

NXT UK – January 6, 2022: The Fight Before The Last Stand

NXT UK

Date: January 6, 2022

Location: BT Studios, London, England

Commentators: Andy Shepherd, Nigel McGuinness

We're in a new year over in England and that means it is time for a major title match. This time around that means we have the Women's Title on the line, with Meiko Satomura defending against Blair Davenport. Other than that, we could be in for almost anything else. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Meiko Satomura vs. Blair Davenport.

Opening sequence.

Ashton Smith/Oliver Carter vs. Symbiosis

Eddie Dennis is here with Symbiosis. Primate drives Carter into the corner to start before cranking on the arm. Carter kicks his way to freedom and brings Smith in to flip T-Bone over by the arm for a change. A slingshot shoulder drops T-Bone again and it's Carter grabbing the armbar. Smith comes back in for his own shoulder and Carter's slingshot splash gets two as this is one sided so far.

T-Bone finally powers Carter over to the corner but Smith breaks up a double suplex attempt (though Nigel didn't see a tag). A fireman's carry is loaded up so Dennis offers a distraction...which doesn't seem to matter as Primate elbows his way to freedom anyway. An assisted splash to the back hits Smith and Dennis is rather pleased on the floor.

The chinlock goes on for a bit, followed by a spear from Primate and a frog splash from T-Bone. Carter makes a VERY

last second save, so late that Smith had to kick out and almost kicked Carter in the face. Smith fights up and brings in Carter to clean house as everything breaks down. Symbiosis is sent into each other and a doomsday cutter finishes Primate at 9:38.

Rating: C+. At some point, you have to build up another team and that is what they were doing here with Smith and Carter. They have been around for a long time now and while I'm not sure I can picture them being a real threat to Moustache Mountain, you have to have some kind of a credible threat to them. Then again there is a real chance that they lose to Die Familia on the way there.

Pretty Deadly doesn't like the idea of the tournament to crown new #1 contenders when they never got a title shot. Sam Gradwell comes in to call them stupid and leaves. Pretty Deadly will deal with this.

Ilja Dragunov is training in Dresden by running up some steps and jumping ropes. He is fighting to keep what matters the most for him, meaning his family. We hear about Dragunov's wife, who was the first person to accept him as he is. They had a son and he is perfect just as he is too. Sometimes he falls down and Ilja asks him why they fall. It's so they can get back up again and that means something to Ilja. Then you have Jordan Devlin, who brought the family into this, and that isn't going to work.

We look at A-Kid beating Nathan Frazer to become #1 contender to the Heritage Cup and Noam Dar.

Dar seems worried but he is so confident that he is going to let Sha Samuels pick the way he beats A-Kid. The worst odds are on Dar in the fourth round so we'll go with that.

Die Familia wants the Tag Team Titles.

Myla Grace vs. Xia Brookside

Brookside isn't happy that the ropes weren't held for her but she gets in anyway. Grace's wristlock has Brookside in the ropes in a hurry and she puts on a wristlock of her own, complete with a little dance. The fans ask Brookside who her daddy is before Grace takes her down in a hurry.

A hard forearm in the corner wakes Brookside up though and she really isn't happy about the fans singing at her. That means a bunch of stomping on Grace's back and a kick to the spine gets two. Grace fights out of a seated abdominal stretch and starts the clothesline comeback. Brookside pulls her off the middle rope though and Broken Wings finishes Grace at 3:48.

Rating: C. I'm starting to dig this heel Brookside as she kind of nailing the spoiled brat character. That's quite the departure from what she did well for so long and it's working rather well. Grace didn't get to do much here but she had a bit of fire in defeat and that could be a lot worse.

A-Kid wants the Heritage Cup back.

Jack Starz and Dave Mastiff are ready for a great 2022 but Starz thinks Mastiff might want to kill him. Mastiff just wants the Tag Team Titles.

Amale says she is hope.

Amale arrived at the Performance Center when Angel Hayze comes up to say Amale's video package inspired her. Jinny pops in to mock Amale before leaving, with Stevie Turner replacing her. Turner says Amale has a point and gets shoved up against a wall so Amale can yell at her in French.

Next week is Walter's Last Stand in NXT UK, with his last match coming against Nathan Frazer.

Walter says he has dominated NXT UK and after a title reign of 870 days, he has brought dignity to this sport. Now he is ready to face Nathan Frazer but Walter is not impressed.

Frazer will teach him next week and come out victorious.

Women's Title: Blair Davenport vs. Meiko Satomura

Satomura is defending. They start slowly before going into the test of strength, with Satomura tossing her down. A headlock takeover sets up an armbar on Davenport, which is switched into a wristlock to keep her in trouble. Davenport fights up so Satomura kicks away in the corner. An attempt at a springboard is kicked down and Davenport lands face first on the apron.

Back in and we hit the double arm crank as this is all Satomura to start. Kicks to the chest and head get two on Davenport as the fans are behind Satomura. Davenport finally manages to score with a kick of her own and a hanging DDT from the apron plants Satomura hard. Another kick sends Satomura into the ropes for two more and we hit a neck crank.

That's broken up as well and it's a spinwheel kick to rock Davenport again. Satomura drops her hard with a suplex but the STF attempt is countered into an armbar. Davenport can't keep her down though and Satomura is back up with a DDT for a break. Satomura's Pele kick is countered into an STF, with Satomura fighting up again. Davenport knocks her into the ropes and a top rope double stomp puts Satomura on the floor.

Back in and Satomura counters what looked to be a knee to the face into a Death Valley Driver. Another Death Valley Driver gets two but Scorpion Rising misses. Now Davenport can knee her in the face for a close two and frustration is setting in. They go into a pinfall reversal sequence, with Satomura sitting down on a rollup to retain at 12:58.

Rating: B. This was good but never quite got all the way to the highest level. What we got was a pair of women beating on each other until Satomura caught her in the end rather than flat out defeating her. That makes for a good match, though it isn't quite as definitive as I was expecting. Davenport is a

good heel though and should be fine with whatever she does next.

Post match, Davenport is back up to knee the heck out of Satomura, meaning the feud will continue.

Overall Rating: B-. This was the kind of show I like from NXT UK, as they set up and delivered on the main event, while also doing some good stuff on the rest of the show. It flew by and left me wanting to see what happens next week, despite a lot of those people not being major players on this show. As usual, nicely done and that isn't even a surprise anymore.

Results

Oliver Carter/Ashton Smith b. Symbiosis – Doomsday cutter to Primate

Xia Brookside b. Myla Grace – Broken Wings

Meiko Satomura b. Blair Davenport – Rollup

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