

NXT LVL Up – September 9, 2022: More Than I Expected

NXT LVL Up

Date: September 9, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Nigel McGuinness

Last week's show was hardly inspiring, meaning the trend continues around here. The show has once again become little more than a collection of matches without much rhyme or reason and that makes it hard to figure out what you are going to see from week to week. Maybe this week can be an upgrade so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Bodhi Hayward vs. Charlie Dempsey

Chase U is here with Hayward and this is a much bigger match than I would have expected. Hayward goes right after him to start and knocks Dempsey into the corner before taking him down by the wrist. Commentary says that Dempsey is a second generation star but doesn't mention the first generation.

Dempsey powers up and hits something like an AA but Hayward stays on the wristlock. With that not working, Dempsey fights up and pulls him down into something like an STF. We'll make that a regular armbar but Hayward is back up with some forearms, including the running version. Dempsey pulls him into a Fujiwara armbar though, which he shifts into a Regal Stretch for the tap at 7:41.

Rating: C. If this is what we could be getting on this show going forward, I'll be much happier. This was a match that

actually tied into what they have been doing on NXT as of late and that's a lot better than I would have bet on. It's good to see Dempsey get a win, as he is the kind of wrestler who will always have a spot because he's that good at the grappling, so well done here.

Valentina Feroz vs. Sol Ruca

The rather athletic Ruca (Nigel: "She takes after her grandfather, Argentina Ruca!" Shah: "I don't think that's true.") grabs a headlock to start. Back up and Ruca cartwheels forward and grabs the headlock again but Feroz fights up and takes her into a wristlock. An exchange of arm cranking on the mat goes to Ruca as she pulls Feroz into the air. That's reversed into a choke until Feroz pulls her down into a backslide for the pin at 5:53.

Rating: C. Ruca is fine enough at what she does, but there are so many athletic blondes that it is going to take something special to make her stand out. The cartwheels and flips will get her somewhere but I don't think that is going to be enough so far. Then again she is on the way to the main NXT show next week so apparently she has done something right.

Stacks vs. Ikemen Jiro

Tony D'Angelo is here with Stacks. They fight over a lockup to start and take turns driving each other into the corner. Jiro works on the arm and snaps off some armdrags but Stacks PULLS OFF JIRO'S JACKET! That doesn't work for Jiro, who takes it right back and sends him outside. Back in and Stacks drops him again before working on a cravate. That's broken up and Jiro comes back with the jacket punches into a falling jacket punch for two. An Iconoclast out of the corner sets up a missed Ikemen Slash and Stacks kicks him in the face for the pin at 5:16.

Rating: C. The D'Angelo guys are still not exactly awesome but it's amazing how much better they are when they aren't

talking. Stacks is about as generic as you can get in the ring but Jiro is someone who can make anyone look ok at worst. Jiro isn't likely to win anything important either so this went about as you would have expected.

Overall Rating: C. This was actually a bit of a step up over previous efforts, with the main thing being that opener that managed to tie into a story. With as many teams and partnerships as they have around here, that shouldn't be hard to make work most weeks. Even if there isn't some kind of a team aspect, just do a match and then have someone talk about their current feud. It shouldn't be that hard, but NXT manages to make it difficult for whatever reason.

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NXT LVL Up – August 12, 2022:

The Fun Kind

NXT LVL Up

Date: August 12, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Nigel McGuinness

We're back for another show and while I didn't like the main event of last week's show, I do like the fact that we might be seeing some curve balls here and there. That can make all the difference in the world, especially on a show where very little of note ever takes place. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Ikemen Jiro vs. Myles Borne

Borne drives him into the corner to start but Jiro keeps nipping up. A side slam drops Borne for a change but gets dropkicked out of the air for a quick two. Back up and an overhead belly to belly gives Borne two, followed by some rolled suplex for the same. Borne talks too much trash though and gets caught with a spinwheel kick as the comeback is on. A dragon screw legwhip takes Borne down again and some jacket punches make it worse. The Ikemen Slash finishes for Jiro at 5:10.

Rating: C. Jiro might not be the most serious guy in the world but he is able to have a smooth match against just about anyone. That was the case here, as Borne was able to power Jiro around a bit before coming up short in the end. I don't see either of them going anywhere, but at least they had a fine enough match.

Sol Ruca knows she is in for a test against Elektra Lopez but she's ready to turn Lopez's world upside down.

Sol Ruca vs. Elektra Lopez

Ruca rolls her way out of a wristlock to start but Lopez takes it to the mat with a headlock takeover. Ruca gets creative by walking on her hands to escape but a clothesline cuts her right back down. A neck crank keeps Ruca in trouble until she powers out and hits a running shoulder. Lopez walks into a dropkick but gets her knees up to block a standing moonsault. The Blue Thunder Bomb gives Lopez the pin at 3:53.

Rating: C-. Ruca is one of those people who hasn't had the chance to showcase herself very much but there is some potential there. At the same time, Lopez continues to feel like someone who should be a star but has never really gotten close. I'm not sure how that is going to improve, but the tools are there. Getting away from Legado/D'Angelo could help a bit though.

Chase U vs. Bronco Nima/Lucien Price

Nima takes Chase into the corner to start but Chase is right back on the arm. Hayward comes in to stay on the arm as we hear about Hayward's family getting full rides to Chase U. Nima gets in a shot of his own though and the tag brings in Price for even more power. Hayward's running knee is cut off and there's a double elbow to drop him again. The chinlock goes on until Hayward suplexes his way to freedom, allowing the tag back to Chase. A high crossbody sets up the spelling stomps and the Fratliner finishes Nima at 6:17.

Rating: C+. I'm running out of ways to say how much fun Chase U is at anything they're doing. The team is just a blast to watch and their energy is so strong every time they're out there. Nima and Price didn't get to showcase themselves very well here, but I'm sure they'll be around again given their looks and athleticism.

Overall Rating: C. Not exactly a great show, but what matters here is that they kept the show moving and nothing was too bad. The weakest match was in the middle and it didn't even

break four minutes. At the same time you have Jiro and Chase U so they were having a good time here and it showed well enough.

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NXT LVL Up – July 29, 2022: Maybe They'll Catch Up

NXT LVL Up

Date: July 29, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Nigel McGuinness

We're fresh into the non-Vince McMahon era and that gives me a bit of hope that we might be in for something different around here. Then again those changes might not take place for a good while as WWE has more than enough to take care of with, you know, the company being all over the place. Maybe we can get a little something this week though. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Javier Bernal vs. Myles Borne

They shake hands to start and it's Borne taking him to the mat without much trouble. Borne does it again but grabs an armbar this time to mix it up a little. For some reason he lets it go so Bernal grabs a hammerlock, which is quickly tossed to the floor. Back in and Bernal goes with some shots to the face before grabbing a chinlock. Borne fights up and gets kicked in the face, setting up another chinlock. That's broken up and Borne grabs a suplex, only to get rolled up with Bernal grabbing the rope for the pin at 4:05.

Rating: C-. I know Borne is an amateur and does the basic wrestling but he just isn't that interesting. When you have the Creed Brothers around, there is only so much room for someone as dull as Borne. Maybe they're just trying to get his feet wet here, but that isn't exactly working in his (still limited) appearances. Bernal isn't exactly much better, and having him turn heel isn't going to matter much. Was he even a good guy in the first place?

Quincy Elliott and Ikemen Jiro are ready to steal the show.

Fallon Henley vs. Sol Ruca

Brooks Jensen and Josh Briggs are here too. Ruca walks on her hands during the entrances but gets headlocked to start things off. A headlock takeover out of the corner but Ruca counters a snapmare into a wristlock. Ruca's sunset flip eventually gets two and a shot to the face is good for the same. The armbar goes on to keep Henley down but she's back up with a faceplant. A running kick to the face finishes Ruca at 5:16.

Rating: C. Ruca is very athletic but that doesn't necessarily translate into having a good match. Then again she has enough stuff that catches your eye and that might be something they can build on. Henley isn't exactly great so far, but she's far

more well rounded and it was just a step above a squash for her.

Quincy Elliott/Ikemen Jiro vs. Edris Enofe/Malik Blade

Elliott dances out of Enofe's waistlock to start, because that's what Elliott does. That has Enofe doing some pushups and trying to lift Elliott, earning him a throw down. Jiro comes in for some dancing and pushups of his own but Enofe drops him for a change. It's off to Blade to work on an armbar, plus a dropkick to cut off a comeback. Enofe works on the arm as well but misses a charge in the corner, allowing the tag off to Elliott to clean house. Everything breaks down and Elliott gets dropped with a running knee, setting up a G9 for the pin at 5:58.

Rating: C. This is a good use for someone like Elliott, who is there to pop the crowd with his charisma and dancing. What matters is that after the fun stuff was over, they didn't have Elliott and Jiro win. Blade and Enofe are a regular team and therefore shouldn't lose here, which thankfully NXT understood. Not much of a main event, but the fans liked it so well done.

Overall Rating: C-. Just an okish show here and that's not much of a surprise. It depends on how much star power the show has and that wasn't the case this week. Henley might have been the biggest name on the show and that isn't quite enough to make this interesting. At least it was short, which isn't exactly the best compliment, but there isn't much else to praise about this one.

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NXT LVL Up – July 15, 2022: They Kept Part Of It

NXT LVL Up

Date: July 15, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Sudu Shah, Matt Camp

For once I actually have some hope around here as there was something of an angle last week. Quincy Elliott cost Damaris Griffin and Bryson Montana a match last week and it might be time for some revenge. That could go a few ways, but there is also the chance that it is completely dropped. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Oh come on with the three man booth. The show is 29 minutes long. We need three people talking about things on here???

Quincy Elliott vs. Ikemen Jiro

Jiro cartwheels to start so Elliott shoves him away and they exchange hand signals. A charge is pulled out of the air so Jiro elbows his way to freedom, only to collapse on a dumb

slam attempt. Elliott works on a waistlock and then chops Jiro in the head to cut him off. Dancing/posing ensues but Jiro is back with the jacket punches. A superkick into the Lionsault gives Jiro two but he still can't slam Elliott. Some hip attacks in the corner look to set up a running hip attack, which is blocked by Jiro's raised feet. Jiro rolls him up for the pin at 5:10.

Rating: C-. I get the idea with Elliott, but he still isn't someone I need to see more than once or twice. At least he isn't getting a major push and is mainly around for comic relief with the dancing. Jiro is rather smooth in the ring, though that jacket/goofiness is going to keep him around this level for the time being.

Chase U is back from London and Thea Hail is VERY excited. Oh and they're in the main event again.

Kiana James vs. Sol Ruca

I believe this is Ruca's debut and she is rather athletic, including walking on her hands in the ring and nipping up. James takes her down but another nip up lets Ruca start working on the arm. That's too far for James, who hits a sitdown splash on the ribs before firing off the knees. Back up and Ruca slugs away, only to get caught with something like a reverse Sling Blade for the pin at 3:27.

Rating: C-. Ruca is the latest woman to be added to the roster and she doesn't have much to set her apart so far. Granted you can only get so much out of that in the span of a match that doesn't even reach three and a half minutes, but she is certainly athletic. Then again that applies to almost all of the division, so she is going to need something to make her stand out.

Chase U vs. Myles Borne/Javier Bernal

Borne takes Chase to the mat to start and gets in a fireman's

carry, meaning Chase needs to think about this some more. Back up and Chase gets in a fireman's carry takeover of his own so it's off to Hayward vs. Bernal. Hayward gets taken down this time so Borne comes back in to take over on him. The chinlock goes on but Hayward fights up and hits a powerslam, allowing the hot tag off to Chase. House is cleaned in a hurry, including the spelling stomps. Everything breaks down and Borne knocks Bernal outside by mistake, leaving Chase to hit the Fratliner for the pin at 5:38.

Rating: C. I've said it many times but Chase U is FAR more entertaining than it has any right to be. The good thing is that NXT seems to understand what it has with the concept, because they haven't risen up to anything more than goofy fun. Chase U is a good example of a concept with a pretty firm ceiling and as long as they don't go beyond that, they should keep being one of the best things going today.

Overall Rating: C. Well they didn't continue the stories or anything from last week, but I do like the interview at the first match. NXT is supposed to develop wrestlers so let some people get in front of a camera and try their luck. They are going to have to see what they can do at some point so why not throw them out here and try their hand at something? Chase doesn't need it himself, but the people who comprise the U sure do. That's nice to see, though I wonder how it took so long to get this going.

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