

FEEDBACK REQUEST: Possible Site Upgrade Coming

So a company has approached me about a partnership which would be rather beneficial to everyone. In short, they would take over the technical side of the site, including redesigning things (both on desktop AND mobile) to make it far more user friendly and optimized. In short, as anyone who has been around me for any length of time can tell, I am in no way a tech guy and have no idea what I'm doing in that area. Having someone else handle that for me would be REALLY helpful and in theory would free up some time, allowing me to do more reviewing instead of dealing with everything else.

One important thing: I would maintain 100% control of the site and in no way, shape or form be told what I can and can't do. Barring a major change in my life, I can't picture ever selling the place or letting someone else have any say in how I review things around here. This would ONLY be for the tech side/advertisements.

The partnership would also help me out financially, though it would include some more ads on the site. I will have final say on the amount of ads and, assuming I agree to all of this, I won't let it get out of hand as I can't stand that myself and wouldn't want to be here. Odds are we would be seeing some ads every X number of paragraphs of a review and a video that pops up in the corner (and can be closed) or something similar. The place absolutely will not be crawling with ads and if it becomes too much, I'll pull some of them off, for everyone's sake.

I'm not sure on if I'll do this and I'd like to hear from you all. At the end of the day, if this place doesn't work for you, there is no point in it being around and I want you to be happy with it. This is something that would make the place

look/function far better and would help me be able to do more stuff. If that is ok with you all, I'm leaning towards going through with it, but I am absolutely willing to listen to reasons why I shouldn't.

Let me know what you think and thank you as always.

KB

NXT LVL Up – August 26, 2022: It'll Do For Now

NXT LVL Up

Date: August 26, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Nigel McGuinness, Matt Camp

The show continues and I'll go with the faint hope here this week. There have been a few stories going on and with Hank Walker on NXT, maybe it means he won't be around here to bring the show down again. It's likely going to be another show that is all over the place this week so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Edris Enofe/Malik Blade vs. Bronco Nima/Lucien Price

Blade gets tossed into the corner by Nima to start and then tossed right back out to keep things balanced. Nima gets taken into the corner to cut him off though and the good guys start taking turns on the arm. Enofe has to knee his way out of the corner to drop Price but Nima gets in a cheap shot from the

apron to take over.

To really crank things up, Nima RIPS OFF BLADE'S SWEATER VEST and STOMPS ON IT before tossing him down again. A double running forearm in the corner rocks Blade and we hit the neck crank. Blade flips out of a suplex though and the hot tag brings in Enofe to pick up the pace. Something like a Sling Blade hits Price and a top rope elbow gets two. Price comes back in and walks into the Climax for the pin at 5:58.

Rating: C. Even though there is nothing to suggest that they're going anywhere, I still see potential in Blade and Enofe. They're smaller guys who can move well in the ring and that is always going to work in one way or another. Putting them over a young power team was a good way to go here and it would be nice to see them move (or level) up soon.

Nathan Frazer looks up to Ikemen Jiro but he's ready to win tonight. He is here because of soccer, though someone throws him a basketball by mistake.

Amari Miller vs. Kiana James

James shoves her down to start and brags about being smart, which rarely goes well. Miller grabs an armbar and drops down into her smiling pose. A missed elbow frustrates James again and Miller rolls her up for two. That's enough for James, who sends her into the corner and starts stomping away. Something like a gutbuster gives James two and we hit the chinlock with a knee in Miller's back. Trash talk lets Miller sneak in a rollup for two and a basement Downward Spiral gets the same. Back up and James gets in a shot, setting up something like a reverse Sling Blade into an X Factor for the pin at 4:59.

Rating: C. These two both need work but you can feel that bubbly personality in Miller and James comes off as a bit of a killer. I could go for more of them, but they are going to need a lot of development each. What matters is that NXT is trying to actually turn them into something, which is where

ring time will help. Get them on the NXT house show loop and get something out of them, because this version is just potential and nothing more.

Ikemen Jiro vs. Nathan Frazer

Jiro grabs a wristlock to start but gets reversed into a headlock as they're still in first gear. Frazier hits a very fast running dropkick before armdragging him into an armbar. Back up and Jiro elbows him in the face but Frazer rolls him into a Boston crab. Make that an STF and then a bulldog choke as Frazer does a decent Samoa Joe impression. Jiro bends the fingers for the escape and hits the Jacket Punches, only to get caught with a springboard missile dropkick. Another kick to the face sets up the Phoenix splash to finish Jiro at 6:32.

Rating: C+. Frazer continues to be fun to watch and Jiro can work well with anyone. That's all you need for a good match a lot of the time and they did by far the best stuff on the show this week. I still don't know if Frazer has breakout star potential, but he is going to feel like a bigger deal than most of the names you see on this show.

Respect is shown to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. Slightly better than normal this week as the action was good and they had enough variety. There was nothing in the way of angles or stories, but at least we had watchable matches, which isn't always the case. Cycling in a bigger name here or there would be nice, but that might be another ship that has long since sailed around here For now though, a passable enough week.

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All Wheels Racing Pilot: A (Bad) Concept Show

All Wheels Wrestling Pilot

Date: June 29, 2011

Location: Red Line Arena, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Don West, Jeremy Borash

So for reasons that I do not want to understand, a group decided that a racing themed wrestling show had legs, so some of the TNA crew put this together. I've heard of it for years and finally found a copy of it online. This is the only event the promotion (if it counts as one) ever produced so this has some potential. Let's get to it.

Various professional drivers explain the concept: the roster is divided into four teams of three men each and the winner gets a cup at the end of the season. You can tell that the drivers have almost no idea why they're talking about this and the quick edits are rather telling.

Tonight is a Captains Showcase so we meet said captains:

Team Octane (inspired by stock car, open wheel, drag racing) is captained by RPM, a masked Jay Lethal, promises to win by

going really fast.

Team Defiance (off road, street racing, drifting) is captained by Dubai (Shawn Daivari) and appear to be the bad guys.

Team 720 (BMX, wakeboard, skateboard) is captained by.....sweet goodness....Schwagg D (Sonjay Dutt) and are into high impact and going extreme.

Team Dyno (monster trucks, supercross, dirt tracks) is captained by Awesome Aaron Aguliera (or Human Cyclone, as he goes by both) and seem to want carnage.

The commentators, plus Hermie Sadler (former NASCAR driver) are in the six sided ring to welcome us to the show and explain the concept: two Speed Matches (five minute Iron Man matches) leading up to the BIG AIR Challenge (Ultimate X).

More drivers talk about how interested they are. Really. They mean it.

Other drivers confirm that you are in fact watching the show you are watching.

Even more drivers talk about fans and strategy for surviving a season. And no, none of the wrestlers have stood out to them yet.

Dubai (Defiance) vs. RPM (Octane)

This is a Speed Match, meaning a five minute Iron Man match....or kind of at least as we have a POINTS SYSTEM.

5 for a tap out

4 for a pin

3 if the match goes to a draw

-2 for a DQ

RPM flips over him to start and hits a running STO (Slingshot) for a pin at 34 seconds. After a ten second recovery period,

Dubai jumps him outside and then hard into the steps. Back in the WMDDT (because that's very racing related) gives Dubai the pin to tie it up at 1:56. The nerve hold goes on but RPM is back up with an enziguri for a breather. The cartwheel into a basement dropkick that Jay Lethal does (but remember, this is RPM) gets two but Dubai catches him on top. A sunset bomb brings Dubai back down for two though and we hit the Boston crab for the tap at 4:51. Time expires at 5:00 with Octane winning 9-4.

Rating: C. Oh boy indeed this is going to be a messy concept. The points system is at least unique and offers something different, but having three falls in five minutes is more than a bit to take. Also, the match wasn't even that good. Daivari and Lethal are going to give you a competent match, but it wasn't anything above ok. They are playing into the speed thing and that works, but it doesn't make for the best wrestling format.

Standings

Octane – 9

Dubai – 4

720 – 0

Dyno – 0

Commentary goes over the scoring system again.

More drivers like this show.

All Wheels Wrestling is like motocross because they both have points!

We get another explanation of how the season points competition works.

A DRIVER TELLS YOU WHAT YOU ARE WATCHING!

Remember how there has been one match with two teams scoring? Here's the leader board just in case!

Aaron Aguilera (Dyno) vs. Schwagg D (720)

Another five minute Speed Match, so here is the points system again:

5 for a tap out

4 for a pin

3 if the match goes to a draw

-2 for a DQ

Schwagg hits a dropkick to start and then does it again for a bonus. Aguilera is knocked outside so Schwagg hits an Asai moonsault, right in front of Team Octane's pit box, because Team Octane has a pit box. Back in and Aguilera hits a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker for two (count, not points). Aguilera uses his leg to put on something like an abdominal stretch on the mat (that was different) but misses a charge in the corner.

Schwagg's top rope splash hits knees though and Aguilera gets the pin at 2:32. A chokebreaker gives Aguilera another pin at 3:10 and he does it again for a third pin at 3:34. Schwagg manages a superkick but stops to pose for no logical reason, allowing Aguilera to pull him into a helicopter bomb for the fourth pin at 4:33. Aguilera grabs a full nelson but time expires at 5:00.

Rating: C-. This felt like you were messing around on No Mercy and seeing how many falls you could run up in a few minutes. Aguilera totally squashed him here and made Schwagg look worse than he does by being called Schwagg D. On top of that, given how this show has gone, I fully expect Schwagg to win the main event and come out on top anyway, but at least they went in a different direction here.

Standings

Dyno – 16

Octane – 9

Defiance – 4

720 – 0

Post match Aguilera says that's good and if it isn't broke, don't fix it.

The captains talk about how what they need to do to win the Big Air Challenge.

Dubai promises to take Defiance to the pole position and victory lane.

We look at the two Speed Matches. In case you haven't caught on, this show REALLY shouldn't be this long.

Schwagg D is ready to use speed to win the Big Air Challenge.

RPM vs. Schwagg D vs. Aaron Aguilera vs. Dubai

Ultimate X, meaning you climb across the ropes hanging (in an X) above the ring to grab the All Wheels Wrestling logo for 20 points. Everyone but Aguilera goes up to start so he pulls all of them down. RPM slugs away at Aguilera before Dubai comes in to dive onto Aguilera on the floor. That lets RPM go for the W but Schwagg springboards in to dropkick him back down. Back up and RPM dives onto everyone else at ringside and we take a break.

Back with....Hermie Sadler conducting a mid-match interview with RPM, who says he knows he has what it takes to win. Well that's something new. RPM and Schwagg go up but get pulled back down, leaving Aguilera to run the ropes for a spinning clothesline ala Bull Buchanan. Schwagg pulls Aguilera down and a double superkick drops Aguilera again. A Downward Spiral/DDT combination has Schwagg and Dubai down again, leaving RPM as the only one standing. Again, everyone but Aguilera goes up top and wind up fighting from the ropes. RPM and Dubai fall, leaving Schwagg to pull down the W for the win at 14:11.

Rating: C+. It was a simple Ultimate X match with no major spots and nothing out of the ordinary, but even a not so great Ultimate X match is pretty good. The main thing here is that

they put 720 back into contention, which was about as predictable as you could have gotten. Aguliera continues to look like a force and the other two were just kind of there, making this a fitting end to the show.

Standings

720 – 20

Dyno – 16

Octane – 9

Dubai – 4

We get a look at the rest of the season, which seems to consist of clips from this show, drivers talking about how excited they are, and racing clips.

Next week: the teams are revealed! As far as I can find, no other wrestlers were ever actually named.

Overall Rating: D+. Where do you start with this one? First of all, no, this isn't the worst show I've ever seen or anywhere near close to it. Instead, it's one of the weirdest concepts I've ever seen, as racing and wrestling do not work together when you move the idea off paper. The Speed Matches were at least a bit of an interesting twist, but the CONSTANT clips from racers and drivers who clearly were just saying what someone told them to say and clips of races, there was nothing here.

This show would have been WAY better at thirty minutes with a lot of the other stuff cut out and maybe a four way as a finale. It is absolutely not a secret as to why this didn't get picked up because it just wasn't an interesting idea. The wrestling was completely watchable, but this was an idea that was never going to work and it's nothing more than a novelty footnote that you don't need to see.

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Pancakes And Piledrivers II: I Made A Bad Decision

Pancakes And Piledrivers II

Date: April 7, 2018

Location: Sugar Mill, New Orleans, Louisiana

Commentators: Rich Bocchini, Jake Manning, Marty DeRosa

This is a show from Pro Wrestling Revolver plus some other companies (AAW/Fight Club Pro), with the show being billed as the Indy Summit. The show took place over Wrestlemania XXXIV weekend and I had a ticket to this show but went to WrestleCon instead. Odds are I made a mistake but let's get to it.

The opening video looks at the promotions included for a nice change of pace.

Jeff Cobb vs. Shane Strickland

Yeah this is going to be fun, even with Matt Striker as ring

announcer. At the very least, seeing Strickland's Ain't Nobody entrance is always awesome. Strickland hurts his arm on an early clothesline attempt so Cobb grabs him by the throat. A charge into the corner takes too long though, allowing Strickland to go up top. That's fine with Cobb, who pulls him out of the air and hits the swinging belly to back toss. The huge beal out of the corner sends Strickland flying again as commentary mocks the building for being filthy but not allowing the advertised pancakes.

Strickland tries to come back with a chop, allowing Cobb to show him how one is properly thrown. They have the same exchange with forearms but Strickland manages a kick to the head into a German suplex. The running kick to the head gives Strickland two and a hard knee to the head makes it worse. The Swerve Stomp gets two but Cobb sends him into the corner for a running uppercut. A headbutt plants Strickland again and the Tour of the Islands gives Cobb the pin at 7:59.

Rating: C+. Nice opener here as we get one of the things that WrestleCon does well: putting together indy (well then indy) stars and letting them have a fun match. Strickland continues to feel like a star and it is no surprise that he has become a bigger deal. Cobb is a monster who can run over anyone and it is always fun to see him throw people around.

Post match Strickland thanks all three companies for putting the show on.

Colt Cabana/Marty DeRosa vs. Joey Ryan/Session Moth Martina

It's still weird to hear Ryan being treated as some kind of awesome star. Martina on the other hand goes around the ring drinking with fans, which makes her seem rather popular. Grinding on everyone in the ring makes it even better (Better?) as this is going to be an interesting one. This is DeRosa's, usually a commentator, debut and he has gear very similar to Cabana's.

Ryan oils up and gives Cabana some for he and DeRosa to share. The bell rings and Ryan tells Cabana to touch it but, after an apology to the crowd, he declines. Ryan thinks DeRosa might do it instead so Cabana brings him in...and has to hold DeRosa back from touching it. DeRosa and Ryan trade wristlocks to start but Ryan still can't get him to touch it. If that won't happen, maybe DeRosa will touch Martina's....uh, yeah.

Cabana is MORE than willing to try (Martina doesn't seem to mind) but they'll wrestle instead. Well maybe not as Martina grinds on Cabana to get out of a waistlock and Ryan tags himself back in. Cabana does his STOP, WHAT'S THAT and slaps Ryan in the face and annoyance begins to grow. DeRosa and Martina come in with DeRosa slapping her in the same way, which is NOT COOL with a lot of people. Ryan knocks DeRosa into the corner for a Bronco Buster (the long form) from Martina.

With DeRosa down, it's time for the lollipop from Ryan's trunks. Cabana breaks that up and it's stereo Bionic Elbows to the....villains? DeRosa busts out a super hurricanrana for two, followed by a Figure Four. Cabana puts Martina in the Billy Goat's Curse at the same time but Martina crawls on top of DeRosa's face and bounces for the double break.

Then Kiss Me by Sixpence None The Richer starts playing (ok that's a plus) and romance is teased...until DeRosa and Cabana's hands are put between Ryan and Martina's respective legs. There's the double flip (with the referee falling down too) and Ryan pulls out a sucker/Martina pulls out a prophylactic from their tights, which go into Cabana and DeRosa's mouths. Stereo superkicks are good for stereo pins for Ryan and Martina at 8:12.

Rating: F. This is the definition of a your mileage may vary match and that isn't the best thing to see. Ryan's shtick didn't work for me before everything came out about him and it's even more uncomfortable now. The match was pure "comedy"

and barely a match, but what else were you expecting here? Absolutely not my thing and the kind of stuff I never need to see again.

Peace is made post match as Jim Cornette insults abound.

Eddie Kingston vs. Juice Robinson

Kingston comes out to David Starr's music as the result of a lost bet. They go technical to start with Kingston working on a hammerlock before switching into a top wristlock. Back up and Robinson hits a spinwheel kick, setting up a Cannonball in the corner. A high crossbody gives Robinson two as commentary talks about Sami Callihan. Kingston isn't having that and knocks him outside, setting up the big suicide dive.

Robinson's piledriver attempt is countered into a backdrop on the floor, setting up a big whip into the barricade. Back in and the waistlock goes on to keep Robinson down, followed by the rapid fire (minus rapid fire) chops in the corner. That's reversed into some chops from Robinson and a layout powerbomb gets two. Kingston runs him over again and NOW it's time for the big chop off (which you knew was coming). Robinson gets in another shot and grabs Pulp Friction for the pin at 8:29.

Rating: C. That ending came out of nowhere and it wasn't exactly a great match in the first place. This felt more like the match where someone said "hey they've never fought before" and that was the extent of the planning. Granted there is only so much that you can do with a story on this show, but this was just kind of there for the most part.

Fight Club Pro Title: Meiko Satomura vs. Kimber Lee vs. Jessicka Havok

Satomura is defending and this is the top title of the promotion (out of England, owned by Trent Seven) rather than the Women's Title. Striker, ever the nitwit, insists that it IS the Women's Title, even though that title doesn't seem to

have ever existed. Havok clotheslines both of them down to start and does it again to Satomura for daring to fight back.

Satomura and Lee get together and start striking away to take Havok down, leaving Lee to forearm away at Satomura for a bit. Some kicks to the head rock Lee but she's back with a bridging German suplex for two. Havok is back in though and tosses Lee around with no trouble. Three straight running kicks to the face stagger Lee even more but Satomura forearms Havok away. A DDT sends Havok outside and Lee gets Death Valley Drivered for two. Satomura hits Scorpion Rising to retain at 6:06.

Rating: C. That was rather sudden as Havok never came back in after the DDT. Not having a title changed here isn't exactly shocking and it was cool to see Satomura getting to showcase herself. Lee is someone I never could get into but she is talented. Havok on the other hand is a total monster that you get as soon as you see her. Perfectly fine match here, but I was expecting more.

AAW Title: Trevor Lee vs. ACH

ACH is defending and Lee's (probably better known as Cameron Grimes) AAW Heritage Title isn't on the line. Lee bails to the floor to start and grabs the mic, allowing him to complain about this show taking place at "eleven o'clock in the afternoon". These people here don't care that he was out late on Bourbon Street but all that matters is that he is going to win the AAW Title. Not some loser like ACH who can't even get on another show this weekend, but a real champion.

After bragging about the money he is going to make, Lee gets hit in the face, only to have ACH miss the 450 back inside. A shot to the face knocks out ACH's tooth or gum but he is fine enough to avoid the Cave In. ACH is back with a superkick into a brainbuster for....the pin at 3:10!

Rating: C+. Sure why not, as Lee's promo and then getting getting shut up so fast was funny, but the wrestling was

barely half of this. Sometimes you need a fun match like this, even if it was probably a way to cut time on a loaded show. ACH really was a talented guy before he went a bit bonkers, while Lee would go on to a rather nice career.

Post match, Lee reminds us that he is STILL the Heritage Champion.

OVE vs. Brian Cage/Joey Janela/AR Fox

Tornado rules. That would be the Crist Brothers/Sami Callihan, who are billed under both of their names (Ohio vs. Everything and Ohio Is For Killers). Jake Crist isn't waiting on the bell and flip dives onto everyone, setting up an Asai moonsault as we're just getting started without a bell. Penelope Ford comes out to watch as Dave takes Fox inside for a wind up DDT. Janela high crossbodies Fox but gets clotheslined by Callihan.

Cage is waiting on him so Callihan spits in his face...which earns Callihan a heck of a discus lariat. Jake knocks Cage outside but his suicide dive is caught in a suplex because Cage can do that. Everyone else heads outside, leaving Janela to hit a big top rope flip dive. Dave goes up so Ford catches him and it's a superplex onto the big pile. That's too far for Callihan, who powerbombs Ford onto a slightly smaller pile, which has commentary freaking out. Not over what Ford did, which was more dangerous, but just what Callihan did. Hypocrites.

Back in and a bunch of strikes to the face leave everyone down as commentary talks about Ford's Gizmo themed gear. OVE is back up with stereo superkicks but charge into superkicks. Fox avoids a charge though and hits a Spanish Fly, setting up a 450 for two. Jake is back in with a Death Valley Driver to Fox, setting up the spike Tombstone (Killing Spree) for...one?

Everyone is back up for the big staredown, with Cage hitting an F5 and Fox hitting a Death Valley Driver of his own, setting up a triple cover. OVE breaks up stereo triple

superplexes so Fox knocks Dave down instead. Fox loads up a frog splash but Jake dives from the adjacent corner with a super cutter to knock Fox cold for the pin at 8:45.

Rating: B-. Thank goodness they went to the finish after that cutter because nothing was going to top that one. Fox was knocked silly and there was no reason to try anything else. The rest of the match was your usual insanity that comes with such a stipulation and it went rather well, at least partially helped because OVE is a regular team. That finish looked great though and it carried the match a lot higher.

PWR Scramble Title: Matt Palmer vs. Jake Manning vs. Caleb Konley vs. Trey Miguel vs. Clint Margera vs. Jason Cade vs. Ace Romero vs. Curt Stallion vs. Maxwell Jacob Friedman vs. Myron Reed vs. Connor Braxton vs. Omari

Palmer is defending and this would be your OH COME ON match of the show, as there are TWELVE PEOPLE in this. Everyone but MJF jumps Palmer to start and toss him outside, leaving everyone else to brawl inside. Reed is left alone to dropkick Cade outside so Stallion comes in to dropkick him. Romero hits a dropkick to Stallion but the rather tall Braxton kicks Romero outside.

Palmer and MJF double team Braxton and we seem to have a partnership...until they both poke eyes and kick each other low, which is good for a handshake out of mutual respect. That's always nice to see. Omari and Margera hit stereo flip dives onto the floor, followed by Miguel's springboard flip dive. Manning's top rope trust fall (while still reading his Boy Scout manual, as is his custom) takes everyone down, leaving Romero (nearly 400lbs) to hit his own dive, much to the fans' delight.

Back in and we get the required Tower Of Doom, albeit with Palmer and MJF teaming together, teasing a split, and then splitting in the span of ten seconds. Braxton and Stallion

double team Romero, with the former managing an impressive slam. Manning is back in with a backbreaker into a lifting Downward Spiral to Stallion and we hit the parade of secondary (or maybe primary) finishers. Omari takes Miguel out so MJF tries to steal the pin, only to get rolled up by Palmer (with trunks) to retain at 8:14.

Rating: C. Yeah it was fine and that's all I can think of to say about it. What in the world are you supposed to do with a dozen people doing spot after spot for about eight minutes? Palmer stealing the pin doesn't so much prove anything as he just was in the right place at the right time. That is how these matches always go and while they get a lot of people on the show, they almost never do anything for me as no one gets to stand out in the slightest.

Lucha Bros vs. Jack Evans/Teddy Hart

First half of a double main event and it takes a good while for the Bros to get here. As usual, Evans runs his mouth a lot before the match, which will likely continue after the bell. Fenix and Evans start things off and yes Evans is still running his mouth, which is rarely a good idea. They trade their flips until Fenix kicks the leg out for no count before flipping up into a standoff.

Hart and Penta come in and the chop off is on fast before Hart complains about the lack of respect. A Backstabber drops Penta and Evans springboards in to kick Fenix in the head. That leaves Hart to hit a hanging piledriver/DDT at the same time to drop both Bros. Evans does a triple backflip into the corner to poke Fenix in the eye, which he describes as never before seen. The Canadian Destroyer into the moonsault gives Hart two on Fenix but Penta is back in for a change.

The double teaming takes him down as well, only to have the Bros pop up for running corner clotheslines. Penta gives Hart a heck of a superkick into the corner, with Evans being tied

in the Tree of Woe to put them on top of each other. Fenix flips Penta onto the pile before Evans is tied up in a surfboard. That's not enough for Penta though, as Fenix pulls on the arms at the same time.

Since that doesn't really work nearly as well as the single version would, Evans hangs on until Hart makes the save. Penta Canadian Destroyers Hart for two with Evans making a save of his own. A springboard doesn't work for Evans as he falls off the top but he's right back with a middle rope Phoenix splash for two as Fenix makes his own save.

Fenix hits a rolling cutter on Evans as the referee is trying to restore order for whatever reason. One heck of a Project Ciampa drops Fenix and Evans adds the 630 for two more. Penta powerbombs Evans onto his knee for his own near fall, setting up a stereo Pentagon Driver/Black Fire Driver to give the Bros the double pin at 10:34.

Rating: B-. I would call this the "well, what did you expect" special, as you know what you're going to get when you have a match involving these people. There is nothing else to expect from these four getting into a match and they made it work well. Let them go out there and do their flips and dives to pop the crowd and that's all you need. Fun stuff of course, despite being total junk food wrestling.

AAW/PWR Tag Team Titles: Besties In The World vs. Aussie Open vs. Rascalz

The Besties (Davey Vega/Mat Fitchett) are defending both sets of titles in a ladder match. The Rascalz (Dezmond Xavier/Zachary Wentz) are debuting their name, having been formerly known as Scarlett And Graves (weird name). That leaves Aussie Open (Kyle Fletcher/Mark Davis), who have nothing of note but I needed a reason to say their names. And yes, the Besties are the team who do their entrance to Truly Madly Deeply by Savage Garden and yes it is still amazing.

Hold on though, as Fitchett wants tables and chairs added in to the ladders because they're hardcore! Vega: "NO WE'RE NOT!" Striker says everything is legal, despite it being a ladder match where everything is legal in the first place. A bunch of weapons are thrown inside as commentary talks about how ridiculous it is to have all of these totally unnecessary things underneath the ring.

Ladders and plywood are placed in the corner and Fitchett and Miguel are knocked into/through them. Vega goes up top and gets caught by a bunch of people who shove him through another plywood board. Aussie Open and the Rascalz slug it out with the bigger Fletcher being the last man standing. Wentz chairs him off the ladder though and goes up, allowing commentary to mock JR's voice on the famous Jeff Hardy ladder climb.

With that broken up, Wentz hits a big step up dive onto a pile on the floor, followed by Fitchett's running lip dive. Davis Arabian presses onto a bunch of people, leaving Xavier alone with a ladder in the ring. Instead of going for the belts, he climbs the ladder and shooting stars down onto the pile. Vega has used the delay to put a board over six chairs at ringside and superplex Wentz through it for the next big crash.

Back in and Fitchett kicks Xavier in the face but it's Aussie Open cleaning house. Davis' running forearm in the corner rocks Xavier and the Aussies both climb at once (Commentary: "No, no, no."). Fitchett makes the save and the champs crush Aussie Open with ladders in the corner. The Rascalz are back in to kick the Besties down, including Wentz superkicking a chair into Fitchett's face. Davis comes back in this time and powerbombs Xavier with one arm (dang) but gets kicked in the face by Wentz as well.

Xavier is back up to kick Fletcher and Fitchett down, leaving everyone on the mat. The Aussies catch Xavier going up and Fletcher dives off the top for a cutter (not quite OVE level but not bad). Wentz chops at the Aussies but gets thrown into

a ladder in the corner for his efforts. That's enough to dent the ladder so Fletcher gets on Davis' shoulders but the champs turn it into a Doomsday Device. The Besties hit stereo piledrivers on the Rascalz (illegal in Louisiana) and retain the titles at 14:10.

Rating: B. It was a six man indy ladder match and that should tell you everything that you need to know. There were cool spots and a lot of carnage until one of the teams got the titles, which is exactly how something like this was supposed to go. It's nothing great or memorable but for a big main event on a show like this one, it went well and was probably the best thing on the card.

Post match the Besties say that's how you win gold together (Fan: "THEY'RE SILVER!") but they want to call out...DAVID ARQUETTE??? AND HE'S HERE! Arquette pulls out a \$100 bill scarf and says the Besties just want his money, before bragging about the big names he has faced. He says he's a real champion and that WWE ruined WCW. Then he pulls off his jacket and reveals a NEVER BEEN PINNED shirt. Arquette seems to challenge the Besties to a match and leaves through the crowd to end the show on an awkward note.

Overall Rating: B-. I had fun and it only went a little over two hours so it didn't overstay its welcome. What matters here is getting a bunch of people on a show and popping the crowd over and over. You don't look for continuity or logic here and what we got here lived up to those requirements. It's cool to see some of the non-WWE stars out there doing their thing and there is only one match that really didn't work on the whole card. Fun stuff and I'm kind of regretting not taking it in live.

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Wrestling Spotlight – August 14, 1988: Referee Talk

Wrestling Spotlight

Date: August 14, 1988

Commentator: Gorilla Monsoon, Vince McMahon, Jesse Ventura,

Hosts: Vince McMahon, Lord Alfred Hayes

This is one of the low level WWF shows from back in the Golden Era and upon seeing an episode of it pop up on YouTube, I figured it was worth a look. This is my favorite era of the company's history and we would be coming up on the first Summerslam around this time. Odds are this is going to be promo based so let's get to it.

Dang I love that WHAT THE WORLD IS WATCHING voiceover.

Opening sequence.

Vince and Alfred hype up the Summerslam main event and talk about who we might be seeing here.

From Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 14, 1988.

Rick Rude vs. Billy Brown

Bobby Heenan is here with Rude and before the match, Rude shows off his Cheryl Roberts tights. Brown actually tries to fire up the crowd as we get a voiceover from Howard Finkel for an upcoming show, which sounds like a fundraiser. The beatdown is on as we get an inset promo from Rude saying that Jake Roberts should get some WWF binoculars (because there are WWF binoculars) to see just how ravishing he REALLY is. Oh and Cheryl has never looked so good either. The Rude Awakening finishes at 1:15.

Post match Heenan brings in a woman (who is NOT like Cheryl Roberts) to get the kiss from Rude.

And now, the Brother Love Show. Love is SO excited this week because his personal benefactor, Ted DiBiase, is his guest. Instead though, here are Randy Savage and Miss Elizabeth to interrupt, with Savage saying they have some very different definitions of love. Savage LOVES being the WWF Champion but he also loves his partner at Summerslam, so here is Hulk Hogan (in a weird looking red shirt/yellow trunks combination).

Love goes to leave but Hogan says hang on, because he has a different definition of love too. Hogan loves being the Hulkster and the Hulkamaniacs, but for now he would LOVE to get his hands on Love. That's enough to send Love running off and the Mega Powers LOVE the idea of beating up the Mega Bucks at Summerslam. They lift up Liz and pose, with Hogan's music playing because he's still the real star.

From LaCrosse, Wisconsin, July 13, 1988.

Tito Santana vs. Tim Dixon

Jesse Ventura doesn't buy that Tito is a singles star again because there is no way Rick Martel is STILL injured, but rather he's just scared of Demolition. Santana works on an armbar to start before running Dixon over with a shoulder.

Another armbar sends Dixon over to the ropes as Jesse insists that he will NOT be intimidated by Andre the Giant at Summerslam (which was a great story to the match as even Jesse was intimidated by Andre because, you know, it's Andre).

Santana grabs the armbar again so Dixon makes it to the rope for the break. The armbar goes on yet again and Vince gets bored listening to Jesse talking about not being worried over Andre and acknowledges how boring this is. Tito FINALLY finishes with the flying forearm at 4:01.

Rating: D. Tito is one of my all time favorites but my goodness this was boring. They went four minutes and most of that was spent on various armbars. This is a match that could have had probably three minutes cut off for the same result. The match was there as a way for Jesse to talk about not being intimidated by Andre and that got old almost immediately.

We go to the Event Center with Sean Mooney to run down a card at the Capital Center in Landover, Maryland (remember that this would be the show for the local market so this part would be different depending on where you were). Therefore, let's hear from some people on the card.

The Fabulous Rougeau Brothers are sure they'll beat the Hart Foundation because they're really brothers.

Ultimate Warrior is ready for Honky Tonk Man, who won't be a challenge.

Video on Honky Tonk Man.

From Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 14, 1988.

Greg Valentine vs. Ken Patera

Joined in progress with Valentine begging off and getting punched in the corner. Valentine kicks him down though and hits a headbutt between the legs to take over. The Figure Four (with the Heartbreaker shin guard, which was a big deal for

Valentine around this time) is loaded up but Patera kicks him away. A clothesline gives Patera two as commentary mocks the cover and Patera's skills in general. I mean fair enough but you could be a bit nicer. Patera misses a charge in the corner so Valentine loads up the Heartbreaker, only to have Don Muraco come in and jump Valentine for the DQ at 2:58.

Post match Muraco goes after the Heartbreaker but has to deal with Jimmy Hart, allowing Valentine to escape. Muraco holds up Patera's arm, even as Valentine is announced as the winner. Patera was AWFUL at this point and it was showing badly here.

The Mega Powers know how big Summerslam is going to be because....kids have been asking for their allowance before doing their chores? Anyway, there are plans of elbows, bearhugs, slams and the Kiss Of Death. You can figure out who is going to do what.

Here's how you can order Summerslam!

From Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 14, 1988.

Rockers vs. Dave Wagner/Tom Burton

Jannetty hiptosses Wagner down into an armbar to start before a drop toehold sets up Michaels' legdrop to the back of the head. A belly to belly drops Wagner again as Heenan is teasing his own team. Brown comes in as Monsoon doesn't seem to know which Rocker is which. Michaels drops a running elbow, setting up the top rope fist (off of Jannetty's shoulders....so I guess it's a top shoulders) fist drop for the pin at 2:59. Total and complete squash.

Vince and Alfred talk about Jesse Ventura being the guest referee for the Summerslam main event, which has been a major topic for this show.

UPDATE with Gene Okerlund looks at Summerslam, or at least the main event. This show is starting to look like a one match

card. We do at least get some more matches discussed, which has barely been done all show.

From LaCrosse, Wisconsin, July 13, 1988.

Terry Taylor vs. Chris Todd

Taylor armdrags him down a few times as Jesse compliments Todd's tights. We get an inset interview from Taylor, where he brags about being so handsome and thanks his parents for making him into Scary Terry Taylor. Vince: "Thanking his mom and dad? For what?" Anyway Terry keeps hammering away and we talk about Jesse being guest referee AGAIN. Some stomping and an awful looking spinebuster (Taylor dropped him) sets up the Scorpion Deathlock to finish Todd at 2:24. This was BAD and Taylor would actually get worse as the Red Rooster.

From Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 14, 1988.

Brutus Beefcake vs. Warren Bianchi

Bianchi is rather short and....I guess we'll say ugly. We get an inset interview from Honky Tonk Man and Jimmy Hart, who aren't happy with Beefcake being on the cover of the new WWF Magazine instead of Honky Tonk. Beefcake unloads on Bianchi with the usual array of right hands and stomping before finishing with the sleeper at 2:01. Total squash and Gorilla says this is a win on Wrestling Challenge, as this was from a taping of another show (and probably aired on there too).

Post match, Bianchi gets an unwelcome haircut.

King Haku is ready for Tito Santana at the Capitol Center, with Bobby Heenan demonstrating proper bowing procedure.

Randy Savage is ready for the taller and heavier Andre the Giant, also at the Capitol Center.

We get the rest of the Landover card and....yeah I think I'm good.

Vince and Alfred wrap us up and give us one more Summerslam push to end the show.

Overall Rating: C-. It's pure nostalgia and I'm not even going to pretend it's anything else. This show was all about Summerslam (mainly the main event/Jesse's referring) and that got a bit old fast. Other than that, this is basically the poor man's version of Superstars or Prime Time and that didn't exactly make for a fun 45ish minutes. That being said, it's late 80s WWF and I'm always in for that, so odds are I'll be back on this period sooner rather than later.

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NXT UK – August 25, 2022: (Almost) Out On A High Note

NXT UK

Date: August 25, 2022

Location: BT Sports Studios, London, England

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Andy Shepherd

The slow march to the end continues as we are at the next to last show in NXT UK's history. With two shows left and the semifinals/finals of the United Kingdom Title tournament to go, you know what is going to be the focal point this time. I'm going to be a bit disappointed that the rest of the stories aren't likely to be tied up but WWE doesn't seem to mind. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of the first round of the tournament and a video on Mark Coffey vs. Noam Dar in their rubber match for the Heritage Cup Title.

Opening sequence.

United Kingdom Title Tournament Semifinals: Trent Seven vs. Oliver Carter

They both promise to win because they want to be champion and Carter is coming in with a leg injury. Carter is tentative to start but manages a kick to the head with the good leg. Seven gets sent outside and taken down with a slingshot dive but the leg is banged up pretty badly on the landing. A dragon screw legwhip over the ropes has Carter's knee in even more trouble and Seven is rather pleased.

The leg work is on, including a cannonball and some kicks in the corner. Carter manages to counter a shinbreaker into a sunset flip but Seven kicks the knee right back out. With one leg not working, Carter uses the other to catch him with a spinning kick to the head, setting up a one legged (nice) Lionsault for two. A jumping kick misses though and jams the knee, allowing Seven to hit a dragon suplex.

Carter manages another shot to the face though and a one legged missile dropkick drops Seven. An ax kick gets two but Seven gets smart and goes after the leg again. Some kind of a leglock (cross between a kneebar and a Figure Four) has Carter

screaming but he manages to turn it into a slap off. Carter finally goes down and has to get his shoulders up, meaning Seven cranks even harder for the tap at 9:16.

Rating: B. This was as well structured of a match as I can remember seeing in a good while. They didn't do anything out of the blue here as it was centered around the leg injury and the match ended because of it. Carter's comeback was VERY nice to see as instead of just doing his usual stuff and then grabbing his leg, he changed up the offense and built it around the injury. It was a match that had some thought put into it and I liked it a lot more because of that work.

United Kingdom Title Tournament Semifinals: Tyler Bate vs. Joe Coffey

Not that this has been telegraphed or anything. They shake hands to start and it's Bate working on a wristlock. Bate's cravate is broken up and some running shoulders just annoy Coffey. Some hard shots knock Bate into the corner and the running headbutt knocks him into the corner for two. A backbreaker gets the same as Coffey starts leaning into the power game.

Coffey runs him over to cut off a comeback bid and the bearhug goes on. A giant swing sends Bate...uh, swinging and it's a double crash to leave them both down. They slug it out for another double knockdown but Bate is up with a middle rope elbow to the jaw. The running shooting star press gets two but Coffey manages to snap off an overhead belly to belly. Another suplex gets two on Bate and the Boston Crab has his back in even more trouble.

The slow, dramatic crawl to the ropes is a bit too slow (and dramatic), allowing Coffey to pull him back into the middle. Bate eventually turns it over and kicks him in the face a few times for the break but Coffey hits the double springboard crossbody. That's rather cool, though Bate rolling through for

two lowers the impact a bit. The big slugout is on again until they both hit the ropes, with Coffey hitting All The Best For The Bells at the same time Bate this his rebound lariat, meaning it's another double knockdown. Back up and the Tyler Driver 97 is blocked so Bate grabs a backslide for the pin and the spot in the finals at 12:00.

Rating: B. This took its time to get going but once they hit that high gear, it was one big shot after another. Bate winning wasn't exactly a shock but Coffey can lay in the heavy shots as well as almost anyone around here. It's kind of disappointing that Coffey never got the big singles run, as it seems like it could have gone really well. For now though, they'll have to settle for the big heavyweight slugfest.

Post match Trent Seven comes out for the staredown and promises to show Bate he's the better man.

Sid Scala announces a four way to crown the new #1 contender to the Women's Title. This was also spoiled on this week's NXT. Blair Davenport, Amale, Emilia McKenzie and Eliza Alexander all promise to win.

We hear about the announcement of NXT Europe, coming next year, and EVERYONE is excited. Or at least the tweets and announcements that they'll show here.

We get a bit of an NXT UK montage, which I think serves as the goodbye video for the show. It does deserve one, just for sticking around far longer than it had any business doing.

Heritage Cup: Noam Dar vs. Mark Coffey

Coffey is defending in the rubber match. Round one begins with a feeling out process as neither gets very far to start. Dar takes him down by the wrist and starts cranking but Coffey reverses into a quickly broken leg crank. A headlock goes on for a bit, followed by a waistlock to keep Dar in trouble. Coffey armdrags him into an armbar as the round ends.

Round two begins with the armbar continuing but this time Dar reverses into a waistlock of his own. The chinlock is reversed into another armbar but Dar reverses the reversal into a headlock. Coffey is back up and misses the sliding forearm so Dar elbows him in the head. The sliding lariat connects for two on Coffey and Dar starts stomping on the arm as the round ends.

Round three begins with Dar missing a kick in the corner and getting clotheslined down as Coffey is starting in with the power. Dar avoids a charge in the corner but gets dropped face first, all while what sounds like two fans sing GALLUS BOYS ON TOP. A hard kick to the face gives Dar two but Coffey is too down for the Nova Roller. Instead he rolls Dar up before hitting the sliding forearm for the first fall at 1:22 of the round and 8:38 overall.

Round four begins with Dar trying to remember what planet he's on and getting laid across the top rope. An elbow to the head staggers Dar again but he falls to the floor before Coffey can try the middle rope bulldog. Back in and the referee checks on Dar, who insists he's ok so Coffey forearms him in the head for another long knockdown. Dar manages to pull him into the kneebar though and Coffey looks at the clock before tapping at 2:17 of the round and 11:33 overall to tie it up.

Round five begins with Coffey loading up the middle rope bulldog but having to settle for the standing version due to the leg. The Gator Lock goes on but Dar flips over into an armbar, which is broken up as well. Dar takes too long going up and gets elbowed down, only to come back with a kick to the head. Coffey rolls out of another kneebar but Dar puts it right back on. This time Coffey manages to ride out the clock as the round ends.

Round six (the final one) begins with another slugout but Dar has to break out of a guillotine. A small package gives Dar two so Coffey plants him with a half nelson slam. The sliding

forearm connects, with Dar crashing out to the floor. Coffey throws him back inside but here is Sha Samuels to post Coffey, setting up the Nova Roller to give Dar the cup back at 1:46 of the round and 17:30 overall.

Rating: B. I got into this one by the end and that is because they built things up. Dar winning the cup one more time isn't the most exciting thing but odds are this feud would have continued if the show kept going. They have chemistry together and commentary was doing a good job of making it feel like a big showdown. Good match here, with the drama near the ending making it that much better.

Dar and Samuels celebrate and a bunch of replays wrap things up.

Overall Rating: A-. This was one heck of a show as the action carried everything that they could have needed to do. Above all else, I was into all three matches and they did something different with each one. Sure all of the results were spoiled/predictable, but the matches were as good as just about anything else you'll see in a ring this week. Excellent show as NXT UK (almost) goes out on a very high note.

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Daily News Update – August 27, 2022

Make sure you check out some recent reviews.

[ECW On Sci Fi – January 8, 2008](#)

[Dynamite – August 24, 2022](#)

[Smackdown – January 11, 2008](#)

[Impact Wrestling – August 25, 2022](#)

[Smackdown – August 26, 2022](#)

[Rampage – August 26, 2022](#)

He's Still Got It: WWE Remains High On Star's Future Potential.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-still-got-wwe-remains-high-stars-future-potential/>

What Could Have Been: WWE Star Reveals Plan For Hulk Hogan Inspired Character.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-star-reveals-plan-hulk-hogan-inspired-character/>

BREAKING: AEW Title Changes Hands In Shocking Fashion.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/breaking-aew-title-changes-hands-shocking-fashion/>

Not Again: Thunder Rosa Injured, Interim AEW Women's Champion

To Be Crowned.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/not-right-kind-history-aw-womens-title-vacated-interim-champion-named/>

Substitutions: Motor City Machine Guns Set For All Out As Replacements.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/substitutions-aw-announces-change-card-new-team-coming/>

Put It On Hold: AEW Star Suspended, All Out Match In Doubt.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/put-hold-aw-star-suspended-match-doubt/>

Same Old, Same Old: Medical Update On Missing WWE Star.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/old-old-medical-update-missing-smackdown-star/>

Backstage Talk: Details On Huge AEW Talent Meeting Before Dynamite.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/backstage-talk-details-huge-aw-talent-meeting-dynamite/>

It's Stacked: AEW Loads Up All Out Card With Five New Matches.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/stacked-aw-loads-card-five-new-matches/>

He Said Something: WWE Official Weighs In On Dexter Lumis Arrest.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/said-something-wwe-official-weighs-dexter-lumis-story/>

Run It Back: Here Is AEW's Current Plan For All Out's Main Event.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/run-back-aws-current-pl>

[an-outs-main-event/](#)

Sign Up: Roman Reigns Confirms Important Details About WWE Future.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/sign-roman-reigns-confirms-important-details-wwe-future/>

RUMOR KILLER On AEW's Thunder Rosa Needing Time Off.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/rumor-killer-thunder-rosa-needing-time-off-aew/>

Next Man Up: WWE Considers Promoting NXT Prospect To Main Roster.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/next-man-wwe-considers-promoting-nxt-prospect-main-roster/>

Talk It Out: Sammy Guevara And Eddie Kingston Weigh In On Altercation, More Details.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/talk-sammy-guevara-eddie-kingston-weigh-altercation-details/>

Keep As Is: WWE NOT Making Major Change To Television.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/keep-wwe-not-making-major-change-television/>

Next Up? Surprising NXT Name Discussed For Main Roster Call Up.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/next-surprising-nxt-name-discussed-main-roster-call/>

The Backstory: Why CM Punk vs. Jon Moxley Went So Strangely.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/backstory-cm-punk-vs-jon-moxley-went-strangely/>

It's On: Long Awaited Title Match Set For AEW All Out.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/long-awaited-title-match-set-aew/>

In The Can: Full Results From September 2 WWE SmackDown Tapings *SPOILERS*.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/can-full-results-september-2-wwe-smackdown-tapings-spoilers/>

Stay Down There: Injury Causes Delay In Pair Of NXT Promotions.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/stay-injury-causes-delay-pair-main-roster-promotions/>

Keep Waiting: Update On Paul Heyman's WWE Status.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/keep-waiting-update-paul-heyman-wwe-status/>

It's Still Around: Vince McMahon Project Finds New Life, Biography Still On.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/still-around-vince-mcmahon-project-finds-new-life-biography-still/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: Triple H Plans Changes To WWE Championships.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-triple-h-plans-changes-wwe-championships/>

As always, hit up the comments section to chat about what is going on and [get on the Wrestling Rumors Facebook page.](#)

Rampage – August 26, 2022: I Won't Be Looking Forward To It

Rampage

Date: August 26, 2022

Location: Wolstein Center, Cleveland, Ohio

Commentators: Jim Ross, Excalibur, Chris Jericho, Tony Schiavone

We're coming off quite the major moment on Dynamite as Jon Moxley squashed CM Punk to unify the World Titles. That leaves some questions open for All Out and AEW does not have much time left to set it up. I could go for finding out what is going to headline the show, but odds are we will find that out next week on Dynamite. Let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Trios Titles Tournament First Round: House Of Black vs. Dark Order

Brody King drives 10 into the corner to start but has to power out of a headlock. King knocks him into the corner so it's off to John Silver, who elbows Buddy Murphy in the face. Everyone comes in and the brawl breaks out as we take a break. Back with Alex Reynolds caught in the wrong corner, allowing Malakai Black to shoulder him down. Reynolds manages to slip over to the corner though and it's back to 10 for the comeback.

The full nelson has Black in trouble until Murphy makes the save. The Order starts striking away at Murphy but King is back in to...get clotheslined outside by 10. Black is back in

and tears off 10's knee brace, setting up a kneebar. But look out, here comes Miro for a distraction, including a faceplant to Murphy and a right hand to King. That's enough to let Reynolds roll Black up for the pin at 9:02.

Rating: C. There's your WWE finish and upset of the week, as the Order gets into the semifinals in quite the surprise. Odds are this sets up Miro vs. the House Of Black at All Out, likely with Sting and Darby Allin joining in. The match was perfectly watchable, but they might as well hand the Elite the titles at this point.

Post match the House jumps Miro until Sting and Darby Allin make the save.

Hook doesn't care what Matt Menard and Angelo Parker said about him. With Hook gone, Menard and Parker come in to say they want to take the weight of the title off of his shoulders.

TNT Title: Wardlow vs. Ryan Nemeth

Nemeth is challenging and, as the hometown boy, says the best thing about Cleveland is LEAVING. Fellow hometown boy Wardlow cuts him off, with the walk from backstage entrance, and we're ready to go. Chris Sabin, Jay Lethal, Sonjay Dutt and Satnam Singh come out, but Nemeth wants them gone. Nemeth talks more trash until he gets headbutted down. A big right hand knocks Nemeth silly, setting up a four movement Powerbomb Symphony to retain the title at 1:28.

The Andrade Family Office isn't happy with their losses last week. Private Party and Andrade El Idolo almost come to blows, with El Idolo threatening consequences.

Powerhouse Hobbs vs. Ashton Day

Clothesline, mock Ricky Starks pose, spinebuster, Day is done at 1:03.

We cut to the back, where the Factory beats up Ricky Starks, much to Hobbs' approval. I have no idea why the Factory needs to be included in this story.

Jade Cargill isn't worried about Athena but has to stop to yell at Leila Grey. As for Athena, she's challenges for All Out, so here is Athena to jump Cade from behind...and get punched in the face anyway. This feud is death.

Tay Melo/Sammy Guevara vs. Ortiz/Ruby Soho

Melo and Soho fight over arm control to start with Melo taking her down to crank on the wrist. Back up and Soho drives shoulders into the corner as Excalibur runs down the All Out card. Melo gets knocked into the corner so it's off to Ortiz to run Sammy over. After a ninja pose, Ortiz gets sent into the corner, allowing Sammy to hit a running knee. A kiss from Melo sends us to a break and we come back with Soho kicking Melo in the corner.

Sammy offers a distraction so Ruby poisonranas him, allowing Melo to score with a high crossbody for two. Everything breaks down and Ortiz DDTs Sammy but has to block Melo's tornado DDT. No Future drops Melp but Sammy makes the save. Angelo Parker pops up for a distraction, allowing Anna Jay to run in and send Soho into the steps. That's enough for Sammy to hit a springboard cutter for the pin at 9:41.

Rating: C+. Yes believe it or not, Soho loses again in a match that was a big deal for her. Even if she didn't get pinned here, it was yet another case of her having a chance to get a moment and it's another loss instead. Ortiz and Soho not beating Melo and Guevara is fine, but can we get Soho a win of some kind already? Anywhere?

We look back at Jon Moxley beating CM Punk in short fashion to unify the World Titles.

We get some exclusive post match footage of Punk hearing about

his foot being really messed up.

Dustin Rhodes is ready to finally win the World Title and Claudio Castagnoli respects him.

Ring Of Honor World Title: Claudio Castagnoli vs. Dustin Rhodes

Castagnoli, with Wheeler Yuta, is defending, Caprice Coleman and William Regal (replacing Jericho) join commentary, and Arn/Brock Anderson are here with Dustin. Feeling out process to start with Dustin grabbing an armdrag for two, which has him holding up two fingers at Castagnoli. A headlock doesn't work for Castagnoli so he powers Dustin outside for consultation with Arn. Back in and Castagnoli sends Dustin arm first into the corner before ducking a charge, sending Dustin outside as we take a break.

Back with Dustin fighting out of a Crossface into a side slam. A clothesline sends Castagnoli outside for a change and there's the flip dive off the apron. Back in and a middle rope hurricanrana sets up a Code Red for two on Castagnoli. One heck of a clothesline gives Castagnoli two more and there's the giant swing for another near fall.

The Crossface goes on again but Dustin escapes again and hits a powerslam. A piledriver....doesn't quite work as he kind of drops Castagnoli to the side, making it more like a powerbomb, for two. Castagnoli is back up and tries a leapfrog, with Dustin's head hitting him low (ala Konnan vs. Eddie Guerrero at Uncensored 1996). That doesn't keep Castagnoli down long and he hits the pop up uppercut to retain at 12:28.

Rating: B-. The build for this was good, but it didn't exactly hit that level that you might have expected. Castagnoli is being presented as a major star in AEW and that means he isn't going to lose the title in a quickly booked defense in the main event of Rampage. Dustin continues to be as likable as you can get, but he wasn't going to win here and that wasn't

surprising.

Overall Rating: C+. As has been the case in recent weeks, the show was a watchable hour of wrestling where almost nothing felt like it was going to matter in the slightest. This has become more of the showcase show for AEW and that's a fine way to go, but that isn't exactly going to have me counting down the days until the next episode.

Results

Dark Order b. House Of Black – Rollup to Black

Wardlow b. Ryan Nemeth – Powerbomb Symphony

Powerhouse Hobbs b. Ashton Day – Spinebuster

Tay Melo/Sammy Guevara b. Ortiz/Ruby Soho – Springboard cutter to Ortiz

Claudio Castagnoli b. Dustin Rhodes – Pop up uppercut

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Smackdown – August 26, 2022: The Match That Gets An F

Smackdown

Date: August 26, 2022

Location: Little Caesars Arena, Detroit, Michigan

Commentators: Michael Cole, Pat McAfee

We are eight days away from Clash At The Castle and most of the card is set. There are still some things that need to be covered though and odds are we can get some of that this week. That would mainly include pushing the rest of the build to the matches we already have set, while probably adding in something else. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Ricochet vs. Happy Corbin

Ricochet starts fast and knocks him outside before backflipping into the superhero pose. Back in and a dropkick sets up a standing shooting star press for two on Corbin. The fast starts continues as Ricochet loads up a springboard, only to get knocked out of the air. Corbin pounds away a bit but gets knocked down for another flipping dive as we take a break.

Back with Corbin hitting something like a World's Strongest Slam onto (not through) the announcer's table before hammering away inside. Ricochet tries a handspring and is forearmed right back down as the power keeps working for Corbin. A spinning DDT gets Ricochet out of trouble and it's time to kick away. Deep Six gives Corbin two but Ricochet kicks him down again. The shooting star press finishes for Ricochet at 12:13.

Rating: B-. This worked well because they followed a pretty simple formula of power vs. speed. Ricochet is able to fly with the best of them and it is great to see him getting a win here. Corbin losing again is a great thing to see and it is nice to see these emotional roller coasters that he lands on so often. Good start here and the rise of Ricochet is nice to see.

Post match, Corbin stays down in the corner, leaving McAfee to bust out the telestrator to explain what a horrible person he is.

The Street Profits meet Hit Row and seem rather cool with each other.

Long video on Drew McIntyre talking about the path his career has taken to get here. This includes a bunch of really cool footage of the early days of McIntyre's career and his rise through the ranks, from the UK to FCW. McIntyre talks about his mom getting sick and hitting rock bottom when he was fired from WWE. More on this later.

Karrion Kross and Scarlett aren't impressed because Kross could put his elbow through McIntyre's head at anytime.

Women's Tag Team Title Tournament Quarterfinals: Natalya/Sonya Deville vs. Shotzi/Xia Li vs. Tamina/Dana Brooke vs. Doudrop/Nikki Ash

This is a one fall to a finish Last Chance match as Toxic Attraction was injured and a replacement was needed. Tamina superkicks Natalya off the apron to start and hits a Samoan drop on Deville, with Doudrop having to make a save. Li comes in to suplex Nikki into the ropes before dropping her throat first onto the top. Everything breaks down and it's a parade of everyone being knocked down. With a big pile on the floor, Dana superplexes Nikki onto everyone else, with Nikki's leg landing REALLY awkwardly. Sonya immediately throws her inside for the pin at 3:13 as I'd be shocked if we didn't have a bad

injury.

Rating: F. This was pretty terrible and I'm not even sure where to start. The biggest thing is Nikki's leg, as she crashed hard at the end and very well might be in trouble. Other than that, Li looked lost and the match was an eight woman cluster with no one getting to shine. This was a total wreck and I'm not sure how much worse it could have been.

Video on Shayna Baszler.

Here are the Brawling Brutes, with Sheamus promising to beat the sauerkraut out of Gunther at Clash At The Castle to become the Ultimate Grand Slam Champion. Cue Gunther and Ludwig Kaiser, with Sheamus cutting Kaiser off because no one can understand him. Sheamus' issue is with Gunther, because Sheamus is a ring general himself. Sheamus has beaten all kinds of stars around here and has won almost everything there is to win.

There are a lot of similarities between them and now Sheamus wants what Gunther has. Gunther says Sheamus is a man to be respected, but to protect the title, Gunther will teach him what violence really means. The staredown is on, even as Butch and Kaiser get in a fight. Ridge Holland is knocked outside and Kaiser and Butch are both knocked down, with Sheamus and Gunther not breaking their stare. Eventually they each grab their boys and leave, after one of the more amusing staredowns I can remember in a long time.

Sonya Deville and Natalya are ready for their semifinal match. As they talk, Nikki Ash and Doudrop are in quite the heated argument.

We look at the end of last week's show with Sami Zayn taking the Claymore from Drew McIntyre to save Roman Reigns.

Zayn goes to see Reigns but finds the Usos instead. The Usos aren't cool with McIntyre still walking but Reigns tells Zayn

to come in. Reigns says Zayn lost but he appreciates what Zayn did to help him out. That's something family would do and now, Reigns needs another family. He needs McIntyre distracted, which is cool with Zayn as he and McIntyre are facing each other tonight. Zayn says he has this and suggests making it a team effort. Reigns thinks this is all about Zayn though, which he can make work.

Women's Tag Team Title Tournament Semifinals: Raquel Rodriguez/Aliyah vs. Natalya/Sonya Deville

Bayley, with Iyo Sky/Dakota Kai behind her, is on commentary and Michael Cole looks crushed. Of note: the trio came to the ring before a break and the Zayn/Reigns stuff, meaning I was worried we would come back to them standing there. Instead, we came back to them at commentary, which was such a great relief that WWE stopped that dumb concept.

Anyway, Sonya gets knocked to the floor to start and Aliyah hits a Meteora off the apron. Natalya Michinoku Drivers Aliyah on the floor and we take a break. Back with Natalya breaking up the corkscrew Vader Bomb and kicking Rodriguez in the head. Rodriguez powers out of a choke but Aliyah has been knocked off the apron so Rodriguez knocks both of them down instead. The running splashes in the corner connect and there's the corkscrew Vader Bomb to Deville. Rodriguez has to take out Natalya and gets kneed down by Deville for two. A big kick misses though and the Tejana Bomb finishes Deville at 8:13.

Rating: C. This was more or less a handicap match for Rodriguez and she continues to roll over just about anyone in front of her. That might be better to keep Aliyah away from the longer matches and let Rodriguez do just about anything. I can't imagine they win the titles, but the title match should work out well enough.

Post match Sky and Kai come in for the staredown.

Maximum Male Models are having a photo shoot but Hit Row's bus

starts blaring music. No worries though as Maxxine has an idea.

Here is New Day, with Xavier Woods in a wheelchair (with his legs covered with a blanket) for their big return. They're a bit serious here and talk about how they need to face reality: the Viking Raiders have been beating them up week after week. Then last week, the Raiders burned a bunch of their stuff and that has them thinking...that they'll be interrupted by the Raiders.

Erik says this is pathetic because the New Day was giving a proper sendoff and yet here they are sniveling. The one thing a viking despises more than anything else is weakness and this groveling makes them sick. Violence is threatened but Woods whips the blanket off and the kendo stick underneath the blanket knock the Raiders outside. This could have been worse, but the feud needs to end already as it is already going too long.

The Maximum Male Models have painted HIT ROW SUCKS on the side of their bus, but Hit Row comes in to say it isn't their bus. The Street Profits come out and glaring ensues.

Jey Uso yells at Sami Zayn to handle his business and never disrespect Jey in front of the family again.

We get the second half of the McIntyre video, featuring his return to WWE and rise to the top. Now he needs to get back to the top defeating Roman Reigns again. He promises to kick Reigns' head off his f***** body. I'm not sure how this is going to work, but they almost have to change the title after setting up McIntyre this well.

Drew McIntyre vs. Sami Zayn

Zayn bails to the floor to start before catching McIntyre on the way back in. McIntyre knocks him outside though and it's time to slug it out on the floor again. Back in again and Zayn

kicks the rope into McIntyre's leg, allowing him to hammer away. Zayn chokes away on the rope but McIntyre is getting annoyed. McIntyre unloads in the corner and there's the tilt-a-whirl backbreaker to put Zayn down again. Back up and Zayn manages a sunset bomb out of the corner to send us to a break.

Back with McIntyre snapping off an overhead belly to belly before snapping off an overhead belly to belly. There's a neckbreaker to drop Zayn but here are the Usos for a distraction, allowing Zayn to grab the Blue Thunder Bomb for two. McIntyre shrugs that off and hits the Claymore for the pin at 10:26.

Rating: C+. This was almost guaranteed to be at least pretty good and that's what we got here. McIntyre winning is no surprise as he has a major title match coming up. Zayn on the other hand is on a roll right now and doing some of his best work in years. It wouldn't surprise me to see him change sides sooner rather than later, perhaps teaming up with Kevin Owens to go after the Tag Team Titles. Nice main event here though, and that's all it needed to be.

Post match Roman Reigns comes in and the big beatdown is on, with the spear setting up a bunch of chair shots. McIntyre gets sent into various things on the floor, followed by Reigns guillotining him back inside. Reigns puts a chair over McIntyre and sits down to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. This show was up and down, with the main focus being on the World Title match and everything else being a pretty hard step down. Other than a nice opener and the awkwardly amusing Sheamus/Gunther faceoff, there wasn't much of value on the whole show. That four way women's tag was just awful on every level and one of the worst TV matches I've seen in a long time. The show as a whole was ok enough, but the bad part was dreadful and the good didn't bring it to a higher level.

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Impact Wrestling – August 25, 2022: Keep Doing This

Impact Wrestling

Date: August 25, 2022

Location: Cicero Stadium, Chicago, Illinois

Commentators: Tom Hannifan, Matthew Rehwoldt

Bound For Glory is starting to take shape and we now have a main event set for the show. Eddie Edwards won an elimination match last week to earn the spot and now we can begin the build towards the biggest night of the year. There is a lot more to get set up for the show though and maybe we can work on that this week. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of Eddie Edwards winning the elimination

match last week to earn the title shot.

Opening sequence.

Knockouts Tag Team Titles: Jordynne Grace/Mia Yim vs. VXT

VXT is defending. Grace and Green start things off with the former grabbing a headlock takeover. With that not working, Purrazzo comes in for a few shots before it's right back to Green. Grace runs her over again and hands it off to Yim for a dropkick into the corner. The Cannonball gets two but Purrazzo's cheap shot lets the champs take over for a change. Some clotheslines get two on Yim, followed by a clothesline for two on Yim. Purrazzo misses a charge into the post though and the tag brings in Grace.

Everything breaks down and Yim suplexes Green for two before missile dropkicking Purrazzo. Green is back up with a top rope Blockbuster on Yim, only to get gutwrench powerbombed by Grace. The champs are sent outside for stereo dives but Grace cuts Yim off. The distracted referee misses a neck snap across the top rope to Grace, setting up the Due Collector (that double suplex) to retain the titles at 7:28.

Rating: C. This was a good way to give VXT another title win while also having Purrazzo get built up for a possible title shot. Granted I would be shocked if we weren't gearing up for Masha Slamovich challenging Grace at Bound For Glory, but at least they are trying something. VXT is starting to turn into a nice team and that is something the division really needs.

Violent By Design says they're back and ready for Time Machine.

Vincent comes up to Josh Alexander, who he is facing tonight. Alexander isn't dealing with the mind games and plans to drop him on his head.

Here's what's coming at various shows.

Mike Bennett vs. Karl Anderson

If Anderson wins, Maria, here too, is banned from ringside whenever Bennett and Matt Taven get their Tag Team Title shot. Anderson chops him down to start and stomps away before a clothesline puts Bennett on the floor. We take a break and come back with Bennett working on a chinlock before whipping Anderson hard into the corner.

The big running start sets up the poke to the eye and we're back to the chinlock. Anderson fights up and hits the Rocket kick, only to get superkicked for two (Maria screams a lot). Maria offers a distraction so Taven can come in with a cheap shot, only to be cut off by Doc Gallows. That's enough for the Gun Stun to finish Bennett at 10:16.

Rating: C. They kept this one moving well enough and I was a bit surprised by the ending. What matters here is setting up the title match, where Honor No More can win the titles in a more dominant fashion without having their backup in the corner. I can't imagine the Good Brothers retaining and the better Honor No More can look in the process, the better for the future of the division.

Post match the Good Brothers go to the back where Scott D'Amore makes the Tag Team Title match for next week.

Savannah Evans is banged up after Killer Kelly beat her last week. Tasha Steelz is ready for revenge but Kelly chokes her from behind.

Jason Hotch vs. Bhupinder Gujjar

Brian Myers is on commentary. Gujjar runs him over to start and hits a shoulder in the corner for two. Hotch is back with a rake to the eyes and a kick to the head in the corner, only to roll into a spinebuster. The Gargoyle spear finishes for Gujjar at 2:18.

Post match Myers lays out Gujjar but he comes back with a Gargoyle spear. Gujjar steals the Digital Media Title.

VXT brags about their win to Gail Kim and Deonna Purrazzo thinks she should get a Knockouts Title shot. Gail gives her a #1 contenders match with Masha Slamovich instead.

Gujjar won't give the title back, saying Myers can come get it.

Vincent vs. Josh Alexander

Non-title. Vincent drives him into the corner to start but gets belly to belly suplexed for his efforts. A Russian legsweep drops Alexander though and Redrum connects for a fast two. The running knee misses Alexander in the corner and he's right back with a German suplex to send Vincent flying again. It's too early for the C4 Spike so Alexander grabs the ankle lock instead, sending Vincent straight to the ropes. Alexander is right back with a Falcon Arrow into a C4 Spike for the pin at 4:05.

Rating: C+. Not much more than a squash here and it isn't like Vincent is going to be hurt by losing to the World Champion. Alexander going through some of Honor No More on the way to Eddie Edwards should work well enough as a road to Bound For Glory and it isn't like he'll run out of opponents anytime soon. Vincent is fine in a spot like this, but he's much better with those out there promos that he sells so well.

Post match here is Eddie Edwards to say he is going to be challenging Alexander at Bound For Glory, but they don't have to be enemies. There is a war going on in wrestling and it has nothing to do with what is going on in the ring. These people in the arena support the machine instead of the wrestlers and Alexander needs to pick a side. Before Edwards can get very far, Heath runs in with the Wake Up Call. They got me with that one.

Raj Singh and Shera are complaining about things when they hear Moose and Steve Maclin arguing. Sami Callihan jumps Maclin and Moore, with Maclin being busted open. The villains manages to tie Callihan up in barbed wire and leave him laying.

Video on Masha Slamovich.

Alisha vs. Jessika

Rosemary is here with Jessika, who is billed from the Bright Light District. Rosemary gives Jessika some eye black to fire her up and Alisha gets crushed early. A running basement crossbody drops Alisha again and a fire thunder driver finishes her off at 1:56.

Video on Mickie James walking out of Impact.

Here's what's coming next week.

Here is Sami Callihan, still wrapped in barbed wire. He wants Barbed Wire Massacre at Victory Road.

Time Machine vs. Violent By Design

That would be the Motor City Machine Guns/Kushida vs. Eric Young/Joe Doering/Deaner. Kushida charges at Doering to start but the shoulders bounce off of him. Young comes in so Shelley joins in to double team him down. It's off to Deaner, who gets kneed in the back as everything breaks down. Deaner gets in a cheap shot on Sabin in the corner though and it's Doering plants him to send us to a break.

Back with Young's neckbreaker getting two, setting up Doering's elbow drop for two. The alternating stomps and choking in the corner ensues but Sabin avoids a charge. That's enough for the tag off to Kushida so the pace can pick way up. A basement dropkick hits Deaner and it's right back to Shelley for some kicks to the face. Everything breaks down again and the villains are sent outside, with Sabin hitting a dive onto

Doering.

Back in and Deaner rolls through Sabin's high crossbody for two, setting up Young's Death Valley Driver for the same. Deaner hits a top rope headbutt to set up Young's top rope elbow for two but Young can't hit the piledriver. Sabin gets over to the corner and everything breaks down again, with the villains being kicked out to the floor. Deaner gets kicked in the head by Kushida, sending him into Cradle Shock to give Sabin the pin at 18:42.

Rating: B. Maybe it's enjoying seeing Violent By Design get hit and kicked a lot but this was a rather enjoyable main event. Kushida and the Guns work well together (shouldn't be a surprise) and they picked up a win here to put Violent By Design back in trouble. I'm sure Young will monologue about this again next week, but for now, the team loses and gets shut up for another week so we'll call that a win.

Overall Rating: C+. This was Impact doing what it does best: giving you a completely acceptable two hours of wrestling with its unique cast of stars. Some of the action was more ok than great or even good, but they aren't doing anything too bad and you can follow the stories with no particular difficulty. That is a lot more than several promotions can claim, making Impact an enjoyable enough show. Good show this week, and I could go for more of this kind of show as the norm if that is what Impact can do.

Results

VXT b. Jordynne Grace/Mia Yim – Due Collector to Grace

Karl Anderson b. Mike Bennett – Gun Stun

Bhupinder Gujjar b. Jason Hotch – Gargoyle spear

Josh Alexander b. Vincent – C4 Spike

Jessika b. Alisha – Fire Thunder Driver

Time Machine b. Violent By Design – Cradle Shock to Deaner

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