

# NXT – February 1, 2022: They're Doing A Lot

## NXT

Date: February 1, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Wade Barrett

It's time for a big tag match as NXT Champion Bron Breakker and Tommaso Ciampa are teaming up against Legado del Fantasma. That is part of the way to build things up for Santos Escobar's upcoming title shot, but for now we get what should be a good tag match. Let's get to it.

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

## Imperium vs. Diamond Mine

The fans chant WALTER during Imperium's entrance. Gunther isn't having any of the posing to start and kicks Roderick Strong in the head before the bell. Brutus Creed suplexes Aichner to start but Aichner manages a Regal Roll in quite the power display. It's off to Barthel for an armbar and the WALTER chants start up again. Brutus fights up and hands it off to Julius for some knees to the ribs.

That's broken up in a hurry as Barthel hits a middle rope elbow to the face and it's off to Gunther to kick Julius in the head. We take a break and come back with Brutus coming back in to get suplexed onto Barthel for two. Barthel gets over for a tag to Gunther so it's all hands on deck to slow him up. Everything breaks down though and it's Brutus wrecking Imperium, leaving him for a showdown with Gunther. The sleeper puts Brutus in trouble and it's a powerbomb to give Gunther the pin at 11:56.

**Rating:** B. The Creeds are getting better and better by the

week and that was on full display here. What mattered was letting people hit each other rather hard as Imperium gets to show off what they can do, but at the end of the day, this was all about Gunther. He is the kind of force that you do not get to see very often and if they can get around the fans chanting WALTER, he should be a big deal.

LA Knight is ready for Grayson Waller but Joe Gacy and Harland interrupt, suggesting that Knight has a problem. Knight offers to get together with them in the ring and maybe he can get two new restraining orders.

Here is Toxic Attraction for a chat. They are ready to beat Indi Hartwell and Persia Pirotta in two weeks at Vengeance Day but here is Kay Lee Ray to interrupt. She isn't getting her title match, so she brings in her baseball bat. Mandy tells her to put the bat down and the other two will leave. Ray agrees, but Mandy would rather talk about her own modeling and fitness accomplishments.

That's fine with Ray, who says she was holding the NXT UK Women's Title for over 600 days while Rose was falling at Wrestlemania and sucking face with Otis. Mandy talks about how great she is and how she is what WWE wants and all the talent in the world will never replace her. Ray says that she'll have her title match by the end of the night and slaps Mandy in the face. The bat is enough to chase off Toxic Attraction.

Cora Jade is ready to prove herself to Raquel Gonzalez, even if it means taking a beating. Gonzalez comes in and asks if she's ready for the match, with Jade saying she's in (I barely recognized Gonzalez with her hair down like that).

During the break, Toxic Attraction tried to leave but stopped for an interview. They went to get in their car with Mandy getting in last...but Ray is in the driver's seat and kidnaps them. That parking lot man.

Cora Jade vs. Raquel Gonzalez

Jade is a bit tentative to start and gets tossed down without much trouble. That leaves Jade in shock at the pain so Gonzalez kicks away in the corner. A spinning Side Effect gives Gonzalez two more and she grabs an over the shoulder backbreaker. Jade is sat on top but manages to knock Gonzalez away this time.

Gonzalez tries another swinging Side Effect but gets reversed into...something we can't see as the screen goes black, likely due to issues with Gonzalez's top. Jade drives her into the corner for two and a rope walk hurricanrana rocks Gonzalez again. There's an enziguri but Gonzalez finally just plants her with the Chigona Bomb for the pin at 11:04.

**Rating:** C+. Issues with Gonzalez's gear aside, this was designed to make Jade look tough and it did well enough. I'm sure they'll be in the Dusty Classic together because it isn't like there are a bunch of teams to put into the tournament in the first place. Hopefully Gonzalez can move up to the main roster soon enough though, as she seems ready.

Post match Gonzalez says "let's go and win this", meaning the Dusty Classic.

Sarraylor Moon is back next.

Video on Pete Dunne vs. Tony D'Angelo.

### Sarray vs. Kayla Inlay

Sarray walks through the back as the schoolgirl and then comes into the arena in her regular gear, sans anything schoolgirl. That's a relief, even if WWE is still way too into this transformation stuff. Inlay won't shake hands to start so Sarray knocks her into the corner. That's broken up but we get breaking news about Kay Lee Ray returning, with no sign of Dolin and Jayne. Sarray fights up and hits the running dropkick against the ropes. A high collar suplex finishes Inlay at 3:20.

**Rating:** C. The match was almost a squash, but it was also quite the relief that Sarray isn't going to be wrestling as a schoolgirl. That would be the latest bad WWE idea, so seeing her transform was kind of a relief. As weird as that is to say, I'll take it over what we seemed to be getting, as this was a slightly more fired up Sarray.

Video on Duke Hudson, who gives himself a hair cut and says he makes his own luck anymore.

Bron Breaker is warming up when Tommaso Ciampa comes in. Ciampa hands him the NXT Title and suggests that Breaker doesn't know what he is in for. As for tonight, they'll take it to Legado del Fantasma.

Carmelo Hayes and Trick Williams are ready for Cameron Grimes because Hayes is always looking down on him. Cue Grimes, who notes the TO THE MOON chants. Grimes says Hayes looks like Spongebob, which makes Trick Squidward. Williams talks a lot but Grimes isn't sure what he said. Grimes asks which one he's fighting and Hayes says he's waiting. As Hayes and Williams leave, Grimes says it's going to be a one star match, and that one star is going to the moon.

Malik Blade and Edris Enofe debate a team name and Enofe thinks they should ask Mandy Rose. Then Rose literally falls through the door and it's Blade's arms (Blade: "Thank you!"). Kay Lee Ray comes in and rips off Rose's jacket, which has Enofe rather happy. He wants to go after them....but Blade needs a minute.

Diamond Mine is ready to face Imperium again after they win the Dusty Classic. The Grizzled Young Veterans come in to laugh at the prospects.

### LA Knight vs. Joe Gacy

Harland is here with Gacy, who gets taken down by an early running neckbreaker. A spinning Rock Bottom gets Gacy out of

trouble and it's off to a neck crank. There's a suplex to take Knight down again and it's time to work on Knight's knee. Knight fights up and hits a jumping neckbreaker into his powerslam, only to collide for a crash to the floor. Cue Sanga (Grayson Waller's bodyguard) so Waller can hit his rolling Stunner. That's enough to give Gacy a nine count so it's the handspring clothesline to finish Knight at 4:14.

**Rating:** C-. So we have yet another heel with a bodyguard, who happens to be interfering in a match with a heel with a kind of bodyguard? Are they that out of ideas? Waller costing Knight a match is fine, but this was another short match that didn't have the chance to get anywhere because it's all about getting as many things on the show as you can in two hours.

Post match Waller yells at Knight, who lunges at him. That means a chokeslam from Sanga, with Waller saying if Knight can beat Sanga next week, maybe the restraining order is gone.

Robert Stone is very happy to have signed Von Wagner.

#### Wendy Choo vs. Amari Miller

Tiffany Stratton has offered Miller a shopping spree if she takes out Choo. The bell rings and Choo goes to the mat for a nap, followed by taking Miller to the mat for a nap on her leg. An elbow drop gives Choo two and then it's time to get serious, with a pair of hard suplexes. A sleeper is broken up though and Miller gets two off a jawbreaker. Cue Tiffany Stratton to throw Miller a credit card, allowing Choo to hit Miller in the face for the pin at 3:24.

**Rating:** D. It's still the dumbest thing going in wrestling and now they are doing the goofy stuff during the matches rather than having her be serious. The credit card thing wasn't exactly a good idea either, as we continue to need humor/goofiness in every match. At least they kept it short, but Choo is yet another bad NXT idea that is likely to continue for a long time.

Post match Stratton yells at Miller, but Choo has made off with the credit card.

Persia Pirotta and Indi Hartwell are ready to win the Tag Team Titles, with Dexter Lumis seeming to approve. Josh Briggs comes in to ask for advice on women, with Indi saying non-verbal communication is a good thing. Lumis looks at her and they're off to the hot tub.

Video on Draco Anthony.

Nikkita Lyons talks about growing up around music as her dad was a musician and her mom was a groupie. Now she is a singer/rapper but also an NXT star. This is IN NO WAY SHAPE OR FORM LIKE HIT ROW! NOT AT ALL!

Sarray, once again a schoolgirl, is interrupted by Dakota Kai, who warns her about how relationships can go south.

#### Draco Anthony vs. Andre Chase

Bodhi Hayward is in Chase's corner. Chase takes over with few shots to the face into a neckbreaker. Anthony is back with a powerslam and cranks on the arms, only to have Chase fight up again. A Russian legsweep drops Anthony and it's time for the spelling stomps. Anthony is back up and steals Hayward's flag but Hayward won't let him stomp on it. Instead, Chase unloads in the corner and the Downward Spiral finishes Anthony at 4:26.

**Rating:** C-. Another not exactly great match as the latest new NXT character (just wait, as I'd bet on getting another one before the show is over) loses in his NXT debut. It's a bit weird seeing the war veteran as a heel but NXT is quite the strange duck at times. Chase is somehow getting this dumb character over and that is quite the accomplishment.

Mandy Rose is still running from Kay Lee ray but stops for a water at the food area. Ray shows up and pours spaghetti on

her, followed by a cake to the head area. Then Ray stalks her with the baseball bat.

### Legado del Fantasma vs. Bron Breaker/Tommaso Ciampa

The rest of Legado is here too. Ciampa headlocks Mendoza to start but Wilde tags himself in and hits a dropkick. It's back to Mendoza, who bails to the floor, allowing Breaker to come in and run the ropes. A Gator roll sets up a delayed suplex on Wilde, with Ciampa adding one of his own to Mendoza. We take a break and come back with Breaker getting caught with some running shots in the corner. The front facelock is countered with a suplex though and it's back to Ciampa to fire off the running clotheslines.

Ciampa tags Brakker back in, despite Breaker favoring his arm. Something like a powerslam plants Wilde but Santos Escobar gets up for a distraction. Mendoza scores with a springboard missile dropkick and a Phoenix splash gets two. A spear cuts Mendoza down but Wilde makes the save. Wilde goes up but gets shoved HARD off the top and through the announcers' table. The gorilla press powerslam finishes Mendoza at 11:24.

**Rating:** C+. Breaker is one of those guys that doesn't need a ton of explanation. He's a bit like Goldberg in that the idea seems to be flip a switch and watch him smash stuff. That's a perfect case of "don't think about this too hard" and it's working. Escobar will be a good first victim and this was a fine way of setting that up, especially with Breaker possibly having a bad arm going in.

Post match Escobar stares down Breaker but here are Kay Lee Ray and Mandy Rose again. Ray threatens her and gets her title shot next week as a result. The KLR Bomb leaves Rose laying to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C-. I have almost no idea what to make of this show, but the biggest thing that comes out of it is how much

is crammed in. The problem with that is the word crammed, as it feels so overstuffed. It is one character with a wacky gimmick after another and that gets tiring after a bit. So many things on here felt like it needed to be over the top or have some kind of a punchline and that gets old after a bit. Even the main event was immediately followed by Rose with cake on her clothes.

This was another way too busy show and I kept wondering what they were going to throw out there next to make me shake my head. It isn't that these are all terrible ideas, but they keep coming one after another with little getting the time to sink in. There are stories in here that work, but then Mandy Rose is being stalked or Sarray is transforming or Blade and Enofe, who could be a good, young team, are stuck with sophomoric humor.

Overall, this show felt very, very much like a show designed by Vince McMahon or to appeal to Vince McMahon and that is rarely going to make for entertaining TV. It felt like yet another week where they were throwing anything out there and if it works, great, but if not, oh well. That's not a great way to run a TV show and the wrestlers aren't going to get much out of it other than a bunch of ideas that aren't the best to put on their resumes.

### Results

Imperium b. Diamond Mine – Powerbomb to Brutus

Raquel Gonzalez b. Cora Jade – Chigona Bomb

Sarray b. Kayla Inlay – High collar suplex

Joe Gacy b. LA Knight – Handspring elbow

Wendy Choo b. Amari Miller – Elbow to the face

Andre Chase b. Draco Anthony – Downward Spiral

Bron Breaker/Tommaso Ciampa b. Legado del Fantasma – Gorilla press powerslam to Mendoza



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# 205 Live – January 7, 2022: So Much For That

## 205 Live

Date: January 7, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

We're back to the NXT version of Main Event, which seems to have dropped any indication of a new name. That is something that seemed imminent but now nothing seems to actually be taking place. Hopefully they get to the switch already, because there isn't much of a point to this show otherwise. Let's get to it.

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

Malik Blade vs. Draco Anthony

They fight over some basic grappling to start until Anthony

shoulders him down. A headlock takeover keeps Blade in early trouble until he is right back with a dropkick. Anthony slams him out of the corner though and an overhead belly to belly gets two on Blade. The Boston crab stays on Blade's back for a fairly long while but he finally manages to fight out. Some shots to the face put Anthony in trouble for a change and there's a running clothesline in the corner. Blade hits his own suplex and a missile dropkick finally gives him a win at 6:04.

**Rating:** C. Blade is turning into the feel good story around here and that is kind of nice to see. NXT is designed to build up new stars and letting him win something to move forward, even a tiny step, is the right way to go. Anthony is not exactly off to a great start but NXT has shown that it doesn't care about wins and losses, so it doesn't make much of a difference.

#### Erica Yan vs. Nikkita Lyons

Yan takes her down with an armbar to start and then switches to a wristlock to keep up the theme. With that not working, it's time to work on the leg for a change, only to have Lyons reverse into a headlock. A catapult sets up a half crab, which Lyons lets go in rather quickly. The double arm crank goes on but Yan fights up and strikes away. There's a jackknife rollup to give Yan two but Lyons kicks her down without much trouble. A DDT finishes for Lyons at 5:25.

**Rating:** C-. I wasn't feeling this one as much as neither exactly felt like a polished star. They didn't exactly get past second gear, but there is only so much that you can do in a match that doesn't even make it five and a half minutes. Both of these two need more ring time though, and that is what they were getting here.

#### Ikemen Jiro vs. Ru Feng

Jiro cartwheels to start and avoids a kick from Feng. After

coming out of the ropes, Jiro misses a kick of his own but pulls Feng down by the arm instead. An armbar has Feng in trouble and Jiro flips over to make it worse. Feng can't flip his way to freedom and we get a JACKET TIME chant.

Back up and Feng kicks him down, setting up the chinlock. That actually needs a rope break for the escape so Feng knocks him down and grabs the chinlock again. Jiro fights up again and hits a spinwheel kick, followed by the jacket punches. A springboard moonsault sets up the Ikemen Slash to finish Feng at 6:43.

**Rating:** C. This is your latest proof that WWE has already stopped caring even remotely about 205 Live, as we aren't even getting midcard names in the main event anymore. The main event featured half of a comedy tag team against one of the regular jobbers. If that's all they can do with this show, why am I supposed to want to watch it?

**Overall Rating:** C-. I can't believe I actually thought they might do something with this show. All you're getting here is a set of dark matches that happened to have a camera turned on. Why bother changing the name at this point? It's beyond obvious that this show exists because of some kind of distribution deal (which is fine, as WWE not wanting to make money would be ridiculous) but any mild hope of it getting better has gone out the window in nearly record time. Another nothing week here, with some ok at best wrestling to fill in 29 minutes.

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# 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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