

AEW Forbidden Door 2026 Preview

Despite the fact that so many wrestlers who would be a big guest star here are already signed to AEW/ROH, we're getting another one of these shows. There are some stars here from New Japan, Stardom and CMLL, which doesn't exactly make for a unique experience. In addition we do have some title (shots) on the line and that's other big focal point, which is only so thrilling. Let's get to it.

Zero Hour: Women's Tag Team Titles: Megan Bayne/Lena Kross(c) vs. Olympia/Thunder Rosa

This is Rosa and Olympia being thrown together for a random title shot because that's what the titles have already reached. Rather than building up a team to be regular challengers, we're getting a makeshift, thrown together team instead. At least this is just on the pre-show and not the main card so maybe this won't get as much time otherwise. It's another title match that feels tacked on for the sake of playing to the show's theme and that's hardly a great way to go.

Naturally I'll take the champions to retain here, as they're being treated as the monsters who shouldn't be losing their titles anytime soon. That's especially true with a team comprised of Rosa, who hasn't won anything important in a good while, and Olympia, who tapped out clean in her match this week on ROH to really make her feel important. It should be fine as a warmup but that's about all.

Zero Hour: Survival Of The Fittest Qualifying Match: Skye Blue vs. Maika

Here we have another guest star getting a random spot on the card for the sake of filling out the card. At least in this

case it's just for a spot in a six way match for the TBS Title rather than filling out a bracket, but it still only means so much. Maika hasn't actually wrestled in AEW before but at least that means she hasn't lost over and over again, which puts her ahead of some wrestlers.

I'll take Maika to win here, as it allows one of the outsiders to get a victory that only means so much. Blue is hardly a big name but she has been around long enough that beating her might have a bit of an impact for Maika. It's not like Maika is going to win the title in the end so let her get some kind of a victory and build her up a bit, as it's not like anyone would buy Blue as a threat to win the whole thing anyway. Maika wins here.

Continental Title: Jon Moxley(c) vs. Bandido

Let's get this one out of the way early, as there is a grand total of no reason to think that Bandido has even the first chance to win the title. This is just what Bandido does, as he is put in matches against big AEW stars, none of whom give any indication that they care about the Ring Of Honor World Title, and then Bandido loses. That's what we'll be seeing here again, of course.

I'm not even bothering to suggest that this is up in the air whatsoever as there is just no point. Moxley is the most successful star AEW has ever had and he isn't about to lose to Bandido, who might be talented but doesn't win big matches. I'm sure the match will be good, but if Bandido is going to keep doing this kind of stuff, can he lose the title already to keep whatever value it might still cling to?

Women's Title: Thekla(c) vs. Starlight Kid

I'm going to make this clear rather quickly: I do not care about Thekla's issues with Stardom. I do not care about Stardom. I do not care about Kid's quest to defend Stardom from Thekla. She's already the AEW Women's Champion and that

title reign has basically been put on ice for the last month while we deal with whatever issue she has coming out of a promotion she doesn't work for anymore. It feels like a Stardom story which is coming over here instead and that's not exactly must see material.

Naturally I'll take Thekla to retain so we can move back to the women of AEW getting their chance at the title. The problem here isn't Kid, who is a rather talented star. The problem is that the whole thing has been about Stardom and Thekla's issues with its owner. That's not what I watch AEW to see and it's basically seen a title locked down for weeks while we wait on this show to be over. Stop doing that.

Tag Team Titles: Adam Copeland/Christian Cage(c) vs. The Dogs

So Copeland and Cage won the titles for their big moment and now they need someone to come after those titles. This is as good as anyone else for a first major title defense, as the Dogs have come after them more than once to set up the match. It's a fine enough idea and that's all it needs to be. This is little more than a pit stop before the champions are likely going to be climbing a ladder against the Young Bucks and FTR in Wembley.

Of course the champs retain here, as the Dogs are hardly a big enough team to get the titles off of them at this point. It's not a bad thing to go with a title defense that will make the champions sweat for a bit and that's what we'll get here. This should work out well enough, as the Canadians are more than talented enough to get something out of the Dogs, especially if this doesn't go on too long.

Young Bucks vs. Sky Team vs. Unbound Co.

This is the AEW vs. CMLL vs. New Japan match and that's not a bad idea. It's one of the few matches here that feel like it should be on a Forbidden Door card and that's nice to see

after everything else. If nothing else, it should be nice to see the Bucks and Sky Team fly around and do all of their stuff. It's worked before on their own and it should work out rather well here.

I'll take Sky Team to win, as Mistico is a big enough star that you do not want him losing in a match like this. The whole point of this match is to do a bunch of high flying and big spots and that's going to work out rather well. Sky Team going over is the right call and they might even beat the Bucks to do it. If nothing else, at least we've seen the Sky Team a few times so they won't be out of nowhere, which is a good attribute to have here.

IWGP Global Title: Shota Umino(c) vs. Pac

This is a match that could wind up being a potential show stealer, with Pac being able to work well with anyone and Umino being good enough most of the time. Pac has become someone you can depend on to have a heck of a match most of the time and while I'm not sure on him winning the title, at least it should come with one of the better matches on the show.

While I think Pac at least has a chance to win the title, I'll take Umino to retain here. The good thing is they should beat the living daylights out of each other on the way there, as tends to be the case in Pac's matches. I've only seen a bit of Umino but his time with Moxley was good enough and it might even tie into the match here. Hopefully this one does as well as it could, as the show could use the boost.

Zack Sabre Jr. vs. Kenny Omega

Here's your dream match of the show and this should work out rather well. Sabre is one of the best technical wrestlers in the world today and Omega is AEW's living legend. It's not a match that needs much of a story and they haven't given it one, which is how this should go. This is one of the matches

where you just put the names up there and the match sells itself, which is how Forbidden Door worked back in its early days.

For this one, I'll go with Omega as again, it makes sense for the star who is sticking around to get the big win. Sabre is an established name and beating him should get Omega ready for whatever his big deal is going to be this summer. Omega can put in the work to make this a success and Sabre can do various horrible things to Omega's limbs in the process. At the end of the day though, Omega wins after a rather hard fought battle.

Team MJF vs. Team Briscoe

Here we have a twelve man tag inside a cage, because that's an idea that is going to work. I'm assuming the idea here is that MJF's knee is a bit too banged up and he can't wrestle a singles match at the moment. That's perfectly fine and understandable, though I'm not sure how that means we need to have twelve people in the same match. Then again if it wasn't be stuffed to the gills, it wouldn't belong in AEW.

There is no reason to think that Team MJF has much of a chance here so we'll go with Briscoe and company winning. The win will give Briscoe the World Title shot at whatever the next pay per view (or maybe Beach Break) and that has to be set up somehow. The match is likely to be a big mess but at least it sets something up and can have other consequences in the Don Callis Family. Hopefully some of the people fight off here though, as the ring is going to need the extra space.

Women's Owen Hart Cup Finals: Mercedes Mone vs. Maya World

I'm not sure what to think about this one. In theory, Mone wins the tournament again because she's Mone and has to win everything because she's the biggest star in the history of ever. On the other hand though, I'm not sure I get why World

would be put into this spot if she was just going to lose in the end. It's not like Mone gets much out of beating World, who is playing with the house's money, but I also can't picture World going on to All In.

Therefore, I'll take Mone winning in an underwhelming result. Mone has been here before and I don't quite get the appeal of seeing her in this spot again, but I guess she hasn't won a title recently enough so it's time to set her up to do it again. World winning would be an absolute shock and I'd prefer to see it happen, but I just can't picture that being the case here.

Men's Owen Hart Cup Finals: Will Ospreay vs. Swerve Strickland

Finally we have the next step of one of the odder stories in a long time, as the Death Riders broke Ospreay's neck but are now training him to get better from his neck injury. Therefore, he can have a rather physical match against Strickland with the winner moving on to the likely main event of the biggest AEW show of the year. That's quite a way to go, but we have a few months between now and then to make it even stranger.

There is a grand total of no reason to believe that Strickland has a chance here and that has been obvious from the second Ospreay was announced for the field. This isn't a subtle story and while that makes sense in theory, it could make for quite the lengthy wait before we finally get to the result. Ospreay wins here and while it should be a heck of a match, it really shouldn't be in doubt.

Overall Thoughts

The biggest issue here is how little most of this show seems to matter. The three most important matches on the show are all about title shots which are going to happen later on, leaving this with a bunch of midcard titles matches and guest

stars. It should be a good show as most AEW pay per views tend to be, but my goodness it does not feel overly important and that's becoming a bigger issue with Forbidden Door year after year.

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