

NXT LVL Up – April 15, 2022: There's Your First Step

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Date: April 15, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Nigel McGuinness

We're back to normal around here and that might not be the worst thing. LVL Up has figured out something of a formula and it makes for a nicer show. I'm not sure what to expect from here but it has turned into something a lot more enjoyable than 205 Live was at times. Let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Roxanne Perez vs. Sloane Jacobs

Perez is better known as Rok-C in her debut. The bigger Jacobs backs her up against the ropes to start but Perez slips out and offers a curtsy, setting up an armdrag. Jacobs drops her throat first across the top though and a neckbreaker gets two. The crossarm choke has Perez in more trouble but she's back up with a small package for two of her own. Perez knocks her down though and it's a twisting handspring moonsault for two. A Code Red gives Perez the pin at 4:19.

Rating: C. This was a very basic match as Perez gets her feet wet in WWE. You have to do something with her to see what you have and that is what a show like LVL Up can do. Perez seems like quite the prospect and she did fine enough under the circumstances. That's a good start of what could be quite the career.

Damon Kemp vs. Troy Donovan

Channing Lauren is here with Donovan. Kemp flips his way out of a wristlock as commentary talks about Donovan's farm boy upbringing and associated strength. A gutwrench suplex drops Donovan as this is one sided so far. There's a spinning slam to drop Donovan again but Lauren offers a distraction so Donovan can get in some cheap shots. A clothesline gets two on Kemp and we hit the chinlock. With that not working, Donovan hits a spinning spinebuster and grabs the chinlock again. Kemp fights up without much trouble and hits a running shoulder for two. Donovan is back with a Falcon Arrow of all things for two, only to miss a top rope...something. After dropping Lauren, Kemp grabs a butterfly suplex into a neckbreaker for the pin at 6:01.

Rating: C+. Donovan got to showcase himself a bit here but this was almost all about Kemp, who has the wrestling background and some other stuff to go with it. You can see him getting a little somewhere, though hopefully he isn't completely forgotten when his brother gets to show up full time.

Kiana James vs. Tatum Paxley

James flips out of Paxley's wristlock to start and it's an early standoff with a nod of respect. Cue Ivy Nile to watch Paxley, which fires her up. James slips off of the fireman's carry though and sends Paxley throat first into the middle rope, setting up an armbar. Some stomps in the corner keep Paxley's ribs banged up but she manages a suplex. A standing spinning moonsault (practically the same thing Perez did earlier) connects to finish James at 3:58.

Rating: C-. I wasn't feeling this one as well as Paxley is still figuring some of this out. James looks like she should be fine in a little while, but this was more about Nile and Paxley. That isn't a thrilling story so far, but Nile comes off like a star and having her around here for something like this does boost the rest of the show up a bit.

Overall Rating: C. This was a rather quick show without much worth seeing, but they kept it really quick this week, with the show barely breaking 25 minutes. Nothing on here was worth seeing, but Perez's debut was somewhat noteworthy and Kemp looked better than he has so far. LVL Up still isn't a show that you need to see, but at least it feels like it has a bit of a purpose.

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