NXT LVL Up – May 6, 2022: Mostly Ladies Night

NXT LVL Up

Date: May 6, 2022 Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Sudu Shah

We're coming off a big NXT event on Tuesday and odds are that doesn't mean much around here. What might mean something is the upcoming women's Breakout Tournament, which very well could get some hype on this show. This is where some of the upcoming women have appeared before so maybe we get more of that this week. Let's get to it.

<u>Here are last week's results if you need a recap.</u>

Opening sequence.

Tatum Paxley/Ivy Nile vs. Erica Yan/Sarray

Roderick Strong is here with Nile and Paxley. Speaking of the Breakout Tournament and also speaking of people who have fallen through the floor, we have Paxley and Sarray. Nile takes Sarray into the corner to start and it's an exchange of wristlocks with Paxley. Sarray slips out and hits a running dropkick so Yan can come in instead.

An exchange of rollups get two each and that's good for a standoff so we'll try Nile vs. Sarray again. A fisherman's suplex gets two on Nile but she is back up with a clothesline. Some rolling suplexes set up a running kick in the corner and Sarray is in trouble. Paxley comes back in for the armbar but Sarray fights up, ducks a clothesline, and gets over to for the tag to Yan. That's fine with Nile, who comes back in with the dragon sleeper for the tap at 5:20.

Rating: C. Nile still feels like a killer and Paxley is coming along nicely, though she still has some work to do to break out from the pack. The interesting thing here is Sarray, who has either been a huge disappointment or has lost every bit of support she has backstage. It's just weird to see her falling this far but somehow this is still better than the transforming schoolgirl deal.

Sloane Jacobs vs. Thea Hail

They fight over arm control to start until Hail hits a dropkick for an early two. Jacobs sends her into the corner to start the stomping though as commentary points out that these two are 37 years old combined. A big boot drops Hail for two and we're off to the neck crank. Hail takes her time fighting up and sends Jacobs into the corner, setting up a sunset flip for two. Jacobs shrugs it off and hits a Samoan drop for the pin at 5:05.

Rating: C-. Not the most interesting match as the neck crank took awhile but you can tell that these two are still works in progress. Given that the older one is nineteen years old, there is only so much you can expect from them. At some point you need to get them in the ring, but a televised show might not be the best idea.

<u>Channing Lorezno/Troy Donovan vs. Javier Bernal/Dante Chen</u>

Why yes, this is a LVL Up main event. Tony D'Angelo joins commentary and the voice is already grating. Bernal headlocks Lorenzo down to start as D'Angelo interrogates Shah about possibly being a federal agent. Chen comes in to headlock Lorenzo before switching up to another headlock. Bernal's sliding lariat gets two but Lorenzo blocks a sunset flip and brings Donovan in. The stomping ensues and a suplex gets two on Bernal. The alternating beatdown is on but Bernal sends them into each other and gets over to Chen for the hot tag. Everything breaks down and it's a big boot setting up stereo big boots to finish Chen at 6:02.

Rating: C. D'Angelo is a good example of a joke that is being pounded into your head so hard that there might as well be someone following him around yelling "GET IT????". Lorenzo and Donovan (enjoy those names while you can) are two guys who are about as interchangeable as you can get and that doesn't make for the most interesting matches. This was ok at best and I could go with D'Angelo N Pals being around a bit less, or at least not talking so much.

Overall Rating: C-. This was a good example of LVL Up: it was short, the wrestling wasn't anything worth seeing, and they weren't exactly putting the star power out there. I did like them showcasing some of the newer women more though, as they are going to need all of the ring time that they can get and the matches were hardly awful. It's still hard to get annoyed at this show, but it's also not easy to get interested most weeks.

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