

Worlds Collide Preview



IMG Credit: WWE

Leave it to NXT to make it work. A few months back, it was announced that we would not be having a Takeover during Royal Rumble weekend. Instead we were getting a Worlds Collide special, which didn't exactly have people excited. The previous editions hadn't been anything interesting, but this one was different. This time we're getting NXT vs. NXT UK, which hasn't been done before. As luck would have it, NXT UK is on a roll at this point and it should be a blast as a result. Let's get to it.

Kickoff Show: Kay Lee Ray vs. Mia Yim

This is non-title and that's a good thing as I don't have to worry about Yim winning a title. I'm not sure what it is about her but something has fallen way down with her and it's almost impossible to make myself care about what she does. Ray hasn't blown me away as champion yet either, but she can do more interesting things than Yim so far.

As for the match, I'll go with Ray as well, since I just can't imagine them having a champion lose in a non-title match without some surprise plan to make a surprise turn into Yim in NXT UK. The match should be a fine way to warm up the crowd (note to WWE: ONE Kickoff Show match can do that very well) but it isn't something that I'm exactly excited to see in the

first place.

DIY vs. Moustache Mountain

And we have a dream match that you never knew you needed to see. DIY is one of the best tag teams that NXT has ever seen and Moustache Mountain is the biggest tag team that NXT UK has ever seen. We could be in for a match of the year candidate here and that's only if they're having an off night. I know DIY might not be at their peaks but sweet goodness we could be in for an awesome one here.

I'll take DIY, who have said that this is just a one off reunion, but I think you know where they're heading at Takeover, likely over Wrestlemania weekend. Moustache Mountain is going to be tearing the house down too though and I'm drooling over the idea of the false finishes that Gargano and Bate could have. Throw in Ciampa and my goodness this could be something incredible. But yeah DIY wins here.

Finn Balor vs. Ilja Dragunov

The more I think about this one, the more interested I am in seeing these guys beat the fire out of each other. Balor is a star and Dragunov has more raw intensity than anyone I've seen in a long time (never look into his eyes). This one doesn't need to be that long as they're going to beat the fire out of each other, though I'm not entirely sure which way they're going to go.

As much as I want to say Dragunov wins in an upset here, I can't go against Balor, not when he's primed for a match against Gargano at Takeover. Dragunov is the kind of guy who can come back from a loss in the blink of an eye but he's not ready to beat someone the caliber of Balor. The upset wouldn't shock me here, but I just can't go with Dragunov in this spot.

Cruiserweight Title: Angel Garza(c) vs. Jordan Devlin vs. Isaiah Scott vs. Travis Banks

This is one of those matches where you could see several possible outcomes. Garza is such a ball of charisma who can do all kinds of things in the ring (though I'm still not wild on his finisher) but the other three are all serious threats. That's how you can tell there's a good match to be had here: you really could see any of the four walking out as champion, which isn't something that happens very often.

I'll go with Garza to retain here, though much like so many other matches on this show, I could see it going multiple ways. Someone taking the title over to the UK wouldn't be a bad idea as it isn't doing anything in NXT at the moment, but odds are it stays down in Florida, where there are several challengers ready to come after it. Then again that's the same in the UK so I'll move on before I change my mind again.

NXT Women's Title: Rhea Ripley vs. Toni Storm

These two are turning into a thing and that's great for everyone involved. The two of them work well together and while Ripley has turned into the big star on the bigger stage, Storm has had her number more often than not, which gives the match a good story. We already know they can make the action work, so going with the story that makes sense is what matters in the end.

While I expect Storm to come over to NXT full time (assuming she wants to), this is Ripley's to win. There's no need to give Storm another win over her and Ripley has become a major star in a hurry down in NXT. Given that she already has a title defense set up for next month in Portland, it would be very out of the NXT nature to have her lose here. Ripley wins to even the feud.

Imperium vs. Undisputed Era

Back on the August 21, 2019 episode of NXT, the Undisputed Era stood on the stage where Adam Cole mentioned NXT UK. There was nothing I wanted to see more than Imperium come out, just for

the sake of seeing Cole's head explode at the thought of what he had gotten himself into. Well, since NXT is awesome, that's what we're getting now and it's going to be great.

I'm going with Imperium getting the win here, as they get to make up for part of losing the overall competition to NXT. Imperium is one of the coolest things going in WWE today and giving them the big win like this should be a great step up for them. You can even have Roderick Strong take the fall without a champion getting pinned. What more could you ask for than that in a situation like this? These guys are going to tear the house down and it's going to be outstanding in a modern dream match that I've known I've wanted to see for a long time now.

Overall Thoughts

When did this turn into such a great looking card? This thing is absolutely stacked and blows away a lot of recent WWE shows. I'm actually looking forward to this one and have every confidence that they're going to blow us away. You have multiple matches on here that could show up on a lot of lists near the end of the year and that doesn't happen every day. This is going to rock and I'm really excited for it.

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