

NXT LVL Up – March 4, 2022: A Nice Main Event

NXT LVL Up

Date: March 4, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Nigel McGuinness

NXT has started to change a bit now as it has a big show coming up next month. That is something they have been needing, though again I can't imagine it makes much of a difference around here. This is the same dumping ground for lower level NXT stars who need to be in the ring and that isn't exactly exciting stuff. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Dante Chen vs. Javier Bernal

A lockup goes nowhere to start as they roll away from each other before Bernal grabs a headscissors on the mat. Back up and Chen slips out of an abdominal stretch attempt but gets rolled up for two. A belly to back suplex gets Chen out of trouble but his chinlock doesn't last long. Bernal comes back with a crossbody for two, only to have Chen roll him up for the pin at 3:26.

Rating: C-. Two wrestlers had a match and one of them won. This felt like the kind of match you would put on for fifteen minutes at the start of an old school house show to fill in time. This wasn't an interesting match whatsoever because neither of them have any kind of a character. They were people in trunks having a match and that isn't going to get you very far when the match is just as generic as they are.

Respect is shown post match.

Tiffany Stratton vs. Erica Yan

They circle each other to start with Stratton cartwheeling out of an early wristlock, only to get taken down to the mat. A basement dropkick gives Yan two and we're already in the chinlock. Stratton fights up and loses it because Yan pulled out some of her extensions, meaning the stomping is on in the corner. This time it's Yan being knocked down and put in a chinlock for a change but she fights up just as fast. A Downward Spiral drops Stratton but she is right back up with a spinning slam. The standing moonsault into the corkscrew Vader Bomb finishes Yan at 3:52.

Rating: C. If this wasn't better than the opener, at least it was something more interesting. Stratton and Yan stand out a bit more than the guys in the first match and that is at least a step forward. Stratton seems to be something of a project around here and even though she has one of the most generic gimmicks around, it is better than having nothing at all.

Edris Enofe/Malik Blade vs. Legado del Fantasma

Elektra Lopez is here with Legado. Mendoza takes Blade into the corner to start but Blade armdrags him into an armbar. Enofe comes in off a blind tag though and hits a belly to back suplex. It's off to Wilde, who gets rolled up for a fast two from Enofe as frustration is setting in. Blade comes back in and gets his leg taken out to put Blade in trouble in the corner.

A running forearm in the corner gives Wilde two and it's Mendoza coming back in to stay on the leg. Mendoza grabs a half crab before cannonballing down onto the leg. That doesn't work twice though as Blade kicks him over the top to escape, allowing the hot tag off to Enofe. A half crab has Mendoza in trouble until Wilde makes the save. Everything breaks down and a Lopez distraction lets Legado hit their Russian

legsweep/running boot combination to finish Enofe at 8:44.

Rating: C+. Match of the night by far and that is not a surprise, as you had more talented wrestlers getting extra time. Blade and Enofe are making a completely decent tag team and that is always something that you can use. Legado is already established and they helped put together a solid enough match here, which is more than I would have expected.

Overall Rating: C. They did a bit better this week as you could see different kinds of wrestlers getting a chance to showcase themselves. The action wasn't too bad either, though the opener was pretty dry. Stratton, Blade and Enofe are starting to develop though and the main event worked. As usual, completely watchable show, even if it doesn't serve a very effective purpose.

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NXT LVL Up – February 18,

2022 (Debut Episode): It's The Same Thing

NXT LVL Up

Date: February 18, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Nigel McGuinness

It's a new show, which seems likely to be a fresh coat of paint with a new name for what 205 Live has been for the last several months. That does not exactly get my attention going, but 205 Live has been decent enough recently. Granted some of that was due to how short the show has been and that might be changing. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence (which 205 Live hasn't had in forever).

Here are Joe Gacy and Harland for a chat. Gacy says that he told us he was an agent of change and now everyone is welcome around here. That's why Harland will be in the first match on this show.

Harland vs. Javier Bernal

Harland hammers him in the corner and tosses him right back out of it. Bernal's face is rammed into the mat over and over but he comes back with forearms and a dropkick. That's broken up with no trouble and a belly to back slam (ala John Cena's finishing sequence) gives Harland the pin at 2:04.

Fallon Henley/Kayla Inlay vs. Ivy Nile/Tatum Paxley

Malcolm Bivens is here with Paxley (debuting) and Nile, who seems very popular. Nile takes Inlay down without much effort as the fans think Ivy is going to kill her. Henley comes in to help double team Nile down and then a solo shot does the same for an early two. A blind tag brings Paxley in though and she

chokes away on Henley in the ropes. Paxley's standing flip dive gives Nile two and a German suplex gives Nile the same. Nile grabs a headscissors choke but Henley rolls away and brings in Inlay to clean house. Everything breaks down and Nile dragon sleepers Inlay out at 4:13.

Rating: C. The rush to make some teams for the women's Dusty Classic continues, even if it feels more like a Lethal Lottery than anything else. It isn't like there is any kind of a division at this point and there never has been, so this is about as good as it could be. Maybe they could find something that even works for the future.

The Rock narrates the Rocky Johnson Black History Month video.

Kushida vs. Edris Enofe

Ikemen Jiro and Malik Blade are here too. Feeling out process to start with Kushida taking him to the mat for a quick amateur ride. A headlock has Enofe in more trouble but he slips out and grabs one of his own. Back up and a running hurricanrana drops Enofe and Kushida sends him outside.

They head right back in with Enofe running him over for two, setting up a half crab. The rope is grabbed so Enofe hits a quick suplex. Enofe heads up top so Kushida hits a handspring kick to the face for a breather. Kushida gets kicked away but manages to dropkick him out of the air. Some kicks stagger Enofe a bit and it's a tornado DDT into the cross armbreaker. With that broken up as well, Kushida tries the handspring elbow but Enofe dropkicks him in the back. A shooting star press gives Enofe the upset pin at 7:01.

Rating: C+. Kushida is always good for a look and that was the case again here. He did a great job of putting Enofe over, which gives me some hope for Enofe's (and Blade's) future. Hopefully they actually follow up with some of this stuff, but you never can tell around here. For now though, at least Enofe got a little something out of this win.

Overall Rating: C. Oh yeah this is still 205 Live and nothing has changed but the name and look of the show. The wrestling was the same, most of the people were the same and the vibe was the same. That being said, these changes are LONG overdue and the show isn't exactly bad. Nothing worth going out of your way to see, but it's fine for an NXT B show.

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205 Live – January 21, 2022: The Assembly Line Business

205 Live

Date: January 21, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Wade Barrett

We are almost up to the Royal Rumble and that is not likely to mean much around here. Aside from the fact that NXT does not tend to get a ton of representation in the Royal Rumble matches, it is hard to imagine anyone on this show getting s

chance in the match. Maybe this week can be more of a full show, as last week's was cut a little short. Let's get to it.

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

Lash Legend vs. Fallon Henley

Henley is back and now she likes to dance. Legend powers her way out of an early waistlock to start so Henley goes after the arm. That earns her a hard shot to the face and something like a claw sends Henley into the corner. A belly to belly sets up a posing cover, followed by the chinlock to keep Henley in trouble. Legend sends her flying with a standing fall away slam but Henley is back up with a crossbody. That's enough for Legend, who grabs her over the back torture rack to finish Henley at 4:27.

Rating: D+. I don't know if Legend is supposed to be NXT's answer to Jade Cargill, but she is making Jade look better by comparison. She is one of those wrestlers who can barely do anything, though this was a bit of an improvement over her previous effort. Legend still isn't very good and I don't know what the point is in bragging about her WNBA experience while changing her name, but at least it wasn't that Sarray match. Henley has some charisma to her and once she gets the chance, she could become a bit of a thing around here.

Draco Anthony vs. Javier Bernal

This is Bernal's debut and he grabs a headlock to start. That works so well that he does it again and then takes Anthony over. Anthony breaks it up with a belly to back suplex and we hit a seated armbar/chinlock. Bernal fights up again and hits some uppercuts, only to walk into a Rough Ryder to give Anthony the pin at 4:13..

Rating: C-. Another basic match here between some very inexperienced (at least around here) wrestlers. This is what I was picturing when I thought about a developmental show and

that isn't exactly a good thing. It's far from a terrible match, but you can tell that these guys have a very limited playbook.

Here are Andre Chase and Bodhi Hayward for a chat. It's time to add some hardware to their trophy case, because they're going to win the Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic. They'll start against the Grizzled Young Veterans and tonight's preview is a TEACHABLE MOMENT! Cue the Grizzled Young Veterans to say Chase can't teach them anything.

Bodhi Hayward vs. James Drake

Andre Chase and Zack Gibson are here too. Drake grabs a headlock to start but Hayward is back with a slam. Three straight splashes (ala the up downs exercise in football warmups) get two on Drake, who reverses a suplex into a chinlock. That's broken up and Hayward hits some running shoulders to the knee but a Gibson distraction lets Drake kick him in the face for the pin at 4:36.

Rating: C. Best match of the show, as the crowd being into it helped carry things. Sometimes that's better than having higher quality action and that was the case here. Hayward has some potential and Drake is an established (and grizzled/young) veteran so this worked out pretty ok. Chase has gotten the fans to care about this stupid deal and that is a lot more than most people can say in NXT at the moment.

Overall Rating: C-. The main event helped a tiny bit but this was the same bunch of problems this show always has: short, unappealing matches between people just trying to get in the ring. That isn't how you develop a wrestler in the normal world but WWE is in the assembly line business more than the developmental business. Get these wrestlers in, give them something that distinguishes them in the slightest way possible and move them along. No wonder this show is so dull.

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