

Takeover: New York Preview

We're under two days away from Takeover: New York and I believe that's close enough to start getting excited. The show, as always, looks awesome and with a special imported match this year, we could be in for something even better than usual. There isn't a bad looking match on the card and if things go well, it's already going to be the show of the year. Let's get to it.

Women's Title: Shayna Baszler(c) vs. Bianca Belair vs. Kairi Sane vs. Io Shirai

We'll start off with a confusing one as it depends on which wrestling story you go for. First of all you have the idea that when everyone else cancels themselves out, the champion, and best performer (maybe) at the moment, in this case Baszler, retains. At the same time though, there is the chance that we could have Baszler showing up on the main roster either over the weekend or next week. You could go either way, or cut it down the middle and have Baszler retain and show up on the main roster.

I think I'll go with Belair winning, which I hope doesn't lead to her talking more often. She's an incredible athlete but she's also one of the most annoying talkers I can remember in a very long time. Baszler can move up to the main roster while Belair feuds with the Sky Pirates or some of the other upcoming stars in the division. It might not be the most appealing choice, but it's the one that makes the most sense.

North American Title: Velveteen Dream(c) vs. Matt Riddle

You know what I love the most about NXT? Ok maybe not the most but it's certainly up there? It's almost impossible to know who is going to win any given match. This one is a real tossup and it comes after a four way tossup. Dream is crazy over, but Riddle isn't going to lose this soon in his NXT career. That

and Dream just doesn't win on the big stage most of the time.

That being said, I'll take Riddle, as Dream might be on his way to the main roster (egads I hope not though). It's what makes the most sense at this point and that's usually the way NXT likes to go. These two could have an incredible match with Riddle playing by the rules (mostly) and Dream being so out there that it messes with Riddle's mind. Either way, the fans are going to be going nuts and it should be awesome. But yeah, Riddle wins in the end.

Tag Team Titles: War Raiders(c) vs. Aleister Black/Ricochet

Can I please have an easy match on this show? Not everything has to be so well put together that it's hard to figure out. Black and Ricochet are going to get a SmackDown Tag Team Title shot on Sunday. Now with that being the case, do you really want them to lose on an NXT show in a Tag Team Title match? If they do, why aren't the War Raiders getting the shot at WrestleMania? Then again this company doesn't tend to think that way so it's anyone's guess.

I'll go with the War Raiders retaining here, as Black and Ricochet are locked in on the main roster and there's no good reason to give them the NXT Tag Team Titles and expect them to be defended. Unless we're getting some insane title unification deal (which I don't think we are), the money move would be to make the War Raiders look even more dominant, as they've held the titles for a few months now but barely defended them.

United Kingdom Title: Pete Dunne(c) vs. Walter

Just take my money now. I'll even up it to \$19.98 for this one. These two are going to have one of the hardest hitting, knockdown drag out fights you're ever going to see and it's going to be awesome. Dunne is the kind of guy who would rather die than lose but he's come close to being beaten before. How do you get around a monster like Walter? I'm not sure it can

be done at this point.

Hence why I'm going with a new champion. Dunne has had an all time title reign and somehow doesn't feel like he's outgrown the title or is ready to move on from it, which is perhaps the most remarkable thing about the entire reign. He has to lose at some point though and if it's not to Walter, who else could it be to? This is where the title change goes down, with Dunne fighting until the bitter end.

NXT Title: Johnny Gargano vs. Adam Cole

Let's pause for a second and mourn the missing of what could have been the greatest blowoff in WWE since...I'll get back to you on that. This was going to be Gargano FINALLY winning the title from Tommaso Ciampa and ending their war once and for all but the pesky neck injury is going to stop us from seeing it for the time being. This is for the vacant title and it's 2/3 falls, which is kind of NXT's signature match for a cool change of pace.

And I'm taking Cole winning the third fall after some kind of a distraction from Ciampa. That final match is going to happen and NXT is smart enough to keep Gargano hot until he's back (they did it before), provided we don't get something stupid like Cole being called up. Gargano is at his best when he's chasing something and is foaming at the mouth to get it, so having him lose again and move on to something else is the right call. Also Cole is a great long term champion and could hold the title for months without much of a problem.

Overall Thoughts

Yes. Do I need to explain this any further than that? This could be one of the most entertaining shows of the year (it will be) with this crowd around them. NXT just gets these things and it's going to be an incredible show with five matches that could all be classics. Just let them do their thing and be handed the weekend, because I don't think it's

classified as stealing anymore when it's expected of you.

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