

NXT – February 8, 2022: Credit Card Fraud, Looney Tunes, And A Trip To The Barber Shop

NXT

Date: February 8, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Wade Barrett

We are a week away from Vengeance Day but there is another title match to get through first. This week will see Mandy Rose defending the Women's Title against Kay Lee Ray in a match that seems likely to have some shenanigans. Other than that, we continue the men's Dusty Classic while trying to find a field for the women's version. Let's get to it.

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

The opening video features Mandy Rose talking about all of her success and demands to be taken serious.

Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic Semifinals: Grizzled Young veterans vs. Creed Brothers

The Creeds break up the Veterans' trash talking entrance and start the fight fast. That means Gibson gets beaten down inside as the brothers get to take turns on him. Brutus suplexes Julius onto Gibson but a cheap shot allows the tag to Drake. Julius runs Drake over without much trouble and isn't fooled as Gibson comes in off a blind tag. Some alternating Creed knees to Gibson's ribs set up a gutwrench suplex so Drake tags himself back in.

The Veterans get in a double team on Brutus on the floor

though and it's a catapult to send him throat first into the ring structure. Back in and the chinlock stays on the throat but Brutus manages to muscle Gibson up for a suplex. Drake cuts off the hot tag attempt with a sleeper though and Brutus is cut off again. That's broken up though and the hot tag brings in Julius to power Drake around.

A suplex gets him out of a front facelock and everything breaks down. Drake hits a heck of a suicide dive to take out Julius on the floor, setting up a Doomsday Device for two back inside. It's back to Brutus to clean house with the power but more double teaming takes him down. What looks like a 450 is loaded up but Julius runs in to run the ropes and superplex Drake for a huge crash. The basement lariat finishes Gibson at 12:03.

Rating: B. There was a story here with the Veterans having experience but being taken down by the power and ability. The fans were WAY into the Creeds and that is something that has been lacking from this version of NXT. This was a high intensity match though and the Creeds finally getting their shot at Imperium (assuming we don't get a surprise) sounds good.

We look at Raquel Gonzalez beating Cora Jade and Gonzalez agreeing to team with her.

Jade is happy but Yulisa Leon/Valentina Feroz come in to mock her in Spanish. Gonzalez pops in to out-insult them. Leon and Feroz leave, with Gonzalez saying only she can call Jade that. Jade: "Wait, what did they call me?"

Last week, Wendy Choo and Amari Miller stole Tiffany Stratton's credit card.

This week, Choo and Miller celebrate credit card fraud/theft/whatever illegal activity that was.

Wendy Choo vs. Tiffany Stratton

Choo works on the arm to start and frustrates Stratton by dodging some kicks. A one footed dropkick sends Stratton into the corner, setting up a running elbow (with Choo putting her hands under her head like she's asleep). Now it's a chinlock with a similar motion but Stratton (who seems to have broken a nail) fights up. Choo gets knocked into the corner and kicked down, setting up a corkscrew Vader Bomb to finish Choo at 3:01.

Rating: C-. There might be some hope here, as while Stratton isn't much of an original idea, she's a lot better than Oops I Feel Asleep. The credit card story is stupid but this should be the end of it, at least for now. They need some new stars in the women's division and Stratton could be a little something if she is given the chance.

Draco Anthony is disappointed with his loss but Joe Gacy and Harland come in for a pep talk.

Pete Dunne is ready to crush Tony D'Angelo in a cage next week. Anthony comes in to offer him good luck before their match tonight but Dunne would rather snap his fingers.

Draco Anthony vs. Pete Dunne

Joined in progress with Anthony hitting a suplex but Dunne goes for the singlers to cut that off. More finger twisting ensues, followed by a Kimura that is broken up pretty quickly. A suplex sends Dunne outside, where he has to deal with an interfering Tony D'Angelo. Back in and the Bitter End finishes Anthony at 4:42.

Rating: C. Anthony got to do some stuff here before falling to Dunne, as he should have. What surprised me here was the fact that Dunne had to deal with the interference but didn't lose as a result. It was nice to see a change from the expected result, as WWE has a bad tendency to stick with the same tired formulas.

Post match Dunne goes after D'Angelo and busts out a bunch of weapons. D'Angelo declares the guy "Looney Tunes" and Dunne says let's take all of these weapons and attach them to the cage. Sure why not.

Zoey Stark says Io Shirai needs a new partner for the Dusty Classic. She needs to be someone hard hitting and just as crazy as Shirai, so Shirai says she's in.

Dakota Kai finds Wendy Choo's shopping bags (which she and Amari Miller just left there) and says they won't make her happy.

LA Knight vs. Sanga

Grayson Waller is here with Sanga. Knight comes to the ring and instantly feels like a star. He looks like he has been there before and has charisma instead of being the same assembly line style person with some gimmick that defines him. It's such a notable difference. Knight slugs away at Sanga (with the amazing mustache) to start but gets knocked outside with a single shot.

Sanga gets posted (that sounded hard) but is still able to block BFT. Knight is right back up with a springboard dropkick for two, with Sanga kicking him off. Waller takes off a turnbuckle pad, but the distracted referee misses Knight raking Sanga's eyes. Sanga misses a charge into the exposed buckle though and it's a jumping neckbreaker to give Knight the pin at 3:11.

Rating: D+. It wasn't exactly good but I'll take this over building Sanga up as the next monster with little chance of becoming a star. Knight vs. Waller isn't quite a mega feud but it's something for Knight to do before he (presumably) gets called up to the main roster. Sanga looks intimidating but he wasn't exactly looking great here, which probably won't stop him around here.

Post match Knight jumps Waller and beats him down but has to bail from Sanga.

Duke Hudson isn't worried about Dante Chen...and he wants Indi Hartwell to win the Women's Tag Team Titles.

It's time for a Championship Summit between Bron Breaker and Santos Escobar. Breaker is ready to fight and says let's just flip the table over right now. Escobar calls him naive and says he is pulling all the strings. Breaker still wants to fight...and here is Dolph Ziggler, who has been arguing with Breaker on Youtube and Twitter. Ziggler has a seat at the table and puts his feet up before saying Breaker is doing well enough on Twitter, but who is he? Breaker: "I'M THE NEXT CHAMPION PAL!" He offers Ziggler the next shot after Escobar, but Ziggler calls that a rookie mistake.

Ziggler lists off his accomplishments and says that even though he has lost 99/100 matches or so, Breaker knows what he can do. Cue Tommaso Ciampa to cut Ziggler off (while calling him kid) and say he likes the idea of getting the title back. Escobar cuts them both off and says he's going to win the title and then deal with Ziggler and Ciampa. That's not cool with Ciampa, who says he's next in line, if that's ok with Kid.

Ziggler laughs off the idea of Ciampa fighting in the same place in front of the same people and wants to know when the gloves come off. Ciampa kicks him in the face and they fight tot he floor, leaving Legado del Fantasma to jump Breaker from behind. Breaker fights back but gets put through the table to leave him laying.

This was a nice surprise as Ziggler is the kind of person who could do a lot of good around here. We get one of his best promos in a LONG time as he was getting to do something different than the same stuff he has been doing for about ten years now on the main roster. Ziggler vs. Ciampa to set up

Ziggler vs. Breakker works, as NXT gets some star power from someone who could be useful around here. Good stuff and better thinking.

Kay Lee Ray breaks a bunch of stuff with her bat.

Grayson Waller says LA Knight just broke his restraining order and next week, he's going to jail.

Dakota Kai vs. Sarray

Joined in progress with Sarray missing the Sunray dropkick and getting caught with some running kicks to the face in the corner. A missile dropkick gives Sarray two but Kai hits a Scorpion kick (on the second try) for two of her own. Back up and Kai misses her kick in the corner, setting up a kick from Sarray. The Sunray dropkick sets up the high collar suplex for the pin on Kai at 4:11.

Rating: C. I'm not sure what is going on with Kai but she has gone from someone who felt ready to break into the main event scene to cannon fodder for the Sarray rebuilding project. This was a competitive match but it was over in four minutes with Sarray hitting her scary finisher for the win. Kai seems in a downward spiral and that's kind of weird given how much more she has been appearing with her new persona.

Carmelo Hayes and Trick Williams are at the barber shop and convince everyone that Hayes is the favorite against Cameron Grimes next week. As usual, Hayes is one of the best things about this show as he feels like he's being an amped up version of himself rather than a character.

Toxic Attraction and Indi Hartwell/Persia Pirotta talk trash about their Tag Team Title match. A photo of Hartwell/Duke Hudson is pulled out though and the fight is on.

WWE celebrates Black History Month with a look at Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

Nikkita Lyons knows how to sing and how to fight.

Brooks Jensen and Josh Briggs try to ask out Kayden Carter and Kacy Catanzaro for Valentine's Day but it winds up being more of a group thing. Jensen even offers to pay Briggs to take one of them away at a movie but doesn't have much money.

Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic Semifinals: MSK vs. Malik Blade/Edris Enofe

MSK takes over on Blade to start and a Bronco Buster gets an early one. Enofe comes in and gets kicked down as well, meaning it's back to Blade, who gets kicked down again. We take a break with MSK in full control and come back with Enofe getting suplexed down. Blade comes back in for a rollup on Lee and a gordbuster/cutter combination gets two. Carter comes back in for a save though and Blade is sent to the floor. A corner dropkick sets up the Doomsday Blockbuster to send MSK to the finals at 9:30.

Rating: C+. They had a tricky path to walk here as MSK felt like major favorites who then had to make you believe that Blade and Enofe had a chance. That didn't really happen, but I like Blade and Enofe together. At the same time though, MSK needed to win here as the Creeds beating Blade and Enofe wasn't going to mean a thing.

Cameron Grimes is in Cameron, North Carolina and talks about his humble beginnings. Now he is a self made man and has everything he wants...except some gold.

Wendy Choo mocks Dakota Kai for losing her match and leaves in a huff.

Indi Hartwell/Persia Pirotta jump Toxic Attraction on the way to the ring but Mandy Rose, who wasn't really hurt, has to defend the title anyway.

Women's Title: Mandy Rose vs. Kay Lee Ray

Rose is defending and gets chopped so hard that her choker is knocked off. Rose gets in a few shots of her own but is quickly knocked outside, setting up the dive from Ray. Back in and Rose sends her head first into the middle buckle and then does it over and over for a bonus. The bodyscissors goes on and we get an audio update on Toxic Attraction and Hartwell/Pirotta being escorted from the building.

Ray gets her face slammed into the mat and it's off to an abdominal stretch with an elbow in the ribs. That's broken up and Ray pulls her into a Koji Clutch but Rose is out pretty fast. The KLR Bomb is countered into a sunset flip to give Rose two but Ray superkicks her down. Ray goes up...and Toxic Attraction is here anyway to distract the referee/shove Ray off the top. Rose's running knee retains the title at 8:02.

Rating: C-. After having watched Ray for a long time in NXT UK, it is sad to see her being toned down like this so Rose can keep up. I don't think it's any secret that Rose isn't the best in the ring, but she is wrestling/acting EXACTLY as she should be. It wouldn't make sense for Rose to be out there tearing the house down when she openly brags about how her looks get her everywhere. She wrestles a safe, basic style that gets her where she needs to go and I'll take that over a lot of the other people you see doing the same match over and over. That being said, the ending sucked the life out of this and that's never good.

Post match Toxic Attraction loads up the bat but Io Shirai runs in for the save. Toxic Attraction is cleared out and we have another Dusty Classic team to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. I almost never have any idea what to make of this show anymore and that was the case again here. It's a bunch of stuff happening and while there are good parts, there are also a lot of things that are just flat out dumb. They try to rush through too many things and it leaves you with a lot of "get this over with" feelings. The good stuff does work and

there was a lot of it tonight, but then you see one of WWE's bad ideas and you know it's only going to get worse.

Results

Creed Brothers b. Grizzled Young Veterans – Basement lariat to Gibson

Tiffany Stratton b. Wendy Choo – Twisting Vader Bomb

Pete Dunne b. Draco Anthony – Bitter End

LA Knight b. Sanga – Jumping neckbreaker

Sarray b. Dakota Kai – Sunray dropkick

MSK b. Malik Blade/Edris Enofe – Doomsday Blockbuster to Enofe

Mandy Rose b. Kay Lee Ray – Running knee

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NXT – February 1, 2022:

They're Doing A Lot

NXT

Date: February 1, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Wade Barrett

It's time for a big tag match as NXT Champion Bron Breakker and Tommaso Ciampa are teaming up against Legado del Fantasma. That is part of the way to build things up for Santos Escobar's upcoming title shot, but for now we get what should be a good tag match. Let's get to it.

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

Imperium vs. Diamond Mine

The fans chant WALTER during Imperium's entrance. Gunther isn't having any of the posing to start and kicks Roderick Strong in the head before the bell. Brutus Creed suplexes Aichner to start but Aichner manages a Regal Roll in quite the power display. It's off to Barthel for an armbar and the WALTER chants start up again. Brutus fights up and hands it off to Julius for some knees to the ribs.

That's broken up in a hurry as Barthel hits a middle rope elbow to the face and it's off to Gunther to kick Julius in the head. We take a break and come back with Brutus coming back in to get suplexed onto Barthel for two. Barthel gets over for a tag to Gunther so it's all hands on deck to slow him up. Everything breaks down though and it's Brutus wrecking Imperium, leaving him for a showdown with Gunther. The sleeper puts Brutus in trouble and it's a powerbomb to give Gunther the pin at 11:56.

Rating: B. The Creeds are getting better and better by the week and that was on full display here. What mattered was letting people hit each other rather hard as Imperium gets to

show off what they can do, but at the end of the day, this was all about Gunther. He is the kind of force that you do not get to see very often and if they can get around the fans chanting WALTER, he should be a big deal.

LA Knight is ready for Grayson Waller but Joe Gacy and Harland interrupt, suggesting that Knight has a problem. Knight offers to get together with them in the ring and maybe he can get two new restraining orders.

Here is Toxic Attraction for a chat. They are ready to beat Indi Hartwell and Persia Pirotta in two weeks at Vengeance Day but here is Kay Lee Ray to interrupt. She isn't getting her title match, so she brings in her baseball bat. Mandy tells her to put the bat down and the other two will leave. Ray agrees, but Mandy would rather talk about her own modeling and fitness accomplishments.

That's fine with Ray, who says she was holding the NXT UK Women's Title for over 600 days while Rose was falling at Wrestlemania and sucking face with Otis. Mandy talks about how great she is and how she is what WWE wants and all the talent in the world will never replace her. Ray says that she'll have her title match by the end of the night and slaps Mandy in the face. The bat is enough to chase off Toxic Attraction.

Cora Jade is ready to prove herself to Raquel Gonzalez, even if it means taking a beating. Gonzalez comes in and asks if she's ready for the match, with Jade saying she's in (I barely recognized Gonzalez with her hair down like that).

During the break, Toxic Attraction tried to leave but stopped for an interview. They went to get in their car with Mandy getting in last...but Ray is in the driver's seat and kidnaps them. That parking lot man.

Cora Jade vs. Raquel Gonzalez

Jade is a bit tentative to start and gets tossed down without

much trouble. That leaves Jade in shock at the pain so Gonzalez kicks away in the corner. A spinning Side Effect gives Gonzalez two more and she grabs an over the shoulder backbreaker. Jade is sat on top but manages to knock Gonzalez away this time.

Gonzalez tries another swinging Side Effect but gets reversed into...something we can't see as the screen goes black, likely due to issues with Gonzalez's top. Jade drives her into the corner for two and a rope walk hurricanrana rocks Gonzalez again. There's an enziguri but Gonzalez finally just plants her with the Chigona Bomb for the pin at 11:04.

Rating: C+. Issues with Gonzalez's gear aside, this was designed to make Jade look tough and it did well enough. I'm sure they'll be in the Dusty Classic together because it isn't like there are a bunch of teams to put into the tournament in the first place. Hopefully Gonzalez can move up to the main roster soon enough though, as she seems ready.

Post match Gonzalez says "let's go and win this", meaning the Dusty Classic.

Sarraylor Moon is back next.

Video on Pete Dunne vs. Tony D'Angelo.

Sarray vs. Kayla Inlay

Sarray walks through the back as the schoolgirl and then comes into the arena in her regular gear, sans anything schoolgirl. That's a relief, even if WWE is still way too into this transformation stuff. Inlay won't shake hands to start so Sarray knocks her into the corner. That's broken up but we get breaking news about Kay Lee Ray returning, with no sign of Dolin and Jayne. Sarray fights up and hits the running dropkick against the ropes. A high collar suplex finishes Inlay at 3:20.

Rating: C. The match was almost a squash, but it was also quite the relief that Sarray isn't going to be wrestling as a schoolgirl. That would be the latest bad WWE idea, so seeing her transform was kind of a relief. As weird as that is to say, I'll take it over what we seemed to be getting, as this was a slightly more fired up Sarray.

Video on Duke Hudson, who gives himself a hair cut and says he makes his own luck anymore.

Bron Breaker is warming up when Tommaso Ciampa comes in. Ciampa hands him the NXT Title and suggests that Breaker doesn't know what he is in for. As for tonight, they'll take it to Legado del Fantasma.

Carmelo Hayes and Trick Williams are ready for Cameron Grimes because Hayes is always looking down on him. Cue Grimes, who notes the TO THE MOON chants. Grimes says Hayes looks like Spongebob, which makes Trick Squidward. Williams talks a lot but Grimes isn't sure what he said. Grimes asks which one he's fighting and Hayes says he's waiting. As Hayes and Williams leave, Grimes says it's going to be a one star match, and that one star is going to the moon.

Malik Blade and Edris Enofe debate a team name and Enofe thinks they should ask Mandy Rose. Then Rose literally falls through the door and it's Blade's arms (Blade: "Thank you!"). Kay Lee Ray comes in and rips off Rose's jacket, which has Enofe rather happy. He wants to go after them....but Blade needs a minute.

Diamond Mine is ready to face Imperium again after they win the Dusty Classic. The Grizzled Young Veterans come in to laugh at the prospects.

LA Knight vs. Joe Gacy

Harland is here with Gacy, who gets taken down by an early running neckbreaker. A spinning Rock Bottom gets Gacy out of

trouble and it's off to a neck crank. There's a suplex to take Knight down again and it's time to work on Knight's knee. Knight fights up and hits a jumping neckbreaker into his powerslam, only to collide for a crash to the floor. Cue Sanga (Grayson Waller's bodyguard) so Waller can hit his rolling Stunner. That's enough to give Gacy a nine count so it's the handspring clothesline to finish Knight at 4:14.

Rating: C-. So we have yet another heel with a bodyguard, who happens to be interfering in a match with a heel with a kind of bodyguard? Are they that out of ideas? Waller costing Knight a match is fine, but this was another short match that didn't have the chance to get anywhere because it's all about getting as many things on the show as you can in two hours.

Post match Waller yells at Knight, who lunges at him. That means a chokeslam from Sanga, with Waller saying if Knight can beat Sanga next week, maybe the restraining order is gone.

Robert Stone is very happy to have signed Von Wagner.

Wendy Choo vs. Amari Miller

Tiffany Stratton has offered Miller a shopping spree if she takes out Choo. The bell rings and Choo goes to the mat for a nap, followed by taking Miller to the mat for a nap on her leg. An elbow drop gives Choo two and then it's time to get serious, with a pair of hard suplexes. A sleeper is broken up though and Miller gets two off a jawbreaker. Cue Tiffany Stratton to throw Miller a credit card, allowing Choo to hit Miller in the face for the pin at 3:24.

Rating: D. It's still the dumbest thing going in wrestling and now they are doing the goofy stuff during the matches rather than having her be serious. The credit card thing wasn't exactly a good idea either, as we continue to need humor/goofiness in every match. At least they kept it short, but Choo is yet another bad NXT idea that is likely to continue for a long time.

Post match Stratton yells at Miller, but Choo has made off with the credit card.

Persia Pirotta and Indi Hartwell are ready to win the Tag Team Titles, with Dexter Lumis seeming to approve. Josh Briggs comes in to ask for advice on women, with Indi saying non-verbal communication is a good thing. Lumis looks at her and they're off to the hot tub.

Video on Draco Anthony.

Nikkita Lyons talks about growing up around music as her dad was a musician and her mom was a groupie. Now she is a singer/rapper but also an NXT star. This is IN NO WAY SHAPE OR FORM LIKE HIT ROW! NOT AT ALL!

Sarray, once again a schoolgirl, is interrupted by Dakota Kai, who warns her about how relationships can go south.

Draco Anthony vs. Andre Chase

Bodhi Hayward is in Chase's corner. Chase takes over with few shots to the face into a neckbreaker. Anthony is back with a powerslam and cranks on the arms, only to have Chase fight up again. A Russian legsweep drops Anthony and it's time for the spelling stomps. Anthony is back up and steals Hayward's flag but Hayward won't let him stomp on it. Instead, Chase unloads in the corner and the Downward Spiral finishes Anthony at 4:26.

Rating: C-. Another not exactly great match as the latest new NXT character (just wait, as I'd bet on getting another one before the show is over) loses in his NXT debut. It's a bit weird seeing the war veteran as a heel but NXT is quite the strange duck at times. Chase is somehow getting this dumb character over and that is quite the accomplishment.

Mandy Rose is still running from Kay Lee ray but stops for a water at the food area. Ray shows up and pours spaghetti on

her, followed by a cake to the head area. Then Ray stalks her with the baseball bat.

Legado del Fantasma vs. Bron Breaker/Tommaso Ciampa

The rest of Legado is here too. Ciampa headlocks Mendoza to start but Wilde tags himself in and hits a dropkick. It's back to Mendoza, who bails to the floor, allowing Breaker to come in and run the ropes. A Gator roll sets up a delayed suplex on Wilde, with Ciampa adding one of his own to Mendoza. We take a break and come back with Breaker getting caught with some running shots in the corner. The front facelock is countered with a suplex though and it's back to Ciampa to fire off the running clotheslines.

Ciampa tags Brakker back in, despite Breaker favoring his arm. Something like a powerslam plants Wilde but Santos Escobar gets up for a distraction. Mendoza scores with a springboard missile dropkick and a Phoenix splash gets two. A spear cuts Mendoza down but Wilde makes the save. Wilde goes up but gets shoved HARD off the top and through the announcers' table. The gorilla press powerslam finishes Mendoza at 11:24.

Rating: C+. Breaker is one of those guys that doesn't need a ton of explanation. He's a bit like Goldberg in that the idea seems to be flip a switch and watch him smash stuff. That's a perfect case of "don't think about this too hard" and it's working. Escobar will be a good first victim and this was a fine way of setting that up, especially with Breaker possibly having a bad arm going in.

Post match Escobar stares down Breaker but here are Kay Lee Ray and Mandy Rose again. Ray threatens her and gets her title shot next week as a result. The KLR Bomb leaves Rose laying to end the show.

Overall Rating: C-. I have almost no idea what to make of this show, but the biggest thing that comes out of it is how much

is crammed in. The problem with that is the word crammed, as it feels so overstuffed. It is one character with a wacky gimmick after another and that gets tiring after a bit. So many things on here felt like it needed to be over the top or have some kind of a punchline and that gets old after a bit. Even the main event was immediately followed by Rose with cake on her clothes.

This was another way too busy show and I kept wondering what they were going to throw out there next to make me shake my head. It isn't that these are all terrible ideas, but they keep coming one after another with little getting the time to sink in. There are stories in here that work, but then Mandy Rose is being stalked or Sarray is transforming or Blade and Enofe, who could be a good, young team, are stuck with sophomoric humor.

Overall, this show felt very, very much like a show designed by Vince McMahon or to appeal to Vince McMahon and that is rarely going to make for entertaining TV. It felt like yet another week where they were throwing anything out there and if it works, great, but if not, oh well. That's not a great way to run a TV show and the wrestlers aren't going to get much out of it other than a bunch of ideas that aren't the best to put on their resumes.

Results

Imperium b. Diamond Mine – Powerbomb to Brutus

Raquel Gonzalez b. Cora Jade – Chigona Bomb

Sarray b. Kayla Inlay – High collar suplex

Joe Gacy b. LA Knight – Handspring elbow

Wendy Choo b. Amari Miller – Elbow to the face

Andre Chase b. Draco Anthony – Downward Spiral

Bron Breaker/Tommaso Ciampa b. Legado del Fantasma – Gorilla press powerslam to Mendoza

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NXT – January 25, 2022: Like The Old Days

NXT

Date: January 25, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Wade Barrett

It's the go home show for the Royal Rumble and I don't think that is going to mean much for most of the people around here. NXT is in a different world than almost anything that happens on the main roster and in a way that's a good thing, as they can do some positive stuff on their own. Let's get to it.

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

MSK is next to the Dusty Cup and ready to win it again. Now they know what it takes to get back to the top of the mountain thanks to Riddle, but DON'T TOUCH THE CUP!

Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic First Round: Jacket Time vs. MSK

Carter and Kushida start things off with neither being able to get anywhere. It's off to Lee, who immediately gets punched down by Jiro. Jacket Time takes him into the corner to start up the beating and it's a double bulldog to give Kushida two. Jiro gets taken down in the corner though and it's Carter hitting a Bronco Buster, which the fans don't seem to like very much. Some double teaming takes Jiro down and we take a break.

Back with Jiro getting suplexed down, setting up a kick to the chest. There's the running shooting star for two and it's back to Lee, who gets caught in the belly to back kneeling piledriver for two. Lee fights up and brings in Carter to clean house. The push moonsault is countered into the Hoverboard Lock but Carter drives him into the corner for the Blockbuster Hart Attack and the pin at 11:32.

Rating: B-. This was the kind of match where they were supposed to go about 100 miles an hour and that's what they did for a good bit. MSK needed to win to move forward, as there is a redemption story to them making the finals, if not flat out winning the tournament. Jacket Time might not be everyone's thing, but they are at the level they should be at: a pretty low comedy team who gets good reactions and loses.

Respect is shown post match.

Zoey Stark tells Io Shirai she needs to find a new partner because Stark's knee isn't ready yet. Shirai doesn't want to, but here is Tiffany Stratton to mock both of them. Stratton is ready to beat Shirai tonight, sending Shirai into a rant.

Video on Cameron Grimes wanting to beat Tony D'Angelo and move on to get the North American Title.

Legado del Fantasma is in the ring with Santos Escobar mocking Bron Breaker. People make fun of him because of his family

and his poor math skills (Ha!) but he is already billed as a star. Escobar is a real star but here is Breakker to interrupt. Breakker gets in Escobar's face and tells him to callate because the champ is speaking. Just issue the challenge already because he'll accept it. Escobar says it's on his time and leaves, only to have his goons jump Breakker. This goes as well as you would expect and Breakker stands tall.

Video on Boa vs. Solo Sikoa.

Solo Sikoa vs. Boa

No DQ and falls count anywhere with Boa jumping him with a kendo stick to start. A bunch of weapons are thrown in but Sikoa hits a Samoan drop. Everything but a single chair is cleared out so Boa wins a tug of war and beats Sikoa down again. A butterfly suplex onto a trashcan lets Boa set up a table at ringside but the delay lets Sikoa fight up. They fight into the back with Boa sending him into a ladder, which is then rammed into Sikoa's chest.

Another shot misses though and Boa is rammed into a steel door. Sikoa goes outside and locks the door behind him so Boa opens the damaged garage door. Sikoa is right there with a blast from a fire extinguisher and they head back into the arena. Boa is sent into some chairs in the corner and a superkick takes him down again. The Superfly Splash is broken up with a crotching though and they head outside again. A Samoan drop sends Boa onto the announcers' table and it's a Superfly Splash to put Boa through another table for the pin at 8:04.

Rating: B-. I don't know how big of a win this is going to be for Sikoa as he was beating Boa, but he had a hard fought match that felt like the end of this mini feud. Sikoa has the genetics and family name to make something of himself and the brawling style should work well. Boa...yeah I don't get it, but

he lost in the big match here so at least they didn't go too far.

Video on Imperium, who talks about how it is time to move on from the past and fear the name of Gunther. WWE certainly feared the long form of the name.

Duke Hudson vs. Guru Raaj

Hudson starts fast and hammers away, setting up a side slam. A Razor's Edge finishes for Hudson at 1:08.

Post match here is Dante Chen to say he's coming for Hudson, albeit respectfully. Referees break it up but Hudson chop blocks him down.

Persia Pirotta likes Duke Hudson with short hair but Indi Hartwell tells her to focus. Kay Lee Ray comes in to suggest she wants to beat up Mandy Rose with a baseball bat. Or just pin her.

Legado del Fantasma is unhappy with Bron Breakker and the challenge is on...for him to face Joaquin Wilde and Raul Mendoza. He doesn't have any friends so it's not worries.

Indi Hartwell/Persia Pirotta/Kay Lee Ray vs. Toxic Attraction

Ray wants Mandy Rose to start but Jacy Jayne tags herself in instead. That's fine with Ray, who drives her into the corner for the tag off to Hartwell. A kick to the head rocks Jayne so Rose comes in, only to get backbreaker by Pirotta. There's a kick to the head and it's back to Ray, sending Rose bailing to the floor.

Ray is left alone in the ring so it's a huge dive to the floor to take all three down at once. Back in and Dolin gets caught in the corner for a beating, only to drive Hartwell into the wrong corner. Some Kawada Kicks knock Hartwell silly but she's back with a side slam to Rose. Jayne breaks up the tag though and Dolin takes her down for two.

We take a break and come back with Hartwell still in trouble and Jayne hitting a running neckbreaker. They chop it out and knock each other down so the tag is off to Pirotta to clean house. Everything breaks down and it's Ray superkicking Rose before grabbing the bat. The bat hits the steps and the post and Ray chases her to the back. That leaves Dolin to small package Pirotta for two, only to get kicked in the face. The fireman's carry faceplant finishes Dolin at 13:53.

Rating: C. Take the challengers and the champions, put them in the same match and give one of the challengers a win to set up a title match later. That's classic wrestling booking and it will work fine here. Toxic Attraction feel like vulnerable champions and Hartwell/Pirotta will be fine as challengers on the big show. Ray is the serious threat to Rose and while I don't know if she will take the title, at least they have set her up well.

Edris Enofe and Malik Blade can't believe they have made it to the semifinals of the Dusty Classics and they could go all the way. Enofe seems interested in Toxic Attraction though and somehow he loses his shirt.

Earlier today, Raquel Gonzalez was training when Cora Jade came in to ask to be her partner again. That still won't happen because Gonzalez can't trust her. Jade loads up a slap but it gets blocked, with Gonzalez getting serious.

Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic First Round: Grizzled Young Veterans vs. Andre Chase/Bodhi Hayward

Drake shoves Chase down to start so Chase flips him around by the wrist. The spelling stomps have Drake in more trouble and it's time to alternate on the arm. Some Flip Flop and Fly stagger Drake again but Gibson pulls him to the floor. A spike shoulder breaker put Chase down but he's fine enough to roll over for the tag off to Hayward. House is cleaned but it's a double Codebreaker to finish Hayward at 5:10.

Rating: C. I like the Veterans, but I am long past the point of believing that they are going to be given a serious push, or even a major win, in NXT. At the same time you have Chase and Hayward and they have managed to get this stupid gimmick over. I absolutely would not have bet on that and well done on pulling off what should not have been possible. It might not go very far, but they have a something with it, at least for the time being.

Post match here is Von Wagner to jump Chase and Hayward. Robert Stone comes in to say Wagner is under new management.

Grayson Waller, with his bodyguard Sanga, is ready to take out LA Knight, who is still under a restraining order.

Odyssey Jones has undergone knee surgery and will be out of action until the fall.

Io Shirai vs. Tiffany Stratton

Shirai doesn't see sure of what to think of Stratton. A wristlock has Stratton flipping away and she kicks Shirai down, leaving commentary stunned. The chinlock has Shirai in more trouble and even the fans chanting can't bring her back up. They get to their feet with Stratton shouting a lot, only to get palm struck into the corner. A slam sets up the Moons Over Moonsault for the pin on Stratton at 4:17.

Rating: C. That's how this kind of a match should have gone, as Stratton is still brand new and Shirai is one of the best ever around here. Stratton got in some offense before ultimately falling, though there was only ever going to be so much drama here. I'm not sure what to make of Stratton so far, but she has the athleticism to make something of herself, assuming she can get around the lame gimmick (see also most of this NXT).

Malcolm Bivens thinks Gunther is a stupid name. Bivens: "It should have been DUMBA**, in all caps!" This is a new

beginning and it's time for the team to take out Imperium, including Ivy Nile stretching him to his mother's house.

Carmelo Hayes and Trick Williams introduce Olliejayy for a musical performance.

Tony D'Angelo is ready for Cameron Grimes.

Tiffany Stratton is on the phone with her dad and complains about the referee. She runs into Wendy Choo, who thinks the referee had a point. Stratton slaps her cup away, sending Choo into some whining about her free refill. Someone was paid to come up with that.

Tony D'Angelo vs. Cameron Grimes

The winner gets Carmelo Hayes (on the balcony with Trick Williams) for the North American Title in the future. D'Angelo starts fast by snapping off a suplex, setting up a choke in the corner. Grimes gets planted down again and we take a break. Back with Grimes hitting him in the face but getting punched in the ribs. The waistlock goes on but Grimes fights up and hits a bunch of forearms.

D'Angelo is rocked for a change and Grimes hits his flipping powerslam for two. Back up and the threat of the Cave In sends D'Angelo outside. That's fine with Grimes, who grabs a hat. Cue Pete Dunne with a 2x4 to hit D'Angelo in the hand, allowing Grimes to hit the Cave In for the pin at 11:35 (possibly while thanking D'Angelo at the same time).

Rating: C+. As has been the case with a lot of the matches tonight, I don't think there was much drama here, but they got tot he point after some good action. Grimes can work well with anyone and it's not like D'Angelo is awful in the ring. There was no reason to believe D'Angelo was winning here but they didn't overstay their welcome, even with Dunne's return.

Bron Breaker is leaving when Legado del Fantasma pops up in

their SUV. Breakker is ready to fight but Tommaso Ciampa comes in to even the odds a bit. Breakker says the math checks out for him as Legado leaves to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. The best thing I can say about this show is that it felt like one of the old NXT's. This show felt like it had a bunch of things to accomplish and then went through them one by one, including setting things up for later. That's one of the reasons NXT worked so well back in the day and it was working again here. While the show has some problems, it feels like it has a direction and that is what matters more than anything else at the moment.

Results

MSK b. Jacket Time – Blockbuster Hart Attack to Kushida

Solo Siko b. Boa – Superfly Splash through a table

Duke Hudson b. Guru Raaj – Razor's Edge

Kay Lee Ray/Persia Pirotta/Indi Hartwell b. Toxic Attraction – Fireman's carry facebuster to Dolin

Grizzled Young Veterans b. Andre Chase/Bodhi Hayward – Double Codebreaker to Hayward

Io Shirai b. Tiffany Stratton – Moons Over Moonsault

Cameron Grimes b. Tony D'Angelo – Cave In

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NXT – December 28, 2021: One At A Time

NXT

Date: December 28, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Wade Barrett

It's time for one of those things that you don't get to see very often in WWE, as we're getting a contract signing between Carmelo Hayes and Roderick Strong. Other than that, odds are we'll be hearing a lot more from Grayson Waller, because he is on this show as much as a Steve Austin Raw in 1998. Let's get to it.

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

They aren't wasting time this week because here is Grayson Waller to get things going. Waller flips around a lot and talks about having a great Christmas. This included flying himself to Detroit to Monday Night Raw, where he met AJ Styles. We see a clip of their showdown last night, before Waller talks about how he is supposed to face Dexter Lumis tonight. That isn't going to happen, so he insults Indi Hartwell too. Cue the returning Odyssey Jones and we have a replacement match.

Odyssey Jones vs. Grayson Waller

Jones throws him around to start and then steps on Waller's back. A big side slam gives Jones two and we take a break.

Back with Waller hitting a low superkick and a middle rope elbow gets two. Jones fights up but misses a charge into the corner, allowing Waller to hammer away. Waller grabs the buckle to block a powerbomb...but the buckle pad comes off so the powerbomb gets two. That means Jones can miss a charge into the buckle, allowing Waller to hit his rolling Stunner for the pin at 7:36.

Rating: C. It's nice to see Jones back as he is certainly one of the more unique people on the show. Sometimes you need someone out there throwing people around with raw power and size, which he does quite well. Then you have Waller, who is still the focal point of the show. It's good to see him get in the ring, but it's clear that he isn't exactly a general out there. I still don't quite get what WWE sees in him, but he's pretty clearly here to stay.

Post match, AJ Styles pops up to say he'll be here next week.

Raquel Gonzalez and Cora Jade both want to fight Mandy Rose, but here are Io Shirai and Kay Lee Ray to say they want to fight her too. Rose just happens to pop up on screen behind them and says she'll get a tag match made for tonight, with the winning team getting to challenge her in a triple threat at New Year's Evil.

Grayson Waller isn't happy with AJ Styles interrupting him and runs into MSK. They can shut up.

Xyon Quin says Elektra Lopez needs to pick sides.

Here is MSK for a chat. They haven't been here since Halloween Havoc, which wasn't a great night. No one gets higher than them, but here is Riddle on screen to say he is with them in spirit. That's enough for them to call out Imperium, as they had planned to do. Cue Imperium to shout in their respective languages, which does not sit well with MSK, who want subtitles.

Imperium insults them in English, so MSK issues the challenge for right here and right now. That's too far because Walter pops up on screen, saying that he is proud of Imperium as champions. That isn't the case for MSK, so here is Riddle to pop up on screen and ask for a six man. Walter is game and the match is set.

We look back at Harland wrecking Brian Kendrick.

Joe Gacy reminds Harland that it wasn't his fault because Kendrick started it.

Edris Enofe is happy with his win over Von Wagner, who comes in to say Enofe got lucky. Malik Blade comes in to have Enofe's back and a match seems to be set.

Harland vs. Brian Kendrick

Hold on though as there is no Kendrick. Cue Andre Chase to say this is a teachable moment! Gacy likes education and mentions Harland being in a university...until he was expelled. As for Chase, thank you for being Kendrick's replacement!

Harland vs. Andre Chase

Chase gets shoved outside in a hurry and the beating continues on the floor. Back in and Chase is sent face first into the mat over and over, which is good for the stoppage at 1:00.

Post match, one of Chase's students hits the ring to check on him but gets attacked as well. Harland then kidnaps him.

Legado del Fantasma asks Elektra Lopez where her loyalties lie. She doesn't say but here is Solo Sikoa to accidentally run into them. They want an apology but we get a match instead.

Tiffany Stratton vs. Fallon Henley

Both are making their NXT debuts though they have been on 205

Live. Stratton takes her down with an armbar to start and then slams Henley to cut off a comeback attempt. An awkward looking handspring elbow sets up a Downward Spiral to finish Henley off at 2:35.

Tony D'Angelo warned Pete Dunne not to mess with him and then smashed Dunne's hand. Maybe Dunne will listen to him next time.

It's time for the contract signing between Roderick Strong and Carmelo Hayes, who hasn't been seen so far. Malcolm Bivens thinks it might be due to the higher gas prices, but here are Hayes and Trick Williams anyway. Williams talks trash that Strong doesn't understand, so Bivens translates. Strong threatens Hayes, with Bivens translating again, while also pointing out that Williams and Hayes are outnumbered. Williams goes on a rant, but Bivens doesn't get paid enough to translate all night.

Wade Barrett, running this whole thing, has no idea what anyone has said so let's just sit down. Hayes says Strong shouldn't play with him or he'll get put on a t-shirt. Next week, he's unifying the titles and becoming the true A Champion. Strong promises to walk out as a two time North American Champion after he unifies the titles.

Hayes is going to be carried out though, which does not sit well with him. Both of them sign and the match is official. They throw the contract at each other and Barrett bails. Hayes leaves but Bivens yells at Williams to draw him back in. That means the Creed Brothers can put him through a table as the Diamond Mine stands tall. Bivens' translations and Barrett being lost were funny, but I don't like Strong's chances next week.

Video on the tag team division with a lot of teams wanting the Tag Team Titles.

Solo Sikoa vs. Santos Escobar

Escobar chops away to start and rolls him up for a fast two. Sikoa is getting a bit too frustrated early on and misses a stomp to make it worse. Escobar takes him back down into an armbar and then switches into an abdominal stretch. That's reversed with a hiptoss and a running headbutt gives Sikoa two. Escobar is knocked outside, where the rest of Legado offers a distraction. That means Sikoa gets posted hard we take a break.

Back with Sikoa fighting up but getting taken right back down with a Russian legsweep. Escobar stands on his back to keep it in trouble, setting up a half crab with a knee in said back. A basement dropkick rocks Sikoa again but he's fine enough to hit a toss gordbuster. There's the Samoan drop but Sikoa has to deal with the rest of Legado. That means a chop block to Sikoa, setting up a super hurricanrana. Cue Xyon Quin, so Escobar takes him down with a dive and yells a lot. Escobar heads back in, where Sikoa superkicks his head off. The Superfly Splash gives Sikoa the upset pin at 13:32.

Rating: C+. This is what some of the NXT rookies need to be doing: having a match with the established names and getting some ring time. The 3-4 minute matches aren't getting them very far but this is where they can grow and learn. Escobar isn't going to be hurt by the loss and Sikoa gets a rather nice win under his belt. Good use of TV time here.

New Year's Evil rundown.

Harland and Joe Gacy take Andre Chase to the roof and leave him there.

Solo Sikoa wants to know who is left but gets jumped by Boa, who gives him a Tongan Death Grip. The cameraman gets taken out too.

We look at Tommaso Ciampa vs. Bron Breakker.

Von Wagner vs. Malik Blade

Wagner powers him into the corner to start but Blade hits a kick to the ribs. That earns Blade a big toss into the air for a bigger crash as the beating is on. A lariat blasts Blade but he comes back with some dropkicks. Blade's springboard crossbody drops Wagner again but he grabs a high Angle Slam. The double underhook spinning slam finishes Blade at 4:02.

Rating: C-. I'm still not sure I get it with Wagner, who is another pretty generic power guy. That's about all he showed us here too, as he didn't do anything that set him apart from anyone else. Blade is fitting in rather well as the jobber to the stars who can still give you a nice enough match. Now please try to find some way to make Wagner more interesting.

Post match Wagner goes after him again but Edris Enofe makes the save.

New Year's Evil rundown.

Kay Lee Ray/Io Shirai vs. Cora Jade/Raquel Gonzalez

The winning team gets to challenge Mandy Rose for the Women's Title next week. Shirai flapjacks Jade to start and tells her to bring it. Jade grabs a cradle for two of her own before snapping off a hurricanrana. The running knee smashes Shirai against the ropes and it's off to Gonzalez for the power. Ray comes in to kick away at the ribs but Shirai has to come in and save her with a dropkick. Shirai's Asai moonsault takes Gonzalez out again and we take a break.

Back with Ray stomping away on Jade but not being able to hit the KLR Bomb. The comeback bid doesn't last long as Jade gets knocked down, but Gonzalez saves Jade from the Moon Over Moonsault. Instead Ray hits a big dive onto Gonzalez and Shirai 619s Jade. There's a missile dropkick for two on Jade, who comes back with an enziguri to Ray.

The hot tag brings in Gonzalez to clean house, including the spinning Vader Bomb. There's the Chingona Bomb but Jade tags

herself in. The argument is on and Jade knocks Gonzalez outside, allowing Jade to roll her up. Gonzalez breaks that up...and knocks Jade onto Ray for the pin at 10:02.

Rating: C. That was a mixture of good action, some sloppiness in parts and a stupid ending designed to wedge in the “these two don’t get along” theme. That’s one of WWE’s favorite tropes though and it’s no surprise to see it here again. Either team could have won here, but Jade and Gonzalez are the more logical pick.

Post match, Mandy Rose pops up to say her plan is working and she’ll see them at New Year’s Evil.

Overall Rating: C. The show took a bit of a step back this week as it was a collection of things happening without much of a main story. The women’s tag didn’t feel bigger than anything else but rather just went on last, which doesn’t make it that much better. Nothing on here was particularly good and while there was less Grayson Waller, there wasn’t much else worth seeing. Granted that very well might be a Coronavirus thing, but it wasn’t exactly a fun watch this week.

Results

Grayson Waller b. Odyssey Jones – Rolling Stunner

Harland b. Andre Chase via referee stoppage

Tiffany Stratton b. Fallon Henley – Downward Spiral

Solo Sikoa b. Santos Escobar – Superfly Splash

Von Wagner b. Malik Blade – Double underhook spinning slam

Raquel Gonzalez/Cora Jade b. Kay Lee Ray/ Io Shirai – Rollup to Ray

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205 Live – November 19, 2021: Soulless

205 Live

Date: November 19, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

It's the go home show for Survivor Series, which has nothing to do with anything going on with this show. Instead, we'll be getting more of the NXT B lineup, plus a battle of the midcarders. That doesn't sound too bad, so maybe they can make it work out well enough again. Let's get to it.

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

Malik Blade vs. Edris Enofe

This is Enofe's debut. They go technical to start with Blade snapmaring him down for an early two, sending us into a standoff. Enofe rolls him up for two and that's good for another standoff as they seem to respect each other. An exchange of rollups give them two each and it's another standoff. Blade goes more traditional with a headlock on the mat but Enofe gives him a headlock takeover of his own. Back

up and Blade hits a dropkick for one and the armbar goes on. Some armdrags have Enofe down again and a missile dropkick sets up...a missed frog splash. Enofe hits a spinebuster and a standing moonsault for the pin at 6:07.

Rating: C-. So that's the first we've seen of Enofe and he's an athletic guy with a good look. Really that's about all there is to say about him, as he's someone who feels like a prospect they signed, taught a basic match and then threw him out there. Certainly not bad, but he feels like a bunch of modern NXT wrestlers and that's not a great sign.

Tiffany Stratton vs. Amari Miller

Stratton, debuting as well, is billed as Daddy's Little Rich Girl and the Buff Barbie Doll. Before the match, she lets us know how beautiful she is, meaning she is the opposite of all of us. Miller grabs a headlock to start and grinds away but Stratton, a gymnast, flips up without much trouble. Back up and Miller hits a spinwheel kick, with Nigel saying Miller is inspired by "WWE Legend Alicia Fox." I'll let that one sink in for a minute as Miller tries a rollup, only to be countered into a sunset flip, with Stratton bridging up for more leverage and the pin at 3:21.

Rating: D+. Stratton is a new name and much like Tony D'Angelo, feels straight out of central casting. She's the kind of person you would see in roughly 573 mediocre high school movies. What else are you expecting from someone who wears pink, brought a bag to the ring, and bragged about how good looking she is? It's just such a basic idea and that is going to give her a pretty firm ceiling, but WWE has decided she's worth a look and that's all that matters.

Video on Kacy Catanzaro/Kayden Carter, the same one which aired on NXT.

Kayden Carter/Kacy Catanzaro vs. Yulisa Leon/Valentina Feroz

Carter and Catanzaro do have an energetic entrance. Yulisa and Carter roll around for a bit as commentary tries to figure out what kind of music Carter and Catanzaro like. Catanzaro comes in to take Yulisa down but it's right back to Carter to kick her out of the corner. We'll try Catanzaro again and she gets to flip Feroz around a bit, setting up a double kick to the face.

Feroz manages to get in a shot to Carter's arm though and twists her down for a crash. A cross armbreaker doesn't do much for Yulisa so she goes with a gutwrench suplex for two instead. Carter fights up and it's back to Catanzaro in a hurry. A fall away slam gives Feroz two but Carter gets the blind tag, setting up the neckbreaker/450 (KC Squared) to finish Feroz at 7:42.

Rating: C-. This was just a step above a long squash for Carter and Catanzaro, which is what it should have been. Carter and Catanzaro seem to be rising up the ranks fairly quickly in NXT and it would be nice to see how far they can go. Feroz and Leon were fine in their roles here, though it wasn't exactly a great match.

Overall Rating: D+. Over the last few months, NXT feels like it has lost its soul. Anything energetic, fun, engaging or anything else has been completely stripped away and you're left with very basic wrestling, almost giving it a low level independent feeling. That's what I got here too, with wrestlers that don't seem to have much potential (Carter and Catanzaro have more than anyone and even then it's not great) and characters who are either non-existent or one note. NXT, and 205 Live as a result, is rapidly becoming a wasteland and this show made it seem like that is exactly what WWE wants.

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