

Episode 027-The Final Decision

Written by Jeff Jubinville

Copyright 2009, All Rights Reserved

(the episode begins right where the last one ended, Rondo is standing over Lock, stepping on his broken ribs as Lock cries in pain)

Rondo: You really thought you could beat me, didn't you? (stepping down harder) You fool, you never had a chance. The fairy tale ending of you finally bringing Ozana School to another championship is nothing but a dream. Welcome to reality!

(he stomps on Lock's ribs again and prepares to fire a massive blast at him as Lock is pinned down)

Rondo: This will be the end of you, Lock.

Breta: No, get up Lock.

Rondo: Say goodnight!

(he is about to fire but Lock shoots blasts from his hands while on the ground, hitting Rondo back a few steps. Lock is wearily able to get back to his feet.)

Drakon: Ahh! He just won't give up!

Ms. Hancock: Lock just dodged another bullet.

Larina: After suffering greatly at the hands of Rondo, Lock has somehow managed to regain his footing and looks ready to continue.

Targon: With those injured ribs, I don't see him being able to last much longer, even if he is the son of Aldar.

(Rondo attacks Lock again and the weakened Lock is not able to guard himself much and eventually gets pummeled again. After striking Lock multiple times, Rondo knees him in the face which knocks him up into the air and follows by grabbing his leg. Rondo swings him around a few times and throws him into one of the corner posts, causing it to crack upon impact.)

Drakon: Haha, nice one Rondo, he can't keep getting up forever.

Juzan: Oh man, this seriously looks bad. Even when Lock's on his feet, he can't defend himself with those broken ribs. It's like a bull's-eye for Rondo's attacks.

Musa: Yes, I just hope Lock isn't permanently injured after this is all over.

Breta: That's it, I can't watch anymore. I'm going in there to help him.

Tino: No, don't.

Breta: I can't just continue to let Rondo kill him out there.

Tino: You know Lock has to do this alone. If you go in there now, Lock will be disqualified, and you know him, he'd much rather lose after giving it his all then have someone help him.

Breta: Yeah, I guess you're right. (thinking) You better come out of this alright, Lock.

(in the ring, Lock is lying on the ground in front of the cracked pillar and Rondo flies over to it. He pushes it over and Lock is barely able to roll out of the way before the pillar smacks into the ring. Lock starts to get up, but Rondo appears in front of him and gives him a hard kick that sends him flying across the ring, landing hard.)

Larina: Lock is down once again. Will this be the end of him?

One...two...three...four...five.

Breta: Come on, Lock. Get up.

Tino: You can do it Lock!

Larina: Six...seven...eight.

Juzan: I don't think he can get back up.

Musa: Maybe it's better that he stays down. Even if he gets up he'll just be at Rondo's mercy again.

Larina: Nine.

(Lock somehow manages to get up, Rondo doesn't look happy to see that)

Larina: Lock is back up again. How does he keep doing it?

Targon: He's fighting on heart and determination alone now.

Rondo: This time I'll put you down for good.

Lock: No, I'm the one that's going to put you down.

(Lock creates a large blast with one of his hands and fires it at Rondo, who dodges. Lock maintains control of the blast and has it follow Rondo around the ring.)

Juzan: There you go, Lock. He can't run from it forever.

Ms. Hancock: You're missing the strategy behind that move, Juzan.

Juzan: Huh?

Ms. Hancock: Having that energy blast follow Rondo is giving Lock time to rest and recover from all those hits he suffered. He's hoping that Rondo *will* dodge forever,

because the longer he's concerned with that blast hitting him, the longer he won't attack Lock.

Juzan: Oh, I get it. Lock's more resourceful than I thought.

Musa: Yes, outside of fighting Lock doesn't think before he acts. But in the ring, he's a completely different person...in the ring he becomes exactly like his father.

(the energy blast continues to follow Rondo around the ring, Rondo tries to run it into one of the remaining pillars but the blast smashes through it and continues to follow him)

Rondo: (annoyed) I can't shake this stupid thing!

Targon: Lock's blast seems to have picked up Rondo's scent and is tirelessly chasing Drakon's champion all across the ring.

Drakon: Rondo, turn it back on him!

(Rondo continues to dodge it and eventually flies at Lock, with the blast following behind him)

Rondo: Here, I think this belongs to you.

(Rondo flies upward at the last moment, it looks like Lock will get hit with his own blast but he also warps into the air, reappearing behind Rondo)

Lock: No thanks, I wanted you to have it!

(Rondo is caught by surprise and Lock kicks him hard, sending him directly into the oncoming blast, there's a large explosion that makes everyone cover up, and when the smoke clears, Rondo is seen falling down to the ring floor and landing with a thud)

Juzan: Yeah!

Musa: Amazing, there's just no quit in him. I don't know how Lock's doing it.

Larina: Now Rondo is down. One...two...three...four...five...six.

Drakon: No!

Breta: He may have him.

Tino: I sure hope so.

Larina: Seven...eight...nine.

(Rondo gets back up and Lock gets into stance)

Larina: Rondo made it to his feet in the nick of time.

Targon: Both fighters have come within a hair of winning. Neither one has much spirit energy left.

(as Rondo gets back into stance, Lock warps behind him, putting him in a headlock)

Tino: Nice!

(at first Rondo seems to struggle, he can't break Lock's hold, until he elbows Lock in the ribs which causes Lock to release the hold. Rondo then does a spin kick that knocks Lock over.)

Larina: Lock is down yet again.

Rondo: No, that won't do it...but this will!

(he flies at Lock who is wearily getting up. Rondo elbows him in the face and then warps in front of where Lock was about to land and kicks him into the air. Rondo finishes with a double-axe-handle that sends Lock crashing to the ring floor.)

Larina: Lock is plummeting down to the ring floor and it won't be a pretty sight when he hits.

Targon: He's just run out of strength.

Rondo: You're finished Lock!

Lock: Not yet!

(Lock does a handstand with one arm when he gets close to the ring floor and springs back up at Rondo, kicking him hard in the face and then punching him hard with a charged fist. Rondo regains his balance in the air however, and lands, as does Lock.)

Juzan: Yeah Lock!

Musa: Even I didn't think he had any power left.

Drakon: Finish him Rondo!

Rondo: (charging the Serpent's Fist again) It Looks like there's only one way to finish you off.

Tino: Oh no! Not this again. Lock doesn't have the stamina left to keep dodging it like he did before.

Breta: Lock...

Larina: Rondo has gone back to using the Serpent's Fist technique. Will this move be the end of Lock's chances to become the grand champion of martial arts?

Lock: (thinking) I have to avoid that punch at all costs!

(Rondo attacks Lock, who tries to fire a few blasts at him, Rondo easily knocks them away with the Serpent's Fist and continues to fast approach Lock. In response, Lock fires a blast at the ground to conceal himself. Rondo punches right through the smoke but doesn't see Lock when it clears.)

Breta: Where'd he go?

(Rondo is searching in the ring, and Lock appears behind him. Lock tries to punch him, but Rondo grabs his fist with the Serpent's Fist, stopping Lock's punch. Rondo then kicks him into the air and follows, warping behind him and giving him a hard kick back to the ring floor. Rondo lands and seems to get into an attack stance, with the Serpent's Fist ready.)

Musa: Oh no, he's going to hit Lock on the fly.

Juzan: No! Look out Lock!

Rondo: Serpent's Fist!

(as Lock is falling, Rondo flies at him and scores a direct hit with his Serpent's Fist on Lock's face. Lock is sent flying and looks about to land out of the ring.)

Breta: No!

Drakon: Yes! He won!

(Rondo raises his hands in celebration and turns his back on Lock. Lock is about to land out of the ring but fires a large blast with both hands that pushes him flying back into the ring.)

Rondo: (noticing Lock coming right at him) What!?

Lock: This one's for my father!

(Rondo turns around to get hit extremely hard in the face by Lock's charged punch.
Rondo is knocked out of the ring and Lock lands hard in the ring.)

Juzan: Yes! I don't believe it! He won!

Musa: He did it!

Ms. Hancock: Incredible!

Musa: (smiling) Aldar's son indeed.

(all of Ozana's waiting room and Breta and Tino are going nuts cheering)

Larina: Unbelievable! It looked as though Lock was done for, but he was able to force himself back into the ring, and with a desperation punch knocked Rondo out of the ring!
Ladies and gentlemen the winner of the grand martial arts championship, Lock and Ozana school!

Drakon: No! I won't let this happen!

(Rondo is still knocked out and Drakon runs over to the tournament committee as Lock's friends all rush the ring to help him up as the crowd cheers)

Tino: Lock! You did it!

Breta: You're amazing.

Lock: (weary, but laughing a bit) I told you I wouldn't let you down.

Juzan: Your dad would be proud.

Musa: How are you feeling Lock?

Lock: Well, other than broken ribs, bruises all over my body, a major loss of blood, and a throbbing headache...pretty good.

(they all laugh and help him up as Drakon is seen angrily whispering to the tournament committee, Rondo is also on his feet now)

Targon: I've never seen anything like that. What a match!

Larina: Yes, it was an unbelievable match with an unbelievable ending. After years of defeat after defeat, Ozana School has climbed back to the top of the martial arts world thanks to the efforts of one incredible student. I think we should go formally announce Lock as the winner of the tournament.

Targon: Sure, sounds good to me.

Larina: Congratulations Loc-

Drakon: (cutting her off) Hold your celebrations! Lock never won, Rondo is the winner!

Larina: What? Lock knocked him out of the ring, he won the match.

Drakon: But he lost before that took place. Just ask the tournament committee.

Juzan: What now? Lock won fair and square!

Member 1: After reviewing the final match, we have concluded that Lock landed out of the ring before Rondo did.

Lock: What? When?

(a replay of the end of the fight is shown on the monitors as everyone watches)

Member 1: When Lock used that energy blast to force himself back into the ring, it's the same as him touching the floor. The energy blast was touching Lock's hands at the same time it touched the floor...making Rondo the winner by ring out.

Musa: What? That's never meant a ring out in all the years this tournament's been held!

Member 1: Do not question our ruling, we make the final decision! Lock is *not* the winner!

Drakon: A wise ruling, yes, Lock clearly touched the ring floor.

Breta: This is ridiculous, it that had been Rondo, they never would have said that!

Musa: Drakon, this has gone too far. Lock won and you know it. You can't just change the rules in mid-match and not tell anyone.

Drakon: What ever are you talking about Musa? Are you suggesting that the honorable tournament committee is making an unfair ruling? I don't think you want to cross them, they have the power to strip Ozana School from ever coming back to this tournament.

Musa: I won't let you get away with this Drakon. You've been bribing the committee this entire tournament-

Member 1: (cutting her off) Silence! One more outburst from you and Ozana School *will* be banned from ever competing here again! Now announcers, please congratulate the real winner of this tournament, Rondo and Drakon School.

Larina: You heard it ladies and gentlemen, the winner of the grand martial arts championship is Rondo and Drakon School.

(the crowd boos like crazy when that is announced)

Fan 1: What kind of ruling is that? Ozana's fighter won!

Fan 2: Someone should fire that committee!

Fan 3: What a screw job!

Lock: I don't believe it, I never touched the floor.

Musa: We all know you didn't Lock, but sometimes life just isn't fair. Not every story has a happy ending.

Headmaster Ozana: This is an outrage! I was ready to get "jiggy with it" in celebration!

Juzan: I say we show this damn committee a thing or two.

Musa: No, we're better than that.

Ms. Hancock: Come on, let's get out of here.

(Ozana School begins to leave the arena)

Drakon: (laughing) I told you beating our school was impossible. Only losers go to Ozana, winners go to Drakon.

Rondo: (laughing, holding up the championship belt) Hey Lock, looks good on me, don't you think?

(Lock stops for a moment and looks about to say something back)

Musa: Don't sink down to their level Lock. Prove that you're a real champion.

Lock: (sighing) Fine, but mark my words I'm not done with them yet.

Musa: Good, because neither am I. A day for redemption will come, but it's not today.

Lock: If it's alright with you Master Musa, I'd rather get these injuries treated back at the school, I don't want to stay here any longer.

Musa: I don't blame you, Lock, it's fine with me if you would rather go back to the school.

(Ozana's students head out of the arena as Drakon and his students laugh and taunt them. Ozana's students are now outside the arena, filling into the buses, they all look depressed, especially Lock. The next scene shows everyone back at the school.)

Musa: Come Lock, we need to get those injuries treated.

Lock: I failed my dad.

Musa: Don't say that, you did great Lock. You won that match and you know it, don't let the tournament committee's decision ruin that for you. Your father would be extremely proud of how you acted during and after the match.

Lock: Thanks.

Musa: Keep your head up, Lock. That won't be the last time you meet Drakon School in a world tournament.

Lock: Yeah, I wanted to ask you about that because now that the tournament's over, what are we going to work on during class?

Musa: Nothing. The school year's over. It's time for students to pack up and head home for the summer. We'll begin again next year.

Tino: Yeah, don't you remember? You me, and Breta were gonna go on vacation after the tournament.

Lock: Oh, well sorry but I don't feel like taking a vacation anymore. I'm going to spend every day of the summer training. And next year, I'll be stronger than ever. So strong, that I'll never give the tournament committee an opening to cheat me out of victory.

Musa: I'm glad to hear you're so determined. If you want, you can spend the summer with me Lock, I'll continue your training like we did earlier in the year.

Lock: You'd do that for me?

Musa: Believe me, I want to see Drakon lose just as much as you do. I'll make you stronger than you can imagine before the next semester even starts.

Lock: Awesome. Thanks so much.

Musa: The offer's good for you all as well.

Juzan: No thanks, I need to relax now.

Breta: Yeah, I think I want a little break from fighting after the way that tournament turned out.

Tino: Same here.

Musa: I understand, come on Lock, you need to get to the infirmary so they can treat those injuries. The faster you heal, the faster you can begin training.

Lock: Alright. You guys all have a great summer. I'll see you next year.

Tino: Yeah, you too.

Juzan: Train hard.

(Lock and Juzan shake hands)

Lock: I know we got off on the wrong foot, but I'm glad you and I were roommates Juzan. You're the best sparring partner I could ever ask for, and I'm proud you and I are friends now.

Juzan: Same here. But just to let you know...next year I'll be the school champion.

Lock: (laughing) We'll see.

Breta: (hugging Lock) I'll miss you.

Tino: Me too.

Lock: Thanks, I'll miss you guys too. If you hadn't come to the ring and cheered me on like that, I probably would have lost a lot sooner.

Breta: You're still the champion in my opinion Lock. Take care of him Master Musa.

Musa: I will.

Tino: Drop us a line sometime.

Lock: Sure. Take care.

(everyone waves goodbye as Lock and Musa head off)

Tino: So, now what are we going to do?

Juzan: Well, I've got a place on the beach. You two are welcome to stay with me for the summer.

Breta: On the beach huh? I don't see the harm in that, we were planning on vacationing at the beach anyway.

Juzan: How bout you, Tino?

Tino: Sure, sounds fun, I'm in.

Breta: I'm gonna go call my parents and tell them where I'll be.

Tino: Me too.

Juzan: Okay, meet me outside after you're done packing and everything.

Tino: Sure.

(they leave as the scene changes to the infirmary where Lock is sitting on a bed, and nurses are wrapping bandages around his ribs, Lock looks very depressed)

Musa: I know what you're feeling, Lock. It was the same for me after Drakon eliminated me during a world tournament. But just remember, it's not the end of the world. Tomorrow is another day.

Lock: (sighing) Yeah, tomorrow is another day.

(Lock stares up at the ceiling, depressed as the episode ends)