

# NXT – September 19, 2012: NXT Needs Its Spark Back

## NXT

Date: September 19, 2012

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, William Regal

We have our first challenger for Rollins tonight in the form of Rick Victor, but I'm not sure if it's a title match or not. Also we're getting a workout from Kassius Ohno, which could mean a lot of things. I'm liking that they're slowly bringing in storylines instead of the random matches they were having for the first few weeks of the show. Let's get to it.

## Trent Barreta vs. Johnny Curtis

Sweet. I've always liked what I've seen from Barreta so having him back is a good thing. Feeling out process to start with both guys avoiding the other through some gymnastics. A nice dropkick sends Johnny into the corner but as Trent goes up, Curtis drops him onto the top rope to take over. Johnny takes over with an armbar followed by something similar to a high angle AA for two.

Curtis loads up a superplex but Trent counters with a sunset bomb for two. An enziguri sets up a Whisper in the Wind from Trent for a close two. The crowd is silent when these guys aren't flipping and diving. Trent tries his tornado DDT but gets suplexed into the corner for two. Curtis misses his guillotine legdrop and Trent hits a running knee to the chest/face for the pin at 5:32.

**Rating:** C. I like Trent but man alive Curtis is worthless. His gimmick is that he's supposed to be weird but he hasn't done anything odd in like three months, so all he has to go on is his in ring ability. The problem

with that is he's so generic in the ring that there's no reason to care about him at all. Then again that's probably why he keeps getting ring time: he's as bland as you can ask for which tends to get high marks in WWE anymore.

### Alicia Fox vs. Paige

We get a long lockup to start with Alicia taking her to the mat for a second without breaking the hold. A backslide gets two for Paige as do a small package and a cradle. They slap it out and Alicia hits a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker for two. Paige fires off some forearms but she can't slam Alicia due to her back. A northern lights suplex gets two for Fox and it's off to a chinlock with a knee in Paige's back.

Paige tries to fight out of the hold but gets stomped in the face to break up her comeback attempt. Paige gets all fired up and beats on Alicia before they botch a rollup. Paige picks her up and hits a DDT while holding Alicia up with a leg hooked. It wasn't a fisherman's buster but it looked good and it got the pin at 4:48.

**Rating:** C. This was better than most Divas matches you would get on Raw or Smackdown. At the end of the day, the girls aren't going to get any better by having 90 second matches so giving them nearly five minutes isn't a terrible idea. Fox continues to be pretty much a mess in the ring while Paige is coming along pretty nicely. Not bad here.

Raw ReBund eats up some time.

### Jimmy Uso vs. Conor O'Brien

It's amazing how much a good gimmick can change someone. O'Brien used to be Rat Boy in season 4 and now he's part of a team that I'd love to see on the main shows. Jimmy hits a quick headbutt and a clothesline puts O'Brien on the floor. Conor rams Jimmy into the apron to take over and

drops an elbow back in the ring for two. Off to a chinlock by O'Brien Jimmy comes back with a clothesline and a Samoan Drop but Cameron crotches him as he loads up the Superfly Splash. O'Brien hits a running boot to the face for the pin at 3:50.

**Rating:** C. Not as good as the match last week but it puts the teams at one and one against each other in singles matches and that's all you need to do with them at the moment. This sets up a bigger tag match down the line which hopefully leads to one if not both of them being on the main roster. The match being so short didn't do it any favors.

Ascension hits a Total Elimination on Jey post match.

Bo Dallas is about to say something when Michael McGillicutty interrupts him. Michael brags about his win last week and a fight breaks out.

It's time for Ohno's sparring session. There's a referee here and the bell rang so we'll call this a match I guess.

#### Kassius Ohno vs. Oliver Gray

Ohno blasts him into the corner and pounds Gray's head. Saxton wants to know how this is different from a regular match and Regal has no answer for him. Off to a reverse cravate by Ohno and it gets a tap out at 58 seconds.

Ohno gets a mic and says Gray wasn't ready. Gray gets another shot and Ohno says ring the bell. The spinning forearm and the reverse cravate get the second win at 26 seconds. Richie Steamboat runs out for the save.

Leo Kruger is psycho.

#### Rick Victor vs. Seth Rollins

Non-title here. Victor stalls to start before taking over with a headlock. It's a very slow paced start so far. I'm not sure why Victor is the guy they're giving the first match with Rollins but he's not a horrible choice. A suplex gets two on Rollins and Victor bites himself. We take a break and come back with Rollins in a chinlock. Regal will not stop praising Rick so maybe there's something there.

Rollins tries to speed things up but gets caught by a big knee to the face for two. Victor bites himself some more and Rollins Hulks Up. Victor slaps him in the face and the champion snaps, taking over with right hands and a kick to the head. A running boot to the face (popular move tonight) takes Victor down and the Blackout gets the pin at 6:50 shown of 10:20.

**Rating:** C. Not a bad match here but Victor never felt like a threat to Rollins at all. Then again maybe that's what they were going for with this. Rollins is being built up quite well as a big deal and they treated his first match as champion as something we needed to see, which is more than you can say about most new champions. This wasn't a good match or anything but it served its purpose well enough.

**Overall Rating:** C. This was pretty easily the weakest show they've had so far. Nothing on the show stood out at all and nothing really happened here. Rollins beating Victor is no surprise and we knew Steamboat would be coming back for revenge on Ohno, plus the tag team feud is roughly where it was before last week's show with a few more wrinkles. The show wasn't bad or boring or anything like that, but there was no spark here. The one good thing about this week though is Dusty wasn't around, which means him being on the show three times last week might have been an anomaly.

## Results

Trent Barreta b. Johnny Curtis – Running Knee Smash

Paige b. Alicia Fox – Leg Trap DDT

Conor O'Brien b. Jimmy Uso – Running Boot To The Face

Kassius Ohno b. Oliver Gray – Reverse Cravate

Seth Rollins b. Rick Victor – Blackout

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# NXT – September 6, 2012: Are These Guys Capable Of Putting On A Bad Show?

## NXT

Date: September 6, 2012

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: William Regal, Byron Saxton

We're into the second part of NXT now as we have a champion, which means people are going to be gunning for him now. Things have been going very well so far on the show so far and hopefully things keep going the same way now that Rollins won the tournament last week. I don't think any matches were made for this week already. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the end of last week's show.

Welcome Home.

## Kassius Ohno vs. Richie Steamboat

I guess I did forget a match that was scheduled. Steamboat saved Mike

Dalton from getting destroyed by Ohno after a match and a challenge was issued as a result. They head to the mat to start and we have a standoff. Steamboat takes him to two different corners, pounding away in both of them. Kassius uses the forgotten heel move of poking Steamboat in the eye to take over. Richie comes back with a right hand so Ohno rakes the eyes again....and that's a DQ at 2:42? For raking the eyes? I don't think I've ever seen that before.

Ohno kicks Steamboat to the floor post match. He beats on Richie a bit more and hits the forearm/elbow to the back of the head before Ricky Steamboat and some referees come out for the save.

### Audrey Marie vs. Paige

Paige, the British chick, is from Norwich but Byron can't pronounce it so Regal rips into him a bit. Marie takes her to the mat to start but Paige takes over with ease. Audrey goes nuts and we've got a catfight. Marie winds up in control with a long rolling cradle (Terry Funk called it the Tumbleweed I believe) for two.

Audrey sends her into the corner but charges into a forearm, causing some of the most overdramatic selling I've ever seen. Marie looked like she got shot dead. Even Saxton sounded like he was trying not to laugh at it. Paige picks her up for what looks like a fisherman's buster but instead drops Audrey down into a stiff DDT for the pin at 2:44. Both girls looked pretty good here.

Ricky Steamboat is in the back looking for the trainer's room to see how his son is doing. Why he didn't go with him in the first place is anyone's guess, but Ricky runs into Ohno. You can tell this because Ricky shouts OHNO at the top of his lungs. Ohno has on some Clark Kent style glasses and seems to be in awe of meeting Steamboat.

Ricky won't shake his hand and Ohno says Richie doesn't have a ton of potential. Ricky shoves Ohno and referees break it up. Ohno: "What are

you going to do? Arm drag me???" This would be a lot more effective if the beatdown had been big, but it was nothing you wouldn't see in a regular match.

### Percy Watson vs. Leo Kruger

Kruger is psycho now and wears something that looks like khakis. Apparently he's a big game hunter now. That's something different. He grabs a quick snap suplex on Watson to start and pounds him into the corner. Watson gets up a knee in the corner and tries to speed things up. Percy fires off some good dropkicks and the Showtime Splash for two. Kruger gets up very quickly and hits a hot shot into a twisting neckbreaker (started as a reverse neckbreaker but spun Watson around almost into a cutter on the way down) for the pin at 3:16.

**Rating:** C-. Pretty much a squash here. I like the new persona from Kruger as before he was just proud to be South African. As for his finisher, not so much. There are too many neckbreakers/face first drops in WWE anymore and I'm tired of seeing them. From Bateman to Ziggler to Truth to Sandow to Layla and now to Kruger, use something else already.

### Brodus Clay vs. Ryan Collins

Brodus does the full intro, complete with Cameron because this was taped a few weeks ago. Total squash with the crowd WAY into Brodus. The big splash pins Collins at 49 seconds.

Some kids get to dance post match.

We recap the Usos getting jumped by Ascension last week.

### Ascension vs. Usos

Whichever Uso that is pounds Cameron (the wrestler, not the dancer) down

into the corner to start and everything breaks down quickly. The Usos clear the ring and we take a break. Back with I think Jimmy getting tagged in to splash Cameron in the corner. Back to Jimmy who gets two off a double back elbow. Conor comes in off a blind tag and clotheslines Jimmy down for two to take over. Ascension does their fast tags to stomp away on Jimmy in the corner which is always cool.

Conor puts on a bodyscissors and it's off to Cameron with a neck crank followed by an armbar. Back to Conor who grabs a headlock takeover then rolls Jimmy over two more times without letting it go. That was different. Jimmy gets in a kick to the face but the referee doesn't see the tag. Back to Cameron for another armbar before Conor comes in for a headlock. This is a great example of how to pick someone apart.

Jimmy gets sent into the corner and gets a boot up into O'Brien's face. There's the hot tag (with no reaction from the crowd) to Jey. He cleans house on his own but Cameron escapes the Samoan Drop. Instead Jey hits a superkick to put him down but goes up instead of covering. Jimmy takes Conor out but Cameron crotches Jey and hits a kind of running jawbreaker for the pin at 8:58 shown of 12:28.

**Rating:** C+. This was an old school style tag match where they played the formula to perfection. Why in the world are these four not on TV but guys like Epico/Primo are? You can always make room for a Samoan team. Anyway, good stuff here and that's a very rare thing to see in WWE tag matches anymore.

Here's Rollins for his first interview with JR as champion. Rollins talks about overcoming his back injury last week to win the title. He's used to being called a loser and he uses it as motivation every single day. He doesn't care who he faces or who wants a shot at the title, because sooner or later, everybody gets blacked out. Good first speech from the champ here.

**Overall Rating:** B. This was one of the best TV shows I've seen in a very



long time. They got a ton of stuff into this and nothing was boring on it at all. We had a feud being advanced, Divas, a squash, a good tag match and a big name appearing, all before the champion got to talk. He doesn't have a first opponent yet so there's nothing wrong with him just talking tonight. Very good show here and I wasn't annoyed by anything here which is incredibly rare.

### Results

Richie Steamboat b. Kassius Ohno via DQ when Ohno raked Steamboat's eyes

Paige b. Audrey Marie – Fisherman's DDT

Leo Kruger b. Percy Watson – Twisting neckbreaker

Brodus Clay b. Ryan Collins – Big Splash

Ascension b. Usos – Running Jawbreaker to Jey

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# **NXT – July 11, 2012: A Totally Different Kind of Show But Still Great**

### NXT

Date: July 11, 2012

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, William Regal

We're back with the fourth week of the show which I believe is the final show from the first batch of tapings. After the six man that ended the

last episode, there really isn't anything set for tonight. I've heard talk of creating an NXT Title but that wouldn't be for at least four more weeks because the next set of tapings is already done. Let's get to it.

Welcome Home everyone.

### Tyson Kidd vs. Camacho

See, this is what NXT is good for: you can get a guy like Camacho some ring time. He hasn't had much but he can get some here and it's fine for him to get it at this level. Kidd avoids a kick to the ribs and nips up into a dropkick. Camacho takes over with a fist to the head but Kidd flips through a backdrop and grabs a quickly broken leg hold. Backslide gets two on Camacho and it's off to an armbar.

Camacho sends him to the apron but Kidd skins the cat and sends Camacho to the floor. Hunico tries to interfere and gets ejected for his efforts. Kidd dives on both guys and we take a break. Back with Kidd kicking Camacho in the face and trying the Sharpshooter but a rope is grabbed. Camacho goes to the floor but grabs a running boot, sending Kidd face first into the apron.

Back inside and Camacho is in control and working on the back of Kidd. A backbreaker gets two and he stomps on the chest of Kidd a bit. Another backbreaker gets another two and Kidd gets draped over the top rope. Camacho hooks a seated third cousin twice removed of an abdominal stretch which Kidd breaks, only to be headbutted right back down. A belly to back suplex puts Kidd down and a legdrop gets two.

Kidd tries to speed things up but gets caught in a wheelbarrow slam for two. A middle rope legdrop misses for Camacho and Kidd fires off his kicks. Camacho is draped over the bottom rope and Kidd hits a slingshot legdrop to the head to keep Camacho down. Back in and Camacho hits a butterfly suplex off the top for two. Camacho sends him to the apron but charges into a kick to the head. A Blockbuster gets two on Camacho as he gets his foot on the rope. Dang I thought that would have been it. Kidd loads up the Sharpshooter but here's McGillicutty for a distraction. Kidd knocks him to the floor but walks into a DDT from Camacho for the pin at 12:15 shown of 15:45.

**Rating:** B-. I was really getting into this by the end of it. It's amazing what guys like Camacho are capable of when they have time and a guy like Kidd to work off of. I'm so glad that Tyson is getting a main show push as it's long overdue for someone as steady in the ring as he is. This McGillicutty feud has gone on for awhile though and it's hard to see why it needs to continue.

Bray Wyatt video, this time about faith. It's a shame that he's out for so many months.

Hugh Jackman was on Raw once.

Justin Gabriel says he's back to make a statement. Heath Slater comes up and says that Gabriel will make a statement of failure. Slater talks about taking out legends and Gabriel says it'll be a young guy beating up Slater tonight.

#### Aiden English vs. Bray Wyatt

Wyatt talks on the way to the ring, calling himself the angel in the dirt and singing Time is on My Side by the Rolling Stones. Wyatt pounds him down and sends English to the floor and into the barricade. Back in and Wyatt rolls around on the apron before splashing English in the corner. Wyatt dances with English a bit (literally) before hitting a rolling Downward Spiral for the pin at 1:48. Awesome debut here and a good transition from promos to in ring work which was what I was worried about from Wyatt.

Video on Seth Rollins, who will knock you out.

We run down the MITB card.

Richie Steamboat says he's got a great opportunity here. Leo Kruger comes up and they get in a brawl.

Video on Raquel Diaz, featuring Tweets from her.

#### Usos vs. Prime Time Players

Apparently Slater vs. Gabriel is next week. JR sits in on commentary for

this one and there's no AW for the Players. Jimmy and Darren get us going and Jimmy goes nuclear by going for the hair. Young gets taken into the Uso corner for a continued beating before it's off to Titus for more of the same. Back to Young who charges into a powerslam from Jey for no cover. The Players head to the floor and Jey has a hair pick.

Jimmy hits a dive onto both Players and we take a break. Back with Jimmy uppercutting Titus, only to be knocked down after looking at Young. Young comes in with a kind of spinning toe hold. It's clear JR has no idea which Uso is which, nor does he care. Jimmy kicks Darren to the floor where Darren trips up Jey before there can be a tag. Back in and Young works on the knee some more and tags Titus.

Jimmy gets in a shot to Titus but O'Neal breaks up the tag at the last possible second. Back to the knee but Jimmy breaks it up. For some reason though he goes to the Players' corner instead of his own. A backdrop puts Titus down and there's the tag to Jey. Jey cleans house and hits the running Umaga attack on Young in the corner for two. Titus takes Jimmy's leg out again which allows the Players to hit the Demolition Decapitator on Jey for the pin at 9:51 shown of 13:21.

**Rating:** C+. Nothing great here but another win for the Players before they finally get their title match is just fine. The Usos are still stuck in limbo but they're good at a job like this. JR not knowing which was which says a small something, as there's nothing to tell the two guys apart unless you're looking at their chest. That being said, they're a tag team and there's nothing wrong with them being so similar, as it makes them look more like a unit.

**Overall Rating:** B-. This was a totally different kind of show this week but it still worked. This came off a lot more like a show that the old NXT did and that's ok for the most part. Having a fresh batch of faces makes that work well, and given the match quality was good all around, what more can you ask for? With talk of the tournament coming for a title, there's a lot of upside on NXT in the future.

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# NXT – June 13, 2012: This Is How The Season Finally Ends

## NXT

Date: June 13, 2012

Location: Verizon Wireless Arena, Manchester, New Hampshire

Commentators: Josh Matthews, William Regal

So I went to WWE.com, sort of dreading this show as usual when I saw it: “On the final episode of NXT before the ALL NEW NXT...”. For the first time in a good many Wednesdays, the sight of NXT brought a smile to my face. After SIXTY SIX WEEKS, it’s finally ending. This is the last episode of this season and I can’t believe it’s really here. Let’s get to it.

I can’t believe I’m saying this but it’s kind of saddening to hear this song for the final time this season.

## Curt Hawkins/Tyler Reks vs. Derrick Bateman/Percy Watson

Regal says the bright green is apparently a tribute to the Dynamic Dudes. There’s something you’ll never hear again. Hawkins and Bateman gets us going here. Bateman takes it to the mat so Hawkins celebrates his escape. The fans start clapping for Bateman so it’s off to Reks who gets crucified down for two. Watson comes in and speeds things up a bit.

Reks gets knocked into the wrong corner by a European Uppercut. Hawkins: “REKS I’M OVER HERE!” Bateman hooks a headlock but charges into a boot in the corner to shift momentum again. Hawkins hooks a chinlock which is quickly broken by a jawbreaker. Watson comes in for some dropkicks and throws Hawkins into Reks to send them out to the floor. Bateman dives on both guys and we take a break.

Back with Watson fighting off both guys but getting dropped on the top turnbuckle for two. Reks hooks a chinlock for a bit followed by a

neckbreaker for two. Back to Curt who hits a suplex for two. Off to another chinlock as Regal talks about how a chinlock is supposed to be executed. Another the shoulder bicycle kick gets two on Watson. Josh confirms that next week the New NXT begins.

Back to Reks who kicks Percy in the ribs and hooks chinlock #3. Watson finally comes back and hits an enziguri to Tyler, allowing for the hot tag to Bateman. Reks doesn't tag out at all and things speed up. Bateman hits a running flip neckbreaker (think Morrison's flip neckbreaker) for two. After a Hawkins distraction, Reks hits his powerbomb into a spinning DDT for the pin at 11:05.

**Rating:** C+. This was fine. It was a formula based tag match and the ending was pretty solid. Bateman has gotten a lot better in the last few months and it's no longer a strain to watch the guy. I don't see him as anything better than a jobber at the moment but maybe things could change with the proper changes.

During the break we get a clip of the All New NXT. It looks pretty awesome actually.

### Kaitlyn vs. Natalya

Natalya immediately takes her down with a heel trip and they trade rollups for two each. Another rollup gets two for Kaitlyn. Natalya sends her to the floor and poses before knocking Kaitlyn off the apron. She sits on Kaitlyn for two and then hooks on a bow and arrow hold. Kaitlyn rolls her up again for two. That seems to be her only offense. Nattie misses a charge in the corner and Kaitlyn shoves her down. A crossbody gets two. Natalya cradles her in the corner with feet on the ropes for two. Her argument with the referee lets Kaitlyn hook ANOTHER rollup for two. A sunset flip out of nowhere gets the pin for Kaitlyn at 5:20.

**Rating:** D-. This was horrible. Kaitlyn looked terrible out there, both in the ring and in the face. For some reason all she did here were rollups other than just a few shots here or there. The match was terrible with neither girl really doing anything at all other than Natalya posing and Kaitlyn rolling people up. Terrible match.

Natalya throws a fit post match.

We get a quick word from Bo Dallas (Taylor Rotunda) who is ready to fight.

Raw ReBound is about Vince/Ace/Show/Cena.

### Usos vs. Michael McGillicutty/Johnny Curtis

They have almost fifteen minutes for this. Before the match starts, Richie Steamboat says he's looking to fill his own shoes, not his father's. Michael and Jimmy start things off and McGillicutty takes him down to the mat with ease. Regal talks about how great Samoans are at wrestling as well as rugby. Jimmy takes him down with an armbar and it's off to Jey. Curtis comes in and rips at Jey's face.

A legdrop misses and Jey hooks a chinlock. McGillicutty offers a distraction and Curtis drops him onto the top rope in the EXACT same sequence from the first tag match. Curtis drops Jey's leg onto the top rope to ground him even further and McGillicutty adds some cheating offense of his own to it. Curtis cannonballs down onto the knee as we take a break. Back with McGillicutty with a knee hold on Jey.

Back to Curtis and the knee gets wrapped around the post. We get a full Indian Deathlock but Jey chops his way out of it. When all else fails, hit the other guy I guess. Curtis prevents the tag but McGillicutty's attempted cannonball onto the leg is countered by having him kicked over the top. Off to Jimmy who cleans house. Jey is almost immediately tagged back in for a double team Samoan Drop. Curtis drops a guillotine legdrop to break up the cover and both guys are down. The McGillicutter is countered and after a superkick from Jey, the Superfly Splash from Jimmy gets the pin on McGillicutty at 11:42.

**Rating:** B-. Another good match here with the leg work being a good idea, as the Usos are a flying team so slowing them down is the right idea. There's something appropriate about the Usos winning the last match of this season, and there's something even more appropriate about it being a meaningless tag match as so many of their matches have been.

**Overall Rating:** C+. And that's NXT Season 5. The overall rating of slightly above average is about right for the whole season too: there were some ok moments, but all in all it was just ok. Nothing significant ever happened, no one won, almost everyone wound up on Smackdown, and it was clear that the contest part of the show was worthless by the end of it. The new season will help things a lot as it can be just a regular show instead of a contest, which is something they've needed to do for about a year now. Tonight's show was decent but as usual, it means nothing at all.

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# NXT – June 6, 2012: End My Pain

## NXT

Date: June 6, 2012

Location: Colonial Center, Columbia, South Carolina

Commentators: Matt Striker, Josh Matthews

Back to the land of no storylines allowed. I would usually say that this should be interesting, but for the most part I'm pretty sure it won't be. At the end of the day, we have about 45 minutes of wrestling here which isn't bad between guys that aren't good enough to get into the top two shows. Let's get to it.

Dang it no Regal this week.

Tyler Reks vs. Jey Uso

Feeling out process to start with Reks running over Uso a few times. Jey



comes back with a running chinlock (looked pretty cool actually) to take over. Uso charges into a boot in the corner and a belly to back suplex for two. Reks pounds him down with power strikes but misses a charge, sending his shoulder into the post.

Jey goes after the arm and hits a spinning forearm. He starts doing the chants to the crowd the pops are great. Samoan drop gets two. Reks takes him down again and goes up, but Jey slams him down for two. Now Jey goes up but gets crotched for his efforts. Reks puts him up in a Razor's Edge position then spins Jey down into a kind of a DDT move for the pin at 5:00.

**Rating:** D+. Not bad here but other than the crowd popping for the USO shout, things were pretty dead here. It's not a bad match but it's likely to lead to Usos vs. Reks/Hawkins #19 or so, which isn't a match I can really get behind anymore. I still don't get the appeal of Reks at all. It's just not clicking for him.

#### Percy Watson vs. JTG

JTG speeds things up to start which actually works. This is supposed to be the new and improved version of him and I guess that's true as the tights are less annoying than what he used to wear. Watson smiles a lot in the ring. JTG controls for the opening until Watson avoids a charge. Watson's headscissors out of the corner is countered and he falls out to the floor.

Back in and JTG pounds away before hooking a seated abdominal stretch. A kind of slam gets two. JTG is getting frustrated. If I had hair like that I likely would be too. He goes to the middle rope but dives into a facebuster to put both guys down. Watson speeds things up and hits his usual jumping attacks. The crowd doesn't seem to care as much this time. Heisman gets two. We get a freaking JTG chant as Persecution gets the pin at 6:01.

**Rating:** D. This crowd has lost all of its chanting privileges. I mean.....THEY WERE CHANTING FOR FREAKING JTG! The match itself was nothing of note at all as JTG being on offense is never a good idea. Watson again has the same problems: he's the same guy over and over again, doing the same stuff every week.

### Tamina Snuka vs. Natalya

Natalya now wears a kind of cape. She quickly powers Tamina down to the mat and they trade headlocks. Back up and Natalya runs her over as Striker calls her Nattie. Whatever her name is she gets dropkicked down for two. The crowd is almost silent for this. Tamina misses a charge and Natalya sits on her with arms folded for two.

Suplex gets two as well. Natalya tries another one but gets small packaged for two. Off to an abdominal stretch but Natalya picks up Tamina's leg on top of the regular hold. Tamina escapes and comes back with chops but Natalya rolls away before Tamina can try for the splash. Sharpshooter is broken up as Tamina kicks her to the floor. Natalya charges back in to a Samoan Drop and the Superfly Splash gets the pin at 6:21.

**Rating:** D. This was nothing. Both girls have jobs because of their dads, but that doesn't always mean success. Well to be fair Natalya is good but there's nothing going on for her due to it not being her time right now. The match was your usual boring affair from the Divas, but a longer version of it.

Raw ReBound is about Cole's destruction.

### Tyson Kidd/Justin Gabriel vs. Heath Slater/Johnny Curtis

Kidd and Slater get us going. Slater grabs a headlock but Kidd makes a blind tag. Kidd and Gabriel kind of mess up a double hip toss and it's

off to Curtis instead. Justin sweeps the legs out and brings in Kidd for a slingshot reverse victory roll for two. Tyson tries the Dungeon Lock but has to settle for a wristlock instead. Slater comes in but Kidd dropkicks them both down at once.

Sharpshooter to Slater doesn't work so it's back to Gabriel. A BIG suicide dive takes Slater out and Kidd/Gabriel pose in the ring as we take a break. Back with Kidd in control of Slater. He goes up but gets distracted by Curtis, allowing Heath to powerslam him off the top for two and control. Off to the chinlock for a bit and then into the heel corner.

Kidd fights both guys off at once but walks into a spinebuster before he can make the tag off to Gabriel. Curtis comes in and hits a suplex for two. After a quick wear down hold, Curtis and Slater try a double team but Kidd counters and drops them both. Slater blocks the tag again with a running neckbreaker for two. His middle rope knee drop misses though and it's hot tag to Gabriel. Justin speeds things up as you would expect and hits a jumping tornado DDT for two on Curtis. A combination Hart Attack/Blockbuster gets the pin on Curtis at 10:05.

**Rating:** C+. This was by far the best match of the night but it's a far cry from some of the main events we've been having lately. Still though it wasn't that bad and the double team finisher wasn't bad at all. The problem is there was no doubt as to who would win given the levels of talent on either side.

**Overall Rating:** D. This was really dull. The same problems I've been talking about for weeks are still here and they're not going to change anytime soon. I can't believe I'm saying this, but Maxine being on this show is such an improvement that it's almost uncanny. The show wasn't bad or anything, but it was really uninteresting.

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# Primo/Epico Retain

No shock there. Fun match too.

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## Wrestlemania #28: Tag Title Match – Primo/Epico (C) vs. The Usos vs. Justin Gabriel/Tyson Kidd

For the tag titles and likely a dark match. This was announced the week of the show and is going to be streamed for free on the WWE's Youtube channel and WWE.com. The champions have had the belts now for about two and a half months but were actually being used as jobbers on Raw for Big Show earlier this week. I love the Usos but for the life of me I don't get why they added in Gabriel and Kidd. Apparently the team was formed on Superstars with the question from Kidd of "hey, wanna be a team" and a reply of "sure". That gets you in the title match at Mania now I guess.

As for a prediction, I'll go with the champions retaining, but if this gets the title picture moving a bit it'll be great.

Thoughts/Predictions?

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# Wrestlemania Dark Match Set: Triple Threat Tag Title Match

[Source](#)

It's Epico/Primo defending against Gabriel/Kidd vs. The Usos. I won't be giving my thoughts on this yet because I'm planning on a major WM Preview later tonight with thoughts on all the matches

Thoughts on this?

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## NXT – March 28, 2012: A Commercial With Wrestling Breaks

NXT

Date: March 28, 2012

Location: Philips Arena, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Josh Matthews, William Regal

Who would have thought that when we started this season that it would run through Wrestlemania 28? That's the point we're

going to reach unless there's some divine intervention and this season ends after today. Now the good thing is they have an angle that has a mystery to it after last week with Striker disappearing. Let's get to it.

### Hunico vs. Derrick Bateman

Bateman controls to start but gets backdropped into the corner as Hunico takes over. Elbow drop gets two. Oh make that one. Regal explains why Camacho hangs out with Hunico, which is apparently due to a gang attack that Hunico bailed him out of, resulting in a stab wound which is why Hunico wears a shirt in the ring. See how easy a story that was to explain?

Bateman gets beaten down for awhile until he comes back with a cross body. Hunico hits one at the same time though and both guys are down as we take a break. Back with Hunico chopping and pounding on Bateman. His shirt is torn now too. Hunico goes up but jumps into a dropkick as Bateman gets a breather. He launches Hunico over his head and into the buckle chest first.

Hunico pounds down on him again as Regal is talking about WCW. He seems to think it was funny and I can't say I argue. Bateman tries to suplex Hunico in from the apron but Hunico falls on top. Bateman rolls through for two but stops to go after Camacho. The distraction allows Hunico to hit his modified Angle Slam (it's the Angle Slam but he hooks the other guy's head, almost like a torture rack) for the pin at 7:00.

**Rating:** C-. I wasn't really all that into this. I've been liking Hunico more lately but this was a miss for him. Granted that could be because Bateman is a waste of time and space but maybe that's just me. Nothing that great here as they went back and forth, but there wasn't much selling in between.

Video on Rock vs. Cena from Once In A Lifetime, which wasn't bad.

Video on HHH vs. Taker, which I think is the same one from Raw.

Video on Punk vs. Jericho, which I don't think has aired before. It's about Punk's rise to the top of WWE over the years and then shows Jericho exposing Punk's family history.

Maxine is on a phone and wants a list next week. Curtis comes up and apparently the list is about Regal, who is into some freaky stuff. This is news? Maxine gets off the phone and Curtis says that the company has been trying to keep Striker's whereabouts on the DL. It happened on NXT. How much more DL can you get?

Maxine yells at him because Curtis hasn't found out anything about Striker. Watson and Riley pop up and Watson yells at her for taking the spotlight during his match by rubbing Regal's feet. Maxine asks how mad Watson is at her in a strange bit. They go down the hall and run into Natalya and Kidd. They're talking about the economy. Ok then. The walk continues and they run into Gabriel. I think they're looking for who stole Striker.

Now they run into Titus and leave, but the camera stays on Titus. Young comes in with a flower pot which Young says is for Tamina. O'Neil says take her to McDonalds. Young says he lies, cheats and steals in the ring but he can't do that with Tamina. I'm not the biggest Eddie fan ever, but NO WAY does Young deserve to be able to say that.

Curtis and Maxine pop up again and accuse Titus of the kidnapping (they haven't actually said those words yet, but rather "it was you" every time). Titus tries to kiss her for some reason but Curtis pulls her away. Young and O'Neil leave and Maxine gets a text. The kidnappers say that after Mania, she'll give them what they want and they'll get Striker back. LONG backstage segment here but it covered a few things which is good.

Video on the Divas tag, I think from Extra. I have no issue looking at Maria Menunos.

### Titus O'Neil vs. Jey Uso

Young and Jimmy Uso are on commentary. So I'm assuming we're not going to talk about the Striker stuff on commentary are we? Josh points out that the Usos aren't that successful when they're in singles action. Jimmy says that's true, because they're a team. Simple yet true. This is your usual power vs. speed match with Titus controlling early but Jey taking him down. He goes up but Titus rolls to the floor before the jump and we go to a break.

Back with Titus hammering on him, using the clubbing forearms. Jey gets in a shot and comes off the top with a cross body for two. Titus runs him over with another clothesline for two. Off to a chinlock to eat up some time as Jey comes up with exactly the same kind of offense you would expect from him. The Umaga attack hits in the corner as does the Samoan Drop. The Superfly Splash hits knees though and the Clash of the Titus ends this at 6:22.

**Rating:** C-. I wish I could care about this feud, but it's just not happening. The problem in modern WWE for guys like the Usos is that the tag titles are never defended and the champions are basically jobbers when you need to get bigger names over as singles guys. Titus is a heel now but he's the same guy he's always been, just with a sneer now. Nothing match but technically it was fine.

Tamina comes out to check on Jey and glares at Young for some reason.

**Overall Rating:** D. The problem here is that this show was a commercial for Mania with a backstage segment and about 15 minutes of wrestling to fill in some gaps. That's totally understandable as well as no one is going to care about anything with four days before the biggest show of the year.



Not a good show or anything, but this had zero expectations coming in so it's fine.

### Results

Hunico b. Derrick Bateman – Spinning Torture Rack Slam

Titus O'Neil b. Jey Uso – Clash of the Titus

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## **NXT – February 8, 2012 – The Best Thing That Could Have Happened To This Show**

### NXT

Date: February 8, 2012

Location: BOK Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Commentators: William Regal, Josh Matthews

Here we are again. I really don't know what to talk about here other than Young and Titus seem to have formed a new alliance after hating each other for so long. I don't know how well Titus' heel turn is going yet because he doesn't have anything to gain. I'm sure nothing will change here because that's how this show works. We're at a month away from this being running for a year. Let's get to it.

We are Wild And Young and feel the need to sing about it.

Striker opens the show and tells us that there are four matches tonight, including the Usos vs. Hawkins/Reks. You know, to freshen things up a bit.

### Derrick Bateman vs. Heath Slater

Bateman takes over to start but misses a corner charge. Regal talks about punching a homeless man as Slater punches him down. A leg lariat puts Bateman down and it's off to a chinlock. Bateman fights up and hits something like a modified STO for two. A flip neckbreaker like the one John Morrison used to use gets the same. Slater pops up and hits his running spinning sleeper drop for the pin at 3:27. That needs a bad name.

**Rating:** D. This didn't click at all for me as there was a severe lack of selling. Granted at the same time it's Heath Slater vs. Derrick Bateman in a match that runs three and a half minutes so how good was it possibly going to be? Bateman's stock somehow manages to fall even further, which I didn't think was possible.

### Percy Watson vs. Darren Young

Titus is on commentary. Percy starts out fast and takes him down where he stomps away on the ribs. They go to the floor and Percy gets caught in the ring skirt. Back in a swinging neckbreaker gets two for Darren and it's off to a body scissors. Titus goes on a rant about how no one has done anything for him so he's controlling his own destiny. Young charges at Watson in the corner but Percy moves, sending Young chest first into the buckle. The Heisman (spinning splash) gets two and the Persecution gets the pin at 4:24.

**Rating:** D+. Better match but it still wasn't anything great. This was more about furthering Percy vs. Titus post match which is a much more interesting feud. Titus turning is fine, but like I've said many times, it doesn't mean anything without there being something for him to win. At least it

wasn't Slater though.

Titus gets in the ring and tells Percy that when Titus attacks him, Percy will know it.

Johnny Curtis hits on Kaitlyn and implies that Bateman has a crush on her.

### Trent Barretta vs. Tyson Kidd

Yes please. They run the ropes a bit with Kidd hitting an elbow to the face to take over. Trent knocks him off the apron and they head to the floor. Whisper in the Wind off the barricade takes Kidd down but he goes down as well. Back in the ring Kidd comes off the top but jumps into a dropkick which gets two for Trent. Kidd charges in the corner but Trent gets up two knees to take him down.

He tries what looks like a one legged Codebreaker but Kidd counters into a Sharpshooter attempt. That's countered as well but Kidd kicks his head off and a release German gets two. These kickouts and counters are getting good. Trent gets in a shot to take Kidd down and heads up. A missile dropkick gets two and Barretta is getting frustrated. They go into a pinfall reversal sequence and Kidd hooks him into a sunset flip for the pin at 5:22.

**Rating:** C+. These guys are very fun at what they do but they're stuck here on NXT so that we can see guys like Jinder Mahal on Smackdown. Kidd used to be my favorite guy on this show and I wish he'd get more time to showcase his stuff because he really is fun to watch when he gets more than a few minutes.

Kidd helps Trent up post match which is a different style for him.

Kaitlyn goes up to Bateman in the back and Maxine comes in to yell about the loss earlier. There's a match set up. Curtis

can be seen watching in the back as the girls argue.

### Kaitlyn vs. Maxine

Regal goes into a LONG rant which almost has to be a song lyric or a poem. He literally talks for 34 seconds and says that's what Maxine said. It ended with what sounded like "shoplifters of the world unite." From what I can find that's a song by The Smiths. Kaitlyn drops a leg and Regal says her legs could crack walnuts for him at Christmas. Maxine hooks a dragon sleeper to slow things down. Kaitlyn comes back with some knees and the worst cross body ever, due to a lack of jumping. Maxine wins with a crucifix at 2:59. This was your usual NXT Divas match.

Video on the Chamber which I think is the same one from Raw.

Trent is getting out of his gear in the back when Kidd comes up and says Trent has earned his respect. Kidd proposes a tag team and asks Trent to think about it. Can we please get an NXT Tag Title already? In this case there actually is a division for it.

### Usos vs. Tyler Reks/Curt Hawkins

Curt and let's say Jey start us off. Hawkins takes him down a few times but walks into a northern lights for two. Off to Jimmy vs. Reks as the Usos do their "I say Us, you say 0" thing which gets a reaction as it always does. Hawkins is sent to the floor and the Usos double team to dive onto Hawkins. Reks and Hawkins use a nice misdirection move to get a boot to Jey's head and we take a break.

Back with Reks hooking Jey in a chinlock and then hitting a boot for two. Back to Hawkins and things slow way down. Reks and Hawkins are very uninteresting in the ring and they slow matches down so much when they're in there. Reks and Hawkins double team even more but Jey blocks a charge in the corner with a boot.

Hawkins gets Reks back in again though and Jey gets pounded on even more. The heels tag again and it's back to Curt for a chinlock. Jey takes him down and brings in Jimmy. Everything breaks down and Jimmy escapes the spinning Rack neckbreaker. He gets shoved into a cane shot by Hawkins and Reks gets a rollup pin at 7:29.

**Rating:** C. The problem with this is the same as the problem with most of the feuds on this show: we've seen it so many times that there's no point in watching them anymore. This might have been the first time that Reks and Hawkins have beaten them, but does it really matter after they've lost about four or five times in a row?

Striker runs out to report the cane shot (why doesn't this happen more often?) and Hawkins drops him with a right hand.

**Overall Rating:** B-. This show flew by and in a good way. A lot of new stories were started tonight and it was like there was a brand new writer for it, which shakes thing up a lot which is what this show has needed for a very long time. I'm actually looking forward to this show now because there's something new to see, which is the best thing that could have happened on NXT.

### Results

Heath Slater b. Derrick Bateman – Spinning Sleeper Mat Slam

Percy Watson b. Darren Young – Persecution

Tyson Kidd b. Trent Barretta – Sunset flip

Maxine b. Kaitlyn – Crucifix

Tyler Reks/Curt Hawkins b. The Usos – Rollup to Jimmy after a cane shot from Hawkins

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