

NXT – January 30, 2013: This Show Is My Wrestling Salvation

NXT

Date: January 30, 2013

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: William Regal, Tony Dawson

This is the second week of the tag team title tournament and my guess is we'll get two more first round matches tonight. Other than that we've got Conor O'Brien challenging Langston for the title next week which should be interesting given that we haven't seen Conor since Cameron was released. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the announcement of the title tournament and the first two matches. For the first time we get to see the full brackets:

Wyatt Family

Bo Dallas/Michael McGillicutty

Primo/Epico

Alex Riley/Derrick Bateman

Leo Kruger/Kassius Ohno

Oliver Grey/Adrian Neville

Welcome Home.

NXT Tag Team Title Tournament First Round: Alex Riley/Derrick Bateman vs. Kassius Ohno/Leo Kruger

Bateman and Kruger get us going with a kneeling staredown. The fans are behind Bateman despite him not being seen in months. They fight over some basic holds to start before it's off to Riley. Kruger hides in the corner before bringing in Ohno. Kassius doesn't seem impressed so Riley takes him down with an armdrag into an armbar. Riley hits a big dropkick as Regal talks about why wrestlers drop down ("They don't want to get hit.").

Back to Derrick who knocks Kassius to the floor and we take a break. We come back to see Kruger in a Bateman armbar followed by Bateman pounding away in the corner. A running knee in the corner misses Kruger though and that's the knee that kept him out for four months. Back to Ohno who cranks on the knee a bit before Kruger comes in to do the same.

Kassius is looking at Regal as Leo tags him in. Kind of odd as Regal hasn't done anything to Ohno in a few weeks but whatever. Anyway Ohno comes in and puts on another leg lock before tagging back to Kruger. Leo hooks a kneeling half crab and a Robinsdale Crunch before bringing Ohno back in for a spinning toe hold. I like how they're mixing the holds and moves up instead of using the same ones over and over again. It's so boring when people do that.

Bateman kicks Ohno away and makes the hot tag to Riley. Things speed up and Riley hits a spinebuster and falling forward DDT out of the corner for two. Everything breaks down and Ohno hits a big boot on Riley to set up what looks like an arm trap cravate for the tap out at 10:51 shown of 14:21.

Rating: B-. This was the tag team formula and it worked very well. I like Ohno better as a vicious killer rather than the usual guy he's been where he feigns respect for everyone else. Kruger didn't get to show off a lot here which is somewhat disappointing but at least we got to see some Alex

Riley. This was a lot better than I was expecting.

Mason Ryan vs. Sakamoto

There's a name we haven't seen in a long time. Ryan is still a musclehead but he's a bit less cut up now which might be a good thing for him. Sakamoto tries to hide in the corner but gets thrown across the ring by the throat. A cross body is caught in a backbreaker and fallaway slam by Ryan before it's time for a trapezius hold. That doesn't last long so Mason ends him with a Jackhammer at 2:19. The fans call Ryan boring and I can't say I disagree. He's just a power guy who uses power moves and that's it.

Aksana vs. Paige

Aksana takes over to start and shows off some "power" before crawling around on the mat. With a boot in Paige's back Aksana pulls on her limbs for a bit but here's Paige's comeback. She pounds away on Aksana a bit before hooking a kneeling Sharpshooter with her knee in Aksana's back for the tap out at 2:59. Paige continues to impress.

Post match Summer Rae runs in and jumps Paige from behind.

Sasha Banks is very excited about winning last week. She thinks the sky is the limit but here's a delivery guy with a letter. Apparently Sasha has a secret admirer.

NXT Tag Team Title Tournament First Round: Primo/Epico vs. Michael McGillicutty/Bo Dallas

Epico has his hair down here which makes him a lot easier to distinguish from his partner. Primo and Dallas start things off with Primo being shoved into the corner. Dallas sends him to the outside before it's off to Epico. The cousins take over but almost as soon as Primo comes back

in, Dallas is able to regain control. An atomic drop gets two and it's off to McGillicutty. A double back elbow gets two as does a backbreaker by McGillicutty.

Back to Dallas for a pretty sweet back and forth double teaming sequence (starting with a Dallas right, a McGillicutty knee lift and a Dallas clothesline) for two. Michael counters an Epico dropkick to send him to the outside. We take a break and come back with Michael hitting a running dropkick but having to beat up the illegal Primo, allowing Epico to dropkick McGillicutty to the floor.

Back in an Epico hits a slingshot hilo for two on Michael as Rosa gyrates a bit. Primo hooks a chinlock with a bodyscissors for a bit before it's back to Epico. He hooks another chinlock on Michael but McGillicutty fights up and they collide. The double tag brings in Dallas and Primo with Bo hitting an awkward looking kneedrop for two. Epico breaks up a pin attempt off a tornado bulldog from Dallas. Primo and Dallas are left in the ring and an arm trap DDT gets a close two on Bo. Primo loads up something but charges into the belly to belly suplex for the pin at 10:25 shown of 13:55.

Rating: C+. Another pretty decent tag match here but not as good overall as the first one. I like the belly to belly far better as Dallas' finisher than the spear. Dallas' size isn't a big enough guy to make that move look effective but with something like the belly to belly it's more believable. This was another good match and a good way to close the show.

Overall Rating: B-. Two good matches and some angel advancement make for a solid show this week. I'm surprised we didn't get at least a promo about the title match next week but that wasn't the focus of tonight's show. This show continues to be the highlight of my week as it's so nice to have a show you know is going to be ok at worst. I can't remember the last time they had a truly bad episode which is almost impossible to be able to say in wrestling.

Results

Leo Kruger/Kassius Ohno b. Alex Riley/Derrick Bateman – Arm trap cravate to Riley

Mason Ryan b. Sakamoto – Jackhammer

Paige b. Aksana – Kneeling Sharpshooter

Bo Dallas/Michael McGillicutty b. Primo/Epico – Belly to belly suplex to Primo

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