

NXT – May 8, 2014: The Tyson Tomko Of Wrestling (It's A Good Thing)

NXT

Date: May 8, 2014

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Jason Albert, Renee Young, Rich Brennan

We're getting closer to Takeover and the big story is the lack of a challenger for NXT Champion Adrian Neville. After dispatching Brodus Clay last week, Adrian needs someone new to fight and odds are we'll find out who that is tonight. The Women's Title tournament will also continue tonight and since this is NXT, that's not necessarily a bad thing. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

NXT Womens Title Tournament First Round: Emma vs. Charlotte

They circle each other to start until Charlotte takes her up against the ropes. A hard clothesline puts Charlotte down for one but she snaps Emma's throat over the top rope to take over. We hit a figure four neck lock on Emma before she rams Emma's face into the mat ala Madison Rayne. Emma fights up and nails another clothesline to put both girls down. She loads up the pink Cobra because that's what WWE has done to her but Sasha Banks offers a distraction, allowing Charlotte to roll Emma up and bridge onto the legs (called Charlotte's Web) for the pin at 3:50.

Rating: D+. This didn't have time to go anywhere and the Cobra made it even worse. It's one of the most annoying things about WWE and NXT: the people get over in NXT but then they make it to the main roster and the writers or whoever is responsible

for these ideas have to change everything that worked and then blame the wrestlers when it doesn't work.

The #1 contender to Neville's title will be determined in a battle royal tonight.

Legionnaires vs. El Local/Kalisto

The Legionnaires are Sylvester LeFort and Marcus Louis who I believe is making his debut here. The masked men take over to start but LeFort comes back with a swinging neckbreaker on Local as things settle down. A headdbut from Louis has Local in even more trouble as the heels start some fast tagging.

Louis cranks on the neck for a bit until he runs into Local's boot in the corner. The hot tag brings in the rather short Kalisto for some springboard cross bodies and a jump into an Edge-0-Matic for two on Louis. Everything breaks down and Kalisto kicks LeFort in the head, followed by a Tajiri handspring into another kick to the head for the pin at 4:17.

Rating: D+. This was too short for the tag team formula to work all that well but Kalisto was fun to watch with all of his dives. If nothing else this is the way to build up some opponents for the Ascension as they've run through all of the teams in the promotion with relative ease so far.

Adam Rose fires up one of his Rosebuds for his match.

Camacho vs. Captain Comic

Captain Comic is one of Rose's friends dressed like a superhero. Fans: "MATCH OF THE YEAR!" Camacho destroys him with ease as we're certainly in squash territory. We hit a quick chinlock as the dominance continues. A running Samoan drop sets up a powerslam for the pin at 2:36.

Rose comes out for the save post match.

Alicia Fox and Alexa Bliss don't have much to say before their

match but they both want the Women's Title.

NXT Womens Title Tournament First Round: Alicia Fox vs. Alexa Bliss

This is Bliss' debut and she's in what Renee describes as a fairy costume. Fox is quickly taken down for a standing moonsault with the knees intentionally landing on Fox's chest. Alicia comes back with a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker for two and we're already in the chinlock. That great looking northern lights suplex gets two for Fox and it's off to the headlock. The beating continues for a few more seconds until Bliss grabs a small package out of nowhere for the pin at 3:10.

Rating: D+. This was just a squash with a surprise finish which is only so interesting. We didn't get much out of Bliss here but she didn't have the chance to show anything. Her winning is the right move but I need to see more from her to know what she can do in the ring. Fox is a decent enough test for her though.

Adrian Neville says he wants people to step up and challenge him.

Battle Royal

Aiden English, Baron Corbin, Bo Dallas, Brodus Clay, Camacho, Colin Cassady, Curt Hawkins, Danny Burch, El Local, Jason Jordan, Sami Zayn, Tyson Kidd, Tyler Breeze, Kalisto, Marcus Louis, Mason Ryan, Mojo Rawley, Oliver Grey, Sylvester Lefort, Xavier Woods, Yoshi Tatsu

Winner gets Adrian Neville at Takeover. It's a big brawl to start until everyone gangs up on Brodus for the elimination. No one is eliminated for a good while until Ryan throws out I think English as we take an early break. Back with Kalisto avoiding elimination as we hear about Woods saving himself ala Kofi Kingston. The fans are behind Tatsu here as we're still waiting on more eliminations. LeFort and Kalisto are gone as I

type that and Sami Zayn slips back in from the apron.

Things slow down as they're known to do in battle royals until Woods and Camacho chop it out in the middle of the ring. Woods gets a running start and eliminates himself and Camacho with a Cactus Clothesline. We have about nine left in the match. Jason throws out Mojo in an upset as Kidd gets back in over the top. Corbin throws Jordan to the apron and then kicks him out with a huge boot. Dallas knocks Corbin out with a clothesline and does the same to Yoshi a few seconds later.

We're down to Sami, Breeze, Kidd, Ryan, Dallas and Cassady but Bo puts out Cassady and Ryan with ease. Kidd comes out of nowhere to dropkick Dallas out (fans: "THANK YOU TYSON!") and we're down to three. Breeze hits a Beauty Shot on Kidd and the fans are way behind the model. Sami throws Breeze to the apron but misses a kick and winds up on the apron as well. Kidd misses a charge of his own and winds up on the apron, leaving only Breeze in the ring. Both good guys pull him out but fall out at the same time for a triple elimination at 13:30.

Rating: C. The match was your usual battle royal but the ending was a nice surprise. Any of those three would be a good challenger for Adrian and that's one of the cool things about NXT. I would assume it's a triple threat which you would think goes to Breeze for heel vs. face but things aren't always that basic in NXT.

Post match HHH comes out because JBL barely exists in NXT anymore and makes a triple threat for the shot next week. All three argue to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. Here's the difference between WWE and NXT. When something bad happens in WWE, they just keep going with the idea and expect the fans to go with it. When something bad happens in NXT, they have a show like this which fixes all of the problems. It's no shock why I enjoy one over the other. This wasn't about the wrestling but it set up a lot of stuff

down the line, which is very important as well.

Results

Charlotte b. Emma – Charlotte's Web

El Local/Kalisto b. Legionnaires – Spinning kick to the head to LeFort

Camacho b. Captain Comic – Running powerslam

Alexa Bliss b. Alicia Fox – Small package

Sami Zayn, Tyler Breeze and Tyson Kidd won a battle royal last eliminating each other

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