

205 Live – December 31, 2021: The Annual Finale

205 Live

Date: December 31, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

It's the very final WWE show of the year and since I'm not sure there really is a Best Of for the new 205 Live, we're getting a regular show. Normally I would say there won't be much of an audience for this given the time and date, but would it be that much different than the regular show? Let's get to it.

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

Edris Enofe vs. Guru Raaj

Enofe flips out of a wristlock to start as we hear about Raaj missing a long time due to an injury. Raaj takes hm down by the arm but Enofe is back up with a standing hurricanrana. A nice fisherman's suplex gets two on Raaj but he is right back with a monkey flip for the save. Enofe hits a middle rope elbow to the face for two more before planting Raaj with a spinebuster. A shooting star press, with Enofe taking his time in completing the rotation, finishes Raaj at 4:54.

Rating: C. It's good to get Enofe a win and the shooting star, while scary, did look rather athletic. They were definitely looking like people fresh out of the Performance Center with the very basic offense, but now 205 Live is the next step in a WWE wrestler's development. That should tell you a lot about some of WWE's problems these days.

Amari Miller vs. Nikkita Lyons

Miller's parents are in the crowd and this is Lyons' debut. We hear about Lyons surviving as she grew up and her striking experience as she fights out of a wristlock to start. Lyons takes her down and we hit an early chinlock. A kick to the chest drops Miller and we hit the chinlock again. Miller is back up again with a gator roll into a spinning kick to the face. Something like a snapmare sends Lyons face first into Miller's knee to give Miller the pin at 3:58.

Rating: C-. I'm not sure what it says that I was relieved Miller didn't lose in front of her parents, but that's how WWE has conditioned me to think. Miller is someone with potential to become something one day, but that might not have been enough to overcome the powers of crushing someone's spirit. Lyons looked decent as well, though you can only get so much out of a three minute match with two chinlocks.

Dante Chen vs. Draco Anthony

You might remember Chen as the guy whose one profile detail is being from Singapore. They go with the grappling to start and exchange some wristlocks. Chen takes over with some armdrags into an armbar but Anthony is back up with a dropkick. Anthony counters a dive with a t-bone suplex for two and it's time to crank on Chen's arms. That's broken up as well and Chen hits some forearms to the face, followed by a pump kick. A vertical suplex version of Angel's Wing Clipper (Dante's Inferno according to Nigel) finishes Anthony at 5:29.

Rating: C. Another short and to the point match here, but egads they need SOMETHING else for Chen if they want him to become a player. His entire deal is "I'm from Singapore". That might appeal to people from Singapore, but outside of that, he isn't the most thrilling participant. Anthony is someone who should feel like a bigger deal and just doesn't, though losing to Chen isn't helping things.

Overall Rating: C-. This show has already lost the little

structure that it had when things changed over and now it is even worse. It's rather sad seeing these people get their three minutes a week, because that is hardly going to do anything for developing their skills, but since WWE has changed everything all over again, this is about as good as it can be at the moment, no matter what.

Results

Edris Enofe b. Guru Raaj – Shooting star press

Amari Miller b. Nikkita Lyons – Faceplant onto the knee

Dante Chen b. Draco Anthony – Dante's Inferno

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205 Live – December 10, 2021: They're Already There

205 Live

Date: December 10, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

We're in a weird place with this show as WWE has actually

realized that this show has little to do with the cruiserweight division and hasn't been live in years. It might actually be time to change things up a bit and that is long overdue. Granted the show has already changed everything but the name, so maybe now it's time to complete the ordeal. Let's get to it.

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

Amari Miller vs. Lash Legend

I'll take this over Legend talking. Legend shoves her down to start but Miller isn't impressed. A dropkick staggers Legend but she blocks an armdrag without much effort. There's an overhead suplex into a nipup as Miller is in trouble early. A release fall away slam sets up a big boot to the chest but Miller avoids a charge in the corner. Miller is back with a springboard Codebreaker into a cradle for two of her own, only to have Legend shrug it off. Something like a torture rack (over Legend's back instead of the shoulders) spun into a faceplant finishes Miller at 3:30.

Rating: C-. This was a fine near squash for Legend, but those Lashing Out segments have completely destroyed any interest I could have in her. She is a bit bigger than a lot of the division and has the power to back it up, but that is going to go sailing out of the window when the next talking segment starts up. Miller is becoming a regular around here and is starting to look more comfortable in the ring, so there might be a future there.

Andre Chase vs. Guru Raaj

They go technical to start, with Chase working on the arm. A monkey flip out of the corner gets Raaj out of trouble but Chase pulls him down by the hair in a hurry. The stomps with the pointing at the student section ensue and we hit the cross arm choke. Raaj fights up with some kicks and a backsplash, setting up a bulldog out of the corner for two. Back up and

Chase hits a running big boot into an arm trap Downward Spiral to finish Raaj at 4:59.

Rating: C. Chase has a dead end gimmick and Raaj is little more than a jobber so this is about as good as it could have been. Giving Chase a win doesn't give him anything but it will make him mean a little bit more before he gets to put someone else over in the future. That has worked for years before and it can work here, even with the whole ridiculous university deal.

We recap Joe Gacy falling to Roderick Strong at WarGames, but now he is ready to change the 205 name for the sake of...whatever Gacy is on about this week.

Malik Blade vs. Solo Sikoa

Sikoa shoves him down to start so Blade is back up with an armbar. It actually lasts a bit longer than you might have guessed, probably marking the longest offense Blade has ever had around here. Back up and a heck of a clothesline blasts Blade, setting up Sikoa's armbar for a change.

Some dropkicks don't do Blade much good as Sikoa spinwheel kicks him right back into the armbar. Another escape works better for Blade and he hits a running clothesline in the corner. Sikoa superkicks him out of the air and a spinning fist to the head finishes Blade off at 7:44.

Rating: D+. This was another match like some previous 205 Live main events, as they spent a good while getting to the ending. It felt like they were just killing time until the finish, which is never a good feeling. Sikoa needs the ring time though and Blade is someone who seems capable of hanging in there for a bit, but I need more than long form armbars.

Overall Rating: C-. This show is already starting to get stuck in a rut, as it is more about the young up and comers in NXT, which doesn't exactly make for an exciting night. I can

imagine the new name might breathe some life into the place for a few weeks, but it isn't like there is any reason to believe that it will last. It's a show that WWE doesn't care about and that doesn't make for the easiest watch every week.

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NXT – December 14, 2021: His Name Is Grayson Waller

NXT

Date: December 14, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Wade Barrett, Vic Joseph

It's another new era as Johnny Gargano and Kyle O'Reilly are both gone, at least for the time being. That means we might be in for some new names, but ultimately that might not be the best thing. Some of the new generation has done well, but there are more than a few who haven't been the most thrilling. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of Grayson Waller attacking Johnny Gargano to end last week's show.

Waller arrives and gets booed by a bunch of fans, so he films a bit of the reaction.

We recap Cameron Grimes vs. Duke Hudson. Grimes has beaten Hudson in poker and a match, including cutting off some of Hudson's hair. Tonight is the final fight, no holds barred.

Duke Hudson vs. Cameron Grimes

No holds barred so Grimes busts out the weapons before the bell. Hudson still has the blond wig, as held down by the headgear. The brawl starts on the floor, with Grimes getting in a few shots early on. Hudson has to fix the hair while fighting back, but Grimes slips out of a Razor's Edge attempt on the floor. Back in and a chair is set up, with Hudson managing a Rock Bottom onto the edge (that was nasty) for two.

We take a break and come back with Grimes diving over a poker table to hit a high crossbody for another near fall. Hudson catches him on top though and counters the Cave In into a powerbomb through the poker table. The cover takes awhile because the shoulders aren't on the mat though and Grimes is up at two. The frustrated Hudson goes outside to grab the electric hair clippers but gets kicked in the face. Grimes hits the Cave In through a chair for the pin at 10:45.

Rating: C+. I'm glad they got to the point with this as the feud was more or less done once Grimes cut Hudson's hair. Grimes has done everything he can to Hudson at this point so let them both move on. It's good to see Grimes pick up another feud and hopefully he gets to move on to a higher level.

Post match, Grimes de-wigs Hudson to reveal the bald head.

Cora Jade is medically cleared but here is Dakota Kai to say

that this is what “she” does. Maybe “they” can get together and win the Dusty Cup! Jade is ready to beat Kai tonight instead. I’m not sure who Kai meant but it almost sounded like the interviewer.

Brooks Jensen and Josh Briggs are getting to go to a country concert with Kacy Catanzaro and Kayden Carter. The band isn’t actually mentioned, but the culture clash seems to be a bit of an issue. Carter and Catanzaro wind up dancing with each other.

Here is Grayson Waller for his big talk after attacking Johnny Gargano. Waller is very proud of what happened last week and we see some footage from his own phone of the chaos, including Vic Joseph looking rather annoyed. After he took out Gargano, he spent some time partying with the biggest celebrities in the world. What did the people here do? Spend the weekend yelling about him online!

We see some tweets, including from Wade Barrett, who calls Waller a “POS”, but Barrett might like him anyway. Waller doesn’t care what Barrett thinks because it isn’t 2010. He does find it interesting that Vic Joseph got so mad but didn’t do anything, which has Joseph looking mad. Waller says the only thing he needs to bet on is himself to wrap it up. This was pretty generic at best and I’m not sure if Waller has the level of heat NXT thinks/hopes he does.

We recap Riddle being revealed as MSK’s Shaman.

It’s time for Lashing Out with Lash Legend, with Jacket Time as this week’s guests. We pause for Mei Ying to walk by with her pillow until Legend can talk about how nice the two of them dress. Legend asks about the Grizzled Young Veterans so Ikemen Jiro goes into a rant about the Veterans, albeit with subtitles. That’s all the time we have, making this the least annoying edition yet, mainly because Legend barely talked. As usual though, these segments feel more like the comic relief

stuff (especially Ying) and they are such a detour from everything else.

Amari Miller vs. Ivy Nile

Nile throws her down to start and then chokes away in the corner. Miller comes back with some rollups for two each and hits a dropkick. A spinwheel kick misses though and Nile spinebusters her down. The neck crank finishes Miller at 3:40.

Rating: C-. Miller continues to be someone they see something in and that is not a bad thing. She has a great smile and a lot of charisma so if she can back it up with the rest, she'll be fine. Nile seems like she has all of the basic tools, but she is going to need to show she can do things in some longer matches.

Xyon Quinn knows how Elektra Lopez plays now so the game is continuing. Quinn leaves so here is Robert Stone to say it's time for him to be taken seriously. Now it's Von Wagner coming in to say if people has a problem, come say it to his face. Who knew he was an Alex Riley fan?

Riddle has a magic sack and pulls out presents for MSK: a baseball bat, a traffic cone and the John Cena spinner US Title belt. Riddle says these things are holding them down, so it's time to learn to let it go and become the best again. Then Riddle pulls out a scooter, which is the key to clearing your mind.

Harland vs. Guru Raaj

Joe Gacy (with a peppier song about being yours) is here with Harland. Raaj is sent face first into the mat to start and some elbows to the face keep him in trouble. A belly to back slam finishes Raaj at 1:06.

Post match, Harland beats Raaj up again but Gacy calms him down so they can leave.

LA Knight arrives in his nice car and says he doesn't want to hear about Grayson Waller after he hit one cool move (with help) at WarGames. It's not Knight's fault that some fine woman was feeling him last week and he'll smack Waller around when he sees him.

Security is trying to get rid of Harland, so he throws Brian Kendrick (an agent) down the steps.

Dakota Kai vs. Cora Jade

Mandy Rose is on commentary. They fight the corner to start, with Jade's bad shoulder being sent into the buckle. Kai works on the armbar but misses the running boot in the corner, as Rose tries to figure out why Jade rides a skateboard (Rose: "This isn't a park."). A Rock Bottom backbreaker gives Kai two, followed by a swinging reverse DDT for the same. Back up and Jade grabs a very quick rollup for the pin at 6:28, leaving Rose stunned at the luck.

Rating: C-. This was mainly a squash until Jade survived in the end, which is rarely a good way to go. I'm not sure how far Jade is going to go around here but she does have some charisma to back it up. That being said, she might need more than being able to hold her shoulder to make something like this work long term.

Post match Kai lays Jade out again but Raquel Gonzalez runs in for the save. Cue Toxic Attraction for the distraction though, allowing Mandy to take Jade down by the arm again.

Tiffany Stratton tells Grayson Waller her daddy thinks he's a bad person. Io Shirai comes up and yells at Waller a lot. Waller thinks Shirai likes him.

Raquel Gonzalez and Dakota Kai are fighting in the back.

Andre Chase vs. Tony D'Angelo

D'Angelo drives him into the corner to start and sends Chase

face first into the corner. Chase might go to the eyes to escape and swears by his student section that he didn't cheat. A neckbreaker gets two on D'Angelo and a Russian legsweep gets the same. We hit the chinlock, but D'Angelo fights up and sends him into the corner for the break. Chase's sweater is pulled over his head for some shots to the ribs, setting up the fisherman's neckbreaker to give D'Angelo the pin at 4:14.

Rating: C-. These are two of the gimmickiest wrestlers on the show right now and it felt like something out of a low level indy promotion. D'Angelo is still as over the top as you can get and Chase is....I'm really not sure what he is actually. He has some talent, but where is he supposed to go with this beyond the NXT midcard?

Post match, D'Angelo declares himself as the head of the class but here is Pete Dunne to interrupt. D'Angelo doesn't think much of Dunne and goes after him, only to get his fingers snapped.

Grayson Waller comes into the locker room, where Bron Breaker tells him to get out. Others agree, so Waller says real stars have their own locker room anyway.

Brian Kendrick is being checked on and is in a neck brace.

Boa vs. Edris Enofe

Boa knocks him down to start and grabs a quick cobra clutch to keep Enofe in trouble. Some knees to the ribs set up a butterfly suplex for two. Boa grabs the chinlock but Enofe fights up and hits a dropkick. A fisherman's suplex gets two on Boa but he grabs the Tongan Death Grip. Enofe is stunned and it's a spinning kick to the head to give Boa the pin at 3:03.

Rating: D+. I'm still not sure what they see in Boa, but I don't think it's the greatest idea to have him beat a bunch of people with interesting vignettes (like he did to Draco

Anthony a few weeks ago on 205 Live). The matches aren't even that good (save for that awesome kick to the head) but the Boa train continues for some reason. At least stop having him beat people before they get the chance to establish themselves.

Raquel Gonzalez has to finish this with Dakota Kai and wants a street fight.

Grayson Waller steals LA Knight's car, having taken Knight out. There was someone in the car with him but it wasn't clear who.

Jacket Time vs. Grizzled Young Veterans

Kushida takes Drake down to start so Gibson is right there for a pep talk. The advice doesn't work as Kushida takes him down and twist the arm around. Kushida finally gets knocked down so the double teaming can begin. That lasts all of a few seconds until Kushida strikes his way to freedom and brings in Jiro.

House is cleaned as everything breaks down, including the Hoverboard Lock to Gibson. That's reversed into a suplex for two but Kushida fights out of Ticket To Ride. Cue the Creed Brothers, whose distraction allows Jacket Time to hit stereo dives. A Swanton/reverse DDT combination finishes Drake at 6:24.

Rating: C. This was much more of a formula tag match and that is a good idea for both of them. That being said, the tag division is pretty terrible right now and I'm not sure I can see it getting that much better. Above all else, the Veterans have gone from a team who could have been a big deal to whatever they are now, while Jacket Time feels like a gimmick that probably doesn't have much of a shelf life as anything more than comedy.

Trick Williams and Carmelo Hayes run into Roderick Strong and don't think much of him. Then they find a scary drawing from Dexter Lumis and panic a bit.

Cora Jade and Brian Kendrick have both been injured and could be out for awhile.

Bron Breaker vs. Roderick Strong

Non-title. Strong takes him down to start as Carmelo Hayes and Trick Williams are watching from the balcony. Breaker muscles Strong up to start into a suplex, setting up a nip up to show off. They head outside with Strong dropping him onto the announcers' table as we take a break.

Back with Breaker fighting out of a front facelock but getting caught with a fireman's carry gutbuster. Breaker isn't having that and comes back with a powerslam, followed by the big running shoulders. Strong knocks him against the ropes though and hits the running forearms. The Angle Slam gets two and it's a top rope superplex into a tiger bomb for two more on Breaker. That's too far for Breaker, who counters a charge into something like a powerbomb. The gorilla press powerslam finishes for Breaker at 9:53.

Rating: B-. This is the kind of thing they should be doing with Breaker: putting him in the ring with a talented veteran who can show him a lot more of the ropes. Breaker has all of the star potential in the world, but he is desperately in need of experience. Having him out there for ten minutes with someone like Strong, who can walk him through a match, is a good idea and the kind of thing he should be doing three nights a week on the house show circuit. Strong's Cruiserweight Title continues to mean nothing, but it's not like it has had any value in the better part of ever.

Post match, Tommaso Ciampa comes in and gives Breaker the Willow's Bell to end the show.

Overall Rating: C-. This was a weird show as it had some up and down action, but also some all over the place character stuff. The wrestling was better than not for most of the show, but some of the matches felt like they should have been held

in front of coaches at the Performance Center rather than on national TV. It doesn't help when a lot of these people are flat out not ready for this level but are here anyway because NXT can't have house shows anymore. There are good wrestlers here, but some of them are glorified coaches/on the job trainers and it shows badly.

Then there is the character stuff, which is the Grayson Waller portion of the show. Waller was ALL OVER this show and I'm not sure what to think of that. On one hand, it is really nice to have an overarching story rather than a bunch of things that just happen. Almost everyone had some kind of an opinion on Waller and it made things more interesting as a result. That being said, it's still Grayson Waller, who is about as generic of a cocky heel as you can get right now. I'll take what I can get, but not by much.

Overall, the show feels like it is going in a bunch of directions at once, with a lot of people being shoved into spots they aren't ready to be in yet. You can tell which wrestlers are veterans and which are long term projects, but it doesn't make a difference when they're on the same show. This is what happens when you completely gut your roster, because there is not enough talent on this show to fill two hours of prime time. It's really jarring to go from a full roster to this in such a hurry, but that's what NXT is now, and I guess it's what WWE wants. I don't know why, but it's going to be a long road from here on out.

Results

Cameron Grimes b. Duke Hudson – Cave In through a chair

Ivy Nile b. Amari Miller – Neck crank

Harland b. Guru Raaj – Belly to back slam

Cora Jade b. Dakota Kai – Rollup

Tony D'Angelo b. Andre Chase – Fisherman's neckbreaker

Boa b. Edris Enofe – Spinning kick to the head

Jacket Time b. Grizzled Young Veterans – Swanton Bomb/reverse DDT combination to Drake

Bron Breaker b. Roderick Strong – Gorilla press powerslam

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205 Live – July 23, 2021: Fans Are Back! Just Not Around Here!

205 Live

Date: July 23, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

We are officially in the FANS ARE BACK period but it isn't going to matter given this show's location. I'm never sure what to expect around here anymore but it's nice to have the show staying at a short pace. That's the best thing that you

can have with a show like this, but maybe things can pick up a bit. Let's get to it.

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

Asher Hale vs. Guru Raaj

Rematch from last week where Raaj stole a win. Feeling out process to start with Hale going after the leg without much success. Raaj crank on the arm and grabs a rollup to send Hale outside. Back in and Hale starts on the arm as the 205 chants begin. Raaj fights up and hits a dropkick, followed by a headlock takeover. Hale gets up so Raaj clotheslines him out to the floor but comes up favoring his wrist. The delay lets Hale sweep the leg and tie his legs around Raaj's head for a twist.

Back in and we hit something like an Indian Deathlock with Hale sitting on the back for a bit. That is switched into a Muta Lock until Hale has to let it go. That needs to get more wins. Some kicks to various limbs has Raaj in more trouble but he finally explodes to send Hale into the corner. A series of shoulders in the corner set up a dropkick for two on Hale. Raaj can't get the backslide he used to win last week so Hale grabs a flipping neckbreaker. A leg trap brainbuster finishes Raaj at 8:25.

Rating: C. Hale continues to look a bit more polished than the rest of the newcomers around here, while Raaj...I'm not exactly sure what he does actually. Nothing really makes him stand out, which is a bit of a problem. It is something that can be fixed without much trouble as he can do the in-ring stuff, but nothing really makes him stand out.

Ari Sterling vs. Jake Atlas

Feeling out process to start with Atlas' waistlock not getting him very far. They trade armdrags to little avail so Atlas cartwheels his way out of a hurricanrana. An exchange of

rollups gets two each until Sterling gets in a kick to the head to take over. That lasts all of two seconds as Atlas hits his own kick for his own two. A bodyscissors has Sterling in some quickly escaped trouble so Atlas switches to a waistlock.

That doesn't last long, mainly because it's just a waistlock, so Atlas knees him in the ribs for two instead. It's back to the bodyscissors but Sterling fights up again and hits the flipping ax kick for two. Atlas pops up and pulls him into a half crab, which doesn't last long either. Sterling grabs a Downward Spiral and nails a running kick to the face. Back up and a fall away slam gives Atlas two but Sterling catches him on top. The 450 is cut off though and Atlas grabs the cartwheel DDT for the pin at 9:37.

Rating: C. Atlas is a much better fit here than on NXT, as he doesn't have the personality to hang on the bigger show. The in-ring stuff is fine enough though and he'll be fine around here. Sterling was better here as well, if nothing else because we got to see him doing something other than selling his leg and then making an easy comeback.

Respect is shown post match.

Overall Rating: C. Two decent matches with little in the way of storyline advancement, and we'll probably get Hale vs. Raaj III soon. That being said, neither match was bad and you're in and out in less than twenty seven minutes. It's virtually impossible to get overly annoyed at a show like that and this worked out fine enough. If they actually had a story or something to fight over it would be even better, but this was a throwaway edition if there ever was one.

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205 Live – July 16, 2021: The New Normal

205 Live

Date: July 16, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

I'm curious to see what happens to the Breakout Tournament matches now that the tournament itself has already started. That means we might be back to the old stuff featuring the new guys, as we can't do much more new stuff with the old guys. I don't think. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Guru Raaj vs. Asher Hale

Feeling out process to start with Hale taking him down without much effort. Raaj manages a roll into the corner but a neckbreaker into said corner cuts him off again. Back up and Hale wraps his feet around Raaj's neck for a quick twist. A DDT with Hale cranking on the neck a bit on the way down gets two and a powerslam is good for the same.

Raaj is back up with some shoulders in the corner and some rapid fire kicks drop Hale for two. Back up and Hale hits a running knee before kicking at a downed Raaj. Hale loads up a kind of northern lights suplex but Raaj flips over into a backslide for the rather surprise pin at 7:21.

Rating: C. The ending surprised me and that's about as much as there is to say here. I'm not sure if I'm getting much out of Raaj, but I don't see why Hale needed to lose again. Part of the problem is that these guys are getting thrown together into matches where no one gets to stand out, which was the case again here. Not bad, but completely forgettable.

Grayson Waller vs. Ari Sterling

The early feeling out process gives us an early standoff as they seem to have some time here. Waller wrestles him to the mat for some slaps to the back of the head but Sterling reverses for some shots to the face. Back up and they trade wrist control until Sterling flips around and takes him to the mat for some arm cranking. Sterling starts flipping around and kicks Waller in the head.

This time Waller dives over him and takes the arm out to counter a cartwheel. Some kicks to the arm set up a DDT on the arm so Waller can start getting cockier. Another shot to the leg has Sterling in trouble and a kick to the chest gets two. The Fujiwara armbar sends Sterling over to the rope so Waller grabs a torture rack. That means an inverted Regal Roll but Sterling strikes away to little avail.

The standing Kimura is broken up and Sterling sends him outside, only to get pulled down over the ropes. Back in and Waller works on the arm again, including a triangle choke over the ropes. The middle rope elbow gives Waller two and we hit the armbar. That's broken up as well and Sterling hits a running spinwheel kick. The running flip ax kick sends Waller outside so there's the big flip dive to take him down again.

Back in and Sterling misses a 450 but avoids the running stomp. Baha 86 finishes Waller at 15:19.

Rating: C+. The time helped this one a lot and it isn't something you get to see very often on this show. Above all else, it was nice to see Sterling do something than shrug off a leg injury and win in the end. This time he had to deal with something different and it didn't take me out of the match as a result. Waller is going to be fine so the loss doesn't hurt him, but Sterling needed the win a bit more.

Overall Rating: C+. Pretty good show here as I think we are starting the new norm. 205 Live has not meant anything of note for a long time now and that is probably going to continue to be the case for the foreseeable future. The action was good here and that is about all you can expect from this show, so well done enough.

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205 Live – July 2, 2021:

Maybe Try A Break In?

205 Live

Date: July 2, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

Welcome to the all new 205 Live, as the roster was completely gutted by all of the releases earlier this week. That means we could be in for a lot of fresh blood, which could be a good thing. Then again, it isn't going to matter if the overall structure of the show isn't changed as well. Let's get to it.

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

The opening video looks at the NXT Breakout Tournament, with qualifying matches beginning tonight. So there is the way around doing anything new this week.

Breakout Tournament Qualifying Match: Guru Raaj vs. Andre Chase

Chase is better known as Harlem Bravado. They fight over the wristlock to start and Raaj takes him down for the meaningless early control. A hiptoss into a headlock takeover works a bit better for Raaj and he grinds away to keep Chase down. Back up and Raaj chops him into the corner, setting up a monkey flip for two. Chase gets smart by sending Raaj throat first into the top rope and a Russian legsweep gives Chase two of his own.

A running elbow gets the same and we hit the chinlock. That's broken up and Raaj fights up to start the comeback. A bulldog into a basement dropkick gives Raaj two but Chase elbows him in the face again. Chase's slingshot flipping Stunner sets up something like a t-bone brainbuster for the pin at 8:26.

Rating: C. Pretty basic match here and there was nothing that

made either of them stand out. Chase has a bit of an odd way about him which works for some reason though and that's often enough to keep you around. I'm not sure how far I can imagine either of them going, but you have to try someone new at some point and that is what they are doing here.

Breakout Tournament Qualifying Match: Desmond Troy vs. Joe Gacy

Gacy has been around the independent scene for a long time. They're ignoring the weight limits around here too as both guys have a bit of size to them. Gacy powers him into the corner to start but Troy shoves him down to yell a bit. Troy grabs an armbar, setting up a quick crossbody for two. Another armbar takes Gacy down but he's back up with a suplex for his own near fall.

Now it's Gacy working on the armbar, followed by a bunch of clotheslines in the corner. The armbar goes on again, though at least this time Gacy switches into a chinlock. That's broken up as well and Troy hits a flying clothesline into a northern lights suplex for two. Three straight gutwrench faceplants give Troy two but Gacy hits a release Rock Bottom. A handspring clothesline finishes Troy at 8:33.

Rating: D+. I wasn't feeling this one as they didn't exactly do much to keep my attention. It was a bunch of clotheslines and armbars from Gacy, who was presented as a bigger star. He's a bigger name in wrestling but he didn't feel like a force here. This was just a match for the most part and not much of a showcase.

Overall Rating: C-. This was nothing like a regular edition of 205 Live and it was kind of a downgrade as a result. These matches weren't quite interesting and I wasn't overly interested in either of them. Hopefully the rest of the tournament is a bit better, because these matches pretty much came and went without making me want to see the people

involved again.

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Superstar Spectacle: Happy Republic Day

Superstar Spectacle

Date: January 26, 2021

Location: Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg, Florida

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves, Shahoz Ali

This is the start of WWE's latest attempt to make it into India, as we are getting a special (taped in Florida, like everything else) featuring WWE stars in the ring with Indian stars. Eventually we could be seeing an NXT India out of the whole thing so consider this getting the feet wet. Let's get to it.

This is being broadcast on television in India so there will be some commercials included despite it being a Network special. It is airing on Republic Day, which is the anniversary of the day India became a republic

(seems like something similar to (I'm aware it's not the same) the 4th of July for Americans). Cool.

HHH narrates a video (I know this because we get a Narrated By Triple H graphic) about WWE's history in India, showing various wrestlers in the country over the years, including footage of Bret Hart with the Winged Eagle belt to show you how far back things go. Various stars of Indian descent talk about what this means to them and now it is time to start a new future. HHH talks over clips of new Indian wrestlers (complete with name graphics as these people are mostly making their debuts) and we're ready to go.

The fans on the Thunderdome screens are all from India.

We get a video on Guru Raaj, who is a high flier who came from a rough childhood, including being run over by a tractor. Well that's extreme.

Finn Balor vs. Guru Raaj

Non-title. Balor armbars him down but Raaj snapmares his way to freedom and puts on an armbar of his own. Back up and we hit the standoff so Balor headlocks him down. Raaj is back up with a headlock takeover of his own but this time Balor rolls out and hits a basement dropkick. We take a break and come back with Raaj fighting out of an abdominal stretch. An elbow to the face sets up a backsplash, with Raaj getting up but then remembering he wanted to nip up instead.

Balor takes him into the corner and unloads with stomps before chopping Raaj into another corner. The Sling Blade connects but the shotgun dropkick is countered with an enziguri for two. A bunch of kicks, capped off by a jumping shot to the head, sets up a high crossbody for two. That's enough for Ali to remember that he's on commentary and actually say something, but the shotgun dropkick quiets him down all over again. The Coup de Grace into 1916 finishes Raaj at 10:39.

Rating: C. All things considered, this was not bad at all. Raaj has not been training long (a year, which is nothing in

wrestling) and while he looked a little unsure and rough at times, he certainly did not embarrass himself. There is no shame in losing to a former World Champion so this went as well as could be expected and gives me hope for what we're going to be seeing.

We get a post match handshake (side note: I'm not sure if it's the new 8k cameras, but there have been some shots that look like they're in either a movie or a video game and they're messing me up every single time).

We meet Giant Zanjeer, who, like many others on this show, was trained by Great Khali. He thinks if he trains hard, he can be champion too.

We meet Dilshar Shanky, who is 7' tall and wants to do this for his parents.

Rey Mysterio/Giant Zanjeer/Dilsher Shanky/Ricochet vs. Cesaro/King Corbin/Shinsuke Nakamura/Dolph Ziggler

So Nakamura is a heel again (or at least he's teaming with them) and Ziggler isn't even in there with his regular partner? Shanky goes 7' and is the second tallest member of the team, after the 7'2 Zanjeer. Well that should get them noticed somewhere. Ziggler goes for Shanky's leg to start and is tossed into the corner without much trouble. Nakamura tries a cheap shot and is thrown into the corner for the big running splash. Zanjeer comes in, tosses Corbin onto the pile, and adds a chop. Cesaro thinks better of fighting both giants on his own and we take a break.

Back with Cesaro throwing Mysterio back inside and handing it off to Nakamura, who sends Mysterio into the corner. Corbin gets in a few shots and brings Ziggler back in as they take turns on Ziggler. All of the villains get together to knock the giants and Ricochet to the floor but Rey manages to hurricanrana Corbin into the corner. That's enough for the hot tag off to Ricochet, who grabs a spinning suplex. The standing

shooting star gets two on Ziggler, who is right back with the Zig Zag.

Ricochet slips away and brings in Zanjeer, who cleans house with some big shoulders. Shanky comes back in and drops and elbow for two but gets swarmed by everyone else. Everything breaks down and Zanjeer throws Ricochet onto the pile on the floor. Cesaro dumps Zanjeer to the floor but gets booted in the face by Shanky. That sets up the 619 and the splash off of Shanky's shoulders lets Rey pin Cesaro at 9:58.

Rating: C+. Again, this worked because they aren't letting these guys out of their comfort zones. The giants are going to be limited because they're so big, but they didn't do anything outside of standard big man stuff. The key to that is they did the basic stuff well, which is WAY better than trying something complicated and screwing it up. They got in, did their stuff well, and got out to let the veterans do the main work. This went well and the giants looked pretty good at what they were doing.

Rey and Ricochet get on the giants' shoulders to celebrate.

WWE is working with a charity to help girls get scholarships. Nothing wrong with that.

Paul Heyman and Roman Reigns aren't happy but wish us a happy Republic Day.

Video on Jeet Rama, whose grandfather was a wrestler and apparently has been with WWE for a good many years without ever making it to television.

AJ Styles vs. Jeet Rama

Omos is here with AJ. Rama is a multiple time national champion in some form of grappling and has some size to him (not a giant, but fairly tall and has some muscle on him). AJ goes for the arm to start but gets taken into the corner for

some shoulders to the ribs. Rama's armbar is broken up with a shot to the head and AJ knocks him to the floor for the slingshot forearm.

We take a break and come back with AJ holding a chinlock as Cole says Rama is following in the footsteps of stars like Runjin Singh. Rama gets in a pair of suplexes for two but AJ catches him on top for a drop onto the turnbuckle. It's too early for the Styles Clash so AJ settles for the Calf Crusher. The hold stays on for a good bit until Rama manages to drive AJ's head into the mat for the break. Rama gets in a belly to belly but Omos breaks up a belly to belly superplex. The Phenomenal Forearm finishes at 11:42.

Rating: C. You can tell that Rama has a lot more experience and a style that works for him, but the match was only ok. The lack of even a limp after spending that long in the Calf Crusher didn't help, but Omos interfering to (possibly) save Styles worked. Perfectly watchable match as this show continues to work out well.

Post match, AJ and Omos give Rama some applause.

Video on Indus Sher, who you might remember from a very brief run as a monster team in NXT. One of them was on a popular TV show and the other was a professional baseball player and the subject of the movie Million Dollar Arm.

Big E. and Xavier Woods to introduce a Bollywood dance but here are the Street Profits to help them. The four of them introduce a musical dance troupe for a pretty cool performance. More men and women dance in the ring with the rest of the troupe joining them. This looked rather awesome.

Great Khali, surrounded by I'm assuming his students, says what sounds like something positive.

Charlotte/Sareena Sandhu vs. Bayley/Natalya

Bayley and Sandhu have the same trainer. Charlotte's gear is in the colors of the Indian flag and she shrugs off Natalya's wristlock to start. Bayley comes in so Charlotte sends both of them into the corner. It's off to Sandhu for a double high crossbody and stereo baseball slides put Bayley and Natalya on the floor as we take a break (with Charlotte and Sandhu dancing a bit).

Back with Charlotte suplexing Bayley and hitting the backbreaker into the Downward Spiral into the corner. Sandhu gets two off a butterfly suplex and a small package gets the same on Natalya. Bayley offers a distraction though and Natalya kicks Sandhu to the floor. The leglock has Sandhu in trouble but she reverses into one of her own. That's enough to bring Bayley in for the save and she knocks Charlotte off the apron for a bonus. Charlotte kicks Bayley in the face but Natalya clotheslines Sandhu down. The Sharpshooter goes on but Charlotte makes the save with Natural Selection, giving Sandhu the pin at 6:08.

Rating: C-. Probably the weakest match of the night but it's not like it was anything bad. Natalya isn't going to give up anything by taking a fall here and it gives Sandhu a little credibility. They kept this moving and the match worked out fine enough and it's ok that Sandhu needed a bit of help to pin Natalya.

Video on Kavita Devi, who had to miss the show due to a family emergency in India. She has been in a few battle royals and the Mae Young Classics and wants to be a role model in India.

Here's Ric Flair (they really will put him on anything) to say how cool it is to have this many fans from India here and wishes everyone a happy Republic Day.

Jinder Mahal/Bollywood Boyz vs. Drew McIntyre/Indus Sher

McIntyre's entrance cuts off Mahal's usual speech. Drew says he's glad to have Mahal back but you NEVER interrupt Ric

Flair. Mahal has a nice three man team but McIntyre has his own three man band of destruction and introduces Indus Sher, who are about McIntyre's size. McIntyre and Mahal (now mostly bald) start things off but it's off to Sunil Singh, who hits McIntyre in the face.

That goes very badly for him and it's off to Rinku for a big elbow. Saurav comes in for a World's Strongest Slam so Samir comes in to get beaten up as well. Samir is tossed over the top and onto Sunil and it's the good guys clearing the ring as we take a break. Back with Samir slipping over Rinku's back and hammering away before handing it off to Mahal. Rinku goes shoulder first into the post and Sunil gets two off a top rope elbow.

Samir's armbar doesn't exactly work so he tries to pull on Rinku's leg instead. Mahal has some more luck with the armbar but he makes the mistake of going after Saurav, allowing Rinku to get in a shot to the face. The hot tag bring in McIntyre to clean house but a jumping knee cuts off the Claymore. Saurav comes in and wrecks the Boyz, leaving McIntyre to Claymore Mahal. A side slam/middle rope elbow combination (the replay was quite the relief as I had thought it was a horribly missed legdrop) finishes Sunil at 9:04.

Rating: C. They had the more experienced guys in the main event here and that was a good idea as it felt like a better match all around. McIntyre and Mahal having enough of a history worked out well and it means something to have Mahal in there, just due to the success that he had. Perfectly fine main event here and McIntyre being in there makes sense as one of the faces of the company.

A bunch of people and the dance troupe come out to applaud to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. I'd call this a rather nice success as the whole point was just getting a little sample of what you could

see in an NXT India. The wrestlers need a lot of experience (which is where a Performance Center can come into play) but they were far from terrible here. Granted it helps to be in there with some of the best workers in WWE, but that's the exact right idea. Have some veterans in there who can keep things as under control as possible. It's not a great show on its own, but it did what it was supposed to do and felt cool. There is a long way to go, but for a start, it worked out well.

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