

NXT LVL Up – January 20, 2023: That's Our LVL Up

NXT LVL Up

Date: January 20, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, Matt Camp

The big change this week is on commentary, as Sudu Shah is gone from the company, meaning we have a new team talking to us. That could be just about anyone, but what makes things worse is the fact that commentary changes are probably more interesting than whatever is going on with the show. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Nikkita Lyons vs. Jakara Jackson

Lyons misses the early kick to the head and it's a fast standoff. A armbars has Jackson down and Lyons rolls over into a front facelock. Back up and Lyons misses a running boot in the corner, allowing Jackson to hammer away. We hit the Fujiwara armbars and Lyons can't quite power out. Finally she gets up and hits a sidewalk slam for the break. The strikes have Jackson in trouble, with a superkick into the splits splash being enough to give Lyons the pin at 5:10.

Rating: C. Lyons is someone who has hit a wall hard and I'm not sure what she can do to get around it. Maybe this is just a one off appearance on LVL Up for her, but she should probably be a star if someone will let her try. There is obvious skill there but it doesn't matter if she isn't being given much of a chance.

Damon Kemp is ready for Tank Ledger, but doesn't seem overly interested.

Damon Kemp vs. Tank Ledger

Kemp takes him to the mat for a headlock before walking over Ledger's back for the strut. Ledger is annoyed but gets knocked into the corner to keep him in trouble. A neckbreaker and belly to belly give Kemp two and we hit the seated abdominal stretch. Ledger fights out and hits a fall away slam but a splash lands on raised knees. A Rock Bottom backbreaker gives Kemp the pin at 4:31.

Rating: C. I still like Kemp as the dangerous evil wrestling ace but that wasn't quite what we were getting here. This was something close to a squash as Ledger never felt like anything resembling a threat. There is some potential with Ledger, but for the time being that is still a long way off.

Joe Gacy vs. Odyssey Jones

The rest of Schism is here too. Jones shoves the much smaller Gacy into the corner to start before cranking on the arm. The rolling splashes crush Gacy but Ava Raine grabs the leg, allowing Gacy to take out Jones' knee. Jones fights up but get the knee taken out again to put him back down. The next comeback works a bit better as a World's Strongest Slam crushes Gacy. The crushes Gacy is fine enough to hit Jones in the knee again and the handspring clothesline is good for the pin at 5:59.

Rating: C. This is more of what the show needs, at least for a main event: a match between two (slightly) stronger names where you could see an upset happening. LVL Up tends to run a bunch of matches featuring a name against an up and comer and there is no drama. Gacy winning here was the more logical way to go, but there was enough doubt to make it interesting.

Overall Rating: C. Oh this was LVL Up alright: a totally

middle of the road show with nothing standing out and nothing that you needed to see, but also nothing that was so bad you would regret watching it. As usual though, they can fall back on the act that they are a thirty minute show that never overstay's its welcome, meaning it isn't even worth getting mad about most of the time. Just a breezy show that doesn't hurt anything and gives you a taste of the future.

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