Written by Sam Sattler
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RISE 90 took place earlier today, headlined by LiverKick #3 ranked Lightweight Javier Hernandez taking on RISE 63kg champ Yuki. Also on the card were a bout for the vacant RISE Heavyweight title, the finals of the RISE Featherweight tournament to determine the first RISE Featherweight champion, a 65kg #1 contender bout and RISE regulars Sun Hyun Lee, Shohei Asahari, Dyki and others competing.

In the main event, RISE 63kg champion Yuki scored what could be the biggest win of his career with a 2nd round KO via low kicks of former It's Showtime 61kg champion Javier Hernandez. Yuki used his best strikes, his hard low kicks, to punish Hernandez's legs and drop him twice in the 2nd round, leading the referee to stop the fight. Yuki (32-14-1, 24 KO) shakes up an already chaotic 60-63kg division as he stops the man ranked #3 on the LiverKick rankings and many people had favored going into this fight, especially as Yuki needed a huge comeback to defend his title against Yuto Watanabe and was coming off of a loss to Sun Hyun Lee. After the win, he stated that he wanted to rematch current It's Showtime 61kg champ Masahiro Yamamoto at the RISE/M-1 Infinity event in December. Yamamoto won their first fight via decision in K-1 in 2009. Hernandez (25-6-0, 11 KO) takes a huge step down here, going from arguably the top fighter in the division to possibly falling out of the top 10 with back to back losses. This was his first fight outside of Europe and I believe only his second outside of Spain, so that may have played in a little bit, but a loss is a loss. He is set to face Michael Peynaud at Heroes IV in Cordoba, Spain on November 17th, though if he went down from low kicks in this fight, he may not be so eager to take a fight so soon.

In the co-main event, #1 ranked Heavyweight Kengo Shimizu and #2 ranked Raoumaru rematched for the vacant RISE Heavyweight title with Shimizu scoring his 2nd knockout of Raoumaru, this time via high kick in the 3rd round. Shimizu dominated the fight, much like their first fight, but took nearly 2 rounds longer to finish Raoumaru this time, stopping him in the 1st with a body kick previously. Shimizu (14-2-0, 11 KO) has now won 7 in a row, but doesn't have much competition available to him other than maybe Singh "Heart" Jaideep, who lost in K-1 earlier this month. Raoumaru has only lost to Shimizu this year, but isn't really a top tier Heavyweight, though his fights tend to be either exciting or quick knockouts.

In the RISE Featherweight finals, Itto completed his string of upsets, winning a unanimous decision against Ryo Pegasus on scores of 48-47, 47-46 and 48-46 to win the RISE Featherweight Tournament and become the first RISE Featherweight champion. The virtually unknown Itto won the tournament with upsets of J-Network champ Masato Sato, Masayuki Ishabashi and tournament favorite Ryo Pegasus and now positions himself very well in a stacked Featherweight division. Ryo made it to the finals with wins over Koya Shimada and Yuta Sashikubi.

In a 65kg #1 contender bout, Yasuomi Soda earned a second title shot with a win over Yukihiro Komiya by unanimous decision on scores of 28-26 and 28-27(x2). Soda (13-1-0, 4 KO) started his career 11-0-0, earning a title shot against current champ Koji Yoshimoto at RISE 86, but losing a close decision. This earns him a second shot and I'm sure this time he'll come back better and may be able to take the win. Yoshimoto is currently scheduled to fight at the RISE/M-1 event on December 2nd, so I don't know if Soda would want the fight then or at a later event. Komiya (29-11-0, 6 KO) had gone 3-0 since dropping to 65kg after a long career at 70kg, but comes up short in his bid to become the 2nd man to win RISE titles in two different weight classes.

In a 64kg fight, Sun Hyun Lee dealt with late replacement Shohei Asahara with a unanimous decision win on scores of 29-28(x2) and 29-27. Lee was set to face Hiroshi Mizumachi in a #1 contender bout for a shot at 63kg champ Yuki, but Mizumachi pulled out a couple weeks ago with an injury and was replaced by Asahara. Lee will still likely get the title shot as Asahara is ranked #4 at 63kg. He is now 3-1 in RISE, with wins over Yuki, Yuto Watanabe and Asahara with his sole loss being a majority decision against Koji Yoshimoto. Asahara is now on a 4-fight losing streak.

At 55kg, Dyki scored a big win with a 3rd round KO of MA Kick Bantamweight champion Takashi Ohno via low kicks. Dyki made it to the finals of the RISE Bantamweight tournament but lost by 1st round KO to KENJI, who has since moved on to boxing. He followed that up with a majority decision loss to Ryuma Tobe, but has now won 3 in a row over solid opponents, defeating Hiroaki Mizuhara, Ariaki Okada and now Ohno. He could possibly rematch Ryuma Tobe for the vacant RISE title. Ohno was one of the hottest Bantamweights coming into this fight, having won 7 in a row, including handing prospects Takuma Ito and Seiya Rokukawa their 2nd and 1st pro losses, respectively. He may find himself rematching Ito soon in a defense of his MA Kick title.

Finally at 63kg, #3 ranked Yuto Watanabe stopped #1 ranked Shootboxing Lightweight Yu

Sugawara at 1:44 of the 2nd round. Watanabe snaps a 2-fight losing streak after losing to Yuki and Sun Hyun Lee. Sugawara challenged Hiroaki Suzuki for the vacant Shootboxing Lightweight title at the beginning of the year, but lost that fight and is now 2-2 in 2012.

Quick results after the break

62kg Fight: Yuki def. Javier Hernandez by 2nd round KO (low kicks) at 2:03

RISE Heavyweight Title Fight: Kengo Shimizu def. Raoumaru by 3rd round KO (head kick) at 1:30

RISE Featherweight Tournament Finals: Itto def. Ryo Pegasus by 3rd round Unanimous Decision (48-47, 48-46, 47-46)

65kg #1 Contender Fight: Yasuomi Soda def. Yukihiro Komiya by 3rd round Unanimous Decision (28-27, 28-27, 28-26)

64kg Fight: Sun Hyun Lee def. Shohei Asahara by 3rd round Unanimous Decision (29-28, 29-28, 29-27)

55kg Fight: Dyki def. Takashi Ohno by 3rd round KO (low kicks) at 0:44

63kg Fight: Yuto Watanabe def. Yu Sugawara by 2nd round KO at 1:44

55kg Fight: Yuta Murakoshi def. Daihachi Furuoka by 3rd round Unanimous Decision (28-27, 28-26, 28-26)

RISING ROOKIES CUP 60kg Final Fight: Chikara Goshou def. Kaidou by 3rd round Unanimous Decision (28-27, 28-26, 28-26)

RISING ROOKIES CUP 63kg Final Fight: Yuya Fujita def. Yasuhiro “TOKAREV” Shimizu by 3rd round Unanimous Decision (29-27, 29-27, 29-28)

RISING ROOKIES CUP 70kg Final Fight: Ryota Toyoshima def. Hitman Tagawa by 2nd round KO at 1:11

60kg Fight: Kosuke “JET” Kobayashi def. Tomoya Murayama by 1st round KO at 0:32