monsters are sent outside though and it's Yo hitting a cutter on LSG. Rowe is back in though and a knee to the head sends Yo outside. Most of the participants wind up on the floor so LSG hits a flip dive, only to have Hanson hit a flip dive onto EVERYONE, leaving Sho to take a clothesline/German suplex combination.

Ali dives in for the save and it's Yo getting put into the Tree of Woe but War Machine breaks up the Coast to Coast. The Boyz grab a spike piledriver for two on Rowe, who pops up and powerbombs both Boyz at the

same time. A pop up powerslam plants Yo and a series of backbreakers sets up a top rope splash from Hanson for the pin at 11:24.

Rating: B. Everyone was working here and my general indifference to the Boyz was made up for by the awesomeness that is War Machine. They're just big monsters who can do cool moves and that's really all you need most of the time. Really solid match here as Coast to Coast continues to impress as well.

Post match, War Machine complains about Ring of Honor treating them badly and not giving them a title shot in over a year. They were supposed to have a shot at the Young Bucks but another team was added to the match to keep War Machine from getting a fair shot. They're tired of playing nice and you won't like this version. This didn't sound like a heel turn but more like them just being aggressive.

Video on Flip Gordon.

Corey Hollis vs. Flip Gordon

Flip, uh, flips out of a wristlock to start and nips up off a shoulder block. The handstand walk gets Flip out of trouble and a dive to the floor takes Hollis out. A flip dive misses though and Gordon gets dropped ribs first onto the top. Back from a break with Hollis working on an armbar. Gordon fights up and hits a flip Sling Blade followed by a running shooting star press for two more. Hollis catches him in the corner again but Flip is right back up with a springboard kick to the face. A springboard 450 (with the knees landing on Hollis' chest) gives Flip the pin at 9:30.

Rating: D. Gordon is a one note character and there's really nothing wrong with that. He's not hiding what he's doing out there and that's kind of refreshing. Unfortunately he's also really sloppy with that ending looking terrible. Reign him in a bit and have him do things a bit more slowly and accurately instead of throwing in everything he can and he'll look a lot better in a hurry.

Kazarian says he wants to win the title to tick off the fans and ROH.

Long video recapping the Women of Honor. I'm going to put this as politely as I can: no one cares. Like really, no one cares. There are great women's divisions around the world but Ring of Honor's is just not on that list. It never gets any kind of attention and the handful of specials they've had aren't enough to make me care about a four or five woman division. If ROH cared about them like they said they did, these people would be on the regular shows and not stuck on YouTube.

Kelly Klein says she's ready to beat anyone put in front of her.

ROH World Title: Frankie Kazarian vs. Cody

Cody is defending and wins the early feeling out process. A release gordbuster drops Kazarian and it's back to the standoff. Cody trips him down again and we hit the Figure Four but Kazarian is right next to the ropes. They're certainly not wasting time early on. A dragon screw legwhip over the middle rope looks to set up a dive to the floor but Kazarian is back up with a slingshot hurricanrana.

Back in and Cody gets backdropped to the apron, setting up a kick to the head to drop him again. Kazarian scores with a spinning springboard Fameasser and we take a break. Back with Cody armdragging him off the top for a heck of a crash to put both guys down. The Beautiful Disaster connects but Kazarian grabs the slingshot cutter for another near fall. Cody is right back with a snap powerslam (well to be fair Goldust and Randy Orton both use it) and a YES Lock of all things. I'm not sold on Bryan coming back to ROH but they're teasing the heck out of it.

Cue Daniels for a distraction but Marty Scurll comes out to even things up. Not that it matters as Scurll gets posted, allowing Kazarian to miss a belt shot. Now it's a ref bump because ROH loves to overbook. Daniels gets in the belt shot to set up the Unprettier for a VERY close two.

Marty is back up to shove Kazarian off the top though and Daniels is thrown inside. Somehow the now conscious referee doesn't think any of this is a DQ, including Daniels taking Cody down. Scurll superkicks Daniels to take him out, leaving Cody to grab Cross Rhodes to retain at 11:43.

Rating: C-. This match wasn't even twelve minutes and had two people interfering, a belt shot and a ref bump. There's no reason whatsoever that a match should do so much nonsense, nor should it need to. They were having a perfectly good match until the screwiness started up and then it was a completely different everything. If you just have to do something like that, do ONE THING and nothing more. Why is that so hard to understand?

Overall Rating: C. I've seen worse shows but it felt like they were cramming in as much stuff as they could into a single show. I believe this is the last episode of the taping cycle, meaning there's almost no way of knowing what we'll be seeing next week. Maybe we can even talk about the pay per view for a change. It would be nice to actually be caught up for once.

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Ring of Honor TV – September 27, 2017: It's Time to Rumble

in an Honorable Fashion

Ring of Honor

Date: September 27, 2017

Location: Center Stage, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, BJ Whitmer

Dang it we're at a post-pay per view show and that could mean absolutely anything. Well almost anything as it certainly won't mean anything about the pay per view itself. Hopefully they keep this part of the schedule short and don't spend weeks before we get back to the important stuff. Let's get to it.

QT Marshall vs. Josh Woods

This is fallout from Marshall paying Shane Taylor to attack Woods. Yeah I don't remember it either. Marshall is billed as God's Gift so he comes out of a big gift box. An early armbar has Marshall in trouble but he rolls outside, only to have Woods run him over again. Woods runs over a security guard by mistake but just shrugs it off, as he should. A running knee staggers Marshall again but Woods can't suplex him off the apron. You know, because it would kill him.

Marshall suplexes him onto the apron and we take a break. Back with Woods firing off some shots in the corner but charging into a superkick. Something like an AA into the corner drops Marshall again and a running knee gets two. Marshall gets in a powerbomb but Woods slaps on a triangle choke. That goes nowhere so Woods grabs the kneebar for the tap at 9:36.

Rating: C. As usual, Woods looked like a star who could go somewhere with some more polish. This was a good performance that showed his versatility, which is more than you get from a lot of people around here. Marshall didn't show me much and was little more than a guy in trunks.

It's time for Coleman's Pulpit, with Mark Briscoe (in a tie over his Briscoe Brothers t-shirt) as his guest. Mark doesn't want to talk about what's wrong with his brother Jay, but Coleman suggests that the team is over. That's not cool with Mark, but he does think Jay needs an attitude

adjustment. They briefly touch on Jay turning heel at Death Before Dishonor, of course without actually saying what happened. Anyway, Mark says the team isn't going anywhere.

Video on the War of the Worlds: UK show, which really wasn't anything special.

Honor Rumble

This is basically a twenty man Royal Rumble with the winner getting a World Title shot at some point in the future. Cody comes out for commentary and Ian mentions that he retained at Death Before Dishonor. Jay White is in at #1 and Sho is in at #2 and will fight for two minutes, though the rest of the intervals will only be one minute.

Sho bows at him to start and even kisses White's boots. White doesn't seem to approve of it (jerk) and tries to toss him but settles for a good looking dropkick. That goes nowhere though and it's Punishment Martinez in at #3. Martinez starts cleaning house but misses a charge in the corner as Jonathan Gresham is in at #4. Rhett Titus is in at #5 as Sho is eliminated. Titus starts to clean house but runs into Martinez, who would rather choke White instead. Frankie Kazarian is in at #6 to what Cody calls a nostalgia pop.

Back from a break with Alex Shelley in at #9, seemingly following Yo and Will Ferrara in some order. Gresham and White are eliminated and it's Silas Young, the defending winner, in at #10 to eliminate Ferrara. Everyone gets together to eliminate Martinez and it's Sal Rinauro, who was half of the Tag Team Champions over a decade ago, at #11. Shane Taylor is in at #12 to eliminate Young and Shelley with no effort. Rinauro is gone as well, followed by Yo with little effort. That leaves us with Taylor and Kazarian but Cody hops the barricade to pay Taylor off.

Flip Gordon is in at #13 and he goes right for Taylor. That's about as successful as you would expect but he skins the cat to stave off elimination. Jay Lethal is in at #14 and we take another break. Back again with Hanson in at #15 and hitting his running corner clotheslines. Kazarian is smart enough to run the corners to avoid taking a shot, which

isn't something you see very often. Taylor runs Hanson over though and it's Chris Sabin in at #16.

Sabin goes right after Kazarian due to old issues and it's Bully Ray in at #17. Some right hands to almost everyone has Ray in trouble until it's Ray Rowe in at #18. War Machine gets together but can't eliminate Ray. Mark Briscoe is in at #19 for some Red Neck Kung Fu. Finally, in one of those dumb moves for the sake of nostalgia, freaking GLACIER is in at #20. For some reason Cody is terrified of a 53 year old former jobber to the stars as we take a third break.

Back with a final group of Glacier, Lethal, Ray, Hanson, Rowe, Kazarian, Taylor, Sabin and Gordon (How is he still in this?). War Machine tosses Taylor and Rowe kicks Sabin out as well. Ray dumps Glacier (turning Ray heel for a few seconds) and gets rid of War Machine without too much effort.

Gordon slugs away at Bully but has to save himself from a backdrop. An enziguri drops Ray but a springboard takes too long, allowing Kazarian to eliminate Gordon. Kazarian and Lethal fight on the top until Frankie is shoved down, setting up What's Up with Lethal playing D-Von.

Lethal and Ray slug it out with Bully being tossed but Kazarian saves himself on the apron again. A cutter drops Kazarian again but here's Daniels for a distraction as Kazarian is eliminated. Naturally the referee doesn't see it so Kazarian gets back in, only to be sent into Daniels. Kazarian bails to the floor so Daniels takes the Lethal Injection, allowing Kazarian to eliminate Lethal for the win and the title shot at 28:56.

Rating: B-. Not bad at all here as I didn't know who was going to win until the ending and there were several possible outcomes. Kazarian winning is an interesting idea as it sets up a heel vs. heel match (kind of) next week. I didn't think they would give us Lethal vs. Cody on such a nothing stage, but Kazarian is a fine choice for an opponent. They kept things moving here too and, save for Glacier as a stupid final entrant, there wasn't anyone who felt out of place.

Post match the Addiction rips on the crowd and promises that Kazarian

will take the title next week.

Overall Rating: B. The main event was the focus of the show but they threw in the opener to make things work a little bit better. I can live with something like this over something like a random midcard feud getting way more time than it needs. Good showing this week and having the title match next week is fine, especially with the Death Before Dishonor fallout likely coming the next week.

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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 Scurll 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-. Scull'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 Scull 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 – September 12, 2017: Goals Make Great TV

Ring of Honor

Date: September 13, 2017

Location: Center Stage Theater, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Marty Scurll

We're less than two weeks away from Death Before Dishonor and hopefully we can actually get somewhere other than "hey, Minoru Suzuki is going to be here" for a change. I know he's a Japanese legend but it seems that he's the major selling point for the pay per view, despite not actually being on the card. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the Kingdom returning to health and beating down the Briscoe Brothers and Bully Ray.

Opening sequence.

Here's Bully Ray to open the show. He's accomplished a lot of things in his career but this is the first time he's been in Atlanta with Ring of Honor. When he got here, the company asked him what he wanted to do. He immediately wanted to team up with the Briscoes and they won the Six Man Tag Team Titles but unfortunately they lost them almost as soon. All he

wants now is to get those titles back in Las Vegas, and that's exactly what he promises to do. Simple and to the point here.

Quick look at the Young Bucks and Hangman Page winning the Six Man Tag Team Titles. You know, in case they hadn't been featured enough lately.

We recap Cheeseburger vs. Will Ferrara. They used to be partners until Cheeseburger hit Ferrara by mistake, sending Ferrara over the edge. Tonight it's a grudge match.

Will Ferrara vs. Cheeseburger

Ferrara tries to come in through the crowd for a cheap shot but Cheeseburger is ready for him. A kick to the ribs and a kneedrop have Will in trouble as the fans are way into this. Cheeseburger gets sent throat first into the rope though and a clothesline puts him down again. Ferrara snaps the throat across the ropes and we take a break.

Back with Cheeseburger palm striking him off the top and getting two off a springboard swanton bomb. A Michinoku Driver gives Ferrara two but he can't get something out of a fireman's carry. Cheeseburger grabs a Saito suplex and an ankle lock of all things until Ferrara makes the ropes.

The high flying goes a bit too high though as Ferrara pulls him out of the air with a Codebreaker for two, followed by a jumping Downward Spiral for an even closer near fall. The required low superkick sets up a dragon suplex to drop Ferrara, followed by a Tombstone for two. There's a top rope double stomp for the same but Ferrara blocks a tornado DDT. The hammerlock lariat sets up a modified Crossface to knock Cheeseburger out at 11:19.

Rating: B. This was WAY more fun than it should have been, despite a pretty horrible build to get us here. The stakes for this one are still really low and it's not a thrilling story but sweet goodness they beat the heck out of each other with some awesome near falls. Good match, but they can only get so far with Cheeseburger when he does the same story over and over again.

Ferrara won't let go of the hold so here's Rhett Titus for the save. As

you might expect, Titus stomps away on Cheeseburger as well.

It's time for Coleman's Pulpit where he doesn't like jive turkeys. And that's it for this edition, which was basically just a preview with the new set.

Video on Jay Lethal vs. Silas Young in a street fight with neither of them being able to get up after the match was over. Therefore, it's Last Man Standing at Death Before Dishonor.

Silas Young vs. Chase Brown

Young shoulders him down to start and beats the heck out of the jobber, including that backbreaker into a clothesline. Brown gets in a few shots but is taken down with ease. Misery ends Brown at 2:35.

Post match the beatdown is on but Lethal comes in for the save. Silas offers a challenge for Last Man Standing, even though that's already been set.

Cody is ready to face Suzuki.

The Bullet Club attacked Dalton Castle to advance the story from War of the Worlds UK.

Pay per view rundown. This is more than you get for these things more often than not.

Bully Ray and the Briscoes are ready to take the Six Man Tag Team Titles back.

Kenny King is ready to win the TV Title in his hometown.

Search and Destroy vs. Bullet Club

Motor City Machine Guns/Jonathan Gresham/Jay White vs. Guerrillas of Destiny/Young Bucks. Scurll dancing to the Guerrillas' music is rather amusing. Nick and Gresham start things off with things speeding up and neither being able to do much of anything. Gresham finally gets in a dropkick to send Jackson outside though and the Bucks are in some early peril.

The Guerrillas have some better luck but Sabin is there with a suicide dive to take them out. The Bucks are right back up with the kicks to the head though, followed by some suicide shoves of their own. Matt adds a running flip dive off the stage and everyone is down. Gresham gets up for some dives of his own, followed by a shooting star press, only to have Roa run in for a cutter to pull Gresham out of the air in a SWEET counter.

Back from a break with Gresham taking the Bucks down and bringing in White to fight both Guerrillas at the same time. A double Flatliner has Scurll panicking but Tama is right back with a Lumbar Check. Nick gets the tag and beats up both Guns at the same time in a completely face sequence.

Everything breaks down and it's a double Sharpshooter to the Guns. Sabin slips out of More Bang For Your Buck and it's the Dream Sequence to Matt. Nick will have none of that though and cleans house until Jay Rock Bottoms Matt down, followed by a big flip dive out to the floor to drop a pile of people. The Meltzer Driver is broken up and it's the Guns kicking the heck out of Matt. Something like a double Death Valley Driver is enough to put Matt away at 11:20.

Rating: B. This was another fast paced, entertaining match that could even overcome the Bucks levels of annoyance. Having the Bucks lose was a good way to set up a likely title match at the pay per view and that's as simple of a way as you can go. The Bucks need challengers and while I don't think the Guns are going to get the belts, they're as fine as anyone else for some short term challengers.

Bucks vs. Guns for the Tag Team Titles is announced for the pay per view to end the show.

Overall Rating: A-. It's almost like this show is WAY better when there's actually a point. This show gave us two good matches and helped hype up the pay per view. We have an actual card now and that keeps the TV shows from being dull, meaningless wastes of time. I had a good time with this show and that's something I don't get to say much around here.

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Ring of Honor TV – September 6, 2017: You Can Tell It's Pay Per View Time

Ring of Honor

Date: September 6, 2017

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

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Colt Cabana

We're rapidly approaching Death Before Dishonor and it would be nice to actually hype up the show instead of just having a single episode to build things up. They got it right with Best in the World and I have no idea why it's so hard to repeat the success. Unfortunately it's the end of a taping cycle so things might not be the most energetic. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Jay Lethal vs. Silas Young, which has turned into a nice feud, assuming they finally go anywhere with it.

Beer City Bruiser vs. Jay Lethal

No DQ and we're joined in progress with the two of them fighting in the aisle. Lethal slugs away and manages to avoid a cannonball to send Bruiser into the barricade. Jay hits one of his own and Bruiser is in early trouble. A dropkick staggers Bruiser with Jay scoring with a suicide dive to follow up.

Back from a break with Lethal missing a chair shot and Silas Young on commentary. Scratch that as he heads towards the ring, where Bruiser is hitting Lethal in the ribs with a chair. The chair is wedged into the corner and you know what that's going to mean. Security stops Silas so he goes back to talk some more, which means we need to look at him far more often than is necessary. A basement dropkick of all things staggers Lethal and it's time for some duct tape.

Jay fights back though and takes off his belt for a beating. Ian and Silas argue over whether or not Riccaboni is impartial as Jay sends Bruiser head first into the chair in the corner. Young heads to the ring again and we take a break. Back with Bruiser missing a top rope elbow, earning him some praise from Silas. Young: "Smart move Bruiser." Colt: "Said no one ever."

There's the Lethal Injection but Jay would rather tape Bruiser to the ropes instead of covering. Jay grabs Bruiser's keg and puts it over the knee, which he then crushes with a chair. More chair shots to the leg have Bruiser screaming in pain and it's a Figure Four for the submission at 15:11.

Rating: B. When did Bruiser start getting good? I was buying into the hatred and the violence here with Lethal getting a good warmup before his major showdown with Young at the pay per view. When Lethal is on his game he's as good as anyone in the promotion and this was no exception. Really solid brawl with the beating doing a great job to show off Lethal's anger.

Post match Jay puts the hold on again as security holds Silas back.

Video on Minoru Suzuki, who is from New Japan and has an MMA background

so he's the coolest guy ever.

Cody talks about the difference between MMA and "sports entertainment". Which one of them is real? Suzuki has 29 recorded wins in mixed martial arts. You know what else is ready? Cody is going to stretch him and Suzuki is going to call him daddy.

Earlier today Will Ferrara attacked Cheeseburger at an autograph signing.

We look at the Addiction attacking the Motor City Machine Guns and the Young Bucks last week.

Earlier today Caprice Coleman wanted to interview the Addiction but just had chairs and a microphone, much to his annoyance. Kazarian says he wanted to talk to Caprice Coleman and only Caprice Coleman because he knows what it's like to be disrespected. Look at the lack of set that Coleman requested weeks ago. That's why the Addiction is declaring war on respect.

Caprice asks if Daniels wants the Tag Team Titles back so Daniels takes the one mic they're sharing (Coleman: "Be careful. It's attached.") to say that's not the point. He feels betrayed by the fans, who booed him at Best in the World. Daniels was ready to lead the company but the fans didn't want that. They're going to find out what the fans want and that's what they're going to prevent from happening. If the fans want the best wrestling, the Addiction is going to burn it to the ground.

Will Ferrara vs. Howie Timberche

Howie throws him into the corner for some right hands and sings A Whole New World from Aladdin before punching Ferrara in the face. More dancing and singing sees Ferrara get slammed down, followed by a good looking dropkick. They head outside with Timberche getting pulled shoulder first into the post, followed by the suicide tornado DDT. Timberche gets in a jumping back elbow and a side slam before putting him in the Tree of Woe (complete with more singing). A backflip into an elbow gets two on Ferrara but a low blow cuts Howie off. The second tornado DDT gives Ferrara the pin at 4:26.

Rating: C-. I really hope that's not all we see from Timberche, who should have gotten at least a second look out of that performance. He has a good look, a lot of charisma and his work is fine. Ferrara was outshined here, which isn't surprising given how generic he is. He's just a small guy who doesn't have anything that makes him stand out, which is a problem for a lot of people around here. Timberche was fun and I'd like to see him again, though he definitely looks more like a WWE guy than an ROH guy.

Post match Cheeseburger comes out to issue a challenge for next week. I know he's a cult favorite but I've been watching him have the same "my partner betrayed me" feud for what feels like years now.

Jay Briscoe has a concussion but Ring of Honor paid for him to be here anyway so here he is.

Mark Briscoe/Bully Ray vs. Cody/Adam Page

I love that Cody is one of the only champions around that still wears the belt. Cody does his "who wants the shirt" bit before handing it to Page. The classics never die. Mark dropkicks Page off the apron and sends Cody outside for a dropkick. The apron Blockbuster makes things even worse but Cody elbows him in the face to get a breather.

After a little spitting from Mark, Page trips him up and hits the slingshot clothesline to really take over. Mark can't quite fight out of the corner yet as Cody forearm him in the back and stomps away. Back from a break with Mark kicking Page in the face and making the hot tag off to Bully for the house cleaning.

Bully hammers on Page and hits a Bionic Elbow on Cody (that's rather cruel). What's Up with Mark hitting an elbow instead of a headbutt has Cody in trouble and it's table time. Cue Marty Scurl for a distraction but Jay comes out to take care of him. Jay sets up a table but gets punched in his concussed head, which can't be a good thing.

Marty and Jay fight around the back of the crowd and it's a Doomsday Device on Page. Cody breaks up the elbow to drive Page through the table but walks into Mark's fisherman's buster for two. Cue the Kingdom to take

Mark out though and Cross Rhodes puts him away at 11:20.

Rating: C-. This was every ROH main event all over again: too much stuff packed into a match to really work, which goes against the idea of the entire promotion. Then again it's what worked in WWE for so long and that's what wrestling companies do, even if it gets dull in a hurry. At least the ending helped set up the Six Man Tag Team Title stuff at Death Before Dishonor, which still isn't all that thrilling.

Post match the Kingdom lays out Mark and Bully until Jay makes the save. That just earns him Rock Star Supernova (still way too awesome of a name for such a lame team) to end the show.

Overall Rating: D+. You can tell they're at the end of a taping cycle here and unfortunately it's a taping cycle as we head towards a World Title match with a challenger who has no connection to the promotion. In other words, the World Champion is just a detail in the promotion while the big deal is a Japanese legend who isn't appearing or talking until the pay per view. You know, like what happened at the last pay per view. But hey, at least the New Japan fans get what they want out of this and that's what matters. Not a good show this week, as they're firmly in the period of having nothing to do despite a big show coming up.

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Ring of Honor TV – August 30, 2017: With an Anchor and Without a Map

Ring of Honor

Date: August 30, 2017

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

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Colt Cabana

I don't think we're up to the newest batch of TV tapings just yet and that means it's hard to say what to expect from this show. Last week was basically a throw away episode with the focus on the Six Man Tag Team Titles. That means this one could be anywhere really, which isn't exactly the best thing in the world. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Jonathan Gresham/Jay White vs. War Machine

Non-title. Gresham and White jump them during the entrances in a somewhat heelish move. That lasts all of ten seconds though as War Machine slams both guys down, followed by Rowe slamming Hanson onto the pile. Gresham is back up with a dropkick to Hanson as White sends Rowe into the barricade. For some reason Gresham thinks a chop off with Hanson is a good idea, earning himself a battered chest.

White comes in for some more effective chops but Hanson runs him over and brings in Rowe. Everything breaks down and Gresham is LAUNCHED off a t-bone suplex. Rowe misses a dive to the floor and gets taken down with a suicide dive as we head to a break. Back with Rowe firing off running clotheslines in the corner. After he hits about twenty in a row, it's a double splash to crush both Gresham and White.

Fallout is broken up so Gresham has to take a springboard clothesline into a German suplex instead. Another Fallout attempt is broken up so Rowe fireman's carries both of them at once. That goes nowhere though and it's Gresham enziguring him into a Downward Spiral for a rare near fall.

White's German suplex gets the same but Rowe comes out of the corner with a seated senton to crush Gresham. Rowe headbutts everyone in sight (save for his partner and the referee of course) until Gresham moonsaults onto Hanson. A 450 is good for two on Hanson but it's a pop up powerslam (Thor's Hammer) to put Gresham away at 13:31.

Rating: B. That was a heck of a back and forth match as I don't think I remember a bad White match. He does his thing very well and makes for some entertaining action. War Machine is better than your average power tag team and while it would be nice to see them get the ROH titles back. Then again that might suggest the Young Bucks aren't the most amazing things ever and we just can't have that. Really fun match here though.

Post match Punishment Martinez runs in and chokeslams White as War Machine leaves him to do so.

Caprice Coleman wants to know where his stuff is. He seems to think he's a preacher and yells at the production staff. We get a nice rant about how he wasn't respected when he was in the Rebellion and he's tired of it. They have a week to get this stuff set up.

QT Marshall is out for commentary. Oh yeah he's a person that exists.

We look back at the Kingdom destroying Jay Briscoe last week.

Shane Taylor vs. Josh Woods

Taylor attacked Woods a few weeks ago and this is as soon as we can get around to a follow up. Woods goes right after him to start with a flying knee and a kick to the head to put Shane outside. That's fine with Josh who keeps slugging away, only to be thrown through the barricade to send us to a break.

Back with Woods stopping a corner charge with a raised boot. Taylor switches tactics and kicks him face first into the middle buckle before

hitting a running Umaga attack for one. Woods fights up again with another running knee, only to get flattened with a clothesline. For some reason Shane goes after him on the mat and gets pulled into a cross armbreaker. That's broken up as well so it's off to an ankle lock and a German suplex for a nice power display. Shane runs him over again but goes outside to grab a chair instead of following up. The referee takes it away though, allowing Woods to roll Taylor up for the pin at 8:14.

Rating: C. Taylor still doesn't do much for me as he's just another big guy who can do some athletic stuff but nothing that really blows me away. Woods is starting to grow on me though, which is a lot more than I was expecting to after dreading the Top Prospect Tournament for so many weeks. I have a feeling the feud is going to continue though and that's not the best thing in the world.

Post match Marshall comes to ringside to tell Taylor to beat down Woods. After Josh is destroyed, Marshall pays Taylor off. Oh yeah it's continuing.

The Young Bucks are ready to defend against the Motor City Machine Guns because it's not 2009 anymore. Superkicks are promised.

Minoru Suzuki will answer Cody's challenge for Death Before Dishonor. Yep: another import with no connection to ROH getting the shot because he's Japanese and therefore awesome. Screw the stories, screw the talent who has worked to get ROH over and screw everything else. Suzuki is a Japanese legend and that's what Ring of Honor exists for anymore: giving New Japan guys another place to perform and be revered at ROH's expense. I'm so freaking thrilled.

Cody is livid.

Kenny King talks about being on the Bachelorette and getting his rematch with Kushida at Death Before Dishonor in his hometown of Las Vegas. King was a lot more serious here and it worked a lot better. The Bachelorette could have been cut out though.

Tag Team Titles: Young Bucks vs. Motor City Machine Guns

The Bucks are defending and get straight in the Guns' faces during the Big Match Intros. Back from a break with the opening bell, meaning Nick can tell Shelley to suck it, which of course makes him the biggest face in the building. The Guns send the champs outside for a suicide dive to both of them as things pick up. Back in and Nick is put on Matt's shoulders for a Downward Spiral from Sabin and a missile dropkick to the back from Shelley.

That's a great example of the way too choreographed style that rubs me the wrong way in most Guns matches. There comes a point where I can't buy that something is natural and the Guns blow past it every match. Shelly dives into a kick to the head though and the Bucks clean house while making sure to soak in some cheers. A flip dive takes out the Guns again and it's time for Matt to say SUCK IT over and over.

It's off to a double Sharpshooter with the Bucks throwing in some T00 SWEET's at the same time. Back from a break with some miscommunication from the champs as everything breaks down. Sabin kicks Matt in the face and dives onto Nick as the Bucks are in some rare trouble. The champs are sent into the corner with Shelley suplexing Matt into Nick. Skull and Bones is broken up and the wheelbarrow facebuster plants Sabin.

Nick comes in off the hot tag to speed things up with the kicks in the corner. The slingshot X-Factor drops Shelley and the moonsault from the apron does the same to Sabin. Shelley is back up with a high crossbody to a seated Nick and the Guns fire off their running dropkick sequence to Matt. It's superkick time with the Bucks firing off about ten in a row until Shelley takes them down with a double clothesline. And never mind as here's Addiction for the no contest at 14:27.

Rating: C+. I'm still not much of a Guns fan. I loved their TNA stuff but now it feels so much more forced, which really does hold them back. The ending doesn't help either as we're pretty clearly setting up ANOTHER three way title match because we haven't had anything like that in...oh at least a month or two.

Daniels and Kazarian clean house post match, including shoving a referee and a plant in a Bullet Club shirt (not acknowledge by commentary, who is

likely reading their cards instead of paying attention).

Overall Rating: B-. This show was entertaining but it felt really, really long. I'm still not a fan of the tag division (to put it mildly) but Woods is growing on me and the opener was a lot of fun. Basically just keep me away from the Bucks, the Guns and the worship of all things New Japan and I'm a lot better with the show. Good effort this week though as usual, it feels like they're running with an anchor and without a map.

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ROH War of the Worlds UK 2017: They Lost the War

War of the World UK 2017

Date: August 19, 2017

Location: Liverpool Olympia, Liverpool, England

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, BJ Whitmer

So this is a show that exists. I mean, you would have almost no idea about it if you just watched the regular TV show because they only

mentioned it halfway through the go home show but it does in fact exist. There is such little effort being put into this show and I'm worried about how bad it's going to be as a result. Let's get to it.

The version I'm watching includes the announcers' introductions (and them asking if they can hear each other in a quick sound check) and the pre-show match.

Pre-Show: The Boys vs. CCK

CCK (Chris Brookes/Travis Banks, the Commonwealth Catch Kings) are from the UK based Rev Pro promotion and their Tag Team Titles aren't on the line. It's a brawl to start with the Boys taking down the giant Brookes (probably a foot taller than anyone else in the match) down by the legs. It's Banks and we'll say Boy #1 starting things off with #1 being tossed over the corner to land on the apron.

Some double teaming drops Banks though as the announcers aren't sure which Boy is which. Back in and Brookes puts Banks on his shoulders and launches him at #2 for a Codebreaker in a sweet spot. Brookes even drops a backsplash onto #2 for good measure as the beating begins. In what must be British humor, Chris puts #2 in a camel clutch and both members of CCK stick their fingers in Chris' mouth and then into #2's ears.

Some Twin Magic allows #1 to come in and grab a suplex as everything breaks down. The Boys hit stereo dives but Brookes catches #1 in a hanging swinging neckbreaker for two. #1 sends CCK into each other and brings in #2 for a Backstabber. Not that it matters as Banks grabs a fisherman's driver for the pin on #2 at 6:36.

Rating: C-. Just a tag match here for the sake of firing up the crowd. I'm not sure how smart it is to have your champions lose to some outsiders but then again ROH has never really cared all that much about protecting its titles. I mean, why bother worrying about your own talent when you can put over someone else's talent? The match was watchable with some nice spots but there's a reason it was just a dark match.

Opening sequence.

Adam Page vs. Kenny King

Fallout from Page costing King his TV Title shot. They hit the ropes to start until Page misses a standing shooting star and King misses a spinwheel kick to give us a standoff. Both of them wind up on the floor with Page running him over before taking him back inside for Old School, capped off by a thumb to the eye instead of anything else. See he's in the Bullet Club and needs to do "cute" stuff like that. A sunset flip out of the corner gives King two and it's off to a seated abdominal stretch.

That goes nowhere so King grabs a spinebuster for two more. Since selling isn't a thing in ROH, Page is back up with a neckbreaker over the ropes and a tabletop suplex for two. King kicks him in the head again and hits a flip dive out to the floor. The springboard Blockbuster gives King two but he gets caught with the slingshot clothesline for the same. The Rite of Passage is broken up and it's another kick to the head to set up the Royal Flush to pin Page at 8:43.

Rating: C-. This was the Ring of Honor "style" in a nutshell: no psychology, no storytelling, no transitions between moves and little more than "I do a spot and then you do a spot". It completely felt like getting their stuff in and leaving, which isn't what I'm really wanting to see. Some of the spots were good but it felt like just a bunch of stuff instead of a match and that's not good.

Ultimo Guerrero/Rey Bucanero vs. Titan/Mistico

Under lucha rules of course. I don't know if ROH brings in these teams because they think it's more interesting than their roster or if they don't have enough talent to fill out a show on their own. The more I watch their stuff, the more I think it's the latter and that's not good. Mistico and Bucanero start things off and it's a LUCHA LIBRE chant to spice things up a bit.

The much bigger Rey turns Mistico inside out with a shot to the mask and it's a quick exchange of near falls. Guerrero and Titan come in with Titan hand walking away from a clothesline and headscissoring Guerrero to the floor. Titan's flip dive is countered into a powerbomb on the floor though, leaving Bucanero to go after Mistico's mask.

Everyone heads to the floor with Guerrero jumping over Rey to crash onto both smaller guys at once. Back in and Buccanero moonsaults onto Titan, whose back is over Guerrero's ribs. A slingshot dropkick in the corner has Titan in trouble but he pops back up with a double handspring elbow.

It's off to Mistico for a hurricanrana each as everything breaks down. Guerrero superbombs Mistico but gets kicked in the head, allowing Titan to come back in. Why things settled back down isn't clear but lucha matches aren't exactly built on enforcing structure (not a bad thing). Titan springboards in with a dropkick to Buccanero before sending him outside for an Asai moonsault. Mistico moonsaults onto Rey as well, leaving Guerrero to hit the Guerrero Special (reverse superplex) to put Titan away at 11:34.

Rating: C+. Better match than I was expecting here though the fans cheering all four guys when Guerrero and Buccanero were trying to play heel was odd. The other problem, and I'm sure you've heard me say this many times (and I'll keep at it as long as it's a problem): I don't know who these people are and I have no reason to care.

The background I received here: Buccanero and Guerrero were the Observer's Tag Team of the Decade for 2000-2009. Uh, great, and what have they done in Ring of Honor? Or in the last eight years for that matter? As usual, it feels like I need to have a lot of outside knowledge coming in to get a lot of this stuff and when the show is barely advertised in the first place, that's hardly a good way to expand your product.

The announcers talk about Sanada's vertical leap.

Jay Lethal vs. Josh Bodom

Bodom's British Cruiserweight Title isn't on the line. I've seen Bodom's work before and wasn't that impressed but maybe a better opponent will help. They exchange wristlock counters to start until Lethal blocks a hiptoss and grabs a swinging neckbreaker. A springboard dropkick puts Bodom on the floor but he comes back in with a hurricanrana. There's a dropkick to really stagger Lethal, though not enough that he can't hit his cartwheel into a dropkick of his own.

A missile dropkick misses and Bodom knees him in the head. Bodom grabs a reverse hurricanrana to put him outside, followed by a middle rope moonsault. Back in and a top rope double stomp to the back of Jay's head, followed by a standing shooting star, gives Josh a near fall. The Lethal Combination gets Jay out of trouble and Hail to the King gets two. We hit the Figure Four but cue Silas Young for a distraction. Not that it matters as the Lethal Injection is good enough to pin Bodom at 9:18.

Rating: C-. Ok so maybe it is Bodom. This did nothing for me, again, and that's not a positive sign when we're only on the third match. Lethal shrugged off the distraction and won anyway, making me think that Lethal vs. Young was the right move here. You know, a match between two people with a story and who happen to actually WORK FOR RING OF HONOR. There were some moments here but it didn't work, again.

Young beats Lethal down post match.

Bully Ray/Briscoe Brothers vs. Los Ingobernables de Japon

Bushi/Evil/Tetsuya Naito for Los Ingobernables here. The fans are just CRAZY for Naito but he brings in Bushi to start with Mark instead. An early hurricanrana sends Mark into the corner so it's already off to Jay for some harder hitting offense. Evil comes in to rake his eyes and shoulder Jay down, only to get kicked in the face. Bushi gets sent into the wrong corner and actually calls out Bully Ray. Well he certainly has guts.

Ray comes in and rips Bushi's shirt open for some chops before calling in Naito. They take turns sidestepping each others' lockup attempts as there's no contact for over a minute. Even the lockup gets a cheer and Naito grabs a headlock with a fist going into the eye. It's back to Jay for some stomping but Naito rips at his eye too. Bushi comes in with a missile dropkick and we finally hit a heat segment.

That lasts all of a few seconds as Jay dropkicks Evil and brings Mark back in to speed things up. Everything breaks down with Bully coming back in to clean house. Evil is in line for What's Up but Naito dives onto the mat with his signature pose to block Mark's dive. Ok that was clever. It's Bully taking something like What's Up (Ray: "OW MY BALLS!" Ian: "I

didn't know Bushi was a baller!") but Bushi mists Evil by mistake. The 3D ends Evil at 13:35.

Rating: B-. This was starting to look really good but they spent a bit too much time with the goofiness instead of the actual match. Los Ingobernables are growing on me every time I see them and Naito is clearly one of the top stars in New Japan. Giving the Briscoes and Bully the win was a nice surprise as I would have bet on them going with the New Japan guys in one of the bigger matches so it was a nice twist.

Post match, Bully and Naito have a pose off for some reason. I'm not sure if Ring of Honor thinks Bully is on Naito's level but that's not quite the case...I don't think.

Intermission eats up about twenty minutes.

The announcers talk about what's left on the card.

Silas Young vs. Mark Haskins

Mark is a British high flier and the referee is taller than both guys in a weird visual. A drop toehold just annoys Silas (like it's so hard) and they slug it out with Haskins actually getting the better of it off a kick to the face. Young bails to the floor and gets faked out off a dive, setting up the regular version on the adjacent side of the ring. Nice little sequence there.

Silas is right back with an apron powerbomb to take over for the first time but we slow down for the trash talk. A middle rope jumping back rake (that's a new one) sets up a lariat (that's an old one) for two. Haskins gets sick of being slapped in the face and comes back with some rapid fire forearms before rolling into a modified Fujiwara armbar.

It's off to a Sharpshooter instead but Silas is way too close to the ropes. An electric chair faceplant and a short DDT give Young two and the short lariat is good for the same. Misery is loaded up but here's Lethal for a distraction, allowing Haskins to roll into a Samoan driver for the pin at 10:14.

Rating: C+. The ending was fine as it helps to play up the Lethal vs.

Young feud, which has been one of the better things in Ring of Honor as of late. Haskins was a fan favorite though he didn't really show me anything that I haven't seen from a lot of other wrestlers. Still though, good match as the show continues to pick up a bit.

Referees break up Silas vs. Jay.

TV Title: Hiromu Takahashi vs. Dalton Castle vs. Marty Scurll vs. Kushida

Kushida is defending and it's one fall to a finish. Scurll is of course beloved in his home country. Kushida and Scurll head outside, leaving Takahashi and Castle to play with the former's doll Daryl (who is apparently a big thing). Takahashi gets caught between the peacock pose and the bird pose, allowing Kushida to springboard in with an elbow to the head. Now Daryl is on commentary and the announcers ask him questions because the idea of being serious around here is just not happening.

Takahashi comes back in to take out Kushida's knee, only to stop to meow at Castle. Dalton stops for his strut but gets superkicked by Scurll. Kushida grabs the cross armbreaker to make Takahashi tap on the floor but gets suplexed into the corner back inside. With Kushida down, Takahashi tries a sunset bomb to send Castle to the floor but the Boys make a save.

Back inside and Scurll hits a modified piledriver and a running knee for two on Takahashi. Castle breaks up the chickenwing attempt with a German suplex before Kushida comes back in for a pinfall reversal sequence with Scurll. It's Castle suplexing everyone in sight but getting sent to the floor.

Scurll misses a moonsault and takes one from Kushida for two. Kushida flips into the chickenwing but slips out into the Hoverboard Lock. Castle and Takahashi grab stereo German suplexes for the save and everyone is down. Cue Adam Page for a distraction so Scurll can hit Castle with the umbrella, only to have Kushida punch him down. Back to the Future on Castle retains the title at 11:28.

Rating: B-. Fun match if you ignore all the nonsense with Daryl (which to be fair wasn't all that much). Castle losing via shenanigans helps a bit though he needs to actually win something at some point. Scurll continues

to grow on me a lot, even if his in-ring stuff isn't anything great. Takahashi is just kind of there, though maybe he's just one of those characters that I don't get.

Kushida shakes Castle's hand. You know, just after dropping him on his head to beat him.

Tag Team Titles: Addiction vs. Young Bucks

The Bucks are defending because Heaven forbid they're not holding titles. Addiction jumps them during the Big Match Intros to Ian's annoyance, which I guess means the Bucks are faces tonight. The Bucks easily fight them off with dropkicks so we hit the Rise of the Terminator pose. Matt gets sent to the apron where Daniels pulls him face first down as the champs are in some trouble. Eh I give it thirty seconds.

Back in and Matt gets stomped down in the corner, followed by a low bridge to the floor. The beating continues with a face to the knee and an STO to give Daniels two. Daniels' Lionsault hits knees though and it's off to Nick off the hot tag. The Bucks speed things up with the double kicks to Daniels in the corner and a Backstabber for no cover. It's off to the Sharpshooter because the Bucks needed another finisher.

Everything breaks down and it's an Unprettier to Nick but Matt hurricanranas his way out of Angel's Wings. Kazarian breaks up a Sharpshooter on Daniels and it's time for everyone to punch everyone. The Bucks get the better of it but More Bang For Your Buck is broken up. Daniels hits the BME for two on Nick, followed by a sitout powerbomb/neckbreaker combo for the same. Back up and Daniels goes up top, only to get caught in the Tree of Woe. That leaves Kazarian in trouble, meaning it's the Meltzer Driver to retain the titles at 13:30.

Rating: B. As is almost always the case, whenever the Bucks don't just spam superkicks, they're far more competitive. The problem though continues to be that there's no reason to believe they'll win. Even if they drop the titles, you know full well that they'll be getting them back anytime because that's just how Ring of Honor and New Japan roll. I'm starting to like their work better, but then they'll just do thirty five superkicks in a match again to mess that up.

ROH World Title: Sanada vs. Cody

Cody is defending and won't shake hands to start. Jerk. We hit the long form stall to start as Cody isn't cool with the fans being behind Sanada. No contact in the first two minutes. A nice little technical sequence really gets us going with both guys trying headlock takeovers but getting reversed into a headscissors before they try dropkicks at the same time for a standoff.

Now it's Sanada who won't shake hands as they're mirroring each other so far. The Beautiful Disaster is countered with a dropkick and Cody takes another breather on the floor. Cue Naito to cut off an escape attempt so Cody throws Ian into Sanada. Did England not get the notice about Cody turning face? Back in and Cody flips off the fans before getting two off a delayed gordbuster.

An armdrag pulls Sanada off the top but Cody would rather channel his inner Scott Steiner with some push-ups. After more stalling (WAY too much of that so far), Cody grabs a quickly broken half crab. Instead it's that modified Indian Deathlock to send Sanada slowly crawling to the ropes and then the floor. Cody switches places with him but gets knocked off the apron and into the announcers.

Back in and Sanada ties him up for the dropkick to the hip, only to get caught with the Beautiful Disaster. Cody misses the moonsault press though and la majistral gives Sanada two. A TKO gives him the same but Cody spits at him. That just earns the champ some right hands to the jaw and we have a ref bump.

Cross Rhodes gets no count but Sanada's rollup gets two, only to be countered into a LeBell Lock. With that broken up, Cody shouts that he's waiting on Brian Danielson. Cody loads up a superplex but gets countered into a powerbomb for two. Back up and Sanada grabs the dragon sleeper, only to have Cody flip over into Cross Rhodes to retain at 20:02.

Rating: D+. This was WAY too long and felt like a televised midcard title match instead of a pay per view World Title defense. The ref bump didn't need to be there and Cody looked like he was more interested in wasting time than defending the title. Not a good match at all, even with Sanada

doing whatever he could to make it work.

Post match Cody grabs the mic and insults the Liverpool fans for being so poor. He'll defend the title against anyone so here's Dalton Castle (thankfully with his title) to interrupt. Dalton doesn't understand why Cody doesn't like these people because he loves them. Castle is no silly goose and the only reason he's not the TV Champion is Cody sending Page out during their match. If Cody wants to know who's left, Dalton Castle is left. Cody bails and Castle thanks the fans for coming out to end the show.

Overall Rating: D+. This did not need to be a pay per view and it was clear that there wasn't a ton of effort put into it (into the build, not the wrestlers/wrestling). There was almost nothing in the way of story advancement outside of the ending with the wrestling not being enough to carry things. Things got better in the second half but I really wasn't feeling most of the show. The fact that I didn't know about the pay per view until less than a week before the show tells you almost everything you need to know about the card and that's really not a good thing. There are worse shows, but few more lifeless ones, which is a lot worse.

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