

NXT LVL Up – November 25, 2022: How The Medium Have Fallen

NXT LVL Up

Date: November 25, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Byron Saxton

It's Black Friday and that seems to be a rather appropriate term for a night with LVL Up. The show has had its recent bright spots and that is about all you can expect from a short burst of decent. I'm not sure what to expect this week and in this case, that might be a good thing. Let's get to it.

[Click on the link below for the full review.](#)

Opening sequence.

Xyon Quinn vs. Tank Ledger

Ledger, in a hat, seems rather happy to be here. They fight over wrist control to start before switching off to a test of strength. With that not working, Ledger hiptosses him over but gets sent face first into the middle buckle. Quinn hits him with a hard clothesline, only to get driven hard into the corner. A fall away slam sends Quinn flying for a change but he's right back with the Death Valley Driver. The running forearm finishes Ledger at 4:54.

Rating: C. Ledger got in some offense here but Quinn is the bigger name and needs the win a lot more. I still have no idea how someone who looks like Quinn hasn't gotten a better chance in NXT but he has completely collapsed in recent months. There is almost no reason to believe that this is going to be the start of something new, but at least he didn't lose to a

rookie.

Amari Miller says she can get serious against Elektra Lopez tonight.

Amari Miller vs. Elektra Lopez

Lopez grabs a cravate to start and takes Miller down for an early one. Miller's bubbles are all over the place as she comes back up with a headlock. What looked to be a sunset flip attempt is broken up by Lopez, who takes her to the mat and cranks on the arm. Miller fights up and this a hard knee in the corner, setting up a running the corner moonsault. The landing doesn't go well for Miller though and it's the Electric Shock (chokebomb) to give Lopez the pin at 4:27.

Rating: C-. This was a pretty dull match with Lopez feeling like a star but not having much in the ring to back it up. She definitely has a place around here but NXT needs to figure out what is it. On the other hand you have Miller, who feels like she could be quite the nice popular star if she is able to build herself up a bit more. Give her time, because the experience could do her a world of good.

Damon Kemp vs. Dante Chen

Kemp takes him down without much trouble to start and slaps Chen in the back of the head a few times. Back up and Kemp works on the arm, only to have Chen grab Kemp's arm in turn. Chen sends him into the corner for some head slapping of his own. That's too far for Kemp, who unloads on him in the corner before grabbing an overhead belly to belly. A running neckbreaker gets two on Chen and we hit the chinlock. Chen fights up and starts slugging away, setting up a running boot to the face. A springboard is countered into Kemp's release German suplex though and a swinging Rock Bottom finishes Chen at 6:17.

Rating: C+. Match of the night here, if that means much around

this place. I'm not sure why Kemp is toiling on this show after he just had his big feud with the Creed Brothers. I know he didn't exactly blow the world away but he didn't deserve to be demoted. Chen continues to be the definition of just there and I have no idea why he gets so much time. There are far worse workers and he isn't horrible, but he also isn't interesting and that's a problem they need to address.

Overall Rating: C. This show continues to be all over the place most of the time and the problem is that when you have so many of the same regulars every so often, it gets into a funk quickly. The different things they throw in there can help, but there comes a point where it's the minor league developmental show. How far is this stuff really supposed to go?

Results

Xyon Quinn b. Tank Ledger – Running forearm

Elektra Lopez b. Amari Miller – Electric Shock

Damon Kemp b. Dante Chen – Swinging Rock Bottom

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NXT LVL Up – November 18, 2022: HIM???

NXT LVL Up

Date: November 18, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Byron Saxton

We are on the way to Survivor Series and for once there was something a little different here last week. Granted it was just a six man tag but after the months of the same formula, a little change was nice to see. There is no reason to believe that will stick this week, but at least they made things better once. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Thea Hail vs. Dani Palmer

The rest of Chase U is here with Hail and this is Palmer's debut. Palmer even shakes hands with Chase U to start so she seems rather nice. They fight over arm control to start, with Hail getting the better of things off an armbar. A springboard wristdrag keeps Palmer in trouble before we get the armbar sequel. Back up and Palmer flips her over to set up a standoff in a bit of a surprise. Palmer manages to grab an abdominal stretch, which Hail breaks away from to start the comeback. A neckbreaker spun into a faceplant gives Hail the pin at 4:41.

Rating: C. This was a nice to meet you match from Palmer, who is another gymnast who can do her stuff well enough already but has nothing to suggest that she is ready as a wrestler whatsoever. That being said, a fair few WWE stars have started out as gymnasts and done well in wrestling, so maybe that is where we are going here. Granted there is no way of knowing

where Palmer is after less than five minutes, so this is hardly the definitive note on her career.

Oba Femi, a rather large man from Nigeria and the University of Alabama is ready for his debut and wants to make his family proud.

Oba Femi vs. Dante Chen

Commentary talks about Femi's power records at the Performance Center so he seems to have something behind him. Femi powers Chen to the ropes to start but can't get out of a headlock. An uppercut drops Chen and Femi launches him into the corner, setting up a one armed sideslam for two.

The bearhug goes on, followed by another uppercut for another two, and a second bearhug as Femi doesn't have the most varied offense so far. Chen manages to power out of the bearhug and Femi misses an elbow. A missed charge into the corner doesn't do much for Chen, who is right back with a top rope chop to the head for two. The double chop finishes Femi at 5:33.

Rating: D. What the...IT'S DANTE CHEN! You have this guy who looks great, gets hyped up, has his power game praised, and DANTE CHEN beats him? Chen has languished for so long in the depths of NXT that I don't think many people remember he works here. You can't have Femi grab a bearhug or a powerslam and pin him? Femi doesn't need to become the next Bobby Lashley right now, but what the heck was the point in having him lose?

Oro Mensah vs. Stacks

Tony D'Angelo is on commentary. Stacks takes him down by the arm to start but Mensah comes up and cranks away on the arm right back. Some armdrags have Stacks bailing to the floor, followed by a running crotch attack on the ropes. Back in and Stacks takes him down before going after the arm, including a Fujiwara armbar.

Mensah slips out so Stacks grabs another armbar. That one is broken up as well and Mensah strikes away, setting up a springboard missile dropkick. D'Angelo offers a distraction though, including a crutch shot to the neck. A running knee to the back of the head (basically a Stomp with the knee) finishes Mensah at 5:40.

Rating: C. I'm not sure what happened to Mensah but he came in hot and then went pretty cold a few weeks later, to the point where he is stuck on this show instead of doing anything else. Stacks is a bigger deal than Mensah and should have won, but it's still weird seeing Mensah fall pretty quickly. If nothing else, D'Angelo should be healthy soon and that should open up some more doors for both of them.

Overall Rating: D+. Well this was incredibly frustrating and that is because of one match. NXT has a history of doing things like this with people who look great, even if it is on a show that has no meaning whatsoever. Anyway, the show was the usual style, though I do like having some NXT midcarders show up as the main event. It gives the show a bigger feeling, though apparently not at that DANTE CHEN level. Annoying show, and all because of one not so bright decision.

Results

Thea Hail b. Dani Palmer – Neckbreaker into a faceplant

Dante Chen b. Oba Femi – Double chop

Stacks b. Oro Mensah – Running knee to the back of the head

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NXT LVL Up – November 11, 2022: Something Else

NXT LVL Up

Date: November 11, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Byron Saxton

For once we're actually coming off of a decent show, mainly because there were some slightly bigger stars. It also helps when the matches are laid out a bit better, as it seems like more effort is included. There is only so much time on this show so you have to take what you can get. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Ivy Nile/Tatum Paxley vs. Lash Legend/Jakara Jackson

Legend hammers on Nile to start but Nile kicks her in the head to break that up. Jackson comes in and gets suplexed down, allowing Paxley to come in for a standing twisting moonsault. Something like a reverse X Factor plants Jackson again but she takes Paxley over for the tag to Legend. The beating continues until Jackson works on a backbreaker before switching to the leg. That works so badly that Paxley slips over for the tag off to Nile so house can be cleaned. Nile sends the villains together so Paxley can dive on Legend. That leaves Nile to

flip into the Diamond Chain Lock and finish Jackson at 4:46.

Rating: C. I still don't get why Nile isn't getting more of a chance on the main NXT show as she is far better than just about anyone on this show. Legend has settled into a point where she is just bad instead of being a disaster, while Jackson is just the latest person on the roster, which doesn't exactly make her mean much so far.

Javier Bernal isn't worried about Ikemen Jiro and promises to beat him up.

Ikemen Jiro vs. Javier Bernal

Bernal isn't having any of this handshake stuff to start so he shoves Jiro down. That doesn't go so well as Jiro armdrags him, only to get kicked backwards. Jiro is sent to the apron and a hard forearm knocks him down again. Back in and a slam into some elbows get two on Jiro, setting up the chinlock. Jiro fights up but gets taken down with a clothesline as this is one sided so far. A dragon screw legwhip gets Jiro out of trouble and he fires off the jacket punches. There's the Tarantula to Jiro but the Ikemen Slash misses, allowing Bernal to roll him up (with trunks) for the pin at 5:11.

Rating: C. This was almost a squash until Jiro's comeback didn't work out so well. That isn't a surprise either as Bernal has been featured on NXT a bit more lately, meaning he isn't going to be losing to someone who has been around here for such a long time. Bernal is starting to figure out his heel stuff too and if that works out, good for him.

Edris Enofe/Malik Blade/Odyssey Jones vs. Xyon Quinn/Lucien Price/Bronco Nima

That's a different kind of main event around here. Price shoves Odyssey on the apron to start so Enofe headlock takeovers Price down. The rather large Price shoves him into the corner and hands it off to Nima. A dropkick cuts Nima off

and it's Blade coming in, only to get sent into the corner. Quinn comes in but Blade rolls over to Jones for the showdown.

Everything breaks down and the good guys clean house until Quinn gets in a cheap shot on Jones. That doesn't get him very far though and it's Nima coming in to beat up Enofe instead. Quinn splashes Enofe for two but a dive through the legs allows the hot tag off to Jones for the house cleaning. Everything breaks down (again) and Blade's splash off of Jones' shoulders finishes Price at 6:40.

Rating: C+. This was a fun match with the good guys working well together and having some people to beat up, albeit after breaking a sweat. What matters most here is that it felt like something different on this show after doing the same things over and over. Just mix it up a bit and see how much more fun the show can be.

Overall Rating: C. I had enough fun with this show for it to be ok and that's all you can ask for with something like this. The main event was enough of a change of pace to make things better and after the months of the same formula, that is really nice to have for once. I have no reason to believe it is going to last, but one night of ok is better than nothing.

Results

Ivy Nile/Tatum Paxley b. Lash Legend/Jakara Jackson – Diamond Chain Lock to Jackson

Javier Bernal b. Ikemen Jiro – Rollup with trunks

Odyssey Jones/Malik Blade/Edris Enofe b. Xyon Quinn/Lucien Price/Bronco Nima – Splash to Price

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NXT LVL Up – November 4, 2022: What A Pleasant Experience

NXT LVL Up

Date: November 4, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Matt Camp

It's a pay per view weekend and that means a grand total of very little on this show as Crown Jewel has no connection to NXT. LVL Up doesn't have much to offer most weeks but maybe we can get in a nice match to take up some of the time. The show is usually at least decent so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Ivy Nile vs. Sol Ruca

The fans approve of Nile as she works on the wristlock to start. Ruca trips her down and Nile actually grins a bit, only to have it cut off by Ruca's headlock takeover. Nile is back up with a sunset flip but a jumpless X Factor gives Ruca two. A rather muscular deadlift suplex gets two on Nile but she is

back with an armbar in the corner. The arm is fine enough to hit a side slam and a flipping splash connects on Nile in the corner. Nile isn't having that and suplexes her over, setting up the Diamond Chain Lock (dragon sleeper) for the tap at 4:55.

Rating: C. I still like Nile a god bit and it is nice to see her getting wins, but almost all of her recent LVL Up matches have felt the same. You would think she would be ready for some far better competition on the main NXT show but for some reason she is stuck down here. Ruca continues to be the same thing: very athletic with nothing that makes me care about her as a wrestler.

Myles Borne is ready for Hank Walker, who he seems to like.

Myles Borne vs. Hank Walker

Borne takes him down by the arm to start as we hear about these two knowing each other as teenagers. A Pounce (with a Monty Brown reference from commentary) sends Borne outside but he comes back in to forearm in the corner. The armbar has Walker down but he gets a boot up to stop a diving something designed to land on a raised boot. The comeback is on but Borne snaps off a northern lights suplex. Back up and Walker runs him over with a flying shoulder for the pin at 4:16.

Rating: C. Walker has grown on me a bit and he's doing enough of a southern/country powerhouse deal to make it work. Borne has come a LONG way in a short time and is having better matches every time he's out there. That's what some ring time can do and while he isn't a big deal yet, he is at least getting better.

Oro Mensah vs. Xyon Quinn

Quinn powers him up against the rope to start but gets armdragged into an armbar. That works so well that Mensah does it again but Quinn hits him in the back. Mensah is fine enough

to send him outside for the slingshot dive but Quinn stays on the back with some rams into the apron. A backbreaker and knee to the back give Quinn two, followed by a swinging neckbreaker for the same. The bearhug stays on the back but Mensah breaks it up and hits a springboard moonsault press. Mensah's running spinwheel kick in the corner finishes Quinn off at 6:07.

Rating: C+. That might be a little high but it's cool to see a complete match like this one. They had a story, Quinn worked on the back to wear Mensah down, Mensah made a comeback, and the action was fine throughout. It's one of the better things I've seen around here in a good while and after some of the weaker efforts, I'll absolutely take that.

Overall Rating: C. That's one of the better LVL Up's I've seen in a bit with the main event being a very nice surprise. There is talent here, but it helps when they had some of the more developed LVL Up stars around here. Mensah has been on the regular NXT show since coming over and Nile has been ready for a serious NXT feud for a long time now. That made for a better show and I'll always take that kind of change.

Results

Ivy Nile b. Sol Ruca – Diamond Chain Lock

Hank Walker b. Myles Borne – Flying shoulder

Oro Mensah b. Xyon Quinn – Running spinwheel kick in the corner

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NXT LVL Up – October 28, 2022: They Did It Once

NXT LVL Up

Date: October 28, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Byron Saxton

And here we go again, with more of the same batch of people having matches against each other over and over. There are very few people who can rise up the ranks (or Level/LVL Up if you will), save for maybe Miles Borne in the last few weeks. Maybe that ride continues this week so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Stacks vs. Tank Ledger

Tony D'Angelo is on commentary. Stacks bounces off of the bigger Ledger to start and it's time to crank on the arm. Ledger runs him over with a shoulder and a slam sends Stacks outside. A kick to the face drops Ledger on the floor as D'Angelo invites Saxton to dinner next weekend. The chinlock doesn't work very well for Stacks and the comeback is on including a running crossbody for two. Stacks is right back with some running shots to the face, setting up a running elbow drop for the pin at 5:41.

Rating: C-. Stacks continues to be one of those guys who is

just there in NXT and not doing anything, though to be fair he's just a lackey who is keeping the D'Angelo stuff warm until he is back to health. That should be the case in a few weeks, but until then, Stacks is little more than just a guy having not very good matches.

Trick Williams is on the phone but stops talking about a vacation to be ready for Brooks Jensen. Williams isn't worried because he has the FLASH.

Thea Hail vs. Jakara Jackson

Andre Chase is here with Hail and Duke Hudson is in the student section. Hail grabs a headlock to start but Jackson takes her down by the hair. We hit the armbar and Hail can't quite roll out of it. Hudson busts out the Chase U flag and Hail powers out and starts the comeback. The faceplant cutter finishes Jackson at 4:32.

Rating: C-. Jackson has a great look but didn't exactly come off as someone who had any chance of winning here. That being said, sometimes you have to get your feet wet and this is as good of a way as anything else. At the same time, Hail gets to win to boost herself up a bit, even if it was just an extended workout.

Brooks Jensen vs. Trick Williams

Josh Briggs is here with Jensen. They fight over arm control to start with neither being able to get very far. A flying headscissors of all things takes Williams down but he's fine enough to tie Jensen in the ring skirt to stomp away and take over. Back in and a jumping clothesline drops Jensen for two and we hit the cravate. That's broken up and Jensen snaps off a powerslam for a needed breather. The comeback is on and Jensen fakes Williams out from the ring skirt, only to have his high crossbody punched out of the air. Jensen is fine enough to hit a quick Fameasser for the pin at 6:10.

Rating: C. Williams is someone who is decent enough to be a bit better than Carmelo Hayes' lackey and he was showcasing some of that here. This was a completely watchable match and it went fine for both of them. Jensen is doing fine with the country boy deal, but the team has definitely lost some steam since losing the titles.

Overall Rating: C. Yeah what else are you expecting here? The good thing is that they did have the star power up a bit this time around, as you can only get so far with the same NXT rookies. Having people like Jensen, Hail and D'Angelo does boost things up a bit, which is what this show has been dying for in recent weeks. Granted it isn't likely to last, but I'll take it as a one off.

Results

Stacks b. Tank Ledger – Running elbow drop

Thea Hail b. Jakara Jackson – Faceplant cutter

Brooks Jensen b. Trick Williams – Fameasser

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NXT LVL Up – October 21, 2022: He Definitely Adds Something

NXT LVL Up

Date: October 21, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Byron Saxton

It's the second week of the Saxton Era and that means...well very little really, as Saxton isn't as well versed as Nigel McGuinness and not quite as good of a commentator as him either. That more or less leaves the wrestling to carry things and that is a hit or miss bet around here at best. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Ikemen Jiro vs. Myles Borne

Borne grabs a headlock to start but gets reversed into a cravate. Another headlock slows Jiro down but Borne hurts his knee on a leapfrog. Jiro is right on that knee with a leglock sending Borne over to the rope. The half crab has Borne in more trouble until he crawls over to the rope. The jacket punch rocks Borne but the reverses the Ikemen Slash into a small package for the pin at 5:20.

Rating: C. This was a different way to go from most Borne matches and it was quite the win for his career. Borne has gotten better than I would have expected him to be able to do and it's nice to see his success. At the same time, Jiro was acting more heelish, which is quite the weird way to go for someone with his kind of charisma.

Javier Bernal is ready for Andre Chase because he learned at the school of hard knocks.

Bryson Montana vs. Duke Hudson

Montana grabs him in a front facelock to start and Hudson has to bail to the rope. Hudson elbows away without much trouble but Montana runs him over with a clothesline. A Michinoku Driver gives Montana two but Hudson is back with a snap German suplex. The big boot finishes Montana at 3:53.

Rating: C-. This didn't have time to go anywhere and Hudson continues to be quite the charisma vacuum once the bell rings. Montana seems to be one of NXT's next projects and that isn't a bad thing. He has the size and look to go somewhere so let him see what he can do when he gets his feet a bit wetter in the ring.

Andre Chase vs. Javier Bernal

Thea Hail is here too. Chase takes him down by the arm to start and Bernal is sent outside, where Thea Hail yells at him. Back in and Chase shoulders him down before hammering away in the corner. Bernal manages to get in a knee lift and hammers away, only to get caught with a middle rope sunset flip for two. Some kicks keep Chase in trouble but he comes right back with a suplex. Chase slugs him down and the spelling stomps have Bernal in trouble. The high crossbody finishes Bernal at 6:41.

Rating: C. Chase has become one of the biggest stars around this show and that is one of the things that can make him into a special treat. The fans go nuts when he comes out and while it would be nice to see him doing something bigger in NXT, it might be easier to take the moments on the smaller stage like this one. If it means less of Bernal being boring on the main show too, so be it.

Overall Rating: C. There was a bit more energy to this show,

though that might just be the reactions to Chase being in the ring. The show is still completely skippable and I don't see that changing anytime soon, but at least it was a fun use of half an hour. I'm still not sure why they stopped sending one slightly bigger name down here a week but maybe they found it beneath those stars. For now though, ok show, especially for the short run time.

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NXT LVL Up – October 7, 2022: I Got It Right This Time

NXT LVL Up

Date: October 7, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Matt Camp, Nigel McGuinness

We are back to the show that changes so little week to week that I didn't even realize I watched the same episode twice. Odds are there are going to be a lot of the same things this

week as tends to be the case around here. That should mean some ok stuff, but I wouldn't get my hopes up for anything spectacular. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Indi Hartwell vs. Sloane Jacobs

Hartwell grabs a headlock takeover to start as we hear about Hartwell's time in the Way. Jacobs slips out and hits a basement dropkick, only to get slammed down for two. A cravate goes on but Jacobs fights up and kicks her in the face a few times. Not that it matters as Hartwell hits the spinebuster for the pin at 3:17.

Rating: C-. As has been the case for the last several weeks, Hartwell continues to be little more than just kind of there and that doesn't seem to be changing. I don't know what happened to her over the last few months, but part of it might be that she is just ok in the ring most of the time. Jacobs is still figuring out what she is supposed to do in the ring, which could take her a long while.

Arianna James and Kiana James say don't underestimate them.

Myles Borne vs. Guru Raaj

Borne wrestles him down to the mat without much effort before going after the arm. Raaj pulls him over with a headlock but gets reversed into a headscissors. That's broken up as well and Raaj hits a pair of dropkicks for two. A top rope ax handle gives Raaj the same and we're off to the chinlock. That lasts a bit longer than expected and Borne is back up with a dropkick of his own. There's a suplex for two on Raaj, who is back with a running boot. Raaj goes up but dives into a Downward Spiral to give Borne the pin at 5:34.

Rating: C. I think we can write off Borne's awful debut match

as a one off as he has come a long way in just a few weeks. Borne has the technical side down and if he can get some charisma to go with it, he'll be fine. Then you have Raaj, who is also good enough with the in-ring stuff but has almost nothing to set him apart. Fix that and he could be around for awhile too.

Respect is shown post match.

Sol Ruca/Fallon Henley vs. Arianna Grace/Kiana James

Henley shoves James down without much trouble to start and drops Grace with an early right hand. Ruca comes in for a cartwheel into a moonsault for two on Grace but a quick pull of the hair lets James hit a running shoulder in the corner. We hit the seated abdominal stretch to make Ruca yell a lot until she fights back up. James cuts off the tag with a front facelock but a quick leg trip allows the hot tag to Henley. Everything breaks down and Henley hits a Shining Wizard to finish Grace at 5:05.

Rating: C. Grace and James are supposed to be something of a heel duo but I'm not sure what kind of a future they have together. On the other hand you have Ruca, who looks crazy athletic but is still brand new, and Henley, who has more charisma than she know what to do with most of the time. There is potential here though and this was by far the most exciting thing on the show.

Overall Rating: C. Yep, this was indeed an episode of LVL Up, meaning two mostly nothing matches and a decent main event. The lack of bigger names was a problem here though and it didn't exactly make me want to see where these people go next. Part of that problem is they aren't going anywhere other than this show, which is the high point for a lot of the people who appear here. For now though, ok enough week, even if nothing on it was particularly good.

Results

Indi Hartwell b. Sloane Jacobs – Spinebuster
Myles Borne b. Guru Raaj – Downward Spiral
Fallon Henley/Sol Ruca b. Arianna Grace/Kiana James – Shining
Wizard to Grace

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NXT LVL Up – September 30, 2022: Let's Watch Two (And I Did)

NXT LVL Up

Date: September 30, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Sudu Shah

It's another week of the NXT B show, which says a lot as NXT is a C show at best. That doesn't leave much to get excited about around here, but they do things fast and have found a

formula that works well enough. I don't know what to expect this week but you can probably guess a lot of the names. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Javier Bernal vs. Ru Feng

Bernal grabs a headlock to start but gets punched back without much trouble. Feng is back with an armdrag into an armbar as the fans chant for Mortal Kombat. That's reversed into a whip into the corner and Bernal is back with a hard clothesline for two. The chinlock goes on, followed by an elbow to the face for two on Feng. We're already off to the second chinlock but Feng fights up and kicks away. A missed charge into the corner lets Bernal grab a jumping Downward Spiral for the pin at 5:32.

Rating: C-. I'm still not sure why Bernal got called up to the main NXT show as he is one of the most uninteresting guys in the ring. There is nothing to him to set him apart and yet he gets a promotion for whatever reason. Other than that you have Feng, who is your standard martial arts guy from about 1986. What were they expecting from this one?

Guru Raaj and Ikemen Jiro are ready for tonight's main event and say so via subtitles.

Valentina Feroz vs. Thea Hail

Hail takes her down by the arm to start but Feroz is right back up to drop Hail hard. Some suplexes give Feroz two and we hit the cravate. Hail fights up again and gets a breather but Feroz pulls her into a sleeper. That's fine with Hail though, who backflips into a rollup for the pin at 4:37.

Rating: C. Hail is growing on me and she is great as the overly enthusiastic college girl who happens to be kind of

smooth in the ring. It worked well here and the win over Feroz is probably something of an upset. I don't know how far either of them are going to go in NXT, but Hail being attached to Chase U at the moment should take her pretty far.

Edris Enofe/Malik Blade vs. Ikemen Jiro/Guru Raaj

Blade runs Jiro over but a nip up means a comparison of jacket vs. vest. It's off to Enofe for a headlock but Raaj comes in off a blind tag and hits a basement dropkick. Enofe is back up and sends Raaj to the floor for a dive before taking it back inside. Raaj is sent into the corner and Blade/Enofe don't seem to be overly worried. Enofe misses a dive in the corner though and it's Jiro coming in to clean house. Jiro hits a slingshot dropkick to the side of the head and adds a Swanton for two on Blade. The Ikemen Slash misses though and the Climax gives Blade the pin at 6:52.

Rating: C. This was a completely watchable tag match and I'm glad to see Enofe and Blade being treated as a decent team for once. Jiro is always smooth in the ring and Raaj was fine here as well. They even had a story with Enofe and Blade getting too cocky to get them in trouble. Good enough for a main event here.

Overall Rating: C. Another run of the mill show here, which is the case far too often. It is so run of the mill most weeks that I watched last week's show again, thinking it was this week's and never noticed the difference. They need something to make this show stand out more and I have no reason to believe they will be doing so anytime soon. As usual it's not worth getting annoyed over a 28 minute show, but do something to spice it up a bit, please.

Results

Javier Bernal b. Ru Feng – Jumping Downward Spiral

Thea Hail b. Valentina Feroz – Rollup

Edris Enofe/Malik Blade b. Ikemen Jiro/Guru Raaj – Climax to

Jiro

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NXT LVL Up – September 23, 2022: Back To It

NXT LVL Up

Date: September 23, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Nigel McGuinness, Matt Camp

The low level roller coaster continues with this show as I'm not sure what to expect. There have been some minor stories to set up some matches, plus a few appearances from bigger names. Then again, given this show's track record, all of that will be dropped as soon as possible. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Dante Chen vs. Bryson Montana

The rather strong Montana runs him over to start so Chen grabs a headlock and hopes for the best. Some takeovers give Chen some momentum and there's a dropkick to stagger Montana. That's about it for the offense though as Montana runs him over and hammers away on the mat. A Michinoku Driver gives Montana two and we hit the bearhug. Chen fights out and hits a clothesline, followed by a boot to the face. The double chop finishes Montana at 5:42.

Rating: C-. I still have no idea what they see in Chen but he keeps sticking around here and keeps getting wins. Chen is completely average in the ring and does nothing that makes me want to see whatever he is doing next. Montana might not be much, but at least he has a good look, which puts him ahead of Chen.

Myles Borne, with a VERY mumbly voice, is ready for Andre Chase. Don't let him talk again.

Indi Hartwell vs. Valentina Feroz

They fight over wrist control to start until Hartwell powers her down to the ground. Back up and Feroz grabs a sunset flip into a headlock but Hartwell slips out without much trouble and grabs a nerve hold. A suplex sets up a double arm crank on Feroz, who powers up and hits a crossbody. That's too far for Hartwell, who hits a spinebuster for the pin at 4:34.

Rating: D+. Hartwell has fallen so far in the last few months and it is kind of sad to see. She is a talented wrestler but there is only so much room for her without anything to do. The Dexter Lumis stuff going away more or less took her legs out and I don't see that getting better anytime soon, especially with a not so great match like this one.

Andre Chase vs. Myles Borne

Borne wrestles him to the mat to start but Chase slips out for a standoff. Chase takes him down by the arm and cranks on a hammerlock. Back up and Borne hits a dropkick before taking him down by the arm as well. With that broken up, Chase hits the spelling stomps and a high crossbody finishes for Chase at 5:36.

Rating: C. Borne is someone who can do some nice things on the mat, but there is nothing more to him than amateur style. That is going to get your foot in the door, but you need something better than that to make an impact. I haven't seen that from him yet and until that changed, he isn't going much further than this. On the other hand you have Chase, who could break through to the next level but I'm almost scared to see him try.

Post match Chase shakes Borne's hand, which might be a bit of recruiting.

Overall Rating: C. Yep, so much for anything having staying power around here, but at least they did keep the interviews between the first and second match. It isn't much, but it does add the slightest bit of flavor to what we're seeing here. LVL Up is still little more than a warmup show for the real NXT broadcast, and that doesn't exactly make for a great show. Until that changes, it's going to be little more than filler programming and that isn't overly interesting

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NXT LVL Up – September 16, 2022: They're Doing The Good Things!

NXT LVL Up

Date: September 16, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Nigel McGuinness

I actually got a bit of hope last week as we had a slightly bigger name in the main event to make it feel a bit better. Then again there is always the chance that they are going to completely drop it and switch back to the normal way of doing things. That would be the LVL Up way so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Ivy Nile/Tatum Paxley vs. Sloane Jacobs/Erica Yan

Paxley takes Yan down to start and she seems a bit surprised. Back up and Paxley pulls her to the mat for a hammerlock before it's off to Nile for some more arm cranking. Yan tries to roll out and gets hammerlocked again as this is one sided so far. An escape over to the corner brings in Jacobs, who is kicked down just as fast.

Paxley flip splashes onto her but stops to glare at Yan, allowing Jacobs to grab her own armbar. A spinning middle rope

crossbody gives Jacobs two and we hit the neck crank. Paxley elbows her in the face for a breather though and the hot tag brings in Nile to wreck things. Everything breaks down and Ivy Iconoclasms Paxley into a twisting splash for the pin on Jacobs at 5:19.

Rating: C. This was the kind of faster paced and above all else different match that that it needed to be. Just mixing things up a bit makes the show feel that much better and that is what they have needed to do around here for the better part of ever. I'm not sure what took so long, but I'm assuming that a lack of caring had something to do with it.

Bronco Nima and Lucien Price talk about going to school together and then reuniting after losing contact. Duke Hudson comes in to mock the idea so they say get a partner. That's not going to work for Hudson, so he'll face Nima one on one. See what they did here? They set up a quick story and gave us a bit of a backstory for a new team. This took about two minutes and did SOMETHING that has been lacking around here for years. Do more of this, even on a small scale.

Bronco Nima vs. Duke Hudson

Lucien Price is here with Nima as they take turns powering each other into the corner. Hudson hits a knee to the ribs and grabs a headlock but Nima comes back with a grab of the hair. A Samoan drop plants Hudson but he hits Nima in the throat and stomps away. The chinlock goes on until Nima fights up and hits a corner splash. A dancing forearm takes too long though and Hudson hits a German suplex. There's a belly to belly suplex into a big boot to finish Nima at 5:41.

Rating: C. This was close to a hoss fight and I'm glad to see Hudson get a win as I still think there is something to him. Other than that, it was weird to see someone like Nima, who seemed to be getting a bit more established, to lose like this. Granted some of that was due to taking too long to set

something up so maybe he can get some experience out of this.

Indi Hartwell vs. Amari Miller

Miller goes for the arm to start and la majistral gets two on Hartwell. The headlock takeover keeps Miller in control as the fans get behind Hartwell. Back up and a slam into an elbow gets two on Miller, followed by the chinlock. Fans: "SHE'S IMPRESSIVE!" Miller fights up and grabs a rollup for two but walks into a spinebuster for the pin at 5:12.

Rating: C-. Not much to see here but it was nice to have the fans into someone like Hartwell, who they will at least know. Hartwell has fallen a long way since the Index thing ended and that was pretty clear again this week. Miller has all the charisma she could ask for, but she is still pretty basic in the ring and that is going to need to change.

Overall Rating: C. The main thing here is that, in the same vein as the main roster shows, it feels like there is a new energy here. This show featured some bigger NXT names (in perspective that is) and it made the show seem that much better. What we got here was a show that didn't exactly light things up, but it was a lot more interesting than so many of the dry, dull LVL Up/205 Live shows over the last few years. Do more of the new stuff and see what you can do with this show, even if it is as low on the totem pole as you can get.

Results

Tatum Paxley/Ivy Nile b. Erica Yan/Sloane Jacobs – Twisting splash to Jacobs

Duke Hudson b. Bronco Nima – Big boot

Indi Hartwell b. Amari Miller – Spinebuster

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