

NXT LVL Up – May 17, 2024: Rookie Night

NXT LVL Up

Date: May 17, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, Blake Howard

We're back in Orlando and things have actually been getting a bit more interesting around here. There have been a few bigger names around here in recent weeks and that has helped quite a bit. However, this is a bit different than most weeks as it is part of a double taping, meaning a shorter show. Let's get to it.

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

Tavion Heights vs. Jasper Troy

Troy is 6'8 and 340lbs so we have a new big man. Heights gets caught in an early front facelock before going to an armbar to slow Troy down. Back up and Troy just runs him over with a shoulder but charges into a shot to the face. A big side slam plants Heights again and we hit the chinlock. Heights fights up and hits an overhead belly to belly but Troy powerslams him right back down. Not that it matters as Heights is back up with the spinning belly to belly for the pin at 5:16.

Rating: C. This worked fairly well as a big debut for Troy, who wrestled a nice enough big man match. He wrestles a bit slowly, but that can work for someone his size. Heights is still someone who feels like a project around here and his belly to belly is becoming a nice enough finisher. Not a great match, but they both looked decent.

Brinley Reece and the debuting Layla Diggs are rather

positive.

Brinley Reece/Layla Diggs vs. Carlee Bright/Kendal Grey

This is Diggs', a former track star, in-ring debut. Grey and Diggs start things off with Diggs taking her down into a headscissors. Grey gets her over to the corner for the tag to Bright, who spins around a lot. Diggs drops down into the splits and pulls her into a front facelock, allowing the tag off to Reece. Bright tries to crawl to the corner so Reece grabs her by the legs and swings her into the corner for a basic yet clever counter. Everything breaks down and Reece hits a cartwheel DDT to pin Grey at 4:01.

Rating: C. This was short and much more about the getting the four relative newcomers into the ring. Reece is fairly far in front of the other three but is still pretty new herself. They were smart to keep things short and to the point here, as none of them are ready for a long match, but what we got was just ok enough.

Everyone poses together to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. The show was only 18 minutes long and that makes it hard to get annoyed about some not so great matches. This show was about getting more newcomers into the ring for some ring time and it worked well enough. It's just a quick show and it did what it was supposed to so we'll call it right in the middle, as is often the case around here.

Results

Tavion Heights b. Jasper Troy – Spinning belly to belly suplex
Brinley Reece/Layla Diggs b. Carlee Bright/Kendal Grey –
Cartwheel DDT to Grey

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NXT LVL Up – May 3, 2024: They Really Did That

NXT LVL Up

Date: May 3, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

It's back for more of this and I'm not sure what that is going to mean. The good thing is that we had some bigger names last time and, again, it helped a lot. It would be nice to see that continue here as it is the only thing that makes the show feel even slightly worthwhile. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Eddy Thorpe vs. Kale Dixon

Thorpe grabs a headlock takeover to start and then armdrags him into an armbar for some cranking. Back up and a jumping elbow to the face puts Dixon down again but he's back up with a tilt-a-whirl slam for two. Dixon hits his own elbow to the

face to even things up a bit and another tilt-a-whirl slam gets two more. The chinlock goes on for a bit before Dixon chops him in the back, which just wakes Thorpe up. A German suplex into an elbow into the implant DDT finishes Dixon at 5:55.

Rating: C. As usual, Dixon is a perfectly fine hand in the ring who isn't likely to go anywhere beyond LVL Up. Thorpe on the other hand feels like someone NXT wants to move up but he has only gotten so far. It's nice seeing him on a bit of a winning streak, so hopefully he gets to keep it going and maybe into something a bit better.

Je'Von Evans is willing to go against anyone and that includes Riley Osborne tonight.

Kendal Grey vs. Kelani Jordan

Carlee Bright is here with Grey. They fight over wrist control to start until Jordan takes him down by the arm. An exchange of leg trips lets Grey crank on the arm before a belly to belly gives Grey two. Back up and they trade rollups for two each until Jordan grabs a fireman's carry slam. The split legged moonsault gives Jordan the pin at 5:14.

Rating: C. Grey is the latest star on the roster in great shape with very little else to set her apart from the rest of the women's division. Jordan has the gymnastics background which allows her to do some impressive things, though she is only starting to feel like something of a player. Both of them need the ring time so this works as well as anything else.

Riley Osborne vs. Je'Von Evans

Evans spins out of a wristlock to start and grabs one of his own. Back up and Evans snaps off a springboard hurricanrana to send Osborne to the floor. Osborne is fine enough to hit something like a 619 off the apron and we hit the reverse chinlock back inside. Evans fights up for a kick to the head

into a springboard clothesline for the big knockdown. There's the big dive to the floor to drop Osborne again but he switches places and hits a dive of his own. Back in and they trade rollups until Evans grabs a sunset flip for the big upset at 5:52.

Rating: C+. That is a heck of an upset as Osborne has been treated as someone with a big future around here. It made for a good moment and Evans is instantly a bigger deal. I'm not sure how far he is going to go but at some point you need to just try something with someone new. Evans is getting that treatment and now we get to see where it goes.

Overall Rating: C+. That ending helped a lot and it was the first moment in a long time around here that felt like it could matter going forward. For now, the show itself wasn't much but I'm wanting to see what they'll do next with Evans. The fans are behind him and now he's getting an upgrade, which is kind of the point of this entire show. For once.

Results

Eddy Thorpe b. Kale Dixon – Impaler DDT

Kelani Jordan b. Kendal Grey – Split legged moonsault

Je'Von Evans b. Riley Osborne – Sunset flip

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NXT LVL Up – April 26, 2024: Now Why Is That So Hard?

NXT LVL Up

Date: April 26, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

We're back to the show and I have no idea what that is going to mean. Well other than the usual matches from the same people with almost nothing changing from week to week. For the life of me I still do not get why we are not seeing more in the way of building up some kind of story, but that just isn't the LVL Up way. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Jakara Jackson vs. Arianna Grace

The rest of the Meta Four are here with Jackson and this is already way more star power than you usually get around here. Jackson takes her down with an armbar to start but Grace reverses into something like a cross armbreaker. With that broken up, Lash Legend offers a distraction, allowing Jackson to send Grace into the buckle. Jackson grabs the cravate but Grace fights up and hits a running knee for two. Another Legend distraction works rather well though and it's a jumping Fameasser to finish Grace at 5:48.

Rating: C. The match was nothing out of the ordinary, but again, it's amazing how much more important the show feels when there are some bigger names around here. It was also a

bit weird to have a mostly heel vs. heel match here, with Meta Four being popular but still cheating enough to win.

Dion Lennox and Dante Chen are ready for Malik Blade and Edris Enofe. They're off to a film study.

Carlee Bright vs. Jaida Parker

Bright grabs a headlock to start but Parker fights up. That earns her a dropkick but Parker powers Bright into the corner and sits on her ribs for two. Parker works on the arm for a change but Bright makes the comeback and snaps off a running headscissors. That's shrugged off for a running neckbreaker, setting up a hip attack to finish Bright at 4:53.

Rating: C. Parker continues to feel like she could be something if she is given the chance and that chance seems to be starting. There is only so much that she can do on LVL Up, but getting in the ring should do her some good. At the same time, Bright continues to feel like the same, run of the mill athletic woman who hasn't figured herself out yet. That's not a bad thing as she hasn't been around long, but so far there is nothing that makes her stand out.

Edris Enofe/Malik Blade vs. Dion Lennox/Dante Chen

Brinley Reece is here with Enofe and Blade. Lennox shouldered Blade down a few times to start so it's off to Enofe for a slam. Back up and Lennox powers him into the corner, allowing Chen to come in. Since it's Chen, he's quickly taken into the wrong corner for the tag back to Blade. Chen is able to get back over for the tag to Lennox, who runs Enofe over with a clothesline. Chen's chinlock goes on but Enofe fights up as everything breaks down. Lennox is sent to the apron but Chen comes back with the double chop...to knock Enofe into Lennox for a crash. A TKO finishes Chen at 5:22.

Rating: C+. My goodness Chen continues to find new ways to not be very good, though they are almost leaning into it at this

point. Having him knock his partner out at the end was oddly on point for him and it led to the regular team winning. Lennox could go somewhere down the line, but there is still quite a bit of developing that needs to take place first.

Overall Rating: C+. While the show might not have been better than the regular show around here, it was far more engaging. It's a lot easier to care about the bigger names and the stars featured here were that much more interesting. While not a great show or anything you need to watch, I'll definitely take a show featuring some unused NXT lower card stars than what we usually get around here.

Results

Jakara Jackson b. Arianna Grace – Jumping Fameasser

Jaida Parker b. Carlee Bright – Hip attack

Edris Enofe/Malik Blade b. Dion Lennox/Dante Chen – TKO to Chen

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NXT LVL Up – April 19, 2024: It Means Nothing For Next Week

NXT LVL Up

Date: April 19, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

It's time to finally get caught up on this show as I've been a few weeks behind. Things have not been their sharpest around here lately as it has certainly felt like the way the show has been going for a very long time. Hopefully that changes this week, as a dull LVL Up is among the least interesting things in all of wrestling. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Kale Dixon vs. Riley Osborne

Dixon shrugs off an early wristlock and sends Osborne outside, meaning we get a bit of respect on the way back in. Osborne hits a quick dropkick out to the floor and this time he lets Dixon come back in. Dixon isn't having that and decks Osborne, who knocks him right back down. Some kicks to the chest keep Osborne down and Dixon chops him in the back. The chinlock goes on but Osborne fights up and hits a jumping elbow. A knee to the face sets up a shooting star press to give Osborne the pin at 6:17.

Rating: C. Osborne gets a win here, though there is only so much that he is going to get from beating Dixon. While Dixon has a good look and enough ability, he is running with the anchor that is his first name. WWE can't expect him to go far

with that kind of a name, yet here we are anyway, with Dixon continuing to be stuck in limbo, at least partially due to being named after a vegetable.

Karmen Petrovic is ready for Wren Sinclair.

Karmen Petrovic vs. Wren Sinclair

Petrovic grabs a headlock to start and grinds away but Sinclair kicks away for a standoff. Another headlock goes on to keep Petrovic in control and she grabs a running basement Blockbuster for two. Sinclair pulls her down into a chinlock and even gets the knees into Petrovic's back to make it worse. Petrovic fights out and makes the clothesline comeback, setting up a spinning kick to the back of the head for the pin at 4:59.

Rating: C. I don't know if they're building up Sinclair's first win as a big deal or something else, but it's almost weird to see her lose so often despite being good enough to do something. On the other hand you have Petrovic, who has a cool gimmick but is going to need something more besides being able to kick people.

Respect is shown post match.

Drake Morreaux/Javier Bernal vs. Hank Walker/Tank Ledger

Ledger powers Bernal into the corner to start and it's quickly off to Morreaux, who runs Ledger down. Bernal comes back in and is promptly slammed by Walker, setting up Ledger's slingshot splash for two. With Morreaux down, a double slam puts Bernal onto him for a rather nasty crash. Morreaux takes Walker down though and Bernal gets to stomp away.

The chinlock doesn't last long and it's Ledger coming back in to clean house. Everything breaks down and Morreaux knocks Walker outside, allowing Bernal's top rope splash to connect for two. Back up and Walker and Ledger knock Morreaux to the

floor, setting up a running powerslam/forearm to the back of the head combination to finish Bernal at 6:29.

Rating: C+. Match of the night here though that's not saying much. At least Morreaux, who has some promise, didn't take the loss here, as Bernal is the definition of expendable. Ledger and Walker are becoming LVL Up guys and that isn't the best thing, as they're only so interesting in the first place.

Overall Rating: C. Pretty nothing show this week and unfortunately you just have to be used to that around here. The main event was the best match if that means much, as this was just another thirty minutes that came and went without much happening. Completely average edition here, and that means nothing about what is to come around here.

Results

Riley Osborne b. Kale Dixon – Shooting star press

Karmen Petrovic b. Wren Sinclair – Spinning kick to the back of the head

Hank Walker/Tank Ledger b. Drake Morreaux/Javier Bernal – Running powerslam/forearm combination to Bernal

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NXT LVL Up – April 12, 2024: They Did The Thing

NXT LVL Up

Date: April 12, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

We're done with Stand & Deliver and that means it is time to change pretty much nothing around here. Last week's show saw something of a grudge match between Je'Von Evans and Scrypts, albeit with some partners. Somehow that was only the second ever six man tag in the history of LVL Up, so maybe we can get another treat here. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Tavion Heights vs. Uriah Connors

The bigger Heights lips him into the corner to start and wrestles to the mat without much effort. Some shots to the face stagger Heights and Connors sends him outside for a crash. Back in and Connors stomps away, setting up an arm crank. Connors grabs a choke over the ropes, only to have Heights power up into an electric chair for the break. Back up and the spinning belly to belly gives Heights the pin at 5:03.

Rating: C. NXT needs to bring up some new people and Heights might as well be one of them. He has separated himself from the pack around here a little big and that suplex is a good finisher. Connors got in some offense of his own but this was more about Heights, which should be the case at the moment.

Kendal Grey and Carlee Bright are ready to try their best

against Blair Davenport and Stevie Turner.

Stevie Turner/Blair Davenport vs. Kendal Grey/Carlee Bright

Turner snapmares Bright down to start but Bright is right back up with a wristlock. Grey comes in to work on Davenport's arm but she gets taken into the villains' corner. Bright manages to flip over Davenport though and it's Grey coming in for an assisted top rope splash. That doesn't work for Davenport, who brings Grey into the corner for a Backstabber from Turner.

Davenport's backbreaker gets two on Grey and some forearms to the back make it even worse. Grey quickly powers out of a half crab though and the tag brings Bright back in to clean house. Bright headscissors Davenport into a splash, only to have Davenport come right back with the Falcon Arrow for the pin at 6:14.

Rating: C. The biggest thing here was finding out that Turner was still employed. She has barely done anything in months and I'm not sure why. Her futuristic deal isn't that bad and she can hang in the ring, but it has never come close to clicking for her. Maybe that changes, but for now she was just Davenport's partner.

Eddy Thorpe vs. Dion Lennox

They fight over wrist control to start (as is so often the case) before an exchange of shoulders goes nowhere. Lennox's dropkick lets him grab a headlock but Thorpe isn't having that. Back up and Thorpe hammers away before putting on an abdominal stretch. With that broken up, Lennox hammers away and hits a clothesline but Thorpe punches him in the face. The impaler DDT finishes for Thorpe at 5:11.

Rating: C. Thorpe didn't do much here until the end when he just grabbed his finisher for the win. That's not much of a match but it did make Lennox look good enough in defeat. At some point you have to try something new with someone and

that's more or less what happened here. Lennox is going to need more than "he wears glasses to the ring" to stand out though and we seem pretty far off from that.

Overall Rating: C. Not their best effort here, with the women's tag probably standing out the most. This was a show where it didn't feel like they were trying and it made the show that much less interesting as a result. Like I've said far too many times, you can just tell when the effort isn't there from WWE (as opposed to the wrestlers, who were trying) and it showed again this week with a pretty lackluster show.

Results

Tavion Heights b. Uriah Connors – Belly to belly suplex

Stevie Turner/Blair Davenport b. Carlee Bright/Kendal Grey – Falcon Arrow to Bright

Eddy Thorpe b. Dion Lennox – Implant DDT

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NXT LVL Up – April 5, 2024: For The Second Time Ever

NXT LVL Up

Date: April 5, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

It's Wrestlemania Weekend and we might get to see some people who might be at Wrestlemania L or so. It would be nice to have them do something a little different for this show but odds are that isn't what we'll be getting to see. If nothing else, just some slightly bigger names could help a lot so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Dante Chen vs. Drake Morreux

The rather large Morreux takes him down without much effort so Chen goes to the arm. A hiptoss is blocked and Morreux drops him with a clothesline, setting up a splash to the back. Chen goes for the arm again but walks into a backbreaker for two. We hit the waistlock before Morreux misses another splash. Back up and Chen strikes away, including a pump kick into the double chop to finish Morreux at 5:43.

Rating: C. One day someone is going to have to explain the Chen thing to me. He's nothing of note in the ring but even commentary was pointing out how he is the guy who gets to face all of the up and comers around here. That's one thing, but then he beats those up and comers, which makes things all the worse. It's hardly some career killer for Morreux, though it doesn't do much to make me want to watch the show.

OTM threatened Je'Von Evans at the Performance Center but Tyson DuPont/Tyriek Igwe made the save.

Brinley Reece vs. Tatum Paxley

Reece grabs the armbar to start but Paxley stops to talk to her. That earns Paxley an armdrag into another armbar, followed by a running shoulder in the corner. Back up and Reece misses a dropkick, allowing Paxley to go after the ribs. A reverse chinlock has Reece in more trouble but she fights up with the elbows. Not that it matters as Paxley pulls her into the Psycho Trap for the pin at 4:22.

Rating: C. Reece is something similar to the original Bayley crossed with Thea Hail but she doesn't actually win anything. Having that kind of energy is nice to see but it isn't going to matter if she doesn't have some success. On the other hand you have Paxley, who is at least getting higher up in the women's division due to her weird association with Lyra Valkyria.

OTM vs. Je'Von Evans/Tyriek Igwe/Tyson DuPont

Evans slugs away at Scrypts to start, meaning the flipping escapes ensue. Price and DuPont come in to trade shoulders with the latter getting the better of things. A splash gives DuPont two and it's off to Nima, with Igwe working on the arm. Igwe gets taken into the wrong corner so the villains can take over. Scrypts is tossed at him for two and the chinlock goes on, only to have Igwe power out without much trouble. It's back to Evans to pick the pace up with the dives but Price and Nima catch DuPont in the assisted Alabama Slam for the pin at 6:20.

Rating: C+. Commentary said this was only the second six man tag in the history of LVL Up and I have no idea how or why that is possible. On a show built around the idea of getting people as much ring time as possible, why wouldn't you want to put more people out there? Just an odd bit of trivia but the

match itself was decent, with Evans getting to pop the crowd again.

Overall Rating: C. I'm not sure if a six man tag counts as anything special for Wrestlemania Weekend but I'm not sure how many people in WWE know this show exists in the first place. Just having a quick angle at the Performance Center helps and at least it was something from a previous week. Nothing of note here, but that's LVL Up for two.

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NXT LVL Up – March 29, 2024: Great Continuity

NXT LVL Up

Date: March 29, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, Blake Howard

I'm a bit behind on this thing and I'm not sure how much I

missed it. In this case, the good thing is that there isn't exactly much in the way of continuity around here. What matters the most is the action and star power, as both of them can come together to turn into something pretty decent. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Jakara Jackson/Lash Legend vs. Carlee Bright/Kendal Grey

Legend throws Bright down with no trouble to start and it's off to Jackson, who gets caught by the arm. Grey and Bright start some quick tags to stay on the arm but it's back to Legend for the pump kick. An elbow to the back gives Legend two and we hit the bearhug to stay on said back. Grey fights out but gets caught in a quick backbreaker to cut her off again. That doesn't last long and it's back to Bright to pick up the pace. Everything breaks down until Jackson hits an Edge-0-Matic. Bright is sent outside and the Alley Oop finishes for Jackson at 6:35.

Rating: C. They're turning Jackson and Legend into something of a thing, which is rather impressive as Legend has come a LONG way since her rather terrible earlier days. The team is getting somewhere and I could go for them being given a bigger chance. That might be coming, and hopefully they keep growing as a team.

Hank Walker and Tank Ledger are ready to finish their best of three series with Tyriek Igwe and Tyson DuPont. Cue Igwe and DuPont, who want to raise the stakes. Now on the line: a meatloaf recipe vs. shoes. Yeah.

Je'Von Evans vs. Scrypts

The rest of OTM is here with Scrypts. They take turns ducking the other to start until Evans gets two off a sunset flip.

Back up and Scrypts elbows him in the face but Evans snaps off a headscissors. Scrypts takes him down again and hammers away, setting up the running spinwheel kick in the corner. The chinlock goes on but Evans is back up with a springboard kick to the face. OTM offers a distraction though and Evans misses his spinning top rope splash. Not that it matters as Evans is right back with a small package for the pin at 4:57.

Rating: C+. They know what they've got with Evans, who is young and able to move rather quickly out there. That makes for some exciting moments as you get some fun high flying stuff. Scrypts can hang in that style as well, making for a nice acrobatic display. I have no idea how far Evans can go right now, but he's off to a fun start.

Hank Walker/Tank Ledger vs. Tyriek Igwe/Tyson DuPont

Final match in a Best Of Three series. Walker powers Igwe into the corner to start but runs into an elbow. DuPont comes in to help with some strikes but it's quickly off to Ledger. That means a fall away slam can put Igwe down and a toss slam drops him again. The chinlock doesn't last long so Walker and Ledger hit stereo running standing splashes on Igwe.

Another chinlock is broken up in a hurry and Igwe gets over to DuPont to pick up the pace. DuPont's discus punch gets two on Walker as everything breaks down. Ledger is sent outside and the chokeslam/belly to back suplex combination connects, only for Ledger to make the save. Igwe and Walker collide and Walker falls on him for the fluke pin at 6:23.

Rating: C+. As has been the case around here before, it is amazing to see how much even some small stakes around here changes things. Granted I'm not overly interested in the shoes, though the idea of someone winning a meatloaf recipe had potential. It helped a good bit here, as I had no reason to care about either of these teams but it mattered just a bit, which is nice to see.

Respect is shown to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. I guess we can call this a show with some continuity and I'll take that for a one off week. LVL Up is still not exactly must see stuff but you can tell when they are trying vs. the weeks when they aren't. This was one of the better shows, which says a lot given the names involved. Perfectly fine show, though that means nothing for the show's future.

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NXT LVL Up – March 22, 2024: There's A Nice Surprise

NXT LVL Up

Date: March 22, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

Every week when I get ready to watch this show I hope that we

get some star power around here. There is only so much you can get out of having those lower level stars on the show and that becomes more and more obvious every week it happens around here. Hopefully it isn't the case again this week as it can make the show that much better. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Tavion Heights vs. Saquon Shugars

This is Shugars' debut. Heights takes the oddly dressed Shugars down without much effort to start and then drops down to let Shugars have a free try. This goes rather badly for Shugars, who is quickly wrestled down and then rocked back and forth into a gutwrench suplex. Back up and they run the ropes until Shugars pulls him throat first into the middle rope. A neckbreaker drops Heights back inside and we hit the chinlock. That's broken up and it's a slingshot Fameasser to put Heights down again. Another chinlock doesn't work and Heights fights up, including A Sling Blade. A belly to belly finishes Shugars at 5:44.

Rating: C+. You can tell that Heights is on the way up to the next level around here and that is not a bad thing. He has the amateur style that works rather well and it was on display here. Shugars is off to a good start around here though like so many others around here, he has a very long way to go.

Uriah Connors, who got wrecked on NXT by Shawn Spears a few weeks back, is ready to try again against Eddy Thorpe.

Lainey Reed vs. Jaida Parker

Reed is a southern belle and they fight over arm control to start. Reed avoids a charge in the corner and gets two off a sunset flip as the fans seem to be behind Parker. A hair slam takes Reed down though and Parker hits a running shoulder in

the corner. Parker puts Reed on the middle rope and sits on her stomach for two. The abdominal stretch goes on until Reed slips out and slugs away. Parker escapes...I think an atomic drop and hits a Rough Ryder for the pin at 5:14.

Rating: C. Parker is in a weird spot as she is starting to get it together as a powerhouse but it is going to take something special to get her out of the shadow of Lash Legend who is doing something similar but better. As for Reed, she is the latest in shape young star who did well enough in a short match. Again that is going to take some effort to stand out and this only got her so far.

Eddy Thorpe vs. Uriah Connors

Thorpe backs him into the corner to start and grinds away on a headlock. Back up and Thorpe snaps off another headlock takeover but Connors reverses into an armbar. A dropkick puts Thorpe on the floor to set up a suicide dive and they head back inside. This time Thorpe strikes him down with a kick and elbow for two, followed by a snap suplex for the same. We hit the chinlock but Connors is back up with a suplex of his own. Connors hits a running elbow to the face and a Blue Thunder Bomb gets two. Thorpe is right back with a backbreaker into a penalty kick, followed by an implant DDT for the pin at 6:58.

Rating: B-. This was a heck of a match by LVL Up standards and I was digging what I was seeing here. Thorpe is someone who has shown quite a bit of promise in his time around NXT but there is only so much he can do without being on the main show. At the same time Connors got a really good showcase here, which shouldn't be the biggest surprise given that his father is one Fit Finlay.

Overall Rating: C+. That main event brought this show up after a not so great middle match. The opener worked rather well for a debut and it made this show feel like a nice mix. I can go for a different kind of vibe around here as the worst thing

that they can do is put on the same boring show every week. Not a bad time at all here, with Connors and Thorpe having a heck of a nice surprise.

Results

Tavion Heights b. Saquon Shugars – Belly to belly suplex

Jaida Parker b. Lainey Reed – Rough Ryder

Eddy Thorpe b. Uriah Connors – Implant DDT

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NXT LVL Up – March 15, 2024: This Wasn't Drek

NXT LVL Up

Date: March 15, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

Things almost have to be better after last week's rather dull show. As usual, the show's interest level hinges on the star

power involved and there was almost none to be seen last week. That needs to change here but you never know if that is going to be the case. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Lola Vice vs. Carlee Bright

Bright's mom is in the audience. Vice takes her to the mat without much trouble to start and grabs the waistlock. That's reversed into a headlock from Bright, followed by a running crossbody for two. Vice is right back with a spinebuster and we hit the neck crank. That lasts as long as the average neck crank, with Bright grabbing a backslide and small package for two each. Vice isn't having that though and grabs a headscissors choke for the tap at 4:24.

Rating: C. Vice continues to feel like someone who is turning into something around here and she is probably going to be a project going forward. There is value there and WWE seems to know it. On the other hand you have Bright, who is another young athletic star who has been dropped into the division without having anything that makes her stand out.

Javier Bernal, now with the rather large (and debuting) Drake Morreux, is ready for their tag match against the D'Angelo Family. Morreux is very, very Cajun.

Javier Bernal/Drake Morreux vs. D'Angelo Family

Stacks and Bernal fight over arm control to start until Stacks runs him over with a shoulder. Morreux comes in and for some reason it's off to Crusifino, who is powered into the corner. Crusifino is run over without much effort and it's back to Bernal for the front facelock. A springboard elbow drop gives Bernal two but Crusifino ducks Morreux's running shoulder. Stacks comes back in and everything breaks down, allowing

Stacks to hit Cement Shoes to finish Morreaux at 5:26.

Rating: C. I know it's just LVL Up but was there no other way to go than having the new monster take the fall here? A former champion beating a goon like Bernal doesn't feel like that big of a stretch but instead it's the new monster losing. The good thing is almost no one sees this show as otherwise, that would be a good way to cut Morreaux's legs off right at the beginning.

Wren Sinclair vs. Sol Ruca

The fans are glad to have Ruca (now with new tattoos) back and respect is shown before we get going. They fight over arm control to start until Ruca cartwheels away from a sunset flip attempt. Ruca takes her down out of the corner and we hit the headlock takeover. Sinclair reverses into a quickly broken headscissors before stereo crossbodies leave both of them down. Back up and Sinclair knocks her down again, setting up a chinlock. That's broken up as well so they trade rollups for two each. Ruca scores with a dropkick and the Sol Snatcher finishes Sinclair at 6:02.

Rating: C+. The rest of the match was just ok but dang that Sol Snatcher is one of the coolest looking finishers you'll see anywhere. Ruca's athleticism is rather impressive and it's great to see that she can still do her big move after her injury. Sinclair continues to lose over and over but she's certainly not getting crushed out there.

More respect is shown post match.

Overall Rating: C+. It really is amazing what happens when it feels like the people on the show matter. Having Ruca, the Family and Vine around made this such a more engaging show and that was glaringly absent last week. The show wasn't exactly great, but I'll certainly take this after last week's drek.

Results

Lola Vice b. Carlee Bright – Headscissors choke
D’Angelo Family b. Javier Bernal/Drake Morreaux – Cement Shoes
to Morreaux
Sol Ruca b. Wren Sinclair – Sol Snatcher

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NXT LVL Up – March 8, 2024: Gah

NXT LVL Up

Date: March 8, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

My confusion with these shows continues as I had a better time
with last week’s show after weeks of almost nothing. That
could make for something good this time around here, assuming
there is anything involving continuity. Granted There is no
reason to believe that will be the case but oh well. Let’s get

to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Scripts vs. Dion Lennox

OTM is here with Scripts, who is sent hard into the corner to start. Lennox wrestles him to the mat but Scripts flips away from the threat of a right hand. That's fine with Lennox, who grabs a bridging northern lights suplex for two but Scripts starts working on the arm. A middle rope crossbody gives Scripts two and it's back to the arm. Lennox fights up and makes the one armed comeback but the arm gives out again. Scripts sends said arm into the corner and it's a rolling cutter to give Scripts the pin at 5:51.

Rating: C. Scripts continues to be someone I tend to forget is around most of the time and that was the case coming into this as well. He's still an amazing acrobat and can do some impressive things, but that doesn't make him someone who is the brightest star around here. Lennox isn't someone who should be beating Scripts, making this less than ideal.

Karmen Petrovic is ready for Izzi Dame, even if Kiana James is in Dame's corner.

Karmen Petrovic vs. Izzi Dame

Kiana James is here with Dame. Petrovic's headlock doesn't last long as Dame reverses into an armbar. A big boot puts Petrovic down and there's a full nelson slam to make it worse. Some backbreakers give Dame two and she grabs the torture rack. With that broken up, Petrovic goes up for a middle rope crossbody but Dame is back with the Z Quill for the pin at 4:28.

Rating: C-. Pretty to the point match here with neither of them getting to stand out. Dame and James are still the same

middle of the road team they have been since they got together and that isn't exactly great. Petrovic isn't doing much either, though her martial arts stuff looks good when she gets to use them.

Dante Chen vs. Tavion Heights

They go to the mat to start and that goes a grand total of nowhere. Heights grinds away on a headlock but Chen is back with an armbar. More grappling doesn't get either anywhere as commentary talks about what Stand & Deliver means to the wrestlers around here. Ignore that neither of these two are anywhere close to that level as Heights hits a hard clothesline.

Heights pulls him down out of the corner and grabs an armbar to keep things slow. Chen is right back with a neckbreaker but Heights suplexes his way out of a headlock. Another suplex has Chen in more trouble and a doctor bomb gives Heights two. Back up and Chen hits something like a Side Effect for two, meaning frustration is setting in. The double chop misses though and Heights grabs a spinning belly to belly for the pin at 7:09.

Rating: C. This got better in the end and it was nice to not have Chen pick up another win over someone who needed the momentum. Thankfully WWE seems to have calmed down with keeping Chen so strong as I never got the point. Heights is someone who could have some potential and losing to Chen would have knocked that all the way back down.

Overall Rating: D+. Not one of their finer offerings here with little in the way of interest and the best match being fairly dull. It was a case where there was barely anything in the way of star power and the action wasn't exactly good either. This really didn't work and there wasn't much in the way of positives on the whole thing.

Results

Scripts b. Dion Lennox – Rolling cutter

Izzi Dame b. Karmen Petrovic – Z Quill

Tavion Heights b. Dante Chen – Spinning belly to belly

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