

# NXT – December 28, 2021: One At A Time

## NXT

Date: December 28, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Wade Barrett

It's time for one of those things that you don't get to see very often in WWE, as we're getting a contract signing between Carmelo Hayes and Roderick Strong. Other than that, odds are we'll be hearing a lot more from Grayson Waller, because he is on this show as much as a Steve Austin Raw in 1998. Let's get to it.

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

They aren't wasting time this week because here is Grayson Waller to get things going. Waller flips around a lot and talks about having a great Christmas. This included flying himself to Detroit to Monday Night Raw, where he met AJ Styles. We see a clip of their showdown last night, before Waller talks about how he is supposed to face Dexter Lumis tonight. That isn't going to happen, so he insults Indi Hartwell too. Cue the returning Odyssey Jones and we have a replacement match.

## Odyssey Jones vs. Grayson Waller

Jones throws him around to start and then steps on Waller's back. A big side slam gives Jones two and we take a break. Back with Waller hitting a low superkick and a middle rope elbow gets two. Jones fights up but misses a charge into the corner, allowing Waller to hammer away. Waller grabs the buckle to block a powerbomb...but the buckle pad comes off so the powerbomb gets two. That means Jones can miss a charge into the buckle, allowing Waller to hit his rolling Stunner

for the pin at 7:36.

**Rating:** C. It's nice to see Jones back as he is certainly one of the more unique people on the show. Sometimes you need someone out there throwing people around with raw power and size, which he does quite well. Then you have Waller, who is still the focal point of the show. It's good to see him get in the ring, but it's clear that he isn't exactly a general out there. I still don't quite get what WWE sees in him, but he's pretty clearly here to stay.

Post match, AJ Styles pops up to say he'll be here next week.

Raquel Gonzalez and Cora Jade both want to fight Mandy Rose, but here are Io Shirai and Kay Lee Ray to say they want to fight her too. Rose just happens to pop up on screen behind them and says she'll get a tag match made for tonight, with the winning team getting to challenge her in a triple threat at New Year's Evil.

Grayson Waller isn't happy with AJ Styles interrupting him and runs into MSK. They can shut up.

Xyon Quin says Elektra Lopez needs to pick sides.

Here is MSK for a chat. They haven't been here since Halloween Havoc, which wasn't a great night. No one gets higher than them, but here is Riddle on screen to say he is with them in spirit. That's enough for them to call out Imperium, as they had planned to do. Cue Imperium to shout in their respective languages, which does not sit well with MSK, who want subtitles.

Imperium insults them in English, so MSK issues the challenge for right here and right now. That's too far because Walter pops up on screen, saying that he is proud of Imperium as champions. That isn't the case for MSK, so here is Riddle to pop up on screen and ask for a six man. Walter is game and the match is set.

We look back at Harland wrecking Brian Kendrick.

Joe Gacy reminds Harland that it wasn't his fault because Kendrick started it.

Edris Enofe is happy with his win over Von Wagner, who comes in to say Enofe got lucky. Malik Blade comes in to have Enofe's back and a match seems to be set.

#### Harland vs. Brian Kendrick

Hold on though as there is no Kendrick. Cue Andre Chase to say this is a teachable moment! Gacy likes education and mentions Harland being in a university...until he was expelled. As for Chase, thank you for being Kendrick's replacement!

#### Harland vs. Andre Chase

Chase gets shoved outside in a hurry and the beating continues on the floor. Back in and Chase is sent face first into the mat over and over, which is good for the stoppage at 1:00.

Post match, one of Chase's students hits the ring to check on him but gets attacked as well. Harland then kidnaps him.

Legado del Fantasma asks Elektra Lopez where her loyalties lie. She doesn't say but here is Solo Sikoa to accidentally run into them. They want an apology but we get a match instead.

#### Tiffany Stratton vs. Fallon Henley

Both are making their NXT debuts though they have been on 205 Live. Stratton takes her down with an armbar to start and then slams Henley to cut off a comeback attempt. An awkward looking handspring elbow sets up a Downward Spiral to finish Henley off at 2:35.

Tony D'Angelo warned Pete Dunne not to mess with him and then smashed Dunne's hand. Maybe Dunne will listen to him next

time.

It's time for the contract signing between Roderick Strong and Carmelo Hayes, who hasn't been seen so far. Malcolm Bivens thinks it might be due to the higher gas prices, but here are Hayes and Trick Williams anyway. Williams talks trash that Strong doesn't understand, so Bivens translates. Strong threatens Hayes, with Bivens translating again, while also pointing out that Williams and Hayes are outnumbered. Williams goes on a rant, but Bivens doesn't get paid enough to translate all night.

Wade Barrett, running this whole thing, has no idea what anyone has said so let's just sit down. Hayes says Strong shouldn't play with him or he'll get put on a t-shirt. Next week, he's unifying the titles and becoming the true A Champion. Strong promises to walk out as a two time North American Champion after he unifies the titles.

Hayes is going to be carried out though, which does not sit well with him. Both of them sign and the match is official. They throw the contract at each other and Barrett bails. Hayes leaves but Bivens yells at Williams to draw him back in. That means the Creed Brothers can put him through a table as the Diamond Mine stands tall. Bivens' translations and Barrett being lost were funny, but I don't like Strong's chances next week.

Video on the tag team division with a lot of teams wanting the Tag Team Titles.

### Solo Sikoa vs. Santos Escobar

Escobar chops away to start and rolls him up for a fast two. Sikoa is getting a bit too frustrated early on and misses a stomp to make it worse. Escobar takes him back down into an armbar and then switches into an abdominal stretch. That's reversed with a hiptoss and a running headbutt gives Sikoa two. Escobar is knocked outside, where the rest of Legado

offers a distraction. That means Siko gets posted hard we take a break.

Back with Siko fighting up but getting taken right back down with a Russian legsweep. Escobar stands on his back to keep it in trouble, setting up a half crab with a knee in said back. A basement dropkick rocks Siko again but he's fine enough to hit a toss gordbuster. There's the Samoan drop but Siko has to deal with the rest of Legado. That means a chop block to Siko, setting up a super hurricanrana. Cue Xyon Quin, so Escobar takes him down with a dive and yells a lot. Escobar heads back in, where Siko superkicks his head off. The Superfly Splash gives Siko the upset pin at 13:32.

**Rating:** C+. This is what some of the NXT rookies need to be doing: having a match with the established names and getting some ring time. The 3-4 minute matches aren't getting them very far but this is where they can grow and learn. Escobar isn't going to be hurt by the loss and Siko gets a rather nice win under his belt. Good use of TV time here.

New Year's Evil rundown.

Harland and Joe Gacy take Andre Chase to the roof and leave him there.

Solo Siko wants to know who is left but gets jumped by Boa, who gives him a Tongan Death Grip. The cameraman gets taken out too.

We look at Tommaso Ciampa vs. Bron Breaker.

Von Wagner vs. Malik Blade

Wagner powers him into the corner to start but Blade hits a kick to the ribs. That earns Blade a big toss into the air for a bigger crash as the beating is on. A lariat blasts Blade but he comes back with some dropkicks. Blade's springboard crossbody drops Wagner again but he grabs a high Angle Slam.

The double underhook spinning slam finishes Blade at 4:02.

**Rating:** C-. I'm still not sure I get it with Wagner, who is another pretty generic power guy. That's about all he showed us here too, as he didn't do anything that set him apart from anyone else. Blade is fitting in rather well as the jobber to the stars who can still give you a nice enough match. Now please try to find some way to make Wagner more interesting.

Post match Wagner goes after him again but Edris Enofe makes the save.

New Year's Evil rundown.

### Kay Lee Ray/Io Shirai vs. Cora Jade/Raquel Gonzalez

The winning team gets to challenge Mandy Rose for the Women's Title next week. Shirai flapjacks Jade to start and tells her to bring it. Jade grabs a cradle for two of her own before snapping off a hurricanrana. The running knee smashes Shirai against the ropes and it's off to Gonzalez for the power. Ray comes in to kick away at the ribs but Shirai has to come in and save her with a dropkick. Shirai's Asai moonsault takes Gonzalez out again and we take a break.

Back with Ray stomping away on Jade but not being able to hit the KLR Bomb. The comeback bid doesn't last long as Jade gets knocked down, but Gonzalez saves Jade from the Moon Over Moonsault. Instead Ray hits a big dive onto Gonzalez and Shirai 619s Jade. There's a missile dropkick for two on Jade, who comes back with an enziguri to Ray.

The hot tag brings in Gonzalez to clean house, including the spinning Vader Bomb. There's the Chingona Bomb but Jade tags herself in. The argument is on and Jade knocks Gonzalez outside, allowing Jade to roll her up. Gonzalez breaks that up...and knocks Jade onto Ray for the pin at 10:02.

**Rating:** C. That was a mixture of good action, some sloppiness

in parts and a stupid ending designed to wedge in the “these two don’t get along” theme. That’s one of WWE’s favorite tropes though and it’s no surprise to see it here again. Either team could have won here, but Jade and Gonzalez are the more logical pick.

Post match, Mandy Rose pops up to say her plan is working and she’ll see them at New Year’s Evil.

**Overall Rating:** C. The show took a bit of a step back this week as it was a collection of things happening without much of a main story. The women’s tag didn’t feel bigger than anything else but rather just went on last, which doesn’t make it that much better. Nothing on here was particularly good and while there was less Grayson Waller, there wasn’t much else worth seeing. Granted that very well might be a Coronavirus thing, but it wasn’t exactly a fun watch this week.

### Results

Grayson Waller b. Odyssey Jones – Rolling Stunner

Harland b. Andre Chase via referee stoppage

Tiffany Stratton b. Fallon Henley – Downward Spiral

Solo Siko b. Santos Escobar – Superfly Splash

Von Wagner b. Malik Blade – Double underhook spinning slam

Raquel Gonzalez/Cora Jade b. Kay Lee Ray/ Io Shirai – Rollup to Ray

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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 Breakker. That's too far for Breakker, who counters a charge into something like a powerbomb. The gorilla press powerslam finishes for Breakker at 9:53.

**Rating:** B-. This is the kind of thing they should be doing with Breakker: putting him in the ring with a talented veteran who can show him a lot more of the ropes. Breakker 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 Breakker 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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# NXT – November 2, 2021: Gimmicky

## NXT

Date: November 2, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Beth Phoenix, Wade Barrett

We're done with Halloween Havoc and that means it is time to get ready for...well I have no idea actually as I'm not sure what they're going to do as far as Takeover goes. There were a bunch of title changes last week and now it is time to see where things go from here. Let's get to it.

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

Here is Mandy Rose to open things up and Barrett is VERY happy to see her as the new Women's Champion. She is very proud of her win because she is the best looking champion in the title's history and she is still the baddest b\*\*\*\* around. Last week was a great night for Toxic Attraction and we see all of them holding up their new titles last week (Mandy: "D\*\*\* I'm hot.").

Her girls aren't here, so we cut to the back where the rest of Toxic Attraction is beating up Zoey Stark. Mandy is proud of them but wants some competition. Cue Io Shirai to say she'll fight right now, but Rose says she isn't scared. Rose wants a

referee out here right now so Shirai looks to the entrance and gets hit with the microphone. The beatdown is on until Shirai fights back, which draws out the rest of Toxic Attraction for the real beating. Kacy Catanzaro and Kayden Carter run in for the save, likely setting up the six woman tag.

In the back, Toxic Attraction find Dakota Kai, who says she didn't help them last week. She just wants to get rid of Raquel Gonzalez.

Cameron Grimes is in Duke's Poker Room with a bunch of other people, though he doesn't seem to know the rules. Grimes: "You got 21? I GOT 22!" Hudson looks happy.

### Dakota Kai vs. Cora Jade

Kai wastes no time in knocking Jade down and grabbing a chinlock. Back up and Jake fires off the running elbows, setting up the running hurricanrana. Jade gets two off a sunset flip but Kai scorpion kicks her. The running boot in the corner finishes Jade at 2:24.

Post match the beatdown stays on, including another shot to Jade's head. Kai pulls out a table and lays it on Jade on the floor, but stops before jumping off the apron. Instead, she walks away and leaves Jade down.

Kyle O'Reilly/Von Wagner have been yelling at Legado del Fantasma on Twitter over the weekend.

Robert Stone doesn't like everyone being happy with Xyon Quinn beating him up last week. The challenge is on.

MSK is depressed by their Tag Team Title loss but they're getting help from someone. They don't say who it is, but he invented the legend of MSK and has helped millions and millions. We're about to hear the legend, but a bus pulls up and we can't hear the explanation. And they missed their bus, so they'll just have to walk.

## Xyon Quinn vs. Robert Stone

Stone doesn't like Quinn and promises to win in a hurry. This one is for Frankie Monet though and it's time to dance to Monet's theme. Quinn stands in the middle of the ring while Stone dances around him before asking if Quinn can dance better. After Quinn says no, Stone dances around like a chicken so Quinn says play the music and then dances/sings to Shawn Michaels' theme. He even dances with Stone a bit, including a Dirty Dancing lift. Stone slaps him in the face so Quinn says ring the bell. A Samoan drop and Jackhammer (better than that running elbow) finish Stone at 47 seconds.

Joe Gacy talks about how horrible the world is, including clips of people arguing and talking about how evil social media really is. Harland is called a monster because he's big and has tattoos. They will change the world together.

Legado del Fantasma, including Elektra Lopez, seems impressed by Xyon Quinn, who says he has a lot of sides to him.

## Legado del Fantasma vs. Kyle O'Reilly/Von Wagner

Elektra Lopez is here with Legado. O'Reilly headlocks Wilde's head to start so Mendoza comes in and has his sunset flip blocked. The much bigger Wagner comes in to take Mendoza down as well but Mendoza springboards over him for a breather. That doesn't go well either as Wagner plants him, allowing O'Reilly to come back in and go after the arm. Wilde comes in so Wagner shoulders them both down, setting up a double suplex as we take a break.

Back with O'Reilly loading up a kick on Wilde but getting distracted by Lopez. Wilde's kick connects in the corner and it's Legado taking over for the first time. Mendoza kicks Wagner off the apron and it's a springboard flip dive to drop O'Reilly for two. O'Reilly comes back and kicks Mendoza down, with Wilde making the save. Wagner comes back in but has some miscommunication with O'Reilly, allowing Wilde to roll him up

for the pin at 10:59 (with Wagner's foot in the rope).

**Rating:** C+. For the life of me I cannot get into this O'Reilly/Wagner team. O'Reilly was a main event player in NXT and now he seems to be there to mentor a pretty run of the mill big guy. The team isn't bad or anything, but it's not something I'm going to be interested in, which is making for some rough sits.

Carmelo Hayes and Trick Williams are ready to move on from the Way but Andre Chase pops up to say he has their back. Chase insists that he was NOT a coward last week and promises to give someone a beating to blow off some steam.

Back to the Poker Room, where Cameron Grimes is on a streak of beginner's luck despite hitting on the women and not knowing the rules. Duke Hudson takes all of one of the women's money and Grimes starts losing. More later.

Here's Andre Chase for the open challenge (required on every show) but his microphone doesn't work. We get a replacement microphone so Chase can say that people have been calling him a COWARD after last week. That sounds like a teachable moment so the challenge is on.

### Andre Chase vs. Bron Breaker

Chase gets knocked outside in a hurry and Breaker blasts him with a clothesline. Back in and Chase chops away a bit but Breaker grabs the gorilla press powerslam for the easy pin at 1:41.

Post match, Breaker says he fell for one trap after another last week. Tommaso Ciampa is the man in NXT but they're not done, because Breaker is coming after the title. Breaker's voice in this promo was so Steiner that it might as well have been the University of Michigan fight song.

Imperium is proud of their Tag Team Title win, but they don't

like America. Toxic Attraction comes up to say Imperium should watch their six woman tag next week. Barthel thinks America has its benefits. I'm not sure if you noticed, but Toxic Attraction is a bunch of good looking women, just in case you didn't get it from how many times we heard about them.

It's time for Lashing Out With Lash Legend, with Lash talking about last week's Halloween costumes. She doesn't like the suggestion that LA Knight and Grayson Waller were the hosts because she is the REAL host around here. This week's guest is Tony D'Angelo, who talks about allegedly kidnapping Lash's producer, but here is the producer in person! D'Angelo makes vague threats to the producer's family before moving on to saying he wants to face bigger NXT stars. This was the dumbest thing on a show with a lot of dumb things and feels like it belongs on a low level territory show from 1989.

#### Solo Sikoa vs. Jeet Rama

Sikoa sends him into the corner for the running Umaga attack and scores with a kick to the head. The Superfly Splash finishes Rama at 1:29.

Josh Briggs and Brooks Jensen cook steak, play cornhole and pitch horseshoes while talking about loving to fight and compete.

#### Boa vs. Grayson Waller

LA Knight is on commentary. Waller drives Boa into the corner to start but gets taken down into a crossarm choke. Back up and Waller fires off some clotheslines into a cravate with knees to the head. Knight offers a distraction though and Waller gets kicked off the ropes. Boa scores with a kick to the head to finish Waller at 2:28.

Back to the Poker Room where Cameron Grimes beats Duke Hudson on a big bluff. Grimes hat 2's, because he's going TO THE MOON. So a poker game gets three segments, a good fifteen or

more years after the poker boom hit its peak. That's very WWE of them.

Kay Lee Ray is back in a rage next week.

Boa can't find Mei Ying. I'd call that a positive.

Here is Tommaso Ciampa for a chat. Ciampa talks about how last week was a changing of the guard in NXT and lists off the new champions. Bron Breakker was supposed to be the next NXT Champion but no one told Ciampa about that. With this title comes a target, but he knows that this is usually the time when someone interrupts. Cue Carmelo Hayes and Trick Williams, with the former saying he is that guy. Hayes says he is the A Champion in NXT, but Ciampa can't hear him over the CIAMPA'S GONNA KILL YOU chants. The brawl is teased and Williams gets dropped, making Hayes think twice as Ciampa leaves.

#### The Way vs. Carmelo Hayes/Trick Williams

Ciampa is still in the aisle as Johnny Gargano comes out for a tease of the good old days. Lumis and Williams start things off, with a single glare sending Williams over for the tag to Hayes. That's fine with Lumis, who crawls over to scare Hayes, meaning Williams comes back in to hammer away. Lumis scores with a Thesz press and right hands before it's off to Gargano to work on the arm.

That should mean a top rope ax handle, but instead Lumis lands on his feet and uppercuts Williams in the face. Hayes comes back in and gets his kick to the ribs caught, meaning Gargano can come back in for some more traditional wrestling. Gargano nails the slingshot spear to cut Hayes down, allowing the Way to clear the ring as we take a break. Back with Hayes cutting off Gargano's tag attempt and hitting an assisted springboard legdrop for two. Gargano gets over for the tag to Lumis a few moments later though and it's time to clean some house.

An assisted superplex gets two on Hayes and Gargano superkicks

Williams. Gargano loads up his own glove for stereo shots to the face, followed by stereo superkicks. Lumis adds a top rope elbow for two on Williams with Hayes making the save. We settle down to Hayes and Gargano chopping it out until Hayes goes to the throat. A discus lariat turns Hayes inside out and there's the Silencer to keep Hayes in trouble. The referee gets Gargano out though, allowing Williams to hit Lumis with a shoe. That's enough to set up the top rope ax kick to give Hayes the pin at 13:32.

**Rating:** C+. Another perfectly decent if not fairly good match, as Gargano and Lumis have a weird chemistry, but are also an established team. What matters here is they made Hayes and Williams look pretty good, which is exactly the point of something like this. Hayes looks like a possible NXT Title challenger, so it isn't like he was going to lose here. I'm not sure what is next for the Way, but this father-in-law/son deal could be funny.

**Overall Rating:** C-. The two longer matches helped this show a lot but my goodness this felt like a circus. There are so many characters and so many gimmicks running around that it felt like a high school improv exercise where you pulled your character out of a hat and figure it out in ten minutes. That's fine for some low level place that needs something for people to do, but this is national television and I'd expect a bit better.

There are a lot of problems on this show, but there are certainly good parts too. I want to see where some of the new characters go, including Sikoa, Quinn, Breaker and Hayes, which shows that NXT does know how to do some things right. At the same time though, there are a bunch of things that are a bit less than thrilling, including Toxic Attraction, Duke Hudson's Poker Room, Tony D'Angelo and Lash Legend (egads). Those things are bringing the show down, because they do not exactly offer the greatest hope.

Overall, this show was a microcosm of what NXT is at the moment: a bunch of things happening, with some interesting prospects but a lot of people who are bordering on disaster because it isn't 1994. Why would I want to see a mobster on a talk show with a loud host when I could see more of the talented athletes getting to do their thing? This was a rough sit, but it did have some bright spots to keep some hope alive.

### Results

Dakota Kai b. Cora Jade – Running kick in the corner

Xyon Quinn b. Robert Stone – Jackhammer

Legado del Fantasma b. Kyle O'Reilly/Von Wagner – Rollup to Wagner

Bron Breaker b. Andre Chase – Gorilla press powerslam

Solo Sikoa b. Jeet Rama – Superfly Splash

Boa b. Grayson Waller – Kick to the head

Trick Williams/Carmelo Hayes b. The Way – Top rope ax kick to Lumis

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