

NXT UK – September 17, 2020: What's British For Welcome Back?



IMG Credit: WWE

NXT UK

Date: September 17, 2020

Location: BT Studios, London, England

Commentators: Andy Shepard, Nigel McGuinness

We are FINALLY back with the first new show in over five months. There are no fans in attendance but that is going to be the case throughout WWE for a long time to come. I'm not sure what to expect here, but we have some big matches to set up over the coming weeks. Let's get to it.

The opening video looks at the move over to BT Studios in London and some of the bigger names in the promotion. Makes sense for a way to bring people back in.

Opening sequence.

The arena looks rather cool.

Sid Scala is in the ring but here's Ilja Dragunov to cut him off in a hurry. The rather intense Dragunov says he has waited for six months for a fight but here's Noam Dar to say Dragunov

needs anger management. The fight is on in a hurry with the 6 1 Line taking Dar down. Referees break it up but Scala makes Dar vs. Dragunov tonight.

Gallus vs. Kenny Williams/Amir Jordan

Non-title and hopefully Jordan isn't as annoying as he was before. Coffey shoulders Jordan down to start but Jordan is up with a dropkick. Williams comes in for a headlock and an armbar but it's quickly off to Wolfgang for his own armbar. A heck of a clothesline drops Jordan and Coffey runs him over for a bonus. The armbar goes on again to keep Jordan on the mat and it's off to the cravate.

Jordan gets sent into the corner and then flipped back out but manages an enziguri, allowing the hot tag to Williams. A slingshot hurricanrana sends Wolfgang into the corner and a running dropkick puts Coffey on the floor. Some more kicks to the face drop Wolfgang for two but he plants Williams for a suplex. Williams gets in a shot of his own to Coffey and Jordan comes back in with a Swanton for two. That's enough for Coffey though as he runs over both guys and hands it back to Wolfgang. The enziguri into the powerslam finishes Jordan at 10:53.

Rating: C. I'm not sure if this was the best way to bring things back to life around here. Jordan and Williams are fine for a low to mid level team but they aren't exactly major threats to a team like Gallus. The match was far from bad, but this wasn't exactly a great restart for the show.

Post match most of the tag team division comes out to stare Gallus down. Imperium is shown watching on a monitor.

Saxon Huxley is going to be back next week to destroy things.

Here's Kay Lee Ray for a chat. It's time for the longest reigning NXT UK Women's Champion to be back in the ring and she is going to be defending the title. She and Piper Niven

defined women's wrestling in the UK but here's Niven to interrupt. If Ray likes to talk so much, why not talk about how many times Niven has beaten her in Japan and in the UK? Next week Ray gets to show how great she is and Niven should know better. Ray takes a swing but winds up bailing.

Video on Isla Dawn and Aoife Valkyrie.

Isla Dawn vs. Aoife Valkyrie

Valkyrie grabs a headlock to start but gets shoved away for an early standoff. Back up and a spinwheel kick puts Dawn down and it's right back to the headlock. This time Dawn escapes with a belly to back suplex and it's off to a double arm crank. Dawn unloads on her in the corner and puts on the arm cranking again, only to have Valkyrie fight up with a spinning kick to the face. A running Blockbuster gets two and a spinning kick to the head drops Dawn again. The top rope ax kick gives Valkyrie the pin at 5:45.

Rating: C. This was a bit better with Valkyrie beating Dawn down and finishing her with the devastating big move at the end. Dawn is someone who can put anyone over and still be fine so the result worked out well. Valkyrie seems to be someone who they want to push as a big deal in the division and getting her out here like this makes sense.

Video on the Heritage Cup, including a quick bio on everyone involved, or at least the seven entrants we know of so far.

Pete Dunne will be here to draw the brackets for the tournament. That's rather interesting.

Noam Dar vs. Ilja Dragunov

Dragunov takes him down and hammers away before dropping him with a right hand. Some knees to the ribs set up a running shoulder to put Dar down and Dragunov hits a running backsplash. Dar bails to the floor to cut off the beating

before heading up top on the way back in.

Dragunov gets his knee kicked out and Dar's bridging northern lights suplex gets two. There's an elbow to the head and a snapmare into the ropes keeps Dragunov in trouble. Some shots to the face just annoy Dragunov and he muscles Dar up with a suplex. One heck of a clothesline takes Dar's head off but he tries to pull Dragunov into an armbar. That's broken up though and Dragunov stomps him down.

Now the 6 1 Line gets two but Dar breaks up a second one. A running dropkick puts Dragunov on the floor but he comes back in to knock Dar silly again. Dar elbows him in the head but Dragunov wins a slugout with quite a bit of effort. Cue Alexander Wolfe for a distraction but Dragunov sends Dar into him. Torpedo Moscow gives Dragunov the pin at 11:49.

Rating: B-. This was designed to showcase Dragunov as a machine and that's what they did rather well. He plays the part as perfectly as can be done with the insane eyes and unique movements so I don't know how much complaining can be done when he is beating up Dar. Dragunov vs. Walter sounds amazing and the sooner we get to it, the better.

Post match here's Walter for the showdown with a fired up Dragunov to end the show. It's amazing to see how much the show picks up when he is involved.

Overall Rating: C+. They had a bit of a rocky start here with the tag match not being the most thrilling but it picked up a bit after that when we got into the showcases. I want to see both singles title matches and the tournament could be interesting assuming Pete Dunne is the final entrant. NXT works best with its top level star power and having Walter appear was the best thing they could have done in that regard. This wasn't the best, but it got better as the show went on.

Results

Gallus b. Amir Jordan/Kenny Williams – Powerslam to Jordan

Aoife Valkyrie b. Isla Dawn – Top rope ax kick

Ilja Dragunov b. Noam Dar – Torpedo Moscow

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