

# Ring Of Honor TV – March 16, 2023: They're Already At The Three Month Mark

## Ring Of Honor

Date: March 16, 2023

Location: Universal Studios, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

It's the third week of this show and hopefully the improvements they made last week are taken further this week. Last week's show was a bit shorter than the debut and also felt like it was more important, with fewer squashes. They need to start announcing some more stuff for Supercard of Honor so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

## Claudio Castagnoli vs. Willie Mack

Non-title but a Proving Ground match, meaning if Mack wins or survives the ten minute time limit to a draw, he gets a future title shot. Castagnoli works on the arm to start until Mack armdrags him out to the floor. Mack teases a dive but Castagnoli walks away in time, leaving Mack to pose instead.

Back in and Mack snaps off a hurricanrana for two before hitting a running kick to the chest. A hard clothesline and butterfly suplex give Castagnoli two and we hit the chinlock. With that broken up, the Samoan drop into the standing moonsault gets two on Castagnoli and they forearm it out. Mack goes Sky High for two more but Castagnoli BLASTS HIM with a running uppercut for the pin at 7:12.

**Rating:** B-. Mack has the charisma and the impressive looking

offense but Castagnoli is on another level in there. He shrugged off everything Mack threw at him and then finished it with one heck of an uppercut. It made Castagnoli feel like the bigger star while he beat someone who felt important as well. Good opener and dang that uppercut looked great.

Castagnoli shows respect while Mack is still down.

#### Mike Bennett vs. Dante Martin

The rest of the Kingdom and Darius Martin are here too. Dante spins out of a wristlock to start and shoulders Bennett into the ropes. They strike it out with Dante getting the better of things, setting up a dropkick to the floor. There's the big dive to take Bennett out again but a Maria distraction lets Bennett hit a piledriver on the ramp. Dante beats the count and is fine enough for a springboard crossbody.

A package sitout powerbomb gets two on Bennett and they both need a breather. Back up and Bennett grabs a Death Valley Driver into a seated armbar, sending Dante over to the rope. Bennett takes him up top but gets hurricanranaed down, setting up a frog splash for two. The Kimura is reversed into a cradle to give Dante two and a spinning half nelson slam finishes Bennett at 10:02.

**Rating:** B. This was REALLY fun as they had me wondering who was going to win in the end. It was a back and forth match that had both of them looking good multiple times, as Martin continues to know how to do the comeback well. Cut out the piledriver on the ramp not knocking Dante out cold and this would have been even better. Heck of a match.

Post match Matt Taven comes in to beat on Dante, with Darius making the save.

#### Trustbusters vs. Metalik/Blake Christian

Mark Sterling is here with the Trustbusters. Christian and

Daivari start things off with the former working on the arm and bringing Metalik in to do the same. The rope walk dropkick gets two on Daivari but a Slim J distraction lets Daivari take over. That doesn't last long as Metalik gets over for the tag to Christian so house can be cleaned.

Back in and Slim J takes Christian down before Daivari drives him into the corner. Christian handspring kicks his way out of trouble and it's back to Metalik, who gets dropkicked out of the air. Everything breaks down and Christian dives onto Daivari, leaving Metalik to Michinoku Driver Slim J for the pin at 8:50.

**Rating:** C+. Well thank goodness we got the Trustbusters on for the third show in a row. The good thing is the match was better, though it's still rather hard to care about anything Trustbusters related as the team is just so uninteresting. Metalik and Christian worked well together for a makeshift team, though I'm not sure how much of a future they'll have.

Video on Mark Briscoe wanting the TV Title and Samoa Joe's history of success against the Briscoes.

Mark Briscoe calls the TV Title his destiny but for now, he wants to take out everyone who works for Mark Sterling.

### Jeeves Kay vs. Eddie Kingston

Believe it or not, Kay is part of the Trustbusters. Claudio Castagnoli has a seat in the crowd as Kingston grabs a headlock takeover. They head outside with Kingston sending Kay into the barricade, knocking a drink onto Castagnoli's expensive shirt. The distraction lets Kay get in a shot of his own and a frog splash gets one. Kingston isn't having that and suplexes him into the Stretch Plum for the tap at 2:36.

The Trustbusters (Are they kidding?) says there were some illegal tags so that loss didn't count. Oh and Kay gave Kingston his best match in AEW. Daivari is fed up and wants

Christian and Metalik in a six man tag.

### Athena vs. Hyan

Another non-title Proving Ground match. Athena drops her to start and mocks the fans a bit, only to get kicked in the face for her rudeness. A swinging chokeslam cuts Hyan down again but she fights out of a chinlock. Athena catches her on top and spins into a powerbomb to the floor (ouch). Back in and the Crossface makes Hyan tap at 4:41.

**Rating:** C. They didn't have time to do much here and a lot of that was spent on Athena playing to the fans. That powerbomb looked good though and Athena ran through an opponent who shouldn't have caused her much trouble. This was little more than a showcase for Athena and in that regard, it went well.

Post match Athena sends her face first into the title belt.

Blake Christian and Metalik have AR Fox to help them deal with the Trustbusters.

### Silas Young vs. Marcus Kross

This is Young's first ROH appearance since Christmas 2021. Young grabs a headlock to start but gets pulled into a rollup for two. Back up and a hard whip sends Kross into the corner and we hit the double arm crank. Kross fights up and hits a high crossbody but gets sent into the corner again. The Pee Gee Waja Plunge (handstand into an Arabian moonsault) finishes Kross at 3:07.

**Rating:** C. Young is a good hand to have around as he is someone with the resume to make a difference around here. I don't know if he'll be a star in the new Ring Of Honor but he ties back to the past in a way that could be beneficial. The match was almost a squash and that was a good way to bring Young back.

Post match Young says no one measures up to him but here is

Shane Taylor to interrupt. Taylor doesn't like Young calling himself the most dominant TV Champion ever, so let's see who is more dominant next week. Young is in.

Athena wants to know where Yuka Sakazaki is because she hurt Sakazaki, who is now staying in Japan to avoid her. Well come challenge for the title at Supercard of Honor.

### Six Man Tag Team Titles: Dalton Castle/The Boys vs. The Embassy

The Embassy, with Prince Nana, is defending. Castle and Kaun start things off with Castle wrestling him to the mat without much trouble. Brent comes in and gets taken into the wrong corner with straight power. Toa chokes away and runs over the now legal Brandon. The Boys are back up with stereo basement Downward Spirals, setting up Castle's splash. That doesn't last long as the Gates are right back up to take over on Brandon.

The chinlock goes on, before Toa backbreakers Brandon onto the top rope. Cage's apron superplex gets two and Kaun's spinebuster gets the same. Brandon gets over for the tag off to Castle, who is promptly kicked down by Cage. Everything breaks down and Nana breaks up the Bang A Rang. The Boys beat up Cage but get crushed by the Gates. A double clothesline (one to the front and one to the back) drops Brent, with Brandon being slammed on top of him for the double retaining pin at 10:26.

**Rating:** C+. Given that these are the only two teams who ever talk about going after the titles, it would have made some more sense to put this on Supercard of Honor. Then again it would make more sense to drop these titles altogether, but that isn't likely to happen. It gives Cage something to do though and that at least keeps him from being on Dynamite.

Post match the Embassy beats up Castle and the Boys again until Blake Christian/Metalik/AR Fox make the save. They hold

up the titles, because forming together, setting up another match, and then going after the titles in the span of 45 minutes is perfectly normal pacing.

### Trish Adora vs. Madison Rayne

They lock up to start, with Madison climbing the ropes and spinning her way out to take Adora down. Adora blocks a crucifix bomb and uses the power to take over. The Lariat Tubman is blocked though and Rayne plants her with a DDT. Rayne is right back with a cutter for two and the crucifix bomb gets two more. Back up and the Lariat Tubman finishes Rayne at 5:19.

**Rating:** C. Again they didn't have much time but pushing Adora as a star is far from a bad idea. She's got the charisma and abilities in the ring to make a go of something so let her see what she can do. If the division is going to work this time, it needs to make some new stars. Adora is a very interesting place to start.

Top Flight isn't done with the Kingdom so next week, Darius is ready to take out Matt Taven.

### Outrunners vs. Christopher Daniels/Matt Sydal

Truth Magnum jumps Sydal to start and Daniels gets planted. Daniels slips away though and brings in Sydal to kick away. A suplex gives Sydal two and everything breaks down. Turbo Floyd is sent outside and the Angel's Wings into the Lightning Spiral finishes Magnum at 2:42. That worked.

Post match Aussie Open comes out and, after insulting Sydal and Daniels for being old, challenge them to a match. Daniels and Sydal seem in.

Video on Clark Connors challenging Wheeler Yuta for the Pure Title.

### Pure Rules Title: Clark Connors vs. Wheeler Yuta

Yuta is defending and they run the ropes to start until Connors tells him to chop away. Yuta pulls him down into a choke and Connors has to use his first rope break. Back up and Connors grabs a brainbuster, only to get pulled into octopus stretch. That's broken up as Connors falls into the ropes (there's the second break) so Yuta punches him in the face (not seen). Yuta starts going after the arm by sending him into the corner but Connors comes back with a Pounce.

Another Pounce is blocked though and Yuta scores with his top rope forearm. Back up and Connors flips out of a belly to back and hits a hard spear. Yuta dropkicks him in the arm to break it up and ties the...leg up. Connors has to use his still legal punch for the break but Yuta punches him back (both are warned, meaning another punch results in a DQ). That's fine with Connors, who grabs the ankle lock to make Yuta burn a rope break. Yuta ties up the arm with something like a Crossface before switching into the Seatbelt to retain at 9:57.

**Rating:** B-. Yuta cheating is working for the title and Connors was a nice safe title defense for him. Connors isn't the biggest guy but dang that Pounce and spear looked good. With this out of the way though, Yuta is going to need a bigger name to come after the belt, or at least someone who doesn't feel like they were drawn out of a hat.

Post match Yuta brags about his win and calls out Katsuyori Shibata for a title match to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. As usual, the show was good and the wrestling isn't the problem. Even the run time isn't the problem (still under two hours, which is about as long as a show like this can reasonably go), but rather how much stuff is crammed in here. On this show, you had one story involving a tag match, the losers of that match wanting a six man, the winners finding a partner, the match being made and the winners wanting the Six Man Tag Team Titles. That sounds like

about a month of one story and it took place in less than an hour and twenty minutes of one show.

I'm aware that they have a pay per view in a few weeks, but starting the build almost from scratch with about five weeks to go is turning the build into a train wreck. Things are being rushed together as fast as they can and very little is sticking in any way. It will likely get better after Supercard, but this show still feels like they're racing to cover as much as they can as fast as they can instead of putting on a well polished product.

### Results

Claudio Castagnoli b. Willie Mack – Running uppercut

Dante Martin b. Mike Bennett – Spinning half nelson slam

Blake Christian/Metalik b. Trustbusters – Michinoku Driver to Slim J

Eddie Kingston b. Jeeves Kay – Stretch Plum

Athena b. Hyan – Crossface

Silas Young b. Marcus Kross – Pee Gee Waja Plunge

The Embassy b. Dalton Castle/The Boys – Double pin

Trish Adora b. Madison Rayne – Lariat Tubman

Matt Sydal/Christopher Daniels b. Outrunners – Lightning Spiral to Magnum

Wheeler Yuta b. Clark Connors – Seatbelt

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# GCW For The Culture 2022: Call It A Culture Clash?

## GCW For The Culture 2022

Date: April 1, 2022

Location: Fair Park, Dallas, Texas

Commentators: AC Mack, Suge D, Faye Jackson, Robert Martyr

This is part of GCW's annual collection of shows and hopefully this year's is a bit better than last time. Granted not having the show deep into the night in front of a few dozen fans when everyone was already burned out should help. I'm not sure what to expect from the show and I kind of like it that way. Let's get to it.

No intro for the show, which is normal for something like this.

The unnamed ring announcer introduces us to commentary and it's time for the opener.

## Impact Wrestling Knockouts Title: Big Swole vs. Tasha Steelz

Steelz is defending and commentary really likes her hair. Swole knocks her down to start and it's a cutter for an early two. They're already on the floor with Steelz getting in her first shot and taking it back inside. Steelz hits a running kick to the face for two and hits some suplexes for the same.

Swole (eventually) fights out of a chinlock and gets two off

an uppercut. That's fine with Steelz, who slides between her legs but can't grab a cutter. Swole hits something like Happy Corbin's Deep Six for two more and they strike it out until Steelz hits a Stunner. Back up and Dirty Dancing drops Steelz to the floor so Swole throws her back in, only to get caught with a cutter to retain Steelz's title at 8:02.

**Rating:** C. Commentary is going to be an annoying factor throughout the show as it seems that they are trying to pop each other rather than focus on the match. That being said, this isn't a show that needs to be treated as the most serious thing so it's hardly a match killer. Steelz and Swole are talented but they aren't exactly ready for a match on their own, meaning this was just ok.

Keita vs. Ju Dizz vs. PB Smooth vs. Michael Oku vs. Carlie Bravo vs. Andino vs. Trey Shaw

Well what would a show like this be without a scramble? Everyone goes after the big Smooth to start but he throws everyone but Andino out to the floor. A reverse World's Strongest Slam into a legdrop gives Smooth two as I try to keep track of who everyone is. Smooth misses a charge and falls out to the apron, setting up Oku vs. Shaw. With Shaw down, Andino takes out Oku, leaving Andino to stare it down with Bravo.

Oku is back in but his half crab is kicked to the floor and it's Andino cleaning house again. There's the big dive to the floor, followed by an even bigger flip version from Oku. Smooth breaks up another dive and hits something like a Blue Thunder Bomb for two on Shaw. Everyone goes after Smooth again until Oku missile dropkicks him down. We hit the parade of secondary finishers until Oku misses a Lionsault. Back up and Oku hits some running knees on Shaw, setting up the half crab for the tap at 9:57.

**Rating:** C. As is almost always the case with these scrambles,

I have no idea what I'm supposed to get out of them. The match is all over the place with a bunch of people doing their thing and hopefully someone stands out. Oku and Smooth did to an extent, but I was regularly forgetting who was who here because it's seven guys trying to stand out in about ten minutes. How could that possibly work?

### Shane Taylor Promotions vs. HitMakerZ

That would be O'Shay Edwards/Shane Taylor with Ron Hunt vs. AJ Francis/Tehuti Miles (better known as Top Dolla/Ashante Thee Adonis) with Briana Brandy (B-Fab) of Hit Row fame. Taylor and Francis shove each other to start before fighting over a power lockup. Edwards comes in and gets shouldered hard into the corner, leaving him rather surprised. Commentary bills this as Performance Center vs. the indies for a rather insightful concept.

Miles comes in and gets suplexed by Edwards, who hands it off to Taylor for the actual suplex (that's always cool). One heck of a beal sends Miles flying and Taylor runs him over for two more. Miles manages to get over for the tag to Francis to clean house but it's time for the managers to get in a fight. Francis gets caught in the corner and a double superplex is loaded up, only to have Miles turn it into a double powerbomb.

With Edwards thankfully not out cold with Taylor almost landing on his head, Francis hits a standing moonsault to Taylor for the showoff move. That's not enough though so it's a World's Strongest Slam to Taylor and something like a forward Samoan drop/Wasteland to Edwards at the same time, but Taylor isn't legal so there's no count (point for a competent referee). The seconds get into it on the floor, which allows Edwards to hit a spinebuster on Francis. Taylor's running knee into the Marcus Garvey Driver finishes Miles at 11:29.

**Rating:** C+. This was a pretty decent tag match and I could go for more of both teams. The HitMakerZ are still pretty good

minus Swerve Strickland, but neither of them have wrestled so far since this match. I'm still not sure why Taylor hasn't gotten regular work somewhere, as he is far too talented to go from one independent show to another. Edwards is the same, though he seems to be more of a regular on the indy circuit. Anyway, nice match here and I was getting into it by the end.

Respect is shown post match.

### Pan-Afrikan World Dispura Wrestling World Title: Trish Adora vs. MJ Jenkins

Jenkins is challenging and yes that is what the title is called. They fight over a lockup to start and neither can get anywhere. Adora takes her to the mat and works on the armbar, complete with pushups. Jenkins isn't having that and forearms her down, setting up some running shots to the face in the corner. The Tree of Woe stomping is on, followed by the chinlock to keep things on Adora.

A Backpack Stunner gets her out of trouble though and there's a Hennig necksnap for two. Jenkins forearms her back and hits a swinging slam for two, meaning frustration is setting in. Lariat Tubman misses for Adora so Jenkins kicks her in the head and loads up her own Lariat Tubman (I like that name more every time I hear it). That takes too long though and Adora hits a Bubba Bomb into a rollup for the pin to retain at 11:31.

**Rating:** C+. Adora is someone who seems to be one of the potential breakout stars that you see in various women's divisions so it makes sense to put her on here. Jenkins seemed like a bit of a hoss and having her beat on Adora before getting rolled up at the end made sense. Good match, and Adora continues to grow on me.

### Darius Lockhart vs. AJ Gray

Feeling out process to start as commentary talks about this

being a dream match. Lockhart gets an armbar on the mat but Gray rolls him into the ropes without much trouble. Lockhart goes right back to the arm so Gray goes right back to the rope before kicking him down. A running backplash gives Gray two and it's time to strike it out.

Gray's powerslam is countered into a crossbody for two (kind of an odd one) and a running knee in the corner gives Lockhart two. Back up and Lockhart grabs a suplex for two, followed by a running shot to the face for two more. A jumping knee to the face connects and Lockhart grabs what looks to be a headlock takeover, which is reversed into a cradle to give Gray the pin at 10:27.

**Rating:** C. It was nice while it lasted but this didn't really build anywhere until Gray rolled him up for the pin. Lockhart got in some good shots and those knees were pretty good, but I was expecting at least another five minutes and it was a sudden ending. I've seen Gray multiple times before and he's very good, though this wasn't the best way to use his talents.

#### JTG vs. Mysterious Q vs. Zenshi vs. Bryan Keith

One fall to a finish. They stare each other down to start until Q rolls Keith up for two. JTG comes in for the staredown with Q but gets pulled outside. That leaves Kelly to come back in and miss a springboard...something, meaning Q slams Keith. Q calls JTG in for the slugout until JTG hits the reverse Sling Blade for two. Everyone gets back in and it's a double suplex into a powerbomb to drop JTG.

Zenshi and JTG are sent outside, leaving Q to hit a slingshot corkscrew splash. Q is back up with a spinning torture rack bomb for two on Zenshi with JTG having to make the save. JTG plants Q with a very spinning Rock Bottom but gets low bridged to the floor by Keith. Back in and Zenshi gets buckle bombed by JTG, who takes Zenshi up top. Keith shoves JTG outside and gets Zenzhi in an electric chair, only to have Q run the ropes

and hit a springboard....bulldog I think to finish Zenshi at 8:09.

**Rating:** C. I've seen Q be good enough before so he was no surprise, with Zenshi being about the same. Keith didn't get much of a chance to shine here but was decent enough. Then, as usual, you have JTG, whose physical transformation continues to blow my mind, even a year after I saw it in the first place. The match was your usual "here's a spot while some people are on the floor, repeat until finish", which was all you probably should have expected it to be.

The ring is filled with weapons for the death match main event, with the announcer giving the fans directions on what happens if the wrestlers come near them: "Grab your s\*\*\* and move!"

#### Hoodfoot vs. Billy Dixon

Death match and Dixon is a rather large man in overalls. There is talk about these two having a big feud but an explanation of what that feud may be about isn't important enough to explain. They circle each other to start before going for the light tubes. Dixon ducks the first shot but gets blasted in the head to put him in trouble. They head outside with Hoodfoot hitting him in the head a few times, only to have Dixon get in a shot of his own.

Hold on though as Dixon has to stop to yell at someone in the crowd (who seems to be part of their feud), allowing Hoodfoot to get in a barbed wire 2x4 shot. A powerbomb off the apron and three a table is blocked as Dixon kicks him in the head, meaning it's time to slug it out on the apron. They both fall through the table to leave them both down, with commentary thinking it might be a countout.

We're not that lucky as Hoodfoot takes him back inside for a bunch of light tubes to the back. More tubs are put over Dixon's throat and stomped on for two so it's time to go up.

Since it's a death match, Dixon is right back up to catch him on top. A chair to the head sets up a slam through a door for two on Hoodfoot and Dixon is warming up. Something like an Unprettier onto the light tube gets two and a spinebuster onto the glass is good for the same.

More light tubs to the back have Hoodfoot down but Dixon stops to pose on the ropes, meaning more light tubes to his back bring him down. Commentary apologizes for the slower pace but hypes up all of the violence. We get some more violence as Dixon is kind of pumphandle powerbombed through a door for one, with Dixon getting all fired up. That's fine with Hoodfoot, who hits him with a bunch of light tube shots and grabs a Border City Stretch for the tap at 17:01.

**Rating:** D. This was a lot of the problems with a death match thrown into one match. The guys were both rather large and not exactly moving well and their offense mainly consisted of hitting each other with light tubes. That's about all of the death match stuff that we had here, as instead of hitting someone with one light tube, they kept using one tube after another. It was slow, it wasn't interesting violence and the story was barely touched on. Rather awful main event, which shouldn't be a surprise.

Post match they look at each other but leave without a handshake or the far more important nod of respect. And then the show just ends without much of in the way of fanfare.

**Overall Rating:** D+. This show was really not very good and I'm not surprised it took me so long to get through it. There were a few ok enough matches but nothing on here stood out and the main event was dreadful. Last year's For The Culture was a heck of a lot better than this as the show can go well, but this was a big miss and one of the worse shows from Wrestlemania weekend so far.

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# Ring Of Honor Final Battle 2021: The End Of An Era: Catch You Down The Road. Maybe.

## Final Battle 2021

Date: December 11, 2021

Location: UMBC Events Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

It's the end of an era and quite possibly the end of a company, or at least the end of the company as we know it to be. Ring of Honor is going into hiatus after this show for about four months, leaving a pretty big cloud over their future. I'm not sure what that is going to mean, but hopefully they can have a great show on their way out. Let's get to it.



## Pre-Show: Six Man Tag Team Titles: Righteous vs. Shane Taylor Promotions

Promotions (Moses/Kaun/O'Shay Edwards, with Ron Hunt) are defending. Dutch and Moses fight over wrist control to start, which isn't something you often see between hosses. Moses gets flipped into the corner, which is even more rare, so he knocks Dutch outside in a hurry. Everything breaks down in a hurry (you knew that was coming) and the three way brawl is on until it's Vincent suplexing Kaun.

That doesn't work for Kaun, who is back up with a running elbow to the face. Moses comes back in and gets caught with a Side Effect as commentary shouts out to Kyle O'Reilly and the Hardys. It's off to Edwards, who gets a rather nice reaction as he beats on Bateman. Vincent tries his luck but can't knock Edwards over the top. Instead he throws Edwards through the ropes as everything breaks down again.

Vita VonStarr gets on the apron for a distraction but Moses knocks her onto the pile and flip dives onto them. Not to be outdone, Dutch hits a BIG flip dive over the top onto everyone else. VonStarr hits a dive of her own, leaving Vincent to Redrum Kaun for two back inside. The elevated DDT plants Bateman and Edwards drops a good looking moonsault for two more, with the bell ringing by mistake. Edwards plants Dutch but walks into Orange Sunshine to give Vincent the pin and the titles at 10:42.

**Rating:** C+. That was a pretty wild six man tag to start and that's often the best way to get the fans going. One of the cool things about tonight is that the title changes don't mean anything, so we could be in for a bunch of title changes. Not exactly a classic, but it was fun and a good choice for an opener.

## Pre-Show: Miranda Alize/Allure vs. Chelsea Green/The Hex

Allure is Mandy Leon/Angelina Love and the Hex is Allysin

Kay/Marti Belle. Miranda kicks Belle in the head for a fast two but Marti is back with a running kick to the face of her own. Kay comes in and the threat of a powerbomb sends Alize over for the fast tag to Leon. Green gets her chance and rolls Leon up for two of her own so Leon dropkicks her down for two. A suplex into the corner gets another near fall on Green and there's a running basement dropkick from Alize.

The villains take turns hitting some running splashes in the corner on Green, setting up Love's Complete Shot for two more. Green fights out of the corner though and it's a double missile dropkick for a much needed breather. The hot tag brings in Kay to clean house until Belle grabs Hex Marks The Spot for two more. Everything breaks down, including the parade of secondary finishers, capped off by Green hitting a huge dive onto the pile. Marti's dive is cut off though and Mandy hits Astral Projection for the pin at 6:52.

**Rating:** C-. Kind of a messy match here and it's a bit of an eye roll to see Leon get the pin on the last show. She has been one of the focal points of the women's division for a long time now and has more or less stopped developing since the Allure deal started. The match wasn't bad and had some good spots, but less than seven minutes for six women is a lot to cover in such a short amount of time.

Pre-Show: PJ Black/Flip Gordon/Bouncers/World Famous CB vs. LSG/Sledge/Max The Impaler/Demonic Flamita/Will Ferrara

Ferrara and CB trade wristlocks to start and the exchange of not being able to get an advantage gives us a standoff. Gordon and Flamita come in to trade clotheslines and armdrags for another standoff, which has commentary and the crowd equally pleased. LSG comes in and hits the Rocket Bye Baby for two on Black so it's Milonas coming in for the showdown with Max.

That's good for a cheap shot from Milonas so Bruiser can have a quick slugout. Max hands it off to Sledge for a slightly

more fair slugout and it's time for people to start coming in sans tags and hit each other in the face. Max hammers on Milonas and unloads on him in the corner, setting up a spear.

Bruiser pulls Max outside and takes her down and it's time to set up the series of dives. Flamita teases a dive but opts to flip off the fans instead, leaving Bruiser to...not hit a powerbomb actually. Instead Flamita slips out and hits a superkick, setting up a big corkscrew dive to the floor. Back in and Gordon cutters LSG out of the air, setting up a Doomsday Canadian Destroyer to give Black the pin at 10:22.

**Rating:** C+. I can go with a match where there is nothing to suggest that it is anything more than a big mess. They weren't trying anything else here and that's how it should have gone. Let these ten people get on there and go nuts for a little while, which is a good way to go on the pre-show. Sometimes you need some insanity and that's what you got here, so well done.

The opening video talks about the meaning of honor, even when you are looking into a future of nothing. It is the end of an era, but it is not the end of honor.

### Dragon Lee vs. Rey Horus

They hug to start and fight over a lockup, setting up some rope running minus the contact. Horus can't get a sunset flip so he rolls to the floor, where Lee hits a heck of a dive. Lee throws him over the barricade, allowing Lee to have a seat at ringside. Back in and Lee spinebusters Horus into a half crab, with Horus going straight to the rope.

The running knees in the corner are broken up by Horus' raised boot though, with Lee bailing to the floor. Now it's Horus hitting the big flip dive to take Lee down for a change, setting up the overhead belly to belly into the corner back inside. Lee is back up with a pair of tilt-a-whirl backbreakers to set up another half crab to put Horus back in

trouble. It's time to slug it out, including an exchange of kicks to the face.

A Spanish Fly plants Horus but Lee can't follow up so it's a double breather. Horus crotches him on top and it's a super victory roll for a close two. Now it's Horus going up but slipping, allowing Lee to get his knees up to block the splash. Lee rolls into a Falcon Arrow for two on Horus and the Incinerator gets a very close two. Another Incinerator finishes Horus at 11:19.

**Rating:** B-. This was the kind of all action match that you would expect from these two and it was an entertaining match as a result. These two have been excellent for a long time now and one of the better series that you'll see. I'm glad they got a chance to tear it up again and it was a fun way for both of them to get on the card, while opening the show.

Former Ring of Honor Triple Crown Champion Eddie Edwards thanks Ring of Honor for the chance and for changing the business.

TV Title: Dalton Castle vs. Rhett Titus vs. Joe Hendry vs. Silas Young

Castle is defending and it's one fall to a finish, with Castle bailing to the floor to walk into the crowd. Hendry (who is looking jacked compared to his old days) gets taken outside so Young can send him into the barricade. Back in and Castle t-bone suplexes Young, meaning it's time for a lap around the ring. Titus comes in for a quick rollup but gets sent outside for an apron flip dive from Young.

Hendry blasts Titus with a clothesline but gets belly to belly suplexed into the corner. Castle is back in with the Bang A Rang to Titus, who reverses into a cradle for two. Titus sends Young outside but Hendry pulls Titus' high crossbody out of the air, because he's strong enough to do that.

A double fall away slam sends Young and Titus flying so it's Castle coming back in with a big smile on his face. It's Titus coming back in and getting planted by a heck of a Hendry powerbomb. There's the Bang A Rang to plant Titus but Hendry belts Castle in the face. Cue Castle's friend Dak Draper to take Hendry down though, leaving Titus to avoid Young's moonsault. The dropkick gives Titus the pin and the title at 8:51.

**Rating:** C. They kept this fast and that's probably the better idea. It was another one of those wild matches that was only there to be as exciting as possible and that is often better than letting things go long. Titus winning the title after trying for so long is a feel good moment and I liked what we got here. Granted that might have been Castle and his Dancing Chickens.

Hangman Page is going to miss Ring of Honor.

#### Pure Rules Title: Brian Johnson vs. Josh Woods

Pure Rules (of course) and Woods is defending. As usual, Johnson runs his mouth before the bell, talking about how it doesn't matter if you're a Punk, an American Dragon or a Peacock, because Johnson is better than you. Woods scares him into the ropes and Johnson has used his first break in about thirty seconds. The second break is used up less than a minute and ten seconds in but Johnson sends him into the corner for a chop.

That earns him a hard knee to the ribs though, allowing Woods to grab a choke over the ropes. Johnson Stuns his way to freedom and hits a heck of a dive to the floor (which doesn't feel very Pure). Back in and Johnson has to break another choke, setting up some knee drops. A running splash sets up Spike Deskin (I think? It's a hanging cutter to the floor.) and Woods is rocked.

They get back inside to fight over a suplex, with Woods

finally taking him over the top for a double crash. The slugout on the floor almost gives us a double countout but they head back inside to slug it out there instead. Woods grabs another choke and Johnson has to use his third rope break.

A cheap shot lets Johnson hit the Process for two so he grabs the title. The referee takes that away so Johnson takes the turnbuckle pad off, only to get caught in a German suplex for two. Since the referee has to put the pad back on, Johnson gets a brass knuckles shot for two more. With nothing else working, Johnson puts him on top but gets caught in a choke. Since there are no rope breaks, Johnson has to tap at 12:58 to retain Woods' title.

**Rating:** B-. The Pure Rules division has become a major focal point in the last year or so and it is great to see it getting this kind of a focus again on the last show. Woods is kind of perfect for the division and he deserves to be on this show in this spot. I could go for more of Johnson's trash talk though, as it has made him a lot more memorable than anything he does in the ring.

Jimmy Jacobs loved his time in Ring of Honor. He certainly is a legend around here.

We recap Kenny King vs. Shane Taylor. They were friends, then King turned on him, meaning it's time for a Fight Without Honor.

### Kenny King vs. Shane Taylor

Fight Without Honor, meaning anything goes and weapons are provided. Riccaboni makes it more serious by talking about how these two are fighting to get their next paycheck elsewhere. A quick slugout takes things outside, with Shane sending him hard into the barricade a few times. The chair shot only hits post but Shane is fine enough to hit a backdrop on the floor.

Back in and King hits an enziguri but Shane hits him in the face over and over. Shane takes him up top, earning himself a super Blockbuster through a pair of tables at ringside. It's already time for the required kendo sticks (you knew they were coming), with King cracking him over the back and choking away. King takes his sweet time bringing in a trashcan and charges into a Rock Bottom out of the corner onto said can.

Now it's Taylor getting in his own stick shots, with Riccaboni rapid firing off some Cleveland Indians names. A heck of a splash puts King through another table at ringside so we need another table. Back in and King manages to drive him through the table in the corner for two in an impressive power display. Shane is right back up with the BIG ladder, but takes a bit too long and gets hit in the back with a kendo stick.

King gets in a few more shots and manages to build a rather ridiculous structure, with one ladder bridged between two more. Taylor is laid across the bridged ladder for a splash from the big one, which doesn't look as impressive as it should. Taylor is right back up with Greetings From The Land for two of his own so King bridges a ladder between the apron and the barricade.

They stand on said ladder and slug it out until Taylor grabs the Marcus Garvey Driver....but the ladder slips, so King gets dropped HARD onto the floor. Well that was terrifying, and of course gets two back inside. Taylor grabs a chair so King tells him to "f\*\*\*\*\* do it", meaning it's a chair to the head. The Marcus Garvey Driver finishes for Shane at 18:01.

**Rating:** C-. I really couldn't get into this one as it was longer than it needed to be and a lot of the spots felt rather contrived. You can only get so far with a match like this, with so many weapons set up in the right spots to make such a match work. Throw in that terrifying crash on the floor and this wasn't exactly the most fun to watch.

Post match, the rest of Shane Taylor Promotions and some other wrestlers get in the ring as Taylor and King make up.

CM Punk talks about his time in Ring of Honor and how special it was. It was a spirit that he loved and he will continue to foster it in AEW.

Rok-C is ready to defend the Women's Title against Willow Nightingale.

#### Women's Title: Willow Nightingale vs. Rok-C

Rok-C is defending but gets taken down to start, allowing Willow to bust out a cartwheel. Willow blocks the running knees but Rok-C manages to snap off a running headscissors. Back up and Willow can't quite hit Three Amigos, so she plants Rok-C for two instead. This time Rok-C fights up with a Russian legsweep but Willow plants her for two more. A Pounce rocks Rok-C, sending commentary into various Monty Brown impressions and Rok-C down for another near fall.

The fans are split here, but the Willow chants are a bit louder. The Code Rok is countered into a belly to back kneeling piledriver to give Willow two more. Willow still can't hit her moonsault as Rok-C jumps her from behind, setting up a heck of a powerbomb for two on Willow for a change. Back up and Willow catches her on top, setting up a superplex. Now the moonsault can connect for two but Rok-C is right back with the Code Rok to retain at 9:42.

**Rating:** C. The match was fast paced but Willow absolutely came off like a bigger star here and I would have thought about changing the title. Rok-C is a young star but she doesn't exactly have anything to her besides being young and talented. Willow might not be the next big thing, but she stood out way more than Rok-C.

Post match here is Deonna Purrazzo to challenge Rok-C for a title for title (AAA Reina de Reinas/Impact Knockouts whenever



she gets it back vs. Ring of Honor) match. Rok-C is in.

Adam Cole loved his time in Ring of Honor because it is why he became the wrestler he is today.

### Violence Unlimited/Rocky Romero vs. EC3/Eli Isom/Taylor Rust/Tracy Williams

Romero and Williams go technical to start (as you probably expected them to do) until Williams misses a charge into the corner. The Forever Clotheslines are countered into a kneebar, sending Rocky straight to the ropes. Tony Deppen and Taylor Rust come in, with Rust running him over in a hurry. It's already back to Williams, who gets to Crossface Homicide (in the same jumpsuit he wore on the first Ring of Honor show in a great bonus) for a change.

With that broken up, EC3 comes in to lose a strike off with Homicide. Brody King gets to come in and t-bone suplex EC3, only to get forearmed by the blindly tagged Isom. The choking doesn't do Isom much good as King takes him down for a heavy backsplash, allowing the Violent ones to take turns on Isom. That doesn't last long as it's back to EC3 as everything breaks down in a hurry. Isom hits a bit dive but King's is broken up by Rust and Williams hitting Total Elimination.

Back up and King is fine enough to hit a dive anyway but everyone runs over everyone else anyway. Homicide busts out his fork to stab EC3 but King is back in to MuscleBust Isom. We hit the parade of tribute finishers, including a Brian Kendrick Sliced Bread and a Jerry Lynn piledriver. Cattle Mutilation is broken up though and Isom hits Deppen with a Helluva Kick. Homicide and Isom slug it out until the Cop Killer gives Homicide two. Homicide freaks out so King comes back in, only to miss a clothesline as Isom collapses. The Ganso Bomb finishes Isom at 14:43.

**Rating:** C+. The tributes sequence might have been a little corny but it's the kind of thing that should be taking place

on this show. The fact that it came from one of the old school stars around here made it better and I was smiling at some of those tributes. You don't get to see something like that very often and it worked well here, though I could have gone for Isom FINALLY getting that big win.

Post match Violence Unlimited poses before leaving. That means EC3 can rant about how there is no honor in what they do because of three letter organizations. WHERE ARE OUR LEADERS??? Dak Draper and Brian Johnson are mentioned so they hit the ring, with EC3 telling them to control their narrative.

Cue Wesley Blake (from WWE/NXT) and someone else in the aisle as EC3 keeps going on about being free and controlling your narrative. EC3 says free the Titan...and here is Adam Scherr (Braun Strowman) to wreck Isom.. EC3 says this is an awakening as I try to figure out why they are bringing in an expensive wrestler for an invasion angle on a final show. Throw in that Strowman in ROH feels rather wrong and this is even weirder. Also the Control Your Narrative stuff continues to fail miserably as I still couldn't tell you what the heck EC3 means.

The Young Bucks love ROH.

Tag Team Titles: Briscoes vs. OGK

OGK, with Maria Kanellis-Bennett, is defending. Mark powers Taven into the corner to start so Bennett comes in for the slugout. Taven is back in with a middle rope dropkick to put Mark down and the champs clear the ring in a hurry. Taven's Flight of the Conqueror only hits Bennett though, allowing Mark to grab a chair. That means a big dive to take out both champs and it's Taven in trouble back inside.

Bennett makes the save with an elbow to Jay for two as commentary even thanks Jim Cornette for his time around here. The tag brings Mark back in for Redneck Kung Fu, plus Redneck

Boogie for two. Jay (already bleeding) can't hit the Jay Driller as Bennett saves Taven and chops away. Bennett hangs Jay over the apron so Taven can hit a heck of a top rope splash for two back inside.

Taven Climaxes Mark but can't cover, sending Maria into a half lap around the ring. The Briscoes send them outside for the big dives, setting up the Blockbuster off the apron to drop Bennett again. Back in and the Froggy Bow gets two on Taven, with Maria pulling the referee out. Maria gets dropped but it's a Flight of the Conqueror Doomsday Device (dang) to drop Mark on the floor, setting up another near fall.

Hail Mary gets the same with Jay having to make the save. A quick Jay Driller sends Bennett rolling back to the floor but Taven hits Just The Tip on Jay. The top rope splash hits knees though and the Jay Driller gets two. The Doomsday Device gets the same as commentary is SCREAMING at these near falls. Another Jay Driller into the Froggy Bow gives the Briscoes the titles back at 15:36.

**Rating:** B. I know it's a bit overdone but there is absolutely no one who should be the final ROH Tag Team Champions. The Briscoes are so far and away the greatest team in the company's history that you could probably cut their careers in half and still have them at the top of the list. Heck of a match too, and that's what you would have expected from these teams.

Post match respect is shown, with Jay thanking all of the fans. The Briscoes aren't done and are ready to face any team in the world...so there go the lights. Back up and AEW's FTR of all people are here for the big brawl. Referees break it up and a lot of swearing ensues. FTR holds up the titles and the next fight has to be broken up.

Bryan Danielson says he wouldn't be here without Ring of Honor, especially Final Battle. He thanks the fans for making

the shows and hopes that Ring of Honor will stick around.

We get a cool look at all of the Ring of Honor World Champions.

### Ring of Honor World Title: Jonathan Gresham vs. Jay Lethal

For the vacant title, as Bandido is out with Coronavirus. The fans are rather happy with this one as they trade wristlocks to start with no one getting anywhere. A headlock takeover doesn't do much for Lethal either as they're certainly starting technical. Gresham manages to send him outside and catches Lethal with a kick in the arm on the way back in. A headlock takeover with an armtrap keeps Lethal down but Lethal cartwheels into the basement dropkick to get a breather.

Lethal slams him down to work over the back a bit more but Gresham small packages him for two. A slap to the face drops Gresham and a flapjack does it again. It's too early for the Lethal Injection and the Figure Four, as Gresham rolls him up for two more. Another kick to the arm cuts Lethal back down and Gresham needs a breather. They chop it out with Lethal getting the better of things but telling Gresham to chop him again.

A ripcord powerslam plants Gresham again but he catches Lethal on top. What looked to be a superplex is broken up so Lethal tries Hail to the King. Lethal is ready for Gresham's raised knees but can't get the Figure Four either. Instead it's a reverse Regal Roll to set up Hail to the King to give Lethal two more.

Gresham is right back on the arm and grabs a crossface chickenwing. Lethal flips forward for a cutter and they're both down again. That means it's time for the locker room to come out and watch as Gresham hits some running forearms for two each. The arm gives out and Gresham hits another forearm for two. The Lethal Injection is countered into a rollup for two, setting up the Octopus to make Lethal tap at 15:35.

**Rating:** B. Gresham absolutely had to win here as that is the story that has been set up for months. I can imagine that this would have been the ending whether Bandido had been around or not and that is the right way to go. Gresham has been the workhorse of the company since its return and going with the Pure Rules wrestler as the final shot at the final show is a smart move.

The celebration is on, including Gresham's wife, Jordynne Grace, getting in the ring. Commentary thanks the fans, with Coleman saying "see you in April" to end the night.

**Overall Rating:** B. This might not have been a great show, but it was something more important: it felt special. The show felt like it was a bunch of people saying goodbye to a company that meant a lot and that absolutely should have been the case. The good thing here is that there was no truly bad match (though some came close) and it felt like a fun way to go out rather than something dull and dry. It was nice to see something be more about the fans and the company's legacy, which is how things should have gone. The last two matches are worth seeing and that's not bad on a three hour show.

No matter what its fate may be, Ring of Honor is one of the most influential companies in modern wrestling history. You can see its style (and a lot of its wrestlers) everywhere from PWG to Impact to AEW to WWE and the style is even more prevalent. This place has meant a heck of a lot to the wrestling world and it is going to be sad to see Ring of Honor go away. I'm glad it went out on a pretty good show too, with the big ending and tributes making it all the sweeter.

### Results

Righteous b. Shane Taylor Promotions – Orange Sunshine to Edwards

Allure/Miranda Alize b. Chelsea Green/The Hex – Astral Projection to Belle

PJ Black/Flip Gordon/Bouncers/World Famous CB b.

LSG/Sledge/Max The Impaler/Demonic Flamita/Will Ferrara –  
Doomsday Canadian Destroyer to LSG  
Dragon Lee b. Rey Horus – Incinerator  
Rhett Titus b. Silas Young, Joe Hendry and Dalton Castle –  
Dropkick to Young  
Josh Woods b. Brian Johnson – Choke  
Shane Taylor b. Kenny King – Marcus Garvey Driver  
Rok-C b. Willow Nightingale – Code Rok  
Violence Unlimited/Rocky Romero b. EC3/Eli Isom/Tracy  
Williams/Taylor Rust – Ganso Bomb to Isom  
Briscoes b. OGK – Froggy Bow to Taven  
Jonathan Gresham b. Jay Lethal – Octopus

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# Ring Of Honor TV – September 29, 2021: They're Still At It

## Ring of Honor

Date: September 29, 2021

Location: UMBC Event Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

Last week was a rather unique show as everything was focused on the Pure Rules division. That worked for a one off, but I could go for something else this week. Hopefully that is the case, as it should be time for the fallout from Death Before Dishonor. You never know what you're getting around here though so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Quinn McKay gives us the welcome and the rundown.

Brian Johnson is ready to take over the Pure Rules division. PJ Black comes up and says if he wins, Johnson has to shake his hands. Deal.

## PJ Black vs. Brian Johnson

Pure Rules and Johnson says Black is the only non-bozo on the roster. He even handles his own entrance to save Bobby Cruise some time. Black, Johnson's former mentor, says he didn't teach Johnson everything. They go to the mat to start with Black working on the arm, setting up a front facelock. A headscissors has Johnson in more trouble and Black headlock takeovers him to make it worse. Back up and Black sweeps the legs, setting up a dropkick for a fast two.

That's enough for Johnson to need a breather on the floor but he gets caught in another armbar back inside. The first rope

break is used and Johnson gets kicked right back to the floor. Black hits a dive on the floor, followed by a top rope ax handle to the head back inside. There's a high crossbody for two more on Johnson, who avoids a springboard as we take a break.

Back with Johnson hitting a knee to the ribs and spelling his nickname. Black scores with a backdrop into the rocking horse, but carries Johnson over to the ropes, which actually counts as Johnson's second break. A belly to back suplex lets Black go up top but Johnson is up with a double clothesline for the double knockdown. Back up and the slug it out until Black throws him down by the beard (geez).

A kick to the face means Johnson has to use his final rope break, but he knocks Black into the corner. The referee almost gets bumped and the distraction lets Johnson get in a thumb to the eye. Black goes to the ropes so the referee tells the announcer that's a break, allowing Johnson to punch Black in the face. The Process finishes Black at 10:58.

**Rating:** C. The ending was a little more complicated than it needed to be as the rope breaks are getting quite a bit of emphasis. The Pure Rules stuff is starting to take over a lot of television time, which can get a little annoying when there is so much that barely ever gets any focus. At least it is pretty good though, which matters quite a bit.

Post match Black says he isn't happy with losing, but he shakes Johnson's hand for a smart move.

Post break, Johnson doesn't think much of Brian Zane, who is actually dumber than Quinn McKay. PJ Black comes back in to endorse Johnson again, which isn't surprising.

Video on the women's division.

Eli Isom loves to see Ryan Mooney showcase himself, but he isn't winning.



Ryan Mooney is fired up about how much he loves Eli Isom, but Isom isn't beating him.

We see the last few minutes of the Foundation vs. Violence Unlimited in an eight man tag at Glory By Honor. Looks like a heck of a match, with Jay Lethal pinning Tony Deppen with the Lethal Injection to give the Foundation the win.

#### Kenny King vs. Jay Lethal vs. Brody King vs. Shane Taylor

One fall to a finish, everyone gets a pre-match promo talking about how great they/their faction is, and Ring of Honor REALLY loves their faction stuff. Brody shoves Lethal down to start so Lethal starts pounding on the arm. That's enough to send Brody into the corner, where Taylor tags himself in. Lethal gets powered into the corner and Taylor blasts him with a clothesline.

That means Lethal needs a new plan so he dragon screw legwhips Taylor into the corner, where Kenny can tag himself in. Lethal is sent into the corner for the third time, allowing Kenny to hit the cartwheel into the basement dropkick (ala Lethal's trademark). Brody comes back in, drops Lethal with a right, and does the same to Kenny for good measure. Kenny is sat on top and chopped back into the ring, setting up Brody's backslash for two.

Back up and Kenny manages to kick him into the corner, setting up the Blockbuster for two of his own. Taylor grabs Kenny's foot though and Brody hits a hard clothesline. It's back to Taylor to slug it out with Brody, with Shane knocking him outside. Back in and Taylor catches Kenny in a hanging Stunner, followed by the Marcus Garvey Driver to Lethal. Somehow Kenny manages a Blue Thunder Bomb on Taylor, but Brody runs him over. Brody lariats Taylor for the pin at 12:54.

**Rating:** B-. They kept this moving, though it never quite felt like all four were involved at once. This was a lot of singles matches bunched together, which doesn't make for the most

thrilling stuff. I'm rather over the faction stuff, as it has been going on for a long time and doesn't really go anywhere other than trading titles back and forth. Brody getting a World Title shot would not surprise me though, as Final Battle is starting to loom.

Brody and Taylor shake hands, but a singles match seems likely.

**Overall Rating:** C+. This did have a little bit better of a mixture, but there is only so much going on around here at the moment. We're fresh off of a pay per view, but there are still very few storylines going on. That has long since been a problem in Ring of Honor and it can make for some dry stretches. It's still rather good wrestling though and that is more than enough to keep me interested for a very long time going forward.

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## Ring Of Honor TV – March 3,

# 2021: Pay Per View Without Paying While Viewing

## Ring of Honor

Date: March 3, 2021

Location: UMBC Events Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

It's time for a title week as Rush is defending the World Title against Shane Taylor. That alone should get your attention because this should be a heck of a showdown. I wouldn't be stunned by a title change either and that's a pretty nice hook for a show. I'm sure there is more going on, but I can't imagine it matters by comparison. Let's get to it.

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

The opening video looks at the World Title match, which is all that it needs to do.

Opening sequence.

La Faccion Ingobernable is ready to keep the title on Rush but don't like Kenny King's suggestion of a fair fight against Shane Taylor.

We look at Shane Taylor Promotions winning the Six Man Tag Team Titles last week, plus La Faccion Ingobernable becoming #1 contenders to the Tag Team Titles.

La Faccion Ingobernable is ready to win the Tag Team Titles in a Pure Rules match.

The Foundation can't wait to see La Faccion Ingobernable try to wrestle the titles from them.

Tag Team Titles: La Faccion Ingobernable vs. Foundation

The Foundation (Jonathan Gresham/Jay Lethal) is defending against Dragon Lee/Kenny King (with Amy Rose) and this is under Pure Rules. Lee poses in front of Gresham to start and hits a quick elbow to the jaw. That's a bit much for Gresham, who gets caught in a wristlock as Lee keeps up the fast pace to start. They go to the rapid fire pinfall attempt exchange and it's off to King vs. Lethal.

The feeling out process sees King take to the mat but he slaps Lethal in the face to break up a leglock attempt. Lethal takes him down and gets the Figure Four, sending King to the ropes for a break. Another quick hold makes King use the second break in a hurry and it's time for a breather on the floor. Back in and Lethal headlocks Lee, who throws a right hand for an official warning.

We take a break and come back with Lethal putting King on top for a dropkick to the knee. A super dragon screw legwhip brings him back down and it's off to Gresham vs. Lee. They rapid fire exchange standing switches and Lee has to use the final rope break. Everything breaks down and King's brainbuster sets up a running knee from Lee for two, with Lethal using a rope break. Lethal is back up with a dive but hits Amy Rose by mistake. That leaves Lee to punch Gresham for the pin and the titles at 14:12.

**Rating:** B-. It's still strange to see a right hand used as such a big offensive move. I know that it's the point of the Pure Rules match but they couldn't use it as a setup for something a bit more devastating? It was more than time to get the titles off of the Foundation here as they had held them for over a year. Good match, and the La Faccion domination continues.

Shane Taylor wants to be World Champion because it is the top title in the world. Someone like him is not supposed to be champion and yes he means an African American male. He also means someone who cares about social justice and someone who

ricks the boat. That tells him that people are ready for him to be champion and he will defend it more than once every ten months. Rush is physical but Taylor is more physical and it is time to prove it.

### Ring of Honor World Title: Rush vs. Shane Taylor

Taylor is challenging and has the Soldiers of Savagery with him. Kenny King is on commentary for a bonus. There is no Code of Honor and Rush takes him to the mat for a clean break to start. Neither can get anywhere off of a lockup so Rush unloads with shots to the ribs and head. That doesn't work either as Taylor runs him over and takes it to the floor. Taylor hits a whip into the barricade and there's a hanging DDT off of the apron as we take a break.

Back with Rush sending Taylor into the barricade for a change and then slamming the barricade door on his head. Rush whips out an electrical cord to beat on Taylor and of course choke away. They head back inside with Rush kicking him in the face in the corner so it's time to chop it out. A heck of a clothesline gives Taylor two and a sitout spinebuster is good for the same.

Rush knees him in the face for two of his own and a legdrop in the ropes gets two more. The middle rope double stomp in the ropes keeps Taylor in trouble and it's time to slap it out from their knees. The Marcus Garvey Driver plants Rush for two more but he throws Rush into the corner in a heap. Rush stomps away in the corner but takes the referee out by mistake. With the referee down, Rush grabs a chair, which draws Kenny King in to get in the way. King takes the chair and swings at Rush but hits Taylor in the head. It doesn't seem to bother King, who goes to the floor as the Bull's Horns retains the title at 18:14.

**Rating:** B-. That's a surprising ending and I did not see it coming. The King stuff is fine, but they really are sticking

with Rush for as long as they can. It's nice to have him with a story in La Faccion, but I'm not sure how interesting the whole thing actually is. I can't imagine him holding the title that much longer, but I've been saying that for a good while now.

Post match the big beatdown is on to leave Taylor laying to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. This was far from your run of the mill show but it worked out well with two big title matches which both delivered. You can't do a show like this every week but they did a good thing by having the whole show focusing on championships. They don't have regular pay per views so having the last two weeks made for one of their best shows in a rather long time.

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# Final Battle 2020: I Understand

## Final Battle 2020

Date: December 18, 2020

Location: UMBC Events Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

This is the biggest show of the year and this is one of the more uniquely put together pay per views I've seen in a long time. The company has only been back for a short while now and a lot of the top stars have not been around since the relaunch. The card is still pretty full though and maybe they can pull off a good one. Let's get to it.

Commentary welcomes us to the pre-show and has some bad news: EC3, Kenny King and Bandido have been Coronavirused off the show so some things have to be changed.

Pre-Show: Tony Deppen vs. LSG vs. Josh Woods vs. Dak Draper

One fall to a finish, lucha rules and the winner gets a TV Title match later tonight. Deppen and LSG are thrown outside before the bell so it's Woods vs. Draper to start things off. The other two get back on the apron as Woods and Draper go to the grappling to start. An exchange of headlocks doesn't go anywhere so LSG tags himself in to dropkick Draper.

Deppen comes in as well and it's time to run the ropes with LSG. A dropkick puts LSG down but he sends Deppen outside for a dropkick through the ropes. That means Woods and Draper can come back in to exchange rollups for two each but Draper knocks Deppen into the corner with a shot to the face. A suplex gives Draper two but the Magnum KO is broken up with some elbows to

the jaw.

Deppen gets tossed around and Draper gets in some trash talk to Woods to draw him in. That doesn't even matter this time as Draper muscles Deppen up for an apron superplex and another near fall. The running knee misses though and Deppen gets out to the floor, allowing LSG to come back in and strike away.

A springboard forearm to the face gets two on Draper but Deppen is back in with a springboard Codebreaker to Woods. Draper and LSG go to the corner, only to have Woods come back in for a Tower of Doom. That means Draper and Woods can slug it out until Draper grabs a Doctor Bomb for two. They're knocked outside though and it's Deppen jumping back in to roll LSG up for the pin at 11:43.

**Rating:** C+. This was all about the action and that's a good way to get things going on a show like this one. It's exactly the same idea of the cruiserweights back in WCW and it is always going to work here. Deppen winning is a bit of a surprise, but that's the kind of thing you can get away with in a four way like this. Nice stuff to get us going.

#### Pre-Show: Foundation vs. Fred Yehi/Wheeler Yuta

It's the first ever Pure Rules tag match, you have five seconds to get out of the ring after the tag and a save counts as a rope break. If you make a save when you are out of breaks, it's a DQ. Tracy Williams and Rhett Titus are here for the Foundation. Yehi and Williams go with the grappling to start with Williams wristlocking him into the corner for the tag off to Titus.

Yehi takes him down into the Koji Clutch but the rope is reached in a hurry for the first break. Yuta comes in and Williams pulls him straight into the Texas Cloverleaf, sending Yuta to the ropes to even things up. We get some miscommunication on a tag so Yehi has the chance to come in and German suplex Williams. Titus comes in and gets caught in



a Koji Clutch, with Williams making the save, good for the second rope break.

The rapid fire saves are on and we're down to just Yehi and Yuta having one left. Titus dropkicks Yuta off the top and out to the floor in a big crash. That means Williams and Yehi come in and strike it out, with Yehi having to counter a piledriver attempt. Yehi Downward Spirals him into the Koji Clutch and the ropes aren't there for a save. Titus can't save him either so he sends Yuta into the hold for the break in a smart move.

It's back to Titus vs. Yuta for an exchange of crucifixes for two each until Yuta snaps off a bridging German suplex for two more. Yehi gets in a shot of his own and Yuta's top rope splash gets another two. The hot tag brings in Williams for a hard clothesline and a Death Valley Driver. Williams stuffs Yuta with a piledriver and Yehi makes the save for the last break. Yuta gets caught in the Crossface, with Williams using the ropes for extra leverage (perfectly legal) for the tap at 13:51.

**Rating:** C. The rope breaks were a nice touch but that's about all there was to this. The Pure Rules are a nice idea but they aren't exactly the most inspiring alternative to everything else going on. Williams and Yehi continue to be fun to watch every time but the other two were just kind of there, which is kind of a problem when they do it almost every week.

Respect is shown post match.

The opening video talks about how everything stopped this year but some wrestlers are picking up the mantle of honor. Tonight they are willing to do whatever it takes on the biggest night of the year.

Tag Team Titles: Mark Briscoe/PCO vs. Foundation

The Foundation (Jay Lethal/Jonathan Gresham) are defending and PCO is here because Jay Briscoe was moved into another match

due to Coronavirus issues, which wound up being changed anyway. We get the Code of Honor and it's Lethal vs. Briscoe to start things off, with Lethal saying this is wrestling instead of fighting. Mark isn't having any of this wristlocking and starts chopping away, sending Lethal out to the floor for a breather.

Back in and it's PCO coming in to say he wants to break Lethal's arm (again). That's enough to make Lethal stay so PCO takes him down into a cross armbreaker. A rope break lets Lethal bail out to the floor as the champs can't get anything going so far. Gresham comes in and tries to go after PCO's leg, which goes as well as you would expect. PCO tosses him back to the floor and the challengers start cleaning house, including Briscoe's running cannonball off the apron to drop Lethal.

The champs are rammed into each other and Mark uses a chair as a launchpad for a flip dive over the corner onto everyone else. PCO's top rope flip dive completely misses Lethal so it's Mark suplexing Gresham for two. Lethal comes back in for a dropkick/German suplex combination to drop Briscoe and it's time to stomp him down into the corner. Briscoe pops back up and brings in PCO to clean house.

What looked like a low blow puts Gresham down again and the champs are in trouble. The Froggy Bow hits Lethal's raised knees as the PCOsault hits clean, allowing Lethal to make the save. PCO and Lethal slug it out until Gresham launches Lethal over for a cutter to hit PCO for two. The champs manage a Doomsday Device on PCO and Gresham's shooting star press gets a near fall. PCO monsters up but Lethal offers a distraction, allowing Gresham to roll PCO up and retain at 12:50.

**Rating:** B-. This was a good choice for an opener as PCO and Briscoe are always fun for a watch and the Foundation do feel like one of the best teams around. The Foundation vs. the Briscoes would have been better but there is only so much you

can do when the pandemic is changing everything on such a short notice. Good match here though and the right result given the situation.

Commentary explains some of the card changes due to the Coronavirus.

### Rey Horus vs. Dalton Castle

Horus was supposed to defend the Six Man Tag Team Titles but a change had to be made, with Castle, again with the Boys, stepped in. Castle goes with a fast rollup to start but gets kicked away to give us a standoff. Horus avoids a charge in the corner to put Castle on the floor as frustration sets in early. Back in and Castle takes him down for a quick splash, setting up some forearm to the ribs.

They head outside with Horus managing a kick to the chest, followed by a kick to the chest. Now the big flip dive connects and Castle is in even more trouble. Castle gets sent hard over the barricade and it's a running kick to the face to give Horus two. A tornado DDT gives Horus two more but Castle catches him on top. Something like a reverse Neutralizer gets two on Horus and there's a release German suplex for the same. Castle goes up but Horus runs the corner for a super victory roll and the pin at 9:10.

**Rating:** C. Castle's near downward spiral continues around here as now he's losing to the lesser known luchadors. The ending certainly took me by surprise, which is a nice thing in this case, as Horus gets a nice rub out of the whole thing. There was some good enough action, but it's one of those matches that is likely just going to come and go without making much impact.

We recap Matt Taven/Mike Bennett (OGK) vs. the Righteous. Taven and Vincent had been in the Kingdom but Vincent turned on him to strike out on his own. Then Taven went out of action for the better part of a year due to a knee injury. Now

they're both back and it's time for the two of them to kill each other. Bennett and Bateman are here to make it a tag match.

### OGK vs. Righteous

The Righteous has Vita VonStarr in their corner. The brawl is on in a hurry with Bennett saving Taven from a suplex and driving Vincent into the corner. Bateman gets in a cheap shot from behind and we settle down with Bateman driving Taven into the corner. That just earns him an enziguri and it's a hot tag to Bennett to clean house. Vita tries to come in for a distraction though and Bateman plans Bennett with a Side Effect to take over.

Vincent's running forearms in the corner have Bennett in more trouble and a spinning Russian legsweep gets two. Bateman comes back in with some shots to the face but it's too early for Vincent to try Redrum. Instead he slaps on the guillotine choke but Bennett powers out with a suplex. The double tag brings in Taven to clean house on Bateman, including a Russian legsweep into a flipping neckbreaker.

That's enough of that though as Taven heads outside and unloads on Vincent. A springboard shot to the face puts Bateman down again and Just The Tip connects. The Climax is broken up though and Vincent slingshots in, only to get caught in a backbreaker. Bateman runs Taven over again though and it's Redrum (Swanton) connecting for two. Bennett makes the save and everyone is down again. Taven and Vincent get into the big brawl that they have been needing to have but they kick each other down.

That's good for a double tag so Bennett can spear Bateman down. The spike piledriver connects but Taven's knee gives out again, meaning no cover. Instead Bennett punches Bateman off the top for a crash to the apron. A Death Valley Driver onto the apron drops Bateman again as Taven is back up with a knee

to Vincent. The Aurora Borealis (frog splash) hits knees but Taven pulls Vincent into a choke, sending Vincent over to the rope. Bennett is back up though and Vincent is held over the apron for Aurora Borealis to crush him again. Back in and a Backpack Stunner/running boot combination finishes Bateman at 16:20.

**Rating:** B. This was the first match that felt like something that belonged on the pay per view (save for maybe the opener) as Taven vs. Vincent has become a heck of a feud. Bennett already feels FAR more important here than he ever did in WWE and that's great for him. Bateman is a good monster enforcer as well and the match worked out rather well. I still can't get my head around how much better Taven is as a face. It's nothing I ever would have bet on and this has been working rather well. Good match here, with everyone looking solid.

Post match Vita hits OGK with a double low blow and it's time to zip tie Taven to the ropes. Vita headscissors Taven to make him watch as Bateman puts a board between Bennett's feet. A chair shot crushes the ankle in a Misery style destruction.

#### Danhausen vs. Brian Johnson

If Danhausen (who apparently debuted September 13, 1993 at 12:37am and weighs "at least" 300lbs despite being rather skinny) wins, he gets a contract. They shake hands and Danhausen kicks him in the face for a very early two. A middle rope hurricanrana gets two on Johnson and Danhausen demands his music be played. That's what he gets as he hits a running kick off the apron, only to get caught with a hanging cutter back inside.

Johnson isn't pleased but he grabs a mic and says Caprice Coleman sucks at his job. The trash talk and stomping ensues and Johnson wants to know why the Honor Club Girls aren't cheering for him. A slam into a fist drop gets two on Danhausen but he takes the mat and drives Johnson into the

corner for swearing (a big negative in Danhausen's eyes). Johnson clotheslines him down again though and it's time to grab the microphone again.

More shouting ensues as Johnson isn't happy that he finally made it to Final Battle and is being stuck doing this. A clothesline gets two and Johnson can't believe it. Danhausen makes the comeback with a running shot in the corner and a German suplex into another German suplex gets two...and let's grab a jar of teeth. The Goodnight Hausen (GTS) gets two as Johnson gets a hand on the rope.

Johnson bails to the floor and gets taken down with a suicide dive but Johnson kicks the rope on the way back in. The jar of teeth (just go with it) is poured into Danhausen's mouth but he grabs a quick rollup for two anyway. The teeth go into the referee's eyes though, meaning there is no cover off Johnson's neckbreaker finisher. Danhausen grabs the microphone, hits himself with the head with it (for the noise), and hands it to Johnson...which is enough for the DQ at 8:44.

**Rating:** C+. I actually liked this as Danhausen is enough of a screwy guy to make you believe that he's just kind of out there. They didn't do anything too far here (the teeth are certainly a thing) and Johnson ran his mouth so much that you wanted to see him lose. This was much more about the angle than the wrestling and that's fine in a match like this, though I could see people not being pleased.

TV Title: Dragon Lee vs. Tony Deppen

Deppen is challenging after winning a four way on the pre-show but comes in holding his neck. Amy Rose, the manager of Lee's faction, joins commentary. They go to the mat to start with neither being able to get much of an advantage. Deppen grabs an armdrag but gets sent to the floor for the suicide dive. Back in and Lee chops away in the corner as Rose is speaking about 90% Spanish. Deppen manages a step up kick to the head

to put Lee on the floor, setting up a suicide flip dive. A springboard missile dropkick gives Deppen two but Lee pounds him right down in the corner.

We hit the chinlock for a bit, with Deppen fighting up and slapping away to take over. Lee is back with the snap German suplex and a moonsault northern lights suplex (geez) which leaves both of them down. They slug it out from their knees with Lee getting the better of things, only to miss a charge in the corner.

Deppen loads up a superplex but gets knocked down for an Alberto double stomp. Back up and Deppen scores with a running knee to the face and the kickout leaves him shocked. Lee blasts him in the face though and his own running knee gets two. That's enough for Lee, who hits Incineration (another running knee) to retain at 11:50.

**Rating:** C+. Lee's offense is fast paced and exciting enough that it is easy to see why Ring of Honor wants to push the heck out of him. Deppen looked good here as well, as he made the most out of the opportunity he was given. The match wasn't exactly in doubt but they made something out of very little so well done all things considered.

We look at Jay Briscoe and Shane Taylor arguing backstage because their matches with EC3 and Mexisquad were canceled. This was announced earlier in the night and while that's not a great way to go, like so many other things on this show, what else are they supposed to do?

### Jay Briscoe vs. Shane Taylor

The lockup doesn't go anywhere as they shove each other around with little avail. Shane sends him into the corner and unloads with rights and lefts but Jay is right back with a headlock. Jay tries to run the ropes and is knocked down hard with a shoulder. More rights and lefts set up a big right hand to knock Jay silly, meaning it's time to head to the floor.

Jay sends him into the barricade and scores with a good superkick before heading back inside. Shane slugs away again but gets caught with a dropkick. One heck of a right hand drops Jay again though and it's time for a slugout. Jay's snap jabs set up an impressive Death Valley Driver and here's Mark Briscoe for support.

Shane is up first but Jay slaps on a choke to put Shane down. Two arm drops have Shane in real trouble but he makes it over to the rope for the break. Jay's big clothesline gets two and the neckbreaker is good for the same. Shane is back up and hits him in the face, setting up the package piledriver. Welcome To The Land finishes Jay at 13:41.

**Rating:** B-. This was about hitting each other really hard but also about building Shane up as a main eventer. They had a good power brawl here and beating Jay still means quite a bit in Ring of Honor. They don't have many people at that level or even close to it so giving Shane a win on a show like this means a lot for his future around here.

We recap Jonathan Gresham defending the Pure Title against Flip Gordon. Gresham is the first holder of the new version of the title and he says there is more to wrestling than flips. Gordon doesn't love this company as much as he does and it's time for both guys to prove themselves.

#### Pure Title: Jonathan Gresham vs. Flip Gordon

Gordon is challenging. They lock up to start with Ian saying this is like Thunder Road vs. Born To Run. Gresham grabs a hammerlock, which sends Gordon straight to the rope for the first break. With that out of the way, Gresham takes him to the mat to work on the leg, which sends Gordon over to the ropes for a second break in three minutes. Gresham tries a headlock takeover this time before switching to a crucifix.

Back up and Gresham works on the wrist a bit more as Gordon has barely done anything so far. Gresham ties up the arm and



twists the foot around at the same time before letting Gordon up. A standing armbar goes on so Gordon drives him into the rope, which counts as the final rope break. Gordon finally scores with a spinning kick to the head to put Gresham down for the first time.

Gresham can't hit a springboard hurricanrana so Gordon superkicks him down for two, with Gresham using a rope break of his own. Gordon gets knocked away but is fine enough to duck a middle rope crossbody with Gresham banging up his knee on the landing. That gives Gordon a target and the Figure Four goes on, with Gresham breaking it up in a hurry. A dropkick to the leg sets up a half crab but Gresham slips out again. This time Gresham kicks Gordon in the arm and they're both down for a bit.

Gordon is right back on the leg so Gresham makes the rope for the second time. Another kick to the leg sets up a Falcon Arrow into Submit To Flip (STF) but Gresham elbows his way out. Back up and they slug it out with Gresham kicking him in the arm again. Gordon wins a slugout by going with the closed fist, which is good for his first warning. An enziguri into a German suplex (with Gresham raising the bad leg) gets two on Gordon but he knocks the leg out again and grabs another half crab.

That's switched into another STF but Gresham crawls to the floor for the break. Back in and Gresham sets him on top for another kick to the arm, setting up a top rope belly to back superplex for another near fall. Gresham hits a running shot to the head for two, followed by a running shot to the head for two. Another one is loaded up but the referee stops it because Gordon can't defend himself at 24:37.

**Rating:** B. I'm not wild on Gordon most of the time but he brought it here and they had a heck of a fight. Gresham was losing the technical battle, or at least close to it, and went with the hard shots to the head to win instead. It's a good

story for the match and Gresham didn't cheat to win after a long match, making this one of the better things the Pure Title has done since it was brought back. Heck of a match here and pay per view worthy.

Post match Gordon declines the handshake and walks away.

We recap Brody King vs. Rush. King has been on a roll since Ring of Honor returned and Rush is finally back after his long hiatus. It isn't much of a main event, but again you can't hold that against them here.

### Ring of Honor World Title: Rush vs. Brody King

King is challenging. They go with the striking to start with Rush's shoulder putting him on a knee. King is back up with a clothesline to the floor and that means the suicide dive. Rush is whipped hard into the barricade twice in a row, meaning it's time to grab some chairs. King slams him down onto said chairs, which isn't a DQ because they weren't used in an offensive manner. There's a backsplash onto Rush onto the chairs and it's time to go back inside.

King stomps away in the corner and hits the Cannonball for two, only to have Rush come back with a running knee to the face. They're right back to the floor with Rush sending him into the barricade and slamming the door in the barricade on King's head. Rush whips away with an electrical cord and then uses it to choke away. King is down so Rush asks the camera if it missed being in his house.

Back in and King unloads with chops in the corner, only to get taken down for his efforts. The running taunting kick to the face has King in more trouble and there's a belly to belly to put King into the corner again. King heads up top but Rush catches him with a top rope superplex for two more.

The swinging Boss Man Slam gives King two and it's time to chop it out again. Rush knocks him into the corner again and

tries the Bull's Horns, only to get cut off by a spear. The Ganso Bomb is loaded up but here is Dragon Lee (Rush's brother) for a distraction. Bestia del Rey (Rush/Lee's father) comes in to chair King down, meaning the Bull's Horns to retain the title at 16:35.

**Rating:** B. Pretty good brawl here with both guys hitting each other rather hard. The ending seemed designed to set up something for later, though I'm not sure I can imagine Rush keeping the title that much longer due to the immigration issues. King does have a claim to a rematch due to the cheating but I'm not sure if he'll be first in line. I know this didn't quite feel like a Final Battle main event, but as has been the case all night, it's understandable.

Post break La Faccion celebrates but the Foundation comes out for the staredown to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B+. All things considered, this is the about all you could have asked for. I know the show was lacking a lot of the way of storyline development, but there was only so much they could have done. It felt more like a collection of matches than a show if that makes sense, though it's quite the collection of matches for the most part. Nothing is bad, and I liked what we got here for the most part. Ring of Honor works best when they're just focusing on the wrestling and that's what they did here in a show that felt like it belonged on the Final Battle stage.

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# Ring Of Honor TV – December 2, 2020: Like A Rock Shot Out Of A Catapult Right At The Pituitary Gland

## Ring of Honor

Date: December 2, 2020

Location: UMBC Events Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Caprice Coleman, Ian Riccaboni

We are less than three weeks away from Final Battle and a few of the matches have been announced. There are going to have to be some changes made on the show due to the pandemic messing with so many things, but the question is which changes are going to be made. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

The Foundation talks about how they are here to rebuild Ring of Honor and that means Rhett Titus can take off his mask. Actually hang on as Tracy Williams says why show a face that no one has cared about for so many years. They aren't the bad guys and they will claim all of the titles.

Josh Woods talks about being successful in everything he has done in his short career. Jay Lethal's long career isn't as successful anymore and that is making things change a bit. Pure wrestling is made for him and while Jay Lethal beat him

with the Lethal Injection before, every hold has a counter. This win is going to change how people look at him.

Jay Lethal loves how the pure wrestling has gone so far and it warms his heart. He didn't beat LSG in his last pure wrestling match though because LSG beat himself. Granted Lethal would have beaten him in another minute. Lethal respects LSG but now he has serious respect for Woods, who is scary in something like this. As cocky and dangerous as Woods is though, Lethal will beat him and won't need the judges' decision. Woods should win this match, but he won't.

### Jay Lethal vs. Josh Woods

Pure rules. They fight over a lockup to start before Woods offers Lethal the leg. Lethal is smarter than that so Woods goes for the arm instead. That just earns him a headlock on the mat from Lethal, who switches up to the leg in a hurry. Woods breaks that up in a hurry and it's a standoff in the middle. Another armbar has Lethal in trouble so he uses his first rope break.

That's not cool with Woods, who suplexes him down and hammers away, setting up a waistlock. Lethal is up with his hiptoss into a basement dropkick to send us to a break. Back with Lethal holding a reverse chinlock with Woods having to go to the rope for the first time. Woods kicks him down (Ian: "Right in the pituitary gland!") to the floor and it's a backbreaker into a German suplex for two back inside.

Lethal is back up with a toss to the apron and a dropkick to the floor. The lack of time means it's only one suicide dive but Hail To The King is countered into a cross armbreaker. That's broken up but the Lethal Injection is countered into a choke. Woods grabs a grapevined ankle lock but Lethal stacks him up for two. That's fine with Woods, who pulls him into a rollup for the pin at 14:04.

**Rating:** B-. That's where Lethal can be incredibly valuable. He

is the most established name Ring of Honor has and it isn't like him losing over and over is going to hurt him in the slightest. Let him put some of these young wrestlers over and try to build up the roster for the future. It worked in the Pure Tournament and it worked here, with Woods getting probably the biggest win of his career.

Since WE MUST HAVE TALK SHOWS, here's the first edition of Trending With Matt Taven. His first guest is Mike Bennett, who talks about doing this since he was fifteen years old. Bennett first signed with Ring of Honor in 2011 and now he's back because Taven needed someone to have his back. Well at least they kept it short.

Mark Briscoe likes the idea of being a twelve time Tag Team Champion but Jay Briscoe is worried about EC3. Maybe being quarantined messed with the oxygen to his brain. Mark is getting the shot, but he needs to find a partner.

Brody King talks about what it meant to beat a former World Champion in Dalton Castle. He is taking the same mentality into his match with Shane Taylor, because it is time to move up the ranks. Shane is like a rock, but Brody is like a rock launched out of a catapult. King is here to prove why he belongs in the World Title scene.

Shane Taylor talks about the weight being off of his shoulders now that he has beaten Kenny King. Now it is time to go after the World Title and that sets his sights on Brody King. He has no problem with Brody King and they are similar, but Brody is in the way of his path to the World Title. Being champion means you can't ignore him anymore and no one is dictating his value any longer.

### Brody King vs. Shane Taylor

Taylor has the Soldiers of Savagery with him...and then they go to the back for the bell. King chops away against the ropes to start and Taylor is knocked to the floor. There's the big flip

dive from the apron as Taylor gets chopped around ringside. Taylor is sent into the barricade and we take a break. Back with Taylor dropping him on the floor and sending King into the barricade to even things up. That's enough for a nineteen count so Taylor yells about the speed.

Back in and King knocks him into the ropes again, setting up the Cannonball against the ropes. A Death Valley Driver into the corner drops Shane and we take another break. We come back again with King slapping him down (and Caprice doing a Keith Lee impression), only to have Taylor run him over for two. King plants him as well but the Gonzo Bomb is blocked. Taylor gets two off the package piledriver and they both need a breather. King blasts him with a clothesline, followed by a standing clothesline for the pin at 12:37.

**Rating:** C+. Take two big guys, have them hit each other really hard, pick the one you want to push. There is a good chance that this sets up King as the #1 contender, which is what commentary kept pushing all match. They almost have to get the title off of Rush given the circumstances and King makes as much sense as anyone else at the moment. Good power match, and it was nice to not have an obvious winner.

They shake hands to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. This was about setting things up for the future and that is one of the best things that Ring of Honor can do. You can't get very far with the same people and at this point they need to build things up for the future. They are doing something better with that at the moment, and now you can see a good chunk of Final Battle coming from here. Now just make it work.

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paperback edition of KB's Complete 2004 Monday Night Raw Reviews (also available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out the information here:

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# Ring Of Honor TV – November 18, 2020: In With The Old Which Is Still New But Kind Of Old



IMG Credit: Ring Of Honor Wrestling

## Ring of Honor

Date: November 18, 2020

Location: UMBC Events Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman



Things are starting to get back to normal here and that is the kind of thing that could be a good or bad situation. The stories are starting to slip back into place though and now we get to find out what the creative department has put together in the last few months. I'm as scared as you are. Let's get to it.

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

Amy Rose narrates a video about La Faccion Ingovernabile, who is back soon.

Opening sequence.

Quinn McKay welcomes us to the show and throws it to the end of Brody King beating Dalton Castle last week.

King says a fire of violence has been lit inside him. His comments were about ten seconds after two minutes of the match.

The Briscoes and the Soldiers of Savagery talk trash to each other and are ready to fight. As luck would have it, that can be arranged.

Soldiers of Savagery vs. Briscoes

EC3 is on commentary and does not look happy to be there. The Briscoes have new music and someone managed to count that they are 199-80 all time in 2-2 tag team matches in Ring of Honor. That kind of stuff is great and I could go for having it around for a lot longer. We actually get the Code of Honor before the match and it's Jay locking up with Moses to start. Moses grabs a headlock as EC3 asks if these strong men have honor. Mark comes in with a middle rope dropkick to Moses and a kick in the head knocks Khan off the apron.

Moses gets stomped down in the corner and a Russian legsweep makes it worse. Back up and Moses manages to send the Briscoes into each other and the hot tag brings in Khan. EC3 turns it into another rant about controlling your narrative as Moses comes back in for two off a legdrop. Jay gets over to Mark without much trouble and it's time to clean house all over again.

A running clothesline drops Khan and Jay uppercuts him into the corner. The Briscoes hit a double superplex for two and we take a break. Back with the Soldiers busting out the weapons but the slugout is on instead (EC3: "There is honor in the slugfest."). Moses hits the crossbody and Khan adds a middle rope headbutt to Mark. A running flip dive off the apron takes Jay down as Moses covers Mark for the near fall. Back in and Jay hits a neckbreaker to drop Moses into the Death Valley Driver. Mark takes out Khan and adds the Froggy Bow to finish Moses at 9:41.

**Rating:** C+. Good, hard hitting brawl here between two teams who are made to do something like this. The Soldiers are still new around here and there is no shame in losing a match to the Briscoes. I could go for this again down the line, though what in the world are the Briscoes supposed to do next?

Respect is shown again post match. EC3 stands in the aisle as the Briscoes pass him (Mark: "He looks like he's lost.")

Video on Vincent vs. Matt Taven, with Bateman talking about how far Taven has fallen. Taven talks about how Vincent only thinks he's righteous and it's time for revenge. If Taven has to go through Bateman to get to Vincent, that's cool with him.

The Briscoes aren't worried about EC3 because they just won a big tag match. They want their titles back but Jay isn't happy with EC3 and challenges him for next week.

Shane Taylor talks about growing up in a horrible part of Cleveland and it gave him a different perspective. Wrestling gave him a way out and a new place to go and he's here because of someone else from Cleveland named Ray Rowe. When Taylor got to Ring of Honor, he formed a team with a guy named Keith Lee called the Pretty Boy Killers because they looked different and were stars anyway.

Then once Lee left, Taylor hooked up with the Rebellion (oh I had forgotten about how awful they were) and Kenny King told him how good he would be. Taylor did not get that until recently and now he is ready to face King, because they know each other better than anyone. Good stuff from Taylor here and a nice get to know you piece.

Kenny King talks about being tired of being screwed over by Ring of Honor and joined La Faccion Ingobernable. He has the lawyer for Los Ingobernables and said lawyer isn't pleased with how King has been treated. As for Taylor, King repeats a lot of what Taylor said but promises to beat Taylor again because King didn't teach him everything.

### Shane Taylor vs. Kenny King

Taylor won't shake hands so King hits him in the face to start in a hurry. Shake hands next time dude. King misses an early spinning kick but avoids a running knee, setting off a quick boxing match. It's King getting the better of things with a quick shot to the face, followed by a kick to the face to stagger Taylor. Back up and Taylor absolutely knocks his block off with a shot to the face and another huge right hand drops King in the corner.

We take a break and come back with Taylor hitting another shot to leave King barely able to stand. King manages to stick the landing on a toss though and nails a few kicks of his own. Some shots to Taylor's face have him staggered as well but Taylor runs him over with a shoulder for two. We hit the chinlock for a bit with King fighting up, only to get clotheslined again. King gets to the apron and a forearm cuts off his springboard attempt. Back in and King manages a spinwheel kick for a quick knockdown and we take a break.

We come back again with King hitting some running knees in the corner but Taylor BLASTS HIM with a knee to the face. The package piledriver gives Taylor two more and he can't believe the kickout. King manages a t-bone suplex for two of his own and says he's always one step ahead. With nothing else working, King goes to the corner but Taylor catches him in Welcome To The Land for the pin at 10:14.

**Rating:** C. This was more about the history and building up Taylor for the future than the action and that worked out well. There was also a feeling of not knowing who was going to win here, which helped out a lot. King is one of the more established named in the company and while Taylor has had his singles success, this still feels like a big upgrade for him so well done.

Post match they hug and Taylor celebrates on his own.

**Overall Rating:** C. This felt like a much more traditional Ring of Honor show and for the most part, that was fine. They are starting to build stories from one week to the next and hopefully the shows are going to get a little tighter overall. What we got was good enough though, with the wrestling being watchable and the setup for the return of the big stars making the future seem all the more important.

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## Ring Of Honor TV – November 4, 2020: Crown Me



IMG Credit: Ring Of Honor Wrestling

### Ring of Honor

Date: November 4, 2020

Location: UMBC Events Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

It's title night as we finally get to crown a new Pure Champion. Jonathan Gresham meets Tracy Williams in the final, which should be a heck of a technical spectacle. That's the point of the tournament so they couldn't have picked a much better final. We also have our first non-tournament return match since the relaunch. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

The opening video looks at Williams' and Gresham's paths through the tournament to the final.

Quinn McKay previews the show, including the finals, something between Matt Taven and Vincent, and the six man tag.

We preview the six man tag, which is basically a recap of EC3's limited time in the company.

Shane Taylor/Soldiers of Savagery vs. Briscoes/EC3

EC3, in slacks, powers Khan down twice in a row to start before hammering away with rights and lefts. The chase on the floor lets Khan stomp away back inside but EC3 shrugs it off and hands it off to Mark for a change. Some shots to the face in the corner have Khan in trouble but it's back

to Moses, who drives Khan into Mark in the corner. Mark doesn't seem to mind and gets over to Jay for the hot tag as everything breaks down.

We take a break and come back with Shane punching Mark out to the floor and kneeling Jay down for two. The stomping ensues and Shane knocks EC3 off the apron, only to have Mark come in off the hot tag. Everything breaks down and Mark hits a corkscrew dive onto the Soldiers. Back in and the Froggy Bow misses Shane, who hits Greetings From 216 for the pin at 11:46.

**Rating:** C. Kind of a weird match as you would think that EC3 would get a pin to establish himself a bit around here. Other than that you didn't have much one way or another here, as the Briscoes are great as always and Taylor was his usual self, but it was hardly a match that is going to stick with me. You would think they might use the chance to do something of note but not so much.

Video on Tracy Williams, who has come a long way to get to the tournament final. He's ready for Gresham in the finals as they are going to build this company on pure wrestling.

Jonathan Gresham talks about getting a phone call from Williams about the Foundation. This company has lost its honor and it's time to rebuild things. Gresham is ready to bring the title back to the Foundation no matter what.

#### Pure Title: Jonathan Gresham vs. Tracy Williams

For the vacant title. They shake hands to start and Williams towers over him. It's straight to the grappling early on but neither can get a hiptoss. Instead they head outside for a staredown until Williams gets back in and holds the rope open for Gresham. Back in and Williams starts working on the arm but Gresham slips out and we take a break. We come back with no time having elapsed (sweet) and Gresham starting in on Williams' arm to take over for the first time. Williams goes to the ropes to get a breather and then chops Gresham right back down.

A cravate of all things gives Williams two and Gresham has to go to the ropes as well. There's a spear to Williams but he's right back up with a

clothesline in the corner. Gresham hits a suplex with Williams popping up again for another chop. A bridging German suplex gets two on Williams and a collision in the corner puts them both on the floor in a heap.

Back in and Williams gets two off a brainbuster, setting up the Crossface to stay on the neck/shoulder. That means a second rope break from Gresham, who is back with a bridging German suplex of his own. Gresham forearms him down for two more but he can't get a Kimura in full. Williams is back up with a piledriver for two, with Gresham using the final rope break. They both need a breather and Gresham pulls him into the Octopus for the sudden tap at 14:37.

**Rating:** B. Well that was sudden. I was expecting this to go closer to half an hour and it didn't even make it to fifteen minutes. That's quite the out of nowhere ending but Gresham seemed to be the favorite to win the title from the beginning of the tournament so it's hardly a bad idea. It was a setup for a match, but the lack of time brought it down from where it could have been.

Post match Jay Lethal comes out to celebrate and respect is shown to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. This was a little disappointing but still good. The six man tag was nothing special and the title match was lacking a bit, but overall it's a rather good show that doesn't waste time. Ring of Honor is on fire at the moment, but I'm almost worried to see what they are going to do without the tournament or so many of their champions. What we have gotten over the last several weeks has worked though, so it might be a case of enjoy it while it lasts.

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# Ring Of Honor TV – October 21, 2020: A Gem



IMG Credit: Ring Of Honor Wrestling

## Ring of Honor

Date: October 21, 2020

Location: UMBC Events Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Caprice Coleman, Ian Riccaboni

We're getting down to the final four this week and that's both a good thing and a bad thing. On the one hand, it means we are going to be seeing something new coming in the next few weeks, but at the same time it means that we are going to be losing some of what has made this such a great show as of late. Hopefully they have something to balance it out. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.



Last week, Jay Lethal defeated David Finlay to advance.

Lethal is looking forward to facing Jonathan Gresham in the finals. Note that he's only in the semifinals.

Last week, Jonathan Gresham defeated Matt Sydal to advance.

Jonathan Gresham is proud of his win and is ready to face someone in the next round. He talks about the professional wrestling freedom that comes with this tournament, which is kind of a strange metaphor.

We look back at Vincent talking about making enemies and getting jumped by Matt Taven.

We look back (they're doing that a lot this week) at Fred Yehi beating Silas Young in the first round.

We look back at Tracy Williams defeating Rust Taylor to advance.

#### Pure Title Tournament Quarterfinals: Fred Yehi vs. Tracy Williams

These two were in Catch Point together in Evolve so there is a history between them. The stats are awesome here again, with a breakdown of Yehi's strengths (escaped 83% of submissions) and weaknesses (only one takedown and move counter) from the first round. They do the Catch Point handshake to start and Yehi's headlock takeover doesn't get him anywhere.

We get a break in the corner before Yehi has to spin out of a hammerlock and go to the corner. Tracy tries to take him down but Yehi winds up on top for a quick two. Yehi uses a rope break to get out of a hammerlock and then uses a second a few moments later, which might not be the brightest move. Williams takes him down by the arm again but gets suplexed down as we take a break.

Back with Williams having to escape a leglock and winning a chop off without much effort. Williams kicks him in the back for two but Yehi is right back with a German suplex. He doesn't let go but Williams blocks another suplex attempt. Instead Yehi stomps on the foot and kicks the leg out, setting up a quick Koji Clutch. That sends Williams to the rope, apparently for the second time.

They trade hold attempts on the mat with Yehi blocking a few Crossface attempts. A brainbuster rocks Yehi but he reverses a clothesline into the small package for two. That's switched into the Koji Clutch to have Williams in more trouble and it's the third rope break to get him out.

Back up and they slug it out until Williams forearms him hard into the corner. Williams still can't get the Crossface so he settles for two off a piledriver instead, with Yehi using his own final rope break. Now the Crossface goes on but Yehi gets to his feet again. This time Yehi heads to the ropes so Williams slaps on the dragon sleeper in the ropes, but since that's not a break, Yehi taps at 14:03.

**Rating:** B+. This is the kind of thing that the tournament was made for and it made for quite the back and forth showdown. Both guys are awesome at this style and the extra history helped them out a lot. I had a blast with this and the ending was creative, which is the kind of thing that you need to do in a tournament with special rules in every match. This was probably the best match of the tournament so far and they both looked awesome. I could go for more Yehi so points on finding a new star.

Here's EC3 for a chat. He talks about how everyone has control over us throughout our lives, but is there honor in fighting back? EC3 talks about various people who have been here and says there have been honor in them. Is there honor in the people here today though? EC3 wants to find out by bringing total war here, because without pain and sacrifice, you have nothing. He wants to put the name of honor to the test so you have been warned. It's better than his standard CONTROL YOUR NARRATIVE, which is something that sounds good but loses a lot of its impact when he says it over and over.

Post break, EC3 runs into Shane Taylor, who introduces himself because EC3 didn't mention him. Taylor calls it his house but the Briscoes come up to get in his face. The Soldiers of Savagery want a six man against the Briscoes and EC3 so I think they're set for later.

We look at Josh Woods defeating Kenny King and PJ Black defeating Tony Deppen to advance.

Pure Title Tournament Quarterfinals: PJ Black vs. Josh Woods

Silas Young is here with Woods and Brian Johnson is here with Black. They go to the mat to start and that's not a good idea against Woods. An armbar has Black in trouble but he reverses into an ankle lock. That's broken up as well and the grappling continues as they fight over arm control. Woods starts getting the better of things by staying over Black on the mat.

They get up with Black shoving him away for a standoff before taking Woods down in a headscissors. Woods keeps frustrating him and they break it up as we take a break. Back with things heading from the floor back inside, where Black has to use the rope to escape a sleeper. A kneebar sends Black into the rope again so he's down to one break.

Woods grabs a front facelock and cranks on the arm some more until Black uses a Samoan drop to escape. It's off to a cravate instead until Black rolls out and hits some quick middle rope elbows to the head. Black rolls into a reverse Boston crab while lifting Woods up to make it worse. That's broken up as well so Black hits a running crossbody in the corner. Woods has had it though and pulls him into a grapevine ankle lock to make Black tap at 13:27.

**Rating:** B-. The ending was a relief in a way as I was worried that Woods would dominate for the entire match and then slip on a banana peel in the end. Woods is kind of perfect for this kind of tournament and seeing him against Gresham in the next round is kind of the perfect dream match. Good stuff here though, with the right ending.

Here are the updated brackets:

Jay Lethal

Tracy Williams

Jonathan Gresham

Josh Woods

**Overall Rating:** A-. This really has been the best show on TV in recent weeks and the tournament is starting to wind down. The good thing though is that they are setting up some other stuff for the future, because they

are actually thinking. They started with the most basic stuff in the world and now they are slowly expanding, which is how things are supposed to go. Great show here, with the first match being a gem.

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