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# Weekly Report 002

In This edition of the Weekly Report, I cover Ring of Honor's weekly TV show, Major League Wrestling episode 33 and I get into a lot of news from this week. The News this week includes; WWEUK, Excalibur joins the NJPW commentary team, Ring of Honor Contracts, Silas Young rumours and WWE moving NXT Takeover.

# Weekly Report

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- **Ring Of Honor - Weekly TV Show - Episode 375**

When: November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

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

Venue: Stage AE, Pittsburgh, PA

The show starts out with a recap of two two weeks ago when Christopher Daniels was taken out with a Jay-driller on the stage, leading into last week’s television main event for the ROH Tag team championships, which SCU won.

Ian Riccaboni welcomes us to the show as The Kingdom make their way to the ring. We then go to Ian and Colt who run down a few matches for the night, including a tag main event for the championship shot at Final Battle between The Briscoes and The Young Bucks.

Dalton’s Boys make their way to the ring. Taven asks if this is a joke. Taven cuts a promo on The Boys and tells TK to go to commentary while Matt Taven takes on both Boys.

## Matt Taven vs The Boys

Matt Taven takes out one of The Boys with a belt shot to the head before the bell. Taven works over the other Boy as TK O’Ryan joins commentary. We go to a ad break where The Briscoes plug wildbillwholesale.com to survive a zombie apocalypse. Back from the break, The Boys start to fight back, one of the Boys hits a crossbody over the ropes but is caught. The Boys dive on Taven outside but when going back in the ring, red balloons float to the ceiling. A Boy is dragged underneath the ring by Vinny Marseglia as Taven pins the other Boy with his spike reverse DDT . **Winner: Matt Taven**

Cody video package about how Cody never got his one-on-one re-match for the ROH Title, until Final Battle on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

In the ring, Ian Riccaboni welcomes Jonathan Gresham to the ring for an interview. Gresham tells us he is in ROH to prove he is the best “Pure Wrestlers in the world” and Gresham invites the “best technical wrestlers in the world.” Zack Sabre Jr suddenly comes up on the video and challenges Gresham to a match at Final Battle in New York and Gresham accepts.

Ad Break.

Christopher Daniels is in a neck brace and on the phone to Joe Koff and Daniels says “Joe, I will have the signed copies scanned and sent over to you in the morning, and listen, I just want to say I appreciate this. You have my word. Yes sir, yes sir. Goodnight.” Daniels puts down the phone and tells Kaz and Scorpio Sky that they have contracts, but Daniels doesn’t, yet.

Kelly Klein makes her way to the ring as Ian and Colt talk about Zack Sabre Jr coming to ROH.

### Qualifying Match for Final Battle - Kelly Klein vs Jenny Rose

They begin by shoving each other before the bell. The opening few moments of this match are a bit messy but after some elbows in the corner by Kelly, they get on the same page. We go to an ad break. We come back from the break and Kelly is shoving Jenny Rose, both of these two need to work on their strikes, the fans are generous with this one. Sumie Sakai comes to the stage to watch the match. Kelly Klein wins the match with a fireman’s carry into a Michinoku driver, called K-power. That was the only move that looked any good in this match. **Winner: Kelly Klein.**

We see a video package for Jeff Cobb vs Hangman Page. Page cuts a promo first saying he is just as strong as Cobb and hits harder than Cobb.

Ian and Colt remind us we will see Zack Sabre Jr vs Jonathan Gresham at Final Battle, then we go to break.

When we come back, it is main event time, a tag team match to determine who will go to Final Battle for the ROH Tag championships.

### The Briscoes vs The Young Bucks

Nick Jackson starts off with Mark Briscoe and things kick off quick with Nick landing his Lucha arm drag, after that it broke down quickly when Jay jumps Nick and Matt runs in too. After some quick action we go to break. When we come back, the Briscoes are getting the heat on Matt. The crowd are fully behind The Bucks and everyone is on their feet for this one. Matt gets a tag to Nick but after just a few moments in the ring, Nick tags Matt to do a double team move but they are cut off by Jay Briscoe. The Briscoes double team Matt and get a near fall as we go to another commercial break. When we come back, The Bucks are making a comeback and get a near fall on Mark. The Bucks and The Briscoes face off in the middle of the ring and start punching each other until The Bucks go to run the ropes and take Superkicks from The Briscoes. The Briscoes then go to run the ropes and The Bucks Superkick them back, Jay goes down and they Superkick Mark again and pin him for a two. Somehow Mark stumbles to his feet and The Bucks go for a Meltzer Driver but Jay brings two chairs in the ring. Matt picks up a chair and Jay has a chair, they both throw their chairs at the other guy in the ring. Matt throws a chair at Mark Briscoe, Jay throws a chair at Nick Jackson. Todd Sinclair calls for the bell. Matt and Jay start swinging chairs at each other but Matt drops his. Matt grabs Jays chair and as they fight over it, they hit Todd Sinclair, who was way too close, in the face. Todd goes down but The Bucks and Briscoes keep fighting. Everyone takes a chair to the head, then security comes down to break it up. SoCal Uncensored come down to their music, SCU challenge both teams to a Ladder War match at Final Battle and the fans were into it. Good match, lots of action after to make up for the bad finish and an announcement at the end for Final Battle so all-in-all a pretty newsworthy show and a fun one. **Winners: No Contest.**

## ● **MLW Fusion - Weekly TV Show - Episode 33**

When: December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Where: This episode aired on BeIN Sports and YouTube

Venue: Cicero Stadium, Chicago

The show starts with the MLW opening and theme. As the theme fades out it fades into Salina De La Renta cutting a promo in Spanish. Our commentary team run down the card and Simon Gotch makes his way to the ring.

Simon Gotch offers \$10,000 for the "filthiest" person here tonight and we recap Simon Gotch stabbing Filthy Tom Lawlor in the back two weeks ago.

## Simon Gotch vs Ariel Dominguez

Ariel comes to the ring in a red and white robe and is billed at 125lbs. When Ariel gets in the ring, he is quite a bit smaller than Gotch, he is tiny. Gotch takes it to the child-like Dominguez immediately with European Uppercuts and and after a few minutes powerbombs Ariel Dominguez into the corner and gives the tiny man a Gotch-style piledriver for the easy win. **Winner: Simon Gotch.**

After the match, Gotch grabs his money, stiffs the bills in the mouth of Dominguez and gives him another piledriver. We go into a graphic for Filthy Tom Lawlor vs Simon Gotch at Never Say Die on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Last week MJF beat down Rich Swann and we get a promo from MJF saying he will NOT do a ladder match for his MLW Worlds Middleweight title because it's beneath him and not worth his time.

Tommy Dreamer cuts a promo with a dog barking in the background. He talks about Brian Pillman Jr calling him a skinny-Jean wearing millennial.

We get a backstage promo from Stokely Hathaway saying he will take MLW to new heights and he is going to manage but doesn't say who he'll manage.

## Brian Pillman Jr vs Tommy Dreamer

Dreamer goes to shake hands but Pillman pulls his hand away and brushes his hair. They wrestle back and forth for a minute or two at the beginning until Dreamer chops Pillman and seconds later, they are brawling at ringside. Dreamer spits in the face of Pillman and hits him with a can. Dreamer throws Pillman in the ring and, in the corner, Dreamer climbs the ropes to punch Pillman Jr but is shoved off. Pillman Jr says "look at that big, juicy forehead as he begins to stomp and scrape his boots across the forehead of Dreamer. Pillman kicks Dreamer in the back as he's down, then cranks in a headlock. Pillman goes for an elbowdrop but Dreamer moves. Dreamer fires up but after Pillman takes Dreamer down with a chop to the back, Pillman goes to get a cane he hid earlier. The referee took the cane from Pillman so for some reason, Pillman stood above Dreamer saying "I'm Brian Pillman Jr" then Dreamer punched him in the balls and rolled Pillman Jr up for the win. Not sure why Pillman would do that or why it wasn't a disqualification but that's what happened. **Winner: Tommy Dreamer.**

After the match Tommy hugged Pillman and helped him up. Then, of course, Brian kicked Tommy Dreamer and delivered his finisher, a swinging neckbreaker. Pillman Jr beats down Dreamer as the crowd boo, Pillman gets the cane and Teddy Hart comes to the ring and the fans chant his name. Teddy raised the hand of Pillman and the crowd boos.

Teddy Hart is in action next week, then a short promo from Konnan.

We are told the main event is next, then a recap video of Filthy Tom Lawlor being betrayed by his former team mate, Simon Gotch. MLW cameras catch up with Tom as he gets out of his truck and he cuts a promo on Gotch, ending with the line "Gotch'ya."

On Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> MLW will be Live on BeIN Sports with Teddy Hart vs PENTAGON JR, Filthy Tom Lawlor faces Simon Gotch in a "No Ropes, No Holds Barred" match. PCO (now Sami Callihan) faces LA PARK and, the leader of Los Ingobernables, RUSH faces Shane Strickland. Dragon Lee makes his MLW debut when he faces Rich Swann and DJZ faces El Hijo De LA PARK. Andrew Everett faces Dezmond Xavier.

On December 14<sup>th</sup> MLW is live again with Zero Hour. The matches announced for Zero Hour is a rematch as Tommy Dreamer faces Brian Pillman Jr again in a Singapore cane match. RUSH vs Rich Swann and a Super Heavyweight match as Ace Romero takes on Barrington Hughes. Dragon Lee takes on DJZ and the main event, Konnan challenges for the MLW world championship in a No DQ match against the champ, Low Ki. Also on this show is the MLW World Middleweight championship Ladder match between MJF( c ) vs Dezmond Xavier vs Jason Cade vs Kotto Brazil vs Andrew Everett.

After all those plugs, it's main event time.

### **MLW World Tag Team Championship Match - LA PARK & El Hijo De LA PARK vs The Lucha Brothers( PENTAGON Jr & REY FENIX )**

It is announced that this match is a Lucha rules match, meaning no tags are needed. This starts with a stare down between the two teams then The Lucha Bros started chopping and the match began. They chopped, hit and beat each other. FENIX and El Hijo De LA PARK go to the outside and LA PARK and PENTAGON aren't far behind. LA PARK powerbombs PENTAGON onto a table but the table slips from underneath and drops on PENTA's head. Chairs were brought in this match very quickly and LA PARK even started to use a belt. LA PARK and El Hijo destroy the champs with chair shots to their heads, backs and legs. FENIX out of nowhere hits a double cutter and The Lucha Bros and back up and diving on LA PARK and El Hijo De LA PARK. PENTA gets his revenge as he powerbombs El Hijo onto the table and it doesn't break again. The table had a broken leg and that was why it was falling over. The champions take it to LA PARK and El Hijo with double team moves but LA PARK starts a comeback and both El Hijo and LA PARK dive onto the Lucha Bros. Back in the ring, everyone misses a senton. El Hijo hits FENIX with an assisted Spanish fly for a 2 count. PENTA takes his glove off and does his zero fear spot in the face of LA PARK. LA PARK and PENTA are thrown out of the ring as El Hijo De LA PARK and FENIX enter the ring. FENIX is insanely good at everything he does, El Hijo is very good too. The end of this match was PENTA holds El Hijo De LA PARK up for the package piledriver, FENIX comes off the ropes with a springboard to assist the piledriver and immediately hits a huge dive

on LA PARK, overshooting his target and flying into the crowd. The Lucha Bros retain with an assisted package piledriver when PENTA pins El Hijo De LA PARK. **Winners: The Lucha Brothers**

Selina De La Renta is furious at ringside and the champs slowly get up as Konnan hands the belts to them to close the show.

## • Other Wrestling Bits

**WWEUK:** This week, after the NXT TV tapings in Liverpool, WWE UK Superstars were given new contracts, with more pay. These new contracts will prevent WWE contracted wrestlers from working independent wrestling shows not affiliated with WWE and will also stop WWE contracted wrestlers from wrestling non-contracted wrestlers. This has already effected independent wrestling shows across the UK and will continue to affect the UK independent wrestling scene for an unknown time frame. The companies WWE is willing to work with in the UK have been narrowed down to PROGRESS, Insane Championship Wrestling (ICW), Over The Top (OTT) and WXW in Germany. These promotions will be able to use WWE contracted talent on their but these promotions will not be able to show their matches on streaming services, DVDs or other distribution methods. WWE have a long and storied history of hostile takeovers of territories across the US and Canada in the 1980s. WWE won the wrestling war in the United States in the 1980s that was based around having national exposure through television. It forced other wrestling companies to either sell to WWE (then WWF) or close the doors and stop putting on shows. WWE hired all the top wrestlers from territories, leaving them with little to nothing, when it came to talent, and giving the owners and bookers no choice but to fold. Many see what is currently happening as putting the UK independent wrestling scene is under the same pressure right now. Whether or not the independent wrestling scene will fizzle out under the reign of WWE, or if the independents outside of the WWE approved shows will continue to thrive is unknown at this time but there are plenty of hungry young wrestlers on the British Independent scene right now that there should be no issues with wrestling continuing to thrive outside of WWE. Some companies in the UK have already prepared for this by booking the wrestlers who had signed with WWE less, or not at all and some in less prominent roles. Revolution Pro Wrestling haven't used WWE contracted wrestlers for months as a result of the clampdown in the early part of this year. The continued growth of the British independent wrestling scene is essential and for that to happen wrestlers out of WWE need to be making a living, promoters need to be making a living and fans need to be happy with the product. Many believe that the new contracts and tightening on the use of WWE wrestlers is a direct result of poor attendance in recent NXT UK shows and the belief is that fans won't pay to see these wrestlers at a WWE show because the tickets are priced higher than local independent shows. It is unclear at the moment what WWE could have planned if ticket sales don't rise but my take on this is, this isn't just an NXT UK problem, it's across the board in WWE at the moment. WWE are struggling to sell tickets to a lot of house shows, TV tapings and even PPVs sometime and I

believe it is a result of a stale product and a lack of fan interest. WWE would be better served focusing on their own product instead of trying to stop other shows and more people would attend WWE house shows, NXT house shows, NXT UK shows, TV events and PPV events.

**Excalibur to join Kevin Kelly on njpwworld.com:** Excalibur is a member of what's known as the "PWG Six", six founding members of the Southern Californian based wrestling promotion, Pro Wrestling Guerilla. Excalibur wrestled in PWG and other promotions including Combat Zone Wrestling, Ring of Honor and Chikara until his final professional wrestling match in 2007, Excalibur returned to PWG to work backstage and as the companies lead play-by-play. Excalibur revealed in a podcast that he retired due to the fear of brain injuries from concussions. Excalibur currently still does play-by-play commentary for PWG today and was one third of the commentary team for the largest independent wrestling show in America, All In. You can watch Excalibur on PWG by either buying the DVDs from the web store or subscribe to Highspots Wrestling Network to get a limited number of events on-demand. New Japan Pro Wrestling announced on November 28<sup>th</sup> that Excalibur will be joining Kevin Kelly for the final three days of the New Japan Tag League on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Excalibur wrote on Twitter: "It's been a longtime dream of mine to commentate for @njpw1972 @njpwglobal, and I'm super excited to be joining the booth-shaped booth with @realkevinkelly for the last three nights of #njpwwtl. Thanks to everyone for the support! Unless you don't, then you can go to hell." I'm hoping this leads to Excalibur working with NJPW more as the rotating second announcer has been a bit hit and miss recently and I see the constant faces of the English announce team as a positive to the growing English speaking subscribers.

**Ring of Honor signings and departures:** With The Elite( Cody, Hangman Page, Matt and Nick Jackson) most likely leaving ROH at the end of the year, and all four of The Elite in prominent championship matches at the biggest PPV of the year for ROH, I'm wondering whether ROH have a plan to keep these guys in 2019 or if one of the other options play out for the group. The Elite apparently have offers from everywhere according to The Young Bucks in a recent interview with the Pro Wrestling Sheet. In the interview, Nick Jackson says "We have offers on the table from every major company in the world" while Matt Jackson says "And there's investors that want to work with us too." This leaves a lot of doors open for The Elite and a lot of questions to be answered. This is a story I will be following up on as the weeks go by and we get closer to January 1<sup>st</sup>. Another possible departure is a man who has held every championship in the company, Christopher Daniels. In storyline Daniels still hasn't got a new contract and unless something changes soon, it looks like CD could be gone from ROH by the end of the year. On the other end of this story is Ring of Honor seem to be pretty willing to spend some money to get new top guys in, such as Zack Sabre Jr. Zack Sabre Jr is booked for the Final Battle show and at least one more that I've seen so Zack could be getting some more work in America with his old tag partner Marty Scurll. Also recently signed to an ROH contract is Brody King who has worked in AAW and MLW among others and the "French Frankenstein" himself, Pierre Carl Ouellet, better known as PCO. PCO debuted in the

WWE(then the WWF) in 1993 as a part of a tag team called The Quebecers, which lasted a year. PCO stayed in the WWF until 1996 when he joined the WCW but only lasted one year before being fired. Pierre would return to the WWF in 1998 where he was a part of a talent share with Japanese wrestling promotion, All Japan Pro Wrestling. When his contract came time to renew two years later, Pierre left the company again, unhappy with direction. In the year 2000 PCO worked for ECW and returned to WCW briefly but was cut due to a lack of working visa. PCO worked the independent wrestling scene until 2011, when he retired. In 2016 PCO showed up at an independent wrestling show in Quebec where he defeated Jake Matthews under the moniker “The French Frankenstein”. Since that show, PCO has been an extremely hot product on the independent wrestling market and only grown in popularity. This is a very good signing by ROH and he is slated to be on the Final Battle show in some capacity. PCO has said in an interview “It's the best deal in my entire career. Between the opportunities they are giving me, and the money involved, it is my best deal ever.” This deal between ROH and PCO is an exclusive deal and starts immediately, meaning PCO has now been pulled from other independent show like MLW.

**Silas Young Contract rumours:** This past week the rumours started to surface that Silas Young might be heading to WWE, and even though Silas might not be known for his ROH main events, this would leave a large dent in the Ring of Honor roster. Silas Young himself did an interview on PW Insider where he shut the rumours down. Silas said that he had offers from WWE but taking his family, including his wife and 10 year old son coupled with the fact that Ring of Honor sent 5 years building Silas Young up, he want to stay with ROH. Silas considers himself a loyal man who obviously feels he has a bond and good working relationship with ROH management, and that is understandable. Silas also mentioned in the interview that with Ring of Honor he gets a lot of time at home, while he wouldn't get that with WWE. Family is obviously important to Silas, like most, and the stability of Ring of Honor is good enough for Silas to sign a new three year contract. The contract that Silas is signing with ROH will see him stay with the company until at least late 2021.

**WWE moves NXT Takeover on Wrestlemania Weekend:** WWE has announced that they will be moving the NXT show that will take place on Wrestlemania weekend from the Saturday night to Friday night. The reason the company has given is that, they want more people to be in town for the Hall Of Fame which is now on Saturday and holding NXT the day before will bring more people in. This is very convenient as Ring of Honor and NJPW will be hosting a sold out show in The Worlds Most Famous Arena, Madison Square Garden. Now people don't have to chose between NXT and ROH/NJPW, and this news breaks a few days before NXT tickets go on sale, hopefully also helping ticket sales for NXT Takeover. This is helpful for me as I would of had to chose between the two to watch live at home and which one I would watch on delay, now I (and many fans) can watch both shows live, either in person or on a streaming service.