

NXT UK – January 27, 2022: What A Violent Start

NXT UK

Date: January 27, 2022

Location: BT Sports Studios, London, England

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Andy Shepherd

It's time for a big title fight but things are a bit different this time. Ilja Dragunov will be putting the United Kingdom Title on the line against Jordan Devlin but the match will be in the empty arena. I'm not completely sure why that is going to be the case, though the match sounds like it has some serious potential. Let's get to it.

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

The opening video looks at the title match. Like it could or should be anything else.

Opening sequence.

Die Familie vs. Gallus

Joe Coffey and Teoman slug it out to start until Teoman is taken into the Gallus corner. Mark Coffey comes in for a chinlock, which is broken up without much effort. That means Mark can go up top, where a quick distraction lets Raja pull him down and take over. Teoman comes in and gets driven into the corner but comes right back with some arm cranking.

Now it's Dempsey getting a chance with a front facelock and a rather nasty arm crank. Raja's forearm gets two as the fans try to stay behind Gallus. Mark kicks Raja away and Teoman's save isn't enough to prevent the tag off to Wolfgang. Something like a powerslam gives Wolfgang two but he has to block Raja's Backstabber. The hot tag brings in Joe to clean

house and a crossbody gets two on Raja. Dempsey's full nelson is broken up and a high/low takes him down for two. Everything breaks down and Teoman chop blocks Wolfgang, allowing Dempsey to grab an STF for the tap at 11:20.

Rating: B-. That's a big win for Familie and that is a great thing to see for one of their first matches as a trio. Beating Gallus still means something as they are the big group around here these days. Dempsey continues to look like a dangerous man and Teoman/Raja work well together as this went rather well for everyone involved.

Video on Ashton Smith/Oliver Carter vs. Jack Starz/Dave Mastiff, which is being presented as a battle of experience.

Jinny vs. Amale

Jinny grabs a headlock to start but gets headlock takeovered down. Back up and Jinny gets dropped again, only to kick her way out of trouble. The armbar goes on to put Amale down for a change and Jinny rakes the arm to make it worse. Some hard knees to the ribs rock Amale again and it's off to the Octopus. That's broken up with some power, meaning some clotheslines and a hard whip into the corner to rock Jinny for a change. A suplex gets two but Jinny elbows her in the head. Some big shots to the head put Jinny down and it's a rollup with feet on the ropes to finish Amale at 6:37.

Rating: C. I'm not sure what to make of these two but the feud seems like it will continue. Jinny is someone who is one of the bigger heels around here but she doesn't quite have that extra something to make her feel like a big threat. Amale seems like someone they want to push and it wouldn't surprise me to see her get a big win in a rematch.

Video on Meiko Satomura vs. Blair Davenport before their Japanese street fight next week.

Nathan Fraser is happy with his performance against Gunther

(Or is it Walter around here?) when Die Familie interrupts to toast their own win.

United Kingdom Title: Jordan Devlin vs. Ilja Dragunov

Dragunov is defending and this is an anything goes empty arena match where falls count anywhere. Devlin jumps him during the Big Match Intros but Dragunov wants to fight. That means some German suplexes but Devlin kicks him low to get out. Dragunov gets tied in the ropes so Devlin can slap away and grab a chair. Instead of, you know, using the chair, Devlin goes to grab a screwdriver, with the extra time allowing Dragunov to fight out and chop away on the floor.

A hard clothesline drops Devlin and another chop against the barricade makes it worse. Dragunov's eye starts messing up though (thanks to Devlin jumping him before the bell) and Devlin whips him into the steps. A big running charge sends Devlin through the barricade though and Dragunov whips him through some chairs. There's a suplex onto some chairs for two and it's time to go back into the tech area.

Dragunov misses a charge and puts himself through a table though and Devlin rams him head first into an anvil case. Back up and Dragunov puts him on top of said case so Devlin moonsaults right back off for a double knockdown. They head back to ringside and Devlin pulls out a table. That takes too long though and it's Dragunov getting in a shot of his own, meaning the table is sent inside.

Devlin chairs him down but gets elbowed HARD in the head, setting up a slam onto the chair for two. Dragunov goes up top but gets chaired in the knee to bring him back down. The Devlin Slide is countered into a fireman's carry though and it's a Death Valley Driver through the table in the corner.

Torpedo Moscow can't launch because of the eye, with Devlin telling him to do it for his son. Another headbutt gives Devlin two so he pulls out some zip ties to basically handcuff

Dragunov. Since he can't just get to the point, Devlin tries a Conchairto on the steps but Dragunov slips away and hits Torpedo Moscow off the steps to retain at 21:46.

Rating: B. It's a good, hard hitting brawl but this didn't feel like a first match. I'm not sure why they started with something like this, though it also felt like the blowoff match between them. That's a weird way to go and I would have liked to see what they could have done with a regular match instead of a brawl. Still though, it felt like a big main event and Dragunov winning with his hands tied back was impressive.

Overall Rating: B. The main event is going to get the most attention but there was a lot going on here that was worth seeing. NXT UK continues to fly under WWE's radar and it's a very good show most of the time. I'm not sure who is next for Dragunov, but he could be holding the title for a pretty long time to come. Throw in some other good stories and this was a very nice show.

Results

Die Familie b. Gallus – STF to Wolfgang

Jinny b. Amale – Rollup with feet on the ropes

Ilja Dragunov b. Jordan Devlin – Torpedo Moscow

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NXT UK – January 20, 2022: The Best WWE Show Going Today

NXT UK

Date: January 20, 2022

Location: BT Sports Studios, London, England

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Andy Shepherd

We are officially in a new era now as Walter (er, Gunther) is officially gone from NXT UK. I'm not sure how much of a difference that is going to be, but we do have a big match around here this week. The Heritage Cup will be on the line this week as Noam Dar will be defending against former champion A-Kid. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

We see some clips of Sam Gradwell trying, and failing, to find a mystery partner to face Pretty Deadly. He even sent tweets to Steve Austin, Elon Musk and Paul McCartney. Gradwell also had to beat up Kenny Williams for laughing at him. This was funny, as they just had some fun with the idea and went a little out of the box. Do more of that.

Pretty Deadly vs. Sam Gradwell/???

Gradwell does has a mystery partner in the form of....Saxton

Huxley. Gradwell locks up with Howley to start but can't get very far. A shoulder sends Howley into the corner for some more success and it's Stoker tagging himself in for a cheap shot. Gradwell doesn't mind, as he grabs Stoker by the ear (ow) and slams him down. It's off to Huxley (with Shepherd getting in an accurate Berzerker comparison) to shoulder Stoker down as well.

A very long run of the ropes sets up a running elbow so Howley gets in a cheap shot. It's back to Howley to send Huxley into the post as we move into a new phase. Pretty Deadly starts taking turns on Huxley, including a double drop onto the top rope. Howley drops him again and we hit the abdominal stretch...which makes Nigel sing. That's broken up with straight power though and the hot tag brings in Gradwell to clean house.

Everything breaks down and Stoker BLASTS Gradwell with a forearm for the double knockdown. Cue Kenny Williams for a distraction though and Huxley is knocked off the apron. Williams runs him over on the floor, meaning there is no one for Gradwell to tag. Howley comes back in and it's Spilled Milk to finish Gradwell at 9:21.

Rating: C+. Pretty standard tag match, but the part that I like here is how old school the booking felt. Williams had a logical reason to want to mess with Gradwell after the pre-match stuff and now we probably have something to do after this match is over. That is something you don't get early often enough in WWE today and it was nice to see it happen again here.

Jinny doesn't see hope when she looks at Amale, but instead, pity. The two of them are very different people, because Jinny doesn't exploit her past to get the fans to cheer for her. The fans are just like Amale: nothing. Now Amale wants to get famous off of Jinny and that isn't happening.

Video on Die Familie vs. Gallus, as the two teams are ready to destroy each other. Next week.

Blair Davenport unlocks a gate at what appears to be her family estate. She is the latest in a long line of Davenports and everyone who isn't one of them is an enemy. You can hate and reject her all you want, as long as you fear her. Meiko Satomura should fear her, because it is time for Davenport to show how she can be.

Emilia McKenzie vs. Isla Dawn

This is fallout from Dawn taking McKenzie's watch for her special box. McKenzie takes her down into a hammerlock to start and then cranks on a wristlock. That's broken up but Dawn blocks a sunset flip with a quick stomp to the chest. There's the Saito suplex to send McKenzie flying but she blocks a superplex attempt. A middle rope sunset flip gives McKenzie two and an enziguri staggers Dawn again. The spear gives McKenzie two so she sends Dawn outside for a big suicide dive. Back in and a high crossbody misses for McKenzie, allowing Dawn to hit a fireman's carry spun into a side slam for the pin at 5:32.

Rating: C. This started off a bit slowly and then picked up a lot for a little while. McKenzie put up a good fight before going down, though I'm curious to see where this whole thing is going with Dawn. She has been doing this for a little while now and it doesn't seem to be going anywhere. The good thing though is she is doing something with the witch stuff rather than just talking about it over and over. McKenzie put up a fight but lost, as she should.

Post match, Dawn returns McKenzie's watch, leaving McKenzie rather confused.

Amale doesn't think much of Jinny and suggests bringing it.

Video on Ilja Dragunov vs. Jordan Devlin, with Dragunov being

angry over everything Devlin has said. Devlin wants the title and Dragunov wants revenge, so next week it's an empty arena title match.

Heritage Cup: A-Kid vs. Noam Dar

Dar, with Sha Samuels, is defending. Round one begins with a feeling out process, including A-Kid taking him to the ropes, where Dar needs a breather. A headlock takeover works a bit better for Dar so it's time for some early grappling. Dar can't very far with his escape attempts and the round ends with A-Kid cranking away.

Round two begins with A-Kid grabbing a cravate and taking Dar down to the mat to crank away even more. Back up and Dar goes after the arm before grabbing a headlock of his own. Dar cranks him down by the arm again and puts on a reverse chinlock, only to get reversed into a European Clutch for two. A-Kid grabs a front facelock and cranks away until the round ends.

Round three begins with Dar striking away for a change and sending a charging A-Kid over the top. A kick to the face rocks A-Kid though and some knees to the face make it worse. The Nova Roller is blocked so Dar kicks the leg out instead. Now the Nova Roller can finish A-Kid for the first fall at 1:36 of the round and 8:32 overall.

Round four begins with Dar going right after him but getting pulled into an armbar. That's broken up and Dar hits him in the face, setting up a rollup with feet on the ropes for two, as the referee catches the nefarious cheating. Back up and A-Kid sends him outside, only to have Samuels break up a big dive.

They both beat the clock back in, where Dar elbows him in the face for two more. A-Kid fights back so Samuels gets on the apron, only to have A-Kid springboard up and hit a moonsault DDT to plant Dar for the tying pin at 2:34 of the round and

11:48. Samuels screams a lot though, as he just lost EVERYTHING because of his bets, even as Dar is barely able to stand.

Round five begins with A-Kid missing a charge and getting knocked down again. He's fine enough to catch Dar on top though and it's a butterfly superplex for two. They trade attempted armbars until A-Kid grabs a German suplex. Dar blocks another one though and pulls him into an armbar, only to be countered into a rollup for two. The kneebar doesn't work so Dar pulls him into a sleeper, which is flipped into a cradle for two. A running kick to the chest rocks Dar but the round ends before a count.

Round six (the last round) begins with a slugout as they're both pretty spent. A-Kid has to kick Dar off the apron before grabbing a kneebar. Dar is in the ropes in a hurry though, meaning it's time to kick him in the head instead. Back up and Dar hits his own kick to the face for a near fall and they're both down. The Nova Roller is cut off with a jumping superkick to give A-Kid two and it's time for another strike off with thirty seconds to go. Dar hits him in the face for two but gets pulled into the Omoplata as time expires to end round six at 19:00 overall, meaning Dar retains the cup.

Rating: B. This match did a great job of setting up the drama and making me want to see how this was going to play out. That's how this kind of drama is supposed to go and these two are rather good at the whole thing. Dar is one of those somewhat cowardly champions who manages to survive, but there are enough moments where he fights back to make him believable. I had a good time here and it felt like a showdown, with a rematch likely down the line.

Post match Samuels is crushed over being poor but celebrates with Dar to end the show.

Overall Rating: B+. The wrestling was good, but what made me

happier here was how they continue to set things up for the future. There are stories on the show that have me wondering where they are going and that is not the case with even the midcard on most WWE shows. Throw in an intriguing main event and I have more and more fun with this show every week. Pretty awesome week here as NXT UK is the best thing going in WWE by a wide margin.

Results

Pretty Deadly b. Sam Gradwell/Saxon Huxley – Spilled Milk to Gradwell

Isla Dawn b. Emilia McKenzie – Fireman's carry swinging side slam

A-Kid vs. Noam Dar went to a 1-1 draw

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NXT UK – January 13, 2022: Walter's (Great) Last Stand

NXT UK

Date: January 13, 2022

Location: BT Studios, London, England

Commentators: Andy Shepherd, Nigel McGuinness

It's the end of an era as we are going to see Walter's final match around here. Walter is one of the people who has made this show feel special every time he appears and while it will be great to see him moving up the ladder, he is going to be missed around here. Hopefully there is a nice tribute to go with the match, so let's get to it.

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

We open with a video looking back at Walter's time in NXT UK. No one brought the big fight feeling like he did.

Opening sequence.

Jack Starz/Dave Mastiff vs. Die Familia

Charlie Dempsey is here with Die Familia and the winners face Ashton Smith and Oliver Carter for the #1 contendership. Raja muscles Starz up to start and throws him away without much effort. They fight over a lockup but Raja throws him off a front facelock. Starz can't take him down by the leg but he can take him down with an armbar. A headlock gives Starz two and some dropkicks send Raja into the corner.

That's enough for Raja to need a breather so it's off to Mastiff vs. Teoman. Mastiff doesn't mind, as he runs both of them over and hands it back off to Starz for the elbow between the shoulders. Mastiff's backsplash into a slingshot crossbody gets two on Teoman, meaning it's finally time for Dempsey to

offer a distraction. Starz gets tied up in the ring skirt as a result and the big beating is on to put the villains in control.

The armbar goes on and it's back to Raja to work on both arms and a leg. Starz isn't having any of this switching limbs/ignoring his other leg and fights out of the corner, allowing the diving tag off to Mastiff. House is cleaned in a hurry, including a suplex to Raja and a toss over the top to send Teoman to the floor. Dempsey tries to get involved again but here is Gallus to take care of them. Mastiff German suplexes Raja for the pin at 9:48.

Rating: C. Totally watchable tag match with a lot of people involved to give us a surprising result. Die Familia seemed to be the perfect choice for the title match and they will probably get one in the future, but Mastiff and Starz are doing well as the big/little team. If nothing else, it is great to see some fresh teams in the division so let's see what they can do.

Video on Walter's path of dominance through NXT UK, with wrestlers talking about how awesome he is. Shouldn't be hard to figure out something to compliment him on.

We look at Meiko Satomura retaining the Women's Title over Blair Davenport last week, but Davenport laid her out after the match. The feud will continue.

Video on Jordan Devlin who wants the United Kingdom Title for the fame, while Ilja Dragunov wants to keep it to make things better for his family. The title match is in two weeks.

Amale vs. Stevie Turner

Jinny is on commentary. They strike it out to start but Amale sends her into the corner for a running clothesline. Turner kicks her in the face but gets knocked into the corner in a hurry. A running boot misses Turner so she takes Amale down to

hammer away. There's a knee lift for two and it's time to work on both of Amale's arms at once as we look at Jinny. Amale is back up with some clotheslines and a dropkick into the corner. Now the running boot connects, setting up a kind of Rock Bottom spinebuster for the pin on Turner at 4:00.

Rating: C-. Amale is still a bit of a work in progress but it is clear that she is one of the projects around here. Between the French Hope deal and Jinny focusing on her, there is something worth trying out here. It wasn't a very good match, but it got Amale a win and that is what she needs most at the moment.

Pretty Deadly comes in to Sid Scala to complain about Sam Gradwell. Next week, they get to face Gradwell and a partner of his choosing. Scala doesn't seem pleased.

Video on Walter's dominance as the NXT UK Champion...until he met Ilja Dragunov for their pair of classics.

Video on A-Kid vs. Noam Dar for the Heritage Cup. Kid wants the title back, but Dar wants revenge on Kid for eliminating him from the original Heritage Cup tournament. Now it is time to fight, because they both want something.

Amale is happy with her win but here is Jinny to mock her for being weak. Jinny gets shoved and they shout at each other a lot, with security breaking it up.

Walter vs. Nathan Frazer

This is Walter's Last Stand and my goodness does that entrance still work. The WALTER chants begin and Frazer starts to realize he's in trouble. Walter throws him down to start and Frazer looks terrified. An armbar takes Frazer down and Walter isn't having any of this flipping stuff for an escape. A dropkick staggers Walter so he puts Frazer on the apron and pats him on the head.

Frazer snaps into reality and starts striking away, earning himself a slam onto the turnbuckle. Walter chops him on the chest and steps on his face (geez), sending Frazer crashing down to the floor. Back in and a hard slam takes Frazer down again, setting up the sleeper. That's broken up and Frazer scores with some running forearms...until Walter kicks him in the face. The double arm crank with a knee in Frazer's back goes on, followed by a hard fist to the chest.

It's off to the chinlock for a change before Walter starts yelling at him. Frazer fires off some chops of his own and Nigel knows what's coming. One Walter chop has Frazer looking like he has been shot but he manages to counter a powerbomb into a hurricanrana. Back up and Walter misses a dropkick, allowing Frazer to hit a running shooting star press. Frazer strikes away but has to flip out of a German suplex attempt.

Another boot rips Frazer's head off but he is still able to counter another powerbomb into a Code Red for two. Frazer kicks away at the leg some more and some superkicks stagger Walter again. A Nightmare on Helm Street sends Walter outside, where Frazer hits a shotgun dropkick into the barricade.

Back in and Frazer kicks away some more, setting up a running chop block. A springboard takes too long though and Frazer gets chopped out of the air. The powerbomb is countered again and a low superkick rocks Walter. Seth Rollins' (Frazer's trainer) stomp sets up a frog splash for two but the Phoenix splash is broken up. Now the powerbomb can finally connect to finish Frazer at 14:01.

Rating: B+. They told a great story here with Walter having the game plan of trying to get to the powerbomb over and over again while Frazer was doing everything he could to get out of it. Frazer was trying to hang in there as well as he could and finally got caught, but he gave it a great ride on the way there. I didn't think Walter would lose in his last match for NXT UK but they made you believe there was a chance, and that

is better than I would have bet on. Heck of a match.

Overall Rating: B+. The main event blows everything away but at least they were trying to do something with the other two matches. The women's match was only ok at best, but they have a point to what they're doing there. That being said, this is all about Walter and there is nothing wrong with focusing on the most successful star the show has ever had as he is leaving. Check out the main event for sure and the rest if you have time, as this is still the most well put together show going today.

Results

Jack Starz/Dave Mastiff b. Die Familia – German suplex to Raja
Amale b. Stevie Turner – Spinebuster
Walter b. Nathan Frazer – Powerbomb

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NXT UK – December 30, 2021 (Best Of 2021 Part 2): Title Time

NXT UK

Date: December 30, 2021

Hosts: Pretty Deadly

It's the final show of the year and for the second week in a row, it's time for a Best Of special. The good thing is that NXT UK has quite the collection to pick from, as this was a pretty awesome year for them. Odds are we'll be seeing a lot of Ilja Dragunov here, plus some more of the bigger names from NXT UK. Let's get to it.

As usual, I'll be posting the full versions of the matches rather than the clipped ones.

Pretty Deadly welcomes us to the show and throws us to the greatest moment of all time.

We recap Pretty Deadly becoming #1 contenders to the Tag Team Titles and setting up their title shot against Gallus.

From February 25.

Tag Team Titles: Pretty Deadly vs. Gallus

Gallus is defending and Mark Coffey drives Sam Stoker into the corner to start. It's off to Lewis Howley, who is armdragged into an armbar without much effort. Wolfgang takes Howley down by the arm as well and there's the same thing to Stoker. Therefore it's already back to Howley as the champs are dominating to start. A double monkey flip sends Howley to the floor and Pretty Deadly needs a breather.

Back in and Howley manages a hiptoss but gets rocked with an

uppercut. Wolfgang shrugs off some double teaming and we get the big staredown that would take us to a commercial if NXT UK had commercials. We settle down to Wolfgang being distracted by Howley so Stoker can knee him to the floor. A double backbreaker gets two on Wolfgang and it's time to take turns choking in the corner.

Stoker's running elbow to the jaw gets two and it's time to work on the arm. Wolfgang knocks Howley down without much trouble and the double tag brings in Coffey and Stoker. Coffey cleans house without much trouble and a belly to back suplex drops Stoker for two. Howley comes in off a blind tag to kick Coffey in the head for two but Coffey kicks him even harder. Wolfgang is back in to catapult Howley into a Samoan drop but Stoker makes a save.

Coffey chokeslams Stoker onto the apron and a spear gives Wolfgang two on Howley. There's a clothesline to put Howley on the floor but Stoker slaps Wolfgang to send him over the edge. The chase is on with Howley getting in a cheap shot to knock Wolfgang into the barricade. Back in and Stoker's Codebreaker gets two on Coffey so Howley brings in a title. Coffey knocks it out of his hands but it's a tornado DDT to drive him into the belt. The spinebuster/neckbreaker combination (Spilled Milk) gives us new champions at 15:03.

Rating: B-. This took some time to get going but then they got into a groove with the classic formula working. The ending with everything breaking down worked out rather well. There was little doubt about the title change here and that's ok. Gallus had held the titles for far too long already so the title change was necessary. Not a great match, but it did what it was supposed to in this situation.

Video on Pretty Deadly as the Tag Team Champions.

Quick clip of Moustache Mountain taking the titles from Pretty Deadly in December.

Some wrestlers (Dave Mastiff, Jack Starz, Ashton Smith, Saxon Huxley, Primate and A-Kid) wish us a Happy New Year.

Ilja Dragunov, Oliver Carter, Rohan Raja, Sam Gradwell, Nathan Frazer and Amele wish us a Happy New Year.

Video on Walter's dominance as United Kingdom Champion.

From June 24.

Ilja Dragunov vs. Joe Coffey vs. Rampage Brown

Time for a hoss fight and I'm trying to get my mind around Coffey's weird green/white trunks. Brown drops Dragunov to start but gets suplexed by Coffey. It's Dragunov getting back up to pull Brown to the mat for some elbows to the head. Coffey sends Dragunov outside before slugging it out with Brown. That means a Boston crab to Brown with Dragunov having to hammer away for a good while to break it up.

Brown is back up with a double clothesline to put the other two down, followed by a double suplex to send both of them flying. Coffey manages to backdrop Brown to the floor but Dragunov is back up with a bridging German suplex. Dragunov comes up holding his ribs as he goes up but has to fight Coffey off. That means Coffey goes crashing down, allowing Dragunov to jump over Brown into a backsplash for two.

Brown slams Dragunov onto Coffey for two but Dragunov gets back up to lose a slugout. A big lariat drops Brown though and Dragunov gets all insane again. Dragunov knocks Brown into the corner but Coffey hits his running tackle to send Dragunov into him. Coffey hits a big dive to take both of them out on the floor but Dragunov wins a slugout back inside. A second slugout goes to a draw to put them both down but Dragunov is up....and charges into a discus lariat. Brown knocks Coffey outside in a big crash but it's Dragunov back up and striking away.

Some German suplexes rock Brown but he is fine enough to German suplex both Dragunov and the returning Coffey. An electric chair drop lets Coffey plant Brown and they all have to pull themselves up. They all collide for another knockdown but Brown is up first with a Doctor Bomb to Coffey. Dragunov makes the save and, after slipping out of another Doctor Bomb, hits a top rope Torpedo Moscow to finish Brown at 16:14.

Rating: B+. This was every single thing you would have expected from these three and that is a very good thing. They did nothing but hit each other really hard for a long time until one of them was left standing. Dragunov winning is the right call as he has the redemption story going so there isn't even a complaint about the result. They had a hoss fight here and it was a very, very good one.

Post match here is Walter to hold up the title at Dragunov and then slap him down. Walter chokes him out and poses with the title to end the show. If they have a Takeover coming at any point in the next few months, they have the headliner right in front of them.

Video on Ilja Dragunov winning the United Kingdom Title and fighting various challengers since. Jordan Devlin seems to be next.

Kenny Williams, Sha Samuels, Xia Brookside, Wolfgang, Eddie Dennis and Nina Samuels are looking forward to a better New Year.

Pretty Deadly wrap us up.

Overall Rating: B. Kind of a weird one here as they went with the #1 contenders match rather than the title match itself. Maybe it is because the title change took place in actual NXT, but since the title has never changed hands in NXT UK, they didn't have many options. At least it was great having Pretty Deadly get some focus, as those guys were an awesome addition all year long. Good show here because of the talent involved

and it's nice to see the titles get this much focus.

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NXT UK – December 16, 2021: They Know How To Hurt People

NXT UK

Date: December 16, 2021

Location: BT Sports Studios, London, England

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Andy Shepherd

Things changed a bit last week as Moustache Mountain won the Tag Team Titles from Pretty Deadly. That means we can focus on something else this week, so thankfully we do have a #1 contenders match to the Heritage Cup between Nathan Frazer and A-Kid. That alone sounds awesome so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Joe Coffey vs. Charlie Dempsey

The bigger Coffey pushes him up against the corner and seems to be a bit more aggressive here. Dempsey kicks his way out of a wristlock but can't quite tie up the arm and leg at the same time. Back up and Coffey rolls through a hiptoss into an armbar as he seems to be a step ahead so far. Coffey ties up the legs and even stomps on them, only to punch the turnbuckle by mistake.

Dempsey goes right after the arm, even tying it up so he can slug Coffey in the face. A backslide attempt doesn't get Coffey anywhere so Dempsey rips at the face to keep him in trouble. Dempsey grabs a suplex for two and puts on something like an abdominal stretch on the mat. Coffey fights up and is quickly put into a guillotine but powers out again. They hit heads and go down for a double breather, followed by the slugout.

That's as illogical as it seems for Dempsey as Coffey hammers away and scores with the discus lariat. Coffey manages a springboard spinning crossbody but the bad arm is banged up. Cue the rest of Die Familia, which draws out Gallus for the big brawl. Dempsey uses the distraction to send the bad arm into the steps, setting up the dragon sleeper to knock Coffey out for the win at 12:29.

Rating: B-. Dempsey really does feel like someone that different around here, even if he is about as physically uninteresting as you can get. That doesn't seem to matter though as he knows how to hurt people, which can always be used around here. Odds are this is setting up a six man tag and that could be a heck of a fight, whenever we get there.

We look back at Moustache Mountain winning the Tag Team Titles last week.

Sid Scala announces a tournament to crown the new #1 contenders for the Tag Team Titles.

Video on Jordan Devlin, who knows that he is awesome and looks great, but he wants to be more than just an ace. He wants to be more than Ilja Dragunov, who needs the fans approval. All Devlin needs is himself.

Here is Moustache Mountain to celebrate their win. Trent Seven talks about how they needed that last week because they have come up short a few times. He wasn't sure what he was going to do if they didn't win...but it doesn't matter because they have the titles. Seven is going to fight as long and hard as it takes to keep these titles, which sounds good to Bate.

The champs are rather pleased with their win, which Seven says makes Bate a Grand Slam winner around here. I believe he means Triple Crown winner but close enough. They thank everyone for sticking with them through the rough times because this is impossible without them. Nice moment here, as it was a big win.

Ashton Smith and Oliver Carter want the Tag Team Titles.

Video on Blair Davenport, who is coming for Meiko Satomura's Women's Title. The title match is in three weeks.

Danny Jones vs. Kenny Williams

Hold on though as Williams says he wants to beat up Mark Andrews instead of Jones. That's not enough to get Jones to back down though so let's get this over with. Jones armbars him to the ropes to start but Williams slips out of a slam and goes for the knee. There's a rake to the back and Williams yells about Andrews. Jones manages a comeback by sending him into the corner, setting up a kick to the face. Williams takes the knee out again and stomps away though, setting up Bad Luck. Another Bad Luck finishes Jones at 3:47.

Rating: C. This was just a step above a squash for Williams and that is what he should be doing. I'm still not sure how far he is going to go as the Cockroach but at least he got a win here and looked pretty good doing so. Jones is another one of those guys who can look good in defeat while giving someone else a boost so at least he has a role.

Post match, Williams yells about Andrews some more.

Symbiosis is read for a new beginning in 2022. They're standing behind a cage during this for some reason.

During the break, Kenny Williams has attacked Mark Andrews, injuring his arm in the process.

Nathan Frazer vs. A-Kid

Heritage Cup rules and the winner gets a shot at Noam Dar. Round one begins with A-Kid taking him to the mat for a very early headlock before running Frazer over for two. Frazer can't get very far with a hammerlock as A-Kid is right back up with another headlock. A-Kid hits him in the face to take over but can't quite get the Fujiwara armbar. Frazer's monkey flip doesn't get him out so A-Kid stays on the arm without much avail to end the round in a standoff.

Round two begins with Frazer hitting a dropkick and grabbing an armbar of his own. Frazer flips out of a headscissors as they are still at a fast pace. We hit the pinfall reversal sequence with Frazer getting a cradle for the pin and the first fall at 1:48 of the round and 5:22 overall.

Round three begins with A-Kid missing some kicks to the face, allowing Frazer to kick him in the face instead. A-Kid's cross armbreaker sends Frazer bailing to the ropes and he's back with a belly to belly. There's a moonsault into the reverse DDT to plant A-Kid and they slug it out until A-Kid hits a heck of a running knee for two. The Fujiwara armbar goes on but time runs out on A-Kid.

Round four begins with Frazer kicking him in the ribs and hitting a Sling Blade. Frazer rolls into a Boston crab but A-Kid rolls out for a break of his own. A-Kid is up with a dive through the ropes to counter a springboard moonsault into a German suplex (cool) and Frazer is rocked. Back in and a leg lariat finishes Frazer at about 1:50 of the round and 11:14 overall.

Round five begins with A-Kid hitting a fisherman's suplex for two but he nips up into a heck of a superkick to give Frazer two. They go up top with Frazer hitting a dropkick on the top and hitting a super flipping fall away slam for two more. A-Kid is right back up with a shot to the arm though, setting up the Rings of Saturn with the legs for the win at 2:31 of the round and 14:19 overall.

Rating: B. These are two of the young, talented guys around here and it is nice to see them getting to showcase themselves well. A-Kid getting the chance to get his title back is a good thing, but I'm not sure if I would have gone with him here. Frazer is a fresh challenge for the title and it could have been interesting to see what he could have done in the title match.

Respect is shown to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. This was a heck of a show with two good matches and a not bad one in the middle. They seem to be setting up some big stuff in the future and that's how these shows are supposed to feel. I'm not sure what that future is going to be if the pandemic keeps hitting everywhere, but it's nice to enjoy it while it lasts.

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NXT UK – December 9, 2021: I Might Have Missed One

NXT UK

Date: December 9, 2021

Location: BT Sports Studios, London, England

Commentators: Andy Shepherd, Nigel McGuinness

So it turns out that one of the side effects of being sick for a few weeks is that you forget to do a show every now and then. Therefore it's time to get caught up on NXT UK, starting with a Tag Team Title shot as Moustache Mountain challenging Pretty Deadly. That alone could make this into a big deal so let's get to it.

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

We open with a look at Moustache Mountain's rocky path to the title shot, but now they're ready to fight.

Opening sequence.

Blair Davenport vs. Emilia McKenzie

They fight over wrist control to start until McKenzie snaps off a neckbreaker for two. Davenport takes her down out of the

corner though and kicks McKenzie in the back to put her in trouble of her own. A corner clothesline sets up the chinlock, allowing Davenport to crank away a bit. That's broken up in a hurry so McKenzie can slug away, setting up a spear for two. Back up and Davenport gets sent into the corner, where she comes out with a middle rope dropkick. McKenzie is back with a suplex, only to charge into a boot in the corner. The Falcon Arrow finishes for Davenport at 6:02.

Rating: C. It was a quick match but they did a nice job of showcasing both of them. Davenport continues her rise to the Women's Title match against Meiko Satomura and having her beat up Satomura's student/whatever McKenzie is works rather well. I could go for more of Davenport and this was a good way to move her forward.

Noam Dar and Sha Samuels came in to see Sid Scala, who tells them that next week, it's Nathan Frazer vs. A-Kid. The winner gets a shot at Dar's Heritage Cup and the champ isn't happy.

We look at Ilja Dragunov knocking Rampage Brown silly to retain the United Kingdom Title.

There isn't an update on Brown's condition.

Xia Brookside isn't happy that she is being asked about her loss to Meiko Satomura and insists she be left alone.

Here is Jordan Devlin for a chat. Devlin gets straight to the point: he wants the NXT UK Title, so he'd like Ilja Dragunov out here right now. Cue Dragunov, who says all Devlin has to do is ask. Devlin says he won't quit if Dragunov knocks him out, but Dragunov won't be intimidated. That's cool with Devlin, who hopes Dragunov is ready to explain this to his wife and son. Devlin mentions Dragunov's son by name and the fight is on in a hurry, with referees breaking it up. I've wanted Devlin in this spot for a good bit now so this is a nice thing to see, even if I can't imagine him winning the title.

Video on Amele, who gets rather emotional talking about how hard she has fought to get here and what WWE means to her every day. Her name is Amele and that means hope.

Kenny Williams thinks Mark Andrews is a scared little boy. He is everything Andrews thinks he is and even worse.

Sam Gradwell vs. Sha Samuels

Noam Dar is here with Samuels. Gradwell has bet ten pounds on himself here, with some very favorable odds. Samuels gets sent into the corner to start and then gets sent there again as the early frustration sets in. They trade forearms with Samuels getting the better of things, setting up a clothesline for two.

That doesn't last long, as Gradwell fights up and hits some shots to the face to take over. Samuels heads outside and gets in another clothesline for two more back inside. Dar gets in a few shots so the referee yells at him, meaning Gradwell hits Samuels low with what looked like a scarf. The Samoan driver finishes Samuels at 6:53.

Rating: C-. This was a short match in the first place and a good bit of it was spent killing some time. That being said, it's nice to see Gradwell win something as he has come a very long way in a short amount of time. I'm curious to see how far he can go with this feud, but any improvement is better than nothing at this point.

Gallus puts their stuff in the car and is ready to destroy Charlie Dempsey. They might want to destroy whoever put the camera in the trunk of their car.

Video on A-Kid vs. Nathan Frazer next week.

Tag Team Titles: Moustache Mountain vs. Pretty Deadly

Pretty Deadly is defending and they're in yellow, which oddly suits them. Stoker works on Bate's wrist to start, which goes

about as well as you would expect. Bate takes him down with a wristlock of his own and the champs bail to the floor in a hurry. Back in and Howley shoulders Seven down but Seven is right back up with a slam for two. Stereo suplex drop the champs for two on Howley as they seem to be taking their time here.

Howley gets in a single shot of his own but gets chopped away without much effort. Stoker offers a distraction though and Seven is sent into the steps to put him in trouble for a change. A shot to the leg knocks Seven off the top for a crash but he jawbreaks his way out of a chinlock. Howley is right there to send Seven outside, where Stoker gets suplexed down for his efforts. The hot tag brings in Bate to start cleaning house, including with a pair of nipups.

The Tyler Driver 97 gets two on Howley but it's a launch into a gutbuster for two on Bate instead. A clothesline drops Howley though and it's back to Seven to hammer away as well. The Seen Star Lariat gets two on Howley and they're both down for a bit. Stoker comes back in off a blind tag and kicks Seven in the face, setting up Spilled Milk for a very near fall.

Bate sends the champs outside but his dive is countered into Spilled Milk on the floor. Back in and Stoker belts Seven in the face for a very near fall and the shock is real. Seven superkicks Howley out of the air and brings Bate back in to clean house again. A Birminghammer sends Stoker onto Howley and it's the Spiral Tap to give Bate the pin and the titles at 17:48.

Rating: B. This worked because of both the action and the moment, which made it feel important. Bate and Seven have felt like the best tag team around here for a very long time now and the title win was going to feel like a big deal. At the same time, Pretty Deadly deserves all kinds of credit, as they went from a nothing team to holding the titles for eight and a

half months. That's so far beyond what they would be expected to do so well done for being a big surprise.

Moustache Mountain has a pretty emotional celebration to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. This show covered quite a bit of stuff and the big main event felt like an important moment. I still fully believe that WWE has forgotten this place exists, as it is so different than anything else WWE does. The wrestling might not be great in every single match, but you can see where things are going and what they have set up for each story. That's the trick that is never seen in WWE these days so well done all around.

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NXT UK – November 18, 2021:

That Last Show In The Taping Feeling

NXT UK

Date: November 18, 2021

Location: BT Sports Studios, London, England

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Andy Shepherd

We're back in England and on the way to a bunch of big TV matches since there has not been any mention of a Takeover in forever around here. The big story at the moment is the upcoming Rampage Brown vs. Ilja Dragunov United Kingdom Title match, which is coming at some point in the future. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

A-Kid vs. Sam Gradwell

They go with the grappling to start with A-Kid taking him down with the headlock takeover. That's reversed into an armbar but A-Kid flips out and grabs a cravate. Gradwell can't flip his way out so he goes with a knee brace to the eyes to escape instead. We're off to a face pull on A-Kid, followed by a heck of a running elbow to the face. There's an overhead belly to belly for two and Gradwell is getting cocky. The Boston crab goes on but A-Kid slips out and kicks him in the head.

A high crossbody gets two on Gradwell and it's a double knockdown for a breather. Back up and Gradwell gets pulled down into an omoplata, which is muscled up into a suplex for another break. One heck of a discus forearm puts A-Kid on the floor and a suplex sends him flying again. That's good for nine so Gradwell hits him in the face for two more. The frustrated Gradwell hits him in the face but A-Kid pulls him

into a cross armbreaker for the tap at 10:43.

Rating: B-. The more I watch A-Kid, the more impressed I am. He's one of those guys who can make anything look smooth and that is always fun to watch. Change his name to something that sounds a bit more impressive and they've got something. Gradwell is someone who has all kinds of charisma and somehow stays popular despite not winning much of anything. I could go with the latter changing, but that doesn't seem likely.

Gradwell looks frustrated and A-Kid looks impressed.

We look back at Rampage Brown wrecking Flash Morgan Webster last week. Webster is on the shelf with a shoulder injury and it's not clear how long he'll be out of action.

Ilja Dragunov is ready for his title match with Rampage Brown. Yes Brown is a monster, but Dragunov embraces the pain. Legends are written about the people who make the monsters fall, so long live the Czar. The title match is in two weeks.

Aleah James vs. Nina Samuels

Samuels pats her on the head to start and gets headlocked for her condescending efforts. They trade wristlocks until James snaps off a hurricanrana. Samuels runs her over though and stands on James' hair, which is not exactly that nice. Three straight backbreakers keep James in trouble and Samuels cranks on the leg so hard that James kicks herself in the back of the head. That's enough to make James fight back up with some clotheslines and a dropkick but Samuels plants her with a reverse suplex. Back up and James grabs a quick small package for the surprise pin at 4:53.

Rating: C-. James is someone who could be brought up through the women's division in a hurry and it seems that might be what is on WWE's minds at the moment. Samuels continues to be one of the established stars who doesn't actually go anywhere, but who still has enough status that beating her means

something. It's not a great match, but it could moves James forward and that's what matters.

Sam Gradwell is mad but Noam Dar and Sha Samuels interrupt with their Heritage Cup victory celebration.

Aleah James is very happy with her win but Isla Dawn attacks her and steals something from her gear.

Saxon Huxley vs. Kenny Williams

Huxley throws him around to start so Williams grabs a less than successful headlock. That earns Williams a grab by the throat and some rams into the mat but Williams gets smart by going after the leg. Williams ties the leg in the rope for a running kick before cranking on both arms at once. Back up and Huxley sends him into the corner, setting up a running big boot to the face. A running crossbody against the ropes rocks Williams again so he crawls under the ring and slides back out to post Huxley from behind. Back in and Bad Luck finishes Huxley at 5:53.

Rating: C-. Another not so great match with the rather charismatic Huxley losing to Williams, who is quite the villain. That being said, Williams is currently going by the name The Cockroach and I'm not sure how much of a future that leaves him. He has done well on his own though so maybe he can keep moving forward well enough.

Xia Brookside doesn't like being told that she is late for training but she has a note from her dad.

Mark Andrews is happy with his win over someone as great as Nathan Frazer. Jordan Devlin comes in and tells him to start acting like more of an ace.

Teoman/Rohan Raja vs. Gallus

Joe Coffey is here with Gallus. Wolfgang throws Raja into the corner to start and it's Mark coming in for an armdrag into an

armbar. A shot to the face allows the tag off to Teoman, who gets armdragged as well. Gallus cleans house with monkey flips to the floor but Teoman ties Mark up in the apron to hammer away.

The villains take over and start the alternating stomps, including a variety to the shoulder. The chinlock doesn't last long so Teoman runs Mark over for two instead. There's a kick to the arm to keep Mark down and Wolfgang gets knocked off the apron. Mark doesn't seem to mind though as he ax handles Teoman down and brings Wolfgang back in to clean house.

Everything breaks down and an enziguri into a Backstabber gets two on Wolfgang. An assisted DDT gets the same but Wolfgang hits a double clothesline. The assisted powerslam is loaded up but here is Charlie Dempsey of all people to jump Joe Coffey. The distraction lets Raja hit a jumping Downward Spiral to finish Wolfgang at 9:31.

Rating: C+. There's something about Teoman that gets my attention and I like the option of having Dempsey join in. Raja might not exactly be a star but he is a good enough choice for a third wheel. Gallus is going to be fine as they are long since established as stars, so it isn't like this is some big devastating loss. The Dempsey stuff has my attention though and that's a good sign for Teoman/Raja.

Post match Dempsey, Teoman and Raja lay waste to Gallus to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. You can kind of tell when the tapings are wrapping up as there isn't much left to go with on this show. The main event angle was good, but it's all about waiting for the big stuff to come in the future weeks. I'm looking forward to some of these things, but they need a fresh taping to breathe a bit more life into the show after this one. The good thing is that I fully believe that NXT UK can pull that off, which is very nice to see after so many other shows have no

such luck.

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NXT UK – October 14, 2021; These Guys Can Fight

NXT UK

Date: October 14, 2021

Location: BT Sports Studios, London, England

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Andy Shepherd

It's championship week as Ilja Dragunov is back to defend the United Kingdom Title against A-Kid. That has all the makings of a great match, but more importantly, there will be a crowd here for the first time in WAY too long as the United Kingdom has started to lighten their Coronavirus restrictions. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence, with a new song.

The fans are back!

Blair Davenport vs. Stevie Turner

Davenport jumps Turner before the bell as we start fast. That's fine with Turner, who fights back at the bell and scores with a Thesz press to hammer away. Some right hands in the corner don't work out so well as Davenport drops her face first onto the turnbuckle and scores with a basement dropkick to the back of the head. Turner is back up with a running boot to the face and some neckbreakers get two. Davenport BLASTS her with a kick to the head for two more but Turner is back with a Side Effect for the same. That's enough for Davenport, who knees her in the face and hits a Falcon Arrow for the pin at 4:36.

Rating: C. This was short and to the point, as Davenport shrugged off Turner's offense and pinned her in short order. You can tell that Davenport is likely the next big thing and eventually the top star in the division, but we still have a little while before we get that far. They had another good step here though, as it is nice to have Davenport back in the ring.

Sha Samuels commandeers a birthday party and gives it to Noam Dar instead. Samuels isn't happy with the banners but Dar says this can be a warmup for the real celebration when he wins the Heritage Cup.

Rohan Raja makes excuses to Teoman for the Heritage Cup tournament but Teoman promises that the family will grow soon.

Sid Scala has a match to announce when Jinny and Joseph Conners come in. As luck would have it, the match was about her, as Jinny challenges Meiko Satomura for the Women's Title in three weeks. Jinny's advice to Scala: burn his clothes.

Flash Morgan Webster vs. Sha Samuels

Webster dodges to start and scores with some right hands in the corner. A few fast chops annoy Samuels, who takes Webster's head off with a chop of his own. Some hard kicks to the back give Samuels two and a shoulder to the ribs in the corner gets the same. They head outside with the fans chanting for Webster, who is dropped face first onto the apron.

Back in and Webster suddenly picks up the pace, including a middle rope standing moonsault. Samuels is sent outside for a change and that means a suicide dive from Webster. They head back inside where Webster scores with a running kick to the face for another near fall, setting up a heck of a top rope flip dive to the floor. Back in again and Webster scores with a headbutt but walks into a spinebuster to give Samuels the pin at 8:16.

Rating: B-. They were starting to rock here with that Webster comeback being a standout highlight. This was a rather fun edition of power vs. speed and that is going to work every single time. Webster doesn't get as much attention as Mark Andrews but he showcases himself well when he gets the chance.

It's time for another Nina Samuels Show, with Xia Brookside not realizing she is the guest. Brookside calls over Leah James and gets a match with her instead. End of show.

We recap Dave Mastiff/Jack Starz cutting off Symbiosis' attempt at interfering in a recent tag match. They're facing off next week as a result.

Gallus interrupts Jordan Devlin's meeting with Sid Scala. Devlin doesn't want to hear this and threatens to take Joe Coffey out soon.

United Kingdom Title: A-Kid vs. Ilja Dragunov

A-Kid is challenging and circles around the champ to start until a headscissors pulls him to the mat. They go with some grappling until A-Kid rapid fires kicks to the leg. That earns

him a big chop but he nips up and kicks at the leg some more. Dragunov checks one though and snaps off a German suplex, sending us back to the grappling. That's broken up so Dragunov snaps off the rebound lariat, only to hurt his own arm in the process.

Now it's Dragunov's turn to crank on the leg but A-Kid chops his way out of a leglock. The leg gets cranked back again though and it's time to chop A-Kid in the corner. Dragunov gets two off something like a powerbomb but A-Kid kicks at the bad arm to get a breather. The good arm is fine enough to blast A-Kid...who responds by kicking Dragunov in the face. The kicks to the chest (with the bad leg) don't do much to Dragunov, who catches the leg and sends us back to a strike off.

A kick to the head sets up a fisherman's suplex (with the bad leg being raised) for two on Dragunov, who is right back with an STO. Dragunov takes him down with a hard knee to the ribs and the rolling German suplexes, though A-Kid cranks on the arm to escape. Some elbows to the head set up another suplex for two on A-Kid as the fans (accurately) deem this awesome. Dragunov misses a top rope backplash and gets pulled into a sleeper. With that broken up, A-Kid scores with a running kick to the chest.

An armbar over the ropes has Dragunov hurt again but he drops A-Kid again. Torpedo Moscow is cut off with a kick to the face though and they're both down one more time. They slug it out with A-Kid getting the better of things and Dragunov not being able to powerbomb his way out of a cross armbreaker. He can however flip out of an Oomoplata, setting up Torpedo Moscow to the leg. Another Torpedo Moscow retains the title at 19:25.

Rating: A-. This was excellent stuff and the two of them beat the fire out of each other. That is what you should be expecting to see from Dragunov these days and A-Kid was able to hang in there with him every step of the way. The battle of

limb manipulation was great here and it felt like a huge main event title match. These guys brought it and the match was excellent throughout, as you probably expected.

Dragunov demands A-Kid stand up so the handshake can end the show.

Overall Rating: B+. There is a reason that this show has been so well received as of late and the fans being back only make it better. This show felt important again and the energy from the fans played a bit role in that change. Granted the main event being a nearly twenty minute clinic helped as well, as we had one of the better editions of this show in a very long time.

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NXT UK – September 30, 2021:

They Need Some More Things

NXT UK

Date: September 30, 2021

Location: BT Studios, London, England

Commentators: Andy Shepherd, Nigel McGuinness

We're back to the show that just kind of exists but still does enough good things to be one of the best wrestling shows going. This time around we get a visit from one of the best tag teams the show has ever seen as Moustache Mountain is getting back together. Other than that, the road to the Heritage Cup #1 Contenders tournament continues, because it can never end. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Oliver Carter/Ashton Smith vs. Moustache Mountain

Tyler Bate slams Carter down to start and Trent Seven comes in for a spinning slam. Carter takes him down by the arm though and it's off to Smith to work on the arm. Seven gets slammed down onto some raised boots and we hit the quickly broken chinlock. Back up and Seven takes over on Smith, allowing Bate to...miss the flipping splash off of Seven's shoulders. Bate is back with the airplane spin and now the flipping splash from Bate's shoulders connects for two.

Seven powerbombs Smith out of the corner and hits the Emerald Flosion for two more. It's back to Bate for a German suplex but Smith flips out and hits a Lionsault to a standing Bate for another two. Bop and Bang drops Smith for two as Symbiosis comes out to watch. Bate gets backdropped onto the floor but here are Jack Starz and Dave Mastiff to cut Symbiosis off. Back in and a superkick gets two on Bate but Seven pulls Carter outside for a dragon suplex. That leaves Bate to hit an

apron German suplex on Smith (geez), setting up the rebound lariat/dragon suplex combination to finish Smith at 9:59.

Rating: B-. This was the kind of match that can help Carter and Smith go a long way, even in defeat. They made the famous team sweat and that is more than most teams can do. Moustache Mountain is in a weird place as they are too big of a deal to be a team without the title reign but no one can really come off as a threat to them. That leaves them as singles wrestlers, which isn't going to be the best news for Smith. At least they're good when they get together though, which was the case here.

Jinny and Joseph Conners don't have much to say but Emilia McKenzie comes up. They run into Emilia McKenzie and Jinny mocks her, but McKenzie keeps training. Sounds like the next step towards McKenzie challenging Meiko Satomura for the Women's Title.

Jack Starz and Dave Mastiff are interrupted by Nina Samuels who is trying to have her own talk show. They aren't interested, but Samuels goes into a rant about Isla Dawn.

Dani Luna vs. Xia Brookside

They go with the grappling to the mat to start with Brookside having to slip out of a waistlock. Brookside tries to pick up the pace but her crossbody is caught in midair. A headscissors is countered into a faceplant though and Luna grabs a suplex for two. The armbar goes on to keep Brookside in trouble but she reverses another suplex into a small package for two of her own. Now it's a crossface chickenwing to stay on Brookside's shoulder but this time she fights up and hits a middle rope hurricanrana. Some running dropkicks put Luna in trouble for a change and a neckbreaker gives Brookside two. What looks like a Codebreaker is countered into a World's Strongest Slam and a fall away slam. Luna flips a fireman's carry into a sitout powerbomb for the pin at 5:37.

Rating: C-. This was power vs. speed and it worked well enough for a short match. Brookside's downward trend continues but it is nice to see Luna getting somewhere. I'm not sure how much a win over Brookside really means, but a Brookside heel turn in the future would not surprise me. I'm just not sure how well it would work.

Video on Blair Davenport being suspended but raiding the ring anyway.

Stevie Turner wants Davenport reinstated but Sid Scala will only think about it.

Sam Gradwell doesn't like Mark Andrews, who comes in for the pull apart fight.

Josh Morrell vs. Charlie Dempsey

This is Dempsey's debut (if you don't count a one off match) and he is an old school technical guy. Dempsey takes him down without issues and works on the wrist in a variety of ways. After escaping a quick armbar, it's a monkey flip to put Morrell down and we hit the pinfall reversal sequence. A Fujiwara armbar has Morrell screaming and Dempsey switches into a kneebar.

With that broken up, Dempsey sends him into the corner and comes out with a suplex for two. Morrell hits a kind of flipping powerbomb but Dempsey is back with a German suplex for two more. An armbar sets up...well it looked like a cover with Morrell's head hooked but Dempsey bent the lower half of the bent knee down and grasped his hands, making it something like a cover into a surfboard? Either way, Morrell taps at 6:13.

Rating: C. It was a fine debut with some crazy good submission stuff, though I'm going to need a name for that finisher so I don't have to try and describe it every time. They have something with the submission master in Dempsey, who looks

just simple enough to seem like a threat. Nice start here, with the finish looking creative and deadly.

We get a sitdown interview between Ilja Dragunov and A-Kid. Dragunov talks about beating Walter but A-Kid talks about having experience. A-Kid isn't interested in picking a fight and asks what would have happened if Dragunov had been forced to face everyone instead of one man. We get Shayna Baszler's tap, nap or snap line and A-Kid talks about knowing that Dragunov is going to lose his temper. Dragunov promises to keep the title in two weeks.

Noam Dar and Wolfgang talk about what it means to win the Heritage Cup. Dar isn't quite as serious. The tournament final is next week.

Here's what's coming next week.

Joe Coffey vs. Jordan Devlin

Gallus is here with Coffey. Feeling out process to start with Devlin working on the wrist to limited avail. Coffey grabs a hammerlock so Devlin uses a flying mare to escape. A test of strength can't keep Devlin down but he is shocked when Coffey flips over into the standoff. The headlock takeover works a bit better for Devlin but Coffey fights out in a hurry. Coffey hits him in the face and clotheslines Devlin outside.

Back in and Coffey gets two off a side slam before cutting off a comeback with a running elbow to the face. Devlin crotches him in the corner though and there's a Backstabber to take him down. A running legdrop gets two on Coffey but he's strong enough to block a backslide attempt.

Devlin is back with a release Rock Bottom into a standing moonsault but he takes too much time MOCKING THE GALLUS POSE, allowing Coffey to launch him into the corner. The springboard spinning crossbody gives Coffey two but Devlin counters All The Best For The Bells with a Spanish Fly. Mark Coffey offers

a distraction though, allowing Wolfgang to grab Joe's hand. The delay lets Joe score with All The Best For The Bells and the pin at 11:35.

Rating: B. The ending was a bit unnecessary but I guess they were going for the strength in numbers. That's a little weird when Devlin was the heel the whole time and Gallus has been leaning face for weeks, but at least they had a good match to get here. I could go for more of this and there is a good chance that they aren't done.

Devlin yells a lot to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Another good show here as they had a pair of pretty awesome bookending matches, which is more than you should expect in an hour long show. The talent is here and they have set up the title match in two weeks, but it would still be nice to have SOMETHING to look forward to. Getting fans back will help, but a Takeover would help even more. Still though, another solid week, which isn't even a surprise anymore.

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NXT UK – September 23, 2021: The Ghost Levels Are Rising

NXT UK

Date: September 23, 2021

Location: BT Studios, London, England

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Andy Shepherd

The tournament to crown a new #1 contender to the Heritage Cup is STILL GOING, despite the fact that Tyler Bate could have probably given everyone in the field a shot at this rate. It's time for another semifinal match this week as we're finally close to wrapping up. Other than that, stuff will happen. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Heritage Cup #1 Contenders Tournament Semifinals: Teoman vs. Wolfgang

Rohan Raja and the rest of Gallus are here too. Round one begins with Wolfgang going simple by hitting him in the face and then knocking Teoman down into the corner. Teoman punches him in the arm and takes it to the mat with a wristlock. A suplex sets up a failed Crossface attempt so Wolfgang is up with a clothesline, setting up the Caber Toss for the first fall at 2:01.

Round two begins with Wolfgang hammering away again but missing a charge to crash out to the floor. Teoman tries to follow up but gets dropped in a hurry, allowing Wolfgang to take him back inside. Never mind as Teoman is knocked outside

again, only to get in a cheap shot to take over. Back in and Teoman scores with a missile dropkick for two. Teoman tries the Crossface but can't get it on as the round ends.

Round three begins with Teoman winning a slap off until Wolfgang knocks him down. The basement clothesline gives Wolfgang two but Teoman is back on the arm. A running forearm to the side of Wolfgang's head ties it up at a fall each at 1:12 of the round and 7:17 overall.

Round four begins with Teoman going after the bad arm so Wolfgang uses the good arm to clothesline him down. Teoman ties the arm around the ropes but misses the stomp, allowing Wolfgang to drive him into the corner. A middle rope ax handle connects but the seconds get up on the apron. Not that it matters as Wolfgang hits a spear for the win at 2:45 of the round and 10:04 overall.

Rating: C. It's not a bad match but egads this tournament feels like it has been going on forever. It also doesn't help that we're having seven Heritage Cup rules matches to set up an eighth Heritage Cup rules match. Teoman seemed like the natural winner here but it can be nice to throw in a curve every now and then. Fine match, but not exactly interesting.

Blair Davenport is annoyed that she is still suspended and promises more bad things will happen. Reinstate her.

Subculture arrives and finds that Sam Gradwell has spray painted over their spray paint. The spray paint over his spray paint too.

Gallus has taken over Jordan Devlin's dressing room and throw him out, stealing his sunglasses in the process. Devlin: "I'M GOING TO TELL JOHNNY SAINT ABOUT THIS!!!" Tell him he's still part of the show too.

Isla Dawn vs. Jinny

Joseph Conners is here with Jinny and this is fallout from Dawn drawing a pentagram on Jinny's mirror last week. Dawn wins an early slugout but Jinny kicks away at the ribs in the corner. A running shoulder lets Jinny hammer away even more but Dawn whips her hard into the corner. Jinny hits a running knee to the face and loads up some kind of a stretch, which is countered into a whip into the ropes.

Dawn is back with her own running knee and some kicks in the corner rock Jinny even more. They head outside where Jinny is sent face first into the apron, sending Conners into a panic. Dawn grabs his wrists and seems to try some kind of a spell to make it worse. Back in and some running knees give Dawn two but she stops to yell at Conners again, allowing Jinny to grab the Facelift out of the corner for the pin at 4:51.

Rating: C. This was a rather energetic and hard hitting match as Dawn loses again. She has a bad habit of that, though at least she is actually doing something with the witchcraft deal after a very long time of just mentioning it. Good enough match though as we keep trying to find some more main event level talent for the division.

Dani Luna is lifting when Xia Brookside comes up for a friendly challenge. Sure.

Charlie Dempsey is ready to debut next week and demonstrate how to hurt people like they did in the good old days.

Trent Seven challenges Oliver Carter/Ashton Smith to a match against Moustache Mountain next week. Sure, despite Tyler Bate not being here. That doesn't seem too bright.

Nathan Frazer vs. Rampage Brown vs. A-Kid

The winner gets the next UK Title shot against Ilja Dragunov. Brown has to fight off a double teaming to start and knocks the other two outside in a hurry. Back in and Frazer dropkicks him into the corner, setting up a double dropkick to the

floor. Frazer picks up the pace to run/flip away from A-Kid before hitting another hard dropkick. Brown comes in to whip Frazer hard into the corner so A-Kid comes back in to strike away.

A kick to the knee puts Brown down with Frazer joining in, only to have Frazer drop him as well. Brown is back up to wreck them again, including a toss to send A-Kid into Frazer. A-Kid is knocked outside, leaving Brown to chop away at Frazer. Brown puts Frazer on top but A-Kid is back in to kick away at both of them. A triangle choke has Brown in trouble, or at least it does until he powerbombs A-Kid onto Frazer.

The Doctor Bomb is broken up though and A-Kid is knocked outside, leaving the other two trying to get back up. Frazer takes too long to go up top and has to flip out of a German superplex. A-Kid is sent outside as well, allowing Frazer to dive onto both of them. Back in and Frazer drops both of them again, this time for two on A-Kid. They get up for the circle slugout until Brown hits a double suplex for a double knockdown.

A-Kid is back up with a springboard armdrag/headscissors to put them both down, followed by a high crossbody for two on Frazer. A northern lights suplex sets up a cross armbreaker on Frazer but Brown is back in with a powerbomb for the save. Frazer kicks Brown down again and everyone gets a breather. Somehow Frazer manages to slam Brown and super flipping World's Strongest Slam A-Kid for two with Brown making a save.

A-Kid is back up with a guillotine on Brown, who reverses it up into a suplex until Frazer nails a superkick for two in a nice sequence. Frazer's springboard is (nicely) powerslammed out of the air and now the Doctor Bomb can connect. A-Kid superkicks Brown to the floor though and a running kick to the face finishes Frazer for the pin and the title shot at 16:32.

Rating: B. This was some pretty sweet stuff with everyone

going hard throughout until we got an interesting winner. Brown vs. Dragunov feels like a downgrade from Walter and Frazer doesn't feel like a real threat. A-Kid might not either, but he is certainly a unique way to go and that is a good idea. Make things a little more interesting and let him show what he can do in a fight against the champ. This was rather good while it lasted though, with some innovating spots and everyone doing their thing well.

Overall Rating: B-. The main event is the only thing worth seeing and that's not a good sign. The show usually has at least one good match but it feels rather cold at the moment. Dragunov has been champion for about a month now and it still feels like he's a complete ghost. The entire promotion feels like it has been forgotten about to do its thing and I don't know what happens to it when WWE remembers it exists. Another nice show here, though it still doesn't feel important.

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