NXT LVL Up — April 12, 2024: They Did The Thing

NXT LVL Up

Date: April 12, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

We're done with Stand & Deliver and that means it is time to change pretty much nothing around here. Last week's show saw something of a grudge match between Je'Von Evans and Scrypts, albeit with some partners. Somehow that was only the second ever six man tag in the history of LVL Up, so maybe we can get another treat here. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

<u>Tavion Heights vs. Uriah Connors</u>

The bigger Heights lips him into the corner to start and wrestles to the mat without much effort. Some shots to the face stagger Heights and Connors sends him outside for a crash. Back in and Connors stomps away, setting up an arm crank. Connors grabs a choke over the ropes, only to have Heights power up into an electric chair for the break. Back up and the spinning belly to belly gives Heights the pin at 5:03.

Rating: C. NXT needs to bring up some new people and Heights might as well be one of them. He has separated himself from the pack around here a little big and that suplex is a good finisher. Connors got in some offense of his own but this was more about Heights, which should be the case at the moment.

Kendal Grey and Carlee Bright are ready to try their best against Blair Davenport and Stevie Turner.

Stevie Turner/Blair Davenport vs. Kendal Grey/Carlee Bright

Turner snapmares Bright down to start but Bright is right back up with a wristlock. Grey comes in to work on Davenport's arm but she gets taken into the villains' corner. Bright manages to flip over Davenport though and it's Grey coming in for an assisted top rope splash. That doesn't work for Davenport, who brings Grey into the corner for a Backstabber from Turner.

Davenport's backbreaker gets two on Grey and some forearms to the back make it even worse. Grey quickly powers out of a half crab though and the tag brings Bright back in to clean house. Bright headscissors Davenport into a splash, only to have Davenport come right back with the Falcon Arrow for the pin at 6:14.

Rating: C. The biggest thing here was finding out that Turner was still employed. She has barely done anything in months and I'm not sure why. Her futuristic deal isn't that bad and she can hang in the ring, but it has never come close to clicking for her. Maybe that changes, but for now she was just Davenport's partner.

Eddy Thorpe vs. Dion Lennox

They fight over wrist control to start (as is so often the case) before an exchange of shoulders goes nowhere. Lennox's dropkick lets him grab a headlock but Thorpe isn't having that. Back up and Thorpe hammers away before putting on an abdominal stretch. With that broken up, Lennox hammers away and hits a clothesline but Thorpe punches him in the face. The impaler DDT finishes for Thorpe at 5:11.

Rating: C. Thorpe didn't do much here until the end when he just grabbed his finisher for the win. That' snot much of a match but it did make Lennox look good enough in defeat. At some point you have to try something new with someone and that's more or less what happened here. Lennox is going to need more than "he wears glasses to the ring" to stand out though and we seem pretty far off from that.

Overall Rating: C. Not their best effort here, with the women's tag probably standing out the most. This was a show where it didn't feel like they were trying and it made the show that much less interesting as a result. Like I've said far too many times, you can just tell when the effort isn't there from WWE (as opposed to the wrestlers, who were trying) and it showed again this week with a pretty lackluster show.

Results

Tavion Heights b. Uriah Connors — Belly to belly suplex Stevie Turner/Blair Davenport b. Carlee Bright/Kendal Grey — Falcon Arrow to Bright

Eddy Thorpe b. Dion Lennox — Implant DDT

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NXT LVL Up — March 22, 2024: There's A Nice Surprise

NXT LVL Up

Date: March 22, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

Every week when I get ready to watch this show I hope that we get some star power around here. There is only so much you can get out of having those lower level stars on the show and that becomes more and more obvious every week it happens around here. Hopefully it isn't the case again this week as it can make the show that much better. Let's get to it.

Here are last week's results if you need a recap.

Opening sequence.

<u>Tavion Heights vs. Saquon Shugars</u>

This is Shugars' debut. Heights takes the oddly dressed Shugars down without much effort to start and then drops down to let Shugars have a free try. This goes rather badly for Shugars, who is quickly wrestled down and then rocked back and forth into a gutwrench suplex. Back up and they run the ropes until Shugars pulls him throat first into the middle rope. A neckbreaker drops Heights back inside and we hit the chinlock. That's broken up and it's a slingshot Fameasser to put Heights down again. Another chinlock doesn't work and Heights fights up, including A Sling Blade. A belly to belly finishes Shugars at 5:44.

Rating: C+. You can tell that Heights is on the way up to the next level around here and that is not a bad thing. He has the amateur style that works rather well and it was on display here. Shugars is off to a good start around here though like so many others around here, he has a very long way to go.

Uriah Connors, who got wrecked on NXT by Shawn Spears a few weeks back, is ready to try again against Eddy Thorpe.

Lainey Reed vs. Jaida Parker

Reed is a southern belle and they fight over arm control to start. Reed avoids a charge in the corner and gets two off a sunset flip as the fans seem to be behind Parker. A hair slam takes Reed down though and Parker hits a running shoulder in the corner. Parker puts Reed on the middle rope and sits on her stomach for two. The abdominal stretch goes on until Reed slips out and slugs away. Parker escapes...I think an atomic drop and hits a Rough Ryder for the pin at 5:14.

Rating: C. Parker is in a weird spot as she is starting to get it together as a powerhouse but it is going to take something special to get her out of the shadow of Lash Legend who is doing something similar but better. As for Reed, she is the latest in shape young star who did well enough in a short match. Again that is going to take some effort to stand out and this only got her so far.

Eddy Thorpe vs. Uriah Connors

Thorpe backs him into the corner to start and grinds away on a headlock. Back up and Thorpe snaps off another headlock takeover but Connors reverses into an armbar. A dropkick puts Thorpe on the floor to set up a suicide dive and they head back inside. This time Thorpe strikes him down with a kick and elbow for two, followed by a snap suplex for the same. We hit the chinlock but Connors is back up with a suplex of his own. Connors hits a running elbow to the face and a Blue Thunder Bomb gets two. Thorpe is right back with a backbreaker into a penalty kick, followed by an implant DDT for the pin at 6:58.

Rating: B-. This was a heck of a match by LVL Up standards and I was digging what I was seeing here. Thorpe is someone who has shown quite a bit of promise in his time around NXT but there is only so much he can do without being on the main show. At the same time Connors got a really good showcase here, which shouldn't be the biggest surprise given that his father is one Fit Finlay.

Overall Rating: C+. That main event brought this show up after a not so great middle match. The opener worked rather well for a debut and it made this show feel like a nice mix. I can go for a different kind of vibe around here as the worst thing that they can do is put on the same boring show every week. Not a bad time at all here, with Connors and Thorpe having a heck of a nice surprise.

Results

Tavion Heights b. Saquon Shugars — Belly to belly suplex Jaida Parker b. Lainey Reed — Rough Ryder Eddy Thorpe b. Uriah Connors — Implant DDT

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