

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 12, 2012: Too Much Dusty Is Not A Good Thing

NXT

Date: September 13, 2012

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, William Regal

Back to Florida for the best run TV show in wrestling every week. The main feud seems to be Richie/Ricky Steamboat vs. Kassius Ohno which doesn't really do much for me. Both guys are pretty dull in the ring but Ohno made me chuckle in the backstage segment last week. Other than that we're still looking for a challenger for Rollins so maybe we'll have some development in that tonight. Let's get to it.

Jey Uso vs. Kenneth Cameron

Jey takes him down to start and throws Cameron out to the floor. Back in and Jey runs into a boot in the corner as Kenneth takes over. I love Ascension's look. They look like guys that could beat the tar out of anyone which is something you rarely get in tag teams anymore. A

clothesline sets up a chinlock with a bodyscissors by Cameron.

Back up and Jey tries to speed things up, only to get hiptossed into the corner. After another clothesline from Cameron, Jey tries to speed things up and gets in some shots to the face, but O'Brien trips him up on the floor. Cameron hits what looked like a suplex but I think there was supposed to be a kind of spin into a cutter at the end. Not that it really matters as it looked like a suplex and only gets two. Jimmy superkicks O'Brien down and the distraction lets Jey hit a superkick for the pin at 5:26.

Rating: C+. This is something you hardly ever see anymore: a competitive midcard match that never got boring and had a quick ending. Another thing that NXT has over Raw and Smackdown: the announcers mostly talk about the match. On the main shows they have to hype the main event, which is fine, but I don't need to hear about 35 different social media platforms every five minutes. It's ok to explain why we should care about what we're watching in the ring every now and then, and you get that on NXT.

The Usos celebrate in the crowd.

Dusty Rhodes is talking to someone when Rick Victor comes in and demands an NXT Title shot. Dusty says prove you're worthy of one. Short and simple.

Big E. Langston vs. Chad Baxter

Langston pounds him down to start and easily blocks a sunset flip. The fans chant for Chad for some reason. The fans don't exactly fire him up as Langston hits three straight backbreakers followed by a running splash (Vader used to do this. I'm not sure what to call it but Baxter was standing in the middle of the ring and Langston hit a standing splash to knock him down) and the falling slam for the pin at 1:58.

Post match Langston hits another falling slam and counts himself a five count. Langston says a three count is normal, but he isn't normal so it's five counts for him. He gives Baxter a third slam and gets another five count. This goes on too long but the fans are digging Langston.

Ohno says next week he's going to have a sparring session.

We get a video on Trent Barretta missing. He's been found though and he's back next week.

Garrett Dylan vs. Damien Sandow

Sandow says that Dylan has the option of getting beaten up or sitting ringside for a lecture Sandow has prepared. Sandow pounds him down into the corner and continues to do so in the middle of the ring. Dylan gets in some basic offense but gets taken down, hit with the wind up elbow and the double arm neckbreaker gets the pin at 1:35.

Rollins doesn't care who he faces for the title. Rick Victor comes up and says he doubts Rollins even knows his name. Rollins agrees so Victor slaps him. Victor is on the top of Rollins' list now.

Raw ReBound is about Cena vs. Punk at the end of the show.

Rollins talks to Dusty and demands a match with Victor next week.

Tyson Kidd vs. Michael McGillicutty

Winner gets a shot at Rollins somewhere down the line. See how much a title can enhance a feud like this one? They head to the mat quickly and McGillicutty controls with a headscissors. Kidd counters into an armbar but Michael makes the rope. They fight over a wristlock until Kidd suplexes him to the mat to take over. McGillicutty grabs a headlock on the mat but Kidd rolls out and sends McGillicutty to the floor.

Back in and McGillicutty elbows him down and we take a break. We come back McGillicutty holding a chinlock, only to get taken down by a sunset flip. McGillicutty gets a two count of his own and the fans chant SHAH with every count. I remember the ECW fans doing that for Hack Meyers but why are they doing it for McGillicutty? Kidd gets sent into the buckle but he kicks McGillicutty in the face to escape a suplex back into the ring.

Kidd speeds things up and hits his dropkick to the side of Michael's head for two. McGillicutty slides to the floor to avoid a spin kick but Kidd hits a kick through the ropes and a kick off the apron to take Michael down. Back in and a springboard elbow hits McGillicutty's knees. Wouldn't that hurt McGillicutty just as much?

Perfectplex gets two but Michael gets crotched on the top. Kidd tries a top rope rana and it mostly hits, but his feet were under McGillicutty's arms. I've seen him do that before so maybe it's intentional. A jawbreaker staggers Kidd but he comes back with an enziguri. McGillicutty ducks and the McGillicutter gets the pin for Michael at 10:30 shown of 14:00.

Rating: B-. These two have great chemistry against each other and the match here was another good one. The ending was nice and fast paced with McGillicutty knowing Kidd's offense well enough to avoid it and hit the McGillicutter to end it. Also, this is another reason why the title helps the show: it gives these two a reason to fight some more.

Overall Rating: C+. Good stuff here again but I'm worried about Dusty being on the show three times in one episode. One of the best things about NXT is that they don't waste any time on stuff like GM's and match making like they do on Monday and Friday. I'm hoping this is just a one off thing and it doesn't happen every week because it'll bring the show down.

Results

Jey Uso b. Kenneth Cameron – Superkick

Big E. Langston b. Chad Baxter – Falling Slam

Damien Sandow b. Garrett Dylan – Double Arm Neckbreaker

Michael McGillicutty b. Tyson Kidd – McGillicutter

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