

New Japan Strong – May 7, 2022: The Other Half

Strong

Date: May 7, 2022

Location: Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, Texas

Attendance: 582

Commentators: Matthew Rehwoldt, Kevin Kelly

So this is a regular episode of the New Japan Strong show which was taped following their Lonestar Shootout special in Dallas, Texas over Wrestlemania weekend. The show was not advertised as a Strong taping so it was kind of a surprise to see the event split in two. This is the more storyline based stuff so let's get to it.

Note that I do not follow Strong so I apologize for missing any plot points or character details.

I was in the building for this show, sitting directly across from the entrance.

Bullet Club vs. Stray Dog Army

That could be Chris Bey/Hikuleo vs. Barrett Brown/Bateman. Well in theory at least as Hikuleo isn't in Bullet Club gear and seems to be having issues with the team. Brown and Bey start things off with a feeling out process until they go with the classic messing with each others' hair. Bey holds up Too Sweet and gets a middle finger until Bey takes him down for a basement dropkick. A snap half and half suplex drops Bey and Bateman comes in for a heck of a chop.

Hikuleo tags himself in though and runs over the rather large Bateman, allowing Bey to get in a cheap shot on the floor. Back in and Bey elbows Bateman in the back for two, setting up Hikuleo's legrop for the same. This lets commentary talk about

how Hikuleo doesn't seem to be overly rocking Bullet Club gear. Bey comes back in to work on a Fujiwara armbar before kicking at the chest...which just gets a glare from Bateman.

Hikuleo gets in a few more shots though, allowing Bey to grab a chinlock. Bateman finally fights up and makes the tag off to Brown, who kicks Bey in the face for two (with Hikuleo making no effort to break it up). Everything breaks down and Brown superkicks Hikuleo, who is back with a chokeslam for the pin at 12:18.

Rating: C+. The Bullet Club continues to look good every time he is in the ring and Hikuleo is a nice monster, Club loyalty issues aside. Other than that, Bateman is a weird enough looking big guy and Brown was passable in the time he was in the ring. Nice opener, with the Club winning to hopefully strengthen their bond a bit more. Maybe they need therapy?

Hikuleo walks away from a Too Sweet as we hear about Hikuleo's family having issues, which may have been due to Jay White.

Jonah vs. Blake Christian

This was actually filmed last, which didn't make a ton of sense. The much bigger Jonah takes Christian to the apron without much trouble before throwing him to the ground for a bonus. Christian avoids a charge in the corner though and kicks him in the ribs for a needed breather.

With Jonah on the floor, Christian tries a slingshot dive and gets pulled straight out of the air. Back in and Jonah whips him hard into the corner and we hit the waistlock. Christian fights up and hits a springboard tornado DDT, setting up a springboard 450 for two. Since it worked once, Christian tries another springboard but gets headbutted out of the air. The Tsunami finishes Christian at 6:52.

Rating: C. Jonah is one of those big guys who feels like he should be a major deal somewhere but is mainly stuck being the

athletic monster. That Tsunami still looks awesome and if Jonah wants in WWE or AEW, he'll be there as soon as possible. Christian is good as the smaller speed guy, but he was little more than a designated victim here.

Team Filthy vs. Alex Coughlin/Fred Rosser/DKC

That would be Tom Lawlor (Strong Openweight Champion)/JR Kratos/Royce Isaacs for Team Filthy, who wear tiny cowboy hats to the ring. You might remember Rosser better as Darren Young from WWE. Kratos jumps Coughlin on the floor and it's a brawl just after the bell. DKC goes after the rather large Kratos to no effect until we settle down to Rosser hitting a Death Valley Driver on Isaacs.

That's it for Rosser's offense at the moment though as he gets taken into the corner for the stomping from Lawlor. Something like a seated abdominal stretch has Rosser in more trouble and Kratos hits a running splash in the corner. Kratos knocks DKC and Coughlin off the apron and we pause for some Filthy pelvic thrusting.

Rosser manages a backbreaker to plant Isaacs on the apron as everything breaks down again. DKC pounds away at Lawlor's chest as Coughlin and Kratos have brawled to the back. That leaves DKC to take down Isaacs and Lawlor, the latter of whom is taken down by Rosser. Isaacs is back up with a super powerslam (cool) to finish DKC at 11:13.

Rating: C+. Oh yeah you could feel the storyline material here as they have a feud for the title going here and Rosser feels like a star. That is one of the bigger surprises that I've seen in wrestling in a good while as I wouldn't have bet on Rosser turning himself into something that much more interesting. Well done, and the match worked too, especially with Kratos looking like a monster and Rosser feeling like a star.

Post match, Rosser says he is going to be the next challenger

for Lawlor's title, but Lawlor says no. Lawlor says he's ready to prove that Rosser is the same non-star he was ten years ago. That being said, Lawlor will throw him a bone: if Rosser can beat Royce Isaacs and Jorel Nelson (Isaacs' regular partner) at the same time, he can have a title shot. Rosser thinks about it to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. It isn't a show I would want to watch on a regular basis but they have some good stuff here, including a focus on some wrestlers that you might not see otherwise. This felt a bit like New Japan's minor league show with an American feeling and that worked. The matches were all at least ok and the show flew by, which makes for a pretty nice combination over just shy of an hour. Good show and I can see why it has fans.

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Ring of Honor – October 29,

2011 – Every Bowler's Favorite Wrestling Show

Ring of Honor

Date: October 29, 2011

Location: Davis Arena, Louisville, Kentucky

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Kevin Kelly

After last week we can actually see some angles starting to come together. This is I think the sixth episode for this show and it's about time that it turned into a regular show. Their pacing is still pretty bad but from what I can find that is going to start changing on this show in that there are actually three matches for this episode. Let's get to it.

Ok so it's Saturday afternoon and I turn on Ring of Honor....and it's the same episode from last week. I mean Mondo vs. Perkins and the TV Title match tonight. The show re-airs on Sunday night so I'll see if that's the new one. Until then I'll try to find a copy of it.

Ok so now it's Sunday night and we have the actual show. Good to see.

We open with a recap of last week's TV Title match which ended in a draw.

Kyle O'Reilly says he's good. Roderick Strong says he isn't worried about O'Reilly because he's a punk kid.

Kyle O'Reilly vs. Roderick Strong

Truth Martini sits in on commentary. They start with technical stuff as Martini talks about Strong's open challenge for Final Battle. They hit the mat and neither guy can take over that well. Both guys avoid strikes and the fans applaud the stalemate. These guys look a lot alike. Time for strikes

because this is a Ring of Honor match. Northern lights suplex gets two for Kyle.

Strong goes to his bread and butter in the form of a backbreaker (half nelson variety here) for two. We take a break and come back with Kyle chopping Roderick but getting caught in a waistlock. Martini is off commentary now. More strikes from O'Reilly including a missile dropkick for two. Butterfly suplex is countered as is a backbreaker. O'Reilly hits rolling butterfly suplexes for two.

Roderick takes him off the top and pounds him down with ease. A modified sitout powerbomb gets two. Strong tries a few moves but Kyle counters off of there. Here are some more strikes for his troubles and a fireman's carry into a spinebuster gets two. Strong Hold (Boston Crab) doesn't work because Strong is a heel. A half nelson is countered into a crucifix for two. O'Reilly hooks on a guillotine choke but Roderick rolls forward for two. A running kick (gee, another strike!) ends this for Strong at 12:28.

Rating: C. I get the appeal of it, but man those strikes get annoying fast. I mean, DO SOMETHING ELSE!!! Why is that such a difficult request to fulfill? I don't like Richards' style at all and Kyle is part of Team Richards or whatever it is. They try to do almost MMA matches out there and it doesn't make for entertaining wrestling other than in the eyes of people that think doing a lot of strikes and such make for good matches.

Post match more House of Truth people and Richards come out with Richards being beaten down. Eddie Edwards comes out for the final save. I think I smell a tag match.

After the break, Cornette says that every member of the House of Truth is being fined \$2500. Some fans want Kevin Steen back and let's put the cameras on them. Cornette says Steen has too many mental problems so there won't be any Steen back. If Steen doesn't like that, sue him.

Either Lethal or Edwards will get the world title match at Final Battle. Gee, I wonder if it'll be a guy that has nothing to do with Richards or his former partner that he beat for the belt in the first place. Both guys say they should get the shot.

We also hear about Proving Ground matches. The idea is that they're non-title, but if you can beat them or get to a time limit draw, you get a title match within 90 days. Logical. A new tag team has such a match next week and they say nothing of note.

Alex Silva vs. Tomasso Ciampa

Steve Corino sits in on commentary. His first line: "My name is Steve Corino and I'm an evil <http://onhealthy.net/product-category/cholesterol/> person." He's trying to reform his evil ways which could set up a sweet heel turn later on if need be. Silva is an OVW guy who likes to kick a lot. Oh ok so that makes sense now. Ciampa spits at a handshake attempt and hits a jumping kick to take over early on. They go to the floor and let the pain begin.

Silva takes a suplex on the floor and it's off to a chinlock in the ring. They kick it out a bit as Corino offers to be a mentor to Ciampa. A neckbreaker puts Silva down and there's a running knee to the face. Make that two knees. Ok three. I think you get the idea here. Silva's face would seem to say..."THAT REALLY FREAKING HURT!" A powerbomb onto double knees (Project Ciampa) ends this at 4:00.

Rating: C. Total squash here but Ciampa is a pretty decent power guy. He needs to have an actual feud though which is one of the problems with the way they air ROH. With only an hour a week, having the multiple ten minute matches is becoming a big problem. I do however really like them fitting in a quick match like this to showcase someone else other than just two teams/acts a show.

All Night Express vs. Briscoe Brothers

Main event here and the winners get Haas/Benjamin at Final Battle. It's a brawl on the floor to start as they don't wait for the intros. I think that's Jay vs. Kenny to start but it's off to Titus quickly. The Express takes over to start with the quick tags. A big clothesline gets two for King. The Briscoes take over and pound away as we go to a break. Back with King in trouble but hitting an enziguri to put Mark down.

The fans are totally behind the Briscoes here which isn't the idea but who cares about that? They know what wrestling is right? Anyway Jay runs in as we hear about how good Titus is in bed. Why does McGuinness know that? Next week we find out who gets the shot at Richards. Backslide gets two for King. There's the hot tag to Titus and they beat on Jay for a bit, including a dropkick for two.

The fans still chant for the Briscoes as we're really running out of time here. Jay counters King but can't hit his finisher (Jay Driller). Mark takes out Rhett and a spinebuster puts down King with a spinebuster. Rhett and Jay go up but Jay is dropped into a snake eyes. Mark goes off on Titus and botches a springboard cutter to put Titus down.

King hits a springboard Blockbuster but walks into a DDT from Jay as all four are down. In a pretty innovative ending, the Express sets for their finisher (Blockbuster/powerbomb combo) but Jay knocks King down and clotheslines his own brother into a rana on Titus for the pin at 12:42. Think about that and it'll make sense.

Rating: C+. The opening stuff of this (as in before the commercial) was really pedestrian but after that the match got a lot better. They threw out the tagging aspect and the hot tag didn't have a lot of heat on it, mainly due to the Briscoes being one of those teams that is so over they can't really be turned heel. Also the fact that they're athletic and

do impressive looking stuff makes it hard to boo them.

Overall Rating: C. Well, they're getting there. I guess that's the best way to put it. The show having a third match is a huge step in the right direction and they cut down the lengths of the two featured matches to make them fit into the time frame much better this week. Not a bad show but it's nothing good either. At least we're building to something for a change, which is a nice thing to see.

Results

Roderick Strong b. Kyle O'Reilly – Sick Kick

Tomasso Ciampa b. Alex Silva – Project Ciampa

Briscoe Brothers b. All Night Express – Hurricanrana to Titus

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Ring of Honor – October 22, 2011 – Best Show So Far

Ring of Honor

Date: October 21, 2011

Location: Davis Arena, Louisville, Kentucky

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Nigel McGuinness

We're into the second batch of tapings here so hopefully they can change up a few things this time. This is OVW's home base

and I believe the third set of tapings will be held here as well. I'm really not wild on this show so far and I haven't seen many great reviews on it. I think the main event this week is the TV Title being defended. Let's get to it.

We open with a brief intro from the announcers.

TJ Perkins and Mike Mondo (Mikey from the Spirit Squad) talk about how they're excited to debut in Ring of Honor, even though Perkins has been around for years.

Mike Mondo vs. TJ Perkins

Mondo is doing the Crash Holly "I'm a giant even though I'm small" thing. They shake hands pre-match and we're ready to go. Mondo is a roided up mess. They go fast to start until Perkins grabs a Boston Crab but picks Mondo up by the arms to crank on him. We go into the Tree of Woe and Perkins hits a hesitation dropkick to send Mondo to the floor. Mondo takes over again and we enter into the always annoying forearm smash-a-thon.

Out to the floor again and Perkins hits his second suicide dive of the match. Springboard dropkick gets two for TJ. Perkins hooks half of a Figure Four but turns it over into a Scorpion Position. It looked more like a Cloverleaf/Sharpshooter hybrid than the Figure Four Deathlock name they gave it. After a few seconds Mondo remembers to sell the leg but then snaps off a Codebreaker because he was playing possum. Superkick is blocked but the second one hits and Perkins fires off some kicks. They hit the mat for some rollups and La Majistral pins Mondo at 7:15.

Rating: C+. Pretty entertaining cruiserweight style match but Mondo was far less entertaining. Perkins would be fine as a cruiserweight style guy in TNA or WWE with a few more years of practice. Mondo, who has been in WWE and was a tag champion there, was horrible as a lot of the stuff he did made no sense and his offense was boring on top of that.

We get clips of last week with the All Night Express vs. the Briscoes and the announcement that neither is the #1 contender.

Here are the Briscoes to talk to Cornette. Next week there's another match between the two teams and the winners get the match at Final Battle which is the last show of the year. The Briscoes go insane and rant and rave as they're known to do. They shout Man Up and beat on each other a bit before hugging.

We hear from Haas and Benjamin about how they want the Briscoes. So why is the Express even an issue in this?

Truth Martini talks about the Roderick Strong/Eddie Edwards staredown last week. Strong makes an open challenge for Final Battle. Also he's going to beat up Richards' friend Kyle O'Reilly next week.

Richards talks about how he knows he can beat Strong and how he's worked so hard and is so tough and all that jazz.

We get a clip from Lethal winning the title from Generico like a month ago.

TV Title: Jay Lethal vs. Mike Bennett

They fight over a lockup to start and Lethal controls with some dropkicks. Lethal misses a baseball slide and they slug it out on the floor. There are I presume plants in the crowd yelling about Kevin Steen. Bennett takes over as they're back in the ring at about 12. Oh I forgot to mention that in ROH there's a 20 count on the floor instead of 10. Lethal puts on a freaky submission hold as he has the legs locked like a Cloverleaf but is behind Bennett instead of sitting on top of him. The freaky part is he leans back like a surfboard. That looked sick although the surfboard part would seem to make the hold weaker.

Bennett's manager distracts Lethal and Bennett can hit a hot

shot and clothesline to take over. Back with lethal running the ropes but getting caught by a corner clothesline and a neckbreaker for two. Powerslam gets two as it's all Bennett at this point. There's a 15 minute time limit here and they're over ten so far. Bennett hooks a front facelock for a bit to kill some time.

Lethal starts his comeback and we have three minutes left. That's about right actually so I can't complain there. It's better than the NWA show I've been watching which has times all over the place. Lethal looks to set for the elbow but Bennett gets up so they slug it out a bit. He tries a springboard something but jumps into a spinebuster for two by Bennett with 1:45 to go.

DDT by Lethal hits with a minute to go. He tries a leg lock but gets rolled up for two. Superkick hits and Lethal goes up. The elbow misses at 40 seconds and Bennett pounds away at 30 seconds. This is pretty stupid as he's wasted 15 seconds with just punches on his arms. Lethal rolls him over and punches away as well until the time runs out at 15:03 (close enough).

Rating: B-. Pretty decent match here but the ending hurt it a lot. Why in the world would Bennett just go insane and start punching until the match was over? He had been fine until then and had Lethal beaten given the missed elbow. I don't get this but the other 14:30 was solid enough that I can't complain much.

Lethal wants 5 more minutes but Bennett declines. Ok then.

Overall Rating: C+. Probably their best show so far as we have some actual stories coming up. It would be nice to see these guys wrestling even in squashes rather than just talking about these matches but that's ROH for you. The main event was pretty good and the rest of it worked pretty well also. Mondo is bad but everyone else was ok. Best show so far I think.

Results

TJ Perkins b. Mike Mondo – Majistral Cradle
Jay Lethal vs. Mike Bennett went to a time limit draw

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Ring of Honor – October 8, 2011 – Raw is Having A Walk Out So ROH is Having A Strike Off

Ring of Honor

Date: October 8, 2011

Location: Frontier Field House, Chicago Ridge, Illinois

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Nigel McGuinness

Hopefully the third week gets a bit better than the previous two. I'd imagine we'll see more of a focus on the tag team scene which has been the theme of the show so far. It'll also be interesting to see if the shows are the same for everyone so far. The final thing they need to do is have a third match. That would fix a lot of problems as it would fill in some of the holes. Let's get to it.

The Briscoes open the shows in an interview with Cornette. I'm starting to see the issues with the production values as you

can't really hear what Cornette is saying. In short, the Briscoes want the title shot at Haas/Benjamin and they have to beat the All Night Express next week for the title shot. The Briscoes are rednecks from Delaware and are the most successful tag team in ROH history.

We get a focus on the Dominant Male, Tomossa Ciampa. He's undefeated and part of the Embassy which is a long running heel stable that has only been kind of successful. It's leader is Prince Nana who claims to be a prince from Ghana who finances the team with his tax collections. He lost his money and got rich again through Obama's stimulus package. I can't say they're not getting creative. Basically Ciampa trains a lot and is tough. There you go.

Andy Ridge vs. Tomossa Ciampa

Steve Corino is on commentary for this match. Ridge likes to kick a lot. The first bell rings at about 17 minutes into the match. Ridge fires off some kicks but Ciampa suplexes his way out of it. They go to the apron and it's chops vs. kicks. Ciampa gets sent to the floor but he pulls Ridge off and sends him into the barricade in a hard shot.

Off to a head scissors which is a lot harder than it sounds. Ridge fires off a kick (shame we were looking at Nana at the time. It might have been a chacha contest for all I know) and hits a slingshot cutter. And never mind as he takes a bunch of knees to the head in the corner. A powerbomb into a backbreaker ends this at 4:45.

Rating: C-. Just a squash here and I don't think anyone expected anything else. It was nothing great but Ciampa looked good and that's what it was supposed to do. Ciampa is a guy that in a company like WWE would be built up and fed to Cena or Hogan back in the 80s but for this, I'm not sure I can see him going anywhere. For one thing, there's no real storyline on this show. It's random matches with a title match at the

end. Oh and the finisher is called Project Ciampa.

A fan is asked about the main event and says bring back Kevin Steen, who is a wrestler that lost a mask vs. career match like 10 months ago. They've been building to his return for awhile.

Roderick Strong says winning the title is like being the captain of the football team. Richards talks about his grandfather having cancer while he was winning his first title and then trying to get to the hospital when he passed away. I know they're trying to make Richards this feel good story but I'm just not buying it. Granted I'm not a fan of his at all.

ROH World Title: Roderick Strong vs. Davey Richards

Strong is part of the House of Truth which is Truth Martini's heel stable. There's a lot of time for this, provided they don't end three minutes before the hour again this week. Feeling out process to start and Richards hooks on a modified surfboard which I remember Pillman using a few times. Strong counters it and we get this idiocy: Kelly: "Look at this!" That sounds fine, but they cut to a shot of Martini as he said it. Brilliant guys. Brilliant. They speed things up and Richards is sent to the floor as he tries an ankle lock.

They head to the floor with Richards missing a baseball slide so that Strong can take over. They chop it out because you have to have at least three strike exchange sequences in an ROH match. Martini distracts Richards and Strong gets in a shot for two as we take a break. Back with a video of more striking during the break. Richards gets a belly to back suplex and both guys are down.

More strikes and Strong goes down this time. Out to the floor and there's a big suicide dive by Richards and then a missile dropkick gets two. More striking and we get it: they can throw forearms at each other. Crucifix gets two for Richards and then Strong fires off a kick for two. We head to the apron

where Richards takes a belly to back suplex on the apron for two. They strike some more which Richards no sells and then a clothesline takes Strong down.

I know I say this a lot, but here are more strikes which take up a lot more time than it should. Richards fires off kicks in the corner but Strong shrugs them all off and hits a gutbuster for two. The fans say it's awesome and I'm going to think I disagree. A superplex into a falcon arrow gets two for Richards and it's into an ankle lock which is one of Richard's finishers I guess.

Martini gets on the apron and Strong taps but Richards, ever the face idiot, lets it go to chase Martini. Strong gets a big boot and puts on the Strong Hold (Boston Crab) but Richards rolls through to the ankle lock. That is escaped also so Strong spits on him, gets kicked a lot and the ankle lock ends it at 22:14.

Rating: C-. This match sums up everything I don't like about Davey Richards and ROH. There was no flow, there was no story, there was ZERO psychology, the selling was all over the place and as someone else I read talking about this match, you could watch the last thirty seconds and get most of the match. The striking is so repetitive it's unreal and when they just stop selling them and hit something else it makes my eyes roll.

Then we get to the finishers. Here's the thing: a hold like the ankle lock is stupid to use as a finisher (and yes Kurt, I'm talking to you too) if you don't try to use it from the very beginning of the match or work on the ankle throughout the match. In short, if you can get the submission that fast on an ankle lock, why would you get your brains kicked in for twenty minutes beforehand? Look at someone like Ric Flair: he uses a leg lock but before he goes for it, he at least uses a knee crusher and a chop block to soften it up. It's about building to a finisher rather than just hooking one all at once which is what makes a match work.

This was all about striking each other in the head and trying to make a match flashy without putting any real thought into it. "But KB! That makes it more realistic!" Good for it. Here's the thing though: PRO WRESTLING IS NOT REAL! Also, look to something like UFC: when people get hit in the face over and over again, THEY GO DOWN. It doesn't make it look realistic. It makes it look stupid and goes against the point of pro wrestling in general. I could go on for days about how stupid these matches are but I'll cut myself off here.

Overall Rating: D+. I know some people will say how great the main event was and while it had some cool spots, it really wasn't great or even that good. The rest of the show was the usual ROH formula: talk a lot, short match, talk some more, talk about the main event, commercial before main event, main event, go off the air with 5% of your show left. I know they taped these all at once, but this is a good example of why that's a bad idea. They need to make a lot of changes at the Louisville tapings but I'm not sure if they knew the issues before they taped there. I hope so.

Results

Tomossa Ciampa b. Andy Ridge – Project Ciampa

Davey Richards b. Roderick Strong – Ankle lock

Ring of Honor – October 1, 2011 – It's An Improvement

Ring of Honor

Date: October 1, 2011

Location: Frontier Fieldhouse, Chicago Ridge, Illinois

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Nigel McGuinness

It's week two after the disaster that was their debut episode. Tonight it's the TV Title on the line as El Generico defends against Jay Lethal who apparently wasn't a fan of being Macho Lethal, even though it's the only time anyone actually cared about him. Let's see if they can break that streak of 30 minutes with no wrestling this time. Let's get to it.

After a quick recap of last week, here's the intro video.

It only took them a week to tell us that Nigel is a former world champion.

We open the show with an interview. Yeah because nothing says wrestling like TALKING. It's Haas/Benjamin to talk about how they're the best team in the company but especially want the Briscoes, a legendary ROH tag team. They're the team that beat down the champions after the four team elimination match, a beatdown we now see for the third time in two weeks. Haas and Benjamin have no problem putting the titles on the line RIGHT NOW. Cornette says he doesn't want to reward the Briscoes for what they did. Haas and Benjamin say they'll fight them one way or another.

Here's a video on The Prodigy Mike Bennett. Cornette talks about how great he is but Bennett is a joke. He looks a bit like Mike Sanders from WCW. Bennett wants to be a movie star and has a trainer named Bob Evans who looks like a young Mickey from Rocky. Yeah he's just a cocky heel that apparently has talent.

Mike Bennett vs. Jimmy Jacobs

Jacobs' manager is Steve Corino and they're trying to repent for past sins in ROH. Here's the opening bell for the first match, 18 minutes into the show. And now we have an opening focused on the idea that Jacobs won't hit him. Bennett takes over with really basic stuff and we have a Tweet of the Week which says "You should watch ROH because I'm Batman and Batman says so." Seriously? I mean seriously?

Jacobs sends him to the floor and misses a dive to shift the little momentum he had going. Bennett pounds away with some of the most generic offense I've ever seen. Jacobs no sells a kick to the face and takes over with a clothesline and a neckbreaker. He sets for a tornado DDT but instead lands on his feet and hits a top suplex for two. Bennett grabs a spinebuster for two. Sliced Bread gets two for Jacobs. A senton backplash eats knees and a sitout Rock Bottom called the Box Office Smash ends this at 5:56.

Rating: D+. Boring match here as Bennett is nothing interesting in the slightest. He's as generic of a heel as you could ask for and easily could be one of the FCW guys that the IWC thinks is killing wrestling. Nothing to see here and I thought Jacobs was supposed to be something important in this company.

A fan thinks El Generico will win tonight.

Eddie Edwards talks about how he got the name Die Hard. He hurt his elbow and fought the next day so it was a huge deal.

Richards talks about facing Roderick Strong next week. I like Roderick but can't stand Richards so maybe it'll be better. Richards sums the match up well: "We're fighting because we don't like each other and we never have." I can live with that.

Roderick says he'll beat Richards.

TV Title: Jay Lethal vs. El Generico

Well they have a lot of time for this one at least with over 20 minutes to go. And never mind as Kelly tells us there's a 15 minute time limit. McGuinness wants to know why he's more tanned than Generico who is from Mexico. Generico speeds things up to take over early. Lethal is like "I can do moves that are flashy but don't really hurt that much either!" Backbreaker gets two for Lethal but Lethal hooks on some weird

surfboard variation with a Texas Cloverleaf leg grip.

Dropkick gets two for Lethal. Generico speeds things up with arm drags and hits a huge swan dive over the top to take Lethal out as we go to a break. Back with Lethal in control after Generico hit a moonsault off the guardrail. Ok scratch that as Generico gets two off something we missed while watching a replay. Lethal gets a sunset flip for two. This isn't much of a match but indy fans would love it.

They slug it out and Lethal is sent to the top for a missile dropkick. With three minutes remaining in a 15 minute time limit we're heading for a time limit draw (at the 12 minute mark that is). Lethal Injection gets two. Generico walks the corner and hits most of a tornado DDT for two. There's a minute left. Blue Thunder Bomb (go play No Mercy for a description) gets two and we have thirty seconds left. Time expires at 12:40 which is including the commercial time.

Rating: C+. I couldn't get into this one as well as I was supposed to I don't think. There wasn't much of a story to it other than two not very high fliers doing their thing. It wasn't bad or anything but it wasn't this epic confrontation that they were shooting for. Still though, pretty good although the ending is kind of stupid. Oh of course that isn't the finish.

At 2:54 Jim Cornette comes out and says we have three minutes left in the show so put three minutes on the clock and get to it.

They slug it out like crazy after being all respectful. Generico hits the Yakuza kick and a half nelson suplex for two. Generico loads up the Brainbuster but Lethal escapes and goes up for a top rope elbow but Generico moves and the Brainbuster is blocked again. There's the elbow for two. A snap suplex sets up a second Yakuza kick but Lethal counters with a superkick and the Lethal Combination (called the

Injection here) for the pin and the title at 2:24 of overtime. The overtime was better than the regular match.

And again we go off the air at 2:58. What's up with that?

Overall Rating: C-. Well it was a little better than last week but it still was better than nothing. They need to get this fascination about pointless promos and talking out of the way. ROH's philosophy seems to be why should we show you how tough Eddie Edwards is when we can just tell you how tough he is? I could get into this show more if these promos and talks actually lead to something but this is approaching Superstars from the 80s levels of random matches. Not impressed but it was better than last week for sure.

Results

Mike Bennett b. Jimmy Jacobs – Box Office Smash

Jay Lethal b. El Generico – Lethal Injection