

NXT – January 4, 2022 (New Year's Evil): See No Evil

NXT

Date: January 4, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Wade Barrett

It's a big night as we have New Year's Evil featuring the main event of NXT Champion Tommaso Ciampa defending against Bron Breaker. That's big enough, but we also have a triple threat match for the Women's Title and AJ Styles confronting Grayson Waller. Not wrestling mind you, but confronting him. Let's get to it.

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

The opening video looks at the beginning of the new year with a focus on the card. Then we get to Breaker vs. Ciampa, when the video shifts into evil.

North American Title/Cruiserweight Title: Carmelo Hayes vs. Roderick Strong

Title for title, with Trick Williams and Diamond Mine here too. They fight over a lockup to start until Strong grabs an armbar to take over. Back up and Hayes scores with a dropkick to stagger Strong for a change. Strong tries to take him down but Hayes nips up and scores with an enziguri. With that not working, Strong chops him hard up against the ropes, so Hayes drops to the floor for a breather.

Back in and Strong gets caught in the ropes, setting up a springboard legdrop for a cool looking crash. They head to the apron with Hayes hitting a big jumping DDT to rock Strong. They go inside again and Hayes misses something off the top, setting up a heck of a Sick Kick for two. We take a break and

come back with Strong fighting out of a wristlock and hitting a running clothesline.

Some backbreakers look to set up the Strong Hold but Hayes reverses into one of his own. That's reverses as well and now the Strong Hold can go on. With that broken up as well, Strong hits a Rock Bottom backbreaker for two more. Hayes is ties in the ropes for the running forearms, setting up the Angle Slam for two.

Back up and Hayes grabs a suplex into a cutter for his own near fall and we have a shocked face. Hayes gets caught up top and Strong grabs a super X Plex...or at least I think he does as they both crash hard. Hayes is ok enough to cover for two, followed by the top rope Fameasser for the pin and the titles at 15:41.

Rating: B. I'm still not sure what the landing on that super X Plex was supposed to be, but the rest of the match was pretty awesome as they were trading one big spot after another. They weren't going for anything more than trading bombs until one of them couldn't get up, and that's it for the Cruiserweight division. Good match, and one of the better things to air on NXT TV in a long time.

AJ Styles wishes Tommaso Ciampa luck. There doesn't appear to be much tension here.

The Dusty Classics are coming back, with the men's version in two weeks and the women's version in February.

Here is AJ Styles for a chat. After soaking in some cheers, AJ says he never gets tired of that, and talks about how he always wanted to come here, even when he first got to WWE. The fans always have that passion but there is always someone who wants to take it away. That's where Grayson Waller comes in...and cue Waller himself, to bring up Styles losing to Omos last night.

Waller doesn't buy this idea that Styles would have started in NXT and is tired of everyone calling him green. Styles says he's never had a one on one match in NXT, so let's get a referee out here and change that. Waller says we're on Grayson Waller time we can do this next week. It can be the biggest win of his life, but AJ thinks it will be the biggest embarrassment. The fight is on with AJ getting kicked down before clearing the ring. At least the match is set.

Pete Dunne is ready to take out Tony D'Angelo for hurting his hand last week.

Kayden Carter/Kacy Catanzaro tell Amari Miller they are ready to win the Tag Team Titles. Miller needs a partner for the Dusty Classic but Tiffany Stratton runs off at the thought. The sleeping girl wakes up, asks why people are staring at her, and introduces herself as Wendy Chu. More sleep ensues.

Riddle/MSK vs. Imperium

Nash Carter starts with Fabian Aichner and gets powered down early on. A shot to the face staggers Aichner though and it's off to Wes Lee to kick Aichner in the ribs. Lee can't whip him in though and Aichner BLASTS HIM with a clothesline. That's enough from them so it's off to Riddle vs. Walter (who looks to have dropped a good bit of weight) with Riddle striking away. That doesn't last long as everything breaks down, with Walter pulling Lee out of the air and carrying him to the wrong corner. The running double dropkicks put Lee on the floor and it's an Imperium pose to send us to a break.

Back with Carter in trouble and a tag attempt being cut off. Carter finally gets in a kick to Walter though and the hot tag brings in Riddle to clean house. More strikes and a t-bone suplex drop Walter, setting up the running Broton. Everything breaks down again and some stereo dives take out Aichner and Barthel.

Back in and Riddle manages a German suplex on Walter for two

but Aichner and Barthel offer a distraction. That's enough for Walter to kick Riddle down and hit the powerbomb for two. A brainbuster gets two on Riddle but he strikes his way to freedom. It's back to Carter for the Blockbuster Hart Attack, setting up Riddle's Floating Bro to Aichner. The RK0 finishes Barthel at 13:51.

Rating: B+. This was the kind of match that has been missing around here, as it was straight action and everyone going nuts. It also helps that it had star power, with Riddle and Walter feeling like bigger stars than anyone else on the show (save for AJ). That's what this show has been lacking and it was great to see it again.

Joe Gacy is proud of Harland for getting better and thinks the Dusty Cup would make him happy. But no, they don't want any special treatment to get into the tournament.

Mandy Rose gets an entrance in a helicopter.

Elektra Lopez is attracted to success and next week, you will get your answers. Next week it's Santos Escobar vs. Xyon Quin and she is leaving with the winner.

Women's Title: Mandy Rose vs. Raquel Gonzales vs. Cora Jade

Rose is defending and gets sent outside in a hurry. That leaves Raquel to power Jade around but a headscissors puts her on the floor as well. Rose pulls Jade outside for a beating but it's a double Samoan drop from Gonzales back inside. We take a break and come back with Jade trying a rollup but getting tossed hard to the floor instead.

That leaves Mandy alone with Gonzales so it's time to run away, only to have Gonzales chase her down in a hurry. Mandy gets tossed to the floor but comes back with a kendo stick shot for two. Gonzales comes back with the Chingona Bomb but Jade dives off the top with a backsplash for the save. That leaves Gonzales very angry indeed so she goes after Jade, only

to get shoved outside. Jade's rollup doesn't work though as Rose sits down on it and retains the title at 12:28.

Rating: C-. Well they tried, but this was a rather sloppy match and it was quite the train wreck. There are only so many things that you can expect from three women who are a mixture of inexperienced and not that good, which means putting them out there for twelve minutes on live TV wasn't the greatest idea. They aren't ready for this spot without someone to help guide them through a match and that was obvious more than once. They did try hard and that makes a difference, but it wasn't working.

Boa runs water over his face, making the painted version of himself appear next to him in the mirror.

Riddle congratulates MSK on their win and says goodbye for now. The Creed Brothers pop up to say the tag division is more serious and they're winning the Dusty Cup.

Here is Andre Chase, who is rather proud of his student for trying to help him last week. That has earned him a FULL SCHOLARSHIP but here is Von Wagner to interrupt. He's the star around here and punches out Chase for daring to talk. Wagner beats up the student as well and then goes after the fans as well, with referees and security pulling him away.

Video on Bron Breaker vs. Tommaso Ciampa.

Von Wagner is being escorted out of the building, but stops to laugh at Roderick Strong.

Video on Cameron Grimes' amazing 2021. He wants gold in 2022.

NXT Title: Tommaso Ciampa vs. Bron Breaker

Breaker is challenging and breaks some chains and a big X on the way to the ring. Ciampa starts with some running elbows but gets caught in a delayed suplex. Breaker nips up as Ciampa rolls to the floor for an early breather. Another

suplex keeps Ciampa in trouble but he gets smart by going after the knee. Breakker gets taken down with a dropkick before a running knee puts him on the floor. Ciampa even busts out a running corkscrew dive (that's a new one for him) and that's good for some self applause.

Back in and the chinlock goes on but Breakker is on his feet in a hurry. The running shoulder to the ribs in the corner rocks Ciampa again but he ties Breakker in the Tree of Woe. Stomping and a running dropkick get Breakker out, where he is able to block the Fairy Tale Ending. A spinebuster and standing moonsault get two on Ciampa. Breakker goes to the middle rope but pauses (in a callback to his mistake in their first match), allowing Ciampa to knock him off the top.

Breakker seems to have tweaked his knee so Ciampa (now bleeding from the eye) hits some running knees to the face. A spear cuts Ciampa in half though and they're both down. Back up and Breakker tries the gorilla press but Ciampa reverses into a tornado DDT...which almost goes very badly wrong as they land on the ropes. Ciampa is able to jump right into position for the Willow's Bell though and we hit a half crab on Breakker. With that broken up, Ciampa heads outside and pulls back the floor mat.

That takes too long though and Breakker hits a HARD Alabama Slam through the announcers' table. Back in and Ciampa uses the middle rope for a low blow, setting up another knee to the head. There's another one for a bonus as Kenny Omega has entered the match. Ciampa hits a third running knee, setting up the Fairy Tale Ending for two, meaning it's Ciampa's turn to be shocked. Breakker knocks Ciampa off the top and hits a top rope bulldog, setting up a Recliner for the tap and the title at 15:29.

Rating: B. This was about passing the torch and that's the feeling it presented, as Ciampa gave it everything he had and came up short. They had to change the title here as Breakker

is a beast who has already lost once. He's looking more and more like a prodigy every day and that's not something you get to see very often. I'm not sure what he's going to do as champion, but it wouldn't shock me to see him on the main roster before the end of the year.

Ciampa nods to Breakker, who celebrates to end the show.

Overall Rating: B+. This was a heck of a show that felt like a mini Takeover. The thing that made this one work was how structured everything felt. It came off like the people putting this show together had a bunch of stuff planned and then went out and executed it rather well. That's how a big show is supposed to feel and it is the exact opposite of how this show feels most of the time. Awesome show here, and the title changes felt important, so well done for this week.

Results

Carmelo Hayes b. Roderick Strong – Top rope Fameasser

Riddle/MSK b. Imperium – RK0 to Barthel

Mandy Rose b. Cora Jade and Raquel Gonzales – Cradle to Jade

Bron Breakker b. Tommaso Ciampa – Steiner Recliner

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NXT – September 28, 2021: More Like It

NXT

Date: September 28, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Beth Phoenix, Wade Barrett

It's time to focus on the women's division as we have several women's matches taking place this week. This includes a pair of title matches, plus a grudge match. That's the easy part though. The fun part is finding out how many new people can be brought in with little to no explanation. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Here is Hit Row to get things going. They run down tonight's focus on the women's matches and wonder why no one is coming after Isaiah Scott's North American Title? B Fab is ready to take out Elektra Lopez, so here is Legado del Fantasma to make things serious.

B Fab vs. Elektra Lopez

No DQ and the brawl starts on the floor before the bell. B Fab kicks Lopez in the head and they're outside in a hurry, with the guys getting in a big brawl of their own as we take a break. Back with a fight over a table, with Lopez driving it into B Fab's ribs. They get back in with a bunch of weapons joining them. B Fab grabs some kendo sticks to swing away but Lopez crossbodies her through an open chair. Lopez drops her ribs first across the top of the open chair, setting up a Blue

Thunder Bomb to put B Fab away at 10:05.

Rating: B-. They had a hard hitting match here and it worked well given how little experience both of them have around here. Again, I'm still not sure why the regular television shows are going more extreme than most of the Extreme Rules pay per view, but at least we are getting some better stuff this week.

We go to InDex's honeymoon, with the two of them walking on the beach. Johnny Gargano and Candice LeRae are watching from the balcony of a hotel room and LeRae suggests that more things are going to happen. Dexter seems to like how Indi looks coming out of the water and Gargano panics. Then a shark starts coming up from the water and....yeah it's Gargano with a shark fin on his head.

Here is Joe Gacy, to say that the ring is still a safe space and he has not been canceled. He has made a bigger impact than stars like Tommaso Ciampa and Bron Breakker, because he didn't throw a punch. Gacy speaks for a generation while the rest of them lives in a dark world. Then last week he was shunned, but now he is here to usher the world into a new normal. Woke, as written by WWE.

Xyon Quin vs. Oney Lorcan

It's a 205 Live rematch and Quin knocks Lorcan outside to start. Back in and Lorcan runs him over, setting up a quickly broken chinlock. Quin fights up with a Samoan drop and finishes with a running forearm at 2:58. They might have something with Quin, just based on his look.

Grayson Waller talks about being a thrill junkie who loves to take chances. Now he's taking a chance by going after the Cruiserweight Title. Why are we getting these (good and useful) vignettes explaining people AFTER we've been confused by their debuts?

Here is MSK for a chat. They have been champions for awhile now and they are going to keep smoking the division. Cue the Grizzled Young Veterans, who say that they want their two on two title shot but here are Trick Williams and Carmelo Hayes to interrupt. Hayes says they are going to be champions because he has the golden ticket. MSK is good with that but Zack Gibson wants to know why everyone is talking in riddles. Cue Josh Briggs and Brooks Jensen, who want in on this too. The brawl is on among the challengers and MSK hold up the titles. MSK really need challengers so this was a messy but necessary segment.

Raquel Gonzalez is ready for Frankie Monet but Toxic Attraction comes in, with Mandy Rose saying the title will look better on her.

Women's Tag Team Titles: Toxic Attraction vs. Io Shirai/Zoey Stark

Shirai and Stark are defending and Mandy Rose is here with the challengers. Shirai flips away from Dolin to start, though she can't quite get the nip up right. The second takedown sets up a more successful nip up and it's off to Jayne, who gets taken down in the corner. Stark comes in for some rapid fire rollups as commentary talks about how the champs never defend their titles. That's because they don't have much need to exist, but that has never stopped WWE before.

Stark chops her down and hits a slingshot Swanton for two. Dolin comes in off a blind tag and kicks Stark down but the champs are back up with some springboard dropkicks. Some dives to the floor have Attraction in trouble and we take a break. Back with Jayne hitting a running knee to Shirai's face. Shirai is back with a kick to the face though and the tag brings in Stark to hit people in the face.

Stark gets knocked into the corner though and it's back to Shirai to clean house again. A 619 sets up a springboard

missile dropkick for two on Dolin as Rose is panicking on the floor. Everything breaks down and it's Stark hitting her GTS on Jayne...and tagging out instead of covering for no apparent reason. Stark dives onto Dolin but stops to glare at Rose. Shirai hits the Moon Over Moonsault to retain at 12:43.

Rating: C+. I would have bet on the title change here, but that would mean a regular team holding the titles instead of a wacky tag team with nothing in common and that's not how WWE rolls. Toxic Attraction is a fine enough idea and they can work well in the ring, though it seems like they're only around as lackeys for Rose more than anything else.

Video on Bron Breaker, who still feels like Scott Steiner and wants to be NXT Champion.

Tommaso Ciampa joins us via Facetime to say that Breaker is talented but let's hold off on the Hall of Fame induction for now. Breaker is a stud but it took Ciampa over 900 days to get back the title that he never lost. They'll face each other one day and Breaker will drown in an ocean of inexperience.

Andre Chase vs. Boa

Chase doesn't think much of Tian Sha and grabs an armbar to start. A suplex sends Boa flying and it's time to stomp away. Chase puts on a chinlock and shouts that Boa has a lot to learn, but Boa is back up with some kicks to send Chase outside. Chase shouts a lot and then goes over to Mei Ying, who mists him in the face. Boa's layout reverse DDT finishes at 3:09.

Rating: D+. Boa still isn't great in the ring but at least they are pushing someone new. That's the point of something like this, though you can expect Chase to keep getting the TV time despite him losing over and over. Chase's gimmick isn't the worst thing, but egads it's another one where they beat you over the head with everything and that can get tiring.

Back to the honeymoon, with Johnny Gargano worrying about what could happen when InDex goes to their room. Gargano lies his way into the hotel room (Gargano: "Security around here sucks.") and finds a bunch of condoms in Lumis' bag. InDex comes back and Gargano hides in the closet as a pillow fight breaks out, complete with various statements that sound like...I think you get the idea. InDex takes a nap and Gargano leaves, with Lumis holding up the condoms and giving him a thumbs up.

Cruiserweight Title: Grayson Waller vs. Roderick Strong

Waller is challenging and comes through the crowd to jump Strong before the bell. A heck of a suicide dive takes Strong down and we take a break. We come back joined in progress with Waller hammering away until Strong dumps him outside for a breather. The abdominal stretch goes on to keep Waller in trouble but he fights out into pinfall reversal sequence.

Strong goes with his basics by hitting a backbreaker and the camel clutch goes on. With that broken up, Waller gets suplexed for two but manages to block a superplex attempt. Waller hits a top rope missile dropkick and sends him outside for a big flip dive. Back in and Waller grabs a Stunner for two of his own, only to walk into a jumping knee to the face to retain Strong's title at 6:19.

Rating: C+. This was a good showing from both of them, even though I'm not sure what the point was in having Waller go from a heel on 205 Live to a face here. That being said, at least he's doing something and I'll take what I can get. It's nice to have the title being defended a little more regularly and Strong is going to be good at anything he does.

LA Knight doesn't like Odyssey Jones coming in here and talking about the uncrowned NXT Champion. Cue Jones to scare Knight and say that Knight has never seen anything like him. Andre Chase walks by to complain about the lack of a DQ,

allowing Knight to jump Jones.

Dante Chen is from Singapore. This is the extent of his character.

Cora Jade and Trey Baxter are excited for her match next week. She's only twenty years old and is ready for the future. They seem rather happy together.

Moving on from happy to unhappy, we have the debut of Lashing Out With Lash Legend, who is on a stage with an audience. She goes over various topics in NXT, such as the Draft (allowing her to talk about her WNBA career), Trey Baxter/Cora Jade and her Lash Out of the Week, which is Andre Chase. We're done in a hurry, which is probably a good thing. I'm assuming this is a parody of a daytime talk show and it was every bit as bad.

Ridge Holland vs. Kyle O'Reilly

O'Reilly jumps Holland before the bell and we take a break (again). We're joined in progress with Holland working on the ribs and hitting a backbreaker to keep O'Reilly in trouble. The bearhug goes on but O'Reilly fights out in a hurry and starts striking away. Holland plants him face first though and grabs a powerbomb for two. O'Reilly knocks him down again and goes up but Pete Dunne offers a distraction. Not that it matters as O'Reilly grabs a rollup for the pin at 5:27.

Rating: C. What we got was pretty good, but the same match setup as the Cruiserweight Title match isn't exactly a positive sign. O'Reilly as someone who fights from underneath and survives against a monster is smart, though not so much with Holland losing twice in a row. Then again, he's kind of perfect for the main roster so a promotion wouldn't shock me.

Post match the beatdown is on but Von Wagner makes the save.

Tony D'Angelo is still on the docks, is still in the mob and is still talking about his family. The difference this time:

he debuts next week.

Women's Title: Raquel Gonzalez vs. Frankie Monet

Monet, with the rest of the Robert Stone Brand, is challenging. Gonzalez gets headlocked down to start and then powers her off without much trouble. Another hard toss has Monet in trouble so it's out to the floor, where Gonzalez gets pulled off the steps for a crash. Back in and some running knees to the back have Gonzalez in more trouble and a suplex gives Monet two.

Monet cranks on part of a surfboard and then kicks her down for...well no count actually as Gonzalez's shoulders aren't down. Back up and Gonzalez drops Monet for a change, setting up the spinning Vader Bomb for two. Gonzalez's back gives out though and Monet double stomps her for two of her own. Not that it matters as Gonzalez is back up with the Chingona Bomb for the retaining pin at 7:52.

Rating: C+. I would have bet on the title change here but the segment with Toxic Attraction earlier was kind of a giveaway. Monet losing like this is a little weird, but it would not surprise me at all to see her going straight to the main roster. She's one of the stars who absolutely does not need NXT so it isn't the worst idea.

Post match Monet and company go to leave but here is Toxic Attraction to jump them from behind. With Monet dispatched, Toxic surrounds Gonzalez and beats her down, allowing Mandy to hold up the title to end the show. Assuming you ignore them losing earlier this show, this was an effective segment.

Overall Rating: C+. I liked this a good bit better than last week's show, if nothing else because they slowed WAY down with the whole thing. There weren't a bunch of people being tossed out there and it felt like we were seeing wrestlers who had debuted being put into place. The Gargano/InDex stuff is going to be hit or miss, though I'm sure there are people who find

it funny. Overall, the show felt much more structured this week and while it is still a bunch of newer people who aren't quite ready for these spots, it felt WAY more like NXT than whatever the last two weeks have been.

Results

Elektra Lopez b. B Fab – Blue Thunder Bomb

Xyon Quin b. Oney Lorcan – Running forearm

Io Shirai/Zoey Stark b. Toxic Attraction – Moon Over Moonsault to Jayne

Boa b. Andre Chase – Reverse layout DDT

Roderick Strong b. Grayson Waller – Jumping knee to the face

Kyle O'Reilly b. Ridge Holland – Rollup

Raquel Gonzalez b. Frankie Monet – Chingona Bomb

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