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Back on December 11th, Yasuhiro Kido and Shintaro Matsukura squared off in the main event of a regional Japanese event titled Big Bang 7, a series put on by the Taniyama Gym. Also featured on the card were Japanese standouts Shunta Ito, Toshiki Taniyama, Marimo and Yuto Watanabe.

In the main event, fellow 2011 K-1 70kg Japan MAX Tournament participants Yasuhiro Kido and Shintaro Matsukura faced off, with Kido scoring a 2nd round knock out with a spinning backfist at 2:24 in the round. Kido (25-13-1, 11 KO) has had is struggles, but when he is on his game he is a very difficult fighter to beat. He was coming off a loss to Kenta in the quarterfinals of the Japan MAX tourney which snapped a 4-fight win-streak. After the win, Kido called out Kenta, stating that he wanted to be the first man for Kenta to defend his title against. The loss moves the 20 year old Matsukura to 4-4 (3 KO) in his 2-year pro career and despite being on a 3-fight losing streak, he has had a break out year. After ending 2010 with a loss on the Sengoku: Soul of Fight card, the 2009 K-1 Koshien 70kg champ started his year off with his biggest win, a huge upset in a great fight over Yuya Yamamoto in the quarterfinals of the Krush 70kg tournament. However, he lost in the semifinals to Yutaro Yamauchi and lost a rematch with Yamamoto in the K-1 Japan MAX tournament semifinals. At 20, Matsukura could use a step back in competition and a bounce back fight against someone along the lines of Yoshi, but a matchup with fellow prospects Hiroki Nakajima or Takafumi Morita would be interesting.

In the co-main event, WMAF Featherweight champion Shunta Ito scored a 4th round elbow KO at 27 seconds into the round over Thai fighter Fasanghan Or Benjamad. With the win, Ito is 7-1 in his last 8 and 23-9-4 (8 KO) overall. After the fight, it was announced that Ito would rematch Hideki Soga at 60kg. The two fought back in July of 2010 at Big Bang 2 with Ito escaping with a split decision win.

Also in action was K-1 fighter Toshiki Taniyama who picked up his 5th straight win with a 3rd round TKO over Thai fighter Shirichai Sukpanya(?) at 1:42 into the round. Taniyama is an interesting fighter at 63kg as he owns wins over Hirotaka Urabe and Yuto Watanabe in K-1, but lost to Keiji Ozaki, although that fight went into an extension round and outpointing the flashy Ozaki is a tough task for anyone. Taniyama is now 12-1 (4 KO) in his pro career and could see himself mixing it up with the division's elite more often in the future.

Speaking of Yuto Watanabe, he picked up a 1st round TKO at 1:39 into the round over club fighter Atsushi Masukura. The win moves him to 10-5 (3 KO) and is a good bounceback fight after a loss to Toshiki Taniyama in K-1. However if Watanabe keeps his recent streak up, he will lose as he is now 5-4 over his last 9 without putting together 2 straight wins.

Krush vet Marimo lost a unanimous decision to NKB Lightweight champion Naoki on scores of 30-28(x3). Marimo is best known for fighting Koya Urabe earlier this year in Krush. Before losing to Yuto Watanabe at RISE 68, Naoki was on a 10 fight win-streak and 16 fight unbeaten streak going 15-0-1 after starting his career 0-1-1. He lost 4 straight fights, but has now bounced back and is on a 3-fight win-streak with one of those wins coming in an opening fight at the 2011 K-1 Japan MAX Tournament over Takayoshi Kitayama. Naoki is now 18-5-2 (5 KO) and the streaky fighter should see himself moving up in competition.

Finally, Team Dragon fighter and Krush vet Masakazu Watanabe improved to 15-12-1 (4 KO) with a split decision win over Ryoji on scores of 30-29, 28-29 and 30-28. {jcomments on}