

On This Day: August 29, 2012 – NXT: Crowning A Champion

NXT

Date: August 29, 2012

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, William Regal

It's time for the title match tonight and I'm actually somewhat excited. This change officially turns NXT into its own regular promotion which is what it needed for the last year and a half or so. It's Jinder Mahal vs. Seth Rollins for the inaugural title, which is a matchup I didn't think I'd like. Mahal is growing on me as a basic foreign heel and Rollins...well he's energetic. Let's get to it.

Jason Jordan/Mike Dalton vs. Hunico/Camacho

Jordan/Dalton won the first match between these teams. Regal calls the fans the NXT Universe now. Great. Now we're hearing the same stupid lines from NXT that we hear on Raw and Smackdown. Jordan and Camacho start us off with Jordan getting in some basic offense before walking into a pretty good spinebuster. Camacho pounds on Jordan's face and suplexes him down to bring in Hunico.

Back to Camacho after nothing of note and the bigger guy throws Jordan around with a nice butterfly suplex. A legdrop gets two but Jordan escapes a suplex and tags in Dalton. Dalton hits a spinwheel kick and a charge in the corner, followed by a hurricanrana for two. A missile dropkick gets two on Hunico and everything breaks down. As Jordan is being put back on the apron, Camacho hits Dalton from behind, allowing Hunico to hit his version of an Angle Slam for the pin at 4:00.

Rating: C. This was your run of the mill tag match between four guys who aren't that interesting but they made it work well enough. Hunico and Camacho are fine for a low level tag team and giving the unknowns a win over them in the first match was a good way to give Dalton and Jordan some exposure. As is the case with almost everyone on NXT though, they

need ring time.

Here are the Usos with something to say. They call out the Ascension and as the lights go out for Ascension's entrance, Ascension runs in from behind and jumps the Usos, laying them out with relative ease.

Raw ReBout is about Punk vs. Lawler. I'm still curious as to when Cena forgot how to climb a cage.

Big E. Langston vs. Chase Donovan

A clothesline and that falling slam thing gets the pin at 40 seconds. He really needs to change finishers. A powerslam would be fine.

The locker room comes out to watch the title match.

Langston says nothing.

Howard Finkel is doing the announcing for the main event.

Dusty comes out and JR is now on commentary.

NXT Championship: Jinder Mahal vs. Seth Rollins

They have a ton of time for this. Fink may be fat and older now (he's only 62 so he's hardly ancient), but that voice is still perfect. Mahal won't shake Dusty's hand before the match. Rollins tries to take him to the mat to start but Mahal gets back up quickly. A dropkick puts Mahal down again and Rollins hits a hard chop. Mahal gets sent to the floor but he avoids a dive and sends Rollins face first into the apron. A suplex onto the ramp has Rollins in trouble and we head back in.

We take a break and come back with Rollins in even more trouble. Mahal stomps him down and hits a backbreaker to start setting up the camel clutch. Rollins gets choked against the ropes and the fans are behind Rollins now. He tries a comeback but gets kned in the face by Mahal to take him back down. The camel clutch is escaped so Mahal pounds him in the back again. An enziguri out of nowhere puts Mahal down and Rollins punches Jinder down.

Mahal goes up for another knee but Rollins knocks him off the top and out

to the floor. Rollins hits a HUGE dive to the floor and both guys are down. Back in and Seth goes up again, only to get crotched and superplexed from the top. We take another break and come back with the two of them slugging it out. Mahal might have a bad knee but he pulls off a sitout slam for two. A full nelson slam is countered and Rollins goes to the apron.

Seth hits an enziguri to the head and a running knee for two. The near falls are getting closer and closer here. A running forearm in the corner staggers Mahal but he manages to drop Rollins face first into the buckle. The low superkick (I think he calls it Avada Kadavra, making Rollins awesome) gets two. Phoenix Splash (moonsault into a 450) misses and Mahal hits the full nelson slam for two. Rollins gets to the rope before the clutch can go on and Rollins rolls him up for two. Rollins comes back with the buckle bomb and the Blackout out of nowhere for the pin and the title at 14:24 shown of 21:24.

Rating: B. I'm still not wild on Rollins' in ring work but the fans are into him and he's not dull. He also needs a new finisher as the Blackout looks pretty forced to put it mildly. As for the match though, they did a great job of building both guys up as unbeatable and then having them go at it. The match was very good as far as making you wonder who was going to win and it turned into a good back and forth fight at the end. Not a masterpiece or anything, but for the first NXT Championship, this was more than acceptable.

Fink giving Rollins the NEEEEEEEEEEEEEW treatment makes the announcement much better. The roster puts Rollins on their shoulders to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. This was all about the main event so I'm not going to really bother thinking about the rest of it. Rollins is a good choice for a first champion as he can defend the title for a few months and then have a big time heel beat him to take the title. This felt like a big show and I wanted to see it, which is the right idea here. I'm very pleased with this and it worked quite well.

Results

Hunico/Camacho b. Jason Jordan/Mike Dalton – Reverse fireman's carry slam

to Dalton

Big E. Langston b. Chase Donovan – Over the shoulder mat slam

Seth Rollins b. Jinder Mahal – Blackout

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NXT – December 13, 2012: The Most Complete Wrestling Show I Can Remember In Years

NXT

Date: December 13, 2012

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Tom Phillips, William Regal

It's finally time for Mahal vs. Rollins II, which is annoying as things have changed a lot since this was filmed. Anyway, the match last time was fine but I wish there was more of a reason for these two to be fighting instead of just over the title. All we've really heard is "I'm the champion" and "I want the title." That's not exactly enough to hook fans with a guy treated as a jobber in WWE vs. a member of a team whose gimmick doesn't exist in NXT yet. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the title situation and Mahal attacking Rollins recently.

Paige vs. Sasha Banks

Apparently Banks is debuting here and has been in the New England indies for a few years. I really have an issue with two people in a match being younger than me. It makes me feel old watching this. Banks isn't bad looking but Paige is WAY over with the fans here. Paige takes Banks to the mat with a headscissors and rolls her around with it in a move I haven't seen before.

Sasha nips up to escape and hits a Sin Cara armdrag out of the corner for two. Paige goes into banshee mode with her screaming and the fans go NUTS. A fisherman's suplex gets two for Paige and it's off to a double chickenwing. Sasha escapes with a pair of rollups for two but Paige hits that snap Angle Slam kind of move called the Paige Turner for the pin at 4:03.

Rating: C. Nothing too bad here as Paige continues to impress. She's clearly very comfortable in the ring and can do whatever is needed of her. Her looks are just a bonus at this point, but unfortunately she likely would get messed up on the main roster because of her pale skin color. Anyway, decent match here and Sasha looked decent enough.

Roman Reigns brags about the size of his watch but gets a phone call and leaves.

We recap the end of last week's show where Regal saved Kidd from Kruger and Ohno.

Ohno and Kruger are gunning for Steamboat, Kidd and Barretta. Kruger's voice is pretty awesome here. Oh and if Regal gets involved in their business again, Regal can join them in the ICU.

Oliver Grey vs. ???

Before the match, we get another awesome Bray Wyatt promo about love and power. Wyatt brings out his son, who is a big bald guy with an awesome beard whose name I couldn't understand. The guy is big and muscular and

he kicks Grey in the face to start. He looks like he's in green prison garb for lack of a better description. Wyatt is sitting in a rocking chair on the stage. The guy slams Grey down and puts on a bearhug where he whips Grey from side to side. A big side slam ends Grey at 2:00.

Post match Wyatt says the man's name is Rowan and says to follow the buzzards.

Here's Commissioner Dusty Rhodes to hype up the main event. However, he also wants to talk about Vickie Guerrero. Vickie is welcome here any time, but there are no bounties allowed in NXT unless it's run by Dusty. The bounty is officially revoked and here's Camacho to protest. He calls Dusty jefe (boss) and Dusty says it's either General Commissioner or....Camacho: "El Capitan?" Dusty: "I LOVE THAT!" Camacho says the bounty has to be on because he has to get Hunico out of Mexico. If Dusty doesn't reinstate the bounty then Camacho is going to reinstate it on Dusty.

This brings out Big E. Langston, and Dusty makes a handicap match with Camacho and whoever he picks against Langston. Big E. is cool with that. Again: Dusty isn't out here long and he makes something happen while advancing a storyline. Dusty was there about four minutes, which is the longest time he's been on camera yet on this show.

Big Show is answering Bo Dallas' challenge. He says that he's going to knock out Dallas so that Dallas never makes it to the main shows. That's next week as well.

NXT Title: Seth Rollins vs. Jinder Mahal

Mahal is now in 3MB, which is annoying as all the promos and videos tonight have had Mahal in his old attire. After some big match intros we're ready to go. Mahal immediately heads to the floor for a few seconds to mess with Rollins' head. Back in and the champion (Rollins) goes for Mahal's arm, sending him to the ropes for more stalling. Rollins hooks a headlock which goes nowhere so Seth peppers him with forearms.

They head to the floor and Rollins hits a HARD chop. Back in and Seth hits some kicks as Mahal is in trouble. Jinder sends him to the apron and shoves Seth off the ropes to finally take over. We take a break and come

back with Mahal choking in the corner. A suplex on the floor gets two for Mahal and it's off to a double arm hold. That doesn't last long so a backbreaker gets another two count, as does a knee to the face.

We hit a quick chinlock but Rollins fights out with some shots to the ribs and a backdrop. Seth tries to go up top but is almost immediately crotched. A clothesline gets two for Jinder and it's back to the chinlock as we take another break. Back with Rollins in a reverse chinlock which is transitioned into a regular version. Rollins fights up and hits a big enziguri to put both guys down.

Back up and Seth dropkicks Mahal down and fires off right hands on the mat. They slug it out until Mahal gets clotheslined to the floor. Rollins hits a suicide dive and Mahal is in trouble. Back in and Seth hits a springboard knee to the side of the head for two. Seth puts him on the top and kicks Mahal in the head, but his super rana is countered into a sunset flip for two.

Jinder comes back again with a sitout slam for two but jumps into a dropkick/knee to the ribs from Seth. This is a very back and forth match. Rollins misses a splash in the corner and Jinder pounds away. Seth counters out of it and hits the running buckle bomb on the opposite corner. The full nelson slam is escaped so Mahal hits a knee to the back of the head and hooks the camel clutch. Seth immediately gets to the rope and comes back with the low superkick (Avada Kedavra) and the standing Sliced Bread (Skywalker) for the pin to retain at 15:20 shown of 22:20.

Rating: B. No complaints here as these two have some solid chemistry together. Thankfully this wasn't a comedy match for Mahal and he was just in different attire instead of being completely goofy. Rollins winning these come from behind matches is the perfect way to build up a guy like him and the match worked very well overall. Good stuff, especially for a TV match.

Corey Graves gets in Rollins' face to end the show with a sarcastic clap.

Overall Rating: A. Good match, decent Divas match, good character stuff with Wyatt and Rowan, setting up the next title feud, promo addressing the end of last week's show and two big matches announced for next week.

What else could you possibly want in a one hour wrestling show?

Results

Paige b. Sasha Banks – Paige Turner

Rowan b. Oliver Grey – Side Slam

Seth Rollins b. Jinder Mahal – Skywalker

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