

NXT – January 21, 2025: When Titles Aren't Enough

NXT

Date: January 21, 2025

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Booker T., Corey Graves

We're less than a month away from Vengeance Day and that means it is time to start getting ready for the show. So far we don't have a card set for the show but we should be able to start adding some things this week. On top of that, we have three title matches so let's get to it.

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

Corey Graves is back. That's good to see, as he's far too talented to blow up his career.

North American Title: Tony D'Angelo vs. Ridge Holland

D'Angelo, with his Family, is defending and after the Big Match Intros...we talk about Booker T.'s time as a TNA Legends Champion. Graves: "I believe in Joe Hendry." Even after this partnership has been going on for months, this still feels weird. D'Angelo runs him over early to start but Shawn Spears comes out for a distraction as we take an early break.

Back with D'Angelo fighting out of an armbar and taking over, with a fisherman's suplex getting two. The spinebuster is broken up so D'Angelo goes with a spear for a knockdown instead. Cue Nico Vance and Brooks Jensen to go after the Family, but Izzi Dame comes in to kick Holland in the head. The spinebuster retains the title at 7:26.

Rating: B-. That was a heck of a spinebuster at the end, but what was more impressive was they had a good match with so

little time. You can only get so much out of a seven and a half minute match with a break in the middle. For now though, the important thing is D'Angelo continues to look like a big deal and it would not surprise me to see him being NXT Champion by the end of the year.

Wes Lee, with Tyriek Igwe and Tyson DuPont, aren't happy with Dion Lennox. Trick Williams comes in and Lee mocks him, earning an immediate right hand in a funny bit.

Here is Bayley for a chat. She's here to talk about her issues with Roxanne Perez, who could be great but slapped her in the face. Perez thinks Bayley is like Natalya or CM Punk, but that might be a compliment? Last night, Perez interfered on Raw and that makes Bayley think Perez just isn't ready. This women's division has a lot going on and with a champion like Giulia at the top...and here is Giulia to say she certainly respects Bayley.

Giulia hopes to hold the title with as much honor as Bayley did. Bayley is appreciative as Roxanne Perez and Cora Jade interrupt to insult her. The fans boo them out of the building and suggest that Bayley wants the Women's Title, because this era has exceeded the Four Horsewomen era. The brawl is on and the villains are quickly cleared out. Odds are this sets up a tag match, though I'm not sure I can imagine Perez or Jade as a serious threat to Giulia.

Jaida Parker and Kelani Jordan argue but Karmen Petrovic interrupts and gets in a fight with Parker over Ashante Thee Adonis.

Bayley and Giulia are still brawling with Jade and Perez.

Wes Lee vs. Dion Lennox

Lee is ticked off after being slapped by Trick Williams (Joseph: "Williams slapped Lee so hard he thought his name was Desmond.") and jumps Lennox to start, knocking him to the

floor. Back in and Lennox runs him over, setting up a spinebuster for two as they're going fast so far. That doesn't last long though as the Cardiac Kick gives Lee the pin at 2:24. They're trying with Lee, but I just can't picture him as a top star.

Post match Lee calls out Trick Williams for next week so here is Williams to chase him off and accept.

We recap Lexis King winning the Heritage Cup for good last week.

Stephanie Vaquer wants the Women's North American Title and doesn't care who has it.

Heritage Cup: Lexis King vs. Charlie Dempsey

King is defending and Round One begins with a technical off going nowhere. King snaps off a dropkick into an armbar to work on the arm. They trade rollups for two each and it's a standoff, with King trying another rollup. That's reversed into a choke and then a crossface chickenwing but the round ends before a tap.

We take a break with King having gotten a pin in the second round to go up 1-0. Round Three begins with King working on the arm until a quick shot lets Dempsey take over. Dempsey gets two off a rollup and cranks on the arm some more before a bridging butterfly suplex ties it up at 2:28 of the round and 9:31 overall.

Round Four begins with King pulling out some brass knuckles but throwing them down with a shake of his head. Dempsey goes after the arm but gets suplexed out for his efforts. King hits a high crossbody for two, only to get suplexed for the same. Another tease of the knuckles doesn't go anywhere so King knocks him outside for a big flip dive. Back in and the referee almost gets crushed in the corner, allowing King to get in a low blow. The Coronation retains the Cup at 2:50 of

the round and 12:56.

Rating: C+. They're definitely telling a story with King and his efforts to be good but getting pulled back into the dark side. That being said, this story feels like it is going to continue, even though it isn't the most thrilling. Both of them need to move on to something else, though that low blow is likely going to result in another match.

Naomi and Bianca Belair are ready for Meta Four next week.

Andre Chase tells Hank And Tank to break up now because all teams split. As Kelani Jordan walks in the background, Chase goes to another room and sees people watching a Chase U video. Kale Dixon says Chase was great but Chase says Chase U is dead and leaves. Dixon: "But it doesn't have to be." It could be a long road from here, but dang the idea of Chase restarting the school and winning the NXT Title could be an all time NXT moment.

Karmen Petrovic vs. Jaida Parker

Ashante Thee Adonis is here with Petrovic, who takes him down by the arm to start. Parker catches her in an electric chair drop out of the corner and then hits the Tear Drop in the corner. A quick rollup gives Petrovic two and a Sling Blade gets the same. Parker gordbusters her down and loads up the Hipnotique, only to have Kelani Jordan come in for the distraction. Petrovic grabs a rollup for the pin at 5:09.

Rating: C. I'm still not sure what the appeal of Petrovic and Adonis is supposed to be but the story is probably the least interesting thing in NXT at the moment. I can go for more of Petrovic as she has something about her, but Parker losing isn't the best thing to see. Not much of a match either, and it's part of a less than interesting story.

Sol Ruca and Zaria give Meta Four something of a pep talk before next week's Women's Tag Team Title match. As usual,

this sounded so scripted that it was painful.

Brooks Jensen/Nico Vance vs. D'Angelo Family

It's a big brawl to start and a Stacks is hiptossed over the top onto Jensen and Vance. We settle down to Jensen suplexing Crusifino for two. Everything breaks down and the Family fights up, only for Crusifino to be sent outside. Back in and a spinwheel kick into a lariat from Vance finishes Stacks at 4:25.

Rating: C+. They kept this moving and it was nice to see a new team getting a chance. That being said, it's also quite the big step for them to beat the D'Angelo family so soundly. It wasn't a great match, but it did a good job of saying that Jensen and Vance, with Shawn Spears controlling them, could be a threat.

Fraxiom is happy with their win last week and they're ready to go to Impact to defend against the Rascalz. Josh Briggs and Yoshiki Inamura interrupt to say they want a title shot. OTM runs in and the brawl is on.

Dion Lennox is annoyed and throws a bunch of stuff.

The D'Angelo Family isn't happy with Tony D'Angelo not being out there but he blames Izzi Dame for not shutting up. D'Angelo says Stacks has been the underboss for two years. He can do something on his own. Fair point.

Ethan Page is happy with hurting people and likes the sounds of people screaming in pain, including Je'Von Evans.

Je'Von Evans wants to fight Ethan Page but Ava says no due to his injury. Cedric Alexander comes in and is ready to face Page next week. Evans and Alexander leave but here is A-Town Down Under, who are supposed to be here next week. They want to offer the NXT Champion a spot on the Grayson Waller Effect next week. Maybe with some extra security. As for tonight,

they'll be watching the main event.

Here's what's coming next week.

Diamond Dallas Page is here.

NXT Title: Eddy Thorpe vs. Oba Femi

Femi is defending and powers him into the corner to start, only to miss a charge. Thorpe's quick kick staggers Femi for two but he glares up at Thorpe for quite the look. One heck of a backdrop sends Thorpe flying but he gets in a dropkick off the apron. A-Town Down Under is watching from the balcony as we take a break.

Back with Femi powering him away again and hitting a heck of a spinebuster for two. A chokeslam is countered into a triangle choke and Thorpe even adds a hurricanrana for a near fall of his own. Thorpe stuns Femi with a Stunner and drops a top rope elbow for two more. Back up and Thorpe hammers away, including a slingshot German suplex for two. Femi powers up and hits a chokeslam for two of his own, only to miss a charge into the post. Thorpe tries to slug away but gets tossed with ease. The Fall From Grace retains the title at 10:18.

Rating: C+. I'm not sure I get this one, as it was mostly the monster Femi selling for Thorpe, who has cheated his way into everything he has. Femi won in the end, but he's not the kind of champion who should be fighting from underneath for so long. It's a good enough match, but I'm really not sure I get the thinking behind what they were doing. Also, you might want to not promote "the winner gets to be on the Grayson Waller Effect" over "the winner is the NXT Champion."

Post match Trick Williams comes out for a Trick Shot to Thorpe before staring Femi down to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. This show had a big card with three title matches and Bayley as a guest star, but it didn't feel like a

great show. They kept hyping up next week's show in Atlanta and how big everything on that show was going to be and that didn't keep me interested in what they were doing this week. It's far from a bad show, but for what was included, it should have been better.

Results

Tony D'Angelo b. Ridge Holland – Spinebuster

Wes Lee b. Dion Lennox – Cardiac Kick

Lexis King b. Charlie Dempsey 2-0

Brooks Jensen/Nico Vance b. D'Angelo family – Lariat to Stacks

Oba Femi b. Eddy Thorpe – Fall From Grace

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