

NXT UK – April 23, 2020 (NXT UK's Most Brilliant): I'd Watch It Again



IMG Credit: WWE

NXT UK

Date: April 23, 2020

Host: Andy Shepard

It's another special show this week and that is going to likely be the case for a long time. As usual, there is a theme to this one and this time around it's all about Walter vs. Tyler Bate. They had my Match of the Year in 2019 so watching the whole thing again sounds like quite a good idea. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Shepard welcomes us to the show and hypes up the match a bit.

We get a long video on Tyler Bate. His mom talks about how he grew up as a huge fan and they had to go to every wrestling show. Trent Seven met him at a training seminar when Bate was very young but he knew what he had. Bate signed with WWE when he was 19 and he shocked the world by winning the United Kingdom Title (he looks about fifteen there). Bate has been here for three years and is still trying to figure out who he is as a wrestler and as a person. Bate and Seven don't think much of Imperium

and are ready for a fight.

We see Walter training in Germany where he talks about how true he is to himself, which makes him different. What has Tyler Bate done since he won the title? He looks like a boy and that's how Walter is going to treat him.

We see Walter at the WXW training school where he trains wrestlers to take everything seriously.

Now we get to the big angle to set up the match, with Imperium costing Moustache Mountain their Tag Team Title shot and destroying Bate. Walter talks about how Bate was trained the wrong way and couldn't handle it. Seven went to war with Walter to avenge his friend but got beaten down as well. Now it's time for Bate to fight the giant, who stands for greed and everything he and Trent don't agree with. Walter came in here and took over everything Moustache Mountain built.

From Takeover: Cardiff.

United Kingdom Title: Tyler Bate vs. Walter

Walter is defending and there are no seconds here. Bate ducks an early shot and starts going after the knee as the fans sing a lot. A test of strength goes to Walter but Bate powers up to send him into the ropes. Walter's headlock grinds Bate down a bit as the songs are now rather anti-Walter. Bate is right back up with a delayed slam though and Walter needs a breather on the floor. The suicide dive is blocked though and Walter's big chop sets up an apron bomb.

A big boot rocks Bate hard and a toss powerbomb...is left short, sending the back of Bate's head into the post. After a check from a trainer, Bate is back in to get beaten up more as his back is giving out. As the fans chant some rather mean things about Walter, Bate collapses while trying a fireman's carry. Walter pulls on the arms and puts a boot in the back as the slow grinding down continues.

A running seated splash gets two on Bate and the big chops knock him into the corner. Bate looks a little dead but manages to pull himself up, only

to get laid on the top turnbuckle. Walter knocks him to the apron but Bate gets him up for a fall away slam to the floor in an impressive toss. Back in and Bate's middle rope uppercut is chopped out of the air, setting up the big Boston crab. Make that a Liontamer into a Crossface, with Walter pulling backwards for a change of pace.

Bate finally makes the rope and somehow manages to block a suplex, setting up one of his own to bring the fans back into it. A bunch of clotheslines don't put Walter down but a rolling Liger kick staggers him into an exploder suplex. Bate nips up and Nigel can't believe what he's seeing as a standing shooting star press gets two. The Tyler Driver 97 is blocked a few times and a running dropkick sends Bate into the corner.

Bate manages to counter the powerbomb into a sunset flip for two more. They get to the top with Bate loading up a superplex....and looking down at the floor. Walter isn't having that and chops him down but Bate is back up with a finger snap. That means an exploder superplex for two as the fans are dying on these near falls. The slugout goes to Walter but he charges into Bang and falls onto Bate....who is face down on the mat so there is no cover.

Walter is back up with an exploder suplex of his own but Bate manages the airplane spin until Walter makes the rope. That's fine with Bate, who puts him into a torture rack for the Burning Hammer. Bate can't cover so Walter rolls outside, meaning it's a suicide dive from behind. The no hands dive drops Walter again and Bate manages a bridging German suplex for two. The Tyler Driver 97 is countered into a backdrop for two but Bate bridges up into the Tyler Driver 97 for two, sending Nigel over the moon in shock.

Spiral Tap gets two more so Bate unloads with rights and lefts, sending Walter into the corner to cover up. A chop cuts him off and a big boot knocks Bate silly, setting up the sleeper. Bate stands up with Walter on his back (because he just can) and drops back but Walter puts the hold right back on.

Bate gets up AGAIN and gets to the apron where he pulls Walter over the top and elbows his way out. Walter grabs him right back for a sleeper

suplex onto the apron to kill Bate dead. The top rope splash...gets two and the fans are alive again. Another sleeper suplex gets another two and Walter powerbombs him...for one. Walter chops him down and hits a heck of a lariat to FINALLY finish Bate at 42:11.

Rating: A+. And that's your match of the weekend with Bate looking like he could somehow survive out there until finally coming up short. This felt like it was half as long as it was and even though I didn't buy Bate as having a chance coming in, I was buying that he might hang on and survive in the end. It's going to take something special to take Walter down and as special as this was, I'm not sure who is going to do that. This was an incredible story that made you believe the impossible could happen, which is as hard of a thing to do as you can get. Watch this and have some fun.

Imperium comes out to pose and leaves Bate to get the big hero's ending with Seven and Dunne coming out to help him up.

Walter calls it a successful mission.

Bate says sometimes things don't work out but there will be a next time.

Overall Rating: A+. Well that still works. It's one of the best matches WWE has had in years and I had a blast watching the whole thing. Despite being one of the strongest guys in WWE, Bate is still a great underdog against a monster like Walter. Throw in the segments at the beginning and you have a great hour long package here. Check this match out if you haven't before and see if you don't get sucked into it a good bit.

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