

NXT LVL Up – May 10, 2024: Remember Her?

NXT LVL Up

Date: May 10, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Vic Joseph

We're back in Orlando and things have been at least a bit more interesting around here as of late. I'm not sure if that is going to continue but it has at least been nice to have something going on for a change. Hopefully there is at least a little something to keep the interest up this time. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Wendy Choo vs. Wren Sinclair

This is Choo's first match in almost a year. They fight over a lockup to start with Choo sending her down and striking a pose on the mat. Sinclair pulls her into an armbar, which is broken up rather quickly. Choo hits a dropkick but her knee (which put her on the shelf for so long) is slowing her down, allowing Sinclair to grab a suplex. Something like a running seated X Factor gives Sinclair two and we hit the cross arm choke. Choo fights out and makes the clothesline comeback, setting up a middle rope crossbody. The Snooze Button finishes for Choo at 4:47.

Rating: C. Choo is not exactly everyone's taste, though she wasn't doing her sleepy/weird stuff here for the most part. I'm still not sure I get what she is supposed to be, but it's good to have her back after such a long time off. Sinclair continues to lose every match and I'm not sure how much

beating her is going to matter if that continues much longer.

Post match, respect is shown.

The rather tall Cutler James is seen as a friendly guy and is ready to make his debut against Josh Briggs. This was quite recited.

Josh Briggs vs. Cutler James

Briggs wastes no time in powering him into the corner, setting up a splash for an early two. Back up and James wrestles him to the mat, earning a rather hard shoulder knockdown. Briggs shouts that this isn't a reality show and then drops James for two more. The chinlock goes on to keep James down but he fights up for the comeback. Said comeback lasts all of four seconds before Briggs nails the lariat for the pin at 4:26.

Rating: C. This was the traditional "getting your feet wet" match for James and that is only going to get him so far. Briggs being in there with someone his size can often make for some interesting visuals but that was about the limit of the appeal here. James showed off some of his amateur background before getting beaten, which didn't make for the most exciting match. His size and amateur abilities will give him a solid foot in the door though.

D'Angelo Family vs. Dante Chen/Dion Lennox

Riz is here with the Family. Lennox armdrags Crusifino into an armbar to start and it's right off to Chen for an armbar of his own. Crusifino fights up and hands it off to Stacks, with Chen being low bridged out to the floor. The chinlock keeps Lennox down for a bit, only to have Chen come back in with a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker. Chen stays on the back and kicks Stacks in the chest for two. Lennox's northern lights suplex and spinebuster get two each and he grabs an abdominal stretch. Stacks slips away though and brings Crusifino in to clean house. This includes tossing Lennox into a Codebreaker

to finish at 5:46.

Rating: C+. It still takes a bit of mental stretching to remember that the mafia guys are the heroes, especially since Lennox is a rather likable guy. Chen is the same thing he has always been, meaning there was no way he was taking the loss here. The energy was up here and having the Family involved helped, even if I have to remember I'm supposed to like them.

Overall Rating: C. I know how much of a broken record I sound like with this stuff but the bigger names being around helps quite a bit. This show had Choo's return and Briggs/the Family for some star power. That's a lot for around here, which helped make up for the fact that the matches were only decent at best. Nothing really to see here, but as usual, you can't get that annoyed at a show that isn't even breaking thirty minutes.

Results

Wendy Choo b. Wren Sinclair – Snooze Button

Josh Briggs b. Cutler James – Lariat

D'Angelo Family b. Dante Chen/Dion Lennox – Toss Codebreaker to Lennox

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NXT LVL Up – April 26, 2024: Now Why Is That So Hard?

NXT LVL Up

Date: April 26, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

We're back to the show and I have no idea what that is going to mean. Well other than the usual matches from the same people with almost nothing changing from week to week. For the life of me I still do not get why we are not seeing more in the way of building up some kind of story, but that just isn't the LVL Up way. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Jakara Jackson vs. Arianna Grace

The rest of the Meta Four are here with Jackson and this is already way more star power than you usually get around here. Jackson takes her down with an armbar to start but Grace reverses into something like a cross armbreaker. With that broken up, Lash Legend offers a distraction, allowing Jackson to send Grace into the buckle. Jackson grabs the cravate but Grace fights up and hits a running knee for two. Another Legend distraction works rather well though and it's a jumping Fameasser to finish Grace at 5:48.

Rating: C. The match was nothing out of the ordinary, but again, it's amazing how much more important the show feels when there are some bigger names around here. It was also a

bit weird to have a mostly heel vs. heel match here, with Meta Four being popular but still cheating enough to win.

Dion Lennox and Dante Chen are ready for Malik Blade and Edris Enofe. They're off to a film study.

Carlee Bright vs. Jaida Parker

Bright grabs a headlock to start but Parker fights up. That earns her a dropkick but Parker powers Bright into the corner and sits on her ribs for two. Parker works on the arm for a change but Bright makes the comeback and snaps off a running headscissors. That's shrugged off for a running neckbreaker, setting up a hip attack to finish Bright at 4:53.

Rating: C. Parker continues to feel like she could be something if she is given the chance and that chance seems to be starting. There is only so much that she can do on LVL Up, but getting in the ring should do her some good. At the same time, Bright continues to feel like the same, run of the mill athletic woman who hasn't figured herself out yet. That's not a bad thing as she hasn't been around long, but so far there is nothing that makes her stand out.

Edris Enofe/Malik Blade vs. Dion Lennox/Dante Chen

Brinley Reece is here with Enofe and Blade. Lennox shoulders Blade down a few times to start so it's off to Enofe for a slam. Back up and Lennox powers him into the corner, allowing Chen to come in. Since it's Chen, he's quickly taken into the wrong corner for the tag back to Blade. Chen is able to get back over for the tag to Lennox, who runs Enofe over with a clothesline. Chen's chinlock goes on but Enofe fights up as everything breaks down. Lennox is sent to the apron but Chen comes back with the double chop...to knock Enofe into Lennox for a crash. A TKO finishes Chen at 5:22.

Rating: C+. My goodness Chen continues to find new ways to not be very good, though they are almost leaning into it at this

point. Having him knock his partner out at the end was oddly on point for him and it led to the regular team winning. Lennox could go somewhere down the line, but there is still quite a bit of developing that needs to take place first.

Overall Rating: C+. While the show might not have been better than the regular show around here, it was far more engaging. It's a lot easier to care about the bigger names and the stars featured here were that much more interesting. While not a great show or anything you need to watch, I'll definitely take a show featuring some unused NXT lower card stars than what we usually get around here.

Results

Jakara Jackson b. Arianna Grace – Jumping Fameasser

Jaida Parker b. Carlee Bright – Hip attack

Edris Enofe/Malik Blade b. Dion Lennox/Dante Chen – TKO to Chen

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NXT LVL Up – April 12, 2024: They Did The Thing

NXT LVL Up

Date: April 12, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

We're done with Stand & Deliver and that means it is time to change pretty much nothing around here. Last week's show saw something of a grudge match between Je'Von Evans and Scrypts, albeit with some partners. Somehow that was only the second ever six man tag in the history of LVL Up, so maybe we can get another treat here. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Tavion Heights vs. Uriah Connors

The bigger Heights lips him into the corner to start and wrestles to the mat without much effort. Some shots to the face stagger Heights and Connors sends him outside for a crash. Back in and Connors stomps away, setting up an arm crank. Connors grabs a choke over the ropes, only to have Heights power up into an electric chair for the break. Back up and the spinning belly to belly gives Heights the pin at 5:03.

Rating: C. NXT needs to bring up some new people and Heights might as well be one of them. He has separated himself from the pack around here a little bit and that suplex is a good finisher. Connors got in some offense of his own but this was more about Heights, which should be the case at the moment.

Kendal Grey and Carlee Bright are ready to try their best against Blair Davenport and Stevie Turner.

Stevie Turner/Blair Davenport vs. Kendal Grey/Carlee Bright

Turner snapmares Bright down to start but Bright is right back up with a wristlock. Grey comes in to work on Davenport's arm but she gets taken into the villains' corner. Bright manages to flip over Davenport though and it's Grey coming in for an assisted top rope splash. That doesn't work for Davenport, who brings Grey into the corner for a Backstabber from Turner.

Davenport's backbreaker gets two on Grey and some forearms to the back make it even worse. Grey quickly powers out of a half crab though and the tag brings Bright back in to clean house. Bright headscissors Davenport into a splash, only to have Davenport come right back with the Falcon Arrow for the pin at 6:14.

Rating: C. The biggest thing here was finding out that Turner was still employed. She has barely done anything in months and I'm not sure why. Her futuristic deal isn't that bad and she can hang in the ring, but it has never come close to clicking for her. Maybe that changes, but for now she was just Davenport's partner.

Eddy Thorpe vs. Dion Lennox

They fight over wrist control to start (as is so often the case) before an exchange of shoulders goes nowhere. Lennox's dropkick lets him grab a headlock but Thorpe isn't having that. Back up and Thorpe hammers away before putting on an abdominal stretch. With that broken up, Lennox hammers away and hits a clothesline but Thorpe punches him in the face. The impaler DDT finishes for Thorpe at 5:11.

Rating: C. Thorpe didn't do much here until the end when he just grabbed his finisher for the win. That's not much of a match but it did make Lennox look good enough in defeat. At some point you have to try something new with someone and that's more or less what happened here. Lennox is going to need more than "he wears glasses to the ring" to stand out though and we seem pretty far off from that.

Overall Rating: C. Not their best effort here, with the women's tag probably standing out the most. This was a show where it didn't feel like they were trying and it made the show that much less interesting as a result. Like I've said far too many times, you can just tell when the effort isn't there from WWE (as opposed to the wrestlers, who were trying) and it showed again this week with a pretty lackluster show.

Results

Tavion Heights b. Uriah Connors – Belly to belly suplex
Stevie Turner/Blair Davenport b. Carlee Bright/Kendal Grey – Falcon Arrow to Bright
Eddy Thorpe b. Dion Lennox – Implant DDT

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NXT LVL Up – March 8, 2024: Gah

NXT LVL Up

Date: March 8, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

My confusion with these shows continues as I had a better time with last week's show after weeks of almost nothing. That could make for something good this time around here, assuming there is anything involving continuity. Granted There is no reason to believe that will be the case but oh well. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Scripts vs. Dion Lennox

OTM is here with Scripts, who is sent hard into the corner to start. Lennox wrestles him to the mat but Scripts flips away from the threat of a right hand. That's fine with Lennox, who grabs a bridging northern lights suplex for two but Scripts starts working on the arm. A middle rope crossbody gives Scripts two and it's back to the arm. Lennox fights up and makes the one armed comeback but the arm gives out again. Scripts sends said arm into the corner and it's a rolling cutter to give Scripts the pin at 5:51.

Rating: C. Scripts continues to be someone I tend to forget is around most of the time and that was the case coming into this as well. He's still an amazing acrobat and can do some impressive things, but that doesn't make him someone who is the brightest star around here. Lennox isn't someone who should be beating Scripts, making this less than ideal.

Karmen Petrovic is ready for Izzi Dame, even if Kiana James is in Dame's corner.

Karmen Petrovic vs. Izzi Dame

Kiana James is here with Dame. Petrovic's headlock doesn't

last long as Dame reverses into an armbar. A big boot puts Petrovic down and there's a full nelson slam to make it worse. Some backbreakers give Dame two and she grabs the torture rack. With that broken up, Petrovic goes up for a middle rope crossbody but Dame is back with the Z Quill for the pin at 4:28.

Rating: C-. Pretty to the point match here with neither of them getting to stand out. Dame and James are still the same middle of the road team they have been since they got together and that isn't exactly great. Petrovic isn't doing much either, though her martial arts stuff looks good when she gets to use them.

Dante Chen vs. Tavion Heights

They go to the mat to start and that goes a grand total of nowhere. Heights grinds away on a headlock but Chen is back with an armbar. More grappling doesn't get either anywhere as commentary talks about what Stand & Deliver means to the wrestlers around here. Ignore that neither of these two are anywhere close to that level as Heights hits a hard clothesline.

Heights pulls him down out of the corner and grabs an armbar to keep things slow. Chen is right back with a neckbreaker but Heights suplexes his way out of a headlock. Another suplex has Chen in more trouble and a doctor bomb gives Heights two. Back up and Chen hits something like a Side Effect for two, meaning frustration is setting in. The double chop misses though and Heights grabs a spinning belly to belly for the pin at 7:09.

Rating: C. This got better in the end and it was nice to not have Chen pick up another win over someone who needed the momentum. Thankfully WWE seems to have calmed down with keeping Chen so strong as I never got the point. Heights is someone who could have some potential and losing to Chen would have knocked that all the way back down.

Overall Rating: D+. Not one of their finer offerings here with little in the way of interest and the best match being fairly dull. It was a case where there was barely anything in the way of star power and the action wasn't exactly good either. This really didn't work and there wasn't much in the way of positives on the whole thing.

Results

Scripts b. Dion Lennox – Rolling cutter

Izzi Dame b. Karmen Petrovic – Z Quill

Tavion Heights b. Dante Chen – Spinning belly to belly

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NXT LVL Up – January 5, 2024: The Polite Technicians?

NXT LVL Up

Date: January 5, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, Blake Howard

We're in a new year and that means it is time to start finding out what this show is going to be in the coming weeks. LVL Up has been all over the place and I'm really not sure what that is going to mean going forward. The good thing is that things have been trending up in recent months. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Brooks Jensen vs. Luca Crusifino

They go to the mat to start as the fans are oddly split here. Crusifino can't get very far with the front facelock so Jensen monkey flips him down. A flying headscissors puts Crusifino down again but he's right back with a neckbreaker to take over. The stomping is on, with a jumping legdrop giving Crusifino two. Another neckbreaker gets another two and we hit the chinlock. Jensen fights up and hits a dropkick into a powerslam for two of his own. A top rope knee finishes Crusifino at 6:25.

Rating: C. It wasn't much of a match, but they were presenting the idea of Jensen being more of a throwback to a technician ala Brad Armstrong or Bobby Eaton. That's not the worst idea and certainly not something you see very often, but I'm not sure if Jensen has the technique to back it up. I can certainly go with this over the country boy thing, but at least he has something different.

Dion Lennox is a former football player and wants to chase his dream. He's rather polite, but things change when the bell rings. He thanks the interviewer for her time and hopes she has a great day. I think I like this guy.

Brinley Reece/Kiyah Saint vs. Izzi Dame/Kiana James

Reece and James start things off with Reece flipping forward for a clothesline. Saint comes in to work on the arm, which

has James straight over to the rope. Dame's choking on the ropes doesn't do much but a pull of the hair sets up a backbreaker for two. James grabs a front facelock before firing off some shoulders in the corner. Dame puts Reece in a torture rack (not quite Lex Luger's form) but she slips out and hands it back to Saint so the pace can pick way up. Not that it matters as James grabs the Dealbreaker for the fast pin at 5:16.

Rating: C. James and Dame are fine as a midcard heel team but there is only so much that you can do for a team that will have a grand total of no chance at getting the Women's Tag Team Titles. This was little more than a way to put them on the show and there is nothing wrong with that. Reece and Saint are just kind of there, so hopefully they got something out of their time in the ring.

Oro Mensah vs. Dion Lennox

Mensah has Lash Legend and Jakara Jackson with him. Mensah sends him into the corner to start and stops to pose like a villain should. Lennox is right back with a takedown into a chinlock, followed by a headlock takeover. Back up and a Stinger Splash into a northern lights suplex sends Mensah flying again and there's a whip over the top. Mensah scores with a superkick on the way back in and Lennox gets sent flying back a suplex. Lennox gets in a boot to the face and a spinebuster but Mensah hits him in the back. The running spinwheel kick in the corner finishes Lennox at 5:36.

Rating: C. I'm still trying to get my mind around the idea that Lennox's entire deal is "he's polite". It's almost impressive to go that basic with something but it's oddly kind of working. Now that being said, he's still brand new and has a long way to go, but at least they're giving him something and a chance to stand out, even in the slightest.

Overall Rating: C. Oh this was straight out of the old LVL Up

playbook, with little in the way of interest and matches that didn't really make me want to see more. There were some slightly important names on the show, but it felt more about introducing Lennox and Jensen's new characters than anything else. That being said, that's kind of the point of this show, so while it's doing what it's supposed to, it's not that interesting.

Results

Brooks Jensen b. Luca Crusifino – Top rope knee

Izzi Dame/Kiana James b. Brinley Reece/Kiyah Saint – Dealbreaker to Saint

Oro Mensah b. Dion Lennox – Running spinwheel kick in the corner

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NXT – December 19, 2023: Try

Again Next Week

NXT

Date: December 19, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Booker T.

We're closing in on New Year's Evil and the two big title matches are already set. There are some other things that need to be followed up on as well though and we might find out a few of them this week. This is a taped show, which can take away some of the energy that is usually around. Let's get to it.

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

Fallon Henley vs. Tiffany Stratton

They start fast with Henley knocking her outside to keep up the beating. Back in and Henley elbows her in the corner but gets knocked out to the floor in a big crash. Stratton gets to beat on her a bit as well but Henley rains down some right hands in the corner. A hurricanrana takes Stratton down again, only to have her come back with a spinebuster for two. They go to a pinfall reversal sequence...and Henley gets a sunset flip for the completely clean pin at 3:51.

Rating: C. I've been wanting Henley to get a better push for a long time now and she might just be getting that here. That's by far the biggest win of her career and I could go for her getting to do some more in the future. It's nice to see some fresh blood in the division and Henley is pretty much set for a long time around here anyway so the loss won't hurt her.

Post match Stratton jumps her and drags Henley to the back. Stratton rubs a mop over her face and covers her with garbage in a rather mean moment.

Trick Williams congratulates Carmelo Hayes on his Smackdown win but they talk about who actually attacked Hayes last week. Hayes suggests they turn the New Year's Evil match into a triple threat match but Williams doesn't get the thinking. That doesn't seem to be happening, though Hayes says it doesn't matter who wins as long as they have the title. Williams: "It does matter." Williams hopes it's cool and Hayes seems to be ok, though some of the enthusiasm is lacking.

Here is Ilja Dragunov to talk about how he doesn't know how he got in the middle of this Trick Williams/Carmelo Hayes mess. He didn't have that on his 2023 Bingo card, but he'll start 2024 by defeating Williams, no matter how popular he is. Cue Ridge Holland to interrupt, saying he needs to prove himself again in NXT. Holland wants Dragunov to help him get there, perhaps by winning the NXT Title. He isn't going to beg for a title shot so he wants to prove himself. He'll face everyone to get to Dragunov, and then he'll be worthy of a shot. Dragunov is tired of all this so he'll face Holland tonight.

Lexis King knows he's already the breakout star around here, but he'll win the Breakout Tournament if he has to.

Trick Williams doesn't like Ilja Dragunov giving away title shots but Dragunov says he's the champ so get over it. Makes sense.

Breakout Tournament First Round: Dion Lennox vs. Lexis King

King wastes no time in taking him into the corner for a running clothesline. A knee to the ribs keeps Lennox in trouble but he fights back with some shots to the face. King heads outside where he grabs the contract and tries to grab the contract. That's not going to work for Lennox, who takes King back inside, where the Coronation gives King the quick win at 2:57.

Post match Tre Bearhill chases King off.

Eddy Thorpe talks about his feud with Dijak and wants to settle it in NXT Underground.

Jacy Jayne/Thea Hail vs. Kiana James/Izzi Dame

Riley Osborne is leading the cheers in the Chase U student section as Jayne takes Dame into the corner. A rollup gives Dame two as Hail is very fired up on the apron. Dame clotheslines her way out of trouble and hands it off to James for some knees to the ribs. It's back to Dame or another clothesline but Jayne gets in her own shot, meaning it's the hot tag off to Hail. House is quickly cleaned, including a springboard bottom rope backplash for two. Osborne approves as Hail Kimuras James...but Dame came in off a blind tag. A big boot finishes Hail at 3:51.

Rating: C. The idea of Hail having a crush on Osborne and her excitement messing with her attention is an interesting way to go and I'm curious to see where that goes. James and Dame aren't the greatest team but at least they have been together for a few weeks now and could be built up with some kind of a business relationship. Not exactly a great match but at least they kept it moving.

Roxanne Perez is annoyed at Kiana James and Izzi Dame and gets in a fight with Arianna Grace over them.

Andre Chase is gambling with OTM and wins a lot of money, but offers to put up the money double or nothing over a tag match between Chase U and OTM next week. Scrypts says as a bonus, if OTM wins, they get a Tag Team Title match, which they can apparently authorize. The D'Angelo Family's associate comes in and says everything is on. Hudson doesn't look convinced and Chase doesn't seem to have the best idea.

North American Title: Dragon Lee vs. ???

Lee is defending against a to be determined member of the No Quarter Catch Crew, but here is Gallus to interrupt, with Joe

Coffey saying he wants in on this too. Works for Lee.

North American Title: Dragon Lee vs. Joe Coffey vs. Charlie Dempsey

Lee is defending and gets sent to the apron to start. Back in and Coffey throws Lee but misses a middle rope elbow. Dempsey gets headbutted own but Gallus' distraction earns them an ejection. Coffey grabs a suplex on Lee and we take a break. Back with Lee grabbing a hurricanrana and knocking Dempsey into the corner. Dempsey fights up and drops Lee but has to slug it out with Coffey.

With Coffey getting the better of things, he goes up top but gets uppercutted out of the air. That leaves Dempsey to suplex Coffey, who is suplexing Lee at the same time. Back up and Lee DDTs Dempsey but gets headbutted into the corner for two more. Dempsey is knocked outside so Lee can knee Coffey in the head for two. Lee is knocked to the floor this time so Coffey hits a dive...as a smiling Joe Gacy pops out from underneath the ring. Gacy pulls Coffey under the ring, leaving Dempsey to tabletop suplex Lee for two. Lee is able to come back with Operation Dragon to retain at 12:12.

Rating: C+. The action was good and they had an exciting enough match, but I'm not a fan of just throwing someone in there to make it into a triple threat. It felt like they were just adding something for the sake of adding it to make it different. Lee getting wins is a good thing, but have him beat one of the Catch Crew and then one of Gallus in separate matches rather than changing what they announced in the first place.

Post match Gacy runs off but the No Quarter Catch Crew jump Lee. Cue the LWO for the save.

Trick Williams rants to Carmelo Hayes about Ridge Holland because if he wins, it might make New Year's Evil a triple threat. Hayes: "Someone should have thought of that!" They

need a way to take the title from Dragunov.

Cora Jade announces her return to the women's locker room and takes over Karmen Petrovic's locker. With Jade gone, Petrovic comes in and isn't pleased. Gigi Dolin tells her to go after Jade.

Breakout Tournament First Round: Luca Crusifino vs. Tavion Heights

Heights, the amateur wrestler, takes Luca down without much trouble and then suplexes him for a fast two. A neckbreaker gives Luca the same and another neckbreaker gets another two. Back up and Heights grabs a powerslam, followed by a spinning belly to belly for the pin at 3:27.

Rating: C. These two have been on NXT LVL Up for months now and it is clear that Heights is someone WWE wants to push in a big way down the line. He's one heck of an athlete and has the amateur wrestling background which should take him a pretty long way. At the same time you have Luca, who has an interesting gimmick with the wrestling lawyer deal, but then he doesn't really do anything with it and that stops having any kind of an impact.

Video on Lyra Valkyria vs. Blair Davenport, focusing on their paths here, with Valkyria fighting the right way and Davenport doing anything to get to the top. They meet in two weeks at New Year's Evil.

Valkyria is ready when Nikkita Lyons comes in to say she'll deal with Tatum Paxley for Valkyria, but she wants the Women's Title too.

The Meta Four is happy this season because Noam Dar isn't scared of Josh Briggs.

Nikkita Lyons vs. Tatum Paxley

Lyons takes her to the floor to start and fires off the chops

until Paxley sends her hand into the steps. Back in and Paxley is right back on the arm, including a Fujiwara armbar. That's broken up and Lyons kicks her in the head, setting up the running hip attack in the corner. Something like a German suplex puts Paxley down again and a kick to the chest makes it worse. Lyons hits the splits splash for the pin at 3:20.

Rating: C. Well that happened. Paxley did something interesting last week when she went after Lyra Valkyria but then got wrecked by Lyons here. Whatever she had last week is more or less squashed immediately, which isn't the most thrilling development. Lyons is back and seems ready to move into the title picture, but I can't get my head around how ridiculous her new gear looks. It's like some genie outfit that didn't get finished and it's a big distraction.

Hank Walker and Tank Ledger are ready for Gallus.

Fallon Henley is livid at Tiffany Stratton, who has never had to work a day in her life. Henley swears revenge and storms off. Josh Briggs is ready for his Heritage Cup Title match but asks to do it on his own. Jensen isn't thrilled but agrees.

Tank Ledger/Hank Walker vs. Gallus

Hank works on Mark's arm to start but it's quickly off to Wolfgang so Walker comes in to work on the arm. Wolfgang gets sent into the corner for a splash but tags out and offers a fast distraction. Walker is knocked out to the floor and comes up holding his shoulder, meaning Wolfgang has a target. Back in and Mark gets kicked away, allowing Ledger to tag himself in, but the referee says no because he was WAY too far down the apron. Therefore no tag, meaning Mark can kick Walker in the face for the pin at 3:59.

Rating: C. That's certainly points for a creative ending, as I wouldn't have thought of that happening in WWE, even if it is by the standard rules of wrestling. I'm really not seeing it with Ledger and Walker, as their every man deal isn't working.

Gallus isn't exactly great, but they're the better option here and could be put back into the title hunt sooner than later.

Joe Gacy is watching Gallus from the Chase U student section.

Dijak is in for NXT Underground against Eddy Thorpe.

Tiffany Stratton calls Fallon Henley a servant in society and swears Henley will NEVER be her. Henley will always be trash, so they can fight at New Year's Evil. When Stratton wins, Henley can become her servant.

Here's what's coming on various shows.

Ridge Holland vs. Ilja Dragunov

Non-title. Dragunov's running shoulders stagger Holland but his running shoulder puts Dragunov down. A hard clothesline drops Dragunov again but he's back up with some hard chops in the corner. An Alabama Slam drops Dragunov, who shrugs it off and rolls some German suplexes.

We take a break and come back with Holland striking away to take over, including a clothesline to knock Dragunov out of the corner. A suplex is countered into a DDT and the H Bomb knocks Holland silly. Holland gets in another shot of his own and tries a suplex but settles for something like a DDT. Hold on though as Dragunov is badly shaken up and the referee calls in the medics, with the match being stopped at about 10:30.

Rating: B-. They were having a good match here and then they went with the rather scary ending. Having what is hopefully a storyline injury in a match is one thing, having a neck injury from the hands of Holland is quite another when he might have accidentally ended Big E.'s career in the same way. I'm really not a fan of this and while the crowd reacted very well, that doesn't necessarily make it a good idea.

The arena goes silent as Dragunov is taken out on a stretcher, with the title being laid on him, and he is wheeled out to end

the show. Of note: this has been reported to be a storyline injury rather than a legitimate injury.

Overall Rating: C. Ignoring everything at the end, this was a rather flat episode with nothing that stood out, save for the surprise of Henley beating Stratton in a heck of an upset. Other than that though, you had a few matches featuring rookies or lower level talent, which didn't make for the most entertaining show. Granted it was a taped show, but that didn't exactly make for a good week. We have another of these next week and that's not exactly compelling after this less than stellar effort.

Results

Fallon Henley b. Tiffany Stratton – Sunset flip

Lexis King b. Dion Lennox – Coronation

Kiana James/Izzi Dame b. Jacy Jayne/Thea Hail – Big boot to Hail

Dragon Lee b. Joe Coffey and Charlie Dempsey – Operation Dragon to Dempsey

Tavion Heights b. Luca Crusifino – Spinning belly to belly

Nikkita Lyons b. Tatum Paxley – Splits splash

Gallus b. Tank Ledger/Hank Walker – Jumping kick to Walker

Ilja Dragunov vs. Ridge Holland went to a no content when Dragunov was injured

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NXT LVL Up – December 8, 2023: As This Show Goes

NXT LVL Up

Date: December 8, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

I've all but given up on trying to figure out what to expect from these shows as some of them can be rather boring while others can be a good bit of fun. You can have a decent idea of what to expect from here most of the time, but it might be one or two different styles. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Brooks Jensen vs. Dion Lennox

This is the debut for Lennox, who comes to the ring wearing eyeglasses for a change. They fight over a top wristlock to start until Lennox grabs a headlock. Some dropkicks stagger Jensen, who is right back with a neckbreaker for two. Lennox fights out of a front facelock though and grabs an AA for two of his own. A DDT gets Jensen out of trouble though and a top rope knee gives him the pin at 4:58.

Rating: C+. Lennox didn't get to show off much here but he did look good in the limited time he was out there. As usual

though, there is only so much that you can get out of such a relatively short debut. Jensen wrestling a singles match is a bit strange as well, but at least he helped Lennox look good in the process.

Respect is shown post match.

Jaida Parker is rather confident and promises to bring PRESSURE to the women's division.

Jaida Parker vs. Gigi Dolin

Dolin takes her down without much trouble to start and ties her in the ropes for a dropkick to the back. Back up and Parker kicks her into the corner, including a shot to the ribs for two. Something like a German suplex slam gives Parker the same and we hit the reverse chinlock with a knee in Dolin's back. Dolin shrugs it off and fights up before grabbing the Gigi Driver for the pin at 4:01.

Rating: C. This was another short one that didn't exactly showcase either of them. Parker has the athleticism to make something happen down the line but she is pretty clearly another work in progress. Dolin is someone who looks like she should be a star, though there is only so much that she is doing in the ring to back it up. It wasn't a bad match, but I don't really need to see either of them for a little while.

Edris Enofe/Malik Blade vs. Drew Gulak/Charlie Dempsey

The villains have Damon Kemp and Myles Borne with them. Blade and Dempsey start things off with Blade monkey flipping him over. Dempsey breaks up a headlock without much trouble and hands it off to Gulak. Blade brings Enofe in though and some elbows have Gulak down rather quickly.

Dempsey offers a distraction to bring Blade outside though and a backbreaker takes over back inside. A butterfly suplex gets the same but Blade clotheslines his way out of trouble. Enofe

comes in to clean house, including a fisherman's suplex for two on Gulak. Everything breaks down and an assisted powerslam gets two on Gulak with Dempsey making the save. Gulak and Dempsey's friends get involved for a distraction though and it's an assisted double slam to finish Enofe at 7:07.

Rating: C+. Best match of the night here with the talent involved helping a lot. Enofe and Blade losing again is a bit disappointing but I've learned to live with it by now. At the same time, the villains continue their roll and it wouldn't shock me to see them move into something a little bit bigger in the near future.

Overall Rating: C+. As has been the case around here in recent...well ever really, the best way to make this show feel important is to have bigger names involved. That was on display here, with some good talent who don't get to be in the ring very often anymore. It was a nice enough way to spend about half an hour and I can certainly take that on any given Friday.

Results

Brooks Jensen b. Dion Lennox – Top rope knee

Gigi Dolin b. Jaida Parker – Gigi Driver

Drew Gulak/Charlie Dempsey b. Edris Enofe/Malik Blade – Double lifting slam to Enofe

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