

NXT – August 23, 2011 – Now With TWO Fighting Announcers!

NXT

Date: August 23, 2011

Location: Scotiabank Saddledome, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Commentators: Todd Grisham, William Regal

Yes we're STILL in this season and now they've started bringing in other Divas like Maxine. You would think that someone somewhere would have an idea about where they're going with this but it doesn't seem like there's one in sight at all. It'll be more Titus vs. the evil two and no sign of the show ending at all while JTG and Striker have some random matches that no one cares about. Let's get to it.

"A great main event." Gee I wonder what it'll be.

We're in Canada tonight so who knows what the fans will be like.

Striker is in the ring and Young comes out to yell at him again. We get it already: Young hates him and has beaten him twice. PLEASE give us a loser leaves town match or something. Striker admits he can't beat Young and after some Canadian insults Young kicks Striker in the gut and beats him down. Regal gets up from the desk and makes the save. Dude....SERIOUSLY? You mean there aren't enough people on this show already so we're bringing in more from the announce desk? Whoever gets this show's ideas together needs to start a workout series on how to stretch because it would be AWESOME.

Tyson Kidd vs. Trent Barreta

We talk about who the Japanese characters could have meant, including Kenzuke Sasaki, Yoshi Kwan or someone named Toyota. Why are announcers so stupid at times? The fans chant for Kidd

(naturally) as Regal rants a bit. Regal rants about Young, calling himself and Striker "old veterans". Striker wrestled in WWE for what, a year and a half? How much of an old pro can he be?

This is a can you top this match as both guys try to show off and neither really gets anywhere. Tyson takes over via the arm and down goes Trent. The fans popping like mad for Tyson Kidd is just weird to see. Forearm puts Kidd down and gets two. Kidd sends him into the corner and Trent gets the feet up but keeps them on Kidd's chest, driving them down into kind of a double stomp.

Regal mentions his trainer, a man named Marty Jones and implies he kept Regal out of the Calgary territory for some reason that Regal isn't happy with. Barreta has had four matches with Kidd but has never beaten him. That's all you need for a little story sometimes and it's fine for a simple match like this one. Kidd comes in off a springboard but Trent gets a dropkick to block for two and we take a break to talk about some video game that no one cares about anymore.

Back with Trent holding a headlock. I can't tell what the fans are chanting now but it doesn't sound like Tyson Kidd or anything like that. Out to the floor and Kidd gets a BIG kick to the head and something like a spinning DDT/neckbreaker to take over but both guys are down. Grisham asks about Regal and Young and Regal gets in a funny line with "I don't hate anybody. Ok yes I do."

Trent gets in a nice diving legdrop to the floor which gets two in the ring. This is getting some time and we're getting a solid match out of it. Barreta goes up and gets crotched (Grisham: right in the capital of Thailand!), letting Kidd hit a top rope rana but Trent rolls through into a sunset flip but Tyson rolls through into a Sharpshooter attempt but Trent rolls through THAT into a victory roll for two. Sweet sequence there.

They slug it out and neither can get a solid advantage for a bit. Jumping knee to the head gets two for Trent. This has been almost great stuff so far. It almost sounds like the fans are chanting for Daniel Bryan. Double clothesline puts both guys down and Trent tries the tornado DDT but gets caught in a Canadian Mapleleaf. Lance Storm is in attendance according to commentary. And never mind as the Japanese characters pop up on the screen again and the distraction lets Trent hit the tornado DDT for the pin at 15:00.

Rating: B. Heck of a back and forth match here but the ending leaves something to be desired. I get that we're setting up the idea of Tatsu coming back but can we just get back to the feud so that it can end and we can get a mention of an elimination? I know that's a lost cause anymore but whatever. Still though, very solid match here as has become expected on this show.

We recap Maxine returning from last week.

Bateman is rubbing her shoulders and talks about how awesome they are and how much better they'll be than other power couples. They don't like AJ and Horny. Sex is implied.

AJ vs. Maxine

This is Maxine's first match in a long time. Regal sings her praises and Maxine takes over. Horny is on the apron for this for no apparent reason. The crowd has gone from hot for the first match to dead for this one. Todd says Maxine should fear the beard of Hornswoggle. I can see the t-shirts now. AJ has gotten in nothing at all yet. Suplex gets two for Maxine. In a very telling/funny moment, Regal talks about going to get a haircut the other day and asking for highlights but only getting a DVD of other haircuts. Todd: "We're really struggling in this match. Maxine GET THE WIN ALREADY."

Maxine puts the chinlock on again and we hear about how she has a bunch of nationalities in her. So that's what she's done

in the last year. AJ finally gets in a shot to take over and that lasts about 3 seconds. Maxine takes her down and Bateman is begging for a cover. Spinwheel kick takes Maxine down and a cross body gets two. Further proof of the dying commentary: "AJ going the aerial route and I'm not talking about the Little Mermaid." Bateman shoves Horny down and the distracted AJ is rolled up for the pin at 6:26.

Rating: F. No. One. Cares. I haven't heard a crowd go that quiet in a long time. I know Maxine has done some stuff in FCW that was impressive I guess but now on the main stage no one cares at all. She's not interesting and is just another blonde chick that is out there offering sex to her male partner and that's about it. Why should I care about another chick doing the same heel jazz?

Post match Titus makes the save.

Bret will be on Smackdown which is from Calgary and is GM for the night. Certainly can't argue with that decision.

After seeing a sign that says Satan 3:16, here's Cena vs. Punk from last night. You know the drill: it might be clipped, I don't watch it and here's the whole review from last night.

John Cena vs. CM Punk

Ace and Del Rio are at ringside. The fans throw Cena's shirt back twice. I'll take it if they don't want it. This is a pro-Punk crowd. It's a slow start but they have some time. The fans chant for the Oilers (hockey team) and here comes Cena. He goes into the finishing sequence very quickly. The Shuffle is countered into a rollup for two very quickly. Leg lariat sets up the corner knee and bulldog for no cover.

Punk goes up but gets knocked to the floor as we take a break. Back and both guys are down. Punk grabs the GTS but Cena escapes as does Punk from the AA. Another AA attempt fails and Punk gets the springboard clothesline for two. GTS is

countered into an STF attempt but Punk escapes. Cena uses pure power to push Punk down into the STF where Punk is in trouble.

That's a good looking hold but Punk makes the ropes. Cena's shoulder goes into the post and the GTS gets two. They're telling a good story as they know regular stuff isn't going to work so they're throwing bombs from the beginning. Punk goes up but the elbow misses. I love that tribute he does to Savage. That's what it should be: a move done in his honor and the point to the sky is perfect in multiple ways for Savage.

Cena now goes up and hits the Famesasser for two. AA #4 is countered into a SWEET running knee for two. HUGE AA gets a very close two. Again I love the throwing huge stuff and almost nothing but huge stuff. Top rope cross body is rolled through into the AA but Punk reverses into a sunset flip for two. He sets for the GTS but here's Nash again, saying it's not over with Punk. Punk turns around and the AA sends Cena to Night of Champions at 14:25.

Rating: B+. Seriously were you expecting anything but a good match here? They have that chemistry that you need and it's showing here. You give these two fifteen minutes and they'll give you the top level match they're capable of. Obviously TV is different than PPV but this was rather awesome indeed. Good match as the kicking out was good stuff.

Overall Rating: D+. I can't say it's a failure due to the great first match, but considering none of the rookies were on the card in a show ABOUT ROOKIES, it's hard to say this was a show that did the things it was supposed to do. Cena vs. Punk is great, but did we need to watch the whole thing for over ten minutes while the rookies didn't even wrestle?

This show has turned into an indy level TV show. You get one good match a week and then a highlight from a better show with bigger stars. Nothing is mentioned about the competition anymore other than someone saying they'll win it. It's really

not a horrid wrestling show, but if you expect it to be anything resembling what it claims to be, you're in for a disappointment/a big surprise, depending on where you stand.

Results

Trent Barreta b. Tyson Kidd – Tornado DDT

Maxine b. AJ – Rollup

NXT – August 16, 2011 – Now With More Ex Rookies!

NXT

Date: August 16, 2011

Location: Rabobank Arena, Bakersfield, California

Commentators: Todd Grisham, Michael Cole

We're on the way to the sixth month of this show. I would make a joke about this show getting close to being able to having a baby but I'm not sure it's a joke anymore. I'd expect more hijinks tonight with everyone talking about nothing in particular and nothing at all being mentioned about the show moving forward in any way at all. Let's get to it.

We open with AJ, Titus and Horny in the ring. Is this the face faction now? Titus talks about Horny looking for true love and says he has something to say to AJ. Horny babbles a lot and Titus translates. Apparently Horny wants to propose to her. Oh

give me a break. And yes, it's a Ring Pop. AJ says it's not about size (make your own jokes) but about the size of Horny's heart. But she just said...oh never mind.

Bateman interrupts and says this is disgusting and that it's not a soap opera. Titus tells him to leave and insults his jeans. Make fun of his win/loss record, beat him up, get more points than he does or whatever else you can think of, but INSULTING HIS JEANS??? YOU GO TOO FAR!!! Bateman says he's not sure which one is the leprechaun and which is the troll. Horny goes after him and Bateman runs. AJ is alone in the ring and some chick jumps her. It's a now blonde Maxine. THEY'RE BRINGING BACK THE DIVA ROOKIES NOW????? To be fair she looks much better without the black hair.

JTG vs. Tyson Kidd

Heel vs. heel? Really? Works for me I guess. Kidd has promised us something special next week in Calgary. JTG grabs a rollup for one a few seconds into this. The crowd is silent. Like creepily silent. JTG is wrestling face here despite being heel for the last 4 months or so. Then again is anyone paying attention to things such as that? Kidd speeds things up and gets some kicks to the head for two.

JTG hits Jay Lethal's belly to back suplex into a neckbreaker for two. Half of the Lethal Combination gets two. Think he's been watching some TNA/ROH stuff lately? JTG yells to the crowd but gets caught in a horribly botched looking rolling half crab (think Lance Storm)...and he taps at 3:10. That was unexpected. I guess JTG is a moderate face now.

Rating: C. The botch near the end hurt it a lot and the ending came almost out of nowhere. Also JTG suddenly being face is just weird as nothing happened other than Vladimir being released. Not sure what the point of this was but I guess it's just to set up the whole YOSHI IS COMING thing. Granted that sounds like a really bad Nintendo ad but this isn't the most well thought out show.

Post match some music starts for a bit and a Japanese/Chinese character (as in a written word) appears on screen. Does Japanese have written characters? Yeah we know: Tatsu is coming back.

Striker says he lost last week and he's not making any excuses. Young vs. Striker II tonight. If Young wants respect, he has to earn it. Surprisingly good promo.

Matt Striker vs. Darren Young

Striker...strikes away to start. Well he lives up to his name I guess. He works on the arm and fingers to start but gets rolled up for two. Double clothesline takes both guys down but Darren is in better shape at the moment. A neckbreaker on the apron is broken up but Young gets something like a release belly to back onto the apron which looked good. A chinlock is broken up by Striker going after the leg. Why don't more people do that?

Striker fires off and is getting all ticked off. He's really improved in his long layoff. Striker takes Young down and gets two as Young gets his foot on the rope. This referee > HHH I guess. Young goes for that fireman's carry into a gutbuster but Striker counters into a Backstabber for two. The fans go silent so Striker screams at them to wake them up. He tries La Majistral (and yes I know that's probably not the right spelling) but Young rolls through into that gutbuster of his for the pin at 5:05. That was a good ending.

Rating: C. Striker continues to look good all things considered, but where does this lead? If Striker wins then Young looks even weaker than he already does. If Young keeps beating him, he's beating up an announcer/host who came out of retirement a few weeks ago. I don't get what the point of this is but the matches have been the highlights of the show recently. The ending here was cool.

Here are Bateman and Maxine. They're holding hands so there's your latest couple in WWE. Bateman wants the people to respect her and calls her his girlfriend. Maxine says Horny can't handle a real woman like her. We're just getting started according to her. Heaven help me.

Derrick Bateman vs. Titus O'Neil

For those of you that want something completely different I suppose. Regal and Grisham quote Bobby Heenan to liven things up a bit. Titus hammers away with power stuff to start as is his custom. Oh and there's no Horny or AJ in sight. Bateman gets a dropkick for two. Bateman keeps hammering away while

Regal talks about his turtle running away and the turtle (Speedy) getting mugged by some snails. This is the Gorilla Monsoon/Jesse Ventura formula of "we're so bored we'll do anything short of first degree murder to keep from falling asleep".

The match is really boring, namely because we've seen them fight so many times already. Bateman controls for awhile until Titus starts channeling his football days and tackles Derrick a few times. Shoulderbreaker gets two. There's the fallaway slam and Bateman hits the floor. Titus tries to get back in and Maxine trips him, letting Bateman get a rollup pin at 6:17.

Rating: D. It's just boring. That's the problem with this match: it's just boring. It was so obvious that Maxine was going to cost Titus the match the entire time that there was no point in watching the whole thing up to that point. This story just keeps adding chapters for the sake of adding chapters and none of them are interesting. Thus is NXT.

And now we get the entire Alberto vs. Rey match from last night because NXT only has enough material to fill in 40 minutes. I have no idea if this is clipped or not but I'm not watching it again so here's the review that I wrote for it live.

Raw World Title: Alberto Del Rio vs. Rey Mysterio

The new champ rolls out in a bright red Ferrari. Rey is the

hometown boy so he gets a huge pop. It seems to be the Undisputed WWE Championship now. We continue the old school weapon checks but don't even get big match intros. Fast paced stuff to start but it's pretty basic. Rey sends him to the floor as we take a break. The bell rang at 10 until 11pm so they don't have a ton of time.

Back with Rey in a body vice and he pulls half of the mask off. Alberto takes him up to the top which doesn't work at all as Rey takes him down with a tornado DDT. Wicked one too. Spinning cross body gets two. Rolling sunset flip gets two. Rey gets taken down for a bit but takes to the air, sending Alberto to the floor. Gorgeous Asai Moonsault takes both guys down.

Seated Senton hits and he gets Alberto into the 619 position. Alberto takes his head off with a clothesline though and complains when it only gets two. Tilt-a-whirl backbreaker gets the same result. Corner enziguri gets two. Rey grabs a rollup out of nowhere for two to break up the armbreaker.

Dropkick puts Rey down and he goes for the arm again. Rey reverses into an electric chair position and into a rana for the 619 position. The call connects (hate that term but whatever) and it's top rope splash time. Jerry declares it over which seals Rey's fate. The splash hits knees and Alberto gets a small package for the pin at 12:50.

Rating: C+. Pretty good match here and Alberto wins clean which is something that he certainly needs. These two have chemistry and this was no exception to it, which is probably

due to them having so many matches together over the past year. Good stuff here and it worked rather well for a TV main event.

Since a 13 minute match took 6 minutes to air, yeah it was clipped. We also get the close to the show with Cena saving Rey.

Post match Alberto goes for the arm and snaps it on the rope then puts the armbreaker on. Cena runs out for the save and wants a mic. Post match Alberto goes for the arm and snaps it on the rope then puts the armbreaker on. Cena runs out for the save and wants a mic. He rants about how much his weekend sucked and is all kinds of serious. he says Alberto cashed in a briefcase and got lucky. One days he's going to have to defend it (kind of like he just did?) and if it's against Cena, he won't be so lucky. Serious Cena works very well and this was one of those moments.

Overall Rating: C-. The matches were ok, but the same complaints as always here: what is the point of ANY of this? Bateman now has some chick with him that hates AJ because...because AJ is a face and Maxine is a heel I guess. There's nothing to see here as has been the case for the last three months or so. More of the same as always.

Results

Tyson Kidd b. JTG – Half Crab

Darren Young b. Matt Striker – Fireman's Carry into a Gutbuster

NXT – August 9, 2011 – Striker Is Back!

NXT

Date: August 9, 2011

Location: Power Balance Pavilion, Sacramento, California

Commentators: Todd Grisham, William Regal

It's week...sweet mercy it's week 23 of this show. This show started over five months ago. Think about that for a minute. What were you doing five months ago? This same stuff has been going on that long. The NFL season doesn't run as long as the fifth season of this show. There hasn't been an elimination in over a month. It might seem like I'm rambling here to fill in space. That's because I am, as there's nothing else to talk about regarding this season. Let's get to it.

There's a challenge ready to go in the ring and Striker gets cut off by Young. It's something to do with eggs and spoons and finishing lines. Young says he's not doing it and I think I know where this is going. Young says that Striker is just a wannabe while Young is a superstar. Uh...right. The obvious match is made.

Kidd says he's facing Justin Gabriel tonight. Oh great now we're bringing in MORE people to fight against people that have nothing to do with the contest anymore. Kidd isn't afraid because he's a pro. He also compares himself to British Bulldog and Bret. Ok then.

Summerslam ad.

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Tyson Kidd vs. Justin Gabriel

Regal points out that he wrestled Gabriel's father in South Africa. Also Gabriel was the first rookie to pin a pro. That pro: William Regal. They hit the mat quickly and fight for control. Kidd takes him down and fires off some kicks. We get a Lance Storm reference as Kidd has been training with him recently. Kidd keeps his advantage as we go to a break. Regal stutters a lot as Gabriel counteres an Asai Moonsault.

After telling us to buy the latest top stars of whatever decade DVD and that bullying is bad except when it makes money for the company, we're back with Kidd holding a chinlock. Kidd fires off some strikes and here's another chinlock. With Gabriel draped over the bottom rope, Kidd tries a slingshot legdrop but lands on the apron due to Gabriel moving. Here's the comeback and a spinwheel kick takes Tyson down. Roaring Elbow gets two. Kidd avoids the 450 but Justin doesn't crash. Kidd goes to the floor and Gabriel hits a kick through the ropes and a corkscrew plancha.

Gabriel tries a springboard cross body but Kidd rolls through for two. They go to the mat again and get into a weird position. Justin grabs some kind of chinlock with his knee up but Kidd makes the rope. Kidd gets out of the way of another 450 and crotches Gabriel. Big kick sets up a springboard rana for two.

Gabriel grabs a sunset flip for two and we get a double leg nelson analysis from Regal. Kidd picks the leg and it's off to a half crab (taken from Storm according to Regal). Justin rolls through into a pinning combination for two. Kidd gets his head taken off and Gabriel goes up but Kidd is in the middle of the ring. This isn't a problem though and the 450 ends this at 14:45. That was impressive.

Rating: B. Very good match here as it was almost like an old

WCW Cruiserweight match. The 450 to end it looked very good also as it was definitely the furthest he's ever gone to hit it. The main issue with this match: WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH NXT??? This doesn't have anything to do with the rookies and the show is halfway over now and we haven't even seen two of them. Wait why am I complaining? This was better than anything this show has done in months.

Darren Young vs. Matt Striker

Striker has tights with his name on them now. I'm so glad he didn't have those last week. Striker takes him down and hammers away almost immediately. Regal says he trained Striker (partially) on one of his off days. Dave Taylor is the one that really trained him though, also according to Regal. Young takes him to the apron and gets a neckbreaker out there which gets two back inside.

Off to the chinlock and then he rams the arm into the post a few times. Young snaps off a belly to belly suplex and Striker lands on his head. Young hooks an armbar because he's worked on the neck so far and he's pretty stupid. Striker is bleeding from the nose and grabs something like a Gory Bomb. And never mind as Young grabs a fireman's carry and drops backwards to drive both knees into the ribs for the pin at 4:50.

Rating: C. Pretty decent match as Young has about his 5th different finisher in about a year but whatever. I'm not sure I get the booking here. Why have Striker come back just to lose? What does it mean for Young that he can beat a guy that has had one match in four years? Striker looked decent and the blood helped it a lot. I wouldn't be surprised if he was a bit shaken up either.

We get the same long recap of Punk vs. Cena from last night.

Daniel Bryan is actually here and talks to Bateman. Bateman is playing some video game against Cena. Bryan turns off the TV

and says that Bateman has been making a fool of himself lately. Until he figures that out, he's on his own. That means we have one pro left of the three and he's a leprechaun.

Titus O'Neil vs. Derrick Bateman

The bell rings and the crowd goes SILENT. Titus hammers away early on but Bateman gets something like a standing blockbuster for two. Dropkick to the ribs gets two. Off to another chinlock which is broken up by Titus. The crowd is just not caring at all. Backbreaker puts Bateman down but Titus can't follow up. Bateman picks him up and falls down, letting Titus get the pin at 3:30.

Rating: D. What was the point of this again? I guess they didn't have time for the full Punk vs. Cena segment from last night so we got a quick match instead. I wouldn't get used to this as the rookies are a special attraction anymore it seems. Titus looked weak here and this was mainly more about Bateman looking lost without Bryan, because he's had so much experience with him since the comeback right?

Post match Bateman goes after the Leprechaun but gets taken down and there's a Tadpole Splash.

Overall Rating: C. That's on an NXT scale, not a regular one. Yeah the wrestling was better, but we had three matches: One was a pro whose rookie is gone vs. a former NXT rookie, a rookie vs. a host and two rookies fighting again. One match actually means anything and that's about it. What is the end game of any of this? The crowd going SILENT for rookie vs. rookie stuff is a very bad sign and it just needs to end already.

Results

Justin Gabriel b. Tyson Kidd – 450

Darren Young b. Matt Striker – Fireman's carry into a

gutbuster

Titus O'Neil b. Derrick Bateman – Pin after Bateman fell during a slam

NXT – August 2, 2011 – Matt Striker As A Wrestler?

NXT

Date: August 2, 2011

Location: Rupp Arena, Lexington, Kentucky

Commentators: William Regal, Todd Grisham

We're in week twenty-whatever here and there's no sign of this wrapping up anytime soon. They at least have a story going here with the heels teaming up to take out the force of O'Neil, which is a lot better than what we've sat through for the majority of the season so far. More of the same tonight I'd assume. Let's get to it.

This is being written on Wednesday, after I watched the show live last night.

We open with a recap of the last few weeks with O'Neil getting double teamed after dominating for months on end.

Here's Titus minus the leprechaun. He thinks the alliance between the heels is cute. Titus says he's the most dominant rookie ever so he's not worried about Bateman or his family. During this promo Bateman's video started playing but you can't see it on the broadcast. Bateman and Young come out and Bateman points out that he beat O'Neil last week, which Titus agrees to. Young says he's dominated NXT but Titus is in the

points lead because he's pandered to the fans.

Striker says that it's not a bad strategy because the fans are 50% of the vote. Young says he doesn't care because he doesn't need the fans or a pro. Bateman says he and Young agree that Titus needs to go. Titus suggests a tag match and the heels agree, if they can pick the partner. Titus says cool, so they pick Striker. He protests, saying he hasn't been in the ring in four years. The pop for this was a lot louder than it appears to be on TV.

JTG vs. Vladimir Kozlov

Vladimir is "gangsta" here. To be fair he plays it pretty well and the fans laughed at this which is the idea. The tag is on the back of his jeans still. He does a decent JTG impression. Actually he doesn't because Kozlov is kind of amusing and interesting like this which JTG never has been. They stare each other down and do the comedy bit where they mirror each other.

JTG jumps him as Grisham says this should have been at Wrestlemania. Thankfully he's kidding because even he's not that stupid. Kozlov catches him and hits a fallaway slam to put him outside. Back inside and JTG finally gets a boot up in the corner to break the Russian's momentum. We take a break to advertise an old video game (by video game standards 4 months is old right?) and come back with Kozlov getting a kick to the ribs.

That doesn't get him anywhere as JTG hits a decent middle rope dropkick for two. We get a lot of rest holds here and the fans always started clapping almost immediately for Vlad to get out of them. Impatient lot they are. Vlad with the grill on his teeth is kind of hilarious. JTG gets his facejam off the top (Mugshot) for two. That starts Kozlov's comeback which results in a bunch of power moves. Powerslam sets up the Iron Curtain and we're done at 7:42. I timed the match last night and it

was 8:00 even so not much was cut out.

Rating: C-. Pretty boring match here but it wasn't bad. The comedy aspect wasn't bad but then it turned into just another match. The fans liked the comedy but then the match turned into JTG vs. Kozlov, which isn't exactly a great match that will have the people on the edges of their seats you know?

Post match Kozlov takes Grisham's phone and planks on JTG. Yeah it's still not funny.

Raw ReBund. This didn't air until between Superstars and NXT in the arena.

Tyson Kidd comes out and we get a clip of him beating up Yoshi last week. He talks about his heritage coming out of the Hart Dungeon. In his WWE, there's no room for stupid shrines or Yoshi Tatsu. In his WWE, there's only room for him.

Sheamus vs. Henry video. That line of "I'll fight him" is great.

Derrick Bateman/Darren Young vs. Matt Striker/Titus O'Neil

Striker gets a pretty nice reaction. AJ, who looks about 12, comes out with Horny and they sit in on commentary. Titus and Bateman start us off. Horny starts a Bill Cosby impression for some reason. Or maybe that was AJ. Off to Striker after Titus dominates for a bit. The announcers point out that it's kind of odd that Striker brings his boots with him when he hasn't wrestled in four years but Regal says it's normal. Ok then.

Striker does pretty well for himself and it's back off to Titus. Horny is making his usual noises and Regal is chattering with him. Titus sends Bateman to the floor so Horny can bark. Thankfully that takes us to a break. Back with Striker holding a headlock on Young. Striker tries to speed things up but runs into an elbow in the corner.

Bateman throws on a chinlock as Horny is throwing M&Ms into

AJ's mouth. Regal says he got a Rosetta Stone course in Leprechaunese. I give up. Bateman pops O'Neil to break up a tag. Striker gets a chop in but a forearm takes him down for two. AJ doesn't want to talk about her time on NXT. I can't say I blame her. She has a good voice. Bateman goes up but crashes. Hot tag with a dive to Titus. Domination begins but the heels cheat to get a sunset flip. Striker breaks up the cheating and the Clash of the Titus ends Young at 11:06. That's about right with my time.

Rating: C+. Not a horrible match here and Striker looked pretty good all things considered. The main issue he has is telegraphing moves as he does stuff that makes you ask "why would you do that?" Anyway for a guy out of the ring for four years, this was fine. Pretty fun little tag match and a nice moment I guess.

The faces celebrate and we get a decent line to end it. Grisham: "Give me a hug William." Regal: "No." The bluntness of it is great.

Overall Rating: C. I'll go with ok for this one. The Striker thing was a nice way to tie this together, but the problem becomes that the voting and competition is almost forgotten about. They're running in circles here and it's not interesting anymore. At the end of the day there's one problem: how many times can we see these guys fight? The answer seems to be A WHOLE FREAKING LOT.

Results

Vladimir Kozlov b. JTG – Iron Curtain

Titus O'Neil/Matt Striker b. Darren Young/Derrick Bateman – Clash of the Titus to Young

NXT – July 26, 2011 – Now at Twenty One Weeks.

NXT

Date: July 26, 2011

Location: Wells Fargo Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Todd Grisham, William Regal

Will we see O'Neil vs. Young VIII? Will Horny continue to think that Maryse likes him? Will there be more pro vs. pro matches that have absolutely nothing to do with the rookies whom the show is about? Can we actually manage to drag this out into our fifth month? If we go past next week we'll hit that mark. I mean dude, it's almost like they have no idea where this is going and are just running around with their heads cut off. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Tatsu vs. Kidd. I guess they get their fourth match tonight too. Isn't that what Superstars is for? There's a necklace on a pole match as Tatsu tries to put his shrine back together. Oh dear.

Titus O'Neil vs. Derrick Bateman

Bateman is in Creed/Balboa trunks since we're in Philly. Todd says Bateman's mentality might be to take O'Neil out of the competition early so he doesn't have to deal with him later. Whoa whoa WHOA. WE'RE STILL EARLY IN THIS THING??? I'm sorry I need a minute. O'Neil dominates to start with his power game. Neither pro is here tonight and Regal wants to know where they are.

Titus grabs the arm but Bateman fights out of it. Ok never

mind as he goes shoulder first into the corner. Regal says Titus has the perfect build for a star. Back to the arm as the crowd is dead. Bateman is thrown to the floor and looks like he wants to leave but Young comes out and says take Titus out. We take a break to shill WCW DVDs.

Back with Titus still dominating, hitting an elbow. Scratch that dominating aspect as Bateman gets a guillotine drop using the top rope to take over. Off to something resembling the inbred cousin of the Tazmission. Regal calls Bateman sloppy and Titus breaks a hold to give himself a breather. Never mind though as Bateman keeps stomping away. Apparently Derrick hates the bark. Regal thinks he sounds like a seal that wants a fish.

Titus gets a hard elbow in the corner to take Derrick down. Bateman goes up and misses something off the ropes so here comes Titus. Bateman charges into another elbow but Young interferes, allowing that weird bulldog kind of move (I don't know what else to call it) to end Titus at 8:30.

Rating: D. Just going through the motions here. Bateman is boring beyond belief in the ring and I have no idea why they thought he'd be better as a heel. None of these guys are interesting at all. Titus has a decent look and that's about it. No real point to this other than having all the rookies out there for awhile. Match was just bad though.

We're going to get Cena vs. Mysterio tonight. As in the whole match.

Horny is in the back with his doll from last week and finds candy on the floor. He follows the trail of it to a note which we can't read. It's AJ, looking great in some jean shorts. She kisses Horny on the lips but Maryse comes up to make fun of them. Maryse really does tower over her. AJ smacks her and smiles at Horny.

Kozlov is doing what is apparently called planking (he's on a

vending machine and taking a picture of himself so I guess it's a fad) when JTG comes up. This was part of the gangster bet which will be paid off next week. My breath is held in anticipation.

Tyson Kidd vs. Yoshi Tatsu

It's a necklace on a poll match. Tatsu's song is catchy I must say. On the necklace is the leg of the action figure that Tyson broke. Kidd goes for it immediately but Yoshi makes the save. They go back and forth a bit but Yoshi hits a spinwheel kick so he can go for the pole. Tyson hammers him down and we hit the formula for this match: one person beats someone down then climbs, the other person hits them in the back and we switch.

They go to the floor as I've never seen a crowd sitting so still. Snap suplex on the floor puts Tatsu down but Tatsu strikes back and a double knee smash sends Kidd into the post. Not the pole, the post. Another attempt eats steps though and back inside we go. Tyson stomps a mudhole and shouts a lot. Double clothesline puts both people down and Kidd goes for the corner. Yoshi tries to catch him and they both fall off.

We take a break with both guys down. You know, the match itself isn't all that bad, but they're fighting over a piece of an action figure. You couldn't make this a bit more personal? Like a piece of jewelery that Yoshi's family gave him? Something that somebody might see as valuable perhaps? Back with Kidd working Yoshi over and they're outside almost immediately.

Regal tries to tell us that this isn't to be taken lightly. I get that they're trying and at least it's not a totally cliched storyline, but this feud (which hasn't been bad) is on NXT. Neither of these guys are on the show anymore as far as rookies go, so why are they here? Kidd puts on a Boston Crab on Yoshi using the bottom rope. Think of a Tarantula kind of.

Grisham screws up and says Daniel Bryan is Tyson Kidd's pro until Regal asks what the heck he's talking about. I needed a bad flub like that.

Kidd goes for the corner but Yoshi saves (of course) and kicks Kidd upside his head to put him down. Yoshi can't follow up though so it's time for the slow climb. Isn't it always convenient that the people climbing things in wrestling are REALLY FREAKING SLOW? Yoshi almost gets it but gets crotched. Both guys are standing on the top and Yoshi grabs the necklace to win but the Canadian hits a German to the Japanese to put him down. Yoshi wins though at 10:15.

Rating: B-. Not a classic or anything but this was a pretty solid back and forth match. At the end of the day though, these young guys that are having solid matches are fighting over a piece of plastic from an action figure from a shrine which hasn't been explained on an internet show about rookies that these two aren't associated with anymore. It's a bit hard to get into it you know?

Kidd massacres him post match and hooks the figure four around the post.

We get a clip with music of Vince being relieved of his duties. HHH will be on Smackdown this week. Dang I wish that was next week.

We get the main event and the finale from Raw last night. I wasn't paying a ton of attention so I'm assuming it isn't abridged or anything. This is from the review I did of Raw so if it sounds a bit different, it was written during my initial viewing of the match.

Raw World Title: John Cena vs. Rey Mysterio

There's a bigger border on the belt now. Cena comes out post break. There's a Divas Battle Royal next week on Raw. Rey gets a kick to the leg to start and there's a second one. They're

kind of feeling each other out to start. There are three more of them but Cena runs Rey over with a shoulder block for two. Rey gets a sunset flip kind of move for two and grabs a headlock.

Cena gets a belly to back to escape and gets two at the same time. Rey goes for the knee again but Cena dodges. He misses a charge though and hits the buckle chest first, falling to the floor. The dueling chants begin and Rey hits a springboard flip dive to the floor. Rey speeds things up but gets his head taken off by a clothesline. Back in and Cena gets a waistlock but Rey gets up and hits a DDT for two.

STF doesn't work as Rey gets to the ropes. 619 is caught and Cena tosses him onto his shoulder for that sitout powerslam for two. Here comes Cena's ending sequence but Rey fires off a dropkick to block a shoulder. Nice counter and it's remarkable how few people have blocked that before. Rey tries to speed it up but his spinning cross body is caught in an FU attempt which is also reversed.

Both guys are down and Rey drop toeholds him into the buckle. Seated Senton hits but Cena tries to roll through into the STF. Rey counters into an STF of his own. Cena gets up on one leg into an AA position but the leg gives out and Cena collapses, right into 619 position. It hits this time and Rey goes up top for the splash but it eats knees. Rey tries a rana out of the corner but Cena shoves him off in something resembling a powerbomb.

Cena loads up the top rope Fameasser but it turns into a leg drop on a standing Rey which only gets two. The fans are WAY into this too and I can't blame them as it's been a solid match. Cena sets the AA but Rey elbows out of it. Another 619 is set up but Cena catches him in the AA and is champion again at 12:47. I can live with this I think.

Rating: B+. Solid stuff here as Cena got to show off his power

and how effective it could be. I'm not sure what more they could do given the amount of time they had. Rey's STF was a cool addition which we haven't seen before on Cena, or at least not that I can remember. Good stuff here as both guys usually bring it in big matches.

Cena helps Rey up and celebrates with the title but some music starts up. It's a song called Cult of Personality.....PUNK IS BACK! Cena holds up his title. Punk holds up his title. They stare it down as the show ends with Cena leaving.

Since this was so short, it was definitely cut. I wasn't watching tonight (Tuesday) because I really didn't want to see it again.

Overall Rating: D. Yes, one match was good and the one from Raw last night was good, but I'm not going to count Rey vs. Cena in the rating. It wasn't part of NXT. It's a Raw match and yes it's good, but this has nothing to do with NXT. It gets boring when we have to sit through 10 minutes of stuff we saw less than a day ago, even if it's good. Do they really think people that don't watch Raw watch NXT? Either way, this show is just like the others lately: totally pointless and they seem like they're just killing time until...something that'll be pointless I'm betting. Anyway, one decent match and that's about it.

The review will be up late next week as I'll be watching the show live and won't be able to review it until Wednesday.

Results

Derrick Bateman b. Titus O'Neil – Falling bulldog

Yoshi Tatsu b. Tyson Kidd – Tatsu pulled down the necklace

NXT – July 19, 2011 – Contains The Dumbest Segment I've Ever Seen

NXT

Date: July 19, 2011

Location: Target Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Commentators: William Regal, Todd Grisham

We're at episode 20 of this. I said episode 20. With no sign of this season ending, I really do wonder if they know where they're going with this. It's not like we haven't seen these people wrestle a dozen or so times already anyway. The show is in desperate need of ending but since apparently FCW is so bad they can't find five others to be in this, we're stuck here some more. Let's get to it.

We're going to get the ending to Raw from last night later on apparently.

Maryse and Striker are in the ring and there's a punching bag with Cole's face on it. Here come the rookies. We go over the Redemption points which are totally worthless because Bateman has zero and O'Neil is so far ahead of everyone it's unreal. This is the Dummy Demonstration which is why Cole's face is on it. This is worth five points and apparently it's whoever can have the best mini-match with the dummy. Are you serious?

Bateman makes fun of Titus and says he's sorry to the dummy and loves it. I've been watching wrestling my entire life which is over 20 years. I have never, in my entire life, heard a crowd go as silent as they do when they get the idea of what this actually is. Bateman does some basic stuff and does something resembling commentary as he does it.

Young refuses to do it (give this man the prize right now!) because he's proven himself already. Titus says Bateman should try those moves on him instead of the dummy. Whoever Young has faced doesn't matter and Titus throws the dummy at Young who is on the floor. They actually ask the audience who won. Gee, could it be the person that has dominated the whole thing and is clearly the most popular? This very well may have been the biggest waste of time since the Gobbledygooker.

OH BOY!!! Now I get to watch Vladimir Kozlov vs. JTG! I've heard of Christmas in July but this is proof that the WWE is officially inside my head and knows everything I want to see!

JTG vs. Vladimir Kozlov

Before the match, JTG proves why he should never be handed a microphone and why I believe western civilization is in its decline, all in about 30 seconds. That's impressive. We have to sit through an ad for WWE All-Stars first though. I wait on the edge of my seat! Remember that there's some kind of a bet that Kozlov can't be a gangster or something. I heard CM Punk has some experience with that so maybe Koz should go find the champ.

JTG takes over to start as Regal bashes him to keep up the tradition. Middle rope dropkick gets two. He takes Koz down again and stares at Regal before covering. Regal offers JTG lessons in how to finish opponents off. As long as he doesn't go to Terri Runnels for advice on finishing guys off he'll be fine. Chinlock goes on as this has been totally one sided. Koz fires back with his strikes but a powerslam doesn't work. And never mind as that Iron Curtain or whatever it's called ends this at 5:30.

Rating: D+. Fine from a wrestling perspective I guess but could they be padding these shows out any worse? Terribly boring match though as they were out there for a short amount

of time and yet still managed to not be able to interest anyone in the crowd. At the end of the day they're fighting over incredibly contrived angles and that's not going to get them anywhere, especially with uninteresting matches.

Horny shows Maryse the candy he got last week and she says it's not from her. He kind of humps her leg and she pours the candy on his head. Maryse leaves and he gets another package, this time an Ugly Doll. And yet that's what they're really called.

Yoshi's shrine has been destroyed.

You know that line in the secondary theme song of "If I can make it through this, I can make it through anything" is WAY too accurate for this show.

Darren Young vs. Titus O'Neil

This is the 7th match that these two have had on this season alone, not counting triple threats or tags. Darren grabs a headlock which gets him nowhere as Titus hits a powerslam and abdominal stretch. He shouts out to the Minnesota crowd and no one cares. Big clothesline gets something close to a reaction and let's hit that stretch again. Young tries to walk out and that doesn't go well either. Darren gets tossed into the corner and crashes to the floor in a decent bump. They fight to the apron and Young manages a neckbreaker. Bateman (called Young by Grisham) comes out with a picture of Cole as we take a break.

Back with Young holding a chinlock. We talk about Daniel Bryan to fill some time as Titus fights back and hammers Young down in the corner resulting in a two count. Young stops him and we talk about some MITB cash-ins. Back to the chinlock as Horny plays cheerleader a bit. We get a Gordon Solie reference which is just an insult to his memory.

O'Neil gets a powerslam for two. Horny tries to come in for no apparent reason and Bateman trips O'Neil. Great line from the commentators: Todd: "Did you see that???" Regal: "No. I'm an old villain. I did NOT see that." Doesn't matter anyway because Titus hits the Clash of the Titus for the pin at 11:11.

Rating: D+. The match is boring because as I said earlier, this is the seventh time it's happened. It's not like this is Booker vs. Benoit and they can have seven entertaining matches. This pairing is played out, mainly because we've seen it so many times before and no one cares anymore. Scratch that. No one cares, period. Not bad, but Bateman added nothing to it at all.

Time for the Vince/HHH segment from last night, in its entirety. By that I mean including the Vince/Cena stuff. Huge moment and I can totally understand it airing here.

Overall Rating: F. Let's see. In about 50 minutes we had a segment that involved performing moves on a dummy which was won by someone that didn't actually do any moves on it, a match between two guys who don't have Pros on the show anymore and literally the 7th match between the same guys this season, followed by a segment long enough that I was able to take a shower during it. What grade did you think I was going to give this?

Results

Titus O'Neil won the Dummy Demonstration Challenge

Vladimir Kozlov b. JTG – Iron Curtain

Titus O'Neil b. Darren Young – Clash of the Titus

NXT – July 12, 2011 – Seriously WHAT ARE THEY WAITING FOR???

NXT

Date: July 12, 2011

Location: Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville, Connecticut

Commentators: Todd Grisham, William Regal

We're somehow in week 19 of this show. Think about that for a minute and try not to have your head explode. This season started on March 8. What I want to know is what they're waiting on. I mean do they really not have six guys they can throw on here? Anyway we now have three finalists left again and there's not much else to say here because the shows are the same all around again. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Bateman returning and he and Bryan winning last week.

Bateman opens the show and says this is his show, calling it the Super Terrific Derrick Bateman Happy Hour Extravaganza. He talks about how awesome he is and how he's here to save the show. The fans really don't seem all that into him here which is rather surprising. After he runs his mouth for a bit, here's Darren Young to read off his resume which is really all he's capable of doing anymore. Also O'Neil has nothing on him. Bateman agrees that Young is good but not as good as Bateman.

Cue that leprechaun music to get on my nerves again. Titus comes out and barks a lot but Bateman cuts him off. When

they've gotten to the point that they're calling each other's lines before they happen, you've been on this show too long. Bateman says O'Neil will be going for cheap pops which Bateman is the master of. "So you're the Master Bateman?" Someone pop in a DX reunion DVD. The jokes have to be better than this. Anyway Maryse comes out and makes a triple threat.

Darren Young vs. Titus O'Neil vs. Derrick Bateman

Bateman grabs a quick rollup for two to start. That gets him nowhere though so Titus clears the ring because he can. The two others decide to double team Titus to take him down as we enter into the standard operating procedures for bad triple threat matches. Bateman gets a splash for two. Bryan is the only pro out here. Double suplex gets two on Titus.

This is elimination apparently. The fans are a bit bored so they cheer for Bryan. The boring double beatdown continues for awhile until Titus wakes up for a bit, only to get taken down again almost immediately. Bateman is sent to the floor as Titus hits Clash of the Titus on Young but Bateman steals the pin. Back from a break with Titus throwing Bateman around for fun. Bateman goes for the knee and it's off to a chinlock to make sure we don't get excited about anything.

Nice loud chops by Bateman finally wake up the crowd for a few seconds. Titus takes over and chops even harder. And never mind as it's back to Bateman's control to waste even more time. Titus starts his comeback and hits a backbreaker but barks instead of covering. Fall away slam gets two. Titus goes up and tries a middle rope clothesline but Bateman ducks and O'Neil kind of hits Bateman's back. Bateman hits the stupid headlock mat slam/weak bulldog for the pin at 13:53 shown.

Rating: D+. Just so boring here. These guys can only have so many matches before you've seen it all. They're not even good

matches in the first place so it's not like we're watching good matches when they're at their best. Bateman makes things a bit more interesting but it's not like we're watching Flair vs. Steamboat out there.

Video on Money in the Bank.

Yoshi is back at his shrine or whatever. Striker asks why he's keeping the broken action figure and apparently it's something about honor. Tyson vs. Tatsu III tonight.

Pretty long video on Punk vs. Cena.

Horny is drinking root beer because he's sad about Maryse. A guy comes up with a package for him and it's from a secret admirer. He thinks the candy in it is from Maryse.

JTG thinks he can make Kozlov gangster and they make a bet. Gee do you think this is going to result in Kozlov wearing a funny costume?

Yoshi Tatsu vs. Tyson Kidd

Regal wants to know why it's called a rubber match. Kidd stalls a lot before we get going. Yoshi grabs the arm to start which is rather quickly countered. Dropkick by Kidd misses and Yoshi hammers away, sending Kidd to the floor. Kidd takes over once they're back inside and chokes him on the ropes. Tatsu comes back but the Canadian hits a Russian leg sweep to the Japanese off the middle rope.

Back from a break with Kidd holding a headscissors on the mat. Yoshi gets up and gets a sloppy crucifix for two. Kidd gets a floatover neckbreaker for two. Isn't it great to see two pros get the final $\frac{1}{4}$ of a show about rookies? Off to a chinlock as the crowd is coming out of their seemingly eternal slumber a bit here. Regal keeps me sane by talking about how when he had a heart attack his ex wife immediately wrote for

an ambulance.

Yoshi gets a big kick to put both guys down for a count, reaching seven. Here's Yoshi's comeback and he goes old school with a slingshot. Here are some more kicks but Kidd kicks Yoshi's knee out. Dropkick to the side of the head gets two for Kidd. Sharpshooter is blocked and Kidd is sent back to the floor. A dive is blocked by a kick to the head of Tatsu though but Kidd's springboard elbow is blocked. Kidd gets crotched on the top but blocks a superplex. Moonsault misses and Tatsu gets a rollup for the pin at 11:20.

Rating: C+. This again pales in comparison to their rather good first match in the set. It's like they're trying to go out and have a great match which works about once a decade and it takes people a lot better than this. It was pretty good, but at the end of the day they're fighting over a piece of a leg of an action figure broken in a shrine.

Kidd jumps him post match and rest steals the leg of the action figure. It was stolen in the first place?

Overall Rating: D. The show overall is pretty pointless but the main event was ok enough. Definitely not worth going out of your way to see or anything though. There was also no word on anything else as far as ending the season. That August 2 date gets scarier and scarier every time. Anyway, another horrible show this week with very little redeeming value.

Results

Derrick Bateman b. Titus O'Neil and Darren Young – Headlock into a mat slam to O'Neil

Yoshi Tatsu b. Tyson Kidd – Rollup

NXT – June 1, 2010 – Back When The Seasons Actually Ended

NXT

Date: June 1, 2010

Location: American Airlines Center, Dallas, Texas

Commentators: Michael Cole, Josh Matthews

We come at last to the grand finale and the last episode of NXT that I haven't reviewed yet. I'm kind of excited for this as the ending of the first one had me very interested indeed. Anyway, the finalists are Justin Gabriel, Wade Barrett and David Otunga. Otunga is probably the weakest one but maybe I'm wrong. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the entire season which is always cool to see. The first season of this show was actually pretty good. This show is live for once.

Striker points out the previously eliminated rookies who are here tonight. Here are the Pros as we're filling in a lot of time here. Now we bring out the finalists. There will be two eliminations tonight and up first it's a triple threat match!

Before that though we need to introduce some rookies for next season! First up is Husky Harris who is a third generation star. His pro is Cody Rhodes. He isn't Dashing yet. Maybe just jogging lightly at this point.

Monday is Viewer's Choice Raw.

Another Pro is John Morrison who has Eli Cottonwood who is kind of odd.

Justin Gabriel vs. Wade Barrett vs. David Otunga

We've got elimination rules here too just to make it awesome. Finally we get going after 9000 announcements. Barrett gets sent to the floor early as Otunga beats on Gabriel. Wade back in now as Gabriel hits the floor. We're told that in the second season of NXT there will be a 50/50 split between the Pros and the fans which is important. Otunga vs. Gabriel at the moment.

Really bad powerslam puts Gabriel down. Barrett can't stay in the ring here for too long which is kind of funny. Gabriel puts Otunga down and gets the 450 but Wade pulls him out to get the pin on Otunga instead. We take a break as we're down to one on one. Back with Gabriel breaking up an armbar on the mat. Off to an abdominal stretch by Barrett. He's working on the ribs so that the 450 is less of a weapon. Wouldn't the knee be smarter then?

If nothing else this is a rematch from last week which is kind of good for some reason. Gabriel gets some nice kicks and a cross body for two. Wasteland is countered into a sunset flip for two. Gabriel gets him down and it's 450 time again. SICK counter as Gabriel lands on the knees of Barrett. That looked incredible. Small package is academic for Barrett.

Rating: B-. This wasn't bad at all from an in ring perspective, but the idea here was that Barrett looks good. That's exactly what was supposed to happen here and it worked perfectly well. Fun match and it's cool to see them all in the ring at once in straight competition. This worked exactly like it was supposed to so I can't complain.

The Pros are getting ready for the new Poll.

MVP introduces Percy Watson who likes to party. I didn't like the idea of Watson at first but he had insane charisma and was definitely someone that caught my attention which was very good.

Zach Ryder introduces Titus O'Neil who really wasn't all that bad I didn't think.

The rookies are in the ring so it's time for the first elimination. First though we're going to hear the predictions of the eliminated rookies. Tarver says himself. Yeah he was a bit out there. Bryan says Otunga can't wrestle and Gabriel can't talk so Barrett should win. Sheffield says he doesn't care. Young says Barrett should win because he's strong mentally and physically. Slater says Barrett due to what he's proven tonight.

Time for the poll.

1. Wade Barrett. No shock at all.
2. David Otunga
3. Justin Gabriel

REALLY disagree here as Otunga had nothing but a celebrity wife going for him. Gabriel had a very flashy finisher going for him which was something that would make me want to stop and see what that was. He says he'll be back like almost everyone else has said. Matt says Justin is like him. Oh dang he's screwed.

Laycool have Kaval. Let the internet explode.

Mark Henry has Lucky Cannon. Henry is somehow the more talented one. It sounded like Cole gave Lucky a first name which sounded like Jesson or Jason.

One last rookie showdown as both get 60 seconds to tell the other why they should be gone. Otunga says Barrett is ugly. He makes fun of Barrett's physique so Wade does a mini-pec dance. Basically Otunga says he's more charismatic which is pretty much true.

Barrett says he's ugly because he's a fighter. Barrett says

Otunga has the IT factor because there's nothing else that Otunga has going for him. Wade was definitely more insulting here but made better points I think. The final Pro's Poll is next.

Kofi Kingston is a Pro and has Michael McGillicutty who was my favorite from last season.

It's time for the announcement of the winner, but Miz has something to say. He'll be back as a Pro next week with his rookie Alex Riley. Riley talks about how awesome he is for a bit.

We delay the vote again as the Pros get into an argument. Regal thinks it's over before the announcement and congratulates Jericho and Barrett. He asks anyone to do something about it so Truth does his stupid dance. Christian says sit down because he hasn't won a match in a year. Punk leaves. Jericho tries to calm Regal down but says that Barrett is winning because of Jericho, not because of Barrett's own talents. Regal says he's always like Jericho's two moves. This is hilarious stuff so Striker cuts us off.

Naturally Barrett wins as he certainly should have. Otunga says he's the real star and thinks he's being Punk'd. Barrett says he told you so which he did. He warns the Pros that this is the beginning of a new era and talks about the Winds of Change. Is Wade Barrett an Obama fan?

Overall Rating: B. This was a good way to close out the season. The match was good and more importantly: the right man won. Barrett dominated the entire season and other than Bryan has been the best since, which granted no one knew going into the show. Anyway, this was a good finale and I remember enjoying it as I watched it live. Good stuff indeed and this set up the following Monday, which was the Nexus.

So that's the last of NXT. We're most of the way done with Season 4 as I'm writing this and the first season is still by

far and away the best. The talent was there, the intrigue was there, the challenges are far more interesting and the drama worked. Also the poll was a nice touch. Either way, this was good stuff and it worked better than anything else they've done yet. Check these shows out as for the most part they're rather entertaining.

NXT – July 5, 2011 – Back To What They Do Best: Boring You To Tears.

NXT

Date: July 5, 2011

Location: Tucson Arena, Tucson, Arizona

Commentators: Todd Grisham, William Regal

We're at episode 18 here and I'm truly starting to wonder something. I'll be at the Smackdown/NXT tapings on August 2 and I'm honestly not sure if the new season will have started yet. This is already the longest season of the show so far and now all of a sudden we have three finalists instead of two. This could go on for awhile. Let's get to it.

We recap the eliminations this season and the return of Derrick Bateman and his pro Daniel Bryan from last week. I still don't get how this is fair or really needed.

Striker and Maryse bring out the rookies and pros. We go over the Redemption Points with Bateman of course in third place. Time for the Talk the Talk Challenge with the topic of why should you win. Young talks about how unfair it is to put

Bateman back in after Young has spent 17 weeks working to get here and now without a pro.

Titus says he's dominated the competition all over and actually makes it rain redemption points. That was kind of funny. Bateman says O'Neil said his football team is better than the local one. Bateman says he and Bryan are the best things to happen to the internet since kitten videos. He gets booed loudly and Titus wins, further proving that these Redemption Points are totally pointless.

We get a quick recap of Yoshi freaking over the broken action figure last week. Can't say they're repeating stuff with that one.

Yoshi Tatsu vs. Tyson Kidd

Well it was great last week so I can't complain on a rematch. Grisham says it was five stars. The show is on the internet so that fits perfectly. Yoshi fires off some kicks (actually called Kawada kicks by Regal) and we go to the floor for a bit. Back inside Tyson hammers him down in the corner but can't get a rollup. They head to the apron and Kidd blocks a suplex.

Kiss manages to kick him off the apron back first into the post. We take a break to talk about That's What I Am which really shouldn't stun me. Back with Kidd working on the back until Tatsu reverses a suplex into a cross body for two. Kidd hits a suplex and locks on a double chickenwing on the mat. Yoshi fights up and chops away including a kick to put Kidd down.

Tatsu goes up so Kidd tries the Kurt Angle run up for a (vertical in this case) suplex but gets dropped. Spinwheel kick catches Kidd in the hands so badly that Regal has to say it didn't really hit. That gets two and Kidd dropkicks the

shin. That sets up a Moss Covered Three Handled Family Credenza for the pin at 9:09. For those of you unfamiliar with the general insanity of Perry Saturn, it's a fisherman's suplex but instead of bridging back you spin the guy around like a neckbreaker.

Rating: C+. Well it wasn't bad but to say the other match was better is a huge understatement. Too much resting going on here and nowhere near enough near falls to make this one work. Not bad, but given what they did last week it was going to be pretty hard to top it here. Still good though.

Profile on Derrick Bateman, who really shouldn't have been eliminated last season, especially not while Johnny "so bland that white paint on growing grass calls you bland" Curtis was around.

Horny is still trying to give Maryse flowers. They happen to be dead and include Twizzlers and banana peels. She says that should get him a kiss but she hits him with the flowers instead. Titus can't console him.

Titus O'Neil/Darren Young vs. Daniel Bryan/Derrick Bateman

According to Todd, Bateman was supposed to be part of this season but tore his MCL. Bateman and Young start us off with Bateman sending him to the floor. Off to Bryan for a little Nexus on Nexus violence. DB and DB work on Young's arm but he's able to fight off Bateman and bring in Titus.

That doesn't last long and neither guy really gets anything going. Back to Young for a chinlock. Grisham says Regal could make a burning orphanage sound funny. When I woke up today, I didn't think I'd hear that line. Titus slams Bateman down as the beating continues.

Young doesn't do as well, allowing the hot tag to Bryan. He

hits a running dropkick in the corner to Young, followed by a suplex and swan dive headbutt. Bryan backflips out of a suplex and staggers into the corner, tagging Bateman which I'm not sure was intentional. Bryan takes out O'Neil and Bateman grabs a headlock and drives Young's head into the mat like a Skull Crushing Finale for the pin at 6:22.

Rating: C. Just a tag match here and not a very interesting one at all. The Bateman finisher was pretty weak and it's pretty clear that they're going to have Bateman vs. O'Neil in the final two, assuming there is a final two. Nothing special here, but then again Bateman never was anything special in the ring.

The last 13 minutes of the show are used to completely reair the Vince/Cena closing segment from last night, which was good but I don't want to see it all over again just 24 hours later.

Overall Rating: D+. Didn't like this one at all as the whole show felt like filler. No mention of another elimination so based on the track record of this show so far, that means we'll be here at least two more weeks. I was only half kidding earlier when I mentioned August 2 but it's looking more and more possible. Didn't like this as both matches were pretty bland and $\frac{1}{4}$ of the show is a segment from Raw. Nothing to see here at all.

Results

Titus O'Neil won the Talk the Talk Challenge

Tyson Kidd b. Yoshi Tatsu – Fisherman's neckbreaker

Derrick Bateman/Daniel Bryan b. Darren Young/Titus O'Neil – Headlock into a facejam to Young

NXT – June 28, 2011 – Best NXT Match In A Very Long Time

NXT

Date: June 28, 2011

Location: US Airways Center, Phoenix, Arizona

Commentators: William Regal, Todd Grisham

It's another elimination week to get us down to the final two which will hopefully end soon after that. The final three are Darren Young, Conor O'Brian and Titus O'Neil. It seems like the competition is Titus' to lose here but you never know with this show. That being said, I'd probably bet on O'Brian to win it because we all want to see him for another four months down the road right? Let's get to it.

Here's Darren Young who now has no pro as Chavo has left. Young says that Chavo quit because he couldn't handle the fact that his rookie was better. Young points out how he's faced Cena and main evented Summerslam this year which is something Chavo has never done. True actually.

O'Brian comes out to say that after tonight, Young is done. He promises utter destruction.

Darren Young vs. Conor O'Brian

They fight over a tieup to start and head to the floor. Hot crowd tonight too. Back inside and Conor takes over with a clothesline. A shoulder by O'Brian gets two. Young hits a neckbreaker on the apron and both guys are down as we take a break. Back with O'Brian escaping a cravate but getting thrown down for two. Off to a neck crank by Young which doesn't last long.

Kozlov isn't here tonight either apparently as he's in Australia with the Raw roster. Chinlock doesn't work long and O'Brian hits a slingshot to send Young into the corner. Young hits the ropes and gets his head kicked off by a big boot. That looked good. Regal brings up the point that these guys know each other way too well. Young hits Three Amigos to the biggest heat he's gotten since he had a big yellow N on his chest. A Frog Splash ends this a few seconds later at 8:45.

Rating: C+. Not bad here and that big kick was the biggest part of the whole thing. The lack of pros actually helped a lot here as it was just a competition rather than about the pros, which is the point of the show. O'Brian is still dull but if he can get even a single move going for him it's an improvement.

Tatsu is at his shrine with his action figure again and Kidd comes up and breaks it. They have a match later but Yoshi jumps him and attacks him until he's pulled off.

Tyson Kidd vs. Yoshi Tatsu

TYSON'S HAIR IS GONE! He cut that little thing off his head and it's due to Bret pulling on it apparently. Yoshi is all ticked off and hammers away to start, sending Kidd to the floor. HARD chops in the corner and Kidd is in trouble. Kidd comes back, hitting what looked like a forearm off the middle rope. On the floor he hits a dropkick to send Yoshi into the steps as we take a break.

Back and we're in a chinlock by Kidd. He works the arm and gets two off a hammerlock suplex. Big kick into the arm has Yoshi in agony. Fujiwara Armbar goes on which is becoming a very popular move anymore. Yoshi starts his comeback with his variety of kicks. Big kick gets a close two as the fans are into this again. They go up and Kidd is shoved off. He manages a dropkick to crotch Yoshi though and a top rope rana

gets two. I would have bet on that being the ending. Rollup gets two for Yoshi. Another big kick finally ends Kidd at 9:20. Abrupt ending but rather good.

Rating: B. For NXT, this was AWESOME. They were allowed to go out there and beat the heck out of each other. Those kicks and 2 counts were great and I really didn't know who was going to win there at the end. Sick high kick to put Kidd down at the end also made this a very good match and one of the best NXT matches I've seen in a long time.

JTG is getting ready and here's Horny in a trashcan which he's able to walk in somehow. O'Neil comes up to stop an attack because he's only trying to steal the gold jewelry because he's a leprechaun. They get in an argument over what it's made of. I give up.

Titus O'Neil vs. JTG

Maryse is on commentary here for no reason other than "she feels like it". O'Neil throws him around as Regal and Maryse argue a bit. Horny has a note for Maryse and it's in English apparently. It's an old school style of do you love me? Circle one. We hear about the required height to date Maryse as JTG takes over a bit. Maryse is taking pictures as O'Neil fights back. JTG is sent to the floor and almost runs into Horny. He gets on the apron and poses at JTG. Back in the ring the Clash of the Titus ends this at 3:20.

Rating: C. Just a quick match here as Titus continues to be so far and away better than everyone else in this season it's unreal. Nothing of note here as JTG is still a jobber, no matter which way he's leaning on the face/heel spectrum. Maryse was far more of the focus here than the match and I can't say I blame them here.

Maryse rips up the letter post match.

Raw Rebound eats up some time. They only talk about the main event and the Punk promo though. That's still awesome stuff, but it makes me think Cena wins clean at the PPV. Just parts of it here though instead of whole thing due to time. Most of the controversial stuff here is gone.

Grisham says that Punk has been suspended indefinitely and Vince might be on Raw.

Time for the elimination and thankfully O'Brian is gone. He asks Hunter (HHH I presume) for a chance to play the game.

But wait we're not done yet because someone else is going to the finals. Derrick Bateman is back and Bryan is his pro again. What in the world? Why are they adding someone else NOW? Do they really want to extend this even further? I'm going to be at the show on August 2. There better be a new season by then.

Overall Rating: B. All things considered, this was the best episode of NXT in months. There were good matches and the crowd was red hot all night. O'Brian finally being gone is the right choice because you could make a case for Young or O'Neil winning the whole thing. Bateman being added is uh...puzzling. At least he was funny during his time here so it's not too bad. Good show this week that flew by in a good way.

Results

Darren Young b. Conor O'Brian – Frog Splash

Yoshi Tatsu b. Tyson Kidd – High Kick

Titus O'Neil b. JTG – Clash of the Titus

Conor O'Brian was eliminated in 3rd place.