

NXT LVL Up – July 7, 2023: Thank Goodness It's Short

NXT LVL Up

Date: July 7, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, Blake Howard

It's another short form show this week as the Fourth Of July schedule made things a little weird. In a way, these shows are a bit better as they don't overstay their welcome or feel repetitive in the slightest. Last week's version worked rather well and it would be nice to have that be the case again here. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Fallon Henley vs. Tatum Paxley

Henley grabs a headlock to start as commentary talks about how far apart these two have gone since debuting together. A legdrag out of the corner gives Henley two but Paxley sends her neck first into the ropes. Paxley hits a jumping elbow (which is called "innovative" by commentary) and some trash talk gets one. The abdominal stretch goes on, followed by a waistlock to keep Henley down. Henley gets tired of getting beaten up and comes back with some forearms, followed by a Shining Wizard for the pin at 5:55.

Rating: C. It really is kind of astounding to see Henley fall this far. She was never a top star or anything close to one, but you would think that she would have been able to do something better than being relegated to LVL Up. Henley hasn't been involved in anything important in months, but it isn't like Paxley has been doing much better. They're both talented,

though neither is doing anything whatsoever at the moment.

Kale Dixon is ready for Scrypts but seems a bit confused as he talks about telling a great story.

Kale Dixon vs. Scrypts

They trade headlocks to start until Scrypts snaps off a dropkick. Dixon's headscissors is countered into a headlock, followed by a slingshot crossbody for a fast two. Dixon powers him off though and stomps away before hitting a knee to the face for two. We hit the chinlock but Scrypts pops back up and strikes away. The Molly Go Round finishes Dixon at 5:52.

Rating: C-. This wasn't working as neither exactly seemed to know how to keep things flowing. Instead it was a bunch of kicking and stomping until Dixon took over. Scrypts' comeback took all of a few seconds and it wasn't exactly interesting. Dixon has a solid attitude but nothing to back it up while Scrypts is an incredible athlete but not interesting. That doesn't make for a good combination and that was obvious here.

Overall Rating: C-. I wasn't feeling this one and the only saving grace was the fact that it was so short. Henley was the biggest star on the show and she hasn't done anything in months. Nothing to see here, as this was one of the lamer editions of the show in a rather long time.

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NXT LVL Up – June 30, 2023: The Short Version

NXT LVL Up

Date: June 30, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, Blake Howard

For once, this show might actually be a bit different for a change, as next week's regular NXT will be taped in advance due to the 4th of July. As a result, NXT might switch things up somewhat, for the sake of not having to tape too many matches before the show. That could be a nice way to go so let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Blair Davenport vs. Kelani Jordan

Jordan takes her down with an armbar to start before a sunset flip gets two. An armdrag out of the corner into a rollup gets two more but Davenport hits her in the face to take over. The cravate has Jordan in more trouble but she fights up with some shots to the face. A springboard spinning crossbody gets two on Davenport but a backbreaker into the Falcon Arrow finishes Jordan at 5:25.

Rating: C. Jordan got a chance to shine here and that is nice to see as she is still brand new. Let her do her thing for a bit, assuming she already knows what that thing is. That being

said, Davenport seems to be a candidate for next big bad in NXT and if that is the case, she is not about to be losing to a newcomer like Jordan, especially on LVL Up.

Myles Borne wants a challenge in Joe Coffey.

Joe Coffey vs. Myles Borne

Coffey grabs a cravate to start but Borne is right back up with a dropkick. An armbar puts Borne down and Coffey cranks on the arm a bit more. Coffey's headlock doesn't last long as Borne is back up with a dropkick. Borne gets his own armbar and Coffey is sent to the apron, where a Stunner can connect to stagger Borne again. A powerslam gets Borne out of trouble but Coffey knocks him into the corner, setting up All The Best For The Bells and the pin on Borne at 5:40.

Rating: C+. Coffey as the name of the week around here is a weird way to go as he has had enough success to not belong on this show. That make it all the more interesting and Borne even got in some offense here. Decent enough match, even if it was there for the sake of having Coffey around.

Overall Rating: C+. As nice as the thirty minute version of the show may be, the twenty minute version actually suits it even better. It's more or less the Main Event of NXT and I got a little something out of it, just by having some not quite squash matches. This was a nice change of pace and we'll probably get the same next week, so well done for a bit.

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NXT LVL Up – June 23, 2023: Is A Feud Too Much To Ask?

NXT LVL Up

Date: June 23, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Tampa, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

Things took a bit of a turn back to the norm last week as we didn't have much in the way of star power or anything interesting. In other words, it was nothing more than the usual LVL Up with almost nothing worth seeing. Hopefully they can make it better here again as LVL Up can be a snappy enough show when it gets the chance. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Stacks vs. Kale Dixon

Dixon goes with a headlock and some right hands to start but Stacks runs him over without much trouble. What looks to be Shattered Dreams is broken up so Stacks goes with an atomic drop instead. Back up and Dixon sends him throat first into the middle rope, followed by a running knee for two. A gutwrench faceplant gets two and the abdominal stretch keeps Stacks in trouble. That's broken up and Stacks kicks away before ducking an enziguiri. Cement Shoes finishes Dixon at

5:51.

Rating: C. Stacks isn't doing anything revolutionary in NXT but it's cool to see someone on this show who has a story going on at the moment. The reveal of whodunit should be good and Stacks is going to be in the middle of the whole thing. Dixon isn't supposed to be beating someone of Stacks' caliber yet so the winning streak coming to an end (at one) is acceptable.

Tavion Heights is ready for Luca Crusifino and wants to bring the same energy he brought to the Olympics.

Tavion Heights vs. Luca Crusifino

Heights takes him down by the arm to start and he armdrags Luca to cut him off. Luca fights up and runs Heights over a few times before getting one off a slam. The reverse chinlock doesn't last long so Luca grabs a suplex for two instead. Luca rips at his face until Heights fights up to dropkick his way out of trouble. An overhead belly to belly sends Luca flying and Heights loads up the Doctor Bomb, only to have Luca grab the rope for the rollup pin at 5:57.

Rating: C. Luca is a weird case where he is getting better in the ring, but the gimmick stuff that makes him stand out is going by the wayside. It is something that could be done in a few different ways but instead we are just seeing him go out there and doing basic stuff, which is only so interesting in the first place. Heights is another name on a long list of people who feel like potential stars but need something to make them stand out.

Ivy Nile vs. Jacy Jayne

Nile takes her to the mat for an armbar to start before snapping off a hurricanrana. Jayne is right back and gets in a charge in the corner, followed by a neckbreaker for two. We hit the chinlock for a bit but Nile fights up and hits the

running kick in the corner. The Diamond Chain Lock is blocked so they trade superkicks, followed by Jayne hitting a discus lariat for the pin at 5:15.

Rating: C+. Slightly better here and again having the bigger names on the show helps a lot. Jayne and Nile are fairly regular features on the main NXT show and it's nice to have them around here. The star power, at least in Jayne, helps a lot as you feel like you're watching someone who matters. Do something like that around here and the show feels that much more important.

Overall Rating: C. Not much to see here and the main only helps things to a certain extent. As usual, the show is about half an hour long and the wrestling is decent enough, but a feud that goes over a few weeks might be nice. I'm not sure how much you get out of having one off matches like this, but that's what you're getting and there is nothing that is going to be done about it anytime soon.

Results

Stacks b. Kale Dixon – Cement Shoes

Luca Crusifino b. Tavion Heights – Rollup while grabbing a rope

Jacy Jayne b. Ivy Nile – Discus lariat

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NXT LVL Up – June 16, 2023: Just Like PN News

NXT LVL Up

Date: June 16, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

Things have started to pick up around here a little bit and that is nice to see after so many months of pretty much nothing. The star power has been better and should that continue, the show could be a lot more entertaining to watch week in and week out. Granted I've said that before and nothing has lasted so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Elektra Lopez/Lola Vice vs. Dani Palmer/Kelani Jordan

Lopez throws Jordan around to start but Jordan is fine enough to take Vice down with a drop toehold. Palmer comes in to work on a wristlock before getting taken into the wrong corner. Stereo hip attacks to the head knock Palmer silly for two and Vice kicks her into the corner. Palmer fights out of Lopez's neck crank and brings in Jordan as everything breaks down. Lopez grabs Jordan with the sitout chokebomb for the pin at 4:23.

Rating: C. I've mostly given up on Lopez becoming a breakout star but Vice and Palmer both have that charisma that can

offer something going forward. There's a spark to them that makes you want to see them in the ring and I could go for seeing what NXT does for them. Jordan is another rather athletic star, but she is still brand new and it could be awhile before we see what she can really do.

Javier Bernal is ready to show a new side of himself tonight against Stacks. He talks about having a chip on his shoulder and goes over the various types of chip it might be (including tortilla size).

Boa vs. Bryson Montana

Montana grabs a cravate to start and they go to the mat rather quickly. The exchange of strikes goes to Boa, who scores with a running dropkick but can't get a sunset flip. Montana is right back with a powerslam and the chinlock goes on. Boa fights up and fires off knees to the ribs, followed by a big kick to the head for the pin at 4:08.

Rating: C. I know I say this every time, but it's still just Boa. He's a guy who paints his face and kicks a lot, which is only going to take him so far. Montana is a big power guy and looks good when he is out there, but he needs a lot more experience. For now, he's stuck with losing to Boa, who is eternally stuck going nowhere.

Javier Bernal vs. Stacks

They fight over a lockup to start until Bernal grabs a wristlock. Stacks reverses into one of his own and pulls him into a hammerlock on the mat. Back up and Stacks crotches him on top before dropping the legs between the legs. Bernal is fine enough to catch him on top and drop a running leg for two. Commentary talks about how Bernal wants to follow in the paths of Oz and PN News, as stars who had big performances at the Great American Bash. Bernal runs him over again and we hit the Lontamer of all things, but Stacks flips him away for the break. A running knee to the back of the head finishes Bernal

at 6:45.

Rating: C+. This is the best thing on the show and even then it's just pretty good. Stacks is in the middle of a pretty big story and while I still believe that he's going to wind up being the one to have turned Tony D'Angelo in, he's doing well on the way there. Bernal is such a funny goof that it's easy to have him around, even if he isn't going to get anywhere anytime soon.

Overall Rating: C. It was back to the run of the mill version of this show this week and that is rather disappointing. I guess Bernal and Stacks are the big names on the show and even they are little more than lower midcarders on NXT. I'm not sure why they changed course so fast, but hopefully they change it again and make the show the more interesting offering that it can be.

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NXT LVL Up – June 9, 2023: They'll Do

NXT LVL Up

Date: June 9, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, Blake Howard

Things were a bit different last week as we had some different faces around for a change. That can make all the difference in the world with a show like this, which is built around getting people some ring time before they're called up to the main NXT show (in theory at least). Hopefully they keep that up here so let's get to it.

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

In Memory of the Iron Sheik.

Opening sequence.

Nathan Frazier vs. Tavion Heights

Heights wrestles/powers him to the mat to start but Frazier reverses into a sunset flip for two. Back up and Frazier starts flipping away, only to dive into an overhead belly to belly suplex (and a sweet one at that). Heights grabs the chinlock but Frazier reverses, only to get kicked throat first into the rope. A Dominator gives Heights two more but Frazier kicks him in the head. Frazier flips out of a German suplex, nails a superkick and finishes with the Phoenix splash at 4:40.

Rating: C+. Frazier being around instantly made the show feel more important and the fact that it was a rather nice power vs. speed match helped. This felt like Heights was told to go do all of his impressive stuff and the power/amateur mixture

worked. Heights is another star who feels like he could be a big deal going forward, but he has to actually win something for that to take place.

Luca Crusifino is ready for Myles Borne, who lacks his intelligence.

Luca Crusifino vs. Myles Borne

Borne works on a wristlock to start before switching over to an armbar. Luca can't shake him off but can send Borne throat first into the rope to escape. Some knees to the back set up a chokeslam as the fans argue over whether Luca is their lawyer or not. Borne finally suplexes his way out of trouble but can't get a powerslam. Instead Borne tries la majistral but Luca stacks him up for the pin at 5:38.

Rating: C. Crusifino winning matches is almost strange to see but it's nice to have someone fresh actually getting some wins. The evil lawyer isn't likely to be the biggest gimmick, but I'll take it over having absolutely nothing else to do. Now just let him get better and find something for him to do and he should be fine.

Charlie Dempsey vs. Dante Chen

Drew Gulak is here with Dempsey. They fight over arm control to start, with Chen flipping him over for an annoyed stare from Dempsey. Another battle over the arm goes to Dempsey, who suplexes him down a few times for some near falls. Back up and Chen elbows him in the face, setting up the armdrag into the armbar.

Chen whips him into the corner a few times but Dempsey gets it back to the mat. The cravate holds Chen in trouble for a bit until he wins a forearm exchange. A big boot drops Dempsey again but he bails to the floor before the double chop. Chen misses a springboard though and gets pulled into a reverse STF (Dempsey has the legs tied up but is laying on his back to

pull on the chin.) for the tap at 7:50.

Rating: B-. This was one of the better matches I've seen on this show in a good while, as Dempsey was working well with the torture and Chen kept up the energy. Chen is a mainstay around here and isn't interesting enough for the main NXT show, but he can do well when given the chance. Dempsey could be a force in NXT if he ever gets to move up a bit, but I can settle for him tormenting innocent victims for the time being.

Overall Rating: C+. They went in the opposite direction this week with more star power and that was a nice change of pace. LVL Up is not usually the place for people like Frazier and Dempsey but it was cool to have them around here for a change instead of the same people over and over. I get why NXT wouldn't want that to be the case every week, but for a one off, this was a fun night.

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NXT LVL Up – June 2, 2023: Coming Attractions

NXT LVL Up

Date: June 2, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, Blake Howard

I have no idea what to expect from this show and I'm not sure if that is a good thing or not. LVL Up is a show that can offer something and it is cool to see some of these young up and comers getting a chance. The problem is it can take time for that to really make an impact. Maybe that is different this week so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Quincy Elliott vs. Kale Dixon

Elliott grinds away on a headlock and adds a kind of Old School wristdrag. Something more similar to a regular Old School connects but Dixon knocks him down and hits a running knee to the face. A few running shots to the face stagger Elliott again and we hit the nerve hold. Back up and Elliott hits a foot to the face, only to miss a charge into the corner. A rollup with feet on the ropes gives Dixon the pin at 4:53.

Rating: C-. What does it say about your career when you lose to a guy named Kale? Elliott is rather flashy and I can see the appeal, but I'm not sure what kind of ceiling he really has. It wasn't exactly a huge return for Elliott, but then again he has never been pushed as any kind of a major star so I can't imagine this going very far.

Post match Dixon gyrates and gets punched down for his efforts.

Bronco Nima and Lucien Price are ready for Tank Ledger and Hank Walker. That's the most LVL Up main event I can imagine.

Kelani Jordan vs. Kiana James

Jordan's early armdrag annoys James, who grabs an armbar to blow off some steam. That's reversed into Jordan's armbar, which doesn't sit well with James. A running forearm drops Jordan but she's right back with another armdrag. Back up and James sends Jordan's arm into the buckle to take over and the armbar goes on again. Jordan fights up and hits a dropkick but James has had it and grabs the 401K for the pin at 4:35.

Rating: C. Well they have the armbar stuff down pretty well. There wasn't much to see with this one, as Jordan is brand new and James is only so good with her limited experience. James winning isn't a surprise, but Jordan is another young star with all kinds of athleticism which could come in handy down the road.

Tank Ledger/Hank Walker vs. Bronco Nima/Lucien Price

Nima and Ledger lock up to start, with Nima shoving him away. It's quickly off to Walker for a double shoulder and a solo headlock. Price comes in and gets shouldered down, only to have Price run Ledger over with a clothesline. A jumping knee keeps Ledger in trouble and Nima is back in for the chinlock. That's broken up and it's back to Walker to clean house as everything breaks down. Price superkicks Walker and a gordbuster into a kick to the face gives Price two. A double clothesline gives Walker a breather though and the hot tag brings in Ledger. Nima gets caught in a double belly to back suplex of all things for the pin at 6:24.

Rating: C+. It was a nice power fight and that's all it needed to be, as Walker and Ledger are the much more established

team. Let them go in there and get a win over a rather imposing pairing for the show's main event. Nima and Price are about the same as they have been or a long time now, which isn't exactly saying much for the developmental side of things.

Overall Rating: C. It was nice to have some different names than we have been seeing in recent weeks around here and that made for an easier watch this time around. The show is turning into more of a coming attractions version of NXT and that makes for an interesting episode from time to time. This was an acceptable edition, but as usual, there isn't anything worth seeing.

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NXT LVL Up – May 26, 2023: Getting Ready To Get Ready

[NXT LVL Up](#)

Date: May 26, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Mr. Stone

We are two days away from Battleground and there are quite a few matches on the card that can steal the night. Now almost no one on that show is going to be tied into this one, but that is LVL Up in a nutshell. You never know what you are going to see around here and I'm curious to see how it goes...for some reason. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Oro Mensah vs. Tavion Heights

Mensah tries to pick up the pace to start but Heights pulls him down into a headlock. Back up and some armdrags have Heights frustrated, followed by a high crossbody to give Mensah two. Heights powers up with a heck of a German suplex but a kick to the face staggers him. Said staggering doesn't last long as Heights is back up with a capture suplex into a chinlock. Mensah fights up and hits a springboard moonsault to a standing Heights, followed by a flipping kick to the head. A springboard kick to Heights face gives Mensah the pin at 5:31.

Rating: C. As usual, power vs. speed is going to work almost every time and that was the case again here. Mensah can fly around well enough and the springboards looked good here. Heights is another one of those names who has been around this show for a few months but not done much, which is going to have to change at some point.

Yulisa Leon and Valentina Feroz are glad to be back home and it's time to take it to Lash Legend and Jakara Jackson.

Boa vs. Javier Bernal

Boa throws a kick to start but gets caught in a headlock for

his efforts. Back up and Boa's second kick connects, only to have Bernal tie the leg up in the ropes for a kick to the knee. The leg cranking is on until Bernal's knee drop hits the mat. Boa uses the good knee to stagger Bernal, who is right back with a jumping Downward Spiral for the pin at 4:58.

Rating: C-. Not much to this one as Boa continues to be a good look and little more. He isn't horrible or even bad, but there is nothing to him that would make me want to see him again. Bernal has figured out how to be an annoying schmuck and that should carry him a long way in NXT, if not in WWE as well.

Yulisa Leon/Valentina Feroz vs. Jakara Jackson/Lash Legend

Feroz works on Jackson's arm to start and an assisted springboard flip dive gives Leon two. It's back to Feroz, who gets caught in the wrong corner so the beating is on. Legend charges into an elbow but is fine enough to slam Feroz off the top. Jackson grabs a reverse chinlock before Legend misses a splash. A pump kick cuts off Feroz's comeback bid so Feroz goes with an enziguri for a breather. The hot tag brings in Leon to clean house as everything breaks down. Jackson gets caught putting her feet on the ropes in a rollup and a suplex/high crossbody combination finishes for Leon at 5:42.

Rating: C. This was about getting Leon back in the ring in NXT and she looked smooth enough out there. Feroz and Leon are a team who could get somewhere with a bit more polish and it is nice to have them back. The tag division could certainly use the help, though that isn't going to happen until the titles are back in NXT in the first place. For now though, nice return.

Overall Rating: C. I wasn't exactly feeling this one, but the action was passable enough. LVL Up might actually start serving a bit more of a purpose, as there are a lot of gaps that need to be filled on the main NXT roster. While some of these people aren't quite ready to fill in those spots, they

could be ready to start getting ready and that isn't a bad place to be.

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NXT LVL Up – May 19, 2023: They're At It Again

NXT LVL Up

Date: May 19, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

We're getting closer to Battleground and that could be quite the shakeup for NXT. That is something LVL Up could use, as the show tends to be in a rather similar mold a lot of the time. It might be helpful for the wrestlers around here, but that doesn't make things all that entertaining. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Eddy Thorpe vs. Kale Dixon

Feeling out process to start with Thorpe's headlock not working all that well. Back up and Dixon runs him over with a shoulder, followed by some forearms to the spine. The neck crank and chinlock go on until Thorpe is up with a dragon screw legwhip. A Saito suplex out of the corner gets two on Dixon and the jumping elbow finishes him off at 4:52.

Rating: C. Thorpe continues to beat up lower level competition and Dixon continues to be Dixon. In other words, it was exactly what you would have expected from these two on this stage. It wouldn't surprise me to see Thorpe getting a push on the main NXT show, but it might take some more seasoning to get him ready.

Kelani Jordan and Wendy Choo are ready to team together against Elektra Lopez and Lola Vice. Apparently karma is a bi...scuit.

Kelani Jordan/Wendy Choo vs. Elektra Lopez/Lola Vice

Lopez powers Jordan around without much effort to start and it's Vice coming in for a double shoulder. Back up and Jordan takes Vice over to Choo for an assisted moonsault. A tornado DDT hits Vice but she brings Lopez in off a blind tag to take over. Jordan gets knocked hard into the corner and a gutbuster sets up a body vice to stay on the ribs. A quick kick away allows the tag off to Choo as everything breaks down. The Snooze Button gives Choo the pin on Vice at 5:36.

Rating: C. I can see why WWE wants to push Jordan, who has the impressive athleticism and appeal to become something down the line. She needs experience though and getting her feet wet on this show is a good start. Jordan has a long way to go, but at least she is getting started with a solid base.

Dante Chen vs. Luca Crusifino

They fight over a lockup to start as we get a LET'S GO LAWYER chant. Chen goes for the hammerlock to take over before some armdrags into the armbars have Luca in more trouble. Back up and Luca grabs a neckbreaker for two, followed by the double arm crank. With that broken up, Chen hammers away in the corner but the threat of the double chop sends Luca outside. Luca loads up the briefcase but when it's taken away, a thumb to the eye lets him roll up Chen for the pin at 5:15.

Rating: C. I'm sorry what now? A young up and comer beat Chen? I'm not sure how to handle this but it's nice to see for a change. As usual, Chen is fine enough in the ring and certainly not bad, but he has such a history of running people over and I do not get the point having him beat so many people without actually going anywhere. That being said, Luca is a bit of a weird case and I could go for having him around a bit more in the future.

Overall Rating: C-. It says a lot when your star power is comprised of Thorpe, Choo and Chen, which isn't exactly top level talent in NXT. The wrestling was completely watchable and the show is less than thirty minutes from beginning to end so it isn't like you feel you're wasting your time. In other words, this was the weaker end of LVL Up and that's not exactly thrilling stuff.

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NXT LVL Up – May 12, 2023: They (Still) Have A Future

NXT LVL Up

Date: May 12, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

It's time for the latest offering from LVL Up and as usual, there is almost no guessing what weird combinations you might get. At the same time, there is not going to be much of a difference no matter who is involved, but it could make for an entertaining 20 minutes of content. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Dante Chen vs. Tavion Heights

Heights headlocks him down to start but Chen fights up for a quickly broken sleeper. An armdrag into an armbar has Chen in more trouble but he's right back with a crossbody. Back up and Heights snaps off some suplexes for two before we hit the chinlock, as Chen still can't do anything with him. Chen manages to counter a suplex into another crossbody and the comeback is on. The double chop finishes Heights fast at 4:44.

Rating: C. Well of course. Someone gets going against Chen but they always fall short in the end. It's the same thing every time no matter who it is and I really don't get it. There's nothing overly special about Chen and that was on display again here. Heights looks to have potential, but woe unto anyone who runs up against the force that is DANTE CHEN.

Kelani Jordan is ready to prove that she can hang here against someone as talented as Wendy Choo. She was a successful gymnast at Michigan State and even has a motto about being silent and showing your abilities. Who am I to argue with someone whose slogan belongs in any page-a-day calendar in the clearance section?

Wendy Choo vs. Kelani Jordan

They fight over a lockup to start with Jordan's early wristlock not getting him very far. A headlock takeover has a bit more success but Choo reverses into a headscissors. Choo grabs a quick takedown for two, followed by doing it again for the same, which leaves Choo looking a bit surprised. A kick to the face and a running elbow drop gets two but Jordan fights up and elbows her down as well. Jordan's springboard spinning crossbody connects for another near fall but Choo is back with the Snooze Button (full nelson slam) for the pin at 5:17.

Rating: C. Jordan didn't do anything overly flashy here but she looked solid enough with the basics. You can see the athleticism and athletic background, which will be more than enough of a foundation to go somewhere. Choo still feels like she is finding her feet after returning, which is what a show like this can help her do.

Respect is shown post match.

Bronco Nima/Lucien Price vs. Malik Blade/Edris Enofe

Enofe hammers away on Nima to start but Blade has to pull him out of what looked like a powerslam. Price comes in and gets headlocked, which doesn't last long as the power takes Enofe into the corner. One heck of a clothesline gives Price two and we hit a bit harder chinlock. Snake Eyes sets up a standing stomp to the chest to give Nima two. Enofe gets away and brings in Blade to clean house. The big slingshot dive to the floor drops Price and Nima, followed by a top rope elbow to finish Nima at 7:01.

Rating: C+. Nima and Price continue to look like a team who could go somewhere with more polish and seasoning, which is something they could get around here. The exact same thing is true with Enofe and Blade, but on a much higher level. They still seem to be able to move on to a much higher level, but I'm starting to wonder if it is ever going to happen.

Overall Rating: C. This felt a lot like what LVL Up has been for a long time now, as it had a lot of familiar faces running on a treadmill. At the same time, Jones had a nice debut, Heights looked good and the tag match did rather well too. There is a future here, but LVL Up has to actually do something different for a change if this show is going to benefit most of them in the long term.

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NXT LVL Up – April 28, 2023:

Where Did He Come From?

NXT LVL Up

Date: April 28, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

The first night of the Draft is over and that is not going to mean a thing around here. As usual the show was taped far in advance of this one and that doesn't mean much in the way of major developments. Other than NXT getting some names called up and some LVL Up stars taking their place, this show is more or less immune from the Draft. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Tyler Bate vs. Luca Crusifino

Ok that's not someone I was expecting. Luca offers Bate a business card to start as commentary talks about what a big deal it is to have Bate here (yeah pretty much). Bate takes him down and stretches the legs before luring him in with the business card to over stretch Crusifino even more. Crusifino manages to take him down and grabs a quickly broken chinlock. Bate is back with the long form airplane spin, setting up the Tyler Driver 97 for the pin at 5:11.

Rating: C. This is the kind of thing LVL Up needs to do: throw out someone who isn't working on the regular NXT show that week and have them work a short match. Bate being here made the show feel more important, or at least interesting, and it isn't like having him work five minutes is going to hurt anything. Nothing match of course, but Bate being there is enough of a benefit.

Hank Walker and Tank Ledger are old friends (they met over

some nice meatloaf) and now it's time to face the Dyad ("the green beans of the NXT tag team division").

Ivy Nile vs. Lola Vice

They fight over a rather aggressive lockup to start until Nile rides her to the mat. Vice is right back with a kick to the ribs, followed by a running hip attack in the corner. A double arm crank is broken up though and Nile kicks her down again. Nile grabs a gutwrench suplex and the Diamond Chain Lock knocks Vice out cold for the win at 4:18.

Rating: C+. Vice has all of the tools in the world to be something, including the charisma that makes her feel like a star. Throw in the MMA background and all of the potential is right there. On the other hand you have Nile, who still feels like she could be something in the division as soon as she is given the chance.

Dyad vs. Hank Walker/Tank Ledger

The rest of Schism is here with the Dyad. Walker shrugs off Reid's headlock to start and sends Reid flying into the corner. Everything breaks down and it's off to Walker to slam Fowler. Reid comes back in to whip Ledger hard into the corner but the chinlock doesn't last long. Walker fights up and brings in Ledger to clean house, including a hard shoulder for two on Reid. Everything breaks down again and a wheelbarrow into a reverse X Factor (cool) plants Reid for two more. Walker is pulled outside and the double Codebreaker finishes Ledger at 7:06.

Rating: C+. The match got a little more time than most matches around here and it made things that much better. Other than that, the Dyad got to showcase themselves a bit, even if they do not seem likely to be long for the promotion after their recent release requests. Ledger and Walker could be decent as a working man team, though that isn't likely to work all that well with Josh Briggs and Brooks Jensen around.

Overall Rating: C+. Better show this week, with the bigger names helping move things on a bit. You have Bate and the Dyad as bigger than usual names, plus the usual offering in the women's match. That makes for a slightly better than average show, but as usual it is absolutely nothing that you need to see.

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