

Evolve – April 9, 2025: They're Changing Their Ways

Evolve

Date: April 9, 2025

Location: WWE Performance Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Robert Stone, Peter Rosenberg

After the first month or so, I'm starting to enjoy watching this show. No it isn't anything great but it's a logically put together show that is doing a good job of helping the young stars in their development. That's a tricky thing to do but they're making it work well thus far. Let's get to it.

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

Swipe Right is happy with their performance last night on NXT, even though they lost. They know they're the future.

We look back at Dani Palmer and Kali Armstrong teaming together and not getting along. Therefore, it's time to fight, as tends to be the case in wrestling.

Opening sequence.

We run down the card.

Javier Bernal vs. Riley Osborne

Bernal starts fast by spinning out of a wristlock and headscissoring him into the ropes. A superkick misses though and Osborne sends him to the floor, only to miss a moonsault. Back in and Osborne rolls into a hurricanrana for two and a clothesline drops Bernal again. The standing moonsault hits raised knees though and Bernal hits a nice running DDT to leave them both down. A facebuster into a butterfly suplex gives Bernal two and frustration is setting in. Osborne fights up and goes to the top, where he knocks Bernal down. The Star

Stream (shooting star press) finishes for Osborne at 4:32.

Rating: C+. You can definitely tell that these two are more experienced and polished than the usual stars but at the same time, they have histories in NXT and that doesn't exactly make them feel like fresh stars. Neither of them should be written off, but they're going to need something else to build them back up. Osborne is rather athletic, though that's not enough to really make him stand out these days.

Post match Bernal leaves his jacket behind and walks away, not looking happy.

Haze Jameson is in the VIP area.

Drako Knox is ready to work hard now that he finally has his chance. Whether it works out or not is up to him.

Bryce Donovan believes in survival of the fittest and to survive, you need to evolve. Oh I get it.

Bryce Donovan vs. Drako Knox

Hold on though as here are Swipe Right, Zayda Steel and Jackson Drake, saying Donovan is with them. Cue Cappuccino Jones, Jack Cartwheel and Ice Williams to even it up. Stevie Turner comes out to make it an eight man tag.

Bryce Donovan/Jackson Drake/Swipe Right vs. Ice Williams/Jack Cartwheel/Cappuccino Jones/Drako Knox

Knox and Drake shove each other to start until Drake runs him over with a shoulder. Drake hammers away in the corner but Knox pulls him over for the tag off to Jones. They forearm it out with Jones getting the better of things and knocking Drake down. Smokes comes in and gets caught in a backbreaker, setting up Cartwheel's big flipping elbow to drop Smokes again. A cartwheel into a corkscrew moonsault gives Cartwheel two and we hit the chinlock.

The rather large Donovan comes in for a clothesline to Cartwheel and a big elbow gets two. Baylor comes in and slowly hammers away before dropping Cartwheel with a clothesline. Cartwheel manages to send Baylor to the floor though and everything breaks down. Jones gives Cartwheel some coffee and the big flip dive connects (Stone: "ARE YOU EVEN ALLOWED TO DO THAT???").

We take a break and come back with Knox slamming Smokes so Williams can come in with a flipping shot for two. Donovan gets in a cheap shot from the apron though and it's off to Balor for a front facelock. Smokes rakes the back and gets two off a neckbreaker. It's back to Drake for a knee drop and a powerbomb gets two. Donovan gets in a few shots before Baylor hits some knees to the back for two of his own. The chinlock goes on but Williams fights up for an enziguri.

A discus lariat hits Smokes and the hot tag brings in Knox to clean house. Knox hits a powerslam out of the corner for two and everything breaks down. Knox's pump kick puts Donovan on the floor but Zayda Steel distracts the referee so Swipe Right's dropkick/spinebuster combination can get two on Cartwheel, with Williams making the save. We hit the parade of knockdowns with Cartwheel taking over on Baylor. A shooting star press misses though and Donovan's Black Hole Slam is good for the pin on Cartwheel at 14:30.

Rating: B-. This was a showcase for a lot of the people involved and that's a good idea. You can't get much out of having this many people in just a few minutes so it was nice to see them get some actual time. Swipe Right continues to feel like they're a big project and Williams and Jones feel like they could go somewhere. Good enough stuff here though, and it was nice to see them getting a chance in a different format.

Post match the winners are rather pleased with their win but seem to be a bit sickened. Sean Legacy and Timothy Thatcher

come in to glare them down.

Chantel Monroe is in the VIP section.

Kali Armstrong is ready to fight.

Dani Palmer is from Kentucky and won't take nonsense from anyone.

Dani Palmer vs. Kali Armstrong

Armstrong shoves her off to start and wants to fight. They trade arm control until Palmer hits a flipping seated senton for two. A basement crossbody gets two more and Palmer grabs a Fujiwara armbar. Armstrong fights up and pulls her off the top for the big crash. A belly to back slam puts Palmer down again and we take a break.

Back with Palmer fighting out of a chinlock and a double clothesline leaves them both down. They hit stereo crossbodies and they're both down for a bit. Palmer fights up and hits an enziguri, setting up a middle rope Meteora. Armstrong catches her with a powerslam for two but Palmer knocks her down again. A rather high up frog splash misses and Armstrong hits one heck of a Pounce (the Kali Connection) for the pin at 7:39.

Rating: C+. The match was ok (that Pounce was great) but I haven't been interested in this story since it started at the beginning of the series. It was a good enough story of a high flier vs. a powerhouse and it went well enough, but it felt like they were going through the motions. Armstrong feels like she could turn into something if she can get the talking ability to back up her athleticism. Palmer...I'm not wild on the whole Kentucky thing, as she felt more interesting as the "I'm really athletic" person on LVL Up.

Post match Armstrong says she's different and calls out the entire locker room. Cue Kendal Grey and Brinley Reece, with Armstrong reiterating that she is different.

Overall Rating: B-. This show was a nice mixture of stuff and that made for a good show. I liked the idea of having something different than the usual kind of show we would get from LVL Up. Just putting in the eight man tag made things feel unique and that's a nice thing to see. The show is establishing itself as something that exists in its own world and they're making it work fairly well all things considered.

Results

Riley Osborne b. Javier Bernal – Star Stream

Bryce Donovan/Jackson Drake/Swipe Right b. Cappuccino Jones/Ice Williams/Jack Cartwheel/Drako Knox – Black Hole Slam to Cartwheel

Kali Armstrong b. Dani Palmer – Kali Connection

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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

Evolve – March 26, 2025: Meet The New Boss

Evolve

Date: March 26, 2025

Location: WWE Performance Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Peter Rosenberg, Robert Stone

We're getting firmly into the standard operation procedure around here and that includes some matches and stories being set up. Now that so many wrestlers have been introduced, we can see what happens when those wrestlers are put together. That is what we should be seeing this week, likely with a few other big (well, bigger) names included. Let's get to it.

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

Ava is proud of Stevie Turner's efforts recently and has her taken to the ring for a big announcement: Turner is officially the General Manager of Evolve. At least they kept this short, as the show doesn't really need a boss. She is thrilled to get the job and is happy to have been selected over Robert Stone. Everything is up for grabs around here and someone is going to become the first face of Evolve. To get those spots, you have to impress both her and the fans, so we can start with a match. Stone: "We're doomed."

As the wrestlers (who were around the ring), Luca Crusifino and Keanu Carver have to be held apart.

Wolfgang vs. Sam Holloway

They fight over a lockup to start and then trade big shoulders to no avail. A headbutt off goes to Wolfgang, who hits a running splash in the corner to really take over. Holloway gets in a shot of his own to send Wolfgang to the apron, where a hard slam has Wolfgang in even more trouble. An elbow drop gets two back inside and Holloway slams him again for the same.

Holloway grabs an abdominal stretch to stay on the ribs but Wolfgang fights out and hits a middle rope elbow. For some reason Wolfgang tries a slingshot flip and hurts his back again, allowing Holloway to suplex him into the corner. Holloway drives in shoulders to the ribs but Wolfgang knocks him off the top and hits the Howling (Swanton) to the back for the pin at 7:35.

Rating: C+. Simple, to the point match here with Wolfgang fighting through an injury to win. That being said, I'm not sure why you would want Wolfgang, who has been presented as a villain in Gallus, to wrestle that way. It's weird to cheer for him when he's not the most likable guy, but Holloway did at least look decent in defeat.

Post match Joe Coffey says send anyone who wants some of Gallus.

Aria Bennett and Layla Diggs seem to be friends and perhaps partners.

Carlee Bright, with pom poms, is in the VIP area.

Kendal Grey vs. Zara Zakher

Zakher takes her down and they fight over waistlocks. That goes nowhere so they switch to fighting over wrist control. Zakher gets in an armdrag into an armbar, followed by a handspring elbow in the corner for two. Back up and Grey grabs Eat Defeat onto the shoulder and then sends it into the buckle a few times. Zakher fights up again and hits some shots in the corner, followed by a nice spinebuster for...one as she rolls off of Grey for no apparent reason. They trade rollups for two each but Zakher misses something off the top. Grey kicks her in the face and grabs a cross armbreaker for the tap at 6:09.

Rating: C. This is the kind of showing that makes Grey look like a bigger star as she won a fairly hard fought match against someone who has been built up at least a little bit in the first few weeks. Grey might not be a big star but she's a bigger deal than Zakher so this isn't a terrible way to go. Now just do something with Grey in the coming weeks.

Post match Kylie Rae comes out to check on Zakher, but the teddy bear from Wendy Choo is sitting in the corner.

Drako Knox comes to commentary and talks about liking the

feeling of putting fists to faces last week. He doesn't like Swipe Right being in the VIP section and mocking him last week though so he wants to get in the ring.

Here's what's coming next week.

Ice Williams and Swipe Right are in the VIP section.

Layla Diggs/Aria Bennett vs. Haze Jameson/Kalyx

Diggs takes Kalyx down to start and flips over into an armdrag. Jameson is seemingly flirting with Swipe Right as Bennett comes in with a moonsault for two on Kalyx. Back up and Kalyx takes over on Bennett and hands it off to Jameson, who has to be reminded to come in. Jameson's wristlock on Bennett doesn't do much but she gets in another takedown and grabs a chinlock. It's back to Kalyx for a running elbow but Jameson goes over for a drink in the VIP section. Diggs comes back in with a sitout gordbuster for the pin on Kalyx at 2:47. They packed a good deal of stuff in there.

Post match Kalyx is annoyed and the winners dance a bit.

Video on former Evolve Champion Timothy Thatcher, who is back for what appears to be one night only.

Video on Sean Legacy, who has wanted to be a wrestler for a long time and got mocked as a result. Now he is proving that he can do it.

Timothy Thatcher vs. Sean Legacy

Legacy hits a dropkick at the bell and adds a standing moonsault for two only ten seconds into the match. Thatcher is up with the uppercuts but Legacy kicks leg out and hits another dropkick for another two. They go outside with Legacy hitting a suicide dive and we take a break. Back with Thatcher knocking him out of the air and hitting a belly to back suplex for two. Thatcher grabs a surfboard before just wrenching on the fingers for some pain. Legacy fights back and is quickly

belly to bellied right back down.

The chinlock goes on to keep Legacy down and a knee to the back does the same. Legacy fights up and sends him to the floor, followed by a suplex back inside. Legacy strikes away and grabs a German suplex to leave Thatcher shaken up. A missile dropkick gives Legacy two more as the VIP stars aren't impressed. Legacy grabs his torture rack into a neckbreaker (that needs a name) for the win at 8:49.

Rating: B-. This is where things can get interesting, as Legacy seems to be one of the people that WWE wants to get behind on the new show. If that's who they want to go with, they did something smart here by having him beat someone that fans likely recognize. That's what you need to do to build someone up as Legacy is still brand new around here. Good main event, with Legacy showcasing himself well.

Post match Thatcher gives some sarcastic applause before leaving. Legacy glares at Swipe Right and Ice Williams. Cappuccino Jones and Jack Cartwheel come out to even the odds but Williams switches to the good guys, sending Swipe Right bailing to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. You really wouldn't realize that this was the fourth week of the show, as this felt like it was a show that has been around for a good while longer. What mattered here was getting things going at a more steady pace and they made that happen fairly well. The main event was good and they advanced the stories, with quite a few things getting some time. It's still as low level as you can get in WWE, but it's a lot more engaging than I was expecting.

Results

Wolfgang b. Sam Holloway – Howling

Kendal Grey b. Zara Zakher – Cross armbreaker

Layla Diggs/Aria Bennett b. Haze Jameson/Kalyx – Sitout gordbuster to Kalyx

Sean Legacy b. Timothy Thatcher – Torture rack neckbreaker

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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

Evolve – March 5, 2025 (Series Premiere): The New Form

Evolve

Date: March 5, 2025

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Peter Rosenberg, Robert Stone

So here we have the debut of a new weekly series and I'm not quite sure what to expect. The show is kind of a souped up version of NXT LVL Up, though this one seems likely to have more storylines and character development rather than just match after match after match. That could be a good thing to see so let's get to it.

Shawn Michaels joins NXT GM Ava to address the roster. They are here to show the world that wrestling evolves and for one night only, he is here to make the matches. We go over the

card and with that out of the way, we're ready to go.

Kali Armstrong/Dani Palmer vs. Carlee Bright/Kendal Grey

Grey and Bright are really athletic and regular friends, but they don't have a ton of success. Commentary points out that Armstrong and Palmer don't have much in common but they are both former NCAA athletes. Armstrong powers Grey into the back to start and puts her on top for a pat to the head.

Palmer tags herself in, which doesn't work well for Armstrong, even as Grey works on Palmer's arm. It's off to bright, who gets armbarred down but she comes out with a headscissors. A basement crossbody gives Palmer two as we get some mini bio graphics in the corner for a very nice touch. Bright is back up with a headscissors so Armstrong tags herself back in, where she is armbarred down as well.

Armstrong reverses into an armbar of her own and cranks away until Bright dropkicks her way out. For some reason Grey doesn't want to tag in before coming in and working on her own armbar. Bright comes back in for ANOTHER armbar as this is somehow less interesting than it sounds. Armstrong powers out and yells into the camera about how she's going to win the first match on the show.

We take a break and come back with Palmer coming in but having her standing moonsault hitting raised knees. Grey comes back in and starts cleaning house, only for Armstrong to hit a running powerslam for two. Armstrong gets superplexed but Grey stays down, allowing Palmer to hit a heck of a frog splash for two, with Bright making what looked to be a late save (though Grey kicked out in time on her own).

Palmer's Sliced Bread is broken up and Grey hits a hard spear for two, with Armstrong making the save this time. With everyone else on the floor, Palmer goes up for a corkscrew dive but hits Armstrong by mistake. Back in and Grey cross armbreakers Palmer for the win at 12:10.

Rating: C. This was WAY longer than it needed to be given the amount of armbar in there. On top of that, they were playing up the idea that Bright and Grey didn't know each other very well, which is weird as they were friends and partners for a long time in LVL Up. Palmer got to show her athleticism and Armstrong had some good charisma, but the match just wasn't that interesting and that's a problem.

Post match Bright is winded but she's excited. Grey is a bit less enthused and she wants to be remembered for dominating the division. The team's future might not be so strong.

We look back at the original Evolve, including names such as Cody Rhodes, Gunther (well, Walter at the time), Drew McIntyre and many, many more.

We meet Jackson Drake, Brad Baylor and Ricky Smokes, who will be in tonight's main event. Baylor and Smokes are apparently known as Swipe Right and they are ready to win in their first match. Smokes is more interested in the women outside the ring and is told to focus a bit more. This is already more character development than we got in several months of LVL Up.

Luca Crusifino and It's Gal are in the VIP section.

Sean Legacy, Cappuccino Jones and Jack Cartwheel (the other half of the main event)

Keanu Carver grew up without a father and he learned to fight as a result. He'll fight anyone he has to in order to move forward.

Trill London is from New York and likes to be different, from how he looks to how he acts.

Keanu Carver vs. Trill London

London used to play for the Miami Dolphins and was influenced by Jeff Hardy. Carver runs him over to start and sends him flying with a fall away slam. A Pounce sends London flying and

a Sky High finishes him at 1:39. Total squash.

Luca Crusifino is here as a representative of the D'Angelo Family and he runs things on Evolve. These young stars are good, but they haven't faced a heavy hitter like him.

We meet some more names who will be debuting soon, some of which were regulars on LVL Up.

Sean Legacy/Cappuccino Jones/Jack Cartwheel vs. Jackson Drake/Brad Baylor/Ricky Stokes

The fans tell Swipe Right to SWIPE LEFT, which I guess counts as a burn. Smokes (thankfully with his initials on his tights) takes Jones down to start and it's off to Legacy, who gives Drake a release gordbuster. A standing moonsault gives Legacy two and it's off to Cartwheel for an anklesissors into a dropkick.

Everything breaks down and we get the six way showdown before Jones gets to clean house. A clothesline puts him on the floor though and Baylor hits another back inside. The chinlock goes on for a bit before Drake's fisherman's suplex gets two. Jones finally dives over for the tag to Cartwheel and the pace picks way up. Cartwheel sweeps the leg and hits a slingshot elbow, followed by a triple dive to take the villains out.

We take a break and come back with Drake hitting a heck of a gutbuster for two on Cartwheel. Swipe Right double suplexes Cartwheel for two and the chinlock goes on again. An assisted neckbreaker gets two more on Cartwheel but he tornado DDTs his way out of trouble. The diving tag brings in Legacy to clean house, including the AJ Styles moonsault reverse DDT on Drake. Back up and Drake hits a running knee to the head but Jones makes a save.

Jones grabs a flipping neckbreaker (Decaffinator) on Drake and a Froggy Bow gets two as Baylor makes the save. Baylor gives Legacy a spinning double butterfly suplex but Cartwheel is

back with a crucifix driver. Smokes double stomps Cartwheel but Legacy is back in with a springboard double dropkick. A torture rack flipped into a swinging neckbreaker (or something close, though it's called the Shambles) gives Legacy the pin on Baylor at 11:58.

Rating: B-. This was described as a showcase match for the ID Program (which they never actually explained) and it worked out pretty well. You had a bunch of people getting some ring time and it was nice to see them getting more than a minute or two each. It's not a great match or anything, but it did just fine all things considered, with Legacy and Drake standing out a bit more than the others.

Post match Kali Armstrong comes out yelling about how she didn't lose and needs her match.

Shawn Michaels puts the show in Ava's hands and she has ideas for next week.

Overall Rating: C+. This is a show where you need to consider what it is supposed to be. The show isn't designed to be anything more than a way for these younger stars to get their feet wet and it's already doing better than LVL Up, which was about half of the length. At some point you need to get people in the ring and let them show what they can do. That's what this show is offering and the action was acceptable enough. Get some more stories and angles in there (which you can't get right off the bat) and the show would be more entertaining. For now though, not a bad way to get things started.

Results

Kendal Grey/Carlee Bright b. Kali Armstrong/Dani Palmer – Cross armbreaker to Palmer

Keanu Carver b. Trill London – Sky High

Sean Legacy/Cappuccino Jones/Jack Cartwheel b. Ricky Smokes/Brad Baylor/Jackson Drake – Shambles to Baylor

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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