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Weekly Report 001

In this week's edition of the Weekly Report, I cover Ring of Honor's weekly TV show, MLW on YouTube, NXT UK and NXT. I also go into details and my thoughts on, Tom Lawlor's return to MMA with results from Golden Boy MMA - Liddell vs Ortiz, NXT UK Takeover, All Elite Wrestling, The ROH Final Battle line-up so far and the NJPW Wrestlekingdom card.

Weekly Report

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- **Ring Of Honor - Weekly TV Show - Episode 374**

When: This episode aired November 16, 2018

Where: This episode aired on Sinclair affiliates, Fite TV and rohrestling.com

Venue: The 2300 Arena, S Swanson St, Philadelphia, PA 19148

This episode opens with a recap of last week where Jay Lethal and Jon Gresham welcome back Dalton Castle as their surprise tag team partner to face The Kingdom. The angle sets up a match between Dalton and Taven but also seems to set up a future ROH World championship match between Lethal and Castle.

ROH Intro package

We are welcomed to the show by our commentators, Ian Riccaboni and Colt Cabana as Dalton Castle comes out and cuts a promo stating he did whatever he had to do to get back in the ring, Dalton even went to Australia and kissed a Kangaroo. Now Dalton is back and calls out Lethal saying he wants to face the champ, Matt Taven comes out. Taven says he is the real Ring of Honor World Champion and he has a surprise for Castle, as red balloons float to the ceiling. Marseglia and TK O’Ryan come from under the ring and jump Castle and The Boys. The Kingdom beat down The Boys and Dalton, then The Kingdom lay chairs over the head of Dalton and hit them with more chairs.

Commercial Break

We come back to Ian and Colt as they update us on the main event, as Christopher Daniels was jumped last week and unable to compete tonight.

Promo from Marty Scurll about being stuck in this Hero vs Villain feud, with a promo video package.

Hero vs Villain IV - Marty Scurll vs Shane “Hurricane” Helms

Marty Scurll’s music plays as Marty makes his entrance. Shane Helms’ music plays but when he comes out, it’s Delirious in a Hurricane outfit. Hurricane jumps Marty before the bell, getting a chokeslam on Scurll and a two count as the bell rings. Helms throws Marty around at ringside at first while the announcer remind us that this is a Streetfight, as we go to commercial break. As we come back from break, Marty is looking underneath the ring and throwing loads of umbrellas into the ring. The crowd count with Marty as he throws them in but he fakes throwing one, just to get one up on the crowd. Marty beats Helms down with the umbrellas but Helms fights back and crawls over to get the Hurricane mask and makes a comeback. It’s like Helms gets the mask on and starts to fire up. After taking Marty down, Hurricane goes outside to look for chairs. As the Hurricane sets up some chairs in the ring, Marty uppercuts him and sets the chairs up. They go to the top rope and Helms sends Marty into the chairs by grabbing the groin and throwing him. Hurricane gets a near fall as they go to commercial break. We come back and both men are fighting on the apron, Marty has set up a table at ringside and drives the Hurricane through the table with what looked like an Attitude Adjustment. Scurll brings Hurricane back in the ring and covers him but only gets a two. Marty gets annoyed and goes to look under the ring again, Marty pulls out a satchel of Thumb Tacks. After a fight, Marty goes for a clothesline but gets chokeslammed on the thumb tacks. Marty kicks out and moments later, puts a handful of tacks in the mouth of Helms and Superkicks him and Helms spits out the tacks. Marty, seconds after the Superkick hits his move, The Graduation on the tacks for a pinfall victory.
Winner: Marty Scurll in 12:59

Ian Riccaboni tells us after the break we have the second half of our double main event.

Commercial Break

We get a Brandi Rhodes hype video package on how she got injured. The X-ray looks brutal. Brandi explains she doesn’t have the same range of motion as she has a plate in he shoulder with nine screws holding it together.

ROH World Tag Team Championship, Triple-threat Tag Team Match - SoCal Uncensored vs The Young Bucks vs The Briscoes

Scorpio Sky is in this match instead of Daniels because Daniels was attacked and taken out last week on the stage with a Jay-driller. Sky starts off with Nick Jackson as The Briscoes stand on the floor at ringside. While Nick and Sky runs the ropes, Sky dives on both Briscoes. Kazarian jumps over the ropes and delivers and hurricanrana to Mark Briscoe and the Young Bucks and SCU bring Jay on the ring to do multiple double team moves on him. At this point it's The Bucks AND SCU vs The Briscoes, but that won't last. Mark tags in and drags Nick Jackson out of the ring. Sky gets Mark Briscoe in a front headlock and pulls him over to the corner and Kaz tags in. Jay gets a blind tag and The Briscoes take out both of SCU. At ringside, The Briscoes bash Kazarian's head into the barriers. The Briscoes continue to work over Kaz in the ring. Kazarian fights but against Mark and hits a lung blower but as he starts to crawl over to his corner for a tag, Jay runs in and kicks Sky off the apron. We go to commercial. As we comes back we get a crowd shot and Kazarian hitting a German suplex into the corner on Mark Briscoe. Mark makes the tag to jay and Matt Jackson also makes a tag. Matt fires up as this is the first time he's been in the match. Matt takes out both Briscoes but after a few moments, he is cut of by Sky. Scorpio Sky is sent out of the ring and matt gets a near fall on Jay Briscoe. Everyone gets in the ring at one point and and referee Paul Turner is taken out but Nick Jackson by accident. Jay hits a Jay-driller on Kaz on a chair but the pin is broken up by the Bucks. Jay Briscoe slams Matt Jackson on his back, through a chair. Kaz and mark trade punches until Jay hits Kaz in the back with a chair but when he goes to throw the chair in the face of Kaz, Kaz moves and it hits Mark in the face. Sky hit a cutter on Jay on the apron then SCU hit an assisted lung blower on Mark Briscoe for the win and the Championships. **Winners: And new ROH World Tag Team Champions, Scorpio Sky and Frankie Kazarian, SCU in 15:13.**

• **MLW Fusion - Weekly TV Show - Episode 31**

When: This episode aired November 15, 2018

Where: This episode aired on BeIN Sports and YouTube

Venue: Cicero Stadium, Chicago, IL

We begin this episode with the MLW theme music, with shot and clips of wrestling and wrestlers from other generations and from all over the world. Images of Terry Funk and CM Punk stand out among more.

We see a recap from last week on episode 30 as MLW champion, Low-ki faced Daga. Low-ki ripped some of Daga's ear off and lands a double stomp to regain his championship.

Konnan walks up to Low-ki and badmouths him in Spanish and Low-ki challenges "the head honcho himself" Konnan. Konnan says he no longer wrestles or even trains, Konnan says no and tries to walk off but Salina De La Renta calls him a bitch.

We get a promo from Filthy Tom Lawlor on Sami Callihan.

We are told that a new tag team called "Size Matters" will debut. The team is Swoggle and Joey Ryan.

Ricky Martinez vs Dr Rex Bacchus

Martinez puts a face mask on then head butts Bacchus in the face before the bell. Martinez slams Bacchus's face into mat. This was very one sided as Martinez pins Bacchus with an insane piledriver within two minutes. **Winner: Ricky Martinez in 1:58**

Up next, Size Matters.

We come back from break and Schiavone reminds us that the main event is Tom Lawlor vs Sami Callihan in a Chicago Street Fight. We go to Tom warming up with his team mate, Simon Gotch. Got tells Tom he'll be in his corner tonight AND Simon has set Tom up, with a press conference.

Tag Match - Size Matters vs The Dirty Blondes

The Dirty Blondes come to the ring first. Joey comes out with his jacket on but only one arm in the jacket due to having his arm in a sling. At first I thought Joey would come out and claim he couldn't wrestle because he's injured, and I wouldn't be surprised as he is legitimately hurt. But after Joey and Swoggle give away their lollies, Joey explains what happened. Joey tore his peck muscle the night before this, on his birthday. Joey says he loves Chicago so much he still want to wrestle, and he does. At the bell, the Dirty Blondes jump Joey and Swoggle, sending Joey out to ringside a they get the heat on Swoggle. Joey makes it back to the apron and "Brien" of the Dirty Blondes punches him. Joey tags in and runs wild with clotheslines but is working very light, thankfully. Joey hits a Superkick then both Dirty Blondes get in the ring, so does Swoggle. Joey and Swoggle win this in just under three and a half minutes with a Sweet Tooth Music and a Tadpole Splash. **Winners: Size Matters in 3:26**

After the match, Joey takes his sling off and shows us his arm and peck muscle, which is black with bruising. He says "It looks pretty bad" and that he'll probably need surgery, which we know now that he did need surgery and he is currently healing from that surgery that went well.

Sami Callihan is in the dark with a camera man, I won't ask questions. The light turns on and Sami is standing behind bars and he has a message. He talks about how people are calling him a mersenary but he's okay with that because he is "The Draw" and "The Draw likes to make money." Sami talks about all the people he has hurt in MLW and says he's not afraid of Filthy Tom Lawlor.

We see a Battle Riot 2 advert.

We see an interview Konnan saying he's coming out of retirement to face Loki.

We get a Never Say Never ad with a run down of matches for December 13th. First match they mention is PCO vs LA Park in a falls count anywhere match. Then, Rush vs MJF as Rush makes his MLW debut.

December 14th is Zero Hour and advertised here for that is MJF vs Marko Stunt vs Kotto Brazil vs Jason Cade for the middleweight championship but unfortunately Marko is injured.

We get a promo from Filthy Tom Lawlor calling Sami Callihan a chump and a punk, then Simon Gotch tells Tom they have to go.

Rush debuts on MLW TV in 3 weeks.

Next week, Kotto Brazil vs Trey Miguel and Shane "Swerve" Strickland vs Loki in a rematch for the MLW world title.

The backstage interviewer tries to talk to Strickland but he walks off.

Chicago Street Fight - Sami Callihan vs Filthy Tom Lawlor

Sami Callihan comes to the ring for the street fight and immediately goes under the ring for weapons. Tom comes out and Sami runs at him but Tom gets the better of Sami. Sami sends Tom into the railings and empties a bin on Tom. After a few minutes of fighting in the entrance way, these two fight there way to the ringside area. Lawlor sets up some chairs next to the ring and attempts to powerbomb Sami off the apron but Callihan reverses it and piledrives Tom on the apron. Callihan sets up a table at ringside and goes to powerbomb Lawlor but Tom escapes and gets an ankle lock. Filthy Tom pounds on Sami against the railing. Someone has a sign saying "Tom! Use my sign!" and he does. Tom hits Sami with the flimsy sign and Callihan sells it. Sami makes a comeback and chops Tom against the railings then rips the shirt off Tom. Sami runs around the ring but Tom cuts him off. Sami reverses something into a Death Valley Driver into the table set up earlier, destroying the

table with Tom. Sami goes back underneath the ring and pulls out a VHS tape and a giant spike, someone on commentary called it a rail road spike. Sami drives the spike into the mouth and teeth of Filthy as Tom screams and the crowd gasp. Sami picks up the sign used earlier and puts it in the mouth of Tom and gives Tom a paper cut in the mouth using the sign. Sami Breaks the VHS and pulls the tape out, Callihan goes in the ring and starts to choke Tom out with the tape but Lawlor escapes. Lawlor slides another table into the ring and sets it up in the corner but Sami gives Tom a low blow and a short piledriver for a two count. Sami Callihan pulls out a black baseball bat from under the ring but Tom low blows Callihan. Sami goes for a kick but Lawlor tuns it into a powerbomb. Both race to the bat but Tom gets it and breaks the bat. Tom climbs on the back of Sami Callihan to apply the sleeper but Callihan runs backwards and drives Tom through another table. As Callihan crawls away, Lawlor pops out of the wreckage and gets the sleeper again. Lawlor gets the hand of Sami which is holding a broken piece of bat and jams it into the neck of Sami as he applies the sleeper for the win. Sami taps out to Filthy Tom Lawlor. **Winner: Filthy Tom Lawlor in 18:30**

After the match, Tom is helped to the back for the aforementioned press conference by his close friend and team mate, Simon Gotch. Gotch says “You so deserve what’s about to happen” then leads Filthy Tom into a room with Loki, LA Park and and others, all brandishing weapons ready to attack Tom. The camera man leaves the room as Gotch closes the door on Tom with a huge grin as we hear Tom getting beating up behind the door.

• **NXT UK - Weekly TV Show - Episode 10**

When: This episode aired November 21, 2018

Where: This episode is available on the WWE Network

Venue: The NEC Birmingham

The show started with the usual opening music and crowd shots. We see the brackets for the Women’s championship tournament, Dakota defeated Nina Samuels, Rhea Ripley defeated Xia Brookside, Jinny defeated Millie McKenzie and Toni Storm defeated Isla Dawn. Dakota, Rhea, Jinny and Storm are left.

The ring announcer, announces that this next match is a semi-final match for the NXT Women’s championship tournament and the crowd cheer.

Rhea Ripley vs Dakota Kai

Dakota makes her way to the ring to a decent reaction. Dakota and Rhea stand face to face after the bell rings and the match has started, the fans start singing a song. These two women trade roll ups and pinning attempts but both escape. Rhea tries to

take over with her power but Kai gets the kicks in early. Rhea Ripley picks Dakota up and drops her on her front, Kai sells this like she's seriously hurt. The fans get behind Kai as Ripley beats on Kai with clubbing forearms. Rhea tries a delayed suplex but Kai escapes and rolls Ripley up up Rhea kicks out at one. Rhea cuts Kai off with a dropkick and works over Kai with submissions. Dakota Kai makes a comeback and starts to kick Ripley in the corner and gets a two count. After some good reversals at the end Ripley finished off Kai with the Riptide, which is basically a pump-handle bomb. **Winner: Rhea Ripley in 9:51**

We see Sid Scala who was shaking the hand of GM Johnny Saint, Saint wishes Sid good luck as he closes his door. Sid tells us that he's not medically cleared to compete right now but if he is in two weeks then he will face the Ironman, Joe Coffey.

Up next, Mark Andrews and Flash Morgan Webster is facing Saxon Huxley and Joseph Conners.

Jordan Devlin is being interviewed. Devlin is calling out Pete Dunne.

Flash Morgan Webster & Mark Andrews vs Saxon Huxley and Joseph Conners

Flash and Andrews come out first and all I can think is, Flash will turn on Mark and he'll probably do it soon. Saxon starts with Flash. Flash makes quick work of Saxon and Saxon tags out. Mark Andrews tags in and begins to work over Conners. Huxley is strange, he takes out Mark with a odd Lou Thesz Press and a strange looking bodyslam. After some heat on Mark Andrews, eventually Flash gets the tag and takes it to Huxley with some punches that were edited a lot. Flash takes out Conners with a rolling senton from the apron but when Conners gets on the apron and asks for a tag, Huxley decides not to. Mark Andrews pins Huxley with a shooting star moments later. Decent match, the right team went over and Flash didn't turn on mark Andrews, yet. **Winners: Mark Andrews and Flash Morgan Webster in 6:10**

After the match, Conners attacks Huxley and after chanting that Huxley looks like Jesus the whole match, the fans chant "you're a sinner" and "Judas".

We go to Nigel McGuinness and Vic Joseph who are in front of a green screen that displays the NXT UK logo and pretending to be there live. It's kind of ridiculous looking.

The graphic says "Tonight", Dave Mastiff vs Tyson T-Bone but Nigel tells us it's next.

Ad for The Marine 6 with The Miz, Shawn Michaels and Becky Lynch.

In two weeks, Sid Scala takes on Joe Coffey, health permitted.

“Bomber” Dave Mastiff vs Tyson T-Bone

The bell rings and T-Bone starts to stick and move with Mastiff but take a shoulder tackle and goes down. Tyson T-Bone punches Mastiff in the corner, drags him out and drops and elbow the his back. Tyson starts to twist his head of Mastiff, trying to twist the head off the neck but Dave stands up so Tyson punches him some more. The crowd chant “lets go Mastiff”. Mastiff punches T-Bone back then headbutts him. Mastiff hits some elbows on T-Bone and lands a huge diving Cannonball for the win. Mastiff pins Tyson T-Bone. **Winner: Dave Mastiff in 4:40**

Toni Storm vs Jinny is up next as the second semi-final for the NXT UK Women’s championship tournament.

A tweet from Johnny Saint saying next week, Jordan Devlin will face Pete Dunne for the WWE UK Championship.

A recap of how Jinny got to the semi-finals, followed by a Toni Storm vs Isla Dawn recap.

Jinny vs Toni Storm

It is mentioned that Jinny is current PROGRESS Women’s champion and she beat the inaugural champ, Toni Storm. These two fight over a lock-up for the first minute or so. They fight back and firth for the first few minutes and Storm holds Jinny in a STF/Figure four type submission but Jinny makes a comeback as she belly-to-belly suplexs Toni into the corner. As Jinny goes to whip Toni Storm from corner to corner, Jinny tries to throw Toni hard but seems to fall, causing Toni to trip over. Jinny wears down Toni as the crowd boo but Toni starts to fire up and headbutts Jinny for a double down. They trade strikes and Storm hits a German suplex and starts to run wild, when she is cut off. Jinny stops Toni on the top ropes and gets a good nearfall with a modified x-factor. A minute or two later, Toni makes a comeback and hits the Storm zero for the pinfall victory. **Winner: Toni Storm in 10:30**

After the match, Toni is faced by Rhea Ripley on the stage but General Manager, Johnny Saint is there to stop a fight. The finals are in two weeks.

• NXT - Weekly TV Show - Episode 479

When: This episode aired Wednesday, November 21st

Where: This is available on the WWE Network

Venue: Staple Centre, Los Angeles, California

The show starts with a recap of NXT Takeover War Games, which was excellent.

The NXT Theme music.

We are welcomed to the show by our announce team, led by Mauro Ranallo as they run down the card.

The limitless Keith Lee makes his way to the ring

Keith Lee vs Fidel Bravo

This Fidel Bravo looks very enthusiastic, even if he is about half the size and completely unknown. The crowd chant “Oh, Bask In His Glory” and Fidel gets annoyed at Lee enjoying it so shoves his face. Lee forearm Bravo, knocking him down instantly. Keith Lee then does his double chop to Bravo’s chest in the corner, sending Bravo to his knees. Keith Lee hits the Jackhammer for the win. **Winner: Keith Lee in 2:00**

We see clips of the Women’s Championship match from Takeover.

Kathy Kelly speaks to Shayna with Jessamyn Duke and Marina Shafir. Not really much was said here, the last question was “do you walk out of Takeover War Games confident?” and Shayna replied “yes, no one can stop us.”

Generic ad break for WWE.

When we come back, WWE plug Nina Strauss who played on NXT Takeover and WWE are using one of her songs for Takeover.

We get a recap of the Takeover Kick Off show where Kassius Ohno getting in the face of Matt Riddle, then we see Riddle knock out Ohno in 6 seconds from the beginning of the main Takeover show.

Matt Riddle flirts with an interview women, while saying he made his “NXT Takeover debut in LA.”

Lars Sullivan makes his way to the ring.

Lars Sullivan vs Keita Murray

I didn’t even see Keita in the ring, he didn’t get an entrance and the only person who knew his name was Mauro. The match started as Lars turned and ran to the other corner, squashing Keita, then picking him up and slamming Murray down for the Freak Accident. **Winner: Lars Sullivan in 0:35**

After the match, Lars gets a microphone and says he wants what he’s got coming to him, and that’s a NXT Title shot. Lars then picks up Murray to make a point but Keith Lee comes running down and pounces Lars out of the ring. Lars flees as Keith Lee stands tall in the ring.

Recap of the “Who done it” storyline and Aleister Black vs Johnny Gargano at Takeover. Once again, this match was excellent. Aleister won.

Recap of the NXT World championship match from Takeover between Ciampa and Dream. Another great match from Takeover, and more recaps.

Candice LeRae faces Nikki Cross in the main event.

Next, Exclusive footage of War Games.

Next Week, Lars Sullivan vs Keith Lee

Recap of the War Games match.

Nikki Cross vs Candice LaRae

They start with some sort of lock u, which leads to them both in a corner and Nikki laughs at Candice and Candice shoves Nikki. They fight to the apron where Nikki Cross drops Candice by sweeping the leg and using the ring skirt to her advantage. Candice takes over getting back in the ring and hits a shotgun dropkick for a two count. Lots of back and forth until Cross hits the Purge, her swinging neckbreaker but Candice kicks out. Nikki begins to laugh which pisses LaRae off who stomps Nikki’s face into the mat and locks in the Gargano Escape but Nikki makes it to the ropes. As Candice goes to grab the hair of Nikki and Nikki reverses her and shoves Candice into the ropes and hits another Purge but with Candice’s feet on the top rope. **Winner: Candice LaRae in 7:00**

• **Other Wrestling Bits**

NJPW Wrestlekingdom: The top show of the year for New Japan is just round the corner as we near December and the card is beginning to take shape. We have pretty much known the main event since the final of the G1 Climax Tournament when Tanahashi beat Kota Ibushi, but it is now official. The main event of Wrestlekingdom 13 is Kenny Omega defending his IWGP Heavyweight championship against Hiroshi Tanahashi in what is sure to be one of the top wrestling matches of 2019. Also on this card will be Chris Jericho defending his IWGP Intercontinental championship against the leader of Los Ingobernables De Japon Tetsuya Naito. Jericho faced LIJ member, EVIL at the Power Struggle show recently which Jericho won via submission with a Walls Of Jericho. Jericho put the Lion Tamer on EVIL after the match and wouldn’t let go until Naito came down to save his stable mate. This has been building up since Jericho took the belt from Naito in a brutal brawl at the

Dominion show last June and 6 months later, they will go head-to-head once again. I am very much looking forward to watching Jericho vs Naito for the IWGP IC championship in this rematch and I expect another unconventional brawl for the biggest show of the NJPW calendar. For the first time in four years, Kazuchika Okada will not be in the main event of the Tokyo Dome. Okada will be going for revenge instead of a title this year as he takes on Switchblade Jay White. Jay White and Gedo turned their backs on Okada and Chaos, as a whole. When Gedo and White turned on Chaos and Okada on September 23rd, Gedo proclaimed a “new era”, it would become clear later that they would join the Tongans and this has all led to the Tokyo Dome in January. After the assault on the IWGP Jr Heavyweight champion, KUSHIDA, by Taiji Ishimori at Power Struggle. Ishimori claimed to be injured and unable to wrestle, Ishimori used the crutch that aided him to the ring to beat up KUSHIDA then challenged KUSHIDA to a title match. KUSHIDA is always fun to watch, and Ishimori hasn't shined like the rest of the Jr Heavyweight division as he is still one of the newer faces in NJPW but has very obvious talent in the ring so I'm expecting this to be very good. Ibushi will face Hirooki Goto for the Never Openweight belt in a match that was scheduled to be Ibushi vs Ospreay but Will Ospreay got hurt on a show in England and was unable to make the tour, losing his title match to Goto who beat Taichi for the belt. Also on this show will be a triple-threat match for the IWGP Jr Heavyweight tag championships as the champions, Yoshinobu Kanemaru & El Desperado face SHO & YOH and BUSHI & Shingo Takagi. I will provide updates week-to-week as we near the event.

ROH Final Battle line-up: Ring of Honor are holding their biggest show of the year on December 15th and Final Battle is shaping up to be a cracker of a show. Zack Sabre Jr makes his ROH debut on this show against the Octopus Jonathan Gresham in the Manhattan Centre's Hammerstein Ballroom. Matt Taven defends his “real world title” against Dalton Castle and Flip Gordon will face Bully Ray in an I QUIT Match. Sumie Sakai defends her WOH World Title in a four corner survival match against Madison Rayne, Karen Q and another women that will be announced this week on Ring of Honor television. The ROH TV champion Jeff Cobb will defend his title against “Hangman” Adam Page and the main event is Jay Lethal defending the ROH World championship against Cody. It's a bit odd that ROH have gone with Cody for the main event of Final Battle as Cody has been telling everyone that he is done with ROH and won't be on The Garden show on Wrestlemania week but either way, It'll be a good match and they could always swerve us.

All Elite Wrestling: The news broke this past week that Trademarks have been filed for “All Elite Wrestling”, “AEW”, “AEW Double or Nothing”, “AEW All Out” and “Tuesday Night Dynamite”. It has been speculated that the son of the Jacksonville Jaguars owner (a man who owns a lot of things, including a British football team, Fulham and more) was interested in wrestling and more specifically The Elite. These trademarks were taken out in the address of the Jacksonville Jaguars, making it easy to connect the dots. This could sound like big news and a very promising future for the group known as The Elite but as of right now, all this is, is paperwork. We have

no idea what The Elite are planning and with who but what we do know is that Cody has said he is done with ROH but the Bucks are under contract until the end of the year, without The Young Bucks the deal could fall through and this could all dissipate into thin air. The Elite have all decided to stay together, no matter what and I'm not sure WWE are willing to pay the money they want for all of these guys. All in all, nothing is final until it happens and nothing has happened yet, except lots of hype for a brand that as of today doesn't exist. I'm sure this story will continue and I will of course follow it as it happens. Don't forget to follow along with Being The Elite most Mondays for free on YouTube.

NXT UK Takeover: It was announced at an NXT UK TV taping in Liverpool on November 24th, 2018 that NXT UK will hold the first ever NXT UK Takeover on January 12th, 2019. This makes it 15 days before the Royal Rumble and two weeks before the NXT Takeover Phoenix, that will take place the day before the Rumble. The NXT UK Takeover will take place at the Empress Ballroom in Blackpool and will stream live on the WWE Network. It's interesting that NXT UK will now get Takeovers and I'm wondering how often they will hold an NXT UK Takeover and how they integrate NXT UK wrestlers with NXT wrestlers to bring more interest in these shows. I have enjoyed the NXT UK product but that's probably because I have seen most of the wrestlers on the show multiple times, in person at an Indy show somewhere. I feel the NXT UK show has been a lot of either good or very good matches but without people being invested in the characters, it's falling on deaf ears. Pete Dunne, Trent Seven and Tyler Bate have got over on a worldwide stage since joining WWE but it takes more than three stars to build a roster. That being said, I'm looking forward to the show and our local wrestling stars making an impact on a large stage like Takeover.

Filthy Tom Lawlor back in MMA: This past Saturday "Filthy" Tom Lawlor made his return to MMA after being suspended by UFC for traces of Ostarine in an out of competition test by USADA. Tom was suspended for two years but just before his return he was released. After nearly two year out of competition Tom made his return to the octagon to face Deron Winn in the co-main event of the evening on a show that was promoted by "Golden Boy" Oscar De La Hoya, a retired boxer who promotes boxing, and now MMA too. Tom was unsuccessful in his return to MMA as he faced a very skilled opponent in Winn. Winn hit hard in the early rounds, cutting both cheeks of Lawlor but Lawlor took Winn to the third round for the first time in his career. Winn has won all previous fights by KO in round 1 and this was the first judges decision he has faced. Lawlor broke his hand in the third round and was unable to get the finish he needed as he was down on points and he knew it. Lawlor tried to finish Winn with a guillotine but was unable to get the finish as his hand was broken and he was unable to grip. Winn had Daniel Cormier in his corner and he could be heard at multiple times shouting advice to his training partner, Deron Winn. Because Tom was unable to get the finish he needed in the third round, he lost via

unanimous decision. I expect more of a follow up on this story as I believe this is only step one in the return to MMA for Filthy Tom Lawlor.

Golden Boy MMA- Chuck Liddell vs Tito Ortiz 3 results:

1. Oscar Cota vs Jay Silva - Winner: Jay Silva by submission via head and arm choke (2:13 of Round 3)
2. Albert Morales vs James Barns - Winner: James Barns by submission via armbar (4:29 of Round 3)
3. Ricky Palacios vs Walel Watson - Winner: Ricky Palacios by Knockout (3:56 of Round 1)
4. Gleison Tibau vs Efrain Escudero - Winner: Gleison Tibau by unanimous decision (29-28)
5. Tom Lawlor vs Deron Winn - Winner: Deron Winn by unanimous decision (30-27)
6. Chuck Liddell vs Tito Ortiz - Winner: Tito Ortiz by KO (4:24 of Round 1)