

NXT – December 23, 2015: Jolly Old NXT

NXT

Date: December 23, 2015

Location: Wembley Arena, London, England

Commentators: Rich Brennan, Corey Graves, Byron Saxton

We're past Takeover: London now and the big question is where do things go from here. Before we can get to the next major shows though, we have a few matches taped at the Takeover show to get through here, including a four way tag and the return of someone you might remember. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap/highlight package from Takeover. I might be looking forward to Takeover more than Wrestlemania.

Opening sequence.

Vaudevillains vs. Hype Bros vs. Blake and Murphy vs. Chad Gable/Jason Jordan

One fall to a finish. The Vaudevillains are dressed as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. The Hype Bros aren't the most beloved but Gable and Jordan's eruption makes up for it. Gable and English get things going with Chad easily taking him to the mat. It's off to Gotch for a wristlock but Chad easily takes him down to the delight of the crowd. Mojo tags himself in but Gable and Jordan clean house, leading to a four way staredown.

Back from a break with English having issues getting out of another Gable wristlock. Blake comes in and walks into a headscissors, followed by a dropkick. It's off to Murphy who is caught in an armbreaker across the top rope, only to have Blake make a save (thanks to Bliss) with a stomp to the ribs for two. Blake starts in on Chad's leg until English tags himself in to take over.

Gotch works on the leg as well but Gable gets the knees up to give himself a breather. Murphy breaks up the hot tag, only to have Gable backflip out of a double suplex and make the hot tag to Jordan. Everything breaks down and it's suplex city on everyone, including one to Murphy onto the pile, setting up Grand Amplitude to Blake for the pin at 12:46.

Rating: C+. Fun match here as you would expect with this many people in the ring at once. Gable and Jordan are something special and there's almost no way we're not getting them vs. Dawson and Wilder for the titles sooner than later. I can't imagine they'll stretch the chase all the way out to Dallas as they're too hot right now.

Dana Brooke yells at Emma for losing to Asuka. Asuka comes in and smiles so Dana turns around and asks Emma if Asuka left yet.

Sami Zayn is back tonight.

Video on the European tour.

Clips of Finn Balor vs. Samoa Joe from Takeover.

Tye Dillinger is tired of people talking about Sami Zayn, who is not a perfect ten.

More from the song man, who debuts next.

Next week (and perhaps the week after) will be the Best of 2015.

Clips of Apollo Crews vs. Baron Corbin.

Corbin brags about his win and declares himself #1 contender.

Bull Dempsey vs. Elias Samson

Sampson is confirmed as the drifting guitar player. Bull starts with some clotheslines so Samson stomps him down into the corner. The snap jabs and a shoulder put Elias down but he comes back with a quick knockdown. That gives us a creepy smile from Elias, followed by a top rope elbow to pin Bull at 1:37. Well that was quick. Not very impressive but quick.

After some clips of their title defense, Scott Dawson and Dash Wilder say they're awesome.

Clips of Bayley retaining over Nia Jax.

Tye Dillinger vs. Sami Zayn

We have to pause the start of the match due to some extended OLE chants. Tye starts going after the arm to start but Sami reverses into a wristlock of his own and we get a standoff. A pair of armdrags send Ty to the floor but he bails away from a dive, leaving Sami to flip back into the ring. They head outside with Sami being sent shoulder first into the post, taking us to our first break.

Back with Dillinger working on the arm and firing off some left hands to the head. Sami fights out of another armbars and clotheslines Tye a few times, followed by a fisherman's suplex. Now we get the big flip dive and the fans are very happy to have Sami back. The Blue Thunder Bomb gets two but the Helluva kick is countered into a rollup for two (with a handful of tights). Tye starts fighting back but gets suplex into the corner, setting up the Helluva kick for the pin at 12:47.

Rating: C. This was little more than "hey Sami's back". He had a bit of ring rust but it's a good idea to give him a relatively easy match like this to allow him to get his timing back. Sami is at his best when he's fighting uphill, but it's going to be interesting to see him as the returning hero instead of an underdog again. He looked fine here and that's all that matters.

Sami says he's back and soaks in some OLE's. The trend in his career has been every time a dream comes true, it quickly turns into a nightmare. It happened when he won the NXT Title and it happened when he showed up on Raw but tonight broke the trend. This is just the beginning and 2016 will be even better for NXT and Sami Zayn.

Overall Rating: C+. These shows are always tricky as they're really more WCW Saturday Night (in the Nitro era) than Monday Night Raw. It's still a fun show and a really easy sit though and that's all NXT needs to be. What makes it even better is how they make me want to keep coming back. I

believed Sami when he said it's going to get even better, which is mainly lip service most of the time. Another fun show here and the Best of shows coming up should be a nice flashback.

Results

Chad Gable/Jason Jordan b. Hype Bros, Blake and Murphy and Vaudevillains
– Grand Amplitude to Blake

Elias Samson b. Bull Dempsey – Top rope elbow

Sami Zayn b. Tye Dillinger – Helluva kick

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