

Episode 021-Evening the Odds

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(the episode begins with the third round of the tournament about to begin, Targon and Larina are announcing the next match)

Larina: Ladies and gentlemen it's now time for the third round of the world martial arts championship to begin. Ozana School only has two fighters left, Lock and Juzan. While Drakon School still has four fighters remaining.

Targon: Ozana School jumped out to an early lead at the beginning of the tournament, but since then it's been all Drakon School as they have won four of the last five matches.

Lock: Two against four huh? Well it looks like Juzan and I have our work cut out for us.

Ms. Hancock: Lock, try to end this next match quickly, you and Juzan are fighting a war of attrition now, so try not to get into a long and grueling match out there. The faster you win, the more spirit energy you can recover before the next fight.

Lock: I'll try, but my opponent won both of his matches easily, I don't know how far his limits go.

Targon: The next round will be Lock vs. (some other student), fighters please head to the ring.

Lock: Well, here we go. This one's for Breta and Tino.

(both fighters walk to the ring)

Larina: It will be interesting to see how Lock does since he wasn't able to participate in the last round.

Targon: Yes, I would expect that Lock would either be overzealous to put his school back on the winning track or he'll be extra cautious knowing the tournament committee already has one strike against him.

Larina: Or maybe he's feeling a little of both?

Targon: No! One or the other!

Larina: Geez, someone needs to cut out the caffeine.

Ms. Hancock: Now that the announcers mention it, I didn't consider that Lock might be a little rusty, I mean he hasn't had a match since the very first one of the tournament, and now we're already into the third round.

(Lock and the student get into the ring and get into stances, each is staring the other down, Lock pictures Breta and Tino and looks more determined)

Lock: (thinking) I've got to end this match quickly so I don't use up too much spirit energy.

Student: From what I remember Lock was strong in close combat so my best bet is attacking from a distance with energy blasts.

Drakon: Ha, we have twice the number of fighters Ozana has left. This tournament is as good as ours.

Rondo: Was there really any doubt about that?

Drakon: No, not at all. We do win every year.

Targon: Now, let the match begin!

(the student tries to blast Lock, but he warps away from the blast, disappearing)

Student: Coward, where'd you go?

Lock: Behind you.

(the student turns to see Lock directly behind him, he tries to punch Lock, but Lock grabs his punch and twists his wrist, bringing the Drakon student down to one knee)

Lock: You might want to watch who you call a coward.

Student: Why you...I'll teach you a lesson!

(he tries to blast Lock with his free hand, but Lock warps away again, and the student loses track of him again)

Student: Ahh! I'm getting sick of this.

(the student turns to see Lock a good distance away from him, he charges Lock and tries to punch him, but Lock quickly ducks the hit and punches the student hard in the gut, he falls down and already appears knocked out)

Ms. Hancock: So much for the possibility of Lock being a little rusty.

Larina: Wow, one punch from Ozana's champion Lock seems to have felled his opponent. Lets start the count. One...two...three...four...five.

(the student wearily gets back up)

Drakon: Hmm, a five count from just one punch, I didn't expect that to ever happen.

Rondo: Lock's not that good, he's just a big fish in a small pond. Just wait until he faces a shark like me, I'll destroy him.

Braun: Or a shark like me!

Rondo: I think you're more of a whale, Braun.

(in the ring the Drakon student begins to charge his aura and after a bit he attacks Lock again, who parries and blocks his every attack as the scene changes to the infirmary, where Musa and Juzan are watching over Tino who is resting in a bed.)

Doctor: This is the second one this hour you've brought to me in this condition. What in the world is going on out there?

Juzan: Cheap shot after cheap shot. That's what's going on out there.

Doctor: Well, at least you seem to be hanging in there.

Juzan: Me? Oh yeah I can handle myself. (all of a sudden a very attractive nurse walks by) Although, come to think of it my back is a bit sore. Think she could give me a massage, you know, just to relax? (Musa rolls her eyes)

Doctor: Sorry, but I'm afraid she's on a very tight schedule. She doesn't have time for massages.

Nurse: Doctor, are you ready for your back massage?

Doctor: (caught in his own lie and blushing) Um, haha, she's just kidding. (whispering to her) Just give me one minute babe.

Nurse: Okay, I'll be waiting for you. (she leaves)

Musa: (signaling to Breta) How's she doing?

Doctor: (he and Juzan are still looking at the nurse as she leaves) Oh, she's doing just fine. Just fine indeed.

Juzan: Yeah, I'll say.

Musa: Um, gentlemen, I was talking about Breta.

Doctor: Oh, well, she is making good progress, she came to at one point, but is sleeping quite peacefully now. Her internal bleeding has stopped.

Musa: I see.

Doctor: Yes, she should make a full recovery in time. We're using the latest in healing procedures on her.

Juzan: Thank God for all this technology you guys have.

Doctor: Yes, it's quite remarkable. I would expect both of them to be out of bed before the end of the tournament.

Juzan: Good, just in time to see me crowned as grand champion.

Musa: Come on your highness, let's get back to the ring. Your match is next after Lock's.

Juzan: Alright, take care of these two for us.

Doctor: I will.

(Musa and Juzan head back as the scene changes back to the ring, where Lock's opponent is still unable to hit him, Lock is ducking and dodging his every move)

Student: Hey! Stay still!

Lock: What? I'm not even moving *that* fast, you're just slow.

(the student gets more upset and tries harder to hit Lock but gets no where)

Student: This can't be! There's just no way you can be this much faster than me!

Lock: So you think *this* is speed? Let me give you a true demonstration.

(Lock warps away from his next punch and re-appears, the student attacks again but Lock warps away, the student keeps trying to hit him, but Lock warps away every time, finally vanishing completely)

Ms. Hancock: He's gone again. I can't believe Lock was able to master that technique so well.

Headmaster Ozana: (close-up of his face, squinting) What's going on!? I can't see!

Ms. Hancock: That's because you're looking at the floor, sir.

(the camera then shows Headmaster Ozana was squinting at the floor, Ms. Hancock lifts his head up in the right direction)

Headmaster Ozana: Oh yes that's better.

(Headmaster Ozana squints hard at the ring)

Headmaster Ozana: What's that squared thing the fighters are in?

Ms. Hancock: (disbelief) Um, you mean the ring?

Headmaster Ozana: No, rings are circles...I mean the square thing made of stone.

Ms. Hancock: That's the ring.

(Headmaster Ozana looks very confused)

Ms. Hancock: Why don't you go back to looking at the floor.

(she pushes his head back down in the direction of the floor)

Headmaster Ozana: (squinting at the floor) Down in front!

(the Drakon students continues to hold his ground and look around the ring as Juzan and Musa return to Ozana's waiting room)

Juzan: Did we miss anything?

Musa: How's Lock doing?

Ms. Hancock: I'm sorry Musa, I don't know how to tell this to you, but Lock was just defeated.

Musa/Juzan: WHAT!?

Ms. Hancock: Yes, the student from Drakon School just knocked him out of the ring. See, take a look for yourself.

(Musa and Juzan turn and look in the ring and see the Drakon student standing there and Lock is nowhere to be seen, Musa and Juzan are in complete shock, and Ms. Hancock is smirking, they have no idea she's playing a joke on them)

Musa: This can't be! How did Lock lose to a blue aura fighter?

Juzan: Yeah, did he slip and fall out or something?

(in the ring, the Drakon student looks all over the ring, trying to locate Lock)

Rondo: Hmm, he's pretty quick.

(Lock all of a sudden appears in front of the shocked student and gives him a very hard kick that knocks him out of the ring)

Juzan: What? Hey, you said he lost.

Ms. Hancock: Gotcha.

Musa: Phew! Please don't do that again, you almost gave me a heart attack.

Ms. Hancock: You should have a little more faith in Lock than that, he had this match under control from the opening second. It's going to be a hard act for you to follow Juzan.

Juzan: That's fine with me, I love a challenge.

Targon: The winner of the match is Lock, who advances to the semi-finals!

(Lock heads back to the waiting room)

Larina: The first match in the semi-finals is now set, it will be Lock vs. Braun.

Targon: That will certainly be an interesting match-up. I can't wait to see it.

Larina: Well, we still have another match to get through before that one takes place. Would the next two fighters please enter the ring?

Juzan: Alright! Yet another chance for me to impress all the ladies!

Musa: Try to keep your mind on the match for once.

Ms. Hancock: I said this to Lock so I'll say it to you as well. Don't use up too much spirit energy in this fight because you won't have much time to recover it since we're in the later rounds.

Juzan: No problem.

Lock: Good luck out there Juzan.

Juzan: Hey, don't worry, I'll even the score for us. Besides, chicks dig winners and there's no way I'm letting you be the only one from our school in the semi-finals.

Lock: Sounds good to me.

(Juzan and his opponent head to the ring, Juzan waves to the girls in the audience again)

Juzan: (thinking) It would be so great to become the grand champion.

(in his mind he pictures laying on a bed holding a trophy and being serviced by many beautiful women)

Juzan: (still thinking) All I have to do is win three more matches and the title is mine.

Drakon: We'd better win this match. It's embarrassing enough that Ozana School has one fighter in the semi-finals.

Rondo: We'll win, Juzan's not the caliber of fighter that Lock is.

(Juzan and the Drakon student get into stances, both charge their blue auras)

Larina: Let the match begin!

(Juzan goes on the offensive and trades blows with the Drakon student, Juzan gets blasted into a corner post, but when his opponent attacks Juzan does a drop toe-hold, knocking his opponent's head into the ring post. Both fighters jump up and blast each other at the same time, sending each other into the air.)

Targon: Everything appears even for now.

Larina: The winner of this match will advance to face Rondo in the semi-finals.

Targon: For those of you wondering, it's not uncommon for fighters from the same school to end up facing each other in the later rounds. I remember one year when all of Ozana's fighters were eliminated in the first round.

Larina: Yes, that wasn't exactly our highest rated tournament.

(in the air each fighter fires a blast at the other, and each deflects it back at their opponent. The two deflected shots collide and after the explosion Juzan and the Drakon student trade fast blows back and forth)

Lock: They're even.

Musa: So far.

Ms. Hancock: That's only because Juzan isn't using close to his maximum spirit energy. The Drakon student doesn't really have to worry about conservation so he's fighting with all he has while Juzan isn't.

Lock: Really?

Musa: She's right Lock.

Lock: So why doesn't Juzan just get things over with then?

Ms. Hancock: First, I think he's trying to put on a show for his so-called fans. And second, I think Juzan might have taken my advice too far, he should be using more of his aura power so he can gain an advantage, he's trying to use the bare minimum so he'll be able to recover all of it before his next match.

Musa: Maybe he's forgotten that he has to *win* in order to have a next match.

Ms. Hancock: I know, it's sort of funny too, I would have expected that Lock wouldn't understand about conserving spirit energy much more than Juzan.

Lock: Hey!

(Juzan tries a punch but his opponent grabs his wrist to block it)

Opponent: Heh, nice try.

(out of the corner of his eye, Juzan notices a bunch of good looking girls watching him in the audience and seems to get more determined)

Juzan: I won't lose!

(he charges his fist and presses it forward, punching his opponent hard in the face)

Lock: Nice one!

(Juzan and his opponent attack again and trade fast blows again, Juzan wins and kicks his opponent down to the ring, but as the Drakon student is falling he hits Juzan with energy blast that sends Juzan to the ground as well)

Larina: Both fighters are giving it their all!

Targon: And the fight is still even.

(back to the action both Juzan and his opponent continue to trade blows and finish by kicking each other in the face before separating and getting back into stances)

Lock: Come on Juzan! I know you can win!

Juzan: (thinking) Of course I'll win. Although this guy's kinda tough, and I don't really want to go through another grueling match. I guess I'll just have to end it now using my best technique.

(Juzan charges his aura and attacks again but uses the mirror image technique and splits into eight copies, which throws his opponent off guard)

Drakon: Not this again!

(the eight Juzans attack and pummel the Drakon fighter, who has no idea which Juzan to strike and is getting destroyed)

Musa: (to Ms. Hancock) Teaching Juzan the mirror image technique is really paying off.

Ms. Hancock: Yes, he's almost completely mastered it.

Larina: Juzan is once again using the mirror image technique and scoring many hits on his opponent.

Drakon: Ahh! I hate that stupid move!

(back in the ring, Juzan continues to pummel his opponent and when the student is on the verge of collapsing, Juzan lets the copies disappear)

Juzan: There, that sped things up a bit.

(Juzan does a dropkick to his opponent knocking him out of the ring, Juzan lands his dropkick in a comfortable position lying on the ring floor and blows a kiss to one of the girls watching, who faints)

Larina: The winner by ring out, Juzan!

Lock: Wow. That was fast.

(Juzan heads back to the waiting room, blowing kisses to the women watching)

Headmaster Ozana: Well, everything is even now.

Musa: Yes Headmaster Ozana, but the real matches are going to start next round.

(Musa looks at the bracket which shows Lock vs. Braun and Juzan vs. Rondo)

Lock: Nice going out there Juzan.

Juzan: Thanks, just promise to make it to the finals so I can avenge my loss to you earlier.

Lock: Sure, it's a deal.

Drakon: (thinking) So, it's just like she said all along.

(flashback)

Drakon: You can teach manners all day Musa, but my students are the ones who win the tournament every year.

Musa: I'm confident things will be different this year, we have some standouts you may be interested in.

Drakon: Which ones? They all look weak to me.

Musa: The student in the blue and the one in the green will no doubt be competition for you this year. Their names are Lock and Juzan.

(end of flashback)

Drakon: (thinking) I guess she wasn't bluffing after all. Those two really are a threat to my school's glory this year. I never imagined they would make it this far. Well no more, I won't underestimate them again...this time they'll face the full force of my school's power.

Rondo: I can't remember the last time Ozana School ever managed to get two of their fighters into the semi-finals. Who would have thought that at the end of three rounds of combat we'd still have an equal number of fighters remaining?

Braun: It doesn't matter, this way just makes it more fun.

Larina: This tournament keeps going back and forth, just when it looked like Drakon School had unstoppable momentum, Ozana School came back and won the last two matches to even things up.

Targon: There are only four fighters left, from Ozana School there are Lock and Juzan, and from Drakon School, Rondo and Braun.

Larina: The semi-finals are set, let the tournament continue and may the best fighter win!

(the episode ends with the semi-finals ready to begin)