

# NXT – August 19, 2025: Pre-Heat

## NXT

Date: August 19, 2025

Location: The Met Arena, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Booker T., Corey Graves, Vic Joseph

We're on the road here and that should make for an interesting situation. We're actually not in the old ECW Arena, which might make things a bit easier as the fans there can be, shall we say, totally insane. It's also the go home show for Heatwave, which still has a few spots to fill in on the way. Let's get to it.

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

We start with a brawl in the back with Josh Briggs jumping Yoshiki Inamura, which is the straight of the street fight.

### Josh Briggs vs. Yoshiki Inamura

They go into the arena for the opening bell, where a suplex on the floor has Inamura in more trouble. Briggs throws in some chairs and wedges one of them in the corner before kicking Inamura in the face. Inamura knocks him down for a breather though and it's time for a Phillies bat. Briggs cuts that off with a chair to the knee and steps on the bat as we take a break.

We come back with Briggs superplexing Inamura onto a piece of barricade, which is bridged over some steps. The audience has to be muted for a bit and they're also not happy with Briggs for taping Inamura's arms to the ropes. Some HARD kendo stick shots to the back have Inamura's back banged up. Inamura rips the tape off (that looked cool) and breaks the kendo stick in half before chopping away to put Briggs down in the corner.

The trashcan is put over Briggs' head for more strikes and Inamura plants him onto the trashcan. Naturally it's table time and the top rope splash through said table gives Inamura two. Another table (a SLIM JIM table) is set up and Inamura tries to get another, which is rammed into his ribs. A lariat with a chain drops Inamura and Briggs moonsaults him through the table for the win at 15:52.

**Rating:** B+. These guys beat the fire out of each other and it's nice to see Briggs getting a big win. That has been missing for a long time and hopefully it's the start of something bigger. The street fight makes sense in a city which is known for its hardcore and they did rather well while they had the chance.

Ava and Santino Marella talked to Masha Slamovich, with Slamovich agreeing to be the guest referee for the women's tag match. The bosses are in.

Trick Williams loves himself and he's ready to beat Je'Von Williams and then become a three time NXT Champion this weekend.

### Ricky Saints vs. Jasper Troy

Saints runs into Josh Briggs as he's leaving and we get a quick staredown. Saints hits a dropkick to start and hammers away before grabbing a choke. Troy breaks out of that pretty easily but misses a charge, only to knock Saints outside as we take a break. We come back with Saints kicking away at the leg but getting dropped with a single shot. A Samoan drop gives Saints a breather and he avoids a charge to send Troy hard into the post. They head outside with Saints being sent into the steps but Troy's backsplash hits the steps as well. Back in and a springboard tornado DDT finishes for Saints at 9:15.

**Rating:** B-. They didn't have the time to make this work as well, but Saints gets to slay a monster for a big win. That's about as much as he needs, especially with Briggs likely being

the next opponent. Troy can go on to threaten someone else as he's still new and young enough that he's far from being wasted. If nothing else there is always the classic bodyguard route, which could work well.

Hank & Tank are in Ava's office and want to know which members of Darkstate they'll be facing but the Elegance Brand comes in. The Personal Concierge complains about Masha Slamovich being guest referee. Cue Slamovich to shake Ava's hand because she'll be referee tonight.

Here is Jordynne Grace for a chat. She worked a long time to get here and she never expected to make a friend in Blake Monroe. The thing is, she's watched wrestling for a very long time and she knows how these things end. The adjustment to coming to WWE is really hard and now someone is trying to force her to face her issues. She doesn't want revenge on Monroe, but she wants Monroe to see herself for what she really is.

Cue Monroe with security, saying that she wants Grace to see the truth. Monroe has drawn up a contract, saying that if Grace touches her before Heatwave, the match is off. Grace says this is where Monroe is wrong, because Monroe was ringside at Evolution while Grace was in the ring. That must have been a crushing moment because Monroe is a jealous snake. That's what sets Monroe off, calling Grace a jealous impersonator. Monroe hides behind security so Grace beats the guards up. Grace grabs Monroe's wrist and promises to show her what ugly really is at Heatwave. Nice stuff here, with Grace making her point clear.

Fatal Influence is warming up when Lainey Reid comes in to wish them luck. Sol Ruca and Zaria come in and say that Jacy Jayne is losing soon. Reid says at least Jayne defends both of her titles. Ruca says she has the need for speed. Zaria: "No." Ruca: "Yes." Zaria: "No."

Je'Von Evans is ready to beat Trick Williams to get on to his NXT Title shot at Oba Femi.

### Fatal Influence vs. The Elegance Brand

Masha Slamovich is guest referee. M and Henley lock up to start with Henley grabbing a quick rollup for two. Nyx comes in to put M down for two more but she's back up with a running knee lift. It's off to Ash, who gets rolled up for a quick near fall. Jayne comes in and misses a spinning forearm to Ash can roll her up for two more (they're not exactly doing anything high level here). The Personal Concierge trips Henley though and gets ejected as we take a break.

We come back with Henley getting sent into the wrong corner, where M gets in a running boot to the head. Ash misses her moonsault though and the tag brings in Jayne to clean house. A middle rope backsplash gets two on M and a double flipping faceplant puts her down again. M is back up with a superkick and Ash's top rope double stomp connects for two as everything breaks down. Ash hits her Rarefied Air Swanton for a very delayed two as Slamovich was trying to keep control. Jayne's discus forearm finishes Ash at 10:49.

**Rating:** C+. Slamovich was barely a factor here as I forgot she was the referee until the ending. The match itself was a bit weird as it was heels vs. heels and that's only going to get so far. Jayne getting the win is kind of surprising too as it's weird to see the champion standing tall going into the title match this weekend.

Post match the Brand and Slamovich get in an argument as Fatal Influence approves.

Kendal Grey and Charlie Dempsey are in the back with Dempsey trying to offer her armbar advice. Wren Sinclair comes in to remind Dempsey of Grey's college wrestling background when the Culling comes in. They decide there is no saving Dempsey and Sinclair and leave.

Here are Chelsea Green and Ethan Page, with the Secret Hervice, for their peace treaty with the Americans. The Canadians get rid of the table (they know how it is in Philadelphia) before the Americans (Tavion Heights/Tyra Mae Steele) come out as well. Page says they're here to share their opinions and settle their issues. He praises Heights but says Heights sees opportunity when looking at Page.

In their world, there is only gold, but Heights talks about all the times he has been close to being out and how blessed he has been by the athletic gods. Green accuses the Americans of being rude when they are in the ring with superior athletes. Steele says they speak their mind in Philadelphia and she thinks Green needs to shut her mouth. Steele brags about her gold medal and says it represents the best. She can take anyone down anytime and Heights is ready to fight too. Cue Ava to make the mixed tag, with the Olympians grabbing double ankle locks to send the Canadians limping.

Lexis King interrupts Myles Borne and apologizes for what he has been saying lately. It's impressive that someone could wrestle so well despite being deaf and blind. Borne: "I'm not blind." King: "You are now!" And he sprays something in Borne's eyes.

Kelani Jordan and Lola Vice are in the back and talk about working out when Lash Legend interrupt. Legend isn't impressed with them and says she's the biggest threat to the Women's Title rather than anyone, including Jordan and Jaida Parker.

Darkstate interrupts Ava and brag about their success...but mention Joe Hendry, who pops out of a closet. He wants to know which members of the team will be wrestling on Sunday but is told he'll find out when everyone else does. Threats are made, including one saying Hendry doesn't want them behind him. Ava and Hendry find that strange.

Heatwave rundown.

## Je'Von Evans vs. Trick Williams

For the NXT Title shot on Sunday (with Oba Femi watching from a balcony) and Williams' TNA World Title isn't on the line. Williams decks him with a spinning boot to the face to start but Evans reverses a Rock Bottom. Evans wants him to bring it and snaps off a hurricanrana into a dropkick. Back up and Williams knocks him into the corner, followed by a running clothesline.

Williams' suplex and neckbreaker have Evans in trouble and the cravate goes on. Evans avoids a charge in the corner and hits a springboard clothesline, allowing him to send Williams outside. Back in and Evans' springboard is broken up, with Williams LAUNCHING HIM off the ropes and over the announcers' table for an incredible crash. Commentary is stunned (with a great shot of Booker) and Femi even stands up as we take a break.

We come back with Evans fighting out of a front facelock but getting slammed off the top. Williams tells him to bring it so Evans slugs away, with a right hand sending him to the floor. The big dive takes Williams down and a frog splash gets two back inside. Williams is back up with a right hand but misses a knee, allowing Evans to roll him up for two. Back up and the spinning kick to the face drops Evans but Williams gets distracted by Mike Santana, who is in Femi's spot. The distraction lets Evans hit the top rope cutter for the pin at 14:51.

**Rating:** B-. Good stuff here, with Evans getting the title shot which could result in him winning the title. If nothing else, there is a good chance that he could get a TNA World Title shot as well, which wouldn't be the worst idea. Williams gets to move on to keep defending the title, which is likely going to be in trouble at Bound For Glory. Either way, nice main event here, which did what was needed.

**Overall Rating:** B+. The wrestling here was rather good and the peace agreement segment worked well enough. The big thing here though is I'm more interested in seeing Heatwave than I was coming in, which means they're doing something right. As is usually the case with the better NXT shows, it felt like there were boxes being checked off with every segment and it worked well here. Rather strong show going into the pay per view.

### Results

Josh Briggs b. Yoshiki Inamura – Moonsault through a table

Ricky Saints b. Jasper Troy – Springboard tornado DDT

Fatal Influence b. The Elegance Brand – Discus forearm to Ash

Je'Von Evans b. Trick Williams – Top rope cutter

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