Event Name: Shooto ARTS Vol. 5
Date: (09/09/2023)
Promotion: Shooto ARTS
Type: TV-Show
Location: Hachiōji, Tokyo prefecture, Japan
Arena: Mastery Hall
Attendance: 160
Broadcast type: Live
Broadcast date: (09/23/2023)
TV station/network: FITE+
Commentary by: Rikako Abe, Sumiko Matusda, Kyle Suzuki

Kumite Round One: YPWi Rules
Kanna Verger defeats Kojo (9:42)

Comments

Kyle Suzuki: *“You know? I think I really like Kanna. She’s not here to play any games. All she wants to do is beat ass, win, and leave. You need a woman like that in your life.”*

Rikako Abe: *“Oh boy.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“What? What did I say!?”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“Once again, I was impressed by Kojo’s power. She landed a number of significant slams.”*

Rikako Abe: *“Like that belly-to-belly? Now that was **sick**!”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“Kojo was able to dictate the pacing of a majority of the match. But she got a bit too overzealous.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“Yup! Kanna turned Kojo’s lariat into a wicked Fujiwara armbar.”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“Picture perfect form.”*

Rikako Abe: *“I thought Kojo was going to break free, but she wasn’t able to in the end.”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“Everyone gets caught from time to time. However, making that type of mistake against a person like Verger is perilous.”*

Kumite Round One: YPWi Rules
Dani Sandström defeats Naori Sunahara (11:43)

Comments

Sumiko Matusda: *“I am surprised that you were able to keep your composure throughout the course of this match, Suzuki-san.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“My level of professionalism is through the roof, Mama Matsuda! That’s how I was able to make it.”*

Rikako Abe: *“Am I missing something here?”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“He’s got beef with Sandström-san.”*

Rikako Abe: *“Damn, Kyle. You’ve got more beef than a hibachi restaurant. It’s a miracle that Reika hired you for this position.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“It’s not my fault this time!”*

Rikako Abe: *“Mhm.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“I’m serious! Dani has made it her mission to torment me at every turn.”*

Rikako Abe: *“Knowing you? The torment is well deserved.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“What!?”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“Focus.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“Grumble.”*

Rikako Abe: *“Back on task, how did we all feel about this match?”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“I realize that Naori took an L, but I think she performed well.”*

Rikako Abe: *“Yeah?”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“Despite my feelings about her, Dani is a world class wrestler. I believe every single soul in this tournament would have had trouble with her.”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“Sunahara’s Fighting Spirit was on full display here. Sandström’s offense has often been described as oppressive. Tonight was no different. Those low kicks were hellacious to say the least. Nevertheless, Sunahara refused to quit.”*

Rikako Abe: *“That’s certainly true. She even hit that wicked back elbow that floored Dani for a period of time.”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“Indeed. It was a near-knockout.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“Yeah, but Dani is made resilient. That’s why she was able to recover.”*

Rikako Abe: *“Speaking of Dani, I thought her game plan was top notch. Those low kicks began to add up quickly. And they were the reason why she was able to use a nifty leg lock to gain the victory.”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“Always the strategist.”*

Rikako Abe: *“Do you think Dani is the favorite to win it all?”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“She is one of three in my opinion. We will talk more about that later.”*

Kumite Round One: YPWi Rules
Risa Sekai defeats Merlot Ayano (14:07)

Comments

Sumiko Matusda: *“I believe that this match will set Sekai’s tone for the rest of the tournament. The Ayano family is polarizing. You either love them or hate them. Nevertheless, Merlot is one of the most accomplished members of the family.”*

Rikako Abe: *“I’ve been told that she’s also the most brutal of the family as well.”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“One could make a strong argument for that. Ayano-san is known for both her strength and her striking. I’ve also seen her knock opponents smooth out on multiple occasions.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“We almost saw that here with Risa early in the match.”*

Rikako Abe: *“Indeed! That rolling chop caught Risa by surprise. It’s not a move you experience or witness everyday.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“Not to mention Merlot put some stank on it.”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“However, working in Yugen served her well. There she learned how to weather all types of storms. It was essential over there.”*

Rikako Abe: *“I was surprised that she elected to trade strikes with Merlot, even if it was only for a brief period of time.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“Same. But it worked out in her favor. She was able to land enough significant blows to beat Merlot by two points.”*

Rikako Abe: *“Oh! Before we move on, I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention that overhead belly-to-belly suplex that Merlot hit. That was a thing of beauty.”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“Sekai took a nasty spill there. But all things considered? I believe it could have been a lot worse.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“Mannnnn, Risa almost hit the damn ceiling.”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“By the way, I believe that Sekai-san is another person who could be a favorite to win this tournament.”*

Rikako Abe: *“Really now?”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“She is battle-tested. And she’s risen to the occasion during high pressure situations in the past. That amounts to a lot in this sort of tournament.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“Indeed!”*

Kumite Round One: YPWi Rules
Hana Yoshinaga defeats Misako Sakazaki (13:55)

Comments

Rikako Abe: *“I have a serious question right off the bat.”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“Please proceed.”*

Rikako Abe: *“Is there some sort of hidden beef between these two? Look, I know our first-hand account of both wrestlers is very limited. But the physicality of this match was off the charts. And some of those strikes? They don’t get launched if those two didn’t know each other prior to getting signed here”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“Those are very astute observations.”*

Rikako Abe: *“Do you have any nuggets of enlightenment for us Kyle?”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“Reika told me that those two indeed have some sort of past history. I tried to do a bit of research based on that knowledge, but it seems this was the first time the two have fought…well, inside the ring at the very least.”*

Rikako Abe: *“How odd.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“I know, right?”*

Rikako Abe: *“Regardless, this match was a slugfest from bell to bell. It was insane.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“We’ve only seen a tiny bit of Misako. But boy was she throwing those elbows.”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“What I enjoyed about this match was the urgency that both women showed. There was no taking it easy. There was no resting. Both of them came out with the objective of winning and stealing the show.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“Misako’s high roundhouse was a good example of that. Rikako almost jumped out of her seat.”*

Rikako Abe: *“It was so beautiful.”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“It was a great kick. However, I am partial to the sleeper suplex that Yoshinaga hit to end the match.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“Just to recount, Hana locked a sleeper pretty late into the match. Misako did everything that she could to get out of it. And she almost broke free, until Hana dumped her on her head.”*

Rikako Abe: *“It was a nasty drop. It led to a TKO.”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“That was our first knockout of the tournament, yes?”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“Yes ma’am.”*

Rikako Abe: *“Matsuda-san? You’ve spoken before in the past about what Hana needed to do to turn things around. How do you feel about this performance?”*

Sumiko Matusda: *“Yoshinaga did exactly what she needed to. She was strong and mighty. She made every move count. She left it all in the ring. And she showed a lot of heart.”*

Kyle Suzuki: *“I think this match went a long way to proving that Hana is a force to be reckoned with. I feel as if some people figured Hana was just big for no reason. But that’s not the case. There’s a beast in that big frame. And we saw a little bit of it tonight.”*