Written by Sam Sattler
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RISE held RISE 89 at Differ Ariake in Tokyo yesterday and although the card did not feature a slew of top names as previous RISE cards have, it did feature a battle between top 63kg fighters, as well as 55kg prospect Seiya Rokukawa and a few other RISE regulars.

In the main event, RISE Korea Welterweight champ Sun Hyun Lee was able to knock out recent title challenger Yuto Watanabe at 1:29 of the extension round to put himself in a very good position at 63kg. Lee was dropped in the second round on a spinning back kick, but controlled the rest of the bout, earning an extension round where he dropped Watanabe twice, forcing the ref to call off the bout. After the bout Takashi Ito, former kickboxer and a RISE representative, stated that Lee would need one more win before a rematch against current 63kg champ Yuki, who Lee edged out by majority decision at RISE 88, though the fight was at 64kg. There are two options for RISE here, with Yusuke Sugawara and Hiroshi Mizumachi, though it is unclear if Mizumachi will be fighting Yuki for the title or if he still needs one more fight. Despite losing his last two, Watanabe has elevated his status, as he was a middle of the road fighter, but has impressed in his last two fights, taking a huge lead over Yuki in the early rounds before an incredible comeback and managing to drop Lee and take him to an extension round despite being outclassed. A good next fight with him would be a rematch against Shohei Asahara, though he may get an easier fight after his last two.

In the co-main event, MA Kick Bantamweight champ Takashi Ohno gave DEEP KICK 55kg tournament champ Seiya Rokukawa his first career loss with a unanimous decision win on scores of 30-26 and 29-26(x2). Ohno dropped Rokukawa towards the end of the first round and cruised for the rest of the fight, dominating his younger opponent. Ohno has now won 7 straight and may have earned himself another fight in RISE and maybe one with some title implications as 55kg champ KENJI is more or less out of interesting opponents already. Rokukawa takes a step back, but then again, this was his first good opponent, really. At 25, he has time to mature, but it's worth noting that most of the elite fighters in the division are younger than him, so he may find it tough reaching the top of the division. Finally, in a 63kg fight, #1 ranked Super Lightweight Yusuke Sugawara was able to earn a unanimous decision against #3 ranked Lightweight Shohei Asahara on scores of 29-28(x2) and 29-27. Sugawara dropped an extension round decision to Yukihiro Komiya at 65kg in Komiya's 65kg debut, moving Sugawara out of a title shot, though he may find himself in a #1 contender's bout at Lightweight with this win over Asahara, who had just lost a #1 contender's bout to Yuto Watanabe. He could find himself facing Sun Hyun Lee if he is chosen for the #1 contender's bout over Hiroshi Mizumachi.

Full results after the break

63kg Fight: Sun Hyun Lee def. Yuto Watanabe by Ext. round TKO (referee stoppage) at 1:29

55kg Fight: Takashi Ohno def. Seiya Rokukawa by 3rd round Unanimous Decision (30-26, 29-26, 29-26)

63kg Fight: Yusuke Sugawara def. Shohei Asahara by 3rd round Unanimous Decision (29-28, 29-28, 29-27)

60kg Fight: Junpei Aotsu def. Taisuke Mae-guchi by 3rd round Unanimous Decision (29-28, 29-28, 30-29)

90kg Fight: Hidekazu Kimura def. Taisei Ko by 2nd round TKO (referee stoppage) at 2:16

90kg Fight: Daiji ZLS def. Kazuki Ozawa by 3rd round Unanimous Decision (30-28, 29-27, 29-28)

57.5kg Fight: Takayuki Nagayama def. Jyouichirou by 3rd round Unanimous Decision (29-28, 28-27, 28-27)

57.5kg Fight: Tomoaki Iemoto def. Yuji Harashima by 3rd round Unanimous Decision (29-27, 29-26, 28-27)

57.5kg Fight: Yu Jincheng def. Yuki Tanabe by 3rd round Unanimous Decision (29-25, 29-26, 29-26)

63kg RISING ROOKIES CUP Semifinal: Yuya Fujita def. Natsuki Shimada by Ext. round Split Decision (10-9, 9-10, 10-9) after a 3rd round Majority Draw (29-28, 29-29, 29-29)

63kg RISING ROOKIES CUP Semifinal: Yasuhiro "TOKAREV" Shimizu def. NOBU BRAVELY by Ext. round Unanimous Decision (10-9, 10-9, 10-9) after a 3rd round Unanimous Draw (29-29, 28-28, 27-27)