

NXT Level Up – July 1, 2022: Fresh Faces

NXT LVL Up

Date: July 1, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Sudu Shah

It's the second half of the year and odds are that is not going to make the slightest bit of difference around here. This show has gotten into another funk as of late and I wonder if that is due to the NXT house show circuit starting up again. Those shows are far more valuable than this one and WWE seems to realize that. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Stacks vs. Hank Walker

Tony D'Angelo is here with Stacks. This is Walker's debut and he's...a guy in jeans and a collared shirt (looks a bit like Seth Rogen). Ok then. Walker takes him down into an armbar and does it again for a bonus. Back up and a knee to the ribs cuts off Stacks as we talk about something unfortunate happening to some (unnamed) member of the D'Angelo Family. A shot to the face drops Walker and we hit the neck crank but he is right back with a backslide. Walker fights out of another neck crank and takes off his shirt, revealing a not so great physique. Stacks kicks him down and hits a running big boot to finish Walker at 4:21.

Rating: D+. Walker feels like someone who would fit in a lot better if Josh Briggs and Brooks Jensen didn't exist. They feel like people who are doing a polished version of the country boy gimmick while Walker feels like someone who was

given something to do without being ready to go this far. Not impressive here, and Walker needs some work.

Amari Miller vs. Sloane Jacobs

Feeling out process to start with Jacobs taking her down for an early two. Miller does the same (to Jacobs, not herself) and we get a standoff. Jacobs works on the arm before hitting a quick crossbody for two as frustration is setting in less than three minutes into the match. The arm cranking goes on again until Miller sends her throat first into the bottom rope. Back in and Jacobs is right back with the arm cranking but Miller fights up and kicks away in the corner. The Kansas City Knockout finishes for Miller at 5:55.

Rating: C. Miller is coming along rather nicely around here. She isn't ready for a big spot but she has become a regular on this show and is looking more and more confident in the ring every time. The bubbly personality helps too and she could be something one day. Not a great or even good match, but it did well under the circumstances.

Javier Bernal vs. Duke Hudson

Hudson powers him down to start and looks annoyed that he has to deal with Bernal. With Bernal ready, Hudson drops to his knees to negate some of the size difference. Bernal's headlock doesn't get him very far but some strikes do, including a step up enziguri. Hudson runs him over though and a slam gets two.

Back up and Bernal reverses a suplex into a small package for two, only to get dropped for a neck crank. Another slam is countered into a swinging Downward Spiral and Hudson is staggered for a change. A sliding lariat into a high crossbody gets two on Hudson but he crotches Bernal on top. The Razor's Edge finishes for Hudson at 6:56.

Rating: C+. I was getting into this one by the end and that is the best thing that can be said about a match like this. There

was no reason to believe that Bernal was going to pull off an upset but he got in enough offense to stagger Hudson a bit. Pretty nice showing from both of them here, as Hudson can make the matches work well enough to go with his charisma.

Hudson talks a lot of trash to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. This was a better show, though I don't have much of a reason to believe that it is going to be a game changer. What matters here is that they had some fresh faces in Hudson and Walker and that is what the show can use from time to time. Some stories would do wonders around here as well, but I have long since given up on that being a thing. For now, I'll take what I can get around here.

Results

Stacks b. Hank Walker – Big boot

Amari Miller b. Sloane Jacobs – Kansas City Knockout

Duke Hudson b. Javier Bernal – Razor's Edge

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