

# **NXT Live Event – March 27, 2015: They're Here (Includes Full Show)**

## **NXT Live Event**

Date: March 27, 2015

Location: San Jose University Event Center, San Jose, California

Attendance: 5,100

Ah the WWE Vault. This is basically the prototype for the Wrestlemania Weekend Takeover event. While there were clips shown from the show, this is the first time that the whole thing has been released in full. Sure it was released about eight months ago but after ten years, that's hardly a stretch. Let's get to it.

## **Hideo Itami vs. Tyler Breeze**

Breeze grabs a headlock to start and stops to pose on the ropes. The fans declare Breeze gorgeous until he grabs another headlock to limited success. The knockdown lets Itami pose on the ropes as well, followed by a knee to the ribs. A PK drops Breeze again and he misses a splash in the corner. That means some kicks to the ribs for some rather over the top selling, followed by the boot scrape across Breeze's (gorgeous) face.

It sets Breeze off so much that he hits an enziguri to take over for the first time, meaning it's time to kick away in the corner. The chinlock goes on with Itami quickly getting up, only to get caught with a dropkick for two. Itami knocks him off the top and hits a good looking clothesline to start the comeback. The fans want a GTS but have to settling for a tornado neck snap across the top rope instead.

Breeze gets in his own neck snap across the top but Itami just blasts him with a discus lariat for two. A crucifix bomb gives Breeze two and the fans approve of the kickout. Itami picks him up for the GTS and the fans go nuts, only to go a bit less nuts when Breeze escapes. Breeze wins an exchange of kicks to the face for two but Itami fights up and strikes away, including the running corner dropkick. The knee pad comes down and it's the GTS (to a ROAR, as it's the first time he had used it in NXT) to give Itami the pin at 10:36.

**Rating:** B. Unfortunately one of the things that has been forgotten about this time in NXT is that Breeze was very good. He found his groove and could have a good match with anyone, which is why he was put in this spot with Itami. We weren't far into Itami's NXT run and putting him out there against Breeze made sense. Throw in the GTS and of course this worked very well.

#### Jason Jordan vs. Bull Dempsey

Jordan wrestles him down to start as we get a LET'S GO JOBBER chant...which could go for either of them actually as neither meant anything at this point. Dempsey takes him down with a headlock but gets powered up into the corner. The fans chant BULL S\*\*\* as we certainly have a feisty group this time. Jordan punches him down as you can hear some individual fans talking, which is always a weird thing.

Jordan's belly to back suplex doesn't work as Dempsey falls on him for two in quite the crash. Some elbows give Jordan two but Dempsey hammers away and runs him over. The Swan Dive misses so Dempsey runs him over again, setting up the Swan Dive for two (that was a weird sequence). Back up and Jordan sends him into the corner, setting up an exploder suplex for the pin at 6:58.

**Rating:** C. Not much to see here as Jordan was doing his wrestling stuff like Dempsey was your generic monster. That

doesn't exactly make for a great match and it didn't help that neither of them meant much of anything. They were smart to keep this short, but they were smarter to put Jordan with Chad Gable to form American Alpha.

## **Becky Lynch/Dana Brooke vs. Alexa Bliss/Bayley**

Geez there's a lot here. Lynch is relatively new but rocketed into the title picture. Brooke is exactly what she has been forever. Bliss is still the fairy princess, complete with a tutu and the "glitter, glitz, glamour, sparkle" entrance (and is freshly back from a lengthy injury hiatus). Bayley is the hometown girl and crazy over.

Lynch mocks fear over the BAYLEY'S GONNA HUG YOU chants in a funny bit as she and Bayley start things off. Naturally Lynch immediately brings in Brooke for more posing, allowing Bayley to run her over and pose as well. Bliss comes in for something like Poetry In Motion before throwing Brooke into the corner. It's off to Lynch, who is quickly taken down for the moonsault knees, though she's fine enough to slam Bliss off the top.

Some running legdrops give Lynch two as the fans request Bayley. Instead they get Brooke coming in with a suplex into a chinlock, followed by a double limb stretch. Lynch comes back in and gets kicked to the floor, where she is smart enough to pull Bayley off the apron to break up the tag. Bliss kicks Brooke away though and the much needed tag brings in Bayley for the running ax handles. Lynch suplexes Bayley for two but she's right back with a middle rope elbow to the jaw. The Bayley To Belly finishes Lynch at 8:09.

**Rating:** C+. Sweet goodness this was bizarre to see, as you have the future of the women's division right in front of you and they're little more than filler. While NXT was a bit better than the main roster when it came to women's wrestling (of course), they were still just kind of there in this spot. The Women's Revolution would be coming in about two and a half

months though, and you could see the foundations here.

## Kalisto vs. Solomon Crowe

Crowe is better known as Sami Callihan and he was doing a pretty cool hacker gimmick which never went anywhere. Kalisto rolls away from him to start but gets taken down into a headlock. They fight over a test of strength (not something you often see with smaller guys) and Crowe knocks him down.

Back up and Kalisto walks on his hands for a headscissors before grabbing a headlock. A dropkick puts Crowe in the corner but he's back up with a triangle clothesline, which the fans seem to LOVE. Some rams into the apron have Kalisto in more trouble and it's a springboard (bottom rope) splash from Crowe back inside.

Kalisto manages a quick hurricanrana for two and he sends Crowe into the middle buckle. A springboard spinning crossbody gives Kalisto two more and the fans sound rather impressed. The hurricanrana driver (always liked that one) gets two more but the Salida del Sol is cut off. Kalisto knocks him back down for a slingshot 450 and a near fall, only to dive into a Brock Lock to give Crowe the win at 7:49.

**Rating:** B-. I still think Kalisto could have been something. The fans were getting into his stuff and he could do the high flying stuff rather well. There is always a place for a talented guy doing that style and he could have been it. On the other hand you have Crowe, who flamed out hard but there was something interesting to the hacker deal.

## Baron Corbin vs. Rhyno

Dang it's weird to see Corbin with hair. They trade knockdowns to start and we lose audio for some reason. Rhyno knocks him into the corner and tries an early Gore, which is cut off by a kick to the face. The fans tell Corbin that he can't wrestle (assuming they aren't talking to the referee) before he starts

hammering away with some big right hands in the corner.

A corner clothesline gets two as the fans try to get behind Rhyno. The hard whip sends Rhyno into the corner for two more so Corbin does it again for a rather delayed near fall. Rhyno finally blocks a whip into the corner and they collide for a double down. Back up and Rhyno hits a shoulder in the corner, followed by the spinning belly to belly for two. Corbin's sitout chokebomb gets the same and the audio goes out again, likely due to not so nice chanting. Rhyno grabs a spinebuster for two but the Gore is countered into the End Of Days for the pin at 7:34.

**Rating:** C+. Rhyno was a good choice for NXT at this point as he was a veteran presence that the fans would still get behind for a match like this. Corbin was the up and coming star though and would be on the main roster in about a year. Pairing him with Rhyno here made a lot of sense and you could see him getting better, albeit rather slowly, at this point.

Post match Corbin goes after him again and gets dropped with a Gore (more like a weak clothesline to the ribs).

Here is HHH for a chat. He gets to do some pretty cool stuff, but this is bad\*\*\*. The fans thank him but they're the ones who deserve the thanks. This is a hot ticket though and a bunch of main roster wrestlers are sitting backstage to watch. Even Vince McMahon is back there! But no one cares about that because you are here to see NXT, and there's that chant again.

### **Tag Team Titles: Blake & Murphy vs. Colin Cassady/Enzo Amore vs. Vaudevillains**

Blake & Murphy are defending, Carmella is here with Cassady/Amore and this is elimination rules. Enzo and Cass do their usual entrance and of course the fans know every word. Enzo takes Murphy down for a walk on the back into some dancing to start. It's quickly off to English to work on the arm before Amore gets to come back in for his jabs. Amore

slaps English in the chest for a chop and Murphy comes in to get taken down by the arm.

English does some squats on the arm, followed by the exact same thing from Gotch. Cass wants to come in so English slaps him in the chest as well, allowing him to come in and throw Murphy around. The fans are rather behind Cass, including as he elbows Blake in the corner (and yells BANG after each one).

Amore comes in and goes up, only to get crotched on top so Blake can stomp away. Murphy gets to choke in the corner for two as the fans chant one of Amore's 183 catchphrases. Murphy's big knee drop gets two and we're off to the chinlock. Thankfully it doesn't last long and Amore gets up for the tag to Cass. House is quickly cleaned, including a corner splash and big boot to Murphy.

The East River Crossing pins Gotch at 8:36 and we're down to two. Blake is back to take over on Amore and Cass so Carmella gets up on the apron for a distraction. That earns her a knock out to the floor though and Cass gets rolled up (seemingly with trunks) to retain the titles at 10:03.

**Rating:** B-. Enzo and Cass had the fans entirely behind them here and changing the titles wouldn't have been a crazy idea here. At the same time, Blake & Murphy were getting better as a team at this point and you don't want to break that up. The Vaudevillains...well someone had to be there so both of the other teams could get a fall each.

### **Women's Title: Charlotte vs. Sasha Banks**

Banks is defending. They stare at shout at each other to start until Charlotte cuts off a boot to the ribs. Instead Charlotte sends her into the corner and Banks is ready to leave, only to get jumped from behind. Back in and Banks avoids a charge in the corner but Charlotte rolls her up for a fast two. The Figure Four necklock with the rolling flips have Banks in trouble but she's able to lay Charlotte over the corner for

the hard knees.

The fans declare this wrestling, apparently realizing they aren't at an Amway presentation. Banks slowly hammers away as the fans switch to a dueling chant. A quick strut takes too long though and Charlotte rolls her up for two. That's it for the comeback though as Charlotte gets pulled into a crossarm choke. With that broken up, Charlotte fires off the chops but gets pulled down by the hair for two more. Banks is back with her own Figure Four necklock and drives Charlotte face first into the mat over and over.

Charlotte finally powers up into an electric chair and then spins Banks into a powerbomb. Back up and they trade forearms until Banks grabs a neckbreaker to put her down again. A big boot and spear drop Banks for two and they're both down. The Figure Four is countered into a backslide to give Banks two but Charlotte pulls her into the Figure Four. That's rolled into the ropes for the break so Charlotte goes up, with Banks knocking her right back down. The Bank Statement goes on and Charlotte finally taps at 13:57.

**Rating:** B+. Yeah this more than lived up to the hype of the women's division at this point, as the women involved were beating the heck out of each other until Charlotte couldn't hang in there anymore. This was miles ahead of anything the main roster women were doing at this point (though Paige and AJ Lee were trying) and the fans were seeing it. The main difference is these people were having a great match and happened to be women. It was a detail rather than a feature and that's not something we had seen before, which is why it was so revolutionary.

Here is Sami Zayn for a chat. After soaking in some cheers, Zayn says he isn't medically cleared to wrestle right now but he isn't letting this go without doing something. There was a dirty word that was used to describe NXT: developmental. Now though, things have changed because of what they've been

doing. There was a 2/3 falls match with someone named Cesaro and that was part of what made this the place to be.

Zayn knows we're in the middle of 5,000 of the craziest fans anywhere...and here is NXT Champion Kevin Owens (who took the title from Zayn) to interrupt. Owens mocks the fans for buying what Zayn is saying, but he knows Zayn better than anyone else. He doesn't think much of Zayn saying that WE did this before mocking Zayn for doing nothing for NXT.

The reality is that NXT blew up when Owens got here and that's why they're sold out here tonight. Owens brags about taking the title from Zayn, who shrugs it off. Zayn says he's been here for two years, and Owens was texting him about coming to WWE. While Zayn was facing Cesaro, Owens was home watching it on his couch. A fight is teased...but Owens just had surgery so we'll do this later. These two were great together, as always.

### **Adrian Neville vs. Finn Balor**

The fans go a bit nuts over Balor's entrance, which shouldn't be that big of a surprise as he's in full on Demon mode. They go technical to start with Neville grabbing a headlock takeover as the fans seem to describe themselves as NOT WORTHY. Balor fights up and hits a dropkick to the floor, only for Neville to come back in with a flying forearm. The big twisting flip dive drops Balor and the fans are split as the two of them get back inside.

A suplex gives Neville two and we hit the chinlock. Back up and Neville elbows him in the face, setting up another chinlock. Neville slowly stomps away and cuts off a charging Balor in the corner. A middle rope sunset flip doesn't work as Balor rolls through for a basement dropkick. Balor hits some running forearms and knocks Neville to the floor, followed by a running clothesline back inside.

A top rope double stomp to the back of Neville's neck gets two but Neville fights up with a kick to the face. Balor Pele's

him down but charges into a superkick for two. Neville flips out of a suplex and kicks him in the head before going up. The Red Arrow is broken up and Balor hits 1916 for two more. Neville crotches Balor on top for a change, setting up a heck of a top rope superplex. The Red Arrow misses though and Balor's dropkick sets up the Coup de Grace for the pin at 15:31.

**Rating:** B. While it didn't feel as important as a title match would have gone, this was still a good enough match to take the main event spot. They started slowly with the chinlocks but then it turned into two guys beating each other up until Balor got the win. Balor was on the way up the charts while Neville was heading up to the main roster (in three days) so it made sense to have Balor get the nice boost. Good match here, with the fans going nuts over the Demon.

**Overall Rating:** B. This wasn't exactly a Takeover as it meant nothing from a storyline perspective, but what mattered here was making NXT feel like it mattered. This was the biggest weekend for WWE and NXT is part of the big menu of featured attractions. It was a sign that NXT was becoming a much bigger deal and they had the talent to make it work. This was a rather good show with the Women's Title match being worth a look. It's not exactly the introduction for NXT as it was for the fans already there, but NXT's days were coming and things were only going to get better.

### Results

Hideo Itami b. Tyler Breeze – GTS

Jason Jordan b. Bull Dempsey – Exploder suplex

Bayley/Alexa Bliss b. Becky Lynch/Dana Brooke – Bayley To Belly to Lynch

Solomon Crowe b. Kalisto – Brock Lock

Baron Corbin b. Rhyno – End Of Days

Blake & Murphy b. Colin Cassady/Enzo Amore and Vaudevillains – Rollup with trunks to Cass

Sasha Banks b. Charlotte – Bank Statement

Finn Balor b. Adrian Neville – Coup de Grace

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# **NXT – March 23, 2016: Business As Usual**

## **NXT**

Date: March 23, 2016

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Tom Phillips, Corey Graves

We're getting very close to Takeover: Dallas with just two shows to go before perhaps the biggest show in the history of the promotion. The card is almost entirely set now and it should be interesting to see how they final building process goes. NXT tends to be good at this so hopefully the trend continues. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

## **Elias Samson vs. Johnny Gargano**

Samson is still undefeated and starts fast by pounding Johnny down in the corner. I'm hoping this doesn't turn into a squash as Gargano deserves better for the Johnny Wrestling name alone. With Johnny down, Samson gets a bit distracted by going into something like a trance. Samson charges

into a boot in the corner and eats a kick to the head, only to catch a charging Johnny with a knee to the ribs. Another jumping knee is countered with a quick rollup to give Gargano the pin at 2:18. Well that was sudden.

Samson lays Gargano out with the neckbreaker post match and sends him into the post for good measure. He loads up another neckbreaker on the ramp but Apollo Crews comes out for the save.

Takeover video.

### Rich Swann vs. Finn Balor

Non-title of course. Balor takes him to the mat with a wristlock to start and Rich can't get to his feet. Instead it's off to a headlock before the champ easily takes it down to a hammerlock. Back up and a good looking dropkick staggers Balor, followed by a spinning kick to the face. Another dropkick puts Balor on the floor and the fans are behind Swann here. Balor is all fired up now though and sends Swann outside on the other side for a hard kick to the head. The Coup de Grace sets up Bloody Sunday for the pin on Swann at 5:22.

**Rating:** C+. I can always go for a quick match where a big name actually has to break a sweat to beat someone a few levels beneath him. It's also a good idea to get Balor out there every now and then to make sure that people don't forget how good he really is. They're doing a nice job with Swann in his first two matches as he's gotten to show off in losing efforts.

Emma and Dana Brooke are ready for Emma's rematch with Asuka. Dana has been helping her train and tonight Emma is going to do the job. She also confirms that she's been out due to injury.

### Sarah Dobson vs. Alexa Bliss

Bliss is back in the old pink attire. Dobson takes her into the corner to start but misses a charge to give Bliss a quick two. We hit an armbar on Dobson as the announcers argue over how big a star Bliss really is. Bliss misses a charge in the corner and Dobson gets two off a high cross body.

This brings Blake and Murphy to the apron for a distraction and cheap shot, setting up the Sparkle Splash to give Bliss the pin at 4:12.

**Rating:** D. Much like on the main roster, you can really see the line between the wrestlers and the Divas. Bliss is really just out there because of her looks instead of her ring skills, though she's awesome as the evil heel manager. Dobson wasn't bad from what I can see here and I know she's done some good stuff out on the indies.

Samoa Joe has nothing to say.

#### Bull Dempsey vs. Danny Burch

Well this is a bit more awkward. No match though as Samoa Joe comes out and destroys both guys before shouting about how he's coming for Balor and the title.

Video on the awesomeness that is American Alpha with the two of them talking about their paths through the amateur ranks towards NXT. None of that matters unless they win the NXT Tag Team Titles though.

Jose No Way is coming.

#### Emma vs. Asuka

Emma actually takes over with a headlock to start but Asuka reverses into one of her own. A jumping cross armbreaker has Emma in major trouble and the flying hip attack gets two for Asuka as we take a break. Back with Asuka working on a hammerlock until she gets bored and switches over to an ankle lock.

Emma finally kicks her to the floor and starts pounding away before putting her feet on Asuka's shoulders and pulling at the arms. It's off to a regular chinlock with Emma putting her knee in the back. As has been the case all match, the hold is quickly broken so Emma can put her in the Tree of Woe for some shots to the ribs.

Asuka is up at two though and the frustration is starting to set in. They run the ropes a few times until another hip attack drops Emma as the comeback begins. Emma dropkicks her into the ropes but Asuka bounces off

for another hip attack. A good looking German suplex sends Emma flying and it's the Asuka Lock for the tap out at 15:14.

**Rating:** B. This was a very nice change of pace as these two still have some nice chemistry together. They were going with an enhanced version of the same formula from Balor vs. Swann here as the bigger name had to work harder than expected with a challenger. They've done an awesome job of setting up Bayley and Asuka as unstoppable, meaning the match is going to have some awesome buzz going on.

**Overall Rating:** C+. Nothing great here but the build towards the big show has been awesome so far. The card is mostly set at this point and there's only so much that a few more TV shows are going to be able to do. They're doing a good job of going around the card and giving everything a good build so I actually have some faith in what they might be able to pull off in Dallas.

### Results

Johnny Gargano b. Elias Samson – Rollup

Finn Balor b. Rich Swann – Bloody Sunday

Alexa Bliss b. Sarah Dobson – Sparkle Splash

Asuka b. Emma – Asuka Lock

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# NXT – February 24, 2016: Maybe Next Time

## NXT

Date: February 24, 2016

Location: CFE Arena, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Tom Phillips, Corey Graves

As has been the case recently, this is going to be about fallout from last week and the main event in particular. Last week, Samoa Joe and Sami Zayn went to a double pin in a match for the #1 contendership, meaning we don't have a challenger for Finn Balor. Odds are that won't be established tonight either but odds are we'll get a fun show out of it anyway. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

### American Alpha vs. Blake and Murphy

Gable and Murphy get things going with Chad easily taking him down into a leg lock. The good guys start in on the arm as Corey talks about Chad being able to dribble a bowling ball. Blake comes in and is quickly ridden down to the mat. Some rapid fire dropkicks (and a Ricky Morton reference) has the bad guys in trouble as Chad waits in the middle. A double dropkick puts Blake on the floor and we take a break.

Back with Jordan staying on the arm and Gable doing the same. You don't often see the good guys in control this long. Blake's slam doesn't get him away from the armbar but the heels FINALLY get him into the corner to take over. We hit a chinlock on Gable for a bit before it's back to Blake for forearms to the head.

A double arm crank keeps things slow and the heels keep pulling Gable away from the hot tag. You can only do that so many times before it stops

working though and the hot tag brings in Jordan for the series of suplexes. Murphy's dropkick is swatted away and the Grand Amplitude puts Blake away at 13:37. That's a long match for a non-main event in NXT.

**Rating:** C+. Nice match here even though it was a glorified squash until the ending. American Alpha is clearly the real deal and ready to give the titles some much needed energy. Blake and Murphy on the other hand have smacked their heads against the glass ceiling and I'm really not sure where they're supposed to go from here.

We look back at the ending to last week's show.

Regal says we'll be seeing Sami vs. Joe in a 2/3 falls match in two weeks. As for next week though, there's a new talent debuting.

Elias Samson song.

#### Christopher Girard vs. Apollo Crews

Girard is indy star Biff Busick in his NXT debut. Crews punches him into the corner to start and scores with a quick dropkick. Busick comes back with a running European uppercut (From an indy wrestler? You don't say.) and a chinlock, which he flips backwards to keep Crews in trouble. Another elbow to the face sets up another chinlock as this is starting to drag. Crews gets up with a spear and a running corner splash, followed by the toss into the helicopter bomb for the pin at 5:12.

**Rating:** D+. You shouldn't need two extended chinlocks in a five minute match. Girard has a really good look and a lot of intensity but the offense isn't exactly working so far. He seems similar to Tommaso Ciampa, which makes you wonder why they bothered signing two people who seem so much alike. Then again, you certainly can't tell how a career is going to go based off one match and it wasn't a disaster.

We look back at Carmella vs. Bayley from two weeks ago with Eva Marie and Nia Jax attacking until Asuka made the save.

Carmella and Bayley are ready for Eva and Nia tonight. They're friends now but Carmella wants another shot at the title. Bayley isn't worried about Asuka, even though she's going to be a threat down the line.

## Tommaso Ciampa vs. Bull Dempsey

Bull takes 40 seconds to get his shirt off and we get some jumping jacks before any contact. Ciampa wants a test of strength but is quickly run over, setting up a rolling backplash from Bull. Back up and Ciampa easily drops him with some hard shots and he rips at Bull's face. Ciampa starts cranking on the arm but misses a charge in the corner, allowing Bull to fire off the left hands. Not that it matters as a Fujiwara Armbar with Ciampa flipping over onto Bull's back is good for the submission at 4:18.

**Rating:** D+. I'm pretty sure this is it for Dempsey in NXT and it's not like he's going to be that missed. He's just a comedy jobber and you can put almost anyone into that spot. Ciampa was fine and it's nice to see him win a match instead of put up a good fight and then lose in the end.

Joe says the announcement means Sami has to suffer twice and that's just fine with him.

Sami sounds a bit nervous about the two out of three falls match but this is why he came back from the shoulder injury. He's ready though because his goal is to be the first ever two time NXT Champion.

## Carmella/Bayley vs. Nia Jax/Eva Marie

Carmella starts with some Thesz Presses and left hands to Eva, followed by a double suplex to give Bayley a quick two. That means it's time for Nia to throw Bayley around and easily block a rollup attempt. Eva comes back in and is booed out of the arena, only to have Bayley take her down like the easy target that she is.

We take a break and come back with Carmella holding Eva in a headlock on the mat. Eva gets up and makes the tag off to Nia, who plants Carmella with a shoulder breaker. It's back to Eva for her grunting based offense, including a choke in the corner. Something like a cobra clutch from Nia keeps the villains in control and she swings Carmella around with ease.

Nia misses a charge and falls out to the floor though, allowing the hot tag to Bayley. The running elbows in the corner have Eva in trouble

(like, more trouble than her trying to work a match) but Nia breaks up the cover off the Bayley to Belly. Carmella comes back in for her leg crossface with Nia making another save. Jax drops three straight legs on Carmella, allowing Eva to get the pin at 11:34.

**Rating:** C-. Nothing to see here but I hope that doesn't mean we'll be seeing more of Nia and Eva as a one and a fourth headed monster. Carmella clearly wasn't going anywhere near the title for a long time so having her take the fall here makes the most sense. Eva is still doing well in this heel role but the heat isn't what it was before.

Regal and Balor are in the back with the boss talking about how Balor is approaching the longest reign in NXT Title history. Therefore, next week he'll be facing Neville. No word on if that's a title match or not.

**Overall Rating:** C. Not their strongest episode but it set up stuff for the next few weeks as well as helped to confirm a lot of what we're likely to see down in Dallas. This was your usual breezy episode of NXT and it's nice to not come into a show dreading how bad it might be on any given week.

### Results

American Alpha b. Blake and Murphy – Grand Amplitude to Blake

Apollo Crews b. Christopher Girard – Helicopter Bomb

Tommaso Ciampa b. Bull Dempsey – Fujiwara Armbar

Eva Marie/Nia Jax b. Bayley/Carmella – Eva pinned Carmella after three legdrops from Jax

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# Marcus Louis, Sylvester LeFort and Bull Dempsey Gone From NXT

Louis and LeFort have barely been used for months and Dempsey was little more than a comedy jobber. It's strange to see people leaving NXT though as they rarely release anyone.

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## NXT – December 23, 2015: Jolly Old NXT

### NXT

Date: December 23, 2015

Location: Wembley Arena, London, England

Commentators: Rich Brennan, Corey Graves, Byron Saxton

We're past Takeover: London now and the big question is where do things go from here. Before we can get to the next major shows though, we have a few matches taped at the Takeover show to get through here, including a four way tag and the return of someone you might remember. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap/highlight package from Takeover. I might be looking forward to Takeover more than Wrestlemania.

Opening sequence.

### Vaudevillains vs. Hype Bros vs. Blake and Murphy vs. Chad Gable/Jason Jordan

One fall to a finish. The Vaudevillains are dressed as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. The Hype Bros aren't the most beloved but Gable and Jordan's eruption makes up for it. Gable and English get things going with Chad easily taking him to the mat. It's off to Gotch for a wristlock but Chad easily takes him down to the delight of the crowd. Mojo tags himself in but Gable and Jordan clean house, leading to a four way staredown.

Back from a break with English having issues getting out of another Gable wristlock. Blake comes in and walks into a headscissors, followed by a dropkick. It's off to Murphy who is caught in an armbreaker across the top rope, only to have Blake make a save (thanks to Bliss) with a stomp to the ribs for two. Blake starts in on Chad's leg until English tags himself in to take over.

Gotch works on the leg as well but Gable gets the knees up to give himself a breather. Murphy breaks up the hot tag, only to have Gable backflip out of a double suplex and make the hot tag to Jordan. Everything breaks down and it's suplex city on everyone, including one to Murphy onto the pile, setting up Grand Amplitude to Blake for the pin at 12:46.

**Rating:** C+. Fun match here as you would expect with this many people in the ring at once. Gable and Jordan are something special and there's almost no way we're not getting them vs. Dawson and Wilder for the titles sooner than later. I can't imagine they'll stretch the chase all the way out to Dallas as they're too hot right now.

Dana Brooke yells at Emma for losing to Asuka. Asuka comes in and smiles so Dana turns around and asks Emma if Asuka left yet.

Sami Zayn is back tonight.

Video on the European tour.

Clips of Finn Balor vs. Samoa Joe from Takeover.

Tye Dillinger is tired of people talking about Sami Zayn, who is not a perfect ten.

More from the song man, who debuts next.

Next week (and perhaps the week after) will be the Best of 2015.

Clips of Apollo Crews vs. Baron Corbin.

Corbin brags about his win and declares himself #1 contender.

#### Bull Dempsey vs. Elias Samson

Sampson is confirmed as the drifting guitar player. Bull starts with some clotheslines so Samson stomps him down into the corner. The snap jabs and a shoulder put Elias down but he comes back with a quick knockdown. That gives us a creepy smile from Elias, followed by a top rope elbow to pin Bull at 1:37. Well that was quick. Not very impressive but quick.

After some clips of their title defense, Scott Dawson and Dash Wilder say they're awesome.

Clips of Bayley retaining over Nia Jax.

#### Tye Dillinger vs. Sami Zayn

We have to pause the start of the match due to some extended OLE chants. Tye starts going after the arm to start but Sami reverses into a wristlock of his own and we get a standoff. A pair of armdrags send Ty to the floor but he bails away from a dive, leaving Sami to flip back into the ring. They head outside with Sami being sent shoulder first into the post, taking us to our first break.

Back with Dillinger working on the arm and firing off some left hands to the head. Sami fights out of another armbars and clotheslines Tye a few times, followed by a fisherman's suplex. Now we get the big flip dive and the fans are very happy to have Sami back. The Blue Thunder Bomb gets two but the Helluva kick is countered into a rollup for two (with a handful of tights). Tye starts fighting back but gets suplex into the corner,

setting up the Helluva kick for the pin at 12:47.

**Rating:** C. This was little more than “hey Sami’s back”. He had a bit of ring rust but it’s a good idea to give him a relatively easy match like this to allow him to get his timing back. Sami is at his best when he’s fighting uphill, but it’s going to be interesting to see him as the returning hero instead of an underdog again. He looked fine here and that’s all that matters.

Sami says he’s back and soaks in some OLE’s. The trend in his career has been every time a dream comes true, it quickly turns into a nightmare. It happened when he won the NXT Title and it happened when he showed up on Raw but tonight broke the trend. This is just the beginning and 2016 will be even better for NXT and Sami Zayn.

**Overall Rating:** C+. These shows are always tricky as they’re really more WCW Saturday Night (in the Nitro era) than Monday Night Raw. It’s still a fun show and a really easy sit though and that’s all NXT needs to be. What makes it even better is how they make me want to keep coming back. I believed Sami when he said it’s going to get even better, which is mainly lip service most of the time. Another fun show here and the Best of shows coming up should be a nice flashback.

### Results

Chad Gable/Jason Jordan b. Hype Bros, Blake and Murphy and Vaudevillains  
– Grand Amplitude to Blake

Elias Samson b. Bull Dempsey – Top rope elbow

Sami Zayn b. Tye Dillinger – Helluva kick

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# NXT – November 4, 2015: NXT Is Really Neat

## NXT

Date: November 4, 2015

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Rich Brennan, Byron Saxton, Corey Graves

It's a big show this week as Finn Balor is defending his NXT Title against #1 contender Apollo Crews. NXT has spent the last few weeks building up Crews and giving us a person to care about but there aren't any real personal issues between the two other than the title itself. That could make for a good match but it might not be the most interesting. Let's get to it.

The opening video recaps Crews winning the battle royal and becoming #1 contender.

Opening sequence.

## Asuka vs. Cameron

This could be interesting. Fans: "ASUKA'S GONNA KILL YOU!" Cameron tries a slap to start but gets caught in a cross armbreaker for an early submission attempt. A running kick into the splits drops Asuka but she comes back with a hip attack and mocks Cameron's pose. Asuka grabs a Fujiwara armbreaker before just smashing Cameron in the face. Fans: "REST IN PEACE!" The Asuka Lock is good for the submission at 3:41.

**Rating:** D+. I kind of feel sorry for Cameron as she has a horrible character and there is no way she's going to be accepted no matter how good she gets in the ring. Some of the gymnastics and flexibility stuff worked for her here but the screeching makes people hate her more than anything. Asuka's path of destruction continues to be awesome and her facial expressions make the squashes that much more entertaining.

We recap Big Cass' leg injury from last week.

Dawson and Wilder laugh at Carmella for injuring her friends. They get their title shot next week and then they'll be the baddest guys in the room. Wilder even brings in a wheelchair as a gift for the Vaudevillains.

Chad Gable and Jason Jordan want to keep moving up the card and one day they'll be the world's greatest tag team. Jordan: "Whoa whoa whoa I told you about that." Their next idea is to wrestle the greatest tag team in NXT history. Gable: "We can't wrestle ourselves." This winds up being a challenge to the Ascension.

#### Bull Dempsey vs. Angelo Dawkins

Dawkins has a Sawyer Fulton with him. The threat of a right hand makes Dawkins duck, allowing a knee lift to the head. Dawkins kicks him down and puts on a front facelock but Dempsey Bulls up. Bull punches one of the headbands off and a top rope seated senton gives Dempsey the pin at 2:53.

Fulton walks away from Dawkins post match.

The Vaudevillains are impressed with Dash and Dawson but they're ready to add their names to the pantheon of NXT greats. They sent the wheelchair rolling away. Simple promo here but it was fine.

Crews looks at the NXT Title.

Bayley has the Hype Bros as her partners against Alexa Bliss/Blake/Murphy for a six person tag next week.

#### Eva Marie vs. Marley

Marley is a blonde in half of a football jersey. Eva armdrags her down and dances to celebrate before starting on the arm. The fans debate if Eva is ratchet before she stops a comeback with a boot to the face. Fans: "WHAT WAS THAT???" Marley is on her hands and knees so Eva runs in for a very low downward spiral and the pin at 2:48. If that's her finisher, she's in an even worse place than I thought.

Dana Brooke and Emma respect Asuka but want to give her a better welcome to NXT. It's Emma's turn soon.

### NXT Title: Apollo Crews vs. Finn Balor

Balor is defending and there's no Demon this time. We get a spotlight and a staredown for the big match intros. That's a really cool idea that I haven't seen before. Feeling out process to start with neither guy's headlock getting them anywhere. Back from a way too early break with Crews holding a headlock. Finn fights up and grabs a front facelock but Crews lifts him up into a delayed vertical suplex for two. Fans: "THAT'S TOO EASY!"

Off to something like a cobra clutch from the champ but Crews tries a sunset flip. That's fine with Finn who rolls through and takes Apollo's face off with a basement dropkick. Crews kicks him back down and goes to the middle rope, only to take an enziguri to put him on the floor. Finn nails a BIG flip dive to take us to our second break. Back with Balor firing off some running chops in the corner, followed by a clothesline for two.

Crews shrugs it off again and hits a fall away slam into a Samoan drop for two more. The fans are still split as Apollo nails a jumping enziguri, only to get caught in the Sling Blade. There's the gorilla press but the moonsault hits knees. REVERSE BLOODY SUNDAY of all things gets two but the Coup de Grace misses. They trade kicks to the head and both guys are down until Baron Corbin runs in for the DQ at 15:09.

**Rating:** B. Give this a finish and it's a borderline classic. These guys beat each other up for fifteen minutes and the shots were getting bigger and bigger every time. I'm sure we'll see them fight again at some point and it's going to be one heck of a war whenever they do. Really good

stuff here but the ending was the right call as you don't want either one losing.

Post match Corbin beats both guys down until Samoa Joe makes the save. Joe stars Corbin down but then takes Balor out to turn heel. Fans: "WHY JOE WHY?" A Muscle Buster lays Finn out and Joe holds up the title to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. Another week, another great use of an hour to advance a bunch of stories and give you a reason to come back next week. Balor needed a new top heel and Joe is going to be a great opponent when they probably fight in London. As usual, another good hour of wrestling TV this week as they set up matches and stories so smoothly that it's like one big, long story that just keeps going, which is so much better than the start and stop style that you get elsewhere.

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# **NXT – September 23, 2015: Ladies Night**

**NXT**

Date: September 23, 2015

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Rich Brennan, Byron Saxton, Corey Graves

It's another night in the Dusty Classic as we're moving towards Takeover: Respect with the semi-finals and finals of the tournament as well as a thirty minute Iron Woman match for the Women's Title. Tonight is likely to be about the tournament and filling in the rest of the card for the show on October 7. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

### Eva Marie vs. Carmella

Oh this one could hurt. Carmella shoulders her into the corner to start and throws Eva to the floor so we can get a Moonwalk inside. Back in and Eva's suplex is booted out of the building as the announcers talk about Eva not being accepted for her improvements. A big boot drops Carmella for two (fans: "THAT'S A KICKOUT!") and we hit a bow and arrow hold. Fans: "ALL BOTCH EVERYTHING!" Carmella fights back and starts dancing around like Enzo before ramming Emma into the buckle for two. Eva comes back by throwing Carmella to the floor for a big crash and a countout win at 5:10.

**Rating:** D. So here's the thing: the story makes sense and yeah Eva is going to get a ton of heat when she probably takes the title from Bayley, but a lot of people, myself included, are going to get annoyed at sacrificing everything the women in NXT have built up for the sake of pushing someone because she's occasionally on a reality show that doesn't even draw a million people a week. Yeah that match that sold the Brooklyn show and was all successful and good, but now let's get rid of it for a woman getting on the job training to be the next Nikki Bella. That's life in WWE and it's something we just have to live with.

Nia Jax is still coming. Nothing has changed since Takeover.

Recap of the announcement of the Iron Woman match.

### Tyler Breeze vs. Bull Dempsey

Their tag team was a failure and Bull is getting in better shape. Tyler uses the referee as a shield to start and is thrown around like a doll.

Bull messes with the hair to really get under Breeze's skin, causing Tyler to send him out to the floor. Unlike Carmella though, Bull is able to get back in off a whip to the floor. Must be the Bull Fit. Fans: "BULL FIT WORKS!"

Back from a break with Tyler ripping at Bull's face before opting for a regular headlock. Graves: "Now going down into the trapezius. I learned my anatomy from Gorilla Monsoon." Bull throws him off and gets all fired up as Breeze punches him. Some left jabs drop Breeze but he's able to roll to the ropes before Bull can drop the headbutt. Bull goes up again for some reason, only to have Tyler pull him off for the pin with his feet on the ropes at 10:19.

**Rating:** C. Bull Fit is a nice idea but Breeze winning here was the right idea. Breeze has the potential to really go somewhere in NXT and winning matches and feuds like this are a good sign for him. Dempsey needs to drop some more weight but the fans are getting into the gimmick which is the most important sign.

Clips of the Texas tour.

William Regal brings out Japanese star Kana, whose Titantron video says Asuka. Regal pronounces the new name as "Aska" and asks if there's anything she'd like to say. Asuka says she's happy to be here and wants to be NXT Women's Champion. They sign the contract but here are Dana Brooke and Emma to interrupt. Regal chides them for their rudeness and it gets even worse as they mock Asuka's English. They're the ones who ran Charlotte and Becky Lynch off so Asuka better play nice. A dejected Asuka starts to leave but the fans chant her name. Asuka turns back and smiles before slowly leaving.

Tyler Breeze doesn't have much to say about his match with Apollo Crews at Takeover. Crews comes up and is far more excited about the match than Tyler is.

Feature on the Dusty Classic. Here are the updated brackets:

Samoa Joe/Finn Balor vs. Colin Cassidy/Enzo Amore

Dash/Dawson

Hype Bros vs. Chad Gable/Jason Jordan

Baron Corbin/Rhyno

The Hype Bros and Gable/Jordan are both ready for next week.

Tag Team Titles: Vaudevillains vs. Blake and Murphy

Vaudevillains are defending in the rematch from Takeover: Brooklyn. Gotch shoulders Blake down for two to start and here's Blue Pants to chase Alexa into the ring for a brawl. Both of them head to the back and English slaps a chinlock on Blake. Blake comes right back with a headlock of his own but Aiden armdrags both challengers down with ease. Murphy back suplexes English onto the apron and we take a break.

Back with English still in trouble off a kick to the face and a chinlock from Blake. Murphy's chinlock keeps the match slow until English comes back with a hard slap to the face. Gotch and Blake come in with Simon's screwy offense taking over. Everything breaks down and Blake gets his knees up to stop Aiden's middle rope senton. English gets two off a rollup and sends Murphy to the floor, allowing Simon to come back in for the Whirling Dervish to retain at 12:17.

**Rating:** C-. That was certainly chinlocky. It was much more boring than bad though as there was almost no chance of the titles changing back here. I'm assuming the winners of the tournament, likely Gable/Jordan, are the next challengers, which makes more sense than anything else.

Enzo and Big Cass are thankful for everything Dusty did for them and want to win the tournament in his honor. They respect Balor and Joe as well, but respect goes out the window next week.

Balor and Joe say Cass and Enzo might be the realest guys in the room but they're the toughest guys on the block and you can't teach that.

**Overall Rating:** C. Not the worst show in the world here but it was much more about setting stuff up for later shows. The tournament is mostly set up now and we have a good chunk of Takeover set with the Iron Woman match

guaranteed to take up thirty minutes and the tournament matches filling in most of the rest of the card. Fun enough show here but it was much more of a building episode than anything else.

### Results

Eva Marie b. Carmella via countout

Tyler Breeze b. Bull Dempsey – Pin with feet on the ropes

Vaudevillains b. Blake and Murphy – Whirling Dervish to Blake

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# **NXT – September 9, 2015: Not Everyone Can Be A Horsewoman**

## **NXT**

Date: September 9, 2015

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Rich Brennan, Corey Graves

The Dusty Classic continues this week as we get to see a few more first round matches tonight. The tournament has taken the promotion by storm

and it's already more interesting than I was hoping for it to be. We're also just about a month away from the next Takeover, which needs a card built up in a hurry. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

### Peyton Royce vs. Carmella

Royce used to be K.C. Cassidy but this is billed as her debut. Feeling out process to start as they trade rollups, followed by Carmella busting out a moonwalk. A suplex gets two more on Carmella and we hit the chinlock. Carmella fights back up an elbows Royce in the jaw before slapping on a chinlock of her own. Back up and Royce fires off some nice kicks in the corner, followed by a middle rope cross body for two. They're already showing more energy than the Bellas have displayed in a long time. Carmella comes right back with that crossface with her legs for the submission at 5:03.

**Rating:** D. That's one of the lower ratings I've given an NXT match in a long time but this didn't work. A five minute match doesn't need two extended chinlocks. The sudden finish didn't do it any favors either as this felt like they jumped to the ending instead of building there like a normal match. Royce has some good potential but needs more molding.

Samoa Joe asked Finn Balor if he's ready. The champ certainly is but Joe tells him not to forget his belt. Joe hands him the title, after staring at it a bit first.

In other first round matches, Enzo Amore/Colin Cassady beat Sawyer Fulton/Angelo Dawkins and Scott Dawson/Dash Wilder beat Elias Sampson/Tucker Knight. It's really smart to not air the whole thing on TV as we don't need to every single first round match.

Nia Jax is still coming.

### Dusty Classic First Round: Tommaso Ciampa/Johnny Gargano vs. Bull Dempsey/Tyler Breeze

Ciampa and Breeze get things going with Tommaso getting in a great slap to the jaw. It's off to Bull, who is dubbed as gorgeous by the crowd.

Ciampa takes him down to the mat so it's quickly back to Breeze, who is taken into the corner and rolled up for two by Gargano. Tyler is trying to recover in the corner and tags out to the big man, who gets kicked in the head upon arrival. Ciampa's running knee to the head gets two and we hit the chinlock.

Back from a break with Ciampa on Bull's back in a sleeper, so Dempsey just falls backwards for the break. Use the natural assets man. Gargano comes in and knocks Breeze off the apron, meaning there's no one there for Bull to tag. Bull fights back on his own with a Bionic Elbow but knocks his partner off the apron again. Gargano grabs a sunset flip and Ciampa makes it a jackknife rollup to pin Dempsey at 8:44.

**Rating:** C-. This was more of a story than a match though it's always cool to see some indy stars brought in to NXT. Dempsey vs. Breeze could be an interesting match if they have Bull act like his old self, though I'm not sure how far the Bull Fit gimmick can really go. Ciampa and Gargano were fine here but there's only so much you can get out of a short match like this.

The Lucha Dragons are ready for their match and warn Joe/Balor to not overlook them because these dragons breathe fire.

Dana Brooke is mad (though not because she hasn't patted Devon on the head recently) for having to see Bayley win that Women's Title. She turned down a spot in the Arnold Classic in Spain to be here and now she wants her title.

Video on Tye Dillinger.

### Dana Brooke vs. Billie Kay

They trade headlocks to start with Billie taking it down to the mat. A headscissors messes Brooke up even more as a weak Total Diva chant breaks out. Brooke slams her into the corner for some shoulders to the ribs as the confidence is back. The handstand choke sets up a chinlock on Kay which quickly switches to a headscissors choke. Brooke stops a comeback with an enziguri and the fireman's carry driver is good for the pin at 5:23.

**Rating:** D+. These new girls are a far cry from the Four Horsewomen but Brooke is probably the furthest along of all of them and one of the best options to face Bayley. Billie is another one where we can't really tell what's going on in such a short performance, especially when most of it was spent on the mat.

Apollo Crews calls the fans the Apollo Nation. They're ready to take over NXT. Can we please stop calling everything a nation or a team? You can come up with something more creative than that.

Bayley's biggest fan Izzy was at the WWE Performance Center to meet Bayley in person. That's always cool.

Bayley is back next week.

#### Dusty Classic First Round: Samoa Joe/Finn Balor vs. Lucha Dragons

This is from a Smackdown taping in Providence, Rhode Island with Tom Phillips and Jimmy Uso on commentary. Balor and Cara get things going and a loud NXT chant starts up. The champ tries to slow things down with an armbar but gets caught in a headlock instead. Jimmy is asked advice on how to win the tournament. Jimmy: "Don't get kicked in the face like that!" Balor sends Cara to the floor and dives on both guys and we take a break.

Back with Joe tagging Balor in and the champion being slammed down in the corner. Kalisto gets two off a flipping splash and puts on a waistlock. Finn fights up and gets in enough shots to make the tag to Joe. The Dragons are thrown all over the ring but Cara comes back with a sloppy tornado DDT for two. Cara tries to charge at Joe in the corner and has to slip out of the Muscle Buster. Kalisto tags himself in and gets two off a quick hurricanrana, only to charge into the release Rock Bottom. The Muscle Buster into the Coup de Grace eliminate the Dragons at 11:16.

**Rating:** C+. This got a lot better as it went on and the last two minutes or so were really good. The best part here is either team winning would have made sense as the Dragons have been successful in NXT and it's pretty clear that Balor vs. Joe is coming in the near future. It wasn't a great match or anything, but it picked up a pretty lame show otherwise.

**Overall Rating:** C-. Definitely not their best show but the tournament kept it from being dull. They're rapidly approaching the next Takeover and you can see some of the card, but I wouldn't be surprised if they had the semi-finals and finals at the show to fill in some time. The wrestling wasn't great tonight though and the new featured women need some work. Then again, I said the same thing about Sasha and Bayley about a year ago and they've turned out very well.

### Results

Carmella b. Peyton Royce – Crossface leg lock

Tommaso Ciampa/Johnny Gargano b. Tyler Breeze/Bull Dempsey – Jackknife rollup to Dempsey

Dana Brooke b. Billie Kay – Fireman's carry driver

Samoa Joe/Finn Balor b. Lucha Dragons – Coup de Grace to Kalisto

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# NXT – August 26, 2015: They Do Know It's On The Same Network Right?

## NXT

Date: August 26, 2015

Location: Barclays Center, New York City, New York

Commentators: Corey Graves, Rich Brennan

This is an interesting show as we have the matches that were taped prior to this past weekend's Takeover special. I can't imagine we'll see anything that gives away show results aside from highlights for the sake of the live crowd, meaning this could be a different looking show. This episode is also ninety minutes long. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Takeover, as you might expect.

Enzo Amore/Colin Cassady/Hype Bros vs. Scott Dawson/Dash Wilder/Chad Gable/Jason Jordan

Enzo and Cass are over with the live crowd to put it mildly. They keep it simple this week though and just call their opponents sawft. Mojo drives Dash into the corner to start and hands it off to Ryder for a quick clothesline. The fans want Enzo but have to settle for Ryder's missile rope dropkick instead.

Now they get Enzo who does a little dance and punches Dawson in the face, setting up a big eight man staredown. Everything breaks down and the heels are sent to the floor for a HUGE dive from Enzo (with an assist from Cass) to take them down again. Back from a break with Jordan getting two on Enzo and the fans cheering for their diminutive hero. Gable bends the arm over the top rope before it's back to Dash to keep Amore in trouble.

The villains take turns on the arm and Gable monkey flips him into the corner to prevent a hot tag. Now the fans want Cass and a tornado DDT

almost gives them what they want but it's Jordan breaking up the tag this time. Enzo sends him into the corner and NOW the hot tag brings in Cass. The big man comes in to clean house and it's time for the parade of finishers, capped off by the Rocket Launcher to pin Gable at 13:12.

**Rating:** C. Totally fine eight man here as the whole point was to get Enzo and Cass out there to fire up the crowd. That's the kind of act you always need to have on the card as they can set the pace for a show and keep everything hot. Enzo playing Ricky Morton is such a simple formula and it worked just fine here.

Regal hypes up the Dusty Classic when Neville comes in and asks for a spot in the field. The boss makes it happen.

After his title defense Saturday, Balor says he proved Japan wasn't a fluke. The future is now.

Video on Emma.

Video on Becky Lynch.

### Carmella vs. Eva Marie

Remember how much the fans liked Enzo and Cass? Reverse it here for Eva. The fans tell Eva that she can't wrestle as she shoulders Carmella down, only to take a bad looking dropkick. Some running forearms stagger Carmella again and a backsplash gets two. We hit the seated arm crank and Eva mocks Cass' chants. Carmella comes back with some Thesz presses but walks into a jawbreaker and the Kendrick gives Eva the pin at 4:12.

**Rating:** D. If Eva is supposed to be the next big thing in this division, they're in trouble. She was adequate in there but it's adequate in the Bellas' fashion: if she has time and can think about every move she makes she can look passable, but if anything goes slightly wrong, it looks like her head would explode. Also good luck on getting the fans to not boo her out of the building every week. It's forcing a peg into a hole in NXT and that's not a good idea.

Quick look at Liger beating Breeze.

Breeze says he has a bigger idea for Regal.

Dana Brooke (with her very nasal voice) and Emma are ready.

More Takeover clips.

Video on Dana Brooke.

Bayley vs. Sasha Banks clips.

Bayley can barely speak after her match so her family comes in to hug her.

Regal puts Rhyno and Baron Corbin in the Dusty Classic against the Ascension next week.

Kevin Owens promised to break Cesaro at Summerslam and won't talk about his loss.

#### Bull Dempsey vs. Elias Sampson

Dempsey has a new look, including a big robe which makes him look like Steve Williams in a way. Sampson on the other hand has a guitar and calls himself the drifter. Dempsey looks to have lost a few pounds. He headlocks Sampson down to a nice reaction but Elias punches him in the ribs to take over. A chinlock doesn't get him very far though as Bull Hulks Up and slugs away. Bull's top rope seated senton puts Sampson away at 4:34.

**Rating:** D+. This was little more than a way to showcase Bull's new look and style and it worked more than well enough. Bull as a face is going to take some getting used to but at least the first match could have been worse. The finisher looks good if nothing else and you can't have too many characters to throw out there if you need one someday.

Samoa Joe say the win over Corbin was just the beginning and now he wants the title.

Nia Jax is coming.

Apollo Crews loved the energy out there.

Blake, Murphy and Bliss say they were robbed, not beaten. Bliss wants Blue Pants.

Video on Charlotte.

### Charlotte vs. Becky Lynch vs. Emma vs. Dana Brooke

One fall to a finish. Emma and Brooke back into each other to start and are thrown to the floor, giving us Becky vs. Charlotte. It's a double dropkick into a double nipup before Becky takes her down with an armbar. The villains come back in to break it up as this is going to be one of those tag matches disguised as a four way for most of the match. Charlotte gets knocked outside to keep up the double teaming, including a hard slam into the barricade as we take a break.

Back with Becky getting double teamed in the corner but Dana and Emma argue over who should get the cover. They actually don't fight but instead go after a different opponent each. The peace lasts all of ten seconds though as both of them go after Charlotte, leading to a brawl. Dana yells at Emma but they shake hands, only to have Dana take Emma's head off. Charlotte comes back in and chops away before DDTing Emma and Dana at the same time.

It's Becky sneaking in with a missile dropkick though and it's time to clean even more house. A series of suplexes get Becky two on Dana but Emma comes back with some Emma Sandwiches...for the pin on Becky at 12:38. That was a confusing ending as no one seemed ready for that to be the three. Even Emma looked up at the referee with a stunned look on her face.

**Rating:** C+. I liked the story here but the ending took so much out of this. Emma winning couldn't have been the original plan, at least not like that. I was really digging the idea here as it was a glorified tag match with some little twists to keep things interesting. Well done here and it's kind of good that Emma won to potentially move her up the card.

Charlotte and Becky put on their submissions to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C-. There was no need for this to be half an hour longer

than a usual episode. The only reason it lasted that long was because we saw a highlight of every single thing that happened on Saturday. If you're watching NXT here, odds are you saw Saturday's show, so why would I need to see them all again? The wrestling was fine on the other hand, especially considering it was just a collection of dark matches. Back to normal next week and I'm sure things will be fine.

### Results

Enzo Amore/Colin Cassady/Hype Bros b. Scott Dawson/Dash Wilder/Chad Gable/Jason Jordan – Rocket Launcher to Gable

Eva Marie b. Carmella – Kendrick

Bull Dempsey b. Elias Sampson – Top rope seated senton

Emma b. Dana Brooke, Charlotte and Becky Lynch – Emma Sandwich to Lynch

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# **NXT – June 10, 2015: Oh How**

# I've Missed You

## NXT

Date: June 10, 2015

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Corey Graves, Rich Brennan, Byron Saxton

The big story tonight is the in ring debut of Samoa Joe, who debuted a few weeks back and has had some intense staredowns with NXT Champion Kevin Owens. It should be interesting to see who Joe's first victim is, because it's fairly clear that he's coming for Owens and the title. Right now though, Finn Balor is the #1 contender and will be facing Owens for the title in Tokyo on July 4. Let's get to it.

The opening video is all about Joe debuting in NXT and setting his sights on the title.

Opening sequence.

### Zack Ryder/Mojo Rawley vs. Mike Rallis/Elias Samson

Ryder is WAY over here and the fans even seem happy to see Rawley. Mojo shoves Rallis down, slams Samson, but then stop, HAMMER TIME. Ryder comes in and takes some shoulders in the ribs, only to raise his knees in the corner to stop a charge. The middle rope dropkick sets up the Broski Boot but Samson offers a distraction to take over.

We hit the chinlock but a GET HYPED chant brings Ryder to his feet for the hot tag to Rawley. Mojo cleans house with some very fast paced offense, including a big running punch and capped off by a middle rope Hart Attack with the Rough Ryder instead of the clothesline for the pin on Samson at 3:55.

**Rating:** C. I've always liked Ryder and this was a good sign for him. A lot of guys could use a recharge down in NXT and Ryder is probably at the top of that list. He clearly still has a following as the fans were all over him. Rawley was doing exactly what he should have done all along here: cleaned house and never looked back. One of his biggest problems

was getting beaten up until the last 45 seconds of the match for a big comeback. Guys like him should hardly ever be on defense and the reaction was a lot better as a result.

Finn Balor promo with his voice talking about how everyone has two sides. Shots of the demon paint keep appearing until "FINN BALOR ARRIVES – July 4 in Tokyo" comes on screen. Oh that's going to be amazing.

Dana Brooke video. She's the Total Diva.

### Emma vs. Blue Pants

SHE'S BAAAAACK! Big Cass' Price Is Right entrance music got one of the loudest reactions in recent weeks. The fans are smart enough to know that it's Blue Pants' birthday. Emma jumps her to start, making her the most hated woman in the promotion. A dropkick gets two and we hit the bow and arrow on Blue Pants. Fans: "BLUE PANTS ROCKS!" Blue Pants gets some rollups for two but it's back to the chinlock. Emma drops an elbow to the back of the head for two more but Blue Pants comes back with some kicks to the head. Blue Pants gets going but Emma trips her down and the Emma Lock gets the submission at 4:40.

**Rating:** D+. Here's the key thing about Blue Pants: she isn't used that often. They could bring her in more often for some loud reactions, but they would eventually die down because Blue Pants is so beloved due to being a special attraction. If this were the main roster, she would be in five segments a night and people would get sick of her in two weeks. This common sense stuff is addictive.

Enzo, Cass and Carmella say that Blake/Murphy/Bliss wouldn't last one week in the Hunger Games and if they grew up where they're from, it would be time to go live with Uncle Phil. Six person tag next week.

### Tyler Breeze vs. Bull Dempsey

Dempsey knees him in the head to start and we're quickly in a chinlock. Fans: "BULL IS GORGEOUS/NO HE'S NOT!" Back up and the standing splash sets up the top rope headbutt but Breeze rolls away before the jump. Breeze gets him in a chance around the ring and Bull keeps getting

winded. Fans: "CARDIO! CARDIO!" Breeze laps Bull, throws him inside and gives him a Beauty Shot for the pin at 2:49. Tyler is basically a face now due to all of his hard work and string of good matches.

We look back at Becky Lynch's standing ovation after losing to Sasha Banks. Brennan's nickname for her: The Lass Kicker. As much as I hate myself for this, I kind of dig that name.

### Becky Lynch vs. Jesse McKay

Becky has a very high energy entrance now, complete with smoke along the entrance. The fans are responding to it and it's easy to see why. McKay used to wrestle in Shimmer under the same name. Jesse gets in a kick to the ribs to start, followed by another to the face. An armbar has Becky in some trouble but she comes back with a hammerlock suplex and some legdrops. "BETTER THAN HOGAN!" Let's not get crazy here. Something like a torture rack Samoan drop sets up the armbar (Rich: "The Disgusted Armbar!" Graves: "The WHAT?") for the submission at 4:16.

**Rating:** D+. I really wasn't feeling this one as Jesse got in way too much offense in what should have been a Becky showcase match. McKay was good enough in there though and could be something interesting if she's allowed to develop like the rest of the girls down here have done. This was too much like an old Mojo Rawley match though: awesome entrance, next to no offense until the very end.

Regal announces that Owens will be on commentary for Joe's match but Bull Dempsey comes in eating a bag of Doritos. He blames his loss on a lack of sleep. Regal gets serious and tells Dempsey to get his act together. The boss leaves so Dempsey pulls an open Snickers out of his singlet. Well they had to do something new with Dempsey so this works well enough.

Jason Jordan says he has another partner when Chad Gable comes in, saying it should be him. "I'm ready, willing and Gable. See what I did there?" Jason says no but Gable adds his name to Jordan's locker.

### Baron Corbin vs. Angelo Dawkins

Corbin throws him around to start and walks him around the ring before a

slam. A bulldog attempt is countered by a huge clothesline and End of Days gives Baron the pin at 2:29.

### Samoa Joe vs. Scott Dawson

Owens is on commentary and Joe's music still sucks. He does however look a bit more toned. Fans: "PLEASE DON'T DIE!" How nice of them to be worried about Joe's safety. They trade armbars to start until Joe takes it up a notch with a back elbow to the face. Owens: "Wow a back elbow! I've got a mean back elbow." The release Rock Bottom out of the corner sets up the Muscle Buster for the pin on Dawson at 3:45.

**Rating:** C. Total squash here and it did exactly what it was supposed to do. Owens is great on commentary as the guy trying to cut into Joe's hype and this was a very fun use of about five minutes. Joe's physique looked about as good as you can fairly expect. The guy is never going to look like John Cena and it's unfair to expect him to, but he looked fine here.

During the replays, Kevin offers to get Brennan a Joe shirt from the merchandise table. Owens goes to leave but Joe calls him to the ring. Kevin won't get in because he's a good man who won't drop Joe after his first match. Joe is a rookie here in NXT and one win isn't enough for an NXT Title match. Cue Regal who agrees with Owens. Joe hasn't earned a title shot, but he's earned the right to a non-title fight against Owens next week.

**Overall Rating:** B-. Matches made for the future, six matches, some amusing promos, two in ring debuts and a new character for Dempsey. How in the world can they get all that inside an hour and have almost no filler? This was the efficient NXT that flies by every week because it's very well put together. Couple that with an energetic crowd and you have one heck of a fun show.

### Results

Zack Ryder/Mojo Rawley b. Elias Samson/Mike Rallis – Middle rope Rough Ryder to Samson

Emma b. Blue Pants – Emma Lock

Tyler Breeze b. Bull Dempsey – Beauty Shot

Becky Lynch b. Jesse McKay – Disgoosted Armbar

Baron Corbin b. Angelo Dawkins – End of Days

Samoa Joe b. Scott Dawson – Muscle Buster

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