

NXT – August 16, 2017: You're Better Than This

NXT

Date: August 16, 2017

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Mauro Ranallo, Nigel McGuinness, Percy Watson

It's the go home show for Takeover: Brooklyn III and the main event is an interesting case of booking for what comes after the big show. Tonight's main event will see Roderick Strong vs. #1 contender Drew McIntyre. If Strong wins, he gets to face NXT Champion Bobby Roode at some point after Takeover, but he won't be involved in the title match on Saturday no matter what. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

The announcers preview tonight's show and some of Saturday's big matches.

Here's General Manager William Regal to emcee the contract signing for the Women's Title match. Both Asuka and Ember Moon come out with Moon grabbing a mic. She talks about Asuka having all kinds of success, including being one of the most dominant women in WWE history and even surpassing Goldberg's undefeated streak. That being said, Asuka had to cheat to beat her and that's not going to be enough this time. Asuka is losing the title in Brooklyn. They both sign but Asuka goes on a rant in Japanese, screaming in Moon's face. Moon doesn't seem phased.

Lars Sullivan came to see William Regal and asked for one more tag match, promising to not beat up his partner again. Regal reluctantly agrees.

Street Profits vs. Lars Sullivan/Chris Silvio

Percy and Mauro argue about how much sauce the Profits have. Sullivan gets a full entrance with his partner Silvio, who was an OVW mainstay for years. Silvio charges at Dawkins to start and eats a right hand. It's such a hard shot that Ford runs into the crowd for a lap to burn off some

excitement. Ford comes back in and drops Silvio with a shot to the back of the head, only to have Lars no sell a shot to the face. A Stinger Splash sets up the Sky High into a frog splash to put Silvio away at 1:47.

The Profits run from Sullivan, who is glaring down at Silvio. Sullivan picks Silvio up and carries him to the back in a change of pace. He takes Silvio outside and beats him up outside, because he promised not to hurt his partner in the ring.

Billie Kay vs. Ruby Riot

Fallout from last week where Kay and Peyton Royce made fun of Riot's looks. Billie avoids Ruby to start and Peyton finds it hilarious. Riot gets in a rollup and does Billie's giggling pose for a funny moment. A Peyton distraction lets Billie get in a discus lariat for two and Eat Defeat gets the same. Ruby fights up and uses her knees to send Billie face first into the buckle followed by a Pele for the pin at 4:08.

Rating: D+. Not much here but Riot is really starting to look like a bigger deal. She could easily be moved up the ranks to challenge Ember (assuming she wins) as she has the unique look and it factor to take her pretty far. Billie and Peyton are a good team but it's a big stretch to have them win an important match, which makes them kind of a hard act to move forward.

Post match Peyton says lightning can't strike twice and says Riot will never be iconic. Sounds like another match is coming.

We run down Saturday's card.

Video on the Authors of Pain vs. Sanity.

Drew McIntyre vs. Roderick Strong

If Strong wins, he gets a match with Roode after Takeover. If McIntyre wins, nothing changes. Drew powers him down to start and sends Strong down with a suplex slam for good measure. Roderick dropkicks him to the outside but gets tossed into the post for his efforts. An enziguri and belly to back onto the apron put Drew down though and we take a break.

Back with Drew in a seated abdominal stretch and a running kick to the head staggering him even more. Drew fights up and gets in a belly to belly and a top rope forearm drops Strong again. The reverse Alabama Slam gets two but the Claymore is blocked with a jumping knee to the face. A headbutt catches Strong on top but he knocks Drew into the Tree of Woe, only to have Roode run in for the DQ at 12:38.

Rating: C+. Drew is still having trouble clicking in NXT and the more I watch him, the more I think a lot of it has to do with his size. He's so much bigger than most of the people in NXT and it makes for awkward matches as you rarely have a face this much bigger than his opponents. Strong isn't a big guy in the first place and it really shows when he's compared to someone Drew's size.

As for the ending, that was really the only way they could go. It was a back and forth match until the ending where Roode gave Strong the win (not his brightest move). This lets us have the match without having to give McIntyre a loss before his big match. It's smart booking, though not the smartest move for Roode.

Roode beats up McIntyre with a Glorious DDT to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. This really wasn't up to the level of most NXT go home shows. The three titles matches got a nice boost but the other two matches were only mentioned in passing. NXT is usually a lot better than this but it wasn't there tonight. Roode vs. McIntyre still isn't the most thrilling match in the world but at least they gave it something here. If the match itself is good, all of this will be forgotten but it's not a great, or even a very good, build so far, which is very unlike NXT.

Results

Street Profits b. Lars Sullivan/Chris Silvio – Frog splash to Silvio

Ruby Riot b. Billie Kay – Pele Kick

Roderick Strong b. Drew McIntyre via DQ when Bobby Roode interfered

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