

# NXT LVL Up – September 9, 2022: More Than I Expected

## NXT LVL Up

Date: September 9, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Nigel McGuinness

Last week's show was hardly inspiring, meaning the trend continues around here. The show has once again become little more than a collection of matches without much rhyme or reason and that makes it hard to figure out what you are going to see from week to week. Maybe this week can be an upgrade so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

## Bodhi Hayward vs. Charlie Dempsey

Chase U is here with Hayward and this is a much bigger match than I would have expected. Hayward goes right after him to start and knocks Dempsey into the corner before taking him down by the wrist. Commentary says that Dempsey is a second generation star but doesn't mention the first generation.

Dempsey powers up and hits something like an AA but Hayward stays on the wristlock. With that not working, Dempsey fights up and pulls him down into something like an STF. We'll make that a regular armbar but Hayward is back up with some forearms, including the running version. Dempsey pulls him into a Fujiwara armbar though, which he shifts into a Regal Stretch for the tap at 7:41.

**Rating:** C. If this is what we could be getting on this show going forward, I'll be much happier. This was a match that

actually tied into what they have been doing on NXT as of late and that's a lot better than I would have bet on. It's good to see Dempsey get a win, as he is the kind of wrestler who will always have a spot because he's that good at the grappling, so well done here.

### Valentina Feroz vs. Sol Ruca

The rather athletic Ruca (Nigel: "She takes after her grandfather, Argentina Ruca!" Shah: "I don't think that's true.") grabs a headlock to start. Back up and Ruca cartwheels forward and grabs the headlock again but Feroz fights up and takes her into a wristlock. An exchange of arm cranking on the mat goes to Ruca as she pulls Feroz into the air. That's reversed into a choke until Feroz pulls her down into a backslide for the pin at 5:53.

**Rating:** C. Ruca is fine enough at what she does, but there are so many athletic blondes that it is going to take something special to make her stand out. The cartwheels and flips will get her somewhere but I don't think that is going to be enough so far. Then again she is on the way to the main NXT show next week so apparently she has done something right.

### Stacks vs. Ikemen Jiro

Tony D'Angelo is here with Stacks. They fight over a lockup to start and take turns driving each other into the corner. Jiro works on the arm and snaps off some armdrags but Stacks PULLS OFF JIRO'S JACKET! That doesn't work for Jiro, who takes it right back and sends him outside. Back in and Stacks drops him again before working on a cravate. That's broken up and Jiro comes back with the jacket punches into a falling jacket punch for two. An Iconoclast out of the corner sets up a missed Ikemen Slash and Stacks kicks him in the face for the pin at 5:16.

**Rating:** C. The D'Angelo guys are still not exactly awesome but it's amazing how much better they are when they aren't

talking. Stacks is about as generic as you can get in the ring but Jiro is someone who can make anyone look ok at worst. Jiro isn't likely to win anything important either so this went about as you would have expected.

**Overall Rating:** C. This was actually a bit of a step up over previous efforts, with the main thing being that opener that managed to tie into a story. With as many teams and partnerships as they have around here, that shouldn't be hard to make work most weeks. Even if there isn't some kind of a team aspect, just do a match and then have someone talk about their current feud. It shouldn't be that hard, but NXT manages to make it difficult for whatever reason.

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