NXT LVL Up - February 25, 2022: I Guess That Counts

NXT LVL Up

Date: February 25, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Nigel McGuinness

It's week #2 of this show, or week roughly #20 if you consider this to be the revamped 205 Live that it really is. Therefore the matches aren't going to be anything of note but we might get some slight NXT star power around here. That is almost the only way to make the show feel important, though it is hardly consistent with what it offers. Let's get to it.

Here are last week's results if you need a recap.

Opening sequence.

<u>Xyon Quinn vs. James Drake</u>

Zack Gibson is here with Drake. Quinn can't get a grab on him against the ropes to start so Drake mocks him a bit. A hammerlock works a bit better for Quinn, who stands up so Drake's crossbody can bounce off of him. Drake bails to the floor and a Gibson distraction lets Drake get in a cheap shot. Back in and Quinn slugs away but has to power out of a sleeper. Quinn slams him off the top but Gibson offers another distraction, allowing Drake to grab a rollup for the pin at 4:47.

Rating: C. I'm not sure what happened to Quinn but he looked like someone who should have been a breakout star in the making. That hasn't happened though, as instead he has fallen pretty far through the floor and can barely get on NXT these days. The match was a standard formula with the villains cheating with the numbers game and then picking up the win,

meaning there wasn't much to see here. Other than Quinn losing again.

Post match Quinn beats up Gibson to blow off some steam.

Sarray vs. Elektra Lopez

Legado del Fantasma is here with Lopez. Sarray tries to start fast and it's a springboard armdrag to frustrate Lopez early on. That earns Sarray a grab of the hair and a wheelbarrow faceplant to plant her on her face. Sarray is back up with a rollup into a dropkick, setting up a double stomp. Another double stomp gets two but Sarray's running dropkick against the ropes hits Joaquin Wilde and the distraction lets Lopez hit a spinning Dominator for the pin at 3:47.

Rating: C-. Another watchable enough match with Lopez getting to look good against Sarray, who is already seeming to drop down the ranks. I'm still not sure how much of a future there is in the whole transforming schoolgirl thing, but losing to the occasionally wrestling manager isn't exactly a good sign for her immediate future.

Jacket Time vs. Joe Gacy/Harland

Well, I guess this does count as star power. Gacy and Kushida fight over wrist control to start with Kushida spinning around on Gacy's back and handing it off to Jiro. After teasing a hug, the threat of the jacket punch sends Gacy backpedaling. The jacket punch connects on the second try, but it knocks Gacy into the corner for the tag off to Harland. Dominance ensues, with Harland driving him into the corner and knocking Kushida off the apron as a bonus.

It's back to Gacy, who catches Jiro with a DDT to put him down. That doesn't last long though as Jiro is up for the tag back to Kushida without much trouble. House is cleaned, with Kushida grabbing the Iron Octopus on Gacy. Harland makes the save but has to be held back from massacring Kushida. It's

back to Harland to run Kushida over and splash Jiro for the pin at 6:55.

Rating: C. This was about as good as you're likely to get around here, as Gacy can wrestle a decent match and Kushida can work with anyone. Jiro may be annoying but his style works out fairly well most of the time. That leaves Harland, who thankfully isn't getting a lot of ring time at this point. Not much of a match, but it felt a good bit bigger than the other two.

Overall Rating: C-. I still can't get too mad about a show that lasts around thirty minutes but this isn't exactly interesting stuff. Above all else, it is the kind of show that comes and goes without anything happening. I'm not sure how much good it is doing as far as developing or improving some of these people, but at least they are getting in the ring in front of people in some way. That's an improvement, right?

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