

NXT No Mercy 2023: Takeover Lite

No Mercy 2023

Date: September 30, 2023

Location: Mechanics Bank Arena, Bakersfield, California

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Booker T.

NXT is back on the road this week and the card is looking rather stacked. The two big matches this time around will see Becky Lynch defending the Women's Title against Tiffany Stratton in an Extreme Rules match, plus Ilja Dragunov challenging Carmelo Hayes for the NXT Title. That should be enough to make this work so let's get to it.

Pre-Show: Kelani Jordan vs. Blair Davenport

Davenport grabs a headlock to start but Jordan snaps off a hurricanrana into a dropkick. Back up and Davenport grabs a slam and we hit a reverse chinlock. A Boston crab sends Jordan over to the ropes but she's back up with the forearms to really wake up the crowd. Jordan grabs a springboard cutter for a double knockdown and an elbow puts Davenport down again. A sleeper has Davenport in more trouble but a ram into the corner breaks it up. Jordan's split legged moonsault hits raised knees, allowing Davenport to hit a middle rope double stomp to the back. Something close to a Falcon Arrow finishes for Davenport at 6:35.

Rating: C. This was a nice showcase for Jordan, but the only way she was going to pull this off was with Gigi Dolin interfering. Jordan is someone who has potential to go somewhere once she gets some experience and develops a bit but we're a long way from there. Davenport is still one of the bigger villains in the division, but she needs to get into a bigger feud sooner or later.

Post match Gigi Dolin runs in to go after Davenport.

The opening video sees someone putting a No Mercy cartridge into an N64 and a modernized version of the game's intro. We get a character select screen (Complete with a dig diggity dig, dig diggity dog!) and most of the matches are selected and shown on the match screens ala the original game. This was AMAZING.

Bron Breaker vs. Baron Corbin

Breaker comes out with a dog head costume on for something that might have sounded better on paper. Corbin on the other hand comes out on a motorcycle. Breaker hits the big running flip dive to the floor and the brawl is on before the bell. They fight into the crowd with Corbin getting the better of things until Breaker knocks him back to ringside.

We pause for Breaker to beat up some cameramen, allowing Corbin to get in a few shots of his own. Corbin's backslash hits the announcers' table by mistake though and they finally go inside. The bell rings and Breaker hammers away as we have no commentary for some reason. Corbin hits a middle rope clothesline and some forearms on the mat as they're going with the slugout. Breaker powers him into the corner though and runs the corner for the super hurricanrana.

The gorilla press powerslam gets two but Corbin tells him to bring it and hammers away. The Recliner sends Corbin over to the ropes and he's back with Deep Six for two. They slug it out again until Breaker hits a hard clothesline. The fight heads outside again and Corbin sends him through the announcers' table to quite the positive response. Breaker pops back up with a spear and they head back inside...where Mr. Stone pops up for a distraction. That's enough for Corbin to grab the End of Days for the pin at 9:35.

Rating: B. That was certainly an odd way to go, as I wouldn't have bet on Breaker losing here. Then again I wouldn't have

bet on Corbin being treated as a good guy pretty much ever in WWE. As for the match, this was about two big, strong people hitting each other really hard until one of them couldn't get up anymore. Granted it took some assistance for Corbin to put him away, but it was a heck of a fight.

Carmelo Hayes and Trick Williams want to leave with their own titles tonight.

North American Title: Dominik Mysterio vs. Trick Williams

Mysterio is defending and Dragon Lee is guest referee. A dropkick before the bell gives Mysterio a fast two so it's already time to yell at Lee. Williams follows him to the floor and throws him back inside as the fans want Mami. Back in and Mysterio kicks the rope for a low blow, followed by a dropkick to send Williams outside again. The chinlock doesn't last long back inside so Mysterio snaps Williams throat first across the top.

Williams fights up though and a double clothesline leaves them both down. Mysterio hits the 619 but a superkick hits Lee by mistake. A neckbreaker drops Williams as another referee runs in for the near fall. Back up and Mysterio hits the other referee as well, followed by a crossbody to take Williams outside. Williams gets posted but avoids the frog splash, setting up a knee to drive the belt into Mysterio's face. Lee counts the pin to give Williams the title at 9:40.

Rating: C+. This was one of those matches with all kinds of things going on, which will likely set up a rematch. What matters is giving Williams the big push as he has seemed to be ready for the chance. It's an interesting way to go and now we get to see what he can do with the chance. Good for them for trying something with someone new, though I'm surprised that Mysterio lost here instead of on Raw.

We look at the dinner to set up the four way Tag Team Title match.

Joe Gacy tells Ava that the Schism is done and now he has to find his own way.

Tag Team Titles: Tony D'Angelo/Stacks vs. Bronco Nima/Lucien Price vs. Creed Brothers vs. Humberto Carrillo/Angel Garza

D'Angelo and Stacks are defending and it's one fall to a finish. Scripts is here with Nima and Price, who come to the ring on a bicycle and tricycle. The champs have a bunch of the family here for the entrance and we're ready to go. They waste no time in going to the big brawl and commentary is already feeling sorry for the referee. Brutus hits the big dive to the floor to take some people out, only to get chopped back inside.

D'Angelo comes in and gets chopped by Garza and Carrillo but we pause as D'Angelo's knee gives out. It's off to Stacks for a running uppercut as D'Angelo is taken out. Stacks gets dropped by a high/low and a Gory Bomb/slingshot flipping cutter combination gives Carrillo two. Price comes in for a chinlock but Stacks fights up and gets over to Brutus for the tag. Brutus cleans house and ankle locks Garza as Julius suplexes everyone in sight.

Carrillo makes the save and we get the big staredown as D'Angelo comes back to the ring. The Creeds and the champs take the other four up top for a quadruple superplex and everyone is down again. Nima and Price are back up to clean house again and a power up powerslam gets two on D'Angelo. Garza and Carrillo are back in with some dropkicks but Brutus sends them to the floor for the springboard Brutus Ball. That leaves Price to get caught in Bada Boom Bada Bing to retain the titles at 12:05.

Rating: B-. This was fun as they had everyone get in there and go nuts at various times, with D'Angelo coming back in for the big moment later on making a cool moment. You also had the Creeds getting to show just how awesome they can be and it was

all over the place for about twelve minutes. It was a bit messy for the most part, but that's exactly how it should have gone.

We see the vignette from NXT of someone watching the Cincinnati Bengals and WCW, but he also watches various second generation wrestlers.

Carmelo Hayes is VERY proud of Trick Williams.

We recap Butch winning the Global Heritage Invitational to earn a Heritage Cup shot.

Heritage Cup: Butch vs. Noam Dar

Butch, with Tyler Bate, is challenging and Meta Four is here with Dar. Round one begins with the two of them going to the mat but neither can get much of an advantage. Back up and Dar doesn't seem overly confident, with Butch pulling him down by the arm to make it worse. Butch cranks on the fingers and arm until the round ends, but Dar gets in a cheap shot after the bell.

Round two begins with Dar going after the arm and firing off a kick to the chest. Butch isn't having that and scores with his own kicks in the corner. Another shot to the arm cuts Dar down again and Butch hits the ten forearms to the chest. The Meta Four offer a distraction though, allowing Oro Mensah to get in a cheap shot. Dar steals the pin and the fall at 2:30 of the round and 6:30 overall.

Round three begins with Dar hammering away but Butch backflips out of a German suplex attempt. Dar rolls to the floor so Butch moonsaults down onto him for the big crash. Back in and Dar kicks another moonsault out of the air but the Nova Roller misses. Butch hits the Bitter End for the pin to tie it up at 1:58 of the round and 9:10 overall.

Round four opens with Butch going after the arm and grabbing

the cross armbreaker. That's reversed into a triangle choke but Butch stacks it up for two and the break. Dar gets in another shot of his own, only to get pulled into Butch's triangle choke. The clock runs out though and Dar survives without tapping.

Round five begins with both of them banged up but Butch unloads with chops to take over. The Bitter End is broken up and Dar hits him in the face for two. Butch catches him up top with a superplex and another near fall. Dar heads to the apron and grabs a brainbuster for a heck of a near fall and the fans get back into it. Butch snaps the finger as the round ends.

Round six (the final round) begins with Butch striking away but Mensah offers a distraction. The Nova Roller gives Dar two as Bate goes after the Meta Four. Butch hits a Tyler Driver 97 for two of his own but Dar pulls him into the kneebar. That's reversed into the Bitter End for another near fall so the cross armbreaker goes on. Cue Gallus to go after Bate, allowing Joe Coffey to come in and hit Butch with All The Best For The Belles. Dar retains at 2:34 of the round and 18:51 overall.

Rating: B-. The action was good but egads we just spent a month on a tournament to find Dar, who has been champion for the better part of ever, a new challenger and never mind, as Dar retains anyway. He's good at what he does but it's ok to let him drop the title for a bit. The action was high quality as you would expect, but it's really hard to stay interested in Dar's title reign continuing.

We recap Ilja Dragunov vs. Carmelo Hayes for the NXT Title. Hayes retained over Dragunov at the Great American Bash but Trick Williams used a chair. Now Hayes needs to know he can win on his own.

NXT Title: Ilja Dragunov vs. Carmelo Hayes

Hayes is defending and has a special entrance with banners

falling, featuring the name of everyone he's beaten to retain the title. After the Big Match Intros, Dragunov sends him into the corner and strikes away to take over fast. Hayes gets in a few shots of his own but the springboard elbow misses. Instead Dragunov scores with the 61Line for the knockdown, setting up a backslash for two.

Dragunov grabs a front facelock to keep Hayes in trouble, with a knee to the head knocking him silly again. The strike off goes to Dragunov but Hayes sends him into the corner and unloads with chops. Hayes knocks him down again but can't follow up, meaning it's time for a breather. Back up and they trade more strikes until Hayes nails a step up enziguri to drop Dragunov again.

A springboard bulldog (originally a DDT but Hayes changed it in mid-air after realizing it wasn't going to work for a nice save) gives Hayes two but Dragunov is back up with some rolling German suplexes. The Constantine Special misses for Dragunov and Hayes grabs a spinning faceplant for two. Hayes unloads with stomps to the head until Dragunov slips out and hits a running knee.

Dragunov scores with a powerbomb and loads up Coast To Coast. Hayes tries to Codebreaker him out of the air but leaves it a bit short, allowing Dragunov to Death Valley Driver him into the corner. Now the Coast To Coast can connect for two and an H Bomb gets two more.

The middle rope H Bomb gives Dragunov another near fall and he's stunned off the kickout. Torpedo Moscow cut off with a superkick to give Hayes a breather and they head to the apron. Hayes cutters him to the floor for the big crash and they head back inside, where Dragunov knocks him out of the air. A super H Bomb gives Dragunov the pin and the title at 21:07.

Rating: A-. This one pretty much blew their first match away and was two guys beating the fire out of each other. Dragunov

is the more rugged brawler who dominated Hayes to start but Hayes eventually got into it with the speed and athleticism. It was a heck of a match, probably Hayes' best ever, but it was time for Dragunov to get the big win.

Respect is shown post match.

Video on the Women's Breakout Tournament.

We recap Tiffany Stratton challenging Becky Lynch for the Women's Title. Lynch took the title from her but Stratton kept attacking the new champ. As a result, it's Extreme Rules for the title.

Women's Title: Becky Lynch vs. Tiffany Stratton

Lynch is defending and this is Extreme Rules. We get a look back at Lynch's NXT career before she comes out with a shopping cart of weapons. They fight into the crowd (featuring a heck of a No Mercy sign modeled after the N64 game with modern stars) with Lynch getting the better of things until a forearm to the face slows her down. Lynch hits her with some kind of a necklace (from a fan) and Stratton is knocked back down the steps.

They get back to ringside where Stratton kendo sticks her down to take over. A basement dropkick gets two for Stratton so she grabs the toolbox. Stratton whips out a rather large wrench before switching to a hammer. Both of them miss a big swing and the hammer falls out to the floor. Stratton grabs a sidewalk slam for two but Lynch sends her into the corner. The Bexploder lets Lynch go up top for a missile dropkick and Stratton rolls outside. That's fine with Lynch, who puts her in the shopping cart for a ram into the steps.

Back in and Lynch pours out a bunch of Barbies, with Stratton being dropped onto them for two. Stratton is back up with one heck of a trashcan lid shot to the head, followed by a non-lid shot to the ribs. A spinebuster onto the trashcan gives

Stratton two but she takes a long time throwing in a bunch of chairs. Lynch fights back but gets powerbombed onto the steps. That doesn't seem to matter very much as Lynch fights up and grabs a table, only to get knocked down again.

Stratton manages to lose Lynch as she sets up the table though, allowing Lynch to spray her with a fire extinguisher. Lynch whips out a barbed wire baseball bat but drops it before she can, uh, kill her. Stratton manages a hurricanrana and a double handspring elbow sends Lynch through the barricade.

With Lynch on the table, Stratton hits a Swanton to...actually not break the table in a nasty looking landing. Another Swanton connects for two back inside so Lynch rolls outside, only to miss a moonsault. The Manhandle Slam on the floor plants Stratton for two and Lynch is rather shocked. Stratton Regal rolls her onto the chairs but misses the Prettiest Moonsault Ever. The Manhandle Slam onto the chairs retains Lynch's title at 20:20.

Rating: A-. Well that was awesome, as they beat the absolute fire out of each other. Stratton is so far beyond what she should be able to do at this level of experience and it's not like losing to Lynch is some career killer. Lynch might not be what she was before but she can still more than bring it on the big stage. Great match here and one of Lynch's best in a long time.

Lynch knows she was in a war.

Carmelo Hayes apologizes to Trick Williams for not getting to be double champs. Williams hugs him to end the show.

Overall Rating: B+. Those last two matches more than carried the show and made it more than worth a look. The opener was good too and the rest of the matches were good enough. This felt like it was following the old Takeover formula and while it wasn't quite up to that level, the two main events were both great and this was a heck of a show. NXT has absolutely

found itself and if they can keep that going, Halloween Havoc and Deadline should both be rather awesome.

Results

Blair Davenport b. Kelani Jordan – Falcon Arrow

Baron Corbin b. Bron Breaker – End Of Days

Trick Williams b. Dominik Mysterio – Jumping knee into the title belt to the face

Tony D'Angelo/Stacks b. Bronco Nima/Lucien Price, Creed Brothers and Humberto Carrillo/Angel Garza – Bada Boom Bada Bing to Price

Noam Dar b. Butch 2-1

Ilja Dragunov b. Carmelo Hayes – Super H Bomb

Becky Lynch b. Tiffany Stratton – Manhandle Slam onto a pile of chairs

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NXT LVL Up – September 22, 2023: Please Keep Going

NXT LVL Up

Date: September 22, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

On a show that rarely feels important, it makes sense that we get the only meaningless match of the Global Heritage Invitational. The winners have already been established and now we get the final match between two people who have already been eliminated. At least we also have Tatum Paxley turning on Dani Palmer last week as a possible continuing story around here. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Ivy Nile vs. Izzi Dame

Nile takes her down with a headlock to start and then does it again for a bonus. Back up and a running crossbody takes Dame down again, setting up a third headlock. Dame finally fights to her feet and sends her into the corner, meaning it's time for the stomping. Nile's leg is rammed into the mat and Dame cranks away on the leg. A sunset flip gives Nile one but she misses an enziguri. The bad knee is slammed into the apron but Nile calmly flips into the Diamond Chain Lock for the tap at 5:22.

Rating: C+. This match actually had something of a story and it worked out well enough with Dame working on the knee. That being said, Nile is just a more complete star at this point and was able to take whatever Dame threw at her and slip into the hold for the win. I could still go for more of Nile,

but that just isn't happening at the moment.

Luca Crusifino is ready for Ikemen Jiro and that illegal jacket of his. This turns into a battle of objections between Luca and Kelly Kincaid.

Luca Crusifino vs. Ikemen Jiro

Crusifino shoves him down a few times so Jiro nips up a few times. That just annoys Crusifino, who hammers away against the ropes and hits a neckbreaker for two. Jiro slips out of a necklock and fires off the jacket punches. The springboard moonsault gives Jiro two but Crusifino pulls off the jacket. Back up and Crusifino throws the jacket in Jiro's face and rolls him up for the pin (with trunks) at 2:59. The fact that Jiro was released the day this show aired might have given you a clue about the result here.

Global Heritage Invitational Group A: Axiom vs. Charlie Dempsey

Feeling out process to start with Axiom taking him down with an armbar. Dempsey is up with a headlock but Axiom drops him again without much trouble. Fans: "THANK YOU REGAL"! Dempsey swings him into a backbreaker to take over and strikes away at the back to keep Axiom down.

The abdominal stretch has Axiom in more trouble but he reverses into an Octopus hold of all things. A dropkick sends Dempsey outside and Axiom hits a dive. Back in a high crossbody is countered into a tabletop suplex to give Dempsey two. A wheelbarrow suplex gives Dempsey two more and we hit the chinlock. That's broken up rather quickly so Dempsey goes up, only to get pulled back down. The Golden Ratio finishes Dempsey at 7:55.

Rating: B-. Again, why do we not get this kind of a match on a more regular basis around here? There's nothing wrong with letting two talented guys get in there and tear a few rooms of

the house. It's not like the two of them are doing anything different so let them go out there and have a fun match.

They don't even show the final standings but here they are for you Global Heritage Invitational enthusiasts:

Group A Standings

Butch – 2-0-1, 5 points, 0 matches remaining

Tyler Bate – 2-1-0, 4 points, 0 matches remaining

Axiom – 1-1-1, 3 point, 0 matches remaining

Charlie Dempsey – 0-3-0, 0 points, 0 matches remaining

Overall Rating: C+. This was a slightly quicker show and hopefully it isn't the end of having a match that matters around here. The last few weeks have been that much better as a result of those slightly higher stakes and I could go for seeing it more often. The main event was good enough too, making this a perfectly nice show.

Results

Ivy Nile b. Izzi Dame – Diamond Chain Lock

Luca Crusifino b. Ikemen Jiro – Rollup with trunks

Axiom b. Charlie Dempsey – Golden Ratio

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NXT – September 26, 2023: I Want To See No Mercy

NXT

Date: September 26, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Booker T.

It's a big night as this is the go home show for this weekend's No Mercy event. That means we need a new #1 contender to the Heritage Cup, with Butch and Joe Coffey facing off for the title shot. Other than that, we'll get the final push towards everything on Saturday, which should be good. Let's get to it.

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

Global Heritage Invitational Finals: Butch vs. Joe Coffey

The winner gets a Heritage Cup Title shot at Noam Dar (watching from a box with the Meta Four) and the rest of Gallus is here with Coffey. Butch takes him to the mat with a headlock to start before starting in on the arm. The stomp to the arm sets up a Fujiwara armbar but a Wolfgang distraction lets Coffey fight back. Butch flips out of a belly to back suplex and Gallus is ejected as we take a break.

Back with Butch working on the arm but Coffey knocks him down again. A German suplex drops Butch again but he's back with an enziguri. Coffey stays up for a discus lariat to leave them both down. Coffey's running headbutt sends Butch into the corner and All The Best For The Bells gets two. Butch is sent outside where he avoids a charge, sending Coffey into the steps. Back in and the Bitter End finishes for Butch at 12:41.

Rating: B. Butch is the better choice here as Coffey vs. Dar isn't exactly a marquee matchup. There is always the chance of Butch winning the title and having him lose after winning this big, elaborate tournament would be a letdown. It's still fun to watch Butch pick someone apart too and that is exactly what we got here in a good enough tournament final.

Dominik Mysterio, with a black eye, isn't happy with having to defend against the winner of tonight's triple threat on Saturday. First Adam Pearce is after him and now it's Shawn Michaels.

Tony D'Angelo and Stacks are at their dinner and waiting on other tag teams to show up for their dinner. Los Lotharios are here first and get checked for weapons before they get to sit down. Angel Garza isn't sure about the foot but they're here for the titles anyway. Other teams are on the way.

Trick Williams vs. Joe Gacy

Ava is here with Gacy. Williams shoulders him down to start and scores with a dropkick. Gacy gets in a shot of his own and unloads with forearms on the mat. The chinlock goes on but Williams is right back up. A leg lariat puts Gacy down but he slips out of a slam and hits a corner elbow. The Upside Down is broken up though and Williams hits a running knee for the clean pin at 2:27. That's an upset, especially at that speed.

Post match Williams says he's behind Carmelo Hayes, but Hayes already has his title. Now Williams wants his own.

Blair Davenport doesn't like Gigi Dolin jumping her from behind. She's coming for her.

Chase U is worried about Thea Hail when they run into Jacy Jayne. They ask about Thea, who pops in with her new outfit. She's happy with the new her but Chase U isn't impressed. Jayne promises more.

Josh Briggs vs. Baron Corbin

Brooks Jensen and Fallon Henley are here too. They brawl to the floor to start with Briggs getting the better of things. Back in and Corbin hits a big boot to take over and hammers away. Briggs gets in a few shots but runs into End Of Days for the pin at 2:58.

Post match Corbin calls out Bron Breaker for No Mercy. Cue Breaker and the brawl is on with security breaking it up.

Trick Williams goes into Shawn Michaels' office.

Long video on Becky Lynch vs. Tiffany Stratton, with Stratton saying she's already sick of Lynch.

Lucien Price/Bronco Nima vs. Tank Ledger/Hank Walker

Ledger takes Nima into the corner to start and Ledger adds some running shots of his own. A slingshot splash gets two on Nima but he comes back with a heck of hook kick to the head. Price comes in for a running crotch attack on the rope but Ledger gets the tag and cleans house. Everything breaks down and the assisted Alabama Slam finishes Ledger at 2:48.

Blair Davenport jumps Gigi Dolin in her locker room.

Back to the dinner and Los Lotharios want the Tag Team Titles. The Creed Brothers come in and Brutus is already hungry. The Creeds make Mafia and Godfather references but some more people are coming.

Tyler Bate and Axiom are friends but they're willing to fight for a title shot tonight. Trick Williams comes in to say the triple threat is now a four way. They're cool with that.

Eddy Thorpe vs. Dijak

Strap match. They're tied together and Dijak goes straight to the floor, with Thorpe diving onto him for the big crash. A

middle rope dropkick takes Dijak down again but he knocks Thorpe into the corner to start the beating. Thorpe is sent outside for a crash and we take an early break.

Back with Thorpe slugging his way out of trouble and hitting a Cactus Clothesline. Dijak is fine enough to hit a chokeslam onto the apron and whips Thorpe into the barricade, where his family is watching. As his family is scared of what they're seeing, Thorpe fights up and strikes away with the strap back inside, setting up a top rope elbow for the pin at 10:03.

Rating: C. As a normal match this was pretty good but as a strap match, it was nothing. Other than a few whippings, the strap meant nothing here and could have been completely dropped without missing much. Thorpe winning is a good moment for him and it should end their feud. Dijak continues to lose big matches, but at least he's getting the chance.

Post match Dijak jumps Thorpe again as I guess this isn't over. Thorpe is tied in the Tree of Woe for a whipping.

Blair Davenport interrupts an update on Gigi Dolin and warns Dolin to think twice about messing with her.

Dani Palmer vs. Thea Hail

Hail is basically dressed like Jacy Jayne (who is here as well), so Booker T. talks about Hannah Montana. Hail takes her down for a splash to the arm and the wristlock goes on. The Fujiwara armbar goes on but Palmer reverses into a rollup for two. Palmer drops her and goes up, only to miss the corkscrew moonsault. Hail grabs the Kimura for the tap at 2:10 to continue a string of short matches tonight.

Trick Williams comes up to Carmelo Hayes, who keeps texting while Williams talks about what he's done tonight.

Barn Corbin and Bron Breaker get in another fight in the back.

Dragon Lee vs. Axiom vs. Trick Williams vs. Tyler Bate

For a North American Title shot at No Mercy. Williams gets knocked to the floor to start and Bate hits a big dive to take him out again. That leaves Lee to charge into Axiom's elbow to the face, followed by a dropkick for a bonus. Axiom goes after the pile on the floor and Lee dives onto everyone. Back in and we get a three way submission, with only Axiom not in danger. Bate figures that out and breaks it up, leaving everyone free. Williams starts cleaning house (the fans approve), including a double flapjack to Bate and Axiom.

We take a break and come back with Axiom taking Bate down for two but Lee makes the save. Lee hits some corner dropkicks and a sitout powerbomb gets two on Bate. Williams clears out Axiom and hits a double Rock Bottom for two each on Bate and Lee. Bate is back up and airplane spins Lee and giant swings Axiom at the same time (of course he can) but Williams is back in and everyone is knocked down for a breather.

Lee knocks Axiom down again with a superkick and goes up top but Axiom catches him on top with a super Spanish Fly. The fans are VERY impressed but Williams comes back in. Lee headbutts Williams...and falls to the floor, leaving Williams to fall on Axiom for the pin at 10:42.

Rating: B. At some point you have to pull the trigger on someone new and that is what they did here with Williams. It makes things that much more interesting and I could go for seeing what he does against Mysterio. Williams has come a long, long way but at some point Lee and Axiom need to win something of their own. They're both too good and getting such strong reactions that they almost have to try something with them. For now though, I'll take Williams going to No Mercy.

Bronco Nima and Lucien Price, with Scrypts, arrive at the dinner and the champs make fun of Scrypts. Insults ensue and the four way title match is made.

Dominik Mysterio is ready for Trick Williams when Dragon Lee jumps him.

Carmelo Hayes is on his way to the ring when Trick Williams pops up. Hayes is proud of him and they're both ready to win at No Mercy.

An unseen man is watching television, including the Cincinnati Bengals and WCW. Gee I wonder who that could be.

No Mercy rundown.

Here are Ilja Dragunov and Carmelo Hayes for the contract signing, with Dragunov almost hyperventilating over the sight for the belt. Hayes says there's nothing left to say to each other so let's just sign the deal. Dragunov talks about how Hayes is always in the wrong place at the wrong time, with Hayes saying it's just like Dragunov at the Great American Bash.

Dragunov says Hayes took his best shot at the Bash and missed, which is why he needed the chair. Hayes talks about how being the champion isn't about enduring pain but rather being undeniable and Him. He says that he's different than everyone Dragunov has faced, like Wes Lee, Oro Mensah or...Trick Williams.

Dragunov knows Hayes just slipped up and signs the contract before saying Hayes can't do anything at No Mercy. If Hayes wants to push him to new limits, Hayes will find something he won't forget for the rest of his life. Hayes signs as well and says the title is bigger than the two of them. He's a beacon of hope for people who look like him. Dragunov can be champion, but he can't do it better than Hayes.

One more thing: Dragon Lee will be guest referee for Dominik Mysterio vs. Trick Williams at No Mercy.

Baron Corbin and Bron Breaker are still fighting in the

parking lot. A car is opened and Breakker's spear hits the open door, allowing Corbin to unload on him. Breakker shrugs off a low blow and grabs a choke as the fight heads inside. They crash through the wall of Shawn Michaels' office and security finally breaks it up to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. This show had one major job and that was to get me interested in No Mercy. With the show over, I'm a lot more interested in Saturday's show than I was coming in and that makes this a big success. There were enough good matches here (along with some short ones) to get me interested and now if they can do well with a pretty stacked card, we should be in for a heck of a Saturday. Pretty awesome go home show here and I'm more into a show I didn't care much about coming in.

Results

Butch b. Joe Coffey – Bitter End

Trick Williams b. Joe Gacy – Jumping knee

Baron Corbin b. Josh Briggs – End Of Days

Lucien Price/Bronco Nima b. Tank Ledger/Hank Walker – Assisted Alabama Slam to Ledger

Eddy Thorpe b. Dijak – Top rope elbow

Thea Hail b. Dani Palmer – Fujiwara armbar

Trick Williams b. Dragon Lee, Axiom and Tyler Bate – Williams fell on Axiom

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NXT – September 19, 2023: I Love It When They Do It This Way

NXT

Date: September 19, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Booker T.

The big story around here is Becky Lynch winning the Women's Title over Tiffany Stratton last week. Lynch has already taken the title to Raw and it is feeling like a big deal because of the star power she brings to it. Other than that, we have about a week and a half before No Mercy and it's time to build things up. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of Becky Lynch winning the NXT Women's Title last week.

Here is Lynch to get things going. She is glad to be here and is ready to face everyone in that women's locker room, sending her into a list of most of the locker room, rhyming her way through the whole thing. As for Tiffany Stratton, Tiffy Time is over! The fans chant BECKY TIME (Becky approves) but here is Stratton to interrupt. The rematch is going to happen and she wants it at No Mercy on September 30.

Lynch is cool with that, but the result is going to be the same. Becky has seen people with rockets strapped to her back before but this NXT has the same feel as when she was there in the first place. After ten years, Becky still wants it more than Stratton does. Lynch thinks Stratton wants to go word for word with the Man, but how about the go punch for punch instead. The fight is on with Kiana James running in for the save. Stratton grabs a chair, which Becky takes away and clears the ring.

Tony D'Angelo and Stacks are looking over potential opponents but opt to eat instead.

Ilja Dragunov is ready for Carmelo Hayes for No Mercy and he'll be watching tonight. Becky Lynch comes in and is ready to face Tiffany Stratton and Kiana James 2-1 tonight.

The Meta Four are watching in their lounge and are doing a Matrix impression for some reason.

Dominik Mysterio comes up to Trick Williams and seems to try to put a wedge between Williams and Carmelo Hayes. Williams doesn't seem to fall for it.

Global Heritage Invitational Group A: Tyler Bate vs. Butch

Butch needs a pin or submission to advance while Bate advances on anything else. Butch works on the arm to start but Bate headscissors his way out of trouble. Bop and Bang is broken up with a shot to the face and Bate is rather serious. Bate hammers him into the corner and the referee has to back it up. A delayed superplex drops Butch again (with a close up camera shot being a rather nice touch) and we take a break.

Back with Butch knocking him down and firing off forearms on the mat. Bate flips away though and hits a running shooting star to the back for some unique offense. The Tyler Driver 97 is pulled into a triangle choke but Bate powers him up into a Death Valley Driver for two. Butch grabs the Tyler Driver 97

for two, followed by Bate's Bitter End for the same. We have less than a minute to go as Bate's Spiral Tap hits raised knees. The Bitter End gives Butch two so he loads it up again, only to piledrive Bate down for the pin instead at 11:48.

Rating: B. These two just work well together and seeing them in the same ring brings back some memories of their classics. This might not have been at that level but it was a rather good TV match and the ending took me by surprise as they were heavily teasing the draw. Heck of a match here and it's nice to see Butch having some success.

Group A Standings

Butch – 2-0-1, 5 points, 0 matches remaining

Tyler Bate – 2-1-0, 4 points, 0 matches remaining

Axiom – 0-1-1, 1 point, 1 match remaining

Charlie Dempsey – 0-2-0, 0 points, 1 match remaining

Earlier this week, Jacy Jayne took Thea Hail shopping for some new clothes. A lot of leather is included and Jayne is impressed. We don't see the final outfit, which is revealed next week.

Global Heritage Invitational Group B: Duke Hudson vs. Joe Coffey

Hudson needs a win to for a three way tie with Coffey and Nathan Frazer while Coffey advances with a win or a draw. Andre Chase and the rest of Gallus are here too. They trade shoulders to start with Hudson getting the better of things, setting up a running hurricanrana. Coffey is back up and runs him over, setting up a missile dropkick. All The Best For The Bells is loaded up but Hudson rolls him up for the pin at 3:48.

Rating: C. The match didn't have time to go very far but the important thing here is we have a three way tie for the win. Odds are that sets up a triple threat at some point and we'll have someone facing Butch, as this is a rather complicated way

to set up a #1 contender for a specialty midcard title. For now though, I'll take Hudson getting a win, which doesn't happen often enough.

Group B Standings

Nathan Frazer – 2-1-0, 4 points, 0 matches remaining

Joe Coffey – 2-1-0, 4 points, 0 matches remaining

Duke Hudson – 2-1-0, 4 points, 0 matches remaining

Akira Tozawa – 0-3-0, 0 points, 0 matches remaining

Nathan Frazer is very happy with the result and can't wait for the triple threat match next week. Actually it's tonight, so he bolts off to get ready.

Mr. Stone has said that Von Wagner is "not good".

Roxanne Perez vs. Lola Vice

Elektra Lopez is here with Vice. They go to the mat to start but Perez chops her in the chest and runs the rope. That's broken up and Perez's arm comes down hard to give Vice a target. Vice pulls her into something like a Yes Lock without the crossface. Perez fights up and hits a running dropkick into the corner, followed by the raining of the forearms. Vice goes for the arm again but Perez stacks her up with a rollup for the pin at 4:13.

Rating: C+. This was better than I was expecting as Vice was working with the submission stuff and made Perez work here. Vice is way too new to be able to beat Perez but she got close enough here and it made for a nice surprise. Now give Vice a push in the Breakout Tournament and see where it goes.

Eddy Thorpe is mad at Dijak for hurting his sacred tree so we'll have a strap match.

Roxanne Perez, with the bad arm, comes in to see Becky Lynch and talks about not having people walk all over her anymore. Perez offers to be her partner in the main event but Lynch

turns her down because of the arm injury. That's cool with Perez.

Carmelo Hayes vs. Dominik Mysterio

Non-title. Ilja Dragunov is on commentary as Hayes sends Mysterio to the floor to start. Hayes blocks being sent into the steps and takes it back inside. The 619 is broken up as Hayes hits a superkick into a spinning faceplant. We take a break and come back with Hayes hitting a suplex cutter to put them both down. Mysterio fights back and puts Hayes down, only to miss the frog splash. They go outside where both are sent into Dragunov, though Mysterio slaps him to make it worse. Dragunov comes in and jumps them both for the double DQ at 8:32.

Rating: C+. They didn't have much time here, especially with almost half of it being spent in the break. What mattered here was getting Dragunov involved, as he and Hayes are getting a lot more personal in a hurry. The match could absolutely deliver, as Hayes and Mysterio did here fairly well.

Post match the brawl is on but Dominik pulls Hayes in the way of the Torpedo Moscow. Dragon Lee comes in to superkick Mysterio and holds up the North American Title.

Trick Williams isn't happy with what happened but here is Schism to talk to him about loneliness. Williams tells them to get out of here, but Joe Gacy asks why Carmelo Hayes doesn't think much of him.

Duke Hudson isn't sure he can win the triple threat but Andre Chase dubs him the Spoiler along with being the MVP in quite the pep talk.

There is a dice game going on outside for a very big stack of cash, with Bronco Nima and Lucien Price (thankfully with name plates) and Scrypts (unfortunately still here) cleaning up.

Hank Walker and Tank Ledger are ready to get into the Tag Team Title picture.

Global Heritage Invitational Group B: Nathan Frazer vs. Joe Coffey vs. Duke Hudson

No time limit. Frazer starts fast and Hudson is knocked down into the corner. Coffey jumps Frazer but gets knocked to the floor, leaving Hudson to faceplant Frazer for two. Frazer sends both of them to the floor for the big dive to take them out again. Back in and Hudson hits a release Rock Bottom out of the corner to plant Frazer but Coffey gives him one heck of a crotching against the post as we take a break.

We come back with Coffey knocking Hudson off the apron but getting rolled up by Frazer for two. Hudson grabs a rollup for two more on Coffey (it worked earlier), followed by the Boss Man Slam for the same. Frazer superkicks Hudson and hits a reverse DDT to Coffey/a regular DDT to Hudson. Coffey's diving headbutt to the chest is cut off by a superkick but Hudson sends Frazer flying with a release German suplex. Hudson boots Coffey down and sends him to the floor but Frazer runs Hudson over. The phoenix splash connects but Coffey breaks it up and hits All The Best For The Bells to finish Hudson at 12:20.

Rating: B-. They kept things moving here, though having Coffey lose in his first match and then come back to win the second more or less made it feel like filler and nothing more. Coffey vs. Butch should be an interesting match, though it feels like it should be for the title itself rather than a title shot a few days later. Frazer got in his flying and Hudson felt like he was hanging in there, but Coffey was presented as the monster throughout the tournament so having him advance isn't a big shock.

Butch comes in for the staredown.

Mustafa Ali is mad that Dragon Lee is getting a North American Title shot next week. Ali: "HOW DOES ANY OF THIS MAKE

SENSE???" He is going to mess things up on Raw.

Tiffany Stratton and Kiana James are ready to work together against Becky Lynch.

Josh Briggs and Brooks Jensen argue with Fallon Henley over Myles Borne's betrayal last week. Baron Corbin comes in to mock them so Briggs stands up to him. Oddly, no match is made.

Carmelo Hayes doesn't like Ilja Dragunov being so cocky. Next week, he'll so Dragunov where he stands.

Here's what's coming next week.

Becky Lynch vs. Tiffany Stratton/Kiana James

Stratton and James jump her from behind in the aisle but cue Lyra Valkyria for the save and we seem to have a new match.

Becky Lynch/Lyra Valkyria vs. Tiffany Stratton/Kiana James

We get the opening bell and Lynch rams James' head into the buckle over and over. Stratton comes in and gets taken down by Valkyria so Lynch can add a running legdrop. Lynch's running faceplant drops James for two and the villains are sent outside for a pair of dropkicks through the ropes as we take a break.

Back with James taking Lynch down and grabbing the chinlock. Stratton comes in but misses a handspring elbow, allowing Valkyria to get the tag and clean house. A bridging northern lights suplex gets two on James, with Stratton making the save. Everything breaks down and Lynch/Valkyria hit stereo middle rope legdrops as the villains hanging in the ropes.

Stratton breaks up Valkyria's springboard though and James adds a powerbomb. Stratton's Swanton gets two with Lynch making the save and hitting a springboard missile dropkick on James. The same double DDT that Nathan Frazer hit earlier takes James and Stratton down, leaving Valkyria to hit a top

rope splash for the pin on James at 11:20.

Rating: B. This took some time to get going but they got to a higher level in the end. Valkyria makes sense as the backup for Lynch as she has been put into some pretty high profile spots in recent weeks. Granted she needs to actually win something to help pay that off, but maybe that comes in the form of taking the title from Lynch.

Post match Stratton chairs Lynch down. Lynch makes their No Mercy match Extreme Rules to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. I've said it many times now but dang I love it when this show knocks out a bunch of stuff they need to cover in one show. That was on full display here, with stuff being made for No Mercy and stuff that was already made being re-enforced. This show knows how to use the time they have, though there were some moments that felt like they were just there to make the show go longer. The good was more than good enough though and it was another positive week on the way to Bakersfield.

Results

Butch b. Tyler Bate – Pumphandle driver

Duke Hudson b. Joe Coffey – Rollup

Roxanne Perez b. Lola Vice – Rollup

Carmelo Hayes vs. Dominik Mysterio went to a double disqualification when Ilja Dragunov interfered

Joe Coffey b. Nathan Frazer and Duke Hudson – All The Best For The Bells to Hudson

Becky Lynch/Lyra Valkyria b. Kiana James/Tiffany Stratton – Top rope splash to James

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NXT LVL Up – September 15, 2023: They're Doing Something Different!

NXT LVL Up

Date: September 15, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

The interesting weeks of this show (work with me here) continue as we have more from the Global Heritage Invitational. What matters here is that we have something going on that actually matters for a change and after that not being the case for most of this show's life, I'll take what I can get. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Jakara Jackson/Lash Legend vs. Dani Palmer/Tatum Paxley

The rest of Meta Four is here too. Legend powers Palmer up

against the ropes to start so Palmer grabs a waistlock into a sleeper. With that broken up, Legend sends her into the corner for a tag off to Jackson. That's fine with Palmer, who takes her down and brings in Paxley for a double standing moonsault. Jackson slaps the heck out of Paxley, who doesn't seem that annoyed.

A Meta Four distraction lets Jackson kick Paxley down though and she sits down on Paxley's ribs to put her in trouble. The double stomping is on in the corner and Jackson grabs the abdominal stretch. Paxley powers out and brings in Palmer to pick up the pace. Palmer misses a moonsault though and Legend runs her over with a clothesline. Back up and Palmer tries to get over for the tag to Paxley...who walks out. That leaves Paxley to get pump kicked into a wheelbarrow faceplant/cutter combination to give Jackson the pin at 5:56.

Rating: C. Well ok then. Not much of a match, but I'll take the idea of a story taking place around here. It does make sense too, as Paxley suddenly being all good doesn't really fit her history. If nothing else, Palmer has long since felt like someone WWE wants to use and this is better than just having one random match after another.

Tyriek Igwe and Tyson DuPont are ready to make an impression.

Tyriek Igwe/Tyson DuPont vs. Bronco Nima/Lucien Price

Scripts is here with Nima and Price. DuPont and Nima fight over the power control to start until Igwe comes in to work on the arm. With that broken up, it's Prince coming in and getting caught with a running knee to the face. Back up and Nima and Price take over on Igwe, with Nima hitting a running crotch attack to the back in the ropes. Nima misses a charge into the corner though and it's back to DuPont to pick up the pace. A splash hits raised knees though and it's a suplex swung into an Alabama Slam (that's not bad) to finish Igwe at 4:22.

Rating: C. I'm not sure what to say here. The match was physical and all four guys look good, but there's nothing here that makes them stand out. Nima and Price are the better team and they've already received more of a push, but there is only so much here that can be gained from "here's are two more power brawlers". Figure that out and either team could go somewhere down the line.

Global Heritage Invitational Group A: Tyler Bate vs. Charlie Dempsey

They fight over arm control to start with Dempsey taking him to the mat. Bate fights up and slips out, giving us an early standoff. They go back to the mat with Dempsey working a hammerlock into an armbar. That's reversed into a rollup and they go to the mat, with Bate managing a monkey flip.

They flip back up with Dempsey getting a bodyscissors and striking away on the mat. Bate powers out and hits a slam for two but Dempsey gets in a shot to the back. A bridging German suplex gives Dempsey two so Bate grabs an airplane spin into an AA for two of his own. They take turns trading running uppercuts before an exchange of rollups ends with Bate getting the pin at 7:13.

Rating: B-. This was different and that is the best thing you can say about a match a good deal of the time. They felt like they were going for a much more technical, if not full on British style match and it worked out well. Sometimes you need something completely different and that is what we got here, which made for a good main event.

Group A Standings

Tyler Bate (2-0-0, 4 points, 1 match remaining)

Butch (1-0-1, 3 points, 1 match remaining)

Axiom (0-1-1, 1 point, 1 match remaining)

Charlie Dempsey (0-2-0, 0 points, 1 match remaining)

Overall Rating: B-. The biggest thing this show had going for

it was it felt like there might be some hope for the future. Paxley turning on Palmer is about as low stakes as you can get, but what matters is that there might be some actual stakes. LVL Up has not really had that throughout its history but I'll take it in small doses like this. Nice show here, and for once I want to see what happens next.

Results

Jakara Jackson/Lash Legend b. Dani Palmer/Tatum Paxley – Wheelbarrow faceplant/cutter combination to Palmer

Bronco Nima/Lucien Price b. Tyriek Igwe/Tyson DuPont – Assisted Alabama Slam to Igwe

Tyler Bate b. Charlie Dempsey – Rollup

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NXT – September 12, 2023: She's Back

NXT

Date: September 12, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Booker T.

We are less than three weeks away from No Mercy and tonight we'll find out the show's main event. This week will see Ilja Dragunov vs. Wes Lee with the winner getting an NXT Title shot against Carmelo Hayes at the big show. Other than that, Becky Lynch is here to challenge Tiffany Stratton for the NXT Women's Title. Let's get to it.

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

Opening recap.

Wes Lee vs. Ilja Dragunov

The winner faces Carmelo Hayes for the NXT Title at No Mercy. Lee knocks him into the corner to start and strikes away before doing it in another corner for a bonus. Dragunov comes back with some forearms of his own as commentary runs down tonight's card. The enziguri misses for Dragunov and Lee dropkicks him in the back of the head.

One heck of a chop puts Lee down again but he flips out of a German suplex. Lee kicks him to the floor and hits the required dive but another is cut off. We take a break and come back with Lee getting two off a hurricanrana and kicking him in the head a few times. A Spanish Fly gives Lee two but a hard clothesline gives Dragunov the same.

Lee scores with the Cardiac Kick to send Dragunov outside but he's right back with a top rope superplex. The H Bomb gives Dragunov two more so he loads up the Torpedo Moscow. Lee cuts that off with a jumping knee but Dragunov blasts him with the forearm to the back of the head for the pin and the title shot at 13:26.

Rating: B. This was quite the fight with Dragunov hitting Lee

very hard but Lee hanging in there with his own fast paced offense. While Dragunov felt like the favorite, it wouldn't have been crazy to see Lee pick up the win, which gave the match that extra layer of drama. Dragunov vs. Hayes II should be a heck of a fight though and No Mercy is looking a lot better.

Post match Carmelo Hayes comes out for the showdown.

We look back at Bron Breaker crushing Von Wagner's head with the steps. Wagner moved away at the last second, but still got hit hard enough to suffer a minor skull fracture.

Here is a serious looking Baron Corbin for a chat. Corbin talks about how normally, people don't like him and he doesn't like them, but last week was different. Von Wagner has a history of skull issues and Bron Breaker took advantage of that. Breaker needs to come out here right now so here he is, though Corbin cuts him off at the entrance. The fans have to get in their chants about tables (because of course)...but Corbin thought last week was AWESOME! They celebrate a bit, but Breaker says he didn't do it to make Corbin happy. It was about ending Wagner's career and he absolutely loved it.

Corbin was out here to be nice and he was even going to pay Breaker's fine, but apparently Breaker doesn't get it. We hear about Corbin's career but Breaker cuts him off and challenges him to a fight at No Mercy. Breaker tells him to spend the next three weeks with his family, but Corbin slaps him in the face and the fight is on. I'm glad they didn't turn Corbin face (though they could have made it work there) but Breaker jumping straight to the match seemed like it needed another step.

Charlie Dempsey/Damon Kemp/Drew Gulak vs. Josh Briggs/Brooks Jensen/Myles Bore

Fallon Henley is here too. Briggs slams Kemp to start and Jensen adds an elbow, followed by the running corner

clotheslines. Gulak comes in and gets caught with a running neckbreaker as everything breaks down. Borne hits his own neckbreaker on Dempsey, followed by Jensen hitting a running spinwheel kick on Kemp. The fight heads outside with Borne posting Jensen so Kemp can hit a Rock Bottom into a neckbreaker for the pin at 2:40.

Borne celebrates with the winners and Henley is upset.

Andre Chase wants Duke Hudson to find Thea Hail but she's blocked him. We cut to Hail and Jacy Jayne backstage where two guys hit on them. They make fun of Hail for sounding a bit like a child so she beats them up. Hail is tired of looking like this so it's time to go shopping.

Lyra Valkyria vs. Dana Brooke

Kelani Jordan is here with Brooke. They trade some misses to start until Valkyria kicks her out to the floor. Brooke takes her down for two back inside and the cravate goes on. Valkyria drives her into the corner and starts kicking away before hitting the spinwheel kick. A top rope splash finishes Brooke at 3:34.

Rating: C-. Every week, I watch Brooke's matches and segments and try to find a way to be interested in anything she does. Every week, that gets harder and harder to do as Brooke continues to be that uninteresting. She's just someone who can have an acceptable match and happens to have been around for a long time. That doesn't warrant this much TV time but she's here doing the same thing week in and week out regardless.

Post match Brooke tries to lunge at Valkyria but Jordan holds her back.

The NXT Women's Breakout Tournament is coming.

Eddy Thorpe isn't done with Dijak, who pops up in the woods where Thorpe tends to go. Dijak whips a tree and Thorpe is out

to get him.

Dominik Mysterio runs into Carmelo Hayes and they brag about their titles. A match is set for next week.

Becky Lynch talks about her original time in NXT and no one thought she was championship material. Now she's back and ready to win the title. Kiana James comes in to says he doesn't want Lynch around here, which Becky takes as an application for a beating after she wins the title.

Global Heritage Invitational Group A: Tyler Bate vs. Axiom

They trade snapmares to start before Axiom takes him to the mat with a headlock. Back up and Bate elbows him out to the floor but they switch places, with Axiom hitting a moonsault. Bate powers him up into the airplane spin so Axiom rolls outside as we take a break. We come back with Axiom favoring his knee and charging into a suplex out of the corner.

They trade hard kicks as we see the Meta Four watching, with Noam Dar sitting on an elephant. Axiom cranks on the arm but gets caught in another airplane spin. This one is countered into a poisonrana for two, only to have Bate come back with a brainbuster for the same. Axiom Spanish Flies him into a rollup but Bate cuts him off with the rebound lariat. The Tyler Driver 97 finishes Axiom at 10:10.

Rating: B-. As tends to be the case with a lot of TV matches, the break in the middle killed a lot of the flow they had going. Axiom is one of those great hands that can wrestle with anyone while Bate always feels like he is one step away from being a breakout star. They had a good back and forth match here, but it could have been better with some more time.

Group A Standings

Butch (1-0-1, 3 points, 1 match remaining)

Tyler Bate (1-0-0, 2 points, 2 matches remaining)

Axiom (0-1-1, 1 point, 1 match remaining)

Charlie Dempsey (0-1-0, 0 points, 2 matches remaining)

Butch talks about his history with Tyler Bate, but next week, it's time for Butch to prove that he is the toughest man in NXT.

Schism, now seemingly just Joe Gacy and Ava, say their tree is dying.

Carmelo Hayes comes in to see Trick Williams, who offers to have Hayes' back next week against Dominik Mysterio. Hayes declines but they're absolutely still friends. As this is going on, Wes Lee clears out his locker behind them.

Creed Brothers vs. Malik Blade/Edris Enofe

Ivy Nile is here with the Creeds and Angel Garza/Humberto Carrillo come out to watch from the balcony. Brutus gets knocked to the floor to start and Enofe dropkicks Julius for a fast two. Back up and an assisted crossbody gets two on Enofe with Blade having to make a save. A Hart Attack Blockbuster gets two on Brutus and a Fameasser puts him down again. Brutus powers up though and brings Julius back in to clean house. Everything breaks down and the Brutus Ball/powerbomb combination finishes Blade at 3:37.

Rating: C+. It was a fast paced match, but the Creeds are showing how they are far above almost every other team around here. They're crisp, they work well together and Julius' house cleaning is as good as it gets in NXT. They feel like they're one big match away from the main roster, though the division getting some depth might keep them around a bit longer.

Post match Hank Walker and Tank Ledger come in to stare at the Creeds but Bronco Nima and Lucien Price come in to brawl with them in the aisle instead.

Becky Lynch is glad to see Lyra Valkyria, who wants her to win tonight.

Roxanne Perez talks about what the Women's Breakout tournament can mean but Elektra Lopez and Lola Vice come in to talk trash to her. My goodness learn how women talk already.

No Mercy rundown.

Global Heritage Invitational Group B: Nathan Frazer vs. Akira Tozawa

Frazer grabs a headlock to start before sending Tozawa into the ropes. Tozawa is right back with a snap German suplex into a missile dropkick. With Frazer on the floor, Tozawa hits a dive but takes too long going up, allowing Frazer to run the ropes for a superplex. That's floated into a suplex neckbreaker for the pin at 2:31. Well that was brisk.

Group B Standings

Joe Coffey (2-0-0, 4 points, 1 match remaining)

Nathan Frazer (2-1-0, 4 points, 0 matches remaining)

Duke Hudson (1-1-0, 2 points, 1 match remaining)

Akira Tozawa (0-3-0, 0 points, 0 matches remaining)

Joe Coffey is ready to beat Duke Hudson next week and win the group. Hudson comes in to point out that if he wins, it's a three way tie and he'll be able to call himself the Spoiler.

Mustafa Ali is happy with becoming #1 contender to the North American Title and doesn't care about a fast count. Dragon Lee comes in and isn't happy, but Ali says Lee will get the first title shot when he wins the title. Lee doesn't seem happy.

Wes Lee says he's done and leaves.

Gigi Dolin jumps jumps Blair Davenport but security breaks it up.

Here's what's coming next week.

NXT Women's Title: Becky Lynch vs. Tiffany Stratton

Lynch is challenging and we get the Big Match Intros. Stratton drives her into the corner to start and cartwheels into a standoff. Lynch flips around a bit as well but it's too early for the Disarm-Her. They trade forearms until Stratton knocks her to the apron for a hip attack. We take a break and come back with Lynch hitting a running elbow in the corner. A missile dropkick gives Lynch two but Stratton hits a Sky High for the same.

Lynch catches her up top but a superplex is broken up. A Swanton gives Stratton two and a double stomp gets the same as frustration is setting in. Lynch is back up and counters the Prettiest Moonsault Ever into a super Russian legsweep for two. They head outside with Lynch having to climb onto the barricade to avoid a powerbomb. Back in and Lynch hits a legdrop into the Disarm-Her, sending Stratton to the ropes. The sitout powerbomb gives Stratton two but the Prettiest Moonsault Ever misses. Lynch is right back up with the Manhandle Slam for the pin and the title at 13:20.

Rating: B+. This was a heck of a match and the good sign is that Stratton looked more than comfortable in there against a top star like Lynch. They've got something with Stratton and it seems that they know it, which makes her all the more valuable. At the same time, Lynch isn't likely to be a long term champion and someone can take the title from her for a big rub. Great main event here and they more than lived up to the expectations.

Lynch celebrates to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. As usual, NXT is at its best when it lays out a bunch of things it needs to do and then accomplishes them, all while setting up something for the future. That was the case here, with both next week as well as No Mercy being set up. At the same time, they had a good opener and a better main event, making it a strong wrestling show as well. Very solid effort this week and No Mercy is looking that much

better rather quickly.

Results

Ilja Dragunov b. Wes Lee – Forearm to the back of the head

Damon Kemp/Drew Gulak/Charlie Dempsey b. Josh Briggs/Brooks

Jensen/Myles Borne – Rock Bottom neckbreaker to Jensen

Lyra Valkyria b. Dana Brooke – Top rope splash

Tyler Bate b. Axiom – Tyler Driver 97

Creed Brothers b. Malik Blade/Edris Enofe – Brutus

Ball/powerbomb combination to Blade

Nathan Frazer b. Akira Tozawa – Suplex neckbreaker

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NXT LVL Up – September 8, 2023: It Still Works

NXT LVL Up

Date: September 8, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

The Global Heritage Invitational did some wonders for this show last week and it would be great to have that happen again this time around. Above all else, it makes the show feel like it matters a little bit more and that is very welcome after months of nothing. It isn't likely to last but I'll take it while I can. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Ikemen Jiro vs. Tavion Heights

Heights gives him a heck of a shove into the ropes but Jiro flips up a few times and strikes a pose. A faceplant and crossbody put Heights down and we're already off to the chinlock. Back up and Heights plows through him but Jiro fires off the jacket punches. A powerslam gives Heights two and we hit the chinlock (with roles reversed from earlier). Jiro fights up and flips out of a suplex attempt, setting up a slingshot headscissors for two. Heights avoids a Swanton though and a spinning belly to belly finishes Jiro at 5:50.

Rating: C+. Jiro continues to be the smooth hand out there who can work with anyone and that is what he got here. Heights hasn't done much on his own and this is probably the biggest singles win of his career. He has a long way to go, but working with reliable hands on a more regular basis is the best way for him to get better.

Heights looking very excited over his win is a nice touch.

Karmen Petrovic knows she has lost before but she's used to being a winner. She's starting on the path to success because she is bred for combat.

Karmen Petrovic vs. Fallon Henley

Petrovic strikes a we'll say karate pose to start so Henley headlocks her down. That's reversed into a headscissors, which is reversed right back into a headlock. Back up and Henley runs her over with a shoulder before nailing a right hand. Petrovic sends her to the apron and scores with a spinning kick to the face, followed by a straight kick to the ribs. The abdominal stretch doesn't last long so Petrovic switches to a seated armbar. Make that a bodyscissors, but Henley fights up and hits a running elbow in the corner. A running faceplant sets up a Shining Wizard to finish Petrovic at 5:12.

Rating: C. Petrovic still hasn't been around much, but between this match and the promo beforehand, I'm at least starting to get a feel for what she's about. She has a long way to go of course but that's kind of the point of his show. Henley is pretty well established as the brawling country girl and that works well for her, though it would be better if she had anything important to do.

Josh Briggs and Brooks Jensen come out to celebrate with Henley.

Global Heritage Invitational Group B: Joe Coffey vs. Akira Tozawa

The rest of Gallus is here with Coffey. Tozawa bounces away from him to start before grabbing a wristlock. That's reversed into Coffey's headlock but he charges into a boot in the corner. A middle rope hurricanrana works a bit better for Tozawa but Coffey catches him in a wheelbarrow faceplant.

Coffey backbreakers him for two and we hit a seated full nelson. That's reversed into a rollup for two and Tozawa snaps off a backdrop. Tozawa's Shining Wizard sends Coffey outside and a suicide dive makes it worse. Back in and a missile dropkick gets two on Coffey, followed by a German suplex for the same. Coffey catches him on top though and All The Best For The Bells finishes Tozawa at 6:43.

Rating: C+. As has been the case for the better part of ever, power vs. speed worked well here, with Tozawa trying as hard as he could but not being able to overcome Coffey's size and force. Coffey is the current favorite to win the division and he looked pretty solid in his win here. As usual, Tozawa looked fine in defeat, which he has quite a bit of practice at doing.

Group B Standings

Joe Coffey – (2-0-0, 4 points, 1 match remaining)

Nathan Frazer – (1-1-0, 2 points, 1 match remaining)

Duke Hudson – (1-1-0, 2 points, 1 match remaining)

Akira Tozawa – (0-2-0, 0 points, 1 match remaining)

Overall Rating: C+. Much like last week, having something of importance on the show made all of the difference. LVL Up has never been an important show so having even a little something like this made it that much better. It won't last long beyond the tournament, but I'll take two good weeks over nothing.

Results

Tavion Heights b. Ikemen Jiro – Spinning belly to belly suplex

Fallon Henley b. Karmen Petrovic – Shining Wizard

Joe Coffey b. Akira Tozawa – All The Best For The Bells

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NXT LVL Up – September 1, 2023: Best In Months

NXT LVL Up

Date: September 1, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

Believe it or not, we actually have something important on this show! This week will see a match in the Global Heritage Invitational, as Duke Hudson will face Akira Tozawa. It isn't going to be the biggest match, but what matters is that it matters for a change, which hasn't been the case in a very long time. Let's get to it.

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

In Memory Of Terry Funk and Bray Wyatt.

Opening sequence.

Javier Bernal vs. Riley Osborne

Osborne is making his debut and works on the arm to start. Bernal reverses and does the same but Osborne runs up the corner for the armdrag escape. Another armbar has Bernal in trouble but he scores with a hiptoss into a sliding lariat. Bernal rolls through a high crossbody and drops a leg for two. A butterfly suplex gives Bernal two more and we hit the chinlock. With that broken up, Osborne comes back with a nice slingshot shoulder for his own near fall. Osborne dropkicks him to the floor for a running flip dive, followed by a shooting star press for the upset pin back inside at 6:16.

Rating: C+. Where the heck did that come from? Osborne is one

of the few newcomers to actually win their debut and that is nice to see. Bernal might not be a big star but he is someone who has been around long enough to have a bit of a reputation. Osborne looked good in his debut and while he needs some polish, this is a heck of a way to start for his career and that is great to see.

Stevie Turner has been watching and now she's ready to beat Valentina Feroz in her return.

Valentina Feroz vs. Stevie Turner

Yulisa Leon is here with Feroz. They go with the grappling to start and Turner cranks on a hammerlock. Feroz flips her way to freedom and works on a hammerlock of her own but gets sent face first into the turnbuckle. An armbar doesn't last long so Turner scores with a neckbreaker for two instead. Feroz fights back and sends her into the corner for the running knees but another charge only hits buckle. Turner hits some running knees to the back (Feroz holding the ropes and leaning backwards helped) for the pin at 4:16.

Rating: C. That was certainly a Stevie Turner match as she seems like someone who should be interesting yet she just isn't for whatever reason. The knees in the corner felt like an impromptu way to finish the match and that's a nice thing to see, but Turner has never quite lived up to what should be a cool character. Granted there is only so much you can get out of a one off four minute match, but this was only so good.

Global Heritage Invitational Group B: Akira Tozawa vs. Duke Hudson

Andre Chase is here with Hudson. Tozawa tries a leg dive to start but gets pulled into a headlock instead. That's broken up for a standoff, allowing Tozawa to get some rollups for two each. Tozawa even pats Hudson on the head and that is a step too far. A top rope hurricanrana into a dropkick sends Hudson outside, where a dive is cut off.

Back in and a good German suplex gets two on Tozawa and we hit the chinlock. Tozawa fights up and hits a running knee for two but the kicks to the chest just wake Hudson up. The big boot looks to set up a Razor's Edge but Tozawa rolls through for two off a sunset flip. Tozawa's top rope backsplash hits knees though and the Razor's Edge finishes for Hudson at 6:56.

Rating: B-. I had fun here as Tozawa is someone who can work well with anyone but rarely gets the chance to show it. At the same time, Hudson is starting to figure out how to be a bigger guy and that made for a nice showdown. As usual, the star power helps here and even if Tozawa is a lower level Raw star, he still feels like something special around here.

Group B Standings

Joe Coffey – 1-0-0 (2 points, 2 matches remaining)

Duke Hudson – 1-0-0 (2 points, 2 matches remaining)

Nathan Frazer – 0-1-0 (0 points, 2 matches remaining)

Akira Tozawa – 0-1-0 (0 points, 2 matches remaining)

Overall Rating: B-. That's the best LVL Up in awhile and a lot of that is due to the main event and the opener. What mattered here is it felt like they were doing something different and that stood out a lot. LVL Up feels like a show with nothing happening most of the time and it was nice to see them mix it up like they did here. Not a great show, but for thirty one minutes and the minor league's minor league show, I had a good time.

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NXT – September 5, 2023: Something About The September 5, 2023 NXT

NXT

Date: September 5, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Booker T.

We are less than a month away from No Mercy and NXT Champion Carmelo Hayes is wanting to take care of some previous issues. That could make for some interesting situations as Hayes needs a new opponent. Other than that, we still have the Global Heritage Invitational to work on this week so let's get to it.

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

NXT Women's Title: Kiana James vs. Tiffany Stratton

Stratton is defending and they trade some flips into an exchange of wristlocks. They trade cheating rollups for one each until Stratton takes her into the corner and stomps away. James hits a clothesline for two and the double arm crank goes on. That's reversed into the same thing from Stratton but James is out in a hurry as well. Stereo clotheslines leave both of them down so Stratton goes for the loaded bag. James takes it away and hits the 401k for two but Stratton goes for the eyes. A knockdown into the Prettiest Moonsault Ever

retains the title at 5:10.

Rating: C. This didn't have time to go anywhere and given the teases of Stratton vs. Becky Lynch, there wasn't much of a reason to believe that James was a serious threat. That being said, she did well in her biggest match ever and it's nice to see NXT giving her a quick boost like this. James is talented, but they might have something special with Stratton and thankfully they seem to know that.

Post match Becky Lynch pops up on screen to say she'll be here next week...for a shot at the Women's Title. Well that escalated quickly.

Carmelo Hayes runs into Wes Lee in the parking lot but nothing happens.

The Creed Brothers want the Tag Team Titles back and thank Tony D'Angelo and Stacks for watching out for Ivy Nile. Malik Blade and Edris Enofe come in and seem to want the Tag Team Titles as well.

Ilja Dragunov vs. Oro Mensah

The rest of Meta Four are here too as Dragunov takes him into the corner by the arm to start. Dragunov gets taken into the corner for some elbows to the face but Dragunov kicks Mensah in the jaw. They slug it out until Dragunov misses an enziguri, allowing a superkick to put him on the floor. A suplex drops Dragunov again and we take a break. Back with Dragunov fighting up and striking away, setting up the Constantine Special. Mensah hits a kick of his own for two but Dragunov grabs a powerbomb. The Torpedo Moscow finishes Mensah at 9:47.

Rating: C+. They beat each other up here but Dragunov has a good shot at being the next #1 contender. That made this little more than a warmup match before he has the chance to get the title shot so this went as it should have. Dragunov's

mini feud with the Meta Four could be interesting and going through Mensah to start is a good way to go.

Post match here is Wes Lee to interrupt. They argue over who will get the next title shot so here is Carmelo Hayes to interrupt. Last week Hayes talked to Shawn Michaels and next week, it's Dragunov vs. Lee for the No Mercy title shot. Well that's efficient.

Dominik Mysterio is ready to be guest referee.

Nathan Frazer is never going to slow down.

Jacy Jayne and Thea Hail are in the back when Gigi Dolin interrupts. Blair Davenport interrupts as well and, after a lot of bickering, Hail vs. Dolin is set for tonight.

Global Heritage Invitational Group B: Nathan Frazer vs. Duke Hudson

Andre Chase is here with Hudson. Frazer picks up the pace to start but gets planted to cut him off just as fast. Hudson is knocked outside for the top rope flip dive but he plants Frazer again back inside. A Razor's Edge is countered into a hurricanrana and Frazer hits the phoenix splash for the pin at 2:47. They didn't have time to do anything here but Frazer gets to survive in the tournament.

Group B Standings

Joe Coffey – 1-0-0 (2 points, 2 matches remaining)

Nathan Frazer – 1-1-0 (2 points, 1 match remaining)

Duke Hudson – 1-1-0 (2 points, 1 match remaining)

Akira Tozawa – 0-1-0 (0 points, 2 matches remaining)

Hank Walker and Tank Ledger are talking to the Creeds when Lucien Price and Bronco Nima come in. Julius offers a handshake but gets ignored as they start arguing about the Tag Team Titles. Scripts comes in to say he can relate to Price and Nima.

Tyler Bate vs. Dabba-Kato

Bate goes right after him to start but gets caught in a choke for his efforts. Kato bends him over the knee for a bit before blocking Bop and Bang. Somehow Bate manages the airplane spin and the Spiral Tap finishes Kato at 2:54. They went from slow to blazing in about a minute as Kato loses again, meaning he'll likely be crushing people again soon.

Dominik Mysterio runs into Carmelo Hayes and nothing much is said.

An annoyed Kiana James storms into the women's locker room and gets in a fight with Roxanne Perez.

Baron Corbin wants Bron Breakker and Von Wagner to destroy each other.

Tiffany Stratton has no comment on Becky Lynch.

Dragon Lee vs. Mustafa Ali

For the North American Title shot and North American Champion Dominik Mysterio is guest referee. Ali takes him to the mat without much trouble to start and they flip up to a standoff. A hurricanrana sends Lee into the corner but he's right back with a legsweep into a slingshot dropkick. Ali drops him with a clothesline for two but Lee sends him outside or a heck of a suicide dive over the announcers' table. Back in and Ali snaps off a tornado DDT for two, only to have Lee superkick him for the same. Ali misses a 450 and gets sitout powerbombed for two. Lee complains about the count so Ali grabs a rollup for a very fast three at 5:20.

Rating: B-. They got a lot in there (I'm shocked) and thankfully Dominik wasn't a factor until the end. Now there is a problem though, as Ali really needs to win the title after this much of a buildup but taking the title off of Dominik doesn't make sense. It was an exciting match, though the

triple threat seems likely after that finish.

Post match Ali says he didn't want it like that and drops Dominik.

Ilja Dragunov comes in to see Trick Williams and asks about Williams saying Hayes could beat him. Next week, Williams can keep lying to his best friend or himself.

Drew Gulak, Charlie Dempsey and Damon Kemp yell at Miles Borne for teaming up with Brooks Jensen and Josh Briggs. They know he isn't ready and they'll prove it next week.

Eddy Thorpe isn't done with Dijak.

Global Heritage Invitational Group A: Axiom vs. Butch

This could be good. Axiom takes him down into a leglock to start and Butch bails to the rope. Butch ties up the legs this time before stomping on the arm for a change. Back up and a clothesline drops Axiom and there's the X Plex to make it worse. Axiom's arm is bent around the rope and we take a break.

We come back with Axiom still in trouble and getting hit in the mask. Axiom manages a quick suplex but Butch pulls him into a quick triangle to cut off the comeback. Some kicks stagger Butch though and we have two minutes left (in the 12 minute time limit). A double knockdown gives them a breather but Axiom is back up with the Golden Ratio. The rope saves Butch so Axiom puts on a quickly broken double arm crank. Butch hits the Bitter End for two but time runs out at 12:00.

Rating: B. These two had a good match and was anyone expecting anything else? They are the kind of guys who can have a good match with anyone and it's great to see them getting some time. I like the time limit draw here too, as it plays into the tournament scoring while also protecting both of them from a loss. Best match of the night too.

Group A Standings

Butch – 1-0-1 (3 points, 1 match remaining)

Axiom – 0-0-1 (1 point, 2 matches remaining)

Tyler Bate – 0-0-0 (0 points, 3 matches remaining)

Charlie Dempsey – 0-1-0 (0 points, 2 matches remaining)

Post match Tyler Bate comes out to smile at both of them.

Von Wagner talks to a table in rather affectionate terms.

Tony D'Angelo and Stacks are worried about some of the challengers they might face but here are Los Lotharios to interrupt. Words, and then punches, are exchanged.

Gigi Dolin vs. Thea Hail

Jacy is here with Hail, who is dressed a bit darker. Dolin shoulders her to start and gets two off a backslide. The running hip attack misses though and Hail hits a running splash in the corner. Dolin can't get the abdominal stretch so Hail jumps up with a Kimura. The rope is reached and they head outside, where Dolin gets in a posting. Cue Blair Davenport for a distraction though and another Kimura finishes Dolin at 3:37.

Rating: C. They were starting to get something together here with the submissions and counters but there is only so much you can do with about three and a half minutes. I can go with the idea of a darker Hail, as the nearly psychotic student was only going to go on for so long. A big reunion with Chase U down the line could be great, but for now Hail is using this to grow and that is a good thing.

The Creeds' locker room is trashed but it feels good to be back.

Lyra Valkyria and Kelani Jordan chat until Dana Brooke interrupts. Brooke wants Valkyria gone and bickering ensues.

Tiffany Stratton is ready to say she isn't worried about

losing the Women's Title to Becky Lynch.

Here's what's coming next week.

Von Wagner vs. Bron Breaker

No DQ, Mr. Stone is here with Wagner and Baron Corbin is on commentary. They start fast with Breaker Cactus Clotheslining him to the floor. Breaker is sent over the announcers' table and the fight goes around the ring. Back up and Breaker gets in a chair shot as we take a break.

We come back with Breaker hammering away and hitting Wagner with a kendo stick. Wagner blocks another swing though, only to have Breaker hit him with a hard clothesline for two. We hit the waistlock but Wagner powers him into the corner and comes back with a sitout powerbomb for two more. A fireman's carry doesn't work for Wagner as the ribs give out so Breaker hits the Steiner Bulldog onto a chair.

The Recliner is broken up so they trade clotheslines but can't knock each other down. Breaker misses a charge into the corner and Wagner hits a chokeslam for two. They go outside with Wagner sending him through the platform. Wagner hits the powerbomb through the announcers' table but Breaker hits him low back inside. The spear finishes Wagner at 13:31.

Rating: B-. This was more of a wild brawl but a lot of what Wagner did was shrugged off before the spear for the pin. That's a weird way to go but at the same time, Breaker is still above Wagner on the NXT food chain and it's too early for Wagner to be getting this kind of a win. Or at least until he drops the "you got tabled/table for one" nonsense.

Post match Breaker grabs the steps and puts Wagner's head on the other half. Breaker lifts them up and slams them down but we cut to black before the crash. Corbin can be heard yelling something like "HE ACTUALLY DID IT" to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. Kind of a strange show this week as they did a lot but a good bit of it isn't overly important. They set up a North American Title match at No Mercy but there is bound to be some kind of shenanigans in there. The NXT Title match will be set up next week, along with Stratton vs. Lynch. Instead of doing much here, this was more about setting up the future, which makes for an important but not quite interesting show.

Results

Tiffany Stratton b. Kiana James – Prettiest Moonsault Ever

Ilja Dragunov b. Oro Mensah – Torpedo Moscow

Nathan Frazer b. Duke Hudson – Phoenix splash

Tyler Bate b. Dabba-Kato – Spiral Tap

Mustafa Ali b. Dragon Lee – Rollup with a fast count

Butch vs. Axiom went to a time limit draw

Thea Hail b. Gigi Dolin – Kimura

Bron Breaker b. Von Wagner – Spear

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NXT – August 29, 2023: Get Ready To Get Ready

NXT

Date: August 29, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Booker T.

We're done with Heatwave and about a month away from No Mercy. Carmelo Hayes has retained the NXT Title and seems likely to be facing Ilja Dragunov next. For now though, we have a cage match between the Creeds and Schism for the Creeds' chance to return full time. That would be one of two cage matches in four days this week because WWE likes to do things a lot. Let's get to it.

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

In Memory Of Terry Funk and Bray Wyatt.

We open with a long recap of Heatwave.

Dyad vs. Creed Brothers

In a cage and if the Creeds win, they're back in NXT full time. Schism jumps Brutus outside the cage and take him to the back, leaving Julius down 2-1. Julius suplexes his way out of trouble but gets caught with a double clothesline. Some ankle locks slow the Dyad down but they send him face first into the cage as we take a break.

Back with Julius still in trouble but here is Brutus to charge through the rest of the masked Schism members. With nothing else stopping him, Brutus rips the cage door off and gets inside to beat up the Dyad without much trouble. The door is

used to crush Dyad against the cage and Fowler gets gorilla pressed into the wall.

What looks to be a Doomsday Device is broken up and Julius is sent into the cage again. Some cage shots to Brutus keep him down until Julius makes the save. Julius lifts both of them onto his shoulders at once for a Brutus Bomb in a very impressive power display. The beatdown is on in a hurry and stereo sliding lariats finish the Dyad at 13:45.

Rating: B-. This was more of a fight than a match and that is what it should have been. There is something amazing about watching the Creeds run through other, possibly more talented teams, with pure power and athleticism. Both of them can just wreck people and it is all kinds of fun to watch every time they're out there. Just get them something else to do already so they can move up to the main roster.

Roxanne Perez is ready to become #1 contender.

We get a rather well produced video looking over the Global Heritage Cup Invitational. It's a round robin tournament, set up as two groups of four with the winners facing off for a future title shot. All group matches have a 12 minute time limit and it's two points for a win, one for a draw and zero for a loss. These matches are NOT under the rounds system.

Tony D'Angelo and Stacks are admiring their titles in the back when Carmelo Hayes comes in to brag with them. The Street Profits come in and show respect to Hayes, while mentioning a blemish on his record. Hayes is ready to get rid of it while the Profits...are interrupted by a brawl between Dana Brooke, Elektra Lopez, Lola Vice and Kelani Jordan.

Global Heritage Invitational Group A: Charlie Dempsey vs. Butch

Drew Gulak and Damon Kemp are here with the Meta Four watching from a box. Dempsey suplexes Butch down to start as the fans

are on Butch's side. They stay on the mat to trade control over the other's hands. Back up and Butch knocks him down for some forearms to the face. Dempsey's German suplex gets two but Butch pulls him into an armbar. Butch snaps the fingers again and it's the Bitter End for the pin at 4:52.

Rating: C+. This was your technical match of the night and my goodness it's nice to see Butch being like Pete Dunne but under a different name. He has a history in NXT and it is great to see him going back to what made him one of the best things in wrestling for a long time. Dempsey is rather good as well, but he's not Butch yet and it showed here.

Group A Standings

Butch – 1-0-0 (3 points)

Tyler Bate – 0-0-0 (0 points)

Axiom – 0-0-0 (0 points)

Charlie Dempsey – 0-1-0 (0 points)

Dragon Lee thinks he deserves a North American Title shot but Mustafa Ali comes in to say he's never had a one on one title shot. People like he and Lee should be fighting for NXT...but Lee already struck out so it's Ali's turn now. Lee doesn't seem to agree as Ali leaves.

Here is Ilja Dragunov to praise Trick Williams for last week. Williams left it all in the ring and proved that he is NOT a sidekick. Dragunov was impressed but now he wants Carmelo Hayes. Hold on though as Noam Dar interrupts from the box to say they're already on the way to California for No Mercy. Dragunov says it's very Dar-esque to put the attention on himself and laughs off Oro Mensah's childish insults.

Dragunov wants to know why he isn't coming up there right now. Lash Legend says Dar isn't afraid of anyone so Dragunov takes off the jacket. The Meta Four freaks out so Dar says let's do this next week: Mensah vs. Dragunov. Works for Dragunov, who kicks Mensah in the head and sends him bailing at the threat

of the Torpedo.

Von Wagner wants Bron Breaker, No DQ.

Lola Vice/Elektra Lopez vs. Kelani Jordan/Dana Brooke

Lopez powers Jordan down to start and it's off to Vice for a double hip attack to the head. Vice's spinning backfist gets two but Jordan kicks her way out of trouble. Brooke flips Jordan onto Lopez for two as everything breaks down. A spinning kick to the head finishes Jordan at 4:01.

Rating: D+. As usual, Dana Brooke matches aren't very good and it shouldn't be a surprise anymore. Jordan is still brand new at this and still has a long way to go. Then you have Lopez, who feels like she should be a star but never really broke out. Finally there is Vice, and she has something. There is a presence to go with her charisma and that could get her a long way.

Gigi Dolin is ready to become #1 contender.

Trick Williams talks to Carmelo Hayes, who doesn't like people thinking Williams got him the win over Ilja Dragunov. Now Hayes has to fight Dragunov one on one but Williams isn't sure if Hayes can beat him. Hayes isn't happy, but as he leaves, Williams says "I know you can", though Hayes doesn't seem to hear him.

Dijak vs. Eddy Thorpe

Eddy starts the fight in the aisle and hits a running boot in the corner for two. A suplex gets the same on Dijak but he's right back with High Justice for two. They're both knocked down so Dijak pulls off his belt and the tug of war is on. Thorpe sends him shoulder first into the post but gets tossed hard over the announcers' table for the big crash. Dijak misses a chair shot in the corner so Eddy him outside. The referee takes the chair away and Dijak gets in a belt shot.

The cyclone boot finishes Eddy at 4:15.

Rating: C. These two had a hard hitting match but they seem to be stuck in the purgatory that is the NXT midcard. Either of them could move up to the next level without much of a stretch but for now, they're more people just trading wins without going anywhere. Why aren't either of them in the North American Title hunt? Or even the Heritage stuff?

Kiana James is ready to become #1 contender.

Bron Breaker interrupts Baron Corbin and tells him to stay out of the No DQ match with Von Wagner next week.

Angel Garza wakes up with blood on his hands. After he washes it off, Humberto Carrillo knocks on the door and says he had a dream about their grandfather. They seem to have had the same dream, with Garza scratching his chest until he bled. Carrillo reveals that he did the same thing, which means they have to start from...scratch. They pull out a Los Lotharios shirt and seem to be on the same page.

Bray Wyatt tribute video.

Blair Davenport is ready to become #1 contender.

Rhea Ripley and Dominik Mysterio aren't impressed by Dragon Lee. Mysterio says he belongs to Mami and Ripley promises to make him champ for life. Lee and Mustafa Ali can even fight each other for a North American Title shot at No Mercy. Dominik will even be guest referee!

Global Heritage Invitational Group B: Nathan Frazer vs. Joe Coffey

The rest of Gallus is at ringside. Frazer works on the arm to start but Frazer seems to accidentally slam his head against the top rope (I've never seen that before) so Coffey slams him down. The referee checks on Frazer as fast as he can but Frazer is fine enough to grab a headlock. Coffey powers him

into the corner but gets knocked to the apron. A dropkick sends Frazer outside and we take a break.

Back with Frazer firing off a bunch of running forearms into a swinging suplex for two. Coffey cuts him off with a pop up uppercut into a bridging German suplex for two more. Frazer is fine enough to send him outside for a heck of a dive (which barely makes contact). The frog splash gets two back inside but Frazer misses a phoenix splash. A Gallus distraction lets All The Best for The Bells finish for Coffey at 10:00.

Rating: C+. If Frazer is going to be getting the title shot against Dar at the end of this whole thing, they are already building him up for quite the underdog run. Other than that though, we had another good enough match, with Coffey getting something of an upset win. Frazer continues to be a fireball every time he's out there though and that is always fun to see.

Group B Standings

Joe Coffey – 1-0-0 (3 points)

Akira Tozawa – 0-0-0 (0 points)

Duke Hudson – 0-0-0 (0 points)

Nathan Frazer – 0-1-0 (0 points)

We're off to Chase U, where there is no Thea Hail. Duke Hudson doesn't know where she is but can't imagine she skipped class. Chase recognized Duke Hudson for being in the Global Heritage Invitational. Chase didn't know that Hudson was from Australia, thinking it was New Zealand. Hudson seems surprised at the round robin structure. Class is dismissed and Hudson and Chase talk about the tournament. Thea Hail comes in and seems to imply she skipped class. Hudson says they're off to Study Hall but Hail says she's going out. Jacy Jayne pops in to ask if Hail is ready and they leave together. Oh dear.

Fallon Henley talks to Myles Borne, who is cleaning the ring after Drew Gulak and company. She offers him a spot on a team

with Josh Briggs and Brooks Jensen, so he's in.

Wes Lee is in the desert and says he wants another shot at Carmelo Hayes, who didn't beat him as Lee beat himself. It's different the next time he gets a chance.

Tyler Bate sizes up the competition in his group but seems to think twice at Butch. As for next week though, he's going to be waiting in the ring for Dabba-Kato, so come be the Goliath to his David.

Roxanne Perez vs. Gigi Dolin vs. Kiana James vs. Blair Davenport

One fall to a finish and the winner gets a Women's Title shot next week. Dolin and James fight to the floor to start, leaving Davenport to forearm Perez down. Back in and they trade rollups for two each. Everyone stares at each other. Dolin plants Perez on the apron and whips James into the barricade. Davenport takes Dolin down but James moonsaults off the barricade to drop Davenport, only to get taken down by Perez's dive.

We take a break and come back with Perez getting the worst of a Tower Of Doom. The lack of impact leaves Dolin to hit running charges and dropkicks against the ropes until Perez fights up. Pop Rox is broken up by a James dropkick but Davenport plants Perez or two. Dolin gets two off a half and half suplex and everyone is down (including James on the floor). Perez is back up with Pop Rox to Davenport but she rolls out to the floor. James is back in with the 401k to Perez, followed by the Dealbreaker to Dolin for the pin and the title shot at 11:39.

Rating: B-. This was a better match that I was expecting as they were moving well out there and kept up the action throughout. James kind of stole the win but she did it by taking out two people in a row. That's an impressive way to get the title shot and it's nice to see her get a boost. The

women's division can use some fresh blood so even a short shot of James is a good idea.

Tiffany Stratton comes out for the staredown with James.

Carmelo Hayes is watching Wes Lee's promo and goes into Shawn Michaels' office, saying they need to talk to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. Another fine show here, even if it was more about setting things up than last week's show with a bunch of showdowns. They have about a month before No Mercy and they started fast here, though that tournament sounds long (I can however go for something other than another single elimination format). This wasn't exactly a must see show, but it started to set things up in the right time.

Results

Creed Brothers b. Dyad – Double sliding lariats

Butch b. Charlie Dempsey – Spinning kick to the head

Lola Vice/Elektra Lopez b. Dana Brooke/Kelani Jordan – Spinning kick to the head to Jordan

Dijak b. Eddy Thorpe – Cyclone boot

Joe Coffey b. Nathan Frazer – All The Best For The Bells

Kiana James b. Gigi Dolin, Roxanne Perez and Blair Davenport – Dealbreaker to Dolin

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