

# On This Day: July 5, 2011 – NXT: Starring The Not So Ready For Prime Time Players

## NXT

Date: July 5, 2011

Location: Tucson Arena, Tucson, Arizona

Commentators: Todd Grisham, William Regal

We're at episode 18 here and I'm truly starting to wonder something. I'll be at the Smackdown/NXT tapings on August 2 and I'm honestly not sure if the new season will have started yet. This is already the longest season of the show so far and now all of a sudden we have three finalists instead of two. This could go on for awhile. Let's get to it.

We recap the eliminations this season and the return of Derrick Bateman and his pro Daniel Bryan from last week. I still don't get how this is fair or really needed.

Striker and Maryse bring out the rookies and pros. We go over the Redemption Points with Bateman of course in third place. Time for the Talk the Talk Challenge with the topic of why should you win. Young talks about how unfair it is to put Bateman back in after Young has spent 17 weeks working to get here and now without a pro.

Titus says he's dominated the competition all over and actually makes it rain redemption points. That was kind of funny. Bateman says O'Neil said his football team is better than the local one. Bateman says he and Bryan are the best things to happen to the internet since kitten videos. He gets booed loudly and Titus wins, further proving that these Redemption Points are totally pointless.

We get a quick recap of Yoshi freaking over the broken action figure last week. Can't say they're repeating stuff with that one.

### Yoshi Tatsu vs. Tyson Kidd

Well it was great last week so I can't complain on a rematch. Grisham says it was five stars. The show is on the internet so that fits perfectly. Yoshi fires off some kicks (actually called Kawada kicks by Regal) and we go to the floor for a bit. Back inside Tyson hammers him down in the corner but can't get a rollup. They head to the apron and Kidd blocks a suplex.

Kiss manages to kick him off the apron back first into the post. We take a break to talk about That's What I Am which really shouldn't stun me. Back with Kidd working on the back until Tatsu reverses a suplex into a cross body for two. Kidd hits a suplex and locks on a double chickenwing on the mat. Yoshi fights up and chops away including a kick to put Kidd down.

Tatsu goes up so Kidd tries the Kurt Angle run up for a (vertical in this case) suplex but gets dropped. Spinwheel kick catches Kidd in the hands so badly that Regal has to say it didn't really hit. That gets two and Kidd dropkicks the shin. That sets up a Moss Covered Three Handled Family Credenza for the pin at 9:09. For those of you unfamiliar with the general insanity of Perry Saturn, it's a fisherman's suplex but instead of bridging back you spin the guy around like a neckbreaker.

**Rating:** C+. Well it wasn't bad but to say the other match was better is a huge understatement. Too much resting going on here and nowhere near enough near falls to make this one work. Not bad, but given what they did last week it was going to be pretty hard to top it here. Still good though.

Profile on Derrick Bateman, who really shouldn't have been eliminated last season, especially not while Johnny "so bland that white paint on growing grass calls you bland" Curtis was around.

Horny is still trying to give Maryse flowers. They happen to be dead and include Twizzlers and banana peels. She says that should get him a kiss but she hits him with the flowers instead. Titus can't console him.

### Titus O'Neil/Darren Young vs. Daniel Bryan/Derrick Bateman

According to Todd, Bateman was supposed to be part of this season but tore his MCL. Bateman and Young start us off with Bateman sending him to the floor. Off to Bryan for a little Nexus on Nexus violence. DB and DB work on Young's arm but he's able to fight off Bateman and bring in Titus.

That doesn't last long and neither guy really gets anything going. Back to Young for a chinlock. Grisham says Regal could make a burning orphanage sound funny. When I woke up today, I didn't think I'd hear that line. Titus slams Bateman down as the beating continues.

Young doesn't do as well, allowing the hot tag to Bryan. He hits a running dropkick in the corner to Young, followed by a suplex and swan dive headbutt. Bryan backflips out of a suplex and staggers into the corner, tagging Bateman which I'm not sure was intentional. Bryan takes out O'Neil and Bateman grabs a headlock and drives Young's head into the mat like a Skull Crushing Finale for the pin at 6:22.

**Rating:** C. Just a tag match here and not a very interesting one at all. The Bateman finisher was pretty weak and it's pretty clear that they're going to have Bateman vs. O'Neil in the final two, assuming there is a final two. Nothing special here, but then again Bateman never was anything special in the

ring.

The last 13 minutes of the show are used to completely reair the Vince/Cena closing segment from last night, which was good but I don't want to see it all over again just 24 hours later.

**Overall Rating:** D+. Didn't like this one at all as the whole show felt like filler. No mention of another elimination so based on the track record of this show so far, that means we'll be here at least two more weeks. I was only half kidding earlier when I mentioned August 2 but it's looking more and more possible. Didn't like this as both matches were pretty bland and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the show is a segment from Raw. Nothing to see here at all.

### Results

Titus O'Neil won the Talk the Talk Challenge

Tyson Kidd b. Yoshi Tatsu – Fisherman's neckbreaker

Derrick Bateman/Daniel Bryan b. Darren Young/Titus O'Neil – Headlock into a facejam to Young

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## On This Day: June 28, 2011 –

# NXT: Tyson Kid Saves NXT Again

## NXT

Date: June 28, 2011

Location: US Airways Center, Phoenix, Arizona

Commentators: William Regal, Todd Grisham

It's another elimination week to get us down to the final two which will hopefully end soon after that. The final three are Darren Young, Conor O'Brian and Titus O'Neil. It seems like the competition is Titus' to lose here but you never know with this show. That being said, I'd probably bet on O'Brian to win it because we all want to see him for another four months down the road right? Let's get to it.

Here's Darren Young who now has no pro as Chavo has left. Young says that Chavo quit because he couldn't handle the fact that his rookie was better. Young points out how he's faced Cena and main evented Summerslam this year which is something Chavo has never done. True actually.

O'Brian comes out to say that after tonight, Young is done. He promises utter destruction.

## Darren Young vs. Conor O'Brian

They fight over a tieup to start and head to the floor. Hot crowd tonight too. Back inside and Conor takes over with a clothesline. A shoulder by O'Brian gets two. Young hits a neckbreaker on the apron and both guys are down as we take a break. Back with O'Brian escaping a cravate but getting thrown down for two. Off to a neck crank by Young which doesn't last long.

Kozlov isn't here tonight either apparently as he's in Australia with the Raw roster. Chinlock doesn't work long and O'Brian hits a slingshot to send Young into the corner. Young hits the ropes and gets his head kicked off by a big boot. That looked good. Regal brings up the point that these guys know each other way too well. Young hits Three Amigos to the biggest heat he's gotten since he had a big yellow N on his chest. A Frog Splash ends this a few seconds later at 8:45.

**Rating:** C+. Not bad here and that big kick was the biggest part of the whole thing. The lack of pros actually helped a lot here as it was just a competition rather than about the pros, which is the point of the show. O'Brian is still dull but if he can get even a single move going for him it's an improvement.

Tatsu is at his shrine with his action figure again and Kidd comes up and breaks it. They have a match later but Yoshi jumps him and attacks him until he's pulled off.

#### Tyson Kidd vs. Yoshi Tatsu

TYSON'S HAIR IS GONE! He cut that little thing off his head and it's due to Bret pulling on it apparently. Yoshi is all ticked off and hammers away to start, sending Kidd to the floor. HARD chops in the corner and Kidd is in trouble. Kidd comes back, hitting what looked like a forearm off the middle rope. On the floor he hits a dropkick to send Yoshi into the steps as we take a break.

Back and we're in a chinlock by Kidd. He works the arm and gets two off a hammerlock suplex. Big kick into the arm has Yoshi in agony. Fujiwara Armbar goes on which is becoming a very popular move anymore. Yoshi starts his comeback with his variety of kicks. Big kick gets a close two as the fans are into this again. They go up and Kidd is shoved off. He manages a dropkick to crotch Yoshi though and a top rope rana gets

two. I would have bet on that being the ending. Rollup gets two for Yoshi. Another big kick finally ends Kidd at 9:20. Abrupt ending but rather good.

**Rating:** B. For NXT, this was AWESOME. They were allowed to go out there and beat the heck out of each other. Those kicks and 2 counts were great and I really didn't know who was going to win there at the end. Sick high kick to put Kidd down at the end also made this a very good match and one of the best NXT matches I've seen in a long time.

JTG is getting ready and here's Horny in a trashcan which he's able to walk in somehow. O'Neil comes up to stop an attack because he's only trying to steal the gold jewelry because he's a leprechaun. They get in an argument over what it's made of. I give up.

#### Titus O'Neil vs. JTG

Maryse is on commentary here for no reason other than "she feels like it". O'Neil throws him around as Regal and Maryse argue a bit. Horny has a note for Maryse and it's in English apparently. It's an old school style of do you love me? Circle one. We hear about the required height to date Maryse as JTG takes over a bit. Maryse is taking pictures as O'Neil fights back. JTG is sent to the floor and almost runs into Horny. He gets on the apron and poses at JTG. Back in the ring the Clash of the Titus ends this at 3:20.

**Rating:** C. Just a quick match here as Titus continues to be so far and away better than everyone else in this season it's unreal. Nothing of note here as JTG is still a jobber, no matter which way he's leaning on the face/heel spectrum. Maryse was far more of the focus here than the match and I can't say I blame them here.

Maryse rips up the letter post match.

Raw Rebound eats up some time. They only talk about the main event and the Punk promo though. That's still awesome stuff, but it makes me think Cena wins clean at the PPV. Just parts of it here though instead of whole thing due to time. Most of the controversial stuff here is gone.

Grisham says that Punk has been suspended indefinitely and Vince might be on Raw.

Time for the elimination and thankfully O'Brian is gone. He asks Hunter (HHH I presume) for a chance to play the game.

But wait we're not done yet because someone else is going to the finals. Derrick Bateman is back and Bryan is his pro again. What in the world? Why are they adding someone else NOW? Do they really want to extend this even further? I'm going to be at the show on August 2. There better be a new season by then.

**Overall Rating:** B. All things considered, this was the best episode of NXT in months. There were good matches and the crowd was red hot all night. O'Brian finally being gone is the right choice because you could make a case for Young or O'Neil winning the whole thing. Bateman being added is uh...puzzling. At least he was funny during his time here so it's not too bad. Good show this week that flew by in a good way.

### Results

Darren Young b. Conor O'Brian – Frog Splash

Yoshi Tatsu b. Tyson Kidd – High Kick

Titus O'Neil b. JTG – Clash of the Titus

Conor O'Brian was eliminated in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

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# On This Day: February 29, 2012 – NXT: Here's A Bonus For You. Take That How You Will

## NXT

Date: February 29, 2012

Location: Key Arena, Seattle, Washington

Commentators: Josh Matthews, William Regal

It's the one year anniversary show, despite the season not being on the air for a year yet but again, counting is probably too complicated for WWE. Striker has promised us a major announcement tonight which probably won't wind up meaning much of anything because this is NXT, the land of crushed and broken dreams. Let's get to it.

### Alex Riley/Percy Watson vs. Darren Young/Titus O'Neil

Titus starts with Riley and the beating begins. Riley gets in a dropkick and it's off to Young. Alex takes him down but goes up and is kicked down to give Young the advantage. Things slow down a lot with Titus taking over and saying that he has five. Riley tries to dive for a tag but Titus carries him back to the corner to bring in Young again.

Atomic drop gets two and it's off to a chinlock with a body scissors. Riley manages to get a kick into the face of a bent over Young and tags in Watson. Watson speeds things up and hits the Heisman Splash for two. Watson goes after Titus though and walks into the double knee gutbuster from Young for the pin at 5:46.

**Rating:** D+. Technically this was fine but this feud has been going on forever. While they've done a good job of having it evolve over the months with logical step after logical step, it's still not an interesting feud. Again, this would be so much better if they had something to fight for other than just pride.

Titus says Percy gets his rematch next week.

Back from a break and we have Alicia, Kaitlyn and Justin Gabriel in the ring in chairs. It's supposed to be Bateman vs. Slater at this point. Apparently this is an intervention. Oh dear. They're intervening about 5'5 of pure evil. Bateman: "You mean Trent Barretta?" They talk about how crazy Maxine is and how she beats up random new members and makes everyone miserable. Kaitlyn set this up. This is being booed out of the building.

We get a highlight package of Maxine and Bateman's relationship, including the whole engagement and the Johnny Curtis stuff. Bateman says she's a lot better at home and he doesn't want to die alone. Kaitlyn says that constantly getting slapped in the face is weird, not love. He asks Kaitlyn what love is then, so she bends him back and kisses him. Maxine runs out and gets in a fight with Kaitlyn which is quickly broken up. Maxine beats on Bateman and the girls are in the main event tonight.

Tyson and Natalya run into each other in the back. McGillicutty comes up and says something smells around here but it's not Natalya. They're up next.

#### Michael McGillicutty vs. Tyson Kidd

They go to the mat and Michael controls with a quick headlock. Regal talks about Tiger Mask as Tyson hooks a hammerlock. Michael works on the wrist but Kidd reverses into a cradle for two. McGillicutty sends him into the corner and out to the floor for the first big advantage. Off to a chinlock with

McGillicutty having a way too excited look on his face. Back up and Kidd gets up a boot in the corner and they clothesline each other.

Kidd starts firing off some hard strikes and a jumping spin kick gets two. Rolling cradle gets two. Kidd goes up but gets crotched. He knocks McGillicutty off and hits a moonsault press for two. Kidd loads up the Sharpshooter but McGillicutty kicks him away and the McGillicutter gets the pin at 6:22. McGillicutty's face looks like it belongs in a Will Ferrell movie.

**Rating:** C. Why did that just happen? They've been pushing Kidd very strong the last few weeks and now he loses clean to Michael McGillicutty? For what? Was Kidd getting too over or something? I really don't get this, especially after the last few weeks where they've had Kidd being Bret-esque with the Sharpshooter combinations. Then again it's NXT so it's not like anyone is paying attention.

Raw ReBound is about Rock and Cena of course.

Maxine is freaking out in the back and runs into Aksana. Maxine says everyone is plotting against her and she thinks even Aksana is in on it. Anyone that crosses Maxine will regret it.

Striker is in the ring for his major announcement, drawing a Regal chant. He talks about all the ring announcers and commentators and the thirty new superstars they've added. He does know that NXT has been around two years and that this season has been a year right? However there's only been one host. He's got this job because he loves this stuff. NXT was supposed to be about exposing the unseen because the guys in that locker room are carrying the business into the future. Yep the business is dead.

Anyway, lately NXT has been missing its point and that's because of Striker. Tonight that changes....and here are Hawkins

and Reks to interrupt. They have a surprise for Striker and they pull out chairs and drinks because they want to see this. Striker finally yells at Curt to shut up. He tells Hawkins to come try him if he wants to. Someone with veteran experience needs to take over. Someone that has worked his entire career so that Curt Hawkins and Tyler Reks can be called wrestlers. Striker will still be host but the matchmaker is now Sir William Regal.

Regal gets in the ring and says that there are going to be some new people coming to NXT to face Hawkins and Reks. As for them, why are they wearing sunglasses inside? This is the beginning of the new NXT and their first surprise is next week.

### Kaitlyn vs. Maxine

Bateman and Curtis are on commentary for this. Curtis rubs lotion on his chest. He says that Maxine is in his back pocket for whenever he wants to pull her out. Brawl to start and Regal says he's very open to bribes. Kaitlyn books a body scissors for a bit but Maxine takes over with basic stuff. A running double ax gets two. Maxine beats on her a little more until Kaitlyn hits a Bubba Bomb and a rollup for the pin at 3:21.

**Rating:** D. As usual this was boring. These girls hate each other but always have coherent wrestling matches instead of wild brawls. That's one of those wrestling things I've never quite gotten. Anyway, dull match and the ending came out of nowhere. It is nice to see something other than a mat slam of some sort for a new finisher though.

Maxine gets in Regal's face and says she looks forward to working closely with him.

**Overall Rating:** C-. I wasn't all that thrilled with this show but it wasn't terrible. Regal taking over could be a good thing but if he just does the same things Striker did, this

isn't going anywhere. I've been saying it for months but this show is desperately in need of some fresh blood or at least some fresh faces. Also, end the whole Bateman/Curtis/Maxine stuff. It's been going on for months now and it's still going around in circles. Not a bad show tonight but this glimmer of hope needs to go somewhere.

### Results

Darren Young/Titus O'Neil b. Alex Riley/Percy Watson – Double Knee Gutbuster To Watson

Michael McGillicutty b. Tyson Kidd – McGillicutter

Kaitlyn b. Maxine – Bubba Bomb

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# **On This Day: January 18, 2012 – NXT: We Got A Wedding! Again!**

### NXT

Date: January 18, 2012

Location: Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Michael Cole, Josh Matthews

It's the 100th episode of this accursed show and we're in Vegas for a wedding. Naturally it'll be here in the arena in front of an audience because that's how wrestling works. Also we're going to have Titus vs. Young for like the 9th time because that's all we can do on this season. Something big has to happen tonight right? Let's get to it.

The opening video is a recap of the wedding thing and the love

triangle.

Theme song. This is the closest thing to an NXT Supershow we'll ever have anymore I think.

Cole is on commentary tonight. Oh boy. I think this is just a one night return.

### Titus O'Neil vs. Darren Young

No DQ match. Young runs to the floor for a bit but back in the ring he gets run over by an elbow. Backbreaker gets two for Titus. Darren gets thrown to the floor and DO THE DOG BARK! A slam of some sort on the floor puts Darren down but he manages a neckbreaker on the apron to take Titus down and we take a break. Back with Darren getting two off something we missed.

Belly to back gets two. Off to a cravate and Young sends him into the corner. The gutbuster gets two. The No DQ aspect of this has meant nothing so far. Young sets for another gutbuster but since he used that already and isn't a main event guy, Titus counters and sends him in for the Clash of the Titus and the pin at 5:57.

**Rating:** D. What in the world was the point of the No DQ rule? This was nothing special at all, which is probably due to Young being worthless on almost all counts. Titus is ok but there's nothing left for him to do here. Hopefully this is the end of this feud because it's gone on way too long.

Titus gets on the mic afterwards and says he wants to thank the fans. He wants to thank them for absolutely nothing. Titus goes on a rant about how he's sick of doing everything for 46 weeks and getting stuck with a leprechaun for nothing. He's the star of this show and the star of every show the WWE has to offer. Cole's heckling kills this for a bit because he laughs instead of acting like this is something special. Thanks for nothing and now he'll be making it a win for himself. Cole makes fun of him again, totally diminishing the

shock value of the turn.

### Heath Slater vs. Percy Watson

Watson takes over with a dropkick to start. Cole lists off his various accomplishments as Slater takes over. Cole asks about the Redemption Points thing and Josh isn't sure how they work either. Slater takes over and there's nothing interesting going on here. Josh and Cole argue about Lynyrd Skynyrd and Watson starts his comeback. He jumps around a lot but the fans seem more interested in Slater than Watson. Spinning splash gets two. Persecution ends this at 3:41.

**Rating:** D. Boring match again and we're told that this was a rookie upsetting a Superstar. That's so cute: they think people still care about something like that. Also, Slater qualifies as a Superstar? Isn't that like 20 losses in a row for him? Boring match and the crowd shockingly didn't care.

Maxine yells at the Usos. Jey sneezes on her dress.

Maxine yells at more people when Curtis shows up and says calm down. She goes off ranting and Kaitlyn comes up. Curtis hits on her and gets called creepy.

### Yoshi Tatsu/Trent Barreta vs. Tyler Reks/Curt Hawkins

This match AGAIN? Wait why am I surprised by that? Trent vs. Curt starts us off but it's off to Reks quickly. Yoshi jumps in with a top rope chop for two. Was there a tag that I missed? Josh brings up Cole not talking about Superstars enough. Cole says look what he did for Bryan and Hawkins gets two. Cole also says he had a role in keeping the title on Miz. Powerslam gets two for Reks.

Cole blasts the hypocrisy of people praising Bryan's cash-in but blasting people like Edge. Double tag brings in Trent and Reks as this match is very forgettable. Running boot gets two for Trent. Cole says none of these guys are part of the

competition which is true. I love Cole pointing out stupid stuff on here. Whisper in the Wind gets two for Barreta and everything breaks down. Reks loads up Barreta onto a shoulder like for a powerbomb but spins to the side into a DDT and the pin at 5:39.

**Rating:** D. I know I've used that every time but it's been the case every time: the matches are ok but they're nothing I'm going to remember after about five minutes. These are almost all matches we've seen before and there isn't much of a reason to want to see them again. Boring stuff here, but it is interesting that there's a tag division on NXT alone but the two biggest wrestling companies in the country can barely find a pair of teams for a PPV title defense.

Raw ReBound. Ace's eruption is still pretty good.

The wedding set is built in the ring. Elvis is performing the ceremony. And it's Striker as Elvis. He's been ordained for a full five minutes. The fans aren't impressed by his accent at all. Curtis is brought out who is in a leather jacket and a tuxedo t-shirt. There's some guy with him who looks a little drunks. Maxine comes out and to be fair, she does look good in the dress. She yells about the drunk guy (Chad, who says he was promised a chance to meet Hillbilly Jim) but shuts up eventually.

We get to the vows and Curtis says yes. She says yes also but we get to the objection part and the crowd pops in expectation. You would think Bateman would come out there but actually Striker takes off the glasses (it was obvious it was him and not meant to be a secret I don't think) and says "Really? No one here objects to this?" Funny line. Bateman finally comes out for the big overly dramatic objection and actually rocking a suit.

He says he didn't send the e-mail, but Curtis did. Bateman shows us footage of Curtis stealing an iPad and sending the e-



mail. It took him about 4 seconds to send an e-mail that took 20 seconds to read but whatever. Maxine freaks and Curtis says he wants Maxine to come with him to the top. She slaps him and the brawl between the guys breaks out. Bateman hits his finisher on Curtis and walks off. Maxine says wait and slaps Bateman then kisses him. And that's it. No seriously, that's the end of the show.

**Overall Rating:** F. I can't believe that they actually ended like that. I come into NXT with no expectations at all anymore and somehow this came off as a disappointment. I think it might be that I'm trying to avoid yelling about how we just wasted 10 or so weeks going around in a circle to get back to Bateman and Maxine being together but I'm not quite sure. Where in the world do they go from here? I'm not sure, but I'll bet it takes at least 2 months to do it. Just WOW.

### Results

Titus O'Neal b. Darren Young – Clash of the Titus

Percy Watson b. Heath Slater – Persecution

Tyler Reks/Curt Hawkins b. Trent Barreta/Yoshi Tatsu

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# **NXT – June 13, 2012: This Is How The Season Finally Ends**

### NXT

Date: June 13, 2012

Location: Verizon Wireless Arena, Manchester, New Hampshire

Commentators: Josh Matthews, William Regal

So I went to WWE.com, sort of dreading this show as usual when I saw it:

"On the final episode of NXT before the ALL NEW NXT...". For the first time in a good many Wednesdays, the sight of NXT brought a smile to my face. After SIXTY SIX WEEKS, it's finally ending. This is the last episode of this season and I can't believe it's really here. Let's get to it.

I can't believe I'm saying this but it's kind of saddening to hear this song for the final time this season.

### Curt Hawkins/Tyler Reks vs. Derrick Bateman/Percy Watson

Regal says the bright green is apparently a tribute to the Dynamic Dudes. There's something you'll never hear again. Hawkins and Bateman gets us going here. Bateman takes it to the mat so Hawkins celebrates his escape. The fans start clapping for Bateman so it's off to Reks who gets crucified down for two. Watson comes in and speeds things up a bit.

Reks gets knocked into the wrong corner by a European Uppercut. Hawkins: "REKS I'M OVER HERE!" Bateman hooks a headlock but charges into a boot in the corner to shift momentum again. Hawkins hooks a chinlock which is quickly broken by a jawbreaker. Watson comes in for some dropkicks and throws Hawkins into Reks to send them out to the floor. Bateman dives on both guys and we take a break.

Back with Watson fighting off both guys but getting dropped on the top turnbuckle for two. Reks hooks a chinlock for a bit followed by a neckbreaker for two. Back to Curt who hits a suplex for two. Off to another chinlock as Regal talks about how a chinlock is supposed to be executed. An other the shoulder bicycle kick gets two on Watson. Josh confirms that next week the New NXT begins.

Back to Reks who kicks Percy in the ribs and hooks chinlock #3. Watson finally comes back and hits an enziguri to Tyler, allowing for the hot tag to Bateman. Reks doesn't tag out at all and things speed up. Bateman hits a running flip neckbreaker (think Morrison's flip neckbreaker) for two. After a Hawkins distraction, Reks hits his powerbomb into a spinning DDT for the pin at 11:05.

**Rating:** C+. This was fine. It was a formula based tag match and the ending was pretty solid. Bateman has gotten a lot better in the last few

months and it's no longer a strain to watch the guy. I don't see him as anything better than a jobber at the moment but maybe things could change with the proper changes.

During the break we get a clip of the All New NXT. It looks pretty awesome actually.

### Kaitlyn vs. Natalya

Natalya immediately takes her down with a heel trip and they trade rollups for two each. Another rollup gets two for Kaitlyn. Natalya sends her to the floor and poses before knocking Kaitlyn off the apron. She sits on Kaitlyn for two and then hooks on a bow and arrow hold. Kaitlyn rolls her up again for two. That seems to be her only offense. Nattie misses a charge in the corner and Kaitlyn shoves her down. A crossbody gets two. Natalya cradles her in the corner with feet on the ropes for two. Her argument with the referee lets Kaitlyn hook ANOTHER rollup for two. A sunset flip out of nowhere gets the pin for Kaitlyn at 5:20.

**Rating:** D-. This was horrible. Kaitlyn looked terrible out there, both in the ring and in the face. For some reason all she did here were rollups other than just a few shots here or there. The match was terrible with neither girl really doing anything at all other than Natalya posing and Kaitlyn rolling people up. Terrible match.

Natalya throws a fit post match.

We get a quick word from Bo Dallas (Taylor Rotunda) who is ready to fight.

Raw ReBound is about Vince/Ace/Show/Cena.

### Usos vs. Michael McGillicutty/Johnny Curtis

They have almost fifteen minutes for this. Before the match starts, Richie Steamboat says he's looking to fill his own shoes, not his father's. Michael and Jimmy start things off and McGillicutty takes him down to the mat with ease. Regal talks about how great Samoans are at wrestling as well as rugby. Jimmy takes him down with an armbar and it's off to Jey. Curtis comes in and rips at Jey's face.

A legdrop misses and Jey hooks a chinlock. McGillicutty offers a distraction and Curtis drops him onto the top rope in the EXACT same sequence from the first tag match. Curtis drops Jey's leg onto the top rope to ground him even further and McGillicutty adds some cheating offense of his own to it. Curtis cannonballs down onto the knee as we take a break. Back with McGillicutty with a knee hold on Jey.

Back to Curtis and the knee gets wrapped around the post. We get a full Indian Deathlock but Jey chops his way out of it. When all else fails, hit the other guy I guess. Curtis prevents the tag but McGillicutty's attempted cannonball onto the leg is countered by having him kicked over the top. Off to Jimmy who cleans house. Jey is almost immediately tagged back in for a double team Samoan Drop. Curtis drops a guillotine legdrop to break up the cover and both guys are down. The McGillicutter is countered and after a superkick from Jey, the Superfly Splash from Jimmy gets the pin on McGillicutty at 11:42.

**Rating:** B-. Another good match here with the leg work being a good idea, as the Usos are a flying team so slowing them down is the right idea. There's something appropriate about the Usos winning the last match of this season, and there's something even more appropriate about it being a meaningless tag match as so many of their matches have been.

**Overall Rating:** C+. And that's NXT Season 5. The overall rating of slightly above average is about right for the whole season too: there were some ok moments, but all in all it was just ok. Nothing significant ever happened, no one won, almost everyone wound up on Smackdown, and it was clear that the contest part of the show was worthless by the end of it. The new season will help things a lot as it can be just a regular show instead of a contest, which is something they've needed to do for about a year now. Tonight's show was decent but as usual, it means nothing at all.

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# NXT – June 6, 2012: End My Pain

## NXT

Date: June 6, 2012

Location: Colonial Center, Columbia, South Carolina

Commentators: Matt Striker, Josh Matthews

Back to the land of no storylines allowed. I would usually say that this should be interesting, but for the most part I'm pretty sure it won't be. At the end of the day, we have about 45 minutes of wrestling here which isn't bad between guys that aren't good enough to get into the top two shows. Let's get to it.

Dang it no Regal this week.

## Tyler Reks vs. Jey Uso

Feeling out process to start with Reks running over Uso a few times. Jey comes back with a running chinlock (looked pretty cool actually) to take over. Uso charges into a boot in the corner and a belly to back suplex for two. Reks pounds him down with power strikes but misses a charge, sending his shoulder into the post.

Jey goes after the arm and hits a spinning forearm. He starts doing the chants to the crowd the pops are great. Samoan drop gets two. Reks takes him down again and goes up, but Jey slams him down for two. Now Jey goes up but gets crotched for his efforts. Reks puts him up in a Razor's Edge position then spins Jey down into a kind of a DDT move for the pin at 5:00.

**Rating:** D+. Not bad here but other than the crowd popping for the USO shout, things were pretty dead here. It's not a bad match but it's likely

to lead to Usos vs. Reks/Hawkins #19 or so, which isn't a match I can really get behind anymore. I still don't get the appeal of Reks at all. It's just not clicking for him.

### Percy Watson vs. JTG

JTG speeds things up to start which actually works. This is supposed to be the new and improved version of him and I guess that's true as the tights are less annoying than what he used to wear. Watson smiles a lot in the ring. JTG controls for the opening until Watson avoids a charge. Watson's headscissors out of the corner is countered and he falls out to the floor.

Back in and JTG pounds away before hooking a seated abdominal stretch. A kind of slam gets two. JTG is getting frustrated. If I had hair like that I likely would be too. He goes to the middle rope but dives into a facebuster to put both guys down. Watson speeds things up and hits his usual jumping attacks. The crowd doesn't seem to care as much this time. Heisman gets two. We get a freaking JTG chant as Persecution gets the pin at 6:01.

**Rating:** D. This crowd has lost all of its chanting privileges. I mean.....THEY WERE CHANTING FOR FREAKING JTG! The match itself was nothing of note at all as JTG being on offense is never a good idea. Watson again has the same problems: he's the same guy over and over again, doing the same stuff every week.

### Tamina Snuka vs. Natalya

Natalya now wears a kind of cape. She quickly powers Tamina down to the mat and they trade headlocks. Back up and Natalya runs her over as Striker calls her Nattie. Whatever her name is she gets dropkicked down for two. The crowd is almost silent for this. Tamina misses a charge and Natalya sits on her with arms folded for two.

Suplex gets two as well. Natalya tries another one but gets small packaged for two. Off to an abdominal stretch but Natalya picks up Tamina's leg on top of the regular hold. Tamina escapes and comes back with chops but Natalya rolls away before Tamina can try for the splash. Sharpshooter is broken up as Tamina kicks her to the floor. Natalya charges back in to a Samoan Drop and the Superfly Splash gets the pin at 6:21.

**Rating:** D. This was nothing. Both girls have jobs because of their dads, but that doesn't always mean success. Well to be fair Natalya is good but there's nothing going on for her due to it not being her time right now. The match was your usual boring affair from the Divas, but a longer version of it.

Raw ReBound is about Cole's destruction.

#### Tyson Kidd/Justin Gabriel vs. Heath Slater/Johnny Curtis

Kidd and Slater get us going. Slater grabs a headlock but Kidd makes a blind tag. Kidd and Gabriel kind of mess up a double hip toss and it's off to Curtis instead. Justin sweeps the legs out and brings in Kidd for a slingshot reverse victory roll for two. Tyson tries the Dungeon Lock but has to settle for a wristlock instead. Slater comes in but Kidd dropkicks them both down at once.

Sharpshooter to Slater doesn't work so it's back to Gabriel. A BIG suicide dive takes Slater out and Kidd/Gabriel pose in the ring as we take a break. Back with Kidd in control of Slater. He goes up but gets distracted by Curtis, allowing Heath to powerslam him off the top for two and control. Off to the chinlock for a bit and then into the heel corner.

Kidd fights both guys off at once but walks into a spinebuster before he can make the tag off to Gabriel. Curtis comes in and hits a suplex for two. After a quick wear down hold, Curtis and Slater try a double team but Kidd counters and drops them both. Slater blocks the tag again with a

running neckbreaker for two. His middle rope knee drop misses though and it's hot tag to Gabriel. Justin speeds things up as you would expect and hits a jumping tornado DDT for two on Curtis. A combination Hart Attack/Blockbuster gets the pin on Curtis at 10:05.

**Rating:** C+. This was by far the best match of the night but it's a far cry from some of the main events we've been having lately. Still though it wasn't that bad and the double team finisher wasn't bad at all. The problem is there was no doubt as to who would win given the levels of talent on either side.

**Overall Rating:** D. This was really dull. The same problems I've been talking about for weeks are still here and they're not going to change anytime soon. I can't believe I'm saying this, but Maxine being on this show is such an improvement that it's almost uncanny. The show wasn't bad or anything, but it was really uninteresting.

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# NXT – May 30, 2012: Superstars II

## NXT

Date: May 30, 2012

Location: Riverside Centroplex, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Commentators: Josh Matthews, William Regal

Back to what has officially become the most boring show this side of Warriors of Wrestling. We're hopefully wrapping this season up but getting there is really dragging, as there were zero stories last week as well as no promos at all. That's a



shame as the show was starting to get good up until that point. Let's get to it.

To give you an idea of how much WWE.com cares about this show, their website says it's up every Wednesday at 4pm EST. It's currently 8:05pm EST and I have to watch this on Youtube because neither today's show, nor last week's show are currently on WWE.com's NXT page.

### Curt Hawkins/Tyler Reks vs. Usos

It's 8:19 and the show can now be found on WWE.com, if you look in the What's Hot section instead of the NXT section. If I'm a TV company, I'd be curious as to why I should put a show on that they don't even bother to put up on time. Anyway Jey and Reks get us going. Not much going on so far so Jey shouts to the crowd a little bit. Hawkins comes in and nothing goes anywhere now either. A quick chin/headlock by Jey goes nowhere so we head to the mat.

Off to Jimmy who armdrags Hawkins down and it's back to Jey. A headbutt to the chest gets one and the Usos tag again. Regal explains what cutting the ring in half means, because a term like that needs an explanation apparently. Jey escapes a slam and hits a great superkick to put Hawkins down. Reks pulls Curt to the floor to avoid the Superfly Splash so the Usos dive onto both heels as we take a break.

Back with Jey holding a hammerlock on Hawkins on the mat. Jey loads up a superkick but Hawkins drops to the floor and suckers Jey in. Blind tag brings in Reks and the Usos lose control for the first time. Hawkins comes in with a kick to the back and a chinlock. Back to Reks who puts on something like a Tazmission.

Jey escapes and it's off to Jimmy on a not very hot tag. A Bubba Bomb puts Reks down and the Umaga hip smash gets two. Hawkins interferes, allowing Reks to hit a Downward Spiral for two. Jey comes in with a Samoan Drop for two. Jimmy is sent to

the floor and Reks/Hawkins hit a powerslam/neckbreaker combo to pin Jey at 10:59.

**Rating:** C. The match was pretty boring until the ending where things picked up in a hurry. That being said, we've seen these two teams fight more times than I can remember, which makes this a little less interesting. Also having no story to it hurts things, but the match was perfectly fine. More Usos please.

#### Tamina Snuka vs. Kaitlyn

Maxine is on commentary, which is literally the first continued story in two weeks. She's fought them both before and this is due to last week's Kaitlyn vs. Maxine match apparently. Kaitlyn takes her to the mat and hooks a bodyscissors and a rollup for two. Tamina takes her down as well and puts on a seated abdominal stretch. Maxine makes fun of Kaitlyn's hair and Tamina changes to a chinlock. The crowd is surprisingly not completely dead here. Kaitlyn fights out and hits a bad cross body for two. Kaitlyn trips her up as they run the ropes and hooks a full nelson with her legs to make Tamina tap (with her foot) at 5:21.

**Rating:** D+. The match was pretty dull, but I'm digging this dueling submission story they've got going with Maxine and Kaitlyn. Also it's amazing how far less unbearable the Divas are when they get some time to work out a match instead of hitting like three kicks, a missed charge and the finisher with a signature move thrown in. Imagine that: wrestling makes things better.

Raw ReBound is about Big Show, which is all that Monday's show was about anyway.

#### Justin Gabriel/Derrick Bateman/Percy Watson vs. Michael McGillicutty/Johnny Curtis/JTG

Hey Justin is back. JTG still has the new attire and I still

don't want to see him ever again. Watson and JTG get us going Watson works on the arm but JTG speeds things up a bit. That's cool with Watson as he runs over JTG and slams him down for two. Off to Justin who hooks an armdrag into an armbar. JTG gets him into the corner and it's off to Curtis who takes over.

Gabriel channels his inner Steamboat and armdrags his way to freedom, taking Curtis to the mat. Off to Bateman who dropkicks Johnny down for two. He misses a charge though and McGillicutty stomps Bateman down in the corner. Everything breaks down and the faces stand tall as we take a break. Back with Michael putting Bateman in a chinlock and punching him in the face a few times.

Dropkick gets two on Bateman. Back to Curtis who has #letsgetweird on his trunks. If you really want to push Twitter that hard, you would think they could find a better billboard than Curtis. McGillicutty and Curtis tag two more times as I guess they won't like JTG either. Curtis gives up the tag and it's off to Watson. Watson cleans house but JTG low bridges him to send Percy crashing to the floor.

JTG pounds on Percy both in and out of the ring, getting two in the former. Off to the chinlock again and then back to Curtis. Elbow to the face gets two. Watson hits a belly to belly out of nowhere and makes the tag to Justin. JTG comes in at the same time and things speed up. Gabriel hits a blue Thunder Bomb for two and everything breaks down. Bateman dives on McGillicutty and Curtis while Gabriel hits a jumping tornado DDT for the pin at 12:13.

**Rating:** C+. This was pretty good but it came and went. You had three good guys, you had three bad guys, you had twelve minutes, and the good guys won. It was pretty entertaining though and that's really all you can ask for on NXT in this weird kind of limbo period they're in at the moment.

**Overall Rating:** C+. Like I said in the main event, you really can't ask for more than about 45 minutes of entertaining matches from Superstars II anymore. Regal's position as matchmaker is never mentioned anymore, the attacks in the back are never mentioned anymore, and the Hawkins/Reks being security is never mentioned anymore. I know I'm in the small minority here, but I kind of wanted to see where those things were going. I've spent a year on this already and I'd like to see some resolution to those stories. This was entertaining at least though.

### Results

Curt Hawkins/Tyler Reks b. The Usos – Powerslam/Neckbreaker combination to Jey Uso

Kaitlyn b. Tamina Snuka – Full Nelson with Legs

Justin Gabriel/Derrick Bateman/Percy Watson b. JTG/Johnny Curtis/Michael McGillicutty – Tornado DDT to JTG

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## **NXT – May 23, 2012: You Want More Wrestling? Here You Go!**

### NXT

Date: May 23, 2012

Location: Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Josh Matthews, William Regal

OH COME ON! Apparently they're going to wrap up this season instead of going straight to the new stuff. I know this is going to sound crazy, but I think I'd prefer it that way. I've spent over a year on this awful show and I need to get to the

end of it for my own sanity's sake. Hopefully they wrap it up soon though. Let's get to it.

### Jinder Mahal vs. Derrick Bateman

Feeling out process to start with Mahal shoving Bateman into the corner. Regal talks about Mahal's cousin who is the two year running Indian karaoke champion. His name is Getupta Singh. Bateman comes back with some hard chops as a USA chant comes up. Clothesline gets two for Bateman.

Mahal comes back with his long legs and chokes away on the ropes. Bateman fights out of a chinlock but gets caught in a cravate with knees to the head, getting two. Bateman comes back with a chop and clothesline followed by a running flip neckbreaker for two. Missile dropkick gets the same. Bateman's falling bulldog is escaped and Mahal hits a running knee to the face. A few knees to the back set up the camel clutch to make Bateman tap at 6:29.

**Rating:** D+. Nothing much here but I'm getting tired of this "Bateman is a rookie so beating someone from the main roster is a big deal." Bateman has been on NXT for what, two years or so? Mahal debuted in April of 2011. If you want to REALLY stretch it, they're equals at worst. Let it go already. The match was fine.

### Percy Watson vs. Heath Slater

Josh FINALLY explains what the One Man Southern Rock Band means: Slater doesn't need backup. It took how many months to say something that took two seconds to say? Slater quickly takes him to the mat but Watson kicks out of it with ease. Slater goes to the apron and hits a HARD right hand to take over. Why he had to go out there for a punch I'm not sure but whatever.

Off to a chinlock as Regal calls Slater a terrier, as in a dog. I'm not sure I get the connection but then again I'm not

British. Slater hits Watson in the back of the head with an elbow and a kick to the same place gets two. Back to the chinlock for a few moments and Heath goes up. It's the jump into the boot spot which drives me crazy, followed by a dropkick from Percy. Heisman gets two and avoids a clothesline to finish with Persecution at 6:23.

**Rating:** C-. Again the match was fine, but Watson is in an awkward place. He's too good to keep facing all of the NXT guys but he's not good enough to go face the main guys yet. The other problem is he's just Percy Watson and is athletic. His matches are ok but there's nothing memorable about him at all. I'm not sure what to do with him, but he really doesn't need to change anything immediately so it's not a huge problem.

#### Alicia Fox vs. Maxine

There's only one way to put it: that animal thing on the top of Alicia's head looks stupid. The announcers actually point out that Alicia used to be Maxine's Pro. Very slow start so let's talk about Josh's love life. Maxine controls until Alicia fires off some elbows to the face. Maxine takes her back down and hooks a chinlock. Alicia hits some dropkicks and a northern lights suplex for two. Fox tries a rollup but gets countered into a dragon sleeper with a body scissors for the tap out at 6:09.

**Rating:** D. This was a really dull match and I can't believe it was over six minutes long. Fox is just worthless. She looks stupid with that fur thing, she's nothing special in the ring, and her looks are just ok. Maxine is hot and has catchy theme music, but above all else, she has a personality. It helps a lot and is a reason she's one of the best Divas in the company.

Raw ReBound is about Cena/Show/Ace.

#### Drew McIntyre/Johnny Curtis vs. Great Khali/Ezekiel Jackson

Khali and Curtis get us starting and let the chopping begin. With Curtis looking like he's coming to join Elizabeth, it's off to Jackson. Off to McIntyre who gets chopped as well. Those are some sore chests. Drew finally gets in a shot to the knee and stomps Khali down into the corner. Khali shrugs him off and tags in Jackson who hits his clothesline in the corner and clears the ring.

We take a break and come back Drew "kicking" Big Zeke in the face and tagging in Curtis who is slammed a few times. Zeks goes after McIntyre who gets in a shot to the knee to let the heels finally take over. Curtis works on said leg for a good while until it's off to Drew. He kicks at the knee but gets slammed. Tag to Khali who beats up both opponents and the Plunge ends Curtis at 9:03.

**Rating:** D. This was definitely the weakest match of the night. Why are these people teaming together? I know Khali and Jackson teamed up last week, which to be far is about as good as you're going to get for a tag team these days, but what about the other guys? It was boring and was a borderline squash by Khali/Jackson.

**Overall Rating:** D. Sacre bleu what a boring show. For those of you that say there's too much talking and backstage segments, I give you this as an example as to why those things need to exist. There was not a single promo, segment or anything that advanced a story on this show. I get that it's because they're moving to the new stuff soon, but if nothing else make up some short term ones. With no reason for these people to fight other than it's that time of the week, there's no reason to care about this show and it needs to wrap up soon.

### Results

Jinder Mahal b. Derrick Bateman – Camel Clutch

Percy Watson b. Heath Slater – Persecution

Maxine b. Alicia Fox – Dragon Sleeper with bodyscissors

Great Khali/Ezekiel Jackson b. Drew McIntyre/Johnny Curtis –

Punjabi Plunge to Curtis

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## NXT – May 16, 2012: Best NXT Match In Months

### NXT

Date: May 16, 2012

Location: Giant Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania

Commentators: William Regal, Josh Matthews

This is the final regular taping for NXT as after this the show is going to move to Florida permanently which is probably a good thing. We can now get the FCW guys on the show and give them some time. Also we don't need to sit through this show on Smackdown tapings because about 80% of the fans don't have a clue who these guys are. Let's get to it.

### Johnny Curtis vs. Percy Watson

Apparently Curtis has stolen tape (as in Scotch) tape from the announcers at some point. As they talk about Josh's shoes, Watson takes over with an armbar to start. Leg lariat sends Curtis to the apron but he guillotines Watson on the top for two. Quick chinlock goes nowhere and Curtis chokes him a bit. This time the hold of choice is a surfboard with a knee in the back. Watson gets out of that pretty easily and hits a few dropkicks. Heisman gets two. Persecution is escaped and Curtis hits a spinning Falcon's Arrow for the pin at 4:40.



**Rating:** D+. This was ok enough I guess, but Curtis' weird gimmick doesn't do much for him. It's good for promos but in matches he's just kind of standing around and looking at the fans instead of really being strange. Watson is a guy that the fans seem to like but there's nothing to him as far as a personality goes. It's the completely opposite of how he was in Season 2.

### Great Khali/Ezekiel Jackson vs. Curt Hawkins/Tyler Reks

See, THIS is what NXT needs: appearances from bigger names that are regulars on the main shows. It gives us some fresh faces but we don't need to spend a month to figure out who they are. Weren't Hawkins and Reks security guards or something recently? I vaguely remember something about Ace rehiring them but they don't seem to care enough to let us know and neither do the announcers.

Khali and Hawkins start things off. The taller one chops him a lot and tags in Jackson, who seems to scare Hawkins a lot more than Khali did. Off to Reks who gets knocked into the corner with ease. Reks takes him down and Hawkins adds a top rope clothesline before tagging right back out. Jackson plays Ricky Morton, which is one of the most curious casting choices I've ever seen.

Reks is the legal evil one at the moment, kicking away at Jackson followed by a chinlock. A slam gets two. Off to Hawkins who again is only in for a few moments. Back to Reks who has more luck, hitting a big boot for two. Another chinlock goes on but Big Zeke comes back with a backdrop and makes the tag to Khali. He cleans house and the Plunge ends Reks at 6:04.

**Rating:** D+. Another so-so match here which was fine for filling in a few minutes. Still though the problem here is why Hawkins and Reks are back in the ring. I checked and last week it was said that they were security and not wrestlers.

Therefore, we should get an explanation as to why they're wrestling here. That's basic storytelling and for some reason it's just not happening at all.

### Maxine vs. Kaitlyn

This is billed as a big showdown, which would make sense if this wasn't what, the third time they've fought in a month or two? Maxine is in more traditional attire here and it's working for me. Kaitlyn immediately takes her down with a rollup for two, followed by a slam for the same. Maxine hooks her guillotine choke but Kaitlyn eventually breaks it up by draping her over the top rope.

Maxine comes back with forearms and a chinlock. She's very fired up this week. There's another chinlock with a knee in the back which is shifted into a kind of camel clutch. Kaitlyn fights up but gets ax handled down for two. Kaitlyn comes back with a dropkick and a bad crossbody for two. Maxine grabs a rollup for two and hooks a Last Chancery. That's easily broken and Kaitlyn grabs a Bubba Bomb. She drops onto her back and puts on a full nelson with her legs for the pin at 6:00.

**Rating:** C-. You know when these matches go longer than 90 seconds they're a lot more enjoyable. At the end of the day, having some decent matches by girls in small outfits is something that's hard to mess up. Having a match get six minutes makes it more enjoyable instead of having them go like a minute. Matches like those are pointless whereas something like this wasn't bad.

Raw ReBound is about Big Show getting fired.

Cena Make-A-Wish video.

### Tyson Kidd vs. Michael McGillicutty vs. Derrick Bateman

They have almost fifteen minutes for this. McGillicutty lets them fight while he chills on the floor. The good guys take

turns with armdrags until it's a stalemate. After another stand off the pair goes outside and chases McGillicutty back into the ring. There's a double hiptoss and a LONG delayed double vertical suplex to put Michael down. Bateman has a smart idea and rolls up Kidd for two.

Bateman gets knocked to the floor but McGillicutty breaks up a suicide dive attempt. He hammers on Kidd for awhile until Bateman finally revives from his coma. The pair sends McGillicutty to the floor and Bateman hits a GREAT suicide dive. He may have hurt his knee on that though. Kidd goes up top and tries a moonsault press onto them but mostly lands between them as we take a break. Back with Kidd stomping down on McGillicutty in the corner.

Here's a Sharpshooter attempt but Michael kicks him into Bateman who is on the apron. Saito Suplex gets two for McGillicutty. McGillicutty sends Bateman into the post as Regal talks about having a step ladder because his real ladder left him. Everyone is back in now and Kidd kicks out of a dropkick. McGillicutty and Kidd collide on stereo cross body attempts.

Bateman comes up and hits a few clotheslines on Michael for two. Tornado DDT is broken up but here's Kidd with the kicks to Michael. Bateman hits a flip neckbreaker to Kidd but McGillicutty hits a backbreaker on him for two. Kidd hits a high kick to McGillicutty to send him into a northern lights bridging suplex by Bateman. Kidd breaks that up with a springboard elbow for two. McGillicutty breaks up a rollup and hits a Perfecplex for two on Kidd. Bateman breaks it up and sets for a superplex on McGillicutty but Kidd breaks it up and sends Michael to the floor. Sharpshooter followed by the Dungeon Lock gets the tap at 13:40.

**Rating:** B. Best NXT match in months, hands down. This was really entertaining and I legitimately didn't know who was going to win the whole way through. Also, I LOVED the knee

injury coming back to cost Bateman the match later. That's a great little bit of storytelling in there and it made the match that much better. This was Bateman's best match ever by about a thousand miles.

**Overall Rating:** B-. Pretty good show here with a great main event and some other ok wrestling on here too. It does have problems like the attacks in the back not being mentioned at all and Reks/Hawkins all of a sudden being back as active wrestlers, but if you throw out a nearly 15 minute main event like that every week I can more than over look it. Good show this week and check out that triple threat.

### Results

Johnny Curtis b. Percy Watson – Spinning Falcon's Arrow

Ezekiel Jackson/Great Khali b. Curt Hawkins/Tyler Reks – Punjabi Plunge to Reks

Kaitlyn b. Maxine – Leg full nelson

Tyson Kidd b. Michael McGillicutty and Derrick Bateman – Dungeon Lock to Bateman

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## **NXT – April 25, 2012: Tyson Kidd Is Awesome**

### NXT

Date: April 25, 2012

Location: Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Commentators: Matt Striker, Hornswoggle, Johnny Curtis, Michael McGillicutty

We have an actual changed show this week as we've got a bunch of people gone from the show after the great NXT purge last week. I'm not sure what to expect this week but it should be interesting to see who they bring in to replace the guys that have left. Either way it's a good thing to get some fresh blood in here. Let's get to it.

Striker is in the ring and says that Josh isn't able to do commentary tonight because of the beating that Lesnar gave him on Monday. He recaps the firings and hirings of Young/O'Neil, which gets limited responses. That means there are some roster spots open and Regal is going to bring in some new talent. He's out looking for that talent at the moment, so tonight Horny is the match coordinator. Oh good grief.

He says there are no more redemption points or challenges (duh) and brags about how he can talk. Hasn't he been able to do that for the last six months or so? Tonight it's Watson/Kidd vs. Curtis/McGillicutty. First of all though, he calls out Derrick Bateman. Wasn't that his rookie like 6 months ago? Bateman says something to Horny from the aisle but JTG jumps him. Oh great he's back. He complains about being off the show and that he has to beg Horny for a match. Bateman jumps him so here we go.

### JTG vs. Derrick Bateman

Bateman immediately dropkicks him down and takes over. Clothesline takes JTG down as Horny says Bateman will be on Raw or Smackdown very soon. Out to the floor but Bateman misses a missile dropkick from the apron. JTG takes over back in the ring and hooks a chinlock. The video messes up now but the audio is still good.

JTG gets two off something as Horny is talking about Brodus while Striker corrects his English. The video is back now as Bateman rams JTG into the corner and starts his comeback. JTG speeds around behind him though and hits Jay Lethal's belly to

back suplex into a neckbreaker which is awesome. It only gets two and Bateman hits his falling bulldog for the quick pin at 4:42.

**Rating:** D+. I'm not wild on either of these guys but JTG getting his head smacked against a mat is always a good thing. I really hope he's not going to be one of the main heels on this show now but for a one off appearance he's a breath of bad air after the weeks of Young boring me to death.

Horny leaves commentary. I think there's going to be someone different with Striker every match.

Maxine and Bateman arrive and a referee handcuffs them together as per Regal's orders. Maxine tries to flirt her way out of it but it doesn't work. Horny comes up and laughs at them. There's a Divas tag later.

A shortened version of Brock/Ace/Cena from Monday is shown.

Watson comes up to Kidd to talk about their match later and Kidd says he hopes Watson isn't another victim of Kidd's bad luck with tag teams. Kaitlyn comes up and asks for the name of the new submission hold he used on McGillicutty. He says he's going to let the fans pick when Natalya comes up and gets in her face about flirting with Tyson. The girls leave and the guys make fun of them but it's nothing harsh.

Maxine has managed to change her clothes while being handcuffed. Natalya comes up and asks about the tag match which they agree to work together for. Curtis has to go with them.

### Natalya/Maxine vs. Tamina Snuka/Kaitlyn

We get a video comparing Tamina to her dad. This is an insult to Jimmy. Kaitlyn and Tamina hit dropkicks at the same time to start the match. We have Natalya vs. Kaitlyn to officially get things going. Natalya throws her around to start and hooks a

quick stretch which Curtis can't explain the pain behind. Kaitlyn comes back with a bad looking cross body which gets two.

Off to Maxine who hooks a front chancery with a body scissors. Striker gives a quick explanation of how the move works which Curtis can't do or doesn't know. Natalya comes in to break up a tag and hooks a leg lock. Kaitlyn knocks her off and it's a double tag to Tamina and Maxine. The Samoan destroys her and the Superfly gets the splash at 4:40.

**Rating:** D+. Another dull match here and that splash really isn't anything special at all. It's just a top rope splash rather than a top rope splash that looks awesome, which is what Jimmy's was. Kaitlyn continues to be all looks and little skill in the ring, but that could apply to almost all of the Divas.

Striker says Maxine has to stay here because Curtis has a match.

Kidd finds Watson in the back holding his knee. He thinks it was Michael McGillicutty.

Johnny Curtis/Michael McGillicutty vs. Tyson Kidd/???

McGillicutty is a surprise partner apparently. Ok then. I could have sworn they announced that earlier but whatever. Horny throws out McGillicutty so it's a one on one match.

Tyson Kidd vs. Johnny Curtis

Maxine is at the table but doesn't have a headset. McGillicutty hits on her as Curtis has to keep moving to avoid the technical skill of Kidd. He gets in a shot on Kidd's arm to take over but Kidd speeds things up, sending Curtis to the floor. Tyson hits a sweet rana off the apron to send Curtis to the floor and we take a break. Back with Curtis putting on an armbar to keep Tyson on the mat.

During the break Kidd's springboard elbow hit Curtis' knee to set up the arm work. McGillicutty is quoting country songs for some reason. The arm work continues and the announcers talk about Cena vs. Lesnar to fill time. Kidd comes back with some kicks but goes up and is caught in a superplex for two. Kidd goes up again and hits a Blockbuster for two. I've always been a fan of that move. Sharpshooter is countered into a wheelbarrow suplex by Curtis for two. Guillotine legdrop misses and the Hart Lock (which is the name from FCW from what I can tell) gets the submission at 10:23.

**Rating:** B-. Good match but not a great one. Kidd is one of those guys that can go out there and have a good match with anyone it seems, even someone like Johnny Curtis who is hardly the most interesting person in the world. I'm hoping one of these changes that's coming in NXT is a singles title for him to compete for.

**Overall Rating:** C. This show is kind of a placeholder until Regal can come back and bring in some new talent with him. That's fine as the show wasn't horrible or anything, but the wrestling wasn't much to see. Still though, it's so nice to have some fresh blood coming soon on this show and that's a rare thing on Wednesdays.

### Results

Derrick Bateman b. JTG – Falling Bulldog

Tamina Snuka/Kaitlyn b. Maxine/Natalya – Superfly Splash to Maxine

Tyson Kidd b. Johnny Curtis – Hart Lock

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