

# On This Day: June 1, 2010 – NXT: This Is The Future

## NXT

Date: June 1, 2010

Location: American Airlines Center, Dallas, Texas

Commentators: Michael Cole, Josh Matthews

We come at last to the grand finale and the last episode of NXT that I haven't reviewed yet. I'm kind of excited for this as the ending of the first one had me very interested indeed. Anyway, the finalists are Justin Gabriel, Wade Barrett and David Otunga. Otunga is probably the weakest one but maybe I'm wrong. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the entire season which is always cool to see. The first season of this show was actually pretty good. This show is live for once.

Striker points out the previously eliminated rookies who are here tonight. Here are the Pros as we're filling in a lot of time here. Now we bring out the finalists. There will be two eliminations tonight and up first it's a triple threat match!

Before that though we need to introduce some rookies for next season! First up is Husky Harris who is a third generation star. His pro is Cody Rhodes. He isn't Dashing yet. Maybe just jogging lightly at this point.

Monday is Viewer's Choice Raw.

Another Pro is John Morrison who has Eli Cottonwood who is kind of odd.

Justin Gabriel vs. Wade Barrett vs. David Otunga

We've got elimination rules here too just to make it awesome. Finally we get going after 9000 announcements. Barrett gets sent to the floor early as Otunga beats on Gabriel. Wade back in now as Gabriel hits the floor. We're told that in the second season of NXT there will be a 50/50 split between the Pros and the fans which is important. Otunga vs. Gabriel at the moment.

Really bad powerslam puts Gabriel down. Barrett can't stay in the ring here for too long which is kind of funny. Gabriel puts Otunga down and gets the 450 but Wade pulls him out to get the pin on Otunga instead. We take a break as we're down to one on one. Back with Gabriel breaking up an armbar on the mat. Off to an abdominal stretch by Barrett. He's working on the ribs so that the 450 is less of a weapon. Wouldn't the knee be smarter then?

If nothing else this is a rematch from last week which is kind of good for some reason. Gabriel gets some nice kicks and a cross body for two. Wasteland is countered into a sunset flip for two. Gabriel gets him down and it's 450 time again. SICK counter as Gabriel lands on the knees of Barrett. That looked incredible. Small package is academic for Barrett.

**Rating:** B-. This wasn't bad at all from an in ring perspective, but the idea here was that Barrett looks good. That's exactly what was supposed to happen here and it worked perfectly well. Fun match and it's cool to see them all in the ring at once in straight competition. This worked exactly like it was supposed to so I can't complain.

The Pros are getting ready for the new Poll.

MVP introduces Percy Watson who likes to party. I didn't like the idea of Watson at first but he had insane charisma and was definitely someone that caught my attention which was very good.

Zach Ryder introduces Titus O'Neil who really wasn't all that

bad I didn't think.

The rookies are in the ring so it's time for the first elimination. First though we're going to hear the predictions of the eliminated rookies. Tarver says himself. Yeah he was a bit out there. Bryan says Otunga can't wrestle and Gabriel can't talk so Barrett should win. Sheffield says he doesn't care. Young says Barrett should win because he's strong mentally and physically. Slater says Barrett due to what he's proven tonight.

Time for the poll.

1. Wade Barrett. No shock at all.
2. David Otunga
3. Justin Gabriel

REALLY disagree here as Otunga had nothing but a celebrity wife going for him. Gabriel had a very flashy finisher going for him which was something that would make me want to stop and see what that was. He says he'll be back like almost everyone else has said. Matt says Justin is like him. Oh dang he's screwed.

Laycool have Kaval. Let the internet explode.

Mark Henry has Lucky Cannon. Henry is somehow the more talented one. It sounded like Cole gave Lucky a first name which sounded like Jesson or Jason.

One last rookie showdown as both get 60 seconds to tell the other why they should be gone. Otunga says Barrett is ugly. He makes fun of Barrett's physique so Wade does a mini-pec dance. Basically Otunga says he's more charismatic which is pretty much true.

Barrett says he's ugly because he's a fighter. Barrett says Otunga has the IT factor because there's nothing else that

Otunga has going for him. Wade was definitely more insulting here but made better points I think. The final Pro's Poll is next.

Kofi Kingston is a Pro and has Michael McGillicutty who was my favorite from last season.

It's time for the announcement of the winner, but Miz has something to say. He'll be back as a Pro next week with his rookie Alex Riley. Riley talks about how awesome he is for a bit.

We delay the vote again as the Pros get into an argument. Regal thinks it's over before the announcement and congratulates Jericho and Barrett. He asks anyone to do something about it so Truth does his stupid dance. Christian says sit down because he hasn't won a match in a year. Punk leaves. Jericho tries to calm Regal down but says that Barrett is winning because of Jericho, not because of Barrett's own talents. Regal says he's always like Jericho's two moves. This is hilarious stuff so Striker cuts us off.

Naturally Barrett wins as he certainly should have. Otunga says he's the real star and thinks he's being Punk'd. Barrett says he told you so which he did. He warns the Pros that this is the beginning of a new era and talks about the Winds of Change. Is Wade Barrett an Obama fan?

**Overall Rating:** B. This was a good way to close out the season. The match was good and more importantly: the right man won. Barrett dominated the entire season and other than Bryan has been the best since, which granted no one knew going into the show. Anyway, this was a good finale and I remember enjoying it as I watched it live. Good stuff indeed and this set up the following Monday, which was the Nexus.

So that's the last of NXT. We're most of the way done with Season 4 as I'm writing this and the first season is still by far and away the best. The talent was there, the intrigue was

there, the challenges are far more interesting and the drama worked. Also the poll was a nice touch. Either way, this was good stuff and it worked better than anything else they've done yet. Check these shows out as for the most part they're rather entertaining.

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## NXT – April 17, 2013: What You See Is What You Get

### NXT

Date: April 17, 2013

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Tony Dawson, William Regal

We're kind of at a new starting point in NXT with the end of the Regal vs. Ohno feud last week. Granted that's just in theory because a clean win rarely ends anything in WWE anymore. We also need a new challenger for Langston and the NXT Title. As for tonight though, we have Corey Graves vs. Seth Rollins in a rare singles match for a member of the Shield. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the segment last week which gave us Graves vs. Rollins.

Theme song.

Justin Gabriel vs. Leo Kruger

Their last match was really good so hopefully this one is too. Kruger hits a hard chop in the corner to start and runs Gabriel over with a few shoulder blocks. Off to an armbar by Gabriel which transitions into a top wristlock. Back up and Kruger puts him down with a spinebuster for two, giving us the required Arn Anderson reference. Kruger pounds on the chest for two more and cranks on Gabriel's neck a bit. Justin comes back with a monkey flip and some solid kicks to the arm.

A BIG spin kick puts Leo down but Kruger breaks up a springboard attempt. Leo gets two off a clothesline but Gabriel grabs a Fujiwara Armbar of all things. Kruger gets to the rope and Justin is very frustrated. The 450 is broken up and Kruger pounds on the crotch of Gabriel. A superplex is broken up but Justin's sunset bomb is countered, followed by a double stomp from Leo. The seated armbar (called the GC3 now) makes Gabriel tap out at 7:12.

**Rating:** B. Just like last time these two had solid chemistry here. This was a solid back and forth match with two guys who know each other very well. I'm still not clear why they're fighting other than Kruger being nuts, but the South African connection could easily be expanded upon if need be. Good match here.

Brodus Clay says don't try this.

Next week it's Clash of the Champions with the Divas, US (held by Cesaro here), NXT and Intercontinental Title being defended.

We get a video on what the NXT people did at Wrestlemania. The shot of Shield walking through the stadium to their match is pretty awesome. Langston being in a title match is a big moment for NXT as well.

Paige doesn't buy Summer Rae's excuse of having to turn off her curling iron. She wants a one on one match but doesn't think Summer has the backbone to do it. Rae jumps Paige and accepts the challenge.

### Baylee vs. Emma

Emma actually does her skin the cat entrance without falling and the fans seem impressed. Baylee hits a quick dropkick and pulls Emma back in from running away. Emma dances into a cover (literally) and gets two so Baylee puts on a neck crank. Back up and Emma dodges a charge into the buckle and hooks a Tarantula of all things. Emma hooks an Indian Deathlock with a bridge and a chinlock (Benoit used to use that move) for the submission at 3:10.

**Rating:** C-. Not a good match but the more I see of Emma the more I like her. She has a strange likeability to her and her looks don't hurt anything. The dancing thing started off as stupid but it's getting over in front of a college crowd like this one and there's nothing wrong with that. Again, odds are her looks and the outfits she wears likely don't hurt her popularity.

### Yoshi Tatsu vs. Bray Wyatt

Yoshi jumps over Wyatt in the corner but Bray hits a hard running cross body for one. A splash in the corner sets up the dancing bit before the Downward Spiral ends Yoshi at 1:18.

Bray hits his finisher again post match, which is apparently called Sister Abigail. Wyatt says this was a message because he needs us to understand that no one is greater than he is. He's the eater of worlds and he believes it's time for the beast to open our eyes.

### Corey Graves vs. Seth Rollins

This is a lumberjack match and Ambrose/Reigns apparently have taken the night off. Rollins immediately pounds him down to start and stomps him into the corner but Graves comes back with some rights of his own. Rollins bails to the apron but has to come back in to avoid the

lumberjacks. Back in and Corey goes after Seth's leg with a kick to the inner thigh and a knee crusher.

Seth gets in a shot to the throat and follows up with a corner splash. Another splash hits and Graves falls to the floor. We take a break and come back with Rollins hitting a jumping kick for two and hooking a body vice. Off to a reverse chinlock instead but the cheering of the lumberjacks fires Graves up enough to escape. Rollins misses something off the top and gets hit by a running knee to the chest.

A hard clothesline puts Rollins down and Corey wrenches the knee. Rollins is pulled off the top with a dragon screw legwhip and a gordbuster keeps him down again, but here are Reigns and Ambrose to ringside. Ambrose clotheslines Graves down as Reigns destroys the lumberjacks. The standing sliced bread by Rollins is good for the pin at 7:12 shown of 10:42.

**Rating:** C. Not great here but the Shield looked awesome at the end. As Regal said, there are twelve bodies down at ringside and two men caused it. The ending was the right idea as it keeps both guys looking strong and leaves you wondering if Graves can put Rollins down or not. In other words, it makes you want to come back for more.

**Overall Rating:** B. Let's see. We had four matches with two of them being good to quite good, stuff set up for next week, Shield looking great to end the show, and a cool video on Wrestlemania. For an hour, that's about as good as you're going to get. This was also a good example of what I love about NXT: there's no pressure watching this show. When you watch Raw or Smackdown, there's this sense that everything is life or death and it gets tiring after awhile. With NXT, they present their stuff and that's all there is to it. It's much easier to sit through and it works very well.

## Results

Leo Kruger b. Justin Gabriel – GC3



Emma b. Baylee – Bridging Indian Deathlock

Bray Wyatt b. Yoshi Tatsu – Sister Abigail

Seth Rollins b. Corey Graves – Standing Sliced Bread

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# On This Day: March 29, 2012 – Superstars: Another Wrestlemania Commercial

## Superstars

Date: March 29, 2012

Location: Phillips Arena, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Scott Stanford, Matt Striker

It's the go home show for Wrestlemania here as we're just three days away from one of the biggest shows ever. Since this is Superstars there's almost no telling what the matches are going to be. You know unless you looked up the card or something like that. Anyway this is usually a pretty entertaining show but odds are it's going to be nothing but Mania hype, which is completely understandable. Let's get to it.

## Alex Riley vs. Heath Slater

This is when Slater was still just a One Man Band instead of part of

Three. The announcers immediately start talking about Mania and how it's Once In A Lifetime...until next year of course. Slater sends him into the corner but Riley comes back with some right hands. A big running clothesline gets two on Heath but Slater kicks out the leg to take over.

It's chinlock time and Slater hits a kind of STO to stop an escape attempt. Back to the chinlock followed by a neckbreaker for two for Heath. Slater misses a charge in the corner and there's Riley's big spinebuster. The A-Bomb (falling DDT out of the corner) only gets two and Slater immediately hits his jumping sleeper drop for the pin.

**Rating:** C-. I'm a fan of Riley but this match wasn't their best work. There wasn't a good flow to the match and they felt like they were just going from move to move with nothing in between. I still don't get what happened to Riley. He was getting a push and was regularly beating Miz but then he just disappeared. I've heard of some backstage issues, but with the talent he has it could be overlooked to a degree.

Wrestlemania ad.

Wrestlemania Magazine ad.

We recap Punk vs. Jericho which is over who is the real Best in the World. Punk had been saying it for months but Jericho returned. He had been saying it for years and then brought in Punk's family history of substance abuse.

Video on the End of An Era, which was the tagline for Undertaker vs. HHH in the Cell. I'm still not sure what era ended as both are scheduled for matches at this year's Mania. We get nice history packages of both guys here. It's set to Memory Remains by Metallica.

We recap the setup for the Divas tag with Maria Menounos.

Trailer for Edge's movie Bending the Rules.

Tensai is coming. Now if only he would go.

We get a video on what Rock vs. Cena means to both Rock and Cena. This is from the Once in a Lifetime special. I remember watching this and getting more fired up for a match than I ever have before. I HAD to see it.

### Justin Gabriel vs. Tyson Kidd

The high fliers take it to the mat to start and it's a standoff. Apparently this is over a disagreement over who is the better high flier. They speed things up with both guys hitting some leg trips until Kidd is sent to the floor. Justin follows, only to get caught in a Russian legsweep to send him into the barricade. Apparently Kidd is a heel here.

Back inside and Gabriel catches him in an STO for two. Justin misses a spinwheel kick but counters a rana into a powerbomb for two. A top rope Lionsault misses Kidd but he can't hook the Sharpshooter either. Another attempt at a rana by Kidd is countered and it's a rollup by Gabriel for the pin.

**Rating:** C. Given the nature of this show, did you really expect the last match to be anything of note? This was here to set up a match on Wrestlemania as the pair would team up and somehow get a tag title shot despite never having teamed together before this point. You know, because that's how tag wrestling works anymore.

Kidd and Gabriel shake hands post match. See what I mean?

**Overall Rating:** C. That's for commercial, because that's what this show was. Not that I'm complaining mind you because everyone should know what you're getting into during Wrestlemania week. That being said, not a single mention of Sheamus vs. Bryan here. Bryan wasn't seen at all and

Sheamus was only used for a soundbyte in the Rock vs. Cena video. Not that I'm surprised or anything, but man alive it's A WORLD TITLE MATCH. Come on people. The show wasn't bad though and I want to watch Wrestlemania again so points for that one.

Here's Wrestlemania if you're interested:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2012/04/01/wrestlemania-xxviii-one-of-the-best-shows-of-all-time/>

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# NXT – March 20, 2013: The Art Of Week To Week Booking

## NXT

Date: March 20, 2013

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Tony Dawson, William Regal

Last week's show was about building for the future, so hopefully we get what the stuff that was being built to this week. The main stories are the Wyatt Family vs. Bo Dallas and the tag champions and Langston vs. O'Brian which should be a good match when we get around to it. I love how they make us wait around here. It's like the old days when they didn't have PPVs every month to build to and things can flow more naturally. Let's get to it.

The opening video recaps the Family vs. Neville and Gray and sets up Neville vs. Family member Luke Harper tonight.

## Justin Gabriel vs. Leo Kruger

This was set up by a Gabriel challenge last week. Feeling out process to start with both guys shoving the other into the corner. Kruger gets the first control with a headlock before Gabriel grabs one of his own. Back up and Kruger shoves him down before driving an elbow into Gabriel's neck. We take a break and come back with Leo still in control, this time via a hammerlock.

Justin fights up for a few seconds but is driven right back down by the hammerlock. He escapes again but they ram heads to put both guys down. Back up and they slug it out by exchanging forearms until Gabriel takes over with a series of right hands. A big spinebuster gets two for Kruger but as he goes for an arm hold of some kind, Gabriel suplexes him down to get a breather.

Gabriel goes to the middle rope for a kind of jumping mule kick for two followed by a HARD kick to the chest. Justin is consistently selling the arm work from earlier which is a very nice thing to see. A big spinning kick to the head of a kneeling Kruger gets another two count as does a sunset flip.

Gabriel plants him down but Leo rolls away before the 450 can be launched. Kruger goes old school villain with a thumb to the eye before draping the bad arm over the top rope. A seated armbar has Gabriel in trouble but somehow he crawls over to the ropes. Kruger hits a kind of Stroke onto the arm before putting the armbar back on and that's good enough for the tap at 9:56 shown of 13:26.

**Rating:** B. I really liked this match as they had a great story going out there. Gabriel sold the arm the entire way through the match which was really nice to see. Kruger continues to impress me and having him as a crazy man who was driven over the edge by his time in the South African militia is a fine character. Good stuff here.

Audrey Marie says it's always the calmest before the storm because Sasha knows Audrey is gunning for her.

We recap the ending segment from Raw.

William Regal is in the ring with something to say. He calls out Kassius Ohno who comes out in a shirt which says fighting spirit. Regal says whatever their issue is, it isn't worth it because Ohno doesn't want to end up like Regal is. William offers an apology and a handshake but Ohno won't shake it. Ohno talks about growing up idolizing Regal and traveling with CM Punk to attend a camp Regal held to learn from him. During Kassius' time in Europe, Regal was a mentor to him and made sure the right people saw Ohno's footage which was his foot in the door to the WWE.

Now though, Regal is on the downside of his career and it's not a career that Kassius wants. Ohno wants to know what Regal has accomplished in this industry because he used to be an amazing villain, but now he tries to laugh with the people, but the people are really laughing at him. All anyone is going to remember is Regal bending down to kiss Vince, and that's enough for Regal to shove Ohno down.

We look at Punk and Undertaker's segment from Raw.

### Bayley vs. Paige

Bayley is some new chick here apparently. Paige easily throws her down to start and gets a rollup for two. Off to an armbar by Bayley for a minute or so before Paige fights up and screams a lot. Paige whips her into the corner and trips her down so a kneeling Texas Cloverleaf can make Bayley submit at 2:23.

Post match Summer Rae runs out to the ring but Paige stares at her to send Summer backpedaling.

## Adrian Neville vs. Luke Harper

We finally learn something new about the Family: Harper is from Rochester, New York. Harper lands a STIFF right hand to take over early but Neville charges right at him, only to be dropped with a hot shot for two. We take an early break and come back with Harper headbutting Neville down and crawling on the mat to hook a chinlock. A kick to the head and an elbow drop get two for Luke and it's off to an over the shoulder backbreaker.

Harper clotheslines Adrian's head off and gets five straight two counts. Luke looks to Wyatt for inspiration, allowing Neville to fire off some forearms to get himself a breather. A running forearm staggers Harper and a kick to the head from the apron staggers him a bit more. There's a missile dropkick for two but Neville has to dive on Erick Rowan who was approaching the ring. Harper heads outside as well and there's a top rope Asai Moonsault to take him down as well. Back in and a spinning DDT puts Luke down but Wyatt himself distracts Neville, allowing Harper to hit a discus lariat for the pin at 7:33 shown of 11:03.

**Rating:** C+. I was digging this match with the David vs. Goliath formula working the entire way through. The ending is good too as Harper winning gives the Family a reason to get another shot at the titles but Neville only lost because he was at a 3-1 disadvantage. Good match here and a solid main event.

Post match Oliver Gray comes out to save his partner which makes you wonder where he was during the match. Bo Dallas comes out to make it 3-3 and the Wyatt Family is cleared out to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B+. NXT just works. The matches are good, the promos are good, the stories are interesting, the show never drags, the commentators actually talk about what is going on in the NXT world and I want to see what happens next. What more can you possibly ask for than that? The main event sets up a nice six man tag and we have the title match to look

forward to also. Another good show this week.

### Results

Leo Kruger b. Justin Gabriel – Seated Armbar

Paige b. Bayley – Kneeling Texas Cloverleaf

Luke Harper b. Adrian Neville – Discus Lariat

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# **NXT – February 27, 2013: The Battle of South Africa**

## **NXT**

Date: February 27, 2013

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: William Regal, Tony Dawson

Back for another week here and we now have a new challenger for Langston in the form of Corey Graves. This is a good idea as Graves never got to have his title match due to the Shield interfering the first time. Other than that the main focus has actually been on the Divas division which works far better here than it does in WWE. Let's get to it.

We open with Bo Dallas in the back with Dusty Rhodes, the NXT GM. Corey Graves comes in, carrying the NXT Title belt that he stole last week. Dusty talks about earning things, like Bo earned his spot in the Royal Rumble by winning a tournament. Tonight it's Graves vs. Dallas vs. Conor O'Brian for the #1 contender's spot.



Opening sequence.

### Justin Gabriel vs. Leo Kruger

Justin has Tyson Kidd with him and this is fallout from last week where Kruger tried to attack the injured Kidd, only to have Gabriel make the save. We hear a brief history of the two guys as they were both trained in South Africa. Gabriel avoids a shot in the corner and chops away at Kruger's chest before they circle each other some more. Another chop staggers Leo and we head to the mat with Justin holding a headlock.

This hold stays on for a good while as two minutes later it's finally broken up. Gabriel comes right back with an arm trap headscissors for a bit before it's right back to the headlock. Now it's Kruger with his own headlock but Justin comes back with a headscissors to send Leo to the outside. We take a break and come back with Leo running over Justin with a shoulder block. A spinebuster puts Justin down for two before Kruger sends him shoulder first into the post for two.

Leo cranks on the arm for a bit before Justin fights back via kicks to the chest. A DDT on the arm puts Justin right back down for two and it's back to the arm. Back to the armbar for a few minutes until Gabriel escapes via a snapmare. A nice series of kicks takes Kruger down as does a discus forearm. Gabriel hits a splash in the corner followed by a springboard cross body for two.

Justin goes up again, only to have Kruger knock him off the top and snap the bad arm down over the top rope. A BIG running clothesline takes Justin's head off but somehow only gets two. Leo tries a superplex, only to be countered into a sunset bomb off the top. The 450 finally hits (with Gabriel selling the arm even while covering) for the pin on Kruger at 11:03 shown of 13:33.

**Rating:** B-. This was a very entertaining match that came out of almost nowhere. They were going back and forth the entire time and the arm stuff

was a nice touch. It loses some significant points because of how long they spent in that headlock, but other than that I have very few complaints here. This was one of the better matches I've seen in a long time on NXT.

Post match Kruger hits Gabriel with Kidd's crutch.

#### Aksana vs. Emma

Emma dances (badly) to the ring and tries to skin the cat to get into the ring but can't quite get over the ropes. Aksana whips her into the corner to start and crawls over to Emma, only to have the Aussie (Emma) head to the apron. She kicks the ropes and seems to trip down to the floor. So is she a klutz?

Back in and a hair drag puts Aksana down so Emma can mock the crawling thing that Aksana does. Aksana comes back with a slam and drops an elbow for two. Emma pulls her down by the hair again and puts on a cravate for good measure. Aksana counters what appears to be a dancing suplex and hits a spinebuster for the pin at 4:39.

**Rating:** D+. What does it say for your career when you're jobbing to Aksana? This was a step up for Aksana but she's still not very good. Emma has only been around a few times on NXT and the dancing bit is only going to carry her so far, especially given how many other dancing characters there are in WWE at this time.

We cut to the back where Bo Dallas is unconscious.

#### Corey Graves vs. Conor O'Brian

There's no Dallas in sight at the moment so I guess this is one on one now. The winner gets a shot at Langston. Graves goes for a leg to start and is easily shoved away. Another attempt gets the same result before

O'Brian runs him over a few times with some hard shoulders. Off to a headlock on the mat by Conor which shifts into a nerve hold. We take a break and come back with Graves being backdropped over the top and out to the floor.

Back in and O'Brian keeps up the punishment as he stops a comeback attempt cold. Graves is sent to the floor and gets a breather, allowing him to wrap Conor's leg around the post a few times. Back inside and Corey cranks on the leg with a leg lock before cannonballing down onto it. Off to another leg lock which transitions into a kind of modified Texas Cloverleaf, only with Graves laying on his side and cranking back on the legs instead of sitting on the back.

We take another break and come back with both guys on the floor again. Graves punches away at the limping O'Brian before getting two back inside. Back to another leg lock but O'Brian rips at his face to break the hold. They slug it out with O'Brian taking over and hitting a flapjack...and there go the lights. The lights come back on and the Shield is here for a no contest at approximately 9:30 shown of 14:30.

**Rating:** C+. While still good, this wasn't as good as the first match. Graves going for the knee was the right move as his finish is a leg lock. Why is that such a complicated idea for so many people to grasp anymore? The finish probably ties into the Dallas attack which is fine, and it's nice to see Shield still around here. If nothing else they have unfinished business around the NXT Title.

Graves takes the TripleBomb as the fans chant for Shield. Ambrose says Shield isn't done with NXT. Rollins promises that things will get better, but first they have to get worse.

**Overall Rating:** B. This show is the most continuously entertaining hour of wrestling every single week. We had two solid matches here, a not terrible Divas match, and a run-in by the top heel group of the main roster. Oh and Dallas was attacked, which may or may not be because of

the Shield. This was a solid show and very entertaining for an hour of wrestling. Good stuff.

### Results

Justin Gabriel b. Leo Kruger – 450 Splash

Aksana b. Emma – Spinebuster

Corey Graves vs. Conor O'Brian went to a no contest when Shield interfered

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# **NXT – January 16, 2013: Another Week, Another Good NXT**

### **NXT**

Date: January 16, 2013

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: William Regal, Tony Dawson

We're officially in the Langston Era here and if my memory is right, this was filmed recently which means we're actually going to be closer to being caught up with the current WWE product. It's hard to say what to expect here but the word seems to be that something big is going to be announced soon. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of last week's main event and the title change.

Welcome Home.

### Adrian Neville vs. Sakamoto

Neville is formerly known as Pac. Interestingly enough a guy on the forums that I run used to backyard wrestle with him. Sakamoto is in way better shape than you would expect him to be given the robe he always wore. Neville is apparently an amazing high flier and he spins out of a wristlock and grabs a headlock to start. A headscissors puts Sakamoto down and Adrian flips back to his feet. The fans dig him so far.

Sakamoto gets a boot up in the corner and hooks a chinlock to take over for a little bit. Make that a decent bit as the chinlock continues. Adrian suplexes out of the hold and flips forward a few more times before hitting an enziguri to stagger Sakamoto. Neville goes up and hits a HUGE corkscrew shooting star for the pin at 3:25.

**Rating:** C-. The ending was great but until then, Neville didn't really show off a ton of flying otherwise. It's a very flashy looking move and the rest of his stuff looked fine so I can't say it's a bad debut or anything. Sakamoto has some potential in him too now that he's away from the black hole known as Tensai. The match was pretty dull until the ending though.

### Leo Kruger vs. Trent Barreta

Ohno sits in on commentary. This is as a result of Trent getting beaten up and injured by Kruger a month ago. Trent takes over with a fast clothesline and a knee drop for two. A bridging northern lights suplex gets two for Barreta and it's off to a headlock. That goes nowhere as Kruger fights up and hits a hard knee to the ribs to take over. Trent gets draped ribs first over the top rope for two as we take a break.

Back with Kruger working over the ribs with a knee drop and a half crab.

A gutbuster gets two for Leo as Kassius and Regal continue to argue. Regal threatens Ohno so Kassius acts as if nothing has ever been wrong between them. Kruger misses a charge in the corner so Trent comes back with chops and a clothesline. The running jumping elbow in the corner puts Leo down again and a missile dropkick gets two for Trent.

The tornado DDT is countered into another half crab with a knee in the back but Trent finally makes a rope. An enziguri sends Kruger down to the floor, followed by a BIG flip dive from Trent to take him down again. Kassius runs down and decks Trent though, allowing for Kruger to hit the Kruger End back inside for the pin at 7:53 shown of 11:23.

**Rating:** C+. Why Barreta is released while Ohno gets to keep a job is beyond me. Trent continues to be as smooth as ever in the ring and Kruger is starting to get things working well too. I'd assume we were supposed to get a tag match out of this but with Barreta being released that isn't very likely.

A second referee informs the first one of Ohno's interference and the decision is reversed.

Here's the NEW NXT Champion Big E. Langston with something to say. He welcomes us to the Era of Five but here's Camacho to interrupt him. Hasn't Langston already beaten this guy? A referee comes out and we get a match which I think is non-title.

#### Camacho vs. Big E. Langston

Camacho pounds away in the corner to start but Langston no sells it and clotheslines Camacho down. The Big Ending finishes Camacho in 1:15.

Langston does his usual stuff post match. This takes longer than the match itself.

## Damien Sandow/Antonio Cesaro vs. Justin Gabriel/Tyson Kidd

Before the match, Sandow says that the people here will learn to appreciate him. Sandow and Kidd start things off but it's quickly off to Justin. Damien gets his arm cranked on a bit so it's off to Cesaro. Gabriel dropkicks him to the floor and we take a break. Back with Justin getting two off a sunset flip on Sandow. He cranks on Damien's arm and messes with his hair to really get on Sandow's nerves.

Off to Cesaro for a hard headlock for a few seconds before Gabriel fights back with chops and right hands. Cesaro elbows him down before it's back to Sandow for some knee drops. The Wind-Up Elbow gets two and it's back to Antonio. Off to a front facelock before Justin fights up and backdrops Cesaro to the floor. That's about the extent of his offense though as Cesaro comes back in with the gutwrench suplex for two.

Back to the chinlock but Gabriel escapes for the third time, with this one being followed by a hot tag to Tyson. Everything breaks down as Sandow comes in again with Damien getting two off a rollup. Back to Gabriel as Kidd dives onto Cesaro. A Lionsault and the springboard elbow to Sandow get the clean pin at 8:00 shown of 11:30.

**Rating:** C+. Basic tag match here with the smaller guys getting to hang with the more established guys with no real problems at all. Unfortunately Kidd is gone for the next eight months or so due to destroying his knee. Cesaro again gets to look strong here by not getting pinned, which is a nice touch from WWE.

**Overall Rating:** B-. Another good show tonight as we transition to the next stretch of shows. Langston gets to close out an old issue he had while at the same time getting to look dominant over a WWE guy. This wasn't a blow away show or anything and unfortunately two guys here aren't going to be around for a very long time anymore after this show. Good show here with no time wasted, which is the standard procedure on NXT.

## Results

Adrian Neville b. Sakamoto – Corkscrew Shooting Star Press

Trent Barreta b. Leo Kruger via disqualification when Kassius Ohno interfered

Big E. Langston b. Camacho – Big Ending

Tyson Kidd/Justin Gabriel b. Antonio Cesaro/Damien Sandow – Springboard Elbow Drop to Sandow

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# **NXT – November 7, 2012: HE'S BACK!**

## NXT

Date: November 8, 2012

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: William Regal, Tony Luftman, Byron Saxton

Tonight the focus of the show is on the fourway between Mahal, Dallas, Gabriel and McIntyre with the winner getting a shot at the NXT Title I believe next week. However that's not the most interesting thing we might see tonight. More importantly: will Big E. Langston get to talk about the number five anymore? That's what I want to hear more than anything else. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the announcement of the fourway last week.

Theme song.



### Kassius Ohno vs. Trent Barreta

This is a rematch from two weeks ago where Richie Steamboat cost Ohno the match. Trent chops away to start and Kassius hides on the apron. Barreta tries a sunset powerbomb to the floor but Ohno kicks him in the head to escape. Back in and it's a dragon sleeper by Ohno which is treated like any other hold here. Regal says Trent enjoys pain because it makes him feel alive. Well I guess it would.

Trent's enziguri is blocked and Ohno gets two off a rollup. Barreta gets the same off a tornado DDT and Ohno is staggered. They trade elbows before Kassius kicks Trent in the face for two. Kassius puts Trent on top, only to be shoved off and caught by a missile dropkick. Trent loads up the running knee but Kassius ducks to the floor. Back in and the spinning elbow to the head gets the pin for Kassius at 6:08.

**Rating:** C-. I'm not sure what it was but this didn't work too well. The chemistry didn't work here as it was like they were just trading moves while building to nothing. It wasn't terrible or even bad but it felt more like a collection of spots instead of a flowing match if that makes any sense.

Post match Trent ducks another elbow and dropkicks Ohno.

Cory Graves talks about how his tattoos tell his story and says come and read them.

### Big E. Langston vs. Memo Montenegro

Langston starts a FIVE chant before shoving Memo down to the mat. A big clothesline kills Memo and the slam drop gets the pin for Langston at 1:00.

Langston does the drop again and counts five himself to a big pop. It's

remarkable how such a simple idea can get so over. The fans DEMAND he does it again but they get Vickie on the screen instead. She's issues a five thousand dollar bounty on him and promises to laugh last. Langston is annoyed and goes to drop Memo again, but some guy named Chad Baxter jumps Langston. You can figure out what comes next yourselves.

Jason Jordan is in the ring for a match but HE'S BACK!!! AND HE'S GOT A MIC! Bray Wyatt I mean, as in the former Husky Harris who is now doing a freaky gimmick that seems to be inspired by the villain from Cape Fear. He says that he's back with his wings healed, then he says something in some other language. Wyatt talks about taking us to the top of a mountain so we can watch everything turn to ash and then fly away. Jordan wants to fight right now but Wyatt says he's a monster that is never alone. An even scarier looking guy comes to the ring to fight Jordan for him.

#### ??? vs. Jason Jordan

The guy who isn't named yet is played by former indy guy Brodie Lee, a pretty tall guy who I think had a truck driver gimmick. Regal thinks Lee (who isn't named here mind you but it's the only think I know to call him) just came out of a swamp. He kills Jordan with HARD punches and a big clothesline gets two. Lee misses a big boot in the corner so Jordan goes for the knee. That goes well for about eight seconds before Lee DESTROYS him with a Boss Man Slam for the pin at 2:18.

Wyatt says that this is the first son of the Wyatt Family and his name is Luke Harper. This was awesome.

Roman Reigns comes out for an interview but says he doesn't need Saxton for this. Reigns says he's sure people are doing better now that Saxton is gone and he's here. He says that when you're the man like he is, all you have to do is get up. Whether you're with him or against him, it's irrelevant because everyone wants to be Roman Reigns. What he said was fine, but he sounded scared to be talking. He's got to work on that for a gimmick like this.

## Justin Gabriel vs. Drew McIntyre vs. Jinder Mahal vs. Bo Dallas

The winner gets a title shot at some point in the future and this is under elimination rules with no tagging. Drew and Gabriel fight in one corner while Dallas and Mahal do so in another. The heels both get knocked to the floor and Dallas hits a baseball slide to take McIntyre out. Gabriel dives onto all three guys as we take a break. Back with Mahal suplexing Dallas for two. Jinder and Drew tease a fight but instead they both stomp on Dallas.

McIntyre kicks Mahal down as the South African cross bodies the Scotsman who kicked the Indian in the head after beating up the American. JR's words, not mine. Gabriel hits an STO on Dallas and knocks him to the floor. A spinning sitout powerbomb puts Mahal down and there's the 450, but Gabriel hurt himself in the process. Drew dumps Justin to the floor but Dallas spears McIntyre down for the elimination. He also spears a diving Gabriel out of the air and we're down to one on one with Dallas vs. Mahal.

We take another break and come back with Dallas knocking Mahal down and screaming a lot. We head to the floor and Dallas gets sent into the steps to give Mahal control. The title match is indeed next week. Mahal drops a bunch of knees for two which frustrates him. A jumping knee to the head gets the same result, as does a full nelson slam. Dallas breaks up what appeared to be a Rock Bottom and hits a powerslam to put Mahal down. The spear misses though and the camel clutch gives Mahal the win at 8:26 shown of 15:26.

**Rating:** B-. This was pretty entertaining and while I'm not crazy about Mahal getting another shot, it's only his second so it hasn't been driven into the ground yet. Having four guys in there was a fine idea and they didn't feel like they were just filling in spots, which is a good thing. Fine main event here and it sets up something later, which is even more important.

Post match Dallas is put in the Clutch again but Rollins makes the save. Seth gets beaten down too and a staredown between he and Mahal ends the show.

**Overall Rating:** B+. This was an awesome show overall with the highlight being the return of Wyatt, who might have the best gimmick in wrestling today. The cool part about that is you can't really put your finger on what it is, which is what makes monsters creepy. They're unknown, which can be quite frightening. I'm digging NXT a lot right now as it comes off like a full on promotion where the gimmicks don't overlap and you really don't know if one person could beat another. That's never the case in WWE where it's easy to tell who is going to win most matches and feuds. Great show this week.

### Results

Kassius Ohno b. Trent Barreta – OBE

Big E. Langston b. Memo Montenegro – Slam Drop

Luke Harper b. Jason Jordan – Spinning Boss Man Slam

Jinder Mahal b. Justin Gabriel, Bo Dallas and Drew McIntyre – Camel clutch to Dallas

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# **NXT – October 31, 2012: Big E. Langston Belongs On Sesame**

# Street

## NXT

Date: October 31, 2012

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: William Regal, Tony Luftman

It's Halloween and we're coming off a pretty good show last week. I'm hoping to see more of that Bronson guy as his debut last week impressed me. Other than that I'm hoping we don't see more of Slater vs. Rollins as the match last week wasn't anything interesting. We should be getting close to the time when Bray Wyatt comes back too. Let's get to it.

### Usos vs. Johnny Curtis/Michael McGillicutty

There's a different ring announcer this week who doesn't sound very confident in her abilities. I don't know why the Usos can't get on the main shows. They've got experience and a decent enough gimmick, so why can't they get a spot? Curtis seems to want to pose instead of get ready and McGillicutty is getting annoyed at him before the bell. McGillicutty and Jey start things off with Jey no selling a smash into the buckle. It's nice to see some stereotypes being followed in modern times.

Off to Curtis who starts dancing. Jey punches him in the face and brings in Jimmy to work on the arm. McGillicutty breaks up an O'Connor Roll before yelling at Curtis some more about messing around. Off to Curtis for a double clothesline to the back of Jimmy's head which gets two. It might have been three if Johnny wasn't gyrating while covering. Back to McGillicutty who whips Jimmy into the corner but misses a splash. There's the hot tag to Jey who cleans house and hits a Bubba Bomb on Michael, followed by a Samoan Drop. Jimmy finishes McGillicutty with a Superfly Splash at 4:17.

**Rating:** C-. I like three of the people in this match and I like that

they're trying something with Curtis, but the guy just isn't that good or interesting at all. I've heard they're giving him a new gimmick on the main shows which at least shows that they're trying, but I'm not a fan of the guy at all.

As the Usos are celebrating, Ascension appears near the top of the arena for a staredown.

### Xavier Woods vs. Leo Kruger

You might remember Woods as Consequences Creed from TNA. Apparently he and Regal are both big fans of funk music and they trade 8-tracks. Woods takes over with a headlock but Kruger counters with a backbreaker. Kruger pounds on the back for a bit and gets two off a suplex.

Off to a bearhug and Woods is in trouble. Woods starts pounding out of it so Kruger belly to belly suplexes him down. Xavier finally escapes and gets in some shots to the head followed by a clothesline (the new commentator calls it an explosive athletic move. He doesn't know many move names but he's good at the delivery). Woods misses a missile dropkick and Kruger hits that spinning face first mat slam of his for the pin at 4:00.

**Rating:** D+. This was just a step above a squash which is ok. One of the major advantages NXT has over WWE at this point is that they can throw out new guys like Woods all the time who know what they're doing and can do jobs like this one. It's much better than how WWE has big names facing big names all the time and one has to lose or we get a screwy finish. They've got something decent with Kruger but he needs to do something instead of constantly squashing people.

Video on Big E. Langston.

Langston is in the arena and Saxton asks him about the five count.

Langston talks about how much he loves the number five. He has five fingers on each hand and five toes on each foot. People also have a high and low five....and here's Vickie. Dang I was wanting to see where he was going with that. No seriously, how much further could he go with that?

Anyway Vickie says she's here to recruit and someone has caught her eye. She offers her services to Vickie. Fans: "JUST SAY NO!" Langston says he has what she needs and throws powder on her. This was bizarre, primarily due to Langston's voice. He has an odd speaking pattern where he sounds like he's trailing off and then gets a burst of energy before going back down again.

Here's Jinder Mahal with something to say. He says he's the modern day maharajah but doesn't have his crown jewel. Being a champion is his birthright and it's also his right to have a rematch with Seth Rollins. Mahal demands Dusty Rhodes come out and present him with his rematch.

Instead he gets Justin Gabriel who says that Jinder should get in the back of the line. Mahal says that Justin lost in the first round, so Justin polls the audience. After the fans pick Gabriel, here's Drew McIntyre who says it's reality check time. He says it should be his shot because he's the only person that has a victory over Seth Rollins. Now here's Bo Dallas who says all of these guys have had their shot at Rollins, so it's time to give someone new a chance. Dusty comes out and says it'll be a fourway next week with the winner getting the shot.

### Roman Reigns vs. CJ Parker

Reigns used to be Leakee in FCW. He's a member of the Anoa'i family and is the son of Sika and the brother of Rosey. The announcers pound in the fact that Reigns has the IT factor and that we'll be talking about this debut for years to come. Reigns catches Parker's crossbody and pounds on the arm and shoulder. A DDT on the arm puts Parker down and Reigns cranks away on it some more. Parker fires away some elbows to escape but a side kick misses and Reigns slugs him down again.

A belly to back suplex by Reigns is countered into a cross body by Parker for two. Parker hits some knees in the corner but gets caught by a flying forearm. Reigns kind of roars and hits a belly to back slam for the pin at 3:43. Think Cena's Protoplex (the spinning slam he sets up the Shuffle with) but instead of spinning the other guy around, Reigns drives the down with his hand.

**Rating:** D+. The commentary is over the top but Reigns looked fine here. He's got a good look and a good physique and his in ring abilities were fine. The match was just a squash though with Parker getting in a few shots here and there. Much like everyone else, it's too early to say what Reigns has without giving him a more serious challenge.

#### US Title: Tyson Kidd vs. Antonio Cesaro

Cesaro is defending. They immediately head to the mat with Cesaro holding a front facelock to control. He switches over to a test of strength grip but Kidd bridges off the mat. Cesaro jumps on him to break the bridge, but Kidd bridges up with Cesaro on top of him. Kidd grabs a rollup for two and what looks like a heel hook for a bit but Cesaro makes the rope.

Tyson grabs another pair of rollups for two each and they trade near falls in a very good pinfall reversal sequence, ending with Kidd holding an armbar as we take a break. Back with Cesaro putting on a bearhug as Kidd is in trouble. Kidd fights out of it and backdrops his way out of the Neutralizer before hitting a low dropkick to put the champ down. Kidd starts firing off kicks before hitting a slingshot reverse rollup for two.

Cesaro sends him back to the apron where Kidd hits an enziguri and a slingshot rana for two. A legdrop to the back of Cesaro's head puts the champion on the floor. Kidd hits a kick from the apron and a springboard elbow back inside for two more. Tyson tries for the Sharpshooter but Cesaro kicks him away. The uppercut hits Kidd and the Neutralizer gets the pin at 7:10 shown of 10:40.



**Rating:** B-. This is what guys like Cesaro and Kidd, as in guys not trained by FCW, are great at: having flashy matches that aren't like the same style that you so often get in WWE anymore. Cesaro is definitely a great overall package and Kidd has more than enough skill to get over his size limitations. Good match here and I'd like to see more of Kidd on WWE TV.

Cesaro celebrates and JR plugs the fourway next week to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. NXT is starting to click again as they're back to having solid wrestling throughout the show and pretty much no time being wasted. We're also moving towards the next challenger for the title which is treated as a big deal, which it should be. NXT continues to be a solid wrestling show and pretty easily the best one going today.

### Results

Usos b. Michael McGillicutty/Johnny Curtis – Superfly Splash to McGillicutty

Leo Kruger b. Xavier Woods – Spinning Face First Mat Slam

Roman Reigns b. CJ Parker – Belly to Back Mat Slam

Antonio Cesaro b. Tyson Kidd – Neutralizer

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# WWE Main Event – October 3,

# 2012: Perfectly Acceptable Wrestling That I Feel No Need To Watch

## Main Event

Date: October 3, 2012

Location: BOK Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Commentators: Michael Cole, The Miz

This is the debut of a new show because seven and a half hours of free TV a week wasn't enough apparently. The main event tonight is Punk vs. Sheamus in a champion vs. champion match which could main event a PPV, but instead we're getting it on Ion Television at 8pm on a Wednesday night because that's how WWE works. Let's get to it.

The opening video is just about the exact same thing any opening video is. The theme song sounds like something from Shinedown.

Miz and Cole are in the ring to open things up. Cole talks about the champion vs. champion match which is just thrown together and there's no reason for them to fight other than they're champions. They talk about Punk a bit and here's a video on Punk, likely from his DVD. There are some clips from what looks like IWA-Mid South. This is definitely from the DVD as it talks about his beginnings. We get some OVW and ECW clips as well. We move on to Punk rising up the WWE ladder and I don't get why we're seeing this. If this was some big major show it would be one thing, but this is on ION Television, not NBC.

Punk is in the back warming up when Striker has a question for him. He's going to win tonight and maybe that'll be enough for him to get some respect.

Sheamus makes fun of Punk for wanting respect and is going to give that

to Punk by kicking him in the face.

Here's a video on Sheamus so he doesn't get jealous.

### Sheamus vs. CM Punk

Non-title of course. We get big-match intros at least. Punk grabs a headlock and shouts spots in Sheamus' ear as is his custom. Sheamus puts on one of his own as it looks like we're in for a long match. Punk takes him to the corner but Sheamus kicks Punk away. The Smackdown Champion (Sheamus) pulls himself to the top but gets shoved to the floor as we take a break.

Back with Sheamus guillotining Punk on the top rope and stomping away in the corner, only to get pulled face first into the middle buckle. Punk drops a knee for no cover. That spot between Sheamus' eyes seems to be bleeding. Punk goes after the shoulder and hits a neckbreaker for two. Sheamus gets back up and starts speeding things up with a high knee followed by a powerslam for two.

Sheamus sets for the ten forearms in the ropes but Punk blocks the first one and hits a high kick for two as we take another break. Back with Sheamus holding his arm on the floor. The arm seems to be fine though as he snaps off a forearm and hits a slingshot shoulder for two. Sheamus loads up the Brogue Kick but Punk hides in the corner. The buckle pad is pulled off as Punk is pulled out and there are the ten forearms to the chest.

White Noise gets two and the fans are getting into this. Heyman seems to be praying or muttering to himself at ringside. Sheamus loads up the Cloverleaf but Punk punches his way out of it. There's a running knee in the corner followed by the Savage Elbow for two. The GTS is countered and Sheamus gets the Cloverleaf on in the middle of the ring.

Punk manages to get to a rope and Heyman is panicking even more. They both come out of the corner and Punk charges into the Irish Curse. Sheamus charges again but Punk drop toeholds him into the exposed buckle and rolls Sheamus up with the tights for the pin at 12:18 shown of approximately 18:18.

**Rating:** B. Good match here and the fact that there was as close to a clean pin as there was is amazing. Sheamus hadn't lost a singles match since like July but at least it was to another main event guy. For a first match on a new show this was excellent and it was a very good match all around anyway.

Post match Sheamus says he gets why Punk doesn't get respect. He promises a Brogue Kick for Punk in the future.

Miz and Cole talk for a good while.

After a break, Punk and Heyman are incensed at being accused of winning through means not entirely on the level. Heyman wants to know what Punk has to do to earn Josh's respect and Josh of course says it's to go inside the Cell with Cena.

The main event for next week is Show vs. Orton so Show says that it'll be Orton's last appearance on this show next week.

Tag Team Tournament First Round: Santino Marella/Zack Ryder vs. Tyson Kidd/Justin Gabriel

Santino and Gabriel get things going with Gabriel grabbing a quick headlock. The winners of this get the Rhodes Scholars. Gabriel tries a leg sweep but Santino jumps over it and tries one of his own in slow motion. Off to Ryder and Kidd which goes nowhere so it's back to Gabriel who double teams with his Canadian buddy. A kick to the face gets two on Ryder and it's back to Kidd. Kidd and Gabriel work very well together.

Kidd launches Ryder over his head and into a kick from Gabriel for two.

Everything breaks down and Santino has issues getting thrown to the floor. Kidd gets a spinning rollup for two but charges into the knees in the corner. Tyson crawls into the corner and looks painfully obvious doing it for the Broski Boot. Ryder hits a good looking flip dive to take Gabriel out and the Cobra advances Santino and Ryder at 4:03.

**Rating:** C. Gabriel and Kidd looked like a polished team here while Santino and Ryder looked like a pair of comedy guys who got thrown together into a tag team because the fans love both of them. It wasn't a bad match or anything but it's really just kind of there, which is the problem with most tournament matches you'll ever see.

**Overall Rating:** B-. this is an interesting show for a number of reasons. First of all, this felt like it was booked in reverse. Isn't the idea of the main event match on the Main Event show to be THE main event? As in the match that goes on last? Once you watched that match, are most people really going to stick around for a face vs. face tag match? I'd be surprised if they did.

Second, this show really doesn't need to exist. This easily could have been Superstars put on Wednesday instead of a brand new show. Then again people are probably going to think it's just something they threw together instead of making a new idea, which is understandable all around.

Finally, I likely won't be watching this on a regular basis. It's a perfectly acceptable hour of TV and had a good match, but does anyone really believe this is going to be what the show looks like at the end of the year? WWE will get bored with it and they'll turn it into Superstars II, which is fine, but don't expect people to care about it. In short, this show makes eight and a half hours of WWE programming a week, and I was perfectly fine having seven and a half.

## Results

CM Punk b. Sheamus – Rollup after a drop toehold into an exposed turnbuckle

Santino Marella/Zack Ryder b. Tyson Kidd/Justin Gabriel – Cobra to Kidd

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# **NXT – October 3, 2012: A Solid Wrestling Show, Which You Rarely See Anymore**

## NXT

Date: October 3, 2012

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, William Regal

Back for another show as this show has been in a bit of a rut lately. Last week's main event of Steamboat vs. Ohno is probably the main story on the show right now but other than that there isn't much going on. We should be setting up another opponent for Rollins soon enough which is something we need in the near future. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of last week's main event and the post match attack.

Earlier today Ohno was getting into the building when Richie Steamboat jumped him.

Welcome Home. Where do these people go that they have to be welcomed home

every week? In case this makes no sense to you, the theme song is Welcome Home by Coheed and Cambria.

### Drew McIntyre vs. Richie Steamboat

Feeling out process to start with Drew shoulder blocking Richie down. Steamboat comes back with forearms and right hands as he seems to be abandoning his usual style here. Drew catches Steamboat with a kick to the ribs as Steamboat tries to jump over him in the corner. That gets two and McIntyre takes over before hooking something like a seated abdominal stretch.

Drew knocks him to the apron where Steamboat gets two off a sunset flip. Back inside McIntyre hits a release Wasteland with Steamboat landing on his face. Drew loads it up again but Richie tries to counter it into a hurricanrana, only to botch it by falling off McIntyre's head. Steamboat starts firing off elbows but here's Ohno for a distraction. Richie turns around and walks into a shot to the head and the Futureshock DDT for the pin at 4:25.

**Rating:** C. This was more about the angle but building up McIntyre with a win is a good idea. The guy has potential but he's fallen so far in the last few years that he's having to start all over again. As for Steamboat, this is a good story for him as he's getting to show some emotion and I'm not complaining about what I see. Being boring was the biggest knock on him so seeing some good emotion out of him is a good sign.

### Big E. Langston vs. Aiden English

The place starts chanting 5 as Langston comes in. English pounds away and gets beaten down for trying to fight. A running clothesline takes Aiden down and there go Langston's straps. The falling slam kills English and gets the five count at 1:14.

Langston hits the finisher again post match for another five count to a big reaction. The fans seem to love this guy. Langston's face looks a bit like Monty Brown's when you can't see his hair. He hits another falling slam on Aiden for fun.

Steamboat is looking for Ohno in the back but only finds Michael McGillicutty who hasn't seen Ohno.

CM Punk is here next week.

Here's McGillicutty with something to say. Apparently he gets a title match next week. McGillicutty says it's going to be Rollins' first and last title defense. He calls Rollins out to the ring and gets what he asks for. Well partially as Rollins stops on the stage. Rollins talks about how much McGillicutty talks, including calling Rollins a paper champion. Rollins thinks that shows a lack of respect and holds up the title, which means the respect is real. He's earned everything he has and didn't have a path laid out for him since birth. Rollins wants to fight now but McGillicutty says on his own terms.

Gabriel and Kidd are ready for Ascension later tonight. This was earlier today and as they're talking, Ascension's entrance starts and they pop up on the screen but don't say anything.

#### Percy Watson vs. Kassius Ohno

Steamboat jumps Ohno on the stage during Ohno's entrance. Ohno says he's good to go and goes off on Percy quickly. Watson speeds things up and leg lariats Ohno down. Ohno comes back with something like a neckbreaker (Ohno was standing behind Watson and facing him so it was hard to tell what he was doing) but Watson dropkicks him down. The spinning Heisman splash gets two but Ohno blocks the Persecution. A knee in the corner stops Watson and the spinning elbow gets the pin for Ohno at 3:20.



**Rating:** D+. Nothing to see here as usual with Watson matches. The guy isn't bad at all but man alive there's nothing to care about with him. Ohno's matches are still nothing interesting but this was better than his usual stuff. I think it's the elbow finisher that holds him back more than anything, especially given what we know he's capable of.

#### Ascension vs. Justin Gabriel/Tyson Kidd

Kidd and Cameron start us off but Gabriel tags himself in and the smaller guys double team Cameron with a double hip toss and a pair of kicks. A release German throw (not really a suplex) takes Gabriel down and we take a break. Back with O'Brien hammering on Gabriel until Justin rolls around O'Brien and tags out.

Tyson kicks him in the head and hits a springboard missile dropkick for two. O'Brien is sent to the floor where he blocks a baseball slide and slams Kidd onto the floor to take over. Back inside and Ascension takes turns stomping away. That style of rapid fire stomping and pounding is reminiscent of Demolition and there's nothing bad about that. Cameron puts on a body scissors with a chinlock and O'Brien follows up with a body scissors of his own.

Kidd starts fighting back but Conor tags out immediately to make sure Tyson can't escape. You can almost hear JR beaming as he talks about the tag team continuity of Ascension. Kidd avoids a charge from O'Brien and side steps Cameron, which lets Kidd make the hot tag to Gabriel. Justin takes Cameron down and immediately tries the 450 but crashes and burns. With Tyson down on the floor, Ascension hits the running Total Elimination (called the Fall of Man) for the pin on Gabriel at 8:20 shown of 11:50.

**Rating:** B-. This was a solid tag match although the ending felt abrupt. I really like Ascension's stuff as they have the look and aggressive style that makes them feel like they could dominate anyone. When you combine that with an awesome finisher and a great entrance, what more could you

want? Kidd and Gabriel were their usual good selves.

**Overall Rating:** B. I liked this show better than most recent episodes. We got a lot of stuff from this one with a good main event, a continuation of the main angle for the show and some stuff set up for next week. This is what NXT is good at doing: offering an old fashioned hour long wrestling show and they did that again here. Good show and I enjoyed it.

### Results

Drew McIntyre b. Richie Steamboat – Futureshock DDT

Big E. Langston b. Aiden English – Falling Slam

Kassius Ohno b. Percy Watson – Spinning Elbow

Ascension b. Tyson Kidd/Justin Gabriel – Fall of Man to Gabriel

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