

NXT – October 4, 2017: Just What Drew Needed

NXT

Date: October 4, 2017

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Percy Watson, Mauro Ranallo, Nigel McGuinness

It's a big night this week as NXT Champion Drew McIntyre is putting the title on the line against Roderick Strong. There's a good chance that this is going to be more about the post match issues as you can almost guarantee that the Undisputed Era will be getting involved. Let's get to it.

We open with a We Stand With Las Vegas graphic.

Quick recap of Strong vs. McIntyre which was just announced by William Regal two weeks ago.

Opening sequence.

Mauro gives a quick voiceover tribute to the late Lance Russell. That's very classy.

Ruby Riot vs. Billie Kay/Peyton Royce

Nikki Cross was supposed to be Ruby's partner here but is nowhere to be seen. Ruby sends Billie into the corner to start before working on Peyton's arm. It's back to Billie to send Riot into the corner and hammer away before Peyton comes in to do the same. The slow beating continues but here's Cross through the crowd to stand in the corner.

Peyton grabs a chinlock for a bit before a double faceplant puts both women down. Riot crawls over and makes the reluctant tag to Cross to clean house. A reverse DDT gets two on Billie with Peyton making the save. Peyton bulldogs Nikki onto Billie's knee but Riot pulls Peyton outside. Ruby comes back in with a double missile dropkick, followed by something like a Pele to end Billie at 7:03.

Rating: C+. Billie and Peyton are much better as a team than on their own but they shouldn't be beating a pairing like Cross and Riot. You could easily see the two of them in the four way for the Women's Title and it would be cool to see the two of them as focal

points of the division, at least for a short time.

We look back at Lars Sullivan destroying Oney Lorcan until Danny Burch made the save.

Sullivan says everyone should be afraid and warns Burch to not face him next week.

Zelina Vega isn't worried about Johnny Gargano getting a rematch with Andrade Cien Almas. Gargano's lifeline is dead.

We look at Adam Cole defeating Eric Young last week with some distractions at the hands of the Undisputed Era. In two weeks, it's a six man tag.

Lio Rush vs. Aleister Black

This is Rush's in-ring debut. Hang on a second though as Velveteen Dream comes in and drops Rush before going up top. After a quick hip swivel at Black, Dream drops the Purple Rainmaker on Rush. Black flips into the ring and Dream bails. Dream: "Hey Aleister. WHAT'S MY NAME! ACKNOWLEDGE ME!" No match of course.

Kairi Sane vs. Aaliyah

Sane rolls around to start before blasting Aaliyah in the face for two. Back up and Aaliyah bends Sane over her knee to work on the back, followed by a hard whip into the corner. A hard spear gets Kairi out of trouble and the sliding corner clothesline rocks Aaliyah again. The top rope elbow gives Kairi the pin at 3:12.

Rating: C. Just a squash here and that's all Sane needed to do. Aaliyah may not be the most successful woman on the roster but she's a name that people are familiar with, which is all you need in a moment like this. If nothing else that huge elbow is going to get Sane all the attention she needs.

Next week: Liv Morgan vs. Peyton Royce vs. Nikki Cross for a spot in the four way title match.

Also next week: Andrade Cien Almas vs. Johnny Gargano.

NXT Title: Drew McIntyre vs. Roderick Strong

Strong is challenging and headlocks the champ to start. That's thrown off by raw power and we take a break. Back with McIntyre kicking him in the ribs and LAUNCHING him with an overhead belly to belly. Strong is right back up with a running knee from the apron as they're trading big shots. He's not done either as it's a big

backbreaker onto the steps to really stun McIntyre for the first time.

Back in and Strong stays on the back before just hammering away at the head. Another suplex gets Drew out of trouble though and we take a second break. Back again with Drew scoring with a reverse Alabama Slam for two of his own. Strong's tiger driver is countered with more power and a spinebuster gives Drew another near fall.

Drew puts him on top but has to block a sunset bomb. Instead Strong settles for a corner enziguiri and a superplex for the closest two yet. The fans are starting to get into these kickouts too. Now the tiger bomb gives Roderick two more but Drew is right back up. A super Celtic Cross still can't put Strong away so it's Claymore time.

That's blocked by three straight jumping knees to the face, followed by the Sick Kick for a very close two. They head outside with Strong trying a hurricanrana off the apron but getting powerbombed into the post. Strong is done so there's the Future Shock, followed by the Claymore to retain Drew's title at 23:44.

Rating: B+. Heck of a performance from both guys here, which is exactly what Drew needs. He's the guy who has been a bit left behind in this big Undisputed Era vs. Sanity feud so tearing the house down is a great way to remind us that he's still here. Strong is going to be around as well and would fit in as a fourth member of the Undisputed Era if they want a fourth member.

Strong leaves but runs into the Undisputed Era. They talk to him with Cole patting him on the arm. We couldn't hear what was said but Strong looks a bit confused.

Overall Rating: A-. Well that worked. Matches made for next week, Sane makes her debut and a heck of a title match to close it out. That's how you present an hour of wrestling television and I had a great time with the whole thing. I'm also curious to see where they're going with Houston, which has a lot of options at this point. Great show this week.

Results

Ruby Riot/Nikki Cross b. Billie Kay/Peyton Royce – Pele to Kay

Kairi Sane b. Aaliyah – Top rope elbow

Drew McIntyre b. Roderick Strong – Claymore

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the Updated History of the Intercontinental Title in E-Book or Paperback. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2017/10/02/new-paperback-kbs-history-of-the-intercontinental-title-updated-version/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

NXT – August 30, 2017: Strong Style

NXT

Date: August 30, 2017

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Percy Watson, Nigel McGuinness, Mauro Ranallo

We're back to the regular stuff this week as NXT returns home to Full Sail. After last week's recap/reset episode, this time we'll be having the first storyline advancements since Brooklyn. The big story will see Drew McIntyre as the new NXT Champion and the former Ring of Honor guys biting at his heels. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Sanity, some security guards and possibly other wrestlers are down in the back. Three people, presumably Adam Cole, Bobby Fish and Kyle O'Reilly are seen walking away. William Regal comes in and wants medical personnel.

Here's McIntyre for his first comments as champion. After the required YOU DESERVE IT chants, Drew says this is his life. The last

seventeen years have led him to this moment and this is his life's work. He understands that the title comes with a big bullseye on his back. Drew brings up Cole and company and is ready to face anyone so here's Roderick Strong to interrupt. Roderick wants a shot at the title but first, he has to face Bobby Roode. The champ seems game.

Roode says he's already on Smackdown but tonight he's beating Strong and coming after his NXT Title, which he'll bring up to Smackdown with him.

Peyton Royce vs. Ruby Riot

They head to the mat to start with Riot getting the better of it and scoring with a dropkick for two. An armbar keeps Royce in trouble so Peyton knees her in the face for a breather. Ruby gets thrown outside and we take a break. Back with Ruby fighting out of a chinlock and firing off a string of kicks for two. A Death Valley Driver gives Royce a quick two but Riot knocks her around even more. Billie Kay pulls Royce outside though, like a true friend should be doing. That's fine with Riot, who nails a double suicide dive. Royce tries to crawl away until Riot grabs her by the legs. Billie pulls her outside for a big boot though, with the referee seeing no problem with Riot just disappearing while pulling on Royce's leg. Back in and Peyton's fisherman's suplex is good for the pin at 10:45.

Rating: C-. I like the idea of Royce and Kay getting a win here and there, especially when they cheat to keep Riot looking strong. With Asuka's status in flux at the moment, Riot could become a major player on top of the division in a hurry. Royce is getting better in the ring though and she has a finisher that works well enough, which should help her in the future.

Kassius Ohno comes in to ask Regal for a match with Hideo Itami. The match is already made but Ohno wants and receives no disqualifications as a bonus stipulation.

Video on Heavy Machinery.

Heavy Machinery vs. Edwin Nagrom/Damien Awheel

Otis takes Awheel into the corner with a lockup, sending him climbing the buckles without breaking it up. It's off to Knight for a front facelock on Awheel and a crossbody to both jobbers at once. The Compactor drives Awheel onto Nagrom and it's a double pin for Dozovic at 2:11. Total squash, made only slightly more annoying by the odd jobber names.

We look at Lars Sullivan attacking No Way Jose.

Regal isn't please with Sullivan being so violent and puts him in a 3-1 handicap match next week.

Cezar Bononi vs. Andrade Cien Almas next week.

Roderick Strong vs. Bobby Roode

The fans chant THANK YOU BOBBY until we're ready to go. Roode promises to prove that Strong is a failure all over again but takes too long doing GLORIOUS, allowing Roderick to punch him down. A headlock slows Strong down as Roode is a full on face here. Strong will have none of that as he hammers away at Roode's head and grabs two straight backbreakers.

The threat of a third backbreaker on the floor sees Roode shove Strong into the steps, followed by a spinebuster on the floor. Back from a break with Roode hitting a backbreaker of his own and striking the GLORIOUS pose. He poses a bit too long though and it's Strong grabbing a pop up gutbuster for a breather. An Angle Slam is countered into an armdrag but Strong settles for another backbreaker. A tiger bomb into a Boston crab sends Roode straight for the ropes.

Back up and a TKO into a Stunner gives Roode two of his own. Another spinebuster looks to set up the Glorious DDT but it's the Angle Slam from Strong instead. The fans are split now as Roode breaks up a super backbreaker, only to get enziguried on the top. Strong settles for a superplex for another near fall and both guys are down.

A slugout goes to Roode, who grabs the Glorious DDT for two with Roderick (it sounded like Percy called him Roger) getting his foot on the ropes. Roode makes the mistake of talking trash about

Strong's family though and it's a jumping knee to the face. Strong nails End of Heartache, blows Roode a kiss goodbye, and hits a second to put Roode away at 17:48.

Rating: B+. This felt like Strong vs. Jay Lethal for the ROH TV Title where Strong needed to win and finally threw everything he had at Roode until there was nothing left. This is the kind of win that Strong has been missing as he's never had that signature victory. If nothing else it's going to put him near the NXT Title picture, either challenging McIntyre or joining the ROH guys as their second in command. Really good match here with a simple yet effective story.

It's pretty clear that this is it for Roode in NXT and I was really surprised by how much I liked his time there. I've never quite gotten all of his hype in TNA but he was excellent in NXT with a very basic style played up to a high level. That made for some good matches to go with that outstanding theme song. I'm glad that they seem to want to do something with him on Smackdown as Roode is already 40 and deserves this kind of a run after spending so much time in TNA.

Post match Drew comes out to stare down Strong but gets jumped by Cole and company. Regal comes out to chase them off as the three of them shout about this being their NXT and how they're doing Regal a favor to end the show. They're doing a solid job of making them feel like the original NWO and that's a good thing.

Overall Rating: B. They hit the ground running on this taping and that's a very good sign. You have a fresh champion with a hot heel act plus Strong as a wildcard. That leaves you with a bunch of different possibilities, all of which could produce some very good results. Having those options is fun but it's a lot more fun to see how they get to an ending, which is a long way off from here. Very good show this week and I'm feeling better about NXT than I have in a long time.

Results

Peyton Royce b. Ruby Riot – Fisherman's suplex

Heavy Machinery b. Edwin Nagrom/Damien Awheel

Roderick Strong b. Bobby Roode – End of Heartache

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the Complete 2002 Monday Night Raw Reviews in either E-Book or Paperback. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2017/07/21/new-e-bookpaperback-kbs-complete-monday-night-raw-2002-reviews/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

NXT – August 23, 2017: The British Nightcap

NXT

Date: August 23, 2017

Location: Barclays Center, New York City, New York

Commentators: Percy Watson, Nigel McGuinness, Mauro Ranallo

It's another one of those special episodes comprised of the dark matches from Saturday's Takeover: Brooklyn III. Therefore expect a lot of recaps as we don't have anything new from Full Sail just yet. What we do have are the British guys in town and that's almost guaranteed to be awesome. Let's get to it.

We open with a package on Saturday's show.

No Way Jose vs. Lars Sullivan

Jose pulls about a dozen fans out of the crowd for a conga line but Sullivan jumps him from behind. Something like a standing Boss Man

Slam plants Jose and Sullivan leaves. No match.

Video on Johnny Gargano vs. Andrade Cien Almas with a DIY shirt doing Gargano in.

Gargano says the loss was his own fault and he has no one to blame but himself. That was far from the end for Johnny Wrestling.

Video on Asuka vs. Ember Moon with Asuka retaining the title in a big surprise despite suffering a broken collarbone.

Asuka held a mini press conference after her win and says she was better that night. She was never worried either.

The broken collarbone is acknowledged with a recovery time of 6-8 weeks. The title's status isn't mentioned but it can be assumed that it won't be vacated.

Pete Dunne says the UK Brand started when he won the title and tonight, he's proving that it's his division. Wolfgang, his partner tonight, wants a shot after they win tonight. Pete says focus on tonight.

Peyton Royce vs. Sarah Logan

Logan fights out of a headlock to start and trips Peyton into an armbar. Back up and Peyton kicks her down, setting up a very flexible choke in the corner. A German suplex gets Logan out of trouble but Billie Kay grabs the hands to block a second. Rollups are exchanged until Peyton grabs a fisherman's suplex for the pin at 4:19.

Rating: D+. Billie and Peyton are perfect for their roles as the good looking and annoying women who you want to see get beaten up without being too serious. They're likely never getting close to the Women's Title but they're not the kind of people who need to be. Just let them do their thing a little while longer and then let them do it on the main roster. This was fine for what it was.

Video on Sanity winning the Tag Team Titles.

Video on the NXT Title match with McIntyre winning the title. Adam Cole, Bobby Fish and Kyle O'Reilly's post match beatdown is included

as well.

McIntyre will address the trio's actions next week.

Roode was livid after his loss and wanted to leave. Roderick Strong showed up, blew him a kiss, and said see you soon.

Roode's Smackdown debut is shown as well.

Roode says he'll embarrass Strong one more time and then he's winning the NXT Title back and walking onto Smackdown as champion.

Video on Hideo Itami vs. Aleister Black.

Black had no comment after his win.

Pete Dunne/Wolfgang vs. Tyler Bate/Trent Seven

Dunne gets a very strong reaction and starts on the mat with Bate. Neither can get anywhere and it's off to a double nip up for a standoff. Back from a break with Bate scoring with a dropkick and Moustache Mountain taking over on Pete. It's off to Wolfgang who gets caught in a DDT, only to avoid a charge and bring in Dunne to work on the arm. The shoulder gets sent into the corner and Pete cranks on an armbar while bending the fingers back.

Wolfgang takes him down with a waistlock but a dragon suplex gets Trent out of trouble. The hot tag brings in Bate for a t-bone suplex and a nip up for good measure. That bounce off the ropes into a clothesline sets up the airplane spin (Mauro: "The human fidget spinner Tyler Bate!"). Seven gets dropped off the apron as Dunne gets caught with a capo kick. The Tyler Driver 97 connects but Dunne made a blind tag, allowing Wolfgang to hit the Howling for the pin at 8:17.

Rating: B. Bate and Dunne have some of the best chemistry I've seen in years and the fans react to everything they do. Bate is getting better every single time he's out there, partially because he's getting older and more physically mature. Dunne has an awesome sneer and looks like someone who could beat the tar out of you despite being only twenty three. Wolfgang and Seven were fine but just outclassed here, which is going to be the case with most of the British talent compared to those two.

Overall Rating: C+. I like these shows more than I used to as they're a great way to decompress after a very long weekend of wrestling. After everything is so big over the last few days, it's nice to have something so simple and easy with a good main event. Fun show here, especially with Bate and Dunne around.

Results

Peyton Royce b. Sarah Logan – Fisherman's suplex

Pete Dunne/Wolfgang b. Tyler Bate/Trent Seven – Howling to Bate

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the Complete 2002 Monday Night Raw Reviews in either E-Book or Paperback. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2017/07/21/new-e-bookpaperback-kbs-complete-monday-night-raw-2002-reviews/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

NXT – August 16, 2017: You're Better Than This

NXT

Date: August 16, 2017

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Mauro Ranallo, Nigel McGuinness, Percy Watson

It's the go home show for Takeover: Brooklyn III and the main event is an interesting case of booking for what comes after the big show. Tonight's main event will see Roderick Strong vs. #1 contender Drew McIntyre. If Strong wins, he gets to face NXT Champion Bobby Roode

at some point after Takeover, but he won't be involved in the title match on Saturday no matter what. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

The announcers preview tonight's show and some of Saturday's big matches.

Here's General Manager William Regal to emcee the contract signing for the Women's Title match. Both Asuka and Ember Moon come out with Moon grabbing a mic. She talks about Asuka having all kinds of success, including being one of the most dominant women in WWE history and even surpassing Goldberg's undefeated streak. That being said, Asuka had to cheat to beat her and that's not going to be enough this time. Asuka is losing the title in Brooklyn. They both sign but Asuka goes on a rant in Japanese, screaming in Moon's face. Moon doesn't seem phased.

Lars Sullivan came to see William Regal and asked for one more tag match, promising to not beat up his partner again. Regal reluctantly agrees.

Street Profits vs. Lars Sullivan/Chris Silvio

Percy and Mauro argue about how much sauce the Profits have. Sullivan gets a full entrance with his partner Silvio, who was an OVW mainstay for years. Silvio charges at Dawkins to start and eats a right hand. It's such a hard shot that Ford runs into the crowd for a lap to burn off some excitement. Ford comes back in and drops Silvio with a shot to the back of the head, only to have Lars not sell a shot to the face. A Stinger Splash sets up the Sky High into a frog splash to put Silvio away at 1:47.

The Profits run from Sullivan, who is glaring down at Silvio. Sullivan picks Silvio up and carries him to the back in a change of pace. He takes Silvio outside and beats him up outside, because he promised not to hurt his partner in the ring.

Billie Kay vs. Ruby Riot

Fallout from last week where Kay and Peyton Royce made fun of Riot's looks. Billie avoids Ruby to start and Peyton finds it hilarious.

Riot gets in a rollup and does Billie's giggling pose for a funny moment. A Peyton distraction lets Billie get in a discus lariat for two and Eat Defeat gets the same. Ruby fights up and uses her knees to send Billie face first into the buckle followed by a Pele for the pin at 4:08.

Rating: D+. Not much here but Riot is really starting to look like a bigger deal. She could easily be moved up the ranks to challenge Ember (assuming she wins) as she has the unique look and it factor to take her pretty far. Billie and Peyton are a good team but it's a big stretch to have them win an important match, which makes them kind of a hard act to move forward.

Post match Peyton says lightning can't strike twice and says Riot will never be iconic. Sounds like another match is coming.

We run down Saturday's card.

Video on the Authors of Pain vs. Sanity.

Drew McIntyre vs. Roderick Strong

If Strong wins, he gets a match with Roode after Takeover. If McIntyre wins, nothing changes. Drew powers him down to start and sends Strong down with a suplex slam for good measure. Roderick dropkicks him to the outside but gets tossed into the post for his efforts. An enziguri and belly to back onto the apron put Drew down though and we take a break.

Back with Drew in a seated abdominal stretch and a running kick to the head staggering him even more. Drew fights up and gets in a belly to belly and a top rope forearm drops Strong again. The reverse Alabama Slam gets two but the Claymore is blocked with a jumping knee to the face. A headbutt catches Strong on top but he knocks Drew into the Tree of Woe, only to have Roode run in for the DQ at 12:38.

Rating: C+. Drew is still having trouble clicking in NXT and the more I watch him, the more I think a lot of it has to do with his size. He's so much bigger than most of the people in NXT and it makes for awkward matches as you rarely have a face this much bigger

than his opponents. Strong isn't a big guy in the first place and it really shows when he's compared to someone Drew's size.

As for the ending, that was really the only way they could go. It was a back and forth match until the ending where Roode gave Strong the win (not his brightest move). This lets us have the match without having to give McIntyre a loss before his big match. It's smart booking, though not the smartest move for Roode.

Roode beats up McIntyre with a Glorious DDT to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. This really wasn't up to the level of most NXT go home shows. The three titles matches got a nice boost but the other two matches were only mentioned in passing. NXT is usually a lot better than this but it wasn't there tonight. Roode vs. McIntyre still isn't the most thrilling match in the world but at least they gave it something here. If the match itself is good, all of this will be forgotten but it's not a great, or even a very good, build so far, which is very unlike NXT.

Results

Street Profits b. Lars Sullivan/Chris Silvio – Frog splash to Silvio
Ruby Riot b. Billie Kay – Pele Kick

Roderick Strong b. Drew McIntyre via DQ when Bobby Roode interfered

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the Complete 2002 Monday Night Raw Reviews in either E-Book or Paperback. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2017/07/21/new-e-bookpaperback-k-kbs-complete-monday-night-raw-2002-reviews/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

NXT – June 21, 2017: That's Very Clubber Lang of Him

NXT

Date: June 27, 2017

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Tom Phillips, Nigel McGuinness, Percy Watson

It's the last episode of a taping cycle and that means we have a major match to wrap things up as Aleister Black is facing Kassius Ohno in what could be one of the hardest hitting matches we've ever seen in NXT. If nothing else Black needs to get a win over a bigger name instead of just beating nobodies time after time. Let's get to it.

Quick look at the main event.

Opening sequence.

Bobby Roode and Roderick Strong had a backstage altercation earlier today and we'll see it later.

Ember Moon vs. Peyton Royce

I rather enjoy Royce and Billie Kay's entrance but you can feel the pain coming from here. If nothing else I'm glad we get to hear Ember's awesome theme again. Ember sends her cowering into the corner to start and hits a running forearm to really take over. An early Eclipse attempt is broken up but Peyton can't hit a fisherman's superplex (that's a new one).

Instead she sends Ember shoulder first into the post and we take a break. Back with Peyton elbowing the bad shoulder like she should be doing. Ember fights up with the good arm but handsprings into a spinning kick to the face. A headscissors staggers Peyton but the threat of an Eclipse makes Billie pull her to the floor. Ember dives

onto Kay to take her out and grabs a crucifix for two. Something like a Widow's Peak (without grabbing the chin) gives Royce two of her own but Ember sends her face first into the buckle. The Eclipse (still looks great) is enough to put Peyton away at 9:01.

Rating: C+. Despite Ember being out for several weeks, the Eclipse still feels like one of the deadliest finishers in NXT. They set up a perfect story with Asuka being worried about that one move and seeing it come back felt like a big moment. Instead of possibly finishing Asuka, that feels like the be all and end all for her reign if Ember can hit it. That's a great story and the roof is going to come off when she hits it on Asuka.

Hideo Itami comes up to Ohno to kind of apologize for his recent actions. Ohno understands and thinks they should be good to go, but Itami needs to stick on the good side.

Ealy Brothers vs. Sanity

Eric Young and Alexander Wolfe this time. Gabriel and Wolfe start things off with the twin being taken down for an elbow drop from Young. Sanity stays on him with alternating beatings, including Wolfe letting Gabriel get close to his brother and then drag him right back. That's the kind of heel work I can always go for. A missed charge allows the hot tag off to Uriel, who cleans house for all of five seconds before getting caught in a belly to back suplex/middle rope neckbreaker combination for the pin at 3:21.

Rating: D+. Just a squash here and that's something Sanity could use at this point. They don't really have anything to do at this point so letting them squash a good looking team isn't the worst idea in the world. That's also a solid finisher which plays off of Young's wheelbarrow neckbreaker. Nice little piece of business here.

We look back at the end of last week's show with Asuka and Nikki Cross being left laying. Next week: Last Woman Standing.

Sonya Deville video.

Rachel Evers vs. Sonya Deville

Sonya wastes no time and clotheslines Rachel down for a knee to the

back. Another knee to the ribs sets up some kicks in the corner, followed by a quick bodyscissors. The fans get behind Rachel and her right hands but Sonya takes off the glove and pounds away at the ribs. A Kimura makes Rachel tap at 2:42. Another total squash though couldn't the finish have been something on the ribs, which were worked on all match?

Earlier today, Roode was in a photo shoot when Strong and his family showed up. Roode said Strong's wife could be with a real man any time she liked and Strong snapped as you might expect. It's quickly broken up with Roode saying Roderick can have a title shot anytime.

That anytime would be in two weeks on the 400th episode.

Aleister Black vs. Kassius Ohno

Feeling out process to start with Ohno getting a quick takedown for almost no effect. Black sits him on the top rope for about the same impact and it's back to the technical work. Ohno gets two off a rollup but gets caught in a front facelock. A hammerlock keeps Kassius in trouble but a rope grab gives us a clean break.

The threat of Black Mass sends Ohno outside and it's the moonsault into the meditation pose. Ohno tries to kick him from there so Black nips up with a knee to the face. Kassius knocks him hard to the floor and we take a break. Back with Ohno chopping away in the corner and dropping a backsplash for two. To really make this personal, Ohno sits down like Black, who doesn't take kindly to the disrespect.

Ohno pounds away again and asks if Black is good or evil. That's quite the perceptive question no? Somehow not crushed by the weight of that gut, Black pops up and slugs away, including a kick to the head for two. Another exchange of hard kicks gives Ohno two more as the BOTH THESE GUYS chant starts up. Since that worked so well, Black knees him in the head again for two more. A spinning bicycle kick (cool) gives Ohno two but a LOUD knee to Ohno's jaw staggers him again. Not that it matters as Ohno loads up the roaring elbow but walks into Black Mass for the pin at 16:47.

Rating: B+. Most matches have a distinct style to them and this one would be “hit each other in the face over and over again”. I had a lot of fun watching this as they were beating the heck out of each other until one of them hit their big shot. It made both guys look especially tough, which is something we hadn’t quite seen out of Black yet with all the short matches he’s had so far.

Overall Rating: B. A return, two squashes, title matches announced for the next two weeks and one heck of a main event in the span of about 58 minutes. I’d certainly call that a success as it felt like an old version of NXT, which is one of the highest compliments I can give to a show. Really solid stuff here and hopefully they stick with this formula.

Results

Ember Moon b. Peyton Royce – Eclipse

Sanity b. Ealy Brothers – Belly to back suplex/neckbreaker combination to Uriel

Sonya Deville b. Rachel Evers – Kimura

Aleister Black b. Kassius Ohno – Black Mass

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the Histories of Saturday Night’s Main Event and Clash of the Champions, now in PAPERBACK. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2017/05/19/history-of-saturday-nights-main-event-and-clash-of-the-champions-now-in-paperback-plus-price-drops/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

NXT – April 19, 2017: Ten The Hard Way

NXT

Date: April 19, 2017

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Percy Watson, Corey Graves, Tom Phillips

We're back to Full Sail with a major match to wrap up someone's time in NXT. This week we have Tye Dillinger's NXT farewell as he steps inside a steel cage with Eric Young. Dillinger has already moved up to the main roster so it's his last chance to get a major win in NXT. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Here's NXT Champion Bobby Roode to get things going. It's a momentous occasion as he's made back to back Wrestlemania weekends GLORIOUS. This year he sold out the Amway Center with 15,000 people seeing the biggest box office superstar in the business today. The future of NXT is in his control and the transformation of Bobby Roode's NXT was completed.

Last week he saw Shinsuke Nakamura's farewell and thought it was pathetic. There was no Roode on stage to say goodbye to him because he didn't want to listen to Nakamura's garbage. Nakamura had to run away from NXT after the beatings that Roode gave him so everyone can either get on the Roode train or get out. Cue the returning Hideo Itami to slap Roode in the face. Bobby takes his jacket off and starts talking trash, only to walk into the GTS. Itami straightens his tie and holds up the title. Hideo is fine for a quick challenger and as sad as this sounds, it's probably better to get him in the title match before he's hurt again.

Tyler Bate and Jack Gallagher have a very polite discussion about their upcoming UK Title match.

Roode is still getting up after the break.

Earlier today, Andrade Cien Almas interrupted Drew McIntyre during his workout and challenged him for next week.

Andrade Cien Almas vs. Danny Burch

Burch sends him into the ropes but Almas hangs on and shouts a bit. A belly to back sends Almas down again but he gets in a hard clothesline to take over. The double knees in the corner set up the hammerlock DDT for the pin on Burch at 2:57. Basically a squash.

Video on Asuka, who is still completely dominant. Some people, including Ember Moon and Ruby Riot, might see some weaknesses though.

Long recap of Eric Young vs. Tye Dillinger. Tye lost to Eric a few months ago but refused to join Sanity. This set off a major feud with Tye finding a bunch of friends to help him fight. Sanity won in Orlando but tonight it's one on one in a cage for the final blowoff.

Liv Morgan/Aliyah vs. Billie Kay/Peyton Royce

Billie and Liv get things going with nothing happening for a good while until Liv grabs a sunset flip and rolls Billie around in a circle for some near falls. Aliyah comes in for a middle rope legdrop, only to eat a discus forearm. It's off to Peyton for a spinning kick to the face and what looked to be a three count. Aliyah grabs a sunset flip with Liv dropkicking Billie away so Aliyah can get the pin at 3:14.

Rating: D. I'm really not sure what to make of this half of the women's division. The bullying story is fine enough but it doesn't feel like it's going anywhere. Peyton and Billie are a great duo but there isn't much for them to do with Asuka on top of the division. Aliyah and Liv really don't do anything for me and I think NXT is starting to agree.

Almas vs. McIntyre is official for next week.

Eric Young vs. Tye Dillinger

In a cage and Young sends Sanity to the back. Tye pulls him inside and hammers away to start but can't hit a very early Tyebreaker. Eric gets a toss into the cage and Tye is in trouble as we take a

break. Back with Young getting two off a middle rope forearm to the back of Tye's neck.

Tye's right hands don't get him very far as Young powerbombs him out of the corner for two. It's too early to escape though as Young gets tossed off the top, sending us to another break. Back again with Young catching Tye on top and throwing him down again. One heck of a top rope elbow drop gets a very delayed two but Eric can't follow up.

Eric is busted open but takes too long to go after Tye, who grabs a Tyebreaker to put both guys down. Dillinger goes for the door but here's Sanity to slam it shut. Roderick Strong, Kassius Ohno and Ruby Riot run out for the save (so much for No Way Jose) but Dain runs both them and the referee over. Killian gets inside so Tye dives off the top to take out both Young and Dain before crawling out for the win at 23:06.

Rating: B-. This was more long than good but the problem is still very obvious: the ten gimmick is far more over than Tye, who just isn't all that interesting. Dillinger is fine but he's really just average in the ring. I'm sure he'll do well on the main roster with the TEN thing, though I'm not sure how long he's going to last. The cage match was exactly what it needed to be though with Dillinger defeating Young once and for all, giving him a big win to go out on. He hasn't had that in NXT and now it's a signature moment for him. Good match but nothing remarkable.

Dillinger locks Sanity inside the cage and celebrates to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Good show here as they had the big match to go with setting up some stuff going forward. The women's tag was short and Royce/Kay are entertaining enough to make it an easy sit which Almas got a win to regain some credibility. Roode vs. Itami is a good choice for the title match in Chicago and the show was a fast way to help set all these things up going forward.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the NXT: The Full Sail Years Volumes I and II, now in

PAPERBACK. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2017/03/24/kbs-history-of-nxt-volumes-1-and-2-now-available-in-paperback/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

NXT – April 5, 2017: Sometimes It's Better to be Fun Than Good

NXT

Date: April 5, 2017

Location: Amway Center, Orlando, Florida

Attendance: 14,975

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Percy Watson, Tom Phillips

This is the FINAL show from Wrestlemania week as this week's episode consists of the dark matches from before Takeover: Orlando. You can expect a lot of recaps and quick comments from most of the people on Saturday's show, meaning this is kind of a breather before we get going again. Let's get to it.

I was in the arena for this show, sitting in the upper deck and looking down at the hard cameras to my very slight right with the Titantron on my left.

A long recap of Takeover gets us going, of course.

Opening sequence.

The announcers chat about Takeover, which hadn't happened as they

talk.

Peyton Royce vs. Aliyah

Nigel has a rather creepy sounding crush on Peyton and Billie Kay. Peyton sends her face first into the mat to start and looks over to Billie for approval. Aliyah takes Peyton down so Billie grabs her hands, starting a tug of war. Back up and Peyton pulls Aliyah's arms while bending backwards over the ropes for an impressive looking hold. Aliyah comes back with a few Japanese armdrags, only to get kneed in the face. A fisherman's suplex ends Aliyah at 2:50. Royce looked good but Aliyah still needs a lot of polish.

Quick look at Takeover's eight person tag.

Quick look at the Women's Title match.

Asuka asks who is left for her. This sounded much more heelish than her usual.

Quick look at Aleister Black's debut. Andrade Cien Almas was as a club just a few hours after the loss. The announcers make this sound like a big problem for him.

Heavy Machinery vs. Bollywood Boyz

This was taped first and I actually missed it as the taping started before the scheduled time on the tickets. I hope it's just due to the size of the arena but the Boyz come out to SILENCE. They've also turned heel and now don't care what people think of them because they're doing it their way. Harv and Tucker start things off and an early jumping bearhug has Harv in trouble.

Otis comes in so Tucker throws Harv from one bearhug into another. Gurv comes in and tries to dance at Otis, earning himself a double splash from the big guys. The Boyz take Otis into the corner until a double suplex cuts off anything they had going. The hot tag brings Tucker back in and Otis lifts Harv up for a slam with Tucker diving onto his partner's back for added weight. Whatever is left of Harv is pinned at 3:20.

Rating: C. I know they're not great and that they don't have a long shelf life but I'm having a lot of fun with Heavy Machinery. They're

not trying to be anything more than what they are: two big guys doing big guy offense but in a very entertaining way. That finisher looks good and they've kept the matches short so nothing is overexposed. It's just a good performance of a simple idea, which is a great way to get an act over.

Oney Lorcan isn't worried about facing a mystery opponent.

Quick look at the Tag Team Title match.

Paul Ellering and the Authors of Pain are ready for whatever is next.

Long look at the NXT Title match. This runs nearly four minutes.

Quick look at Shinsuke Nakamura's NXT debut.

Bobby Roode says he did what he promised to do. The Glorious Era will continue.

We get a listen to the FOURTH official theme song of Takeover. The show was two and a half hours long and had as many official songs as Wrestlemania.

Video on Drew McIntyre returning. McIntyre says he's won everywhere and now he's coming here to do the same. He'll debut next week.

Oney Lorcan vs. ???

Lorcan has a mystery opponent and it's.....EL VAGABUNDO, a masked man (with a big beard sticking out) who happens to have a guitar. He says he has a song for us and is instantly the coolest thing the crowd has ever seen. The VAGABUNDO chants start off as Nigel says he's heard a lot of great things about the newcomer. He's even got a question for us: WHO WANTS TO WALK WITH EL VAGABUNDO?

The "SI" chants break out and he just happens to have a song for us. Lorcan grabs the guitar and says he knows Vagabundo is the Drifter. Fans: "NO! NO! NO!" Lorcan wants him to drift away but gets stomped down in the corner before the opening bell. Oney is quickly sent to the floor and we take a break with Vagabundo having to adjust his mask.

Back with Vagabundo sending him into the corner for a running

clothesline as Nigel talks about the prestige of a luchador's mask. Lorcan fights back with about seven straight running hip attacks in the corner (earning himself some boos ala WarZone and Attitude for the N64). Vagabundo tries a slam but loses his mask, somehow revealing Elias Samson (Nigel: "I KNEW IT!"). Lorcan gets a running Blockbuster for the pin at 7:18.

Rating: C+. This was a lot of fun with the joke being out of the Juan Cena playbook. The fans ate it up and Lorcan somehow came off as a heel in the whole thing. I really hope this continues as the Drifter character was a big waste of time but him doing anything he could to stay in NXT is a great idea.

Post match Samson says he belongs here but a female security guard cranks on his arm and forces him out.

Overall Rating: D+. I'm not entirely sure how to grade this one as the show ran 51 minutes (counting commercials) and there was only about nine minutes of televised wrestling, almost none of which had any long term value. The matches were fun though and the recaps were a great way to catch people up on Takeover. There's only so much you can do with NXT's taping schedule so this was about all you could expect.

Results

Peyton Royce b. Aliyah – Fisherman's suplex

Heavy Machinery b. Bollywood Boyz – Double World's Strongest Slam to Harv

Oney Lorcan b. El Vagabundo – Running Blockbuster

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the NXT: The Full Sail Years Volumes I and II, now in PAPERBACK. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2017/03/24/kbs-history-of-nxt-volumes-1-and-2-now-available-in-paperback/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling

books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

NXT – March 8, 2017: Just A Nice Match

NXT

Date: March 8, 2017

Location: University Area CDC Gymnasium, Tampa, Florida

Commentators: Percy Watson, Nigel McGuinness, Tom Phillips

We're on the road again and that means we're getting closer to heading back to Orlando for the next Takeover. None of the card is announced yet but with four shows left, you can imagine how fast that's going to change. We're also a week away from Bobby Roode defending the NXT Title against Kassius Ohno. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Tye Dillinger vs. Eric Young

That's quite the opener. Young sends Sanity to the back before going to the ring. There's no bell just yet though as the team brings Roderick Strong's unconscious body out to the stage. Tye goes to check on him and No Way Jose comes out as well. Dillinger and Jose charge the ring for the brawl but the numbers get the better of them and Sanity dominates.

Peyton Royce and Billie Kay are trying to find a place to hang their award for Breakout Star of the Year. For some reason they're hanging it at the Performance Center and talk about the various posters they see around the place. Billie thinks their award should be bigger, like the Dusty Classic trophy. They see Ember Moon working out and jokes ensue until a trainer has to hold Moon back.

We see a shadowy man in a church. He says he's neither a saint or a sinner and says "fade to black." That would seem to be Alistair Black.

HoHo Lun vs. Andrade Cien Almas

The fans seem to enjoy chanting "LET'S GO HOHO" but Almas stomps him down and sends him hard into the corner. Some forearms to the head knock HoHo even sillier and a clothesline cuts off his comeback. The hammerlock DDT ends Lun at 2:34.

Billie Kay vs. Ember Moon

Kay and Royce don't seem too worried here so Ember kicks Billie in the head to take over. Peyton gets pulled inside for a second, allowing Billie to catapult Ember throat first into the ropes. Billie gets in a rolling forearm for two but Ember comes right back with a series of kicks. Another Peyton distraction fails and the Eclipse is enough for the pin on Kay at 3:33.

Rating: C-. Billie and Peyton are a weird case as they have the character stuff down but they really don't have the in-ring abilities to back it up. They can cheat to win but I'm not sure if it's enough to keep them that high on the card. They'll be fine as a new LayCool style act though and that's good enough.

Billie is hurt and trainers have to come check on her. She's conscious and her limbs are moving. The fans cheer for her to get up and she's able to sit up on her own. Kay is crying and the fans give her a round of applause as she gets to her feet. She gets out of the ring on her own and walks to the back slowly. The fact that she's able to stand is a great sign. Also of note: while she was down, the announcers put the Eclipse over as a devastating move that can put anyone down. You don't hear something like that often enough.

TJ Perkins is ready to face Shinsuke Nakamura tonight.

Ealy Brothers vs. Revival

No match again as the Authors of Pain come out and destroy the Twins.

The Authors go after the Revival but have to settle for beating up

the Brothers again.

William Regal makes Ember Moon #1 contender.

We get a sitdown interview with Kassius Ohno who says it's a little weird to be back here where he was four years ago. He's won titles everywhere he's gone and he wants to win the NXT Title.

Bobby Roode is at his home for a satellite and doesn't care what Ohno said. Would you rather have a champion in a suit or a long haired hippie from the 70s? Roode throws the camera crew out.

TJ Perkins vs. Shinsuke Nakamura

Perkins tries to go after the leg but Nakamura sits out on him and they go to the ropes. Nakamura takes him down but it's another standoff, followed by Nakamura's COME ON to a nice reaction. TJ takes him down with a headscissors and dabs, only to have Nakamura escape and do the same thing.

Nakamura is sent to the floor and avoids the slingshot dropkick before kicking TJ in the chest. Back from a break with Nakamura missing a basement dropkick and possibly tweaking the knee. It's fine enough for Good Vibrations but Perkins comes back with a jumping neckbreaker. The second slingshot dropkick connects and a middle rope DDT gets two on Nakamura. A big shot to TJ puts both guys down but Perkins gets smart and kicks the knee out.

Nakamura grabs a Fujiwara armbar but Perkins quickly reverses into something like a Scorpion Deathlock. That goes nowhere so TJ grabs the kneebar until Nakamura makes the ropes. Back up and Nakamura's knee is WAY too fine as he knees TJ in the head. Another one to the ribs sets up the reverse exploder. Kinshasa is enough for the pin on Perkins at 14:59.

Rating: B. I liked this more than I was expecting as it was much more than just having Nakamura squash him in short order. Perkins was smart out there and had Nakamura in trouble before the ending was exactly what you would expect. This is a good example of a match that was better than expecting and didn't need to be any kind of show stealing classic. Good stuff here.

Regal says the winner of Roode vs. Ohno has to defend against Nakamura at Takeover.

Overall Rating: B-. This show was about setting up stuff for the future and that's all it needed to be. We've got one (technically two) match set for Takeover and that means we should be getting the rest of the card filled in pretty soon. I'm sure you can guess most of it but part of the fun in NXT is watching them set this stuff up.

Results

Andrade Cien Almas b. HoHo Lun – Hammerlock DDT

Ember Moon b. Billie Kay – Eclipse

Shinsuke Nakamura b. TJ Perkins – Kinshasa

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the History of the WWE's Big Four Pay Per Views, now in PAPERBACK. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2017/01/27/kbs-reviews-now-available-in-paperback/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

NXT – March 1, 2017: It Better Be Going That Way

NXT

Date: March 1, 2017

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Percy Watson, Tom Phillips

It's the final night of the taping cycle and we've got a big title match to send us out. This time around it's the Authors of Pain defending the Tag Team Titles against the former champions DIY. These teams had a surprisingly good match back at Takeover: San Antonio so maybe they can pull it off again here. Let's get to it. Preview for tonight's show, including Asuka defending the Women's Title against Peyton Royce.

Opening sequence.

Sean Maluta vs. Patrick Clark

Clark is your latest "flamboyant" wrestler so Maluta punches him in the face during his opening....shall we say prancing. Maluta gets two off a Shining Wizard but Clark gets all ticked off and hammers away in the corner. A suplex sets up a chinlock and of course Maluta makes a quick comeback. Clark will have none of that though and hits a bad looking Fameasser for the pin at 2:40. The fans didn't seem impressed though Clark has a really athletic and lanky body which could be used in a better gimmick.

Sanity wants Tye Dillinger to accept his fate and stop drowning in his own choices. Instead of dragging his friends down with him, Tye needs to face Eric Young on his own. Nikki Cross says if he doesn't, the whole world will burn.

Women's Title: Peyton Royce vs. Asuka

Royce won a triple threat last week to earn her shot. Feeling out process to start with Nigel talking about other great female Japanese wrestlers (and managing to plug the Network at the same time). A shoulder just fires Asuka up and she forearms Peyton down. Both of them miss big kicks and it's a standoff.

Back to back hip attacks put Peyton on the floor but she sends Asuka into the steps as we take a break. We come back with Asuka fighting out of a chinlock (as is customary) so Royce starts working on the arm that went into the post. A standing armbar only seems to tick the champ off and a suplex drops Peyton.

Asuka starts striking away but hurts the arm again. Instead it's a

Shining Wizard for two on Royce but a spinning kick to the face gets the same on Asuka. That goes nowhere though as Asuka kicks the heck out of Peyton and spins her down into the Asuka Lock to retain the title at 11:20.

Rating: C+. They did a very good job here of making Asuka look vulnerable. One of the biggest problems is finding a realistic opponent for her and this was as good as it was going to get with either Royce or Billie Kay. Asuka wasn't in the greatest danger here but she also didn't squash Peyton, which made for a much better match.

Post match Billie Kay comes in for the double team but Ember Moon makes the save. Asuka holds up the title and Ember stares her down. There's Takeover.

We look back at Takeover: San Antonio where Shinsuke Nakamura's knee was injured. Kassius Ohno checked on him in the back.

Here the end of last week's episode with Kassius Ohno saving No Way Jose from Bobby Roode and getting in a fight with Ohno clearing house.

William Regal makes Roode vs. Ohno for the title in two weeks.

Paul Ellering gives the Authors of Pain a pep talk.

Wolfgang is coming.

Shinsuke Nakamura is back next week.

Tag Team Titles: Authors of Pain vs. DIY

DIY is challenging. Akum stares Ciampa down to start but Tommaso isn't the slightest bit intimidated. The double spear through the ropes drops Akum and some double clotheslines put the champs on the floor. Ciampa tries a dive through the ropes but gets sent hard into the post to put him right back down.

Back in and Ciampa gets caught in the wrong corner and runs into a backbreaker for two. Ciampa chops and slaps the heck out of Akum but gets caught in an assisted backbreaker to put him down again. The one sided beating takes us to a break with Ciampa in trouble. Back

with Tommaso avoiding a charge and making the hot tag off to Gargano so things can speed up. A suicide dive drops Akum and a springboard moonsault does the same to Razar.

The double strike to the corner drops Akum for two and Ciampa grabs his flip over armbar. Razar makes the save and sends Gargano to the floor. Ciampa gets in a kick though and Gargano comes back in for a double powerbomb out of the corner. Razar saves his partner from the running double strike (which really needs a name) but it's time for the stereo armbars. Cue the Revival for the DQ at 13:25.

Rating: B. These matches are giving me a Sting vs. Vader vibe where the smaller guys do whatever they can to take down the monsters but then they get hit really, really hard. The ending was the right call as all three of them deserve to be in the title hunt and there's a chance that the title match will be outstanding. The Authors are a good choice here for the sake of mixing things up and that makes for a good dynamic.

Back to back Shatter Machines let the Revival stand tall to end the show. I can't stand them (triple threats, not the Revival) but this better set up a triple threat tag match for the titles at Takeover.

Overall Rating: B. Fifty minutes go by and we seem to have two title matches set up for Takeover. In two or three weeks we'll likely have the NXT Title match and you can probably pencil in either Young vs. Dillinger or a big tag match as well. This show flew by and gave us some good wrestling as a bonus while setting up the big card. Good stuff all around, as usual.

Results

Patrick Clark b. Sean Maluta – Fameasser

Asuka b. Peyton Royce – Asuka Lock

DIY b. Authors of Pain via DQ when Revival interfered

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the History of the WWE's Big Four Pay Per Views, now in PAPERBACK. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2017/01/27/kbs-reviews-now-available-in-paperback/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

NXT – February 22, 2017: The Wrestling Version

NXT

Date: February 22, 2017

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Tom Phillips, Percy Watson, Nigel McGuinness

We're getting closer and closer to Orlando as we're...well we're still in Orlando but it's not the big show yet. Tonight's big deal is a triple threat match for the #1 contendership to the Women's Title as Asuka is in need of some more competition. It's hard to say what else we've got coming up around here and that's a good thing as you could be in for a good surprise. Let's get to it.

In Memory of George Steele.

Quick video on the triple threat.

Opening sequence.

Liv Morgan vs. Peyton Royce vs. Ember Moon

#1 contenders match and Morgan is in Space Jam Tune Squad inspired gear. Moon gets sent to the floor to start and Morgan does a Matrix move to avoid the a spinning kick. The two of them head outside and Ember hits a dive over the top to take Morgan down. We take an early

break and come back with Morgan taking Peyton's long legged choke in the corner.

Peyton sends her to the apron and puts on something like a full nelson with her legs before letting it go to put Ember back on the floor. Morgan comes back with an ankle scissors out of the corner for one but can't follow up because it's just an ankle scissors. The real comeback starts with a kick in the corner and a bulldog, finally drawing Ember in for the save.

A headscissors puts Moon right back outside though and it's time for a superplex. Peyton isn't fast enough though as Ember sneaks in to make it a Tower of Doom and all three are down. Moon loads up the Eclipse but Billie Kay takes it instead of Morgan, leaving Peyton to knee Ember in the face. A fisherman's suplex to Morgan is good for the pin and the title shot at 11:54.

Rating: C+. That's really the only option as Morgan has already been destroyed by Asuka and I'd assume they're keeping Moon for a big showdown. The idea here was to keep Moon on the floor because otherwise it would have been her dominating the other two and slipping on a banana peel to lose in the end. Royce winning is the right call though I can't imagine that title shot comes before Takeover.

Video on Pete Dunne and Mark Andrews.

Kassius Ohno is coming back.

Shinsuke Nakamura is healing up.

Mark Andrews vs. Pete Dunne

Rematch from the tournament where Dunne beat Andrews. Dunne goes straight for the fingers to start and then rips at the nose like a true heel. Andrews pops back up and sends him to the floor for a moonsault armdrag to take over. A second attempt doesn't work though and Dunne forearms him in the jaw, followed by stomping the fingers onto the steps.

We take a break and come back with Andrews flipping Dunne over and grabbing a springboard hurricanrana. Dunne is ready for the shooting

star though and forearms Andrews out of the air. The X Plex gets two but Andrews gets out of the Bitter End. A reverse hurricanrana of all things puts Dunne down again. Another Bitter End is reversed into a small package for two and the X Plex is countered into the Stundog Millionaire. Dunne gets the knees up on the shooting star though and the Bitter End wraps Andrews up at 13:52.

Rating: B+. This was very good stuff and the wrestling was enough to overcome the lack of a story coming in. In theory this sets up Dunne as the first real challenger to Bate but it's not clear if anyone from outside the UK can challenge for the UK Title. You can also add Andrews to the list of people TNA screwed up horribly.

Kay and Royce are ready to take the Women's Title back to Australia. Patrick Clark is in action next week.

Tye Dillinger is ready for Sanity, no matter what they throw at him.

No Way Jose vs. Bobby Roode

Non-title and Roode's entrance is reaching Undertaker lengths. Roode takes him to the mat to start and slaps the afro a bit. Back up and it's dance time with a clothesline freaking Roode out a bit. The big spinebuster plants Jose again though and we take a break. Back with Roode striking the pose and grabbing a chinlock. Jose makes his comeback and cleans house with chops and a cobra clutch slam. The big right hand puts Roode on the floor but he comes back in and hits the Glorious DDT for the pin at 10:39.

Rating: C+. This was the kind of match that Roode needed. Jose is going to be fine with a loss to the champ and Roode gets a win over someone with some credibility. That being said, the credibility isn't going to last all that long if he never wins a match anytime soon. Good enough though and a third solid match on a good show.

Post match Roode goes after the knee until Kassius Ohno makes a big return for the save. Roode asks who Ohno is so Kassius talks about how he's been around the world. Now Ohno wants what Roode has, so Bobby is willing to put the title on the line right now. Roode gets in a cheap shot and starts in on the knee, only to get knocked out

to the floor for his efforts. Ohno poses to end the show. Ohno got a strong reaction (not quite Nakamura but still a star level reception) and that's a good thing as he's likely going to be in the title scene very soon.

Overall Rating: A-. This was the pure wrestling show with almost no storyline development but three strong matches in the span of an hour. Sometimes you just need a long show with a lot of good wrestling and that's what took place here. I had a good time with this and it went by fast, especially with the big angle to end the show. NXT needed a show like this and it worked very well.

Results

Peyton Royce b. Ember Moon and Liv Morgan – Fisherman's suplex to Morgan

Pete Dunne b. Mark Andrews – Bitter End

Bobby Roode b. No Way Jose – Glorious DDT

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the History of the WWE's Big Four Pay Per Views, now in PAPERBACK. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2017/01/27/kbs-reviews-now-available-in-paperback/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>