

New Column: What A Weekend

Three in two.

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NXT Worlds Collide 2022: Does This Count As Going Out With A Bang?

Worlds Collide

Date: September 4, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

This is a themed show as we have some unification matches between the NXT and NXT UK Champions. NXT UK is no more and things are wrapping up with this show. That means the card is looking stacked and we should be in for some good stuff. The main event of Bron Breakker vs. Tyler Bate for both singles titles should be great. Let's get to it.

The opening video looks at the history of both NXT's, which set up the title unification matches tonight.

North American Title: Ricochet vs. Carmelo Hayes

Hayes is defending and has Trick Williams with him. Feeling out process to start and they both go with some flips that get nowhere. Ricochet is back up with a dropkick to stagger Hayes so it's time to go outside for a breather. The Williams distraction lets Hayes get in a shot of his own and they head

back inside. A few kicks rock Ricochet and Hayes is starting to get the confidence rolling.

Ricochet flips out and tries the comeback but walks into a heck of a superkick for two. A springboard clothesline gives Hayes two more but Ricochet manages to take him down for a quick double stomp. Back up and they both try springboard spinning crossbodies, meaning a midair collision gives us a double knockdown (and a great visual). Ricochet wins a slugout and kicks him in the head but the Benedriller is blocked. Hayes gets in another kick but misses a springboard spinning crossbody.

The Recoil rocks Hayes but Williams breaks up the cover. Back up and Hayes hits a suplex into a cutter before going up top. That's fine with Ricochet, who brings him down with a top rope superplex for two, leaving both of them staggered. They strike it out again until Ricochet hits a poisonrana. Ricochet loads up something but Hayes offers a distraction, meaning the shooting star pres is a bit slow. The delay lets Hayes grab a small package to retain at 16:18.

Rating: B. Yeah this was exactly what they were hoping for with this one, as they did a bunch of stuff to pop the crowd and look awesome in the process. Ricochet wasn't likely to win here but that wasn't what the match was about. It was cool to see and a very good choice for an opener so well done.

Post match Hayes celebrates and Ricochet's name is added to the list of victims.

Video on Meiko Satomura.

Roderick Strong was attacked in the parking lot, meaning he was taken out in an ambulance.

NXT Tag Team Titles/NXT UK Tag Team Titles: Pretty Deadly vs. Gallus vs. Creed Brothers vs. Brooks Jensen/Josh Briggs

Elimination match for both sets of titles and the Creeds and Jensen/Briggs are defending. Lash Legend, Joe Coffey, Damon Kemp and Fallon Henley are here as the respective seconds. It's a brawl before the bell until we get down to Julius Creed vs. Josh Briggs to start things off. Jensen comes in for an atomic drop/big boot combination but Prince tags himself in to steal the cover.

With Julius not being happy, it's off to Wolfgang vs. Brutus for some more power. The brawl is on again and the women get in a fight inside. That helps everything break down, with Jensen being backdropped onto Pretty Deadly. Wolfgang superplexes Brutus and it's a powerslam/jumping kick to the head to eliminate Jensen at 4:15.

We get the Gallus vs. Pretty Deadly showdown, with Wilson's rollup with trunks only getting two on Mark. Back up and Mark kicks Wilson's head off for a double knockdown, leaving Brutus to tag himself in. A Doomsday Creed Bomb sets up the sliding lariat to get rid of Gallus at 8:39, leaving us with the Creeds vs. Pretty Deadly for the unified titles.

After security gets rid of Gallus, Prince and Brutus slug it out until Wilson comes in for some knees to the ribs to put Brutus down in the corner. A DDT drops Brutus again but he's able to get over for the hot tag off to Julius. House is cleaned but here are Briggs/Jensen and Gallus to brawl at ringside again. The distraction is broken up by security, allowing Julius to take Wilson down. Prince tries to grab a chair but Kemp cuts him off...and hits Julius with the chair instead. An Irish Curse plants Julius and Prince gets the pin and the titles at 15:06.

Rating: C+. I was surprised by the result here and the Kemp turn was a nice twist, so well done on giving us something out of nowhere. Pretty Deadly are good champions and having them unify the belts should set up someone else to come take them away fairly soon. Gallus is going to be fine and

Jensen/Briggs...well they had a nice run at least.

Video on Blair Davenport.

Tony D'Angelo and Stacks are trying to figure out who they can get to replace Legado del Fantasma when Cameron Grimes comes up. Word on the street is he needs some new friends, so Tony tells him to make an offer. Grimes is good.

NXT Women's Title/NXT UK Women's Title: Mandy Rose vs. Meiko Satomura vs. Blair Davenport

Only Davenport isn't a champion coming in. They strike it out to start with Rose being knocked down, leaving Satomura to hit a running spinwheel kick to Davenport. Satomura and Davenport head outside, leaving Rose to pose in her very patriotic gear. Davenport goes after her and it's a fall away slam to put her down, allowing Rose to hit a shoulder in the corner.

Satomura pulls both of them outside and kicks away at Davenport against the steps. Mandy is dropped as well, leaving Satomura to take Davenport back inside and charge into a boot to the face. Satomura kicks the invading Rose down for two but Davenport makes the save. Rose catches Davenport on top but it's Satomura charging at both of them in the corner for some clotheslines.

A double suplex attempt is countered into a double DDT to give Satomura a breather. Satomura hits a series of Satomura Specials before driving Rose down for two, as Davenport comes off the top with a double stomp for the save. Rose is back up to forearm away at Rose in the corner as the USA chant breaks out. Davenport hits a weird looking missile dropkick on Satomura but she's right back with Scorpion Rising. Rose hits a double running knee though and pins Davenport to unify the titles at 13:28.

Rating: C+. This was more or less between Davenport and Rose as Satomura winning never felt like it was in the cards. Rose

has become something of a monster around here, though she is going to need a fresh challenger. Odds are it's going to be Nikita Lyons and that is a good enough idea, as I don't know if I can imagine Satomura sticking around. Either way, Rose plays her role well, as she might not be the best, but no one is stopping her and that lets her get more and more condescending each week.

Alba Fyre is still ready for Lash Legend.

We see the Axiom/Nathan Frazer segment from NXT. They'll meet on Tuesday.

Wes Lee isn't worried about the weird JD McDonagh.

Women's Tag Team Titles: Doudrop/Nikki Ash vs. Kayden Carter/Katana Chance

Carter and Chance are defending. Carter takes over on Ash to start and a running dropkick in the corner gives Chance one. Doudrop comes in to flatten Chance and dance a bit before flattening the champs again. Nikki comes in and ties Chance up in the ring skirt to hammer away. The chinlock doesn't last long inside but Doudrop is back in with the big elbow. A missed charge hits post though and it's Carter coming in to pick up the pace.

Ash tornado DDTs Carter to cut her off too and a double neckbreaker gives Doudrop two. A Samoan drop/neckbreaker combination hits Carter so Chance has to make her own save. Doudrop takes Carter up top but here is Toxic Attraction for a distraction. Ash goes after them, leaving Carter/Chance to hit a neckbreaker/450 combination to beat Doudrop at 10:23.

Rating: C. This was always going to be the weak match on the card and I don't think they bothered trying to hide it. Doudrop and Ash have been treated as losers on the main roster so having them come down here and win the NXT titles didn't make sense. Chance and Carter aren't great champions but

giving them a win over two bigger names is a good way to give them a boost. And now we have Toxic Attraction doing something so at least there is a path forward from here.

Dyad talks to Grayson Waller, who doesn't want their button. Waller walks away from them and talks about how his mom yelled at him for poking Apollo Crews in the eye. For once, he was speechless but his mom can kiss his a**.

We recap Tyler Bate vs. Bron Breaker for the NXT United Kingdom/NXT Title. It's a showdown to unify the titles so one man can be left standing.

NXT Title/NXT United Kingdom Title: Bron Breaker vs. Tyler Bate

Winner take all and the fans are behind Bate to start. Breaker works on a headlock but has to fight out of a Tyler Driver 97. They collide into stereo nip ups and that's a staredown. Bate picks up the pace and jumps over Breaker before shoving him into the corner, where Breaker gives him a stare.

Breaker grabs a delayed vertical suplex and hits a standing moonsault for two. We hit the front facelock for a bit before Breaker is sent outside. That means the big no hands dive but Breaker is right back with a powerslam back inside. Breaker drives him outside again but Bate suplexes him down back inside.

The running shooting star press gives Bate two and a bit of frustration is setting in. Breaker gets in a shot of his own and jumps up top for something close to a Steiner Bulldog. A suplex into a powerbomb gets two on Bate and they fight it out from the mat. Bop and Bang is countered into a Fujiwara armbars, which is countered into the airplane spin to give Bate two.

There's the rebound lariat for two and Bate manages a Tyler

Driver 97 for two, leaving them both down. It's Breakker's turn with the gorilla press powerslam for two, as Breakker goes to the rope. The spear is cut off with a boot to the face and Bop and Bang makes it worse. Another Tyler Driver 97 is blocked so Bate tries the rebound lariat, only to have Breakker spear him down for the pin at 17:17.

Rating: B. The last few minutes picked up a lot, but this never hit that high gear that I was expecting. Granted a lot of that is in the story, as there was nothing personal here and that took away the emotion that a match like this needs. What matters here is giving us a big Breakker win as his legend continues to rise. Bate will be fine, as I'm assuming he sticks around NXT as one of the other big projects.

Bate presents the titles to Breakker and respect is shown to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. Much like the main event, the show was good but there was nothing that took it to the next level. Pretty Deadly winning was a surprise, but other than that they went about as by the predicted book as you could have. This show was good enough for a two hour and fifteen minute watch, though it probably isn't a must see show. NXT UK did at least go out on a high enough note though and I'll take that over just letting it die. More than adequate show here, but don't go out of your way to see it.

Results

Carmelo Hayes b. Ricochet – Small package

Pretty Deadly b. Gallus, Creed Brothers and Brooks Jensen/Josh Briggs last eliminating Creed Brothers

Mandy Rose b. Blair Davenport and Meiko Satomura – Kiss of the Rose to Davenport

Katana Chance/Kayden Carter b. Nikki Ash/Doudrop – 450/neckbreaker combination to Doudrop

Bron Breakker b. Tyler Bate – Spear

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NXT Worlds Collide Preview

This is a unique kind of show as it is going to be the big finale for NXT UK, which has been all but done for a very long time now. It is nice to have a show that actually seems to make it matter again though and I could go for seeing what they have in mind. There almost has to be at least one NXT UK star to leave with a title and there are a few options to make that work. Let's get to it.

NXT Women's Tag Team Titles: Katana Chance/Kayden Carter(c) vs. Doudrop/Nikki Ash

This was a match set up with a surprise return from Doudrop/Ash, who have lost all kinds of matches on the main roster so this is the best thing that they could do. For once I'm not being sarcastic there, as there is a good chance that

they will actually be treated as something seriously in NXT. Then again there is only so much that you can get out of Doudrop/Ash, but I'll take what I can get.

The champs retain here, as there is no reason to believe that Doudrop and Ash, who have been treated as major total failures on the main roster. Chance and Carter need to be built up as champions, especially when they didn't beat the previous titleholders. The team will be fine by building them up with some wins, including some wrestlers who are on the main roster (despite how little they do there).

North American Title: Carmelo Hayes(c) vs. Ricochet

Now we have a returning star getting a shot at a title that he held during his time in NXT. That isn't a bad way to go and Ricochet even sounded decent on the microphone while the match was set up. What matters here though is that Hayes is going to be made to look good against someone as talented as Ricochet, which is why you bring him in for this spot in the first place.

It should be a good match but there is no reason to believe that Hayes is losing so we'll say he retains. Hayes is someone who has become a big star in NXT because he is one of the more consistent names around. I'm curious to see how well this goes and Hayes can keep up with Ricochet so they should be in for a heck of a match. It's a good way to go and this has a lot of potential.

NXT Tag Team Titles/NXT UK Tag Team Titles: Creed Brothers(c) vs. Brooks Jensen/Josh Briggs(c) vs. Pretty Deadly vs. Gallus

This is the first of three title unification matches and that means we have some options. To make it even better, we are going with elimination rules, meaning that while there are going to be a lot of people in the ring for even longer, there aren't going to be champions who stole a pin to leave with all of the belts. I can always go with that more and it is making

me happier with this match.

I'll go with...dang I this I'll take the Creeds to win the whole thing, even if I really want to say Gallus. Pretty Deadly isn't likely to win the titles back and Jensen/Briggs have felt like a filler team since they won the titles. This is a match that will give the show the chaotic feeling that it has been needing and it is a good way to build up the Creeds (or Gallus) and that makes a lot of sense.

NXT Women's Title/NXT UK Women's Title: Mandy Rose(c) vs. Meiko Satomura(c) vs. Blair Davenport

I certainly wouldn't consider this a dream match but it is a match with multiple possibilities. The biggest thing here is that Satomura does not seem likely to take the titles. While I can't imagine she is there to give up the fall, there is little reason to have her win either. Satomura is a legend but she has served her main purpose as champion already. That leaves us with two options, neither of which is that thrilling.

I think I'll take Rose winning here, as NXT is trying desperately to make her into as big of a deal as possible. Nikkita Lyons still seems to be the most likely candidate to take the title from her and that means she needs to keep her belt here. Davenport might be there to take Scorpion Rising so Rose can steal the pin, but either way I'll go with Rose retaining here after probably the weakest match on the show.

NXT Title/NXT United Kingdom Title: Bron Breaker(c) vs. Tyler Bate(c)

This is an interesting way to go for Breaker as it is much more about competition/the title rather than something personal. That isn't something he has done very often and it should be interesting to see how he does. Breaker is someone who can do all of the physical stuff (minus some hiccups here and there) and Bate is already an established star, so this

should be a heck of a fight.

As much as I would be interested in Bate becoming the champion and getting the biggest win of his career, there is no reason to believe that Breakker is losing here. Breakker is the future of NXT (if not WWE) and giving him another win over an established star is the smartest way to go. Breakker wins here, and he does it after another classic from Bate, who is near the top of WWE when he is on his game under the bright lights.

Overall Thoughts

The go home show made me a lot more interested in this show than I would have been otherwise and that is where I am a few days out. What matters is giving us a bunch of good matches to establish the former NXT UK stars as big deals around here. That is going to be easier said than done, but they have made me interested in a show I didn't care to see, so well done in continuing an NXT tradition, even as another ends.

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Worlds Collide Preview



IMG Credit: WWE

Leave it to NXT to make it work. A few months back, it was announced that we would not be having a Takeover during Royal Rumble weekend. Instead we were getting a Worlds Collide special, which didn't exactly have people excited. The previous editions hadn't been anything interesting, but this one was different. This time we're getting NXT vs. NXT UK, which hasn't been done before. As luck would have it, NXT UK is on a roll at this point and it should be a blast as a result. Let's get to it.

Kickoff Show: Kay Lee Ray vs. Mia Yim

This is non-title and that's a good thing as I don't have to worry about Yim winning a title. I'm not sure what it is about her but something has fallen way down with her and it's almost impossible to make myself care about what she does. Ray hasn't blown me away as champion yet either, but she can do more interesting things than Yim so far.

As for the match, I'll go with Ray as well, since I just can't imagine them having a champion lose in a non-title match without some surprise plan to make a surprise turn into Yim in NXT UK. The match should be a fine way to warm up the crowd (note to WWE: ONE Kickoff Show match can do that very well) but it isn't something that I'm exactly excited to see in the

first place.

DIY vs. Moustache Mountain

And we have a dream match that you never knew you needed to see. DIY is one of the best tag teams that NXT has ever seen and Moustache Mountain is the biggest tag team that NXT UK has ever seen. We could be in for a match of the year candidate here and that's only if they're having an off night. I know DIY might not be at their peaks but sweet goodness we could be in for an awesome one here.

I'll take DIY, who have said that this is just a one off reunion, but I think you know where they're heading at Takeover, likely over Wrestlemania weekend. Moustache Mountain is going to be tearing the house down too though and I'm drooling over the idea of the false finishes that Gargano and Bate could have. Throw in Ciampa and my goodness this could be something incredible. But yeah DIY wins here.

Finn Balor vs. Ilja Dragunov

The more I think about this one, the more interested I am in seeing these guys beat the fire out of each other. Balor is a star and Dragunov has more raw intensity than anyone I've seen in a long time (never look into his eyes). This one doesn't need to be that long as they're going to beat the fire out of each other, though I'm not entirely sure which way they're going to go.

As much as I want to say Dragunov wins in an upset here, I can't go against Balor, not when he's primed for a match against Gargano at Takeover. Dragunov is the kind of guy who can come back from a loss in the blink of an eye but he's not ready to beat someone the caliber of Balor. The upset wouldn't shock me here, but I just can't go with Dragunov in this spot.

Cruiserweight Title: Angel Garza(c) vs. Jordan Devlin vs. Isaiah Scott vs. Travis Banks

This is one of those matches where you could see several possible outcomes. Garza is such a ball of charisma who can do all kinds of things in the ring (though I'm still not wild on his finisher) but the other three are all serious threats. That's how you can tell there's a good match to be had here: you really could see any of the four walking out as champion, which isn't something that happens very often.

I'll go with Garza to retain here, though much like so many other matches on this show, I could see it going multiple ways. Someone taking the title over to the UK wouldn't be a bad idea as it isn't doing anything in NXT at the moment, but odds are it stays down in Florida, where there are several challengers ready to come after it. Then again that's the same in the UK so I'll move on before I change my mind again.

NXT Women's Title: Rhea Ripley vs. Toni Storm

These two are turning into a thing and that's great for everyone involved. The two of them work well together and while Ripley has turned into the big star on the bigger stage, Storm has had her number more often than not, which gives the match a good story. We already know they can make the action work, so going with the story that makes sense is what matters in the end.

While I expect Storm to come over to NXT full time (assuming she wants to), this is Ripley's to win. There's no need to give Storm another win over her and Ripley has become a major star in a hurry down in NXT. Given that she already has a title defense set up for next month in Portland, it would be very out of the NXT nature to have her lose here. Ripley wins to even the feud.

Imperium vs. Undisputed Era

Back on the August 21, 2019 episode of NXT, the Undisputed Era stood on the stage where Adam Cole mentioned NXT UK. There was nothing I wanted to see more than Imperium come out, just for

the sake of seeing Cole's head explode at the thought of what he had gotten himself into. Well, since NXT is awesome, that's what we're getting now and it's going to be great.

I'm going with Imperium getting the win here, as they get to make up for part of losing the overall competition to NXT. Imperium is one of the coolest things going in WWE today and giving them the big win like this should be a great step up for them. You can even have Roderick Strong take the fall without a champion getting pinned. What more could you ask for than that in a situation like this? These guys are going to tear the house down and it's going to be outstanding in a modern dream match that I've known I've wanted to see for a long time now.

Overall Thoughts

When did this turn into such a great looking card? This thing is absolutely stacked and blows away a lot of recent WWE shows. I'm actually looking forward to this one and have every confidence that they're going to blow us away. You have multiple matches on here that could show up on a lot of lists near the end of the year and that doesn't happen every day. This is going to rock and I'm really excited for it.

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Worlds Collide: Battle Royals: All Those People In Search Of Something To Do



IMG Credit: WWE

Worlds Collide: Battle Royals

Date: May 1, 2019

Location: Pier 12, New York City, New York

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Percy Watson

Yes it's a fourth one of these things and no I don't get it either. As the name suggests, we're looking at a pair of battle royals here (one for the men and one for the women) with almost everyone from the previous three shows plus a few bonus entrants. Your guess is as good as mine as to why we need to see this nearly a month after Wrestlemania. Let's get to it.

The audio commentary is really low here for some reason.

Women's Battle Royal

Bianca Belair, Taynara Conti, Kacy Catanzaro, Deonna Purrazzo, Io Shirai, Marina Shafir, Jessamyn Duke, Jesse, Lacey Lane, Xia Li, Kavita Devi, Kay

Lee Ray, Mia Yim, Piper Niven, Reina Gonzalez, Vanessa Borne, Aliyah, Toni Storm

Everyone gets an entrance, which I'll certainly take over having to go through all the entrance in a big group shot. We start the same way most battle royals start, with a variety of teased eliminations and people saving themselves. Lane tries a double springboard due to reasons of not seeming that bright and gets kicked out, as she should be. Shafir and Duke get together again to eliminate Jesse and it's back to more brawling on the ropes.

Niven dumps Ray, who seems to swear revenge. Conti gets knocked off the top but hangs onto the post and gets back in for this match's Kofi Kingston save. Purrazzo gets rid of Li and Kacy does a crazy handstand on the top into a headscissors on Reina, who forearms her out a second later. Shirai tosses Purrazzo as the ring is starting to clear a lot. Gonzalez and Storm slug it out as Niven drops Conti with a hard forearm.

Devi and Gonzalez do the hoss fight with Devi getting kicked out. Almost everyone but Gonzalez is down for a bit until Niven and Storm get together, only to fail to eliminated Conti. Shafir accidentally knocks Duke out and then intentionally tosses Yim. Shirai sends Conti to the apron and dropkicks her out as the field is clearing out a lot. Belair forearms Shafir out and we're down to Belair, Storm, Shirai, Aliyah, Niven, Gonzalez and Borne.

Niven Hulks Up on Borne and Aliyah but misses a charge and gets tossed. Excessive celebration lets Shirai and Storm get rid of Borne and Aliyah and we're down to four. Niven chases the two of them out as Belair and Gonzalez's alliance lasts all of fourteen seconds. Gonzalez sends Belair and Storm into the same corner for shoulders to the ribs. Shirai sends Gonzalez to the apron and forearms her out to get us down to three.

Belair fireman's carries Storm and swings her into Shirai before dumping her out. We're down to Belair vs. Shirai with a hard forearm knocking Shirai down. A headscissors sends both of them to the apron but Belair slides back in and avoids a springboard dropkick. The gorilla press toss eliminates Shirai to give Belair the win at 18:27.

Rating: D+. Well that was long. Belair winning is fine, though it doesn't make her any better or fix any of the problems that have held her back so far. There isn't much to say about something like this because it's a bunch of standing around until the finish, which is always the case in battle royals. Gonzalez and Conti looked good here, but they're more people who aren't getting much of a chance anywhere.

Men's Battle Royal

Ariya Daivari, Brian Kendrick, Dave Mastiff, Drew Gulak, Fabian Aichner, Eric Bugenhagen, Humberto Carrillo, Joe Coffey, Mark Coffey, Dominik Dijakovic, Liger, Matt Riddle, Rinku Singh, Saurav Gurjar, Roderick Strong, Wesley Blake, Steve Cutler, Akira Tozawa, Travis Banks, Tyler Bate

It's a brawl to start with Bugenhagen and Riddle heading outside for a jam session which makes way more sense than it should. Back in and it's another standard battle royal opening as we wait on the ring to clear out a bit. Dijakovic sends Aichner to the apron and superkicks him out, followed by a toss to get rid of Tozawa. High levels of confidence allow Dijakovic to stop and pose, meaning it's a group beatdown but so many split off that Dijakovic is able to shove everyone else away.

The cyclone boot eliminates Carrillo and Bugenhagen tosses Daivari for excessive jamming. Gurjar dumps Bugenhagen and you can feel the energy go out of the arena. The Forgotten Sons gets together to eliminate Liger and Kendrick saves Gulak for no logical reason. There goes Banks as the ring is still rather full. Gulak and Riddle grapple on the mat and wind up on the apron but come back in after realizing they're wasting their time. Mark Coffey is out and Riddle gives Dijakovic a GTS for another elimination.

Mastiff eliminates Gulak and Cutler but Kendrick (still in the leather jacket) saves himself. Riddle and Mastiff chop it out and Gurjar gets rid of Singh. Kendrick eliminates Blake but tries Sliced Bread on Coffey, earning himself his own elimination. We're down to Riddle, Joe Coffey, Mastiff, Strong, Bate and Gurjar. Riddle unloads on Mastiff in the corner and knees him out but the backsplash hits Coffey's knees.

Bate hits the rebound lariat to get rid of Coffey and it's a four way staredown. Gurjar fights off all three of them with a good side slam planting Riddle. That's enough to send Riddle to the apron and a big boot gets rid of him in a heck of an upset. Bate uses raw strength to get rid of Gurjar and the fans are very appreciative. Strong and Bate slug it out with Bate hitting an exploder suplex into the nip up. The Tyler Driver 97 is countered into a jumping knee to the face so Bate comes right back with the airplane spin.

That's not enough for an elimination either so they chop it out with a hard one from Strong knocking him down. A running clothesline puts Strong on the apron but a few more knees let him get back in. More chops don't get Strong very far as Bate sends him to the apron and blasts him with a dropkick...for no elimination. Strong pulls him to the apron as well and posts Bate, who comes right back with the head fake left hand. They make it back in and strike it out again until Strong sends him to the apron. Bate hits a forearm and tries a springboard but gets dropkicked out to the floor to give Strong the win at 19:30.

Rating: C+. The ending sequence alone made it better than the first match but this was another example of a long match with very little going on until we got to the finish. There were so many people in there until the ending and while the final grouping was pretty strong, there is only so much you can get out of waiting around to get there for half of the match.

Overall Rating: C-. The show was fine, though spending the better part of twenty minutes on entrances alone was kind of a stretch. The biggest thing I got from this was how many people WWE has down in developmental who aren't likely to get a major push ever. Can you picture the Coffeys on the main roster? Or Xia Li?

They're talented, but WWE would pick a lot of others before them and it's just bloating the roster more and more. NXT UK has helped, but there are so many people under the WWE banner that they can run shows like this and still have a ton of roster members left over. That's probably not good, but neither is running these four shows for the sake of adding content to the Network. We can have this but not Legends With JBL or Royal Rumble

Rewind or more round table shows? Anyway, not bad, but really don't waste your time.

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**Worlds Collide: Women
Collide: All These Collisions
Can't Be Good For Their
Health**



IMG Credit: WWE

Worlds Collide: Women Collide

Date: April 24, 2019

Location: Pier 12, New York City, New York

Commentators: Aiden English, Vic Joseph, Mia Yim

This is the last (I think) entry in the series of Axxess events, because that's something that needed to see the light of day because reasons. The idea here is pretty simple with a bunch of matches between women of different brands. I'm not sure what to expect here as the matches have been mostly good, but this was taped the day after Wrestlemania. Let's get to it.

Announcers' preview.

Candice LeRae vs. Kay Lee Ray

Kay starts in on the arm but Candice gets in a nifty spinning reversal. A headlock takeover works a bit better until Kay headscissors her way out of trouble. Some rollups give Candice two each but she's snapmared down into a rolling kick to the head to give Kay two of her own. Candice is right back with a Black Widow, sending Kay stumbling into the ropes.

Back to back to back dives take Kay down for two but the Lionsault misses. Kay gets caught on the middle rope and a super German suplex gives Candice two. A springboard is broken up with a superkick to the back but Candice is right back with a reverse hurricanrana. Now the Lionsault can connect for the pin at 8:25.

Rating: B. Heck of a match here with Candice looking awesome and Kay more than holding up her end. Candice was working hard to keep up with the more polished Kay and that worked perfectly well. I liked this more than I was expecting to so we'll call this a rather pleasant surprise to start.

Piper Niven vs. Zelina Vega

This better be a squash. Niven towers over Vega and easily shoves her down but gets drop toehold into the middle buckle. Choking over the ropes works a bit better for Vega and a missed charge keeps Piper in trouble. Vega manages a tornado DDT to cut off a comeback as this is WAY too much from Vega so far.

A Dragon Sleeper goes on until Piper realizes that she's twice Vega's size. The hold is broken up with a toss and the seated crossbody crushes Vega again. The Vader Bomb misses and Vega gets in a Codebreaker. The delayed cover (since Vega can't pull her) gets two but Vega's moonsault misses. A scoop sitout brainbuster finishes Vega at 4:58.

Rating: D-. Nope. I did not buy the idea of Vega getting in this kind of offense whatsoever and the match really suffered as a result. I'm assuming Vega got in this much offense because she's on the main roster, but she's wrestled what, three matches there? This went beyond the point of being believable and it really didn't work.

Io Shirai vs. Sonya Deville

Mia doesn't think much of someone coming from the Octagon to the ring because Sonya's attitude isn't enough of a reason to boo her. Shirai starts flipping around and hits a few ax handles but Sonya pulls her hard off the ropes to take over. Sonya gets serious by putting her hair up and kicking away in the corner for two.

The bodyscissors goes on with Sonya slapping the head and ribs a bit for a bonus. The fingers get bent backwards as Yim goes on another anti-MMA rant. Sonya hits a chop and Mia asks if that was necessary. Some elbows to the face as Mia now loves the idea of Worlds Collide because different parts of WWE come together. So to clarify: as long as it's all WWE with

wrestling backgrounds, we're cool. Got it, I think.

The fans are split as Sonya grabs the chinlock, which doesn't last long as usual. Sonya misses an enziguri and Io's missile dropkick gets two (with Aiden calling Sonya a former MMA artist, or a mixed martial artist artist, as said by the Artist). Now the enziguri connects to give Sonya two and a running double leg takedown (just call it a spear) finishes Shirai at 8:22.

Rating: C. Another good but not great match with the biggest point being Mia's rather strange rant against MMA. Sonya winning is rather odd as well, as Shirai is probably going to go after the Women's Title soon while Sonya is little more than Mandy Rose's muscle. It's not completely unrealistic, but it's not what I would have done.

NXT UK Women's Title: Toni Storm vs. Nikki Cross vs. Bianca Belair

Toni is defending and we get Big Match Intros. Nikki goes right at Bianca to start but gets caught in a fall away slam. That gives us Bianca vs. Toni in a showdown that I don't think many people actually wanted. Toni easily spins out of a wristlock and takes Bianca down but here's Nikki to chop in the corner. Nikki ties Belair up in the ring skirt and hammers away yet still manages to stop a charge from Toni. Now both of them are tied up in the skirt so Nikki can forearm and scream a lot.

Back in and a high crossbody gets two on Toni so Belair throws Nikki outside. That doesn't last long as Nikki is back in for a three way knockdown. Toni is up first with the running hip attacks in the corner but Belair spears both of them down. The KOD hits Nikki with Toni diving in for the save. The hair whip puts Toni in the corner but Bianca goes shoulder first into the post. Cross is back in with the reverse DDT to Toni and Belair is sent outside. That leaves Cross to take Storm Zero to retain Toni's title at 7:29.

Rating: B-. They packed a lot in there, even in a match where the ending wasn't exactly in doubt. Toni is way better than her years, Cross is still great even though she doesn't seem as insane as she used to be and Belair...well she didn't talk here and that helped a lot. She has the athleticism but needs a lot of work in the everything else department.

Still though, it's a good idea to have her in something like this because her reputation alone made her a threat.

Overall Rating: C+. Another pretty good but completely skippable show in a series of them. I like the Worlds Collide concept but there are some things that you just don't need to film. It's fine if I don't get to see the matches from Axxess and while the shows weren't bad, they're nothing that is going to stick with me. Well maybe other than Mia being ultra serious about everything and her weird hatred of mixed martial artist (artists) getting into wrestling. Seriously what was that?

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Worlds Collide:
Cruiserweights Collide: Do

They Make A Smaller Sound When They Collide?



IMG Credit: WWE

Worlds Collide: Cruiserweights Collide

Date: April 17, 2019

Location: Pier 12, New York City, New York

Commentators: Aiden English, Tom Phillips

In case the last one's name wasn't obvious enough for you. This time is more of an international flavor though with wrestlers from NXT UK and 205 Live facing off in a series of matches. There is always some potential there and if the matches are given some time, we could be in for a fun show. Let's get to it.

The announcers give us a quick preview.

Tyler Bate vs. Brian Kendrick

During the entrances, we get a cool photo of Bate when he was about fifteen, meeting Kendrick at an indy show in England. Naturally there's a handshake before the bell and Kendrick thinks the BIG STRONG BOY chants are for him. A BRIAN KENDRICK chant is a little more clear as they lock up to start. Bate easily gets the better of a test of strength and Kendrick seems like he wants to try something else.

The hammerlock (Kendrick: "HA HA!") works a bit better until Bate bounces

up and down, picks up his own foot, and puts it on Kendrick's arm for the escape. How British of him. Kendrick uses the more traditional rope break to get out of a hammerlock and tries a headlock. That means a flipping escape and right hands for the first real show of aggression. The power sends Kendrick outside, where he asks a fan why he wasn't informed of Bate being a big strong boy.

Back in and Kendrick pokes him in the eye, which makes the referee think the match shouldn't continue. They keep going though and Kendrick tries it again, only to have Bate block this attempt and get in an eye poke of his own. Back up and another pair of eye pokes are blocked so Bate punches him in the face instead. The referee actually yells about the punch though, allowing Kendrick to knock Bate to the floor. The USA vs. UK chants begin as Bate is holding the back of his head after a hard shot. Kendrick sends him head first into the buckle and it's off to a double arm crank.

Since Kendrick is a veteran, he gets a USA chant going again to make sure the fans don't get too bored. A neckbreaker gets two but Bate Hulks Up and snaps off a rather un-Hulk like hurricanrana. The running shooting star gets two and a backslide is good for the same. Kendrick is staggered but manages to snap on the Captain's Hook in the middle of the ring. You don't use a hold on a guy as strong as Bate, who powers him up into the airplane spin. The rolling Liger kick drops Kendrick again and the Tyler Driver 97 finishes Kendrick at 13:57.

Rating: B-. This took some time to get going but they built it up into something good by the end. Kendrick can still go in the ring every single time and he helped Bate have a good match. Bate is awesome, and the more than he gets to spend time in the ring with veterans who work a different style like this, the better he's going to be.

Flash Morgan Webster/Mark Andrews vs. Ariya Daivari/Mike Kanellis

No Maria with Mike, lowering his interest level by at least 73%. Mike does however get a rather strong chant before the match and the fans are very pleased when he starts against Andrews. And like someone who knows what he's doing, he hands it off to Daivari to really start instead.

Another tag continues the stalling as there's no contact in the first minute. They finally lock up at about a minute and a half with Andrews snapping off some armdrags.

A hair pull takes him down though as the fans are completely behind Kanellis again. Andrews is right back up with an armbars but it's quickly off to Kanellis vs. Webster for a change. Webster grabs a drop toehold and it's a standing moonsault from Andrews with Webster adding a standing Swanton for two on Kanellis.

It's back to Daivari who has some luck by stomping Webster down in the corner, followed by a sliding boot from Kanellis for two. Daivari's hip swivel neckbreaker gets two as he and Kanellis are getting into a nice groove with the alternating beatings. The big boot gives Kanellis two and Daivari slaps on a chinlock. Webster finally gets in a clothesline and it's back to Andrews for a double crossbody.

The double stomp to the ribs sets up the standing moonsault to Daivari and Kanellis gets knocked down. An assisted 450 gets two more on Daivari and there are the stereo flip dives to the floor. Back in and Webster gets crotched on the top so Kanellis nails a Michinoku Driver. Kanellis superkicks Daivari by mistake though and Andrews hits the Stundog Millionaire. Webster's Swanton to the back finishes Kanellis at 13:06.

Rating: C+. This took some time to get into but it turned into a straight formula tag match with the time to set it up. That's something that is going to work every time, which is why it became the formula over the years. Webster has grown on me so much in recent weeks and his tagging with Andrews has been a big part of that. Nice match here.

Albert Hardie Jr. vs. Gran Metalik vs. Ligerro

Hardie is better known as ACH. Just to make sure he fits in, he even puts on an invisible mask as the feeling out process begins. Ligerro runs Hardie over but walks into an armdrag from Metalik. That means an early standoff as the fans seem to be behind Metalik so far. Ligerro gets kicked to the floor so Hardie can flip around a lot and send Metalik to the floor. Back in and Ligerro returns the kick to Hardie's face, meaning it's already time for Ligerro vs. Metalik. The latter's rope walk dropkick gets two but

Hardie is back in to kick Metalik's leg out.

Hardie slows things down with an abdominal stretch until he has to get rolled up to give Ligerero two. A big flip dive to the floor takes Metalik down and it's time to rip at Ligerero's mask to make Hardie a bit of a heel. It's back to the abdominal stretch as Hardie continues to be a little different.

Metalik is more of a traditionalist and superkicks Hardie in the face to break it up. The handspring back elbow drops Ligerero and Hardie and a suicide dive drops Hardie again. The Metalik Driver gets two on Hardie with Ligerero making the save. Ligerero's springboard Stunner drops Metalik and there's the big flip dive to take him down again. A bridging German suplex gives Hardie two on Metalik and a kick to the face sends Metalik outside. That leaves Ligerero to hit C4L to put Hardie away at 11:12.

Rating: C. This was a moves match as they went from one spot to another with nothing in the middle. I've never been a big ACH fan and a lot of the problem stems from this being his go to match: a bunch of very athletic stuff, minus anything to bridge it together. It's a perfectly watchable match, but it feels like something I've seen a dozen times.

Akira Tozawa vs. Jordan Devlin

Devlin starts slowly with some kicks to the leg so Tozawa takes him down for a stalemate. A hammerlock into a front facelock has Devlin in trouble so he reverses into a leglock as the grappling continues. With that not working, Tozawa kicks him in the face and drops the backsplash, setting up the hard corner stomps.

A backbreaker gets Devlin out of trouble and he kicks Tozawa in the back to make it worse. The release Rock Bottom into the standing moonsault (onto Tozawa's side) gets two and it's off to a waistlock. That's broken up with elbows to the face and a knee to the face drops Devlin again. Devlin is smart enough to roll away from the top rope backsplash so Tozawa hits a suicide dive instead.

The Black Widow makes Devlin scream but Tozawa is no AJ Lee so it's not quite enough. Tozawa wins a slugout until an exchange of kicks to the

head puts both guys down. Devlin is up first but the slingshot cutter is countered into a bridging German suplex for two. The top rope backsplash hits knees though and Devlin's pull up Saito suplex finishes Tozawa at 13:08.

Rating: B-. Another good match here as Devlin has found his groove and become one of the best things about whatever show he's on anymore. Tozawa was his usual entertaining self as his charisma and work are more than enough to carry him in any match. Devlin seems destined to be a star though and that's a good sign for NXT UK's future.

Overall Rating: B. Pretty solid show here, even if it's nothing that you need to see and nothing I'm going to remember in about a day. That's the problem with these shows: they feel like they're just content for the sake of content and that's not the most thrilling thing in the world. Check this one out though as it's four rather good (at worst completely watchable) matches in front of an energized crowd.

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Worlds Collide: NXT vs. NXT Alumni: As Long As WWE Doesn't Hear About It



IMG Credit: WWE

Worlds Collide: NXT vs. NXT Alumni

Date: April 14, 2019

Location: Pier 12, New York City, New York

Commentators: Byron Saxton, Percy Watson

So you might remember the When Worlds Collide tournament from over Royal Rumble weekend. Well now they're doing a series of one off shows with nothing on the line, though this time around we have some interesting concepts, such as this one with a pretty simple name. This could be entertaining or it could be rather boring so let's get to it.

The announcers run down most of the card.

Kassius Ohno vs. Aiden English

Yes English does still wrestle. The fans given Aiden an AIDEN DAY chant and Ohno congratulates him for getting a chant while being a commentator. That's too much for Aiden, who hammers away with right hands in the corner and a running elbow makes it worse. Ohno shoves him off the top to the floor though and follows Aiden outside for a right hand (Ohno: "OHNO

DAY!").

Back in and we hit the chinlock until Ohno switches to a double arm crank. Aiden fights up and reverses a neckbreaker into a falling DDT for two. The big running flip dive to the floor (When did Aiden learn to do that?) knocks Ohno down again and a backsplash gets two more back inside. Ohno isn't having any more of this and kicks Aiden in the face, setting up the Roaring elbow to the back of the head for the pin at 5:57.

Rating: C-. Ohno's shouting insults were a very nice addition here and they helped what was an otherwise dull match. There's only so much you can get out of Ohno vs. English as Ohno is a role player and English hasn't had much success outside of his Vaudevillain days in NXT. Not terrible, but the ending coming out of nowhere didn't help things.

Harper vs. Dominik Dijakovic

This is Harper's big return after his wrist injury. The fans welcome him back and it's Harper going straight at him for a lockup in the corner. After the clean break, they trade shots to the face with Harper's knocking Dijakovic outside. Back in and Dijakovic blocks a suplex attempt and nails the suplex toss in a great power display. More of the same gives Dijakovic two but Harper is right back with a DDT to put them both down.

A heck of a right hand lets Harper hit a slingshot hilo and a big boot gets two. The swinging Boss Man Slam gets the same but Harper goes up and gets chokeslammed back down. They slug it out on the apron and it's Harper neckbreaking him out to the floor in a crash. Back in and a half nelson suplex drops Dijakovic on his neck again but it's too early for the discus lariat. Dijakovic shouts DIE so Harper superkicks him, only to get kicked right back in the face to give Dijakovic two.

For some reason Dijakovic goes up top but gets German superplexed...so he flips onto his feet because he can. Another kick puts Harper on the floor for the Fosbury Flop (Dijakovic doesn't quite clear the rope but come on.) for two back inside. A top rope moonsault gets two more so Dijakovic picks him up by the beard (Fans: "NOT THE BEARD! NOT THE BEARD!"), which you just don't do. Harper isn't cool with that and blasts Dijakovic with

the discus lariat for the pin at 11:49.

Rating: B. And that's pretty much it for Harper, who asked for his release a few days later. At least he went out on a very good match between two big monsters, with both guys trading bombs until one of them couldn't get up. I had a good time with this one and that's all you can ask for from a hoss fight like this.

Post match respect is shown in a nice touch.

Sanity vs. Undisputed Era

Alexander Wolfe/Killian Dain (with Eric Young) vs. Kyle O'Reilly/Bobby Fish here. Fish and Wolfe start things off with Kyle going to his back and Wolfe waving down at him. A hiptoss lets Wolfe wave again and the threat of wild swinging sends O'Reilly bailing to the floor. Back in and Wolfe spins around and has a seat on the mat, freaking O'Reilly out enough that he bails over for a tag.

Dain comes in for the running crossbody on Fish and Wolfe drops a knee for two. O'Reilly tries his luck again and gets German suplexed down. He pops up with a roar...and then falls outside in a funny moment. With Fish yelling at Wolfe, O'Reilly sneaks back in and snaps Wolfe's leg around the post to take over. The slingshot hilo gets two but Wolfe grabs the rope to avoid a dropkick.

O'Reilly is sent outside and it's Dain coming in to clean house. The Samoan drop/fall away slam combination is as impressive as ever and a backsplash into the Vader Bomb gets two on O'Reilly. Fish's exploder gets two on Wolfe with Dain making the save. The Backstabber into the backsplash from Dain crushes Fish for two but O'Reilly comes in off a blind tag and chop blocks Dain. High/Low finishes Dain at 9:07.

Rating: C+. This didn't have anywhere near the heat you might have expected, though can you blame Sanity for not being all fired up here? They're almost on the same level as the Colons at this point and I don't see that getting any better. The match was entertaining enough though because of the talent in there, but not exactly must see.

Post match the Era goes after Dain again so Young comes in for the save.

Tyler Breeze vs. Roderick Strong

Feeling out process to start with Strong going to a wristlock. Breeze spins out and puts on a wristlock of his own before snapping off a dropkick to send Strong into the corner. A catapult makes it even worse for Strong but he's fine enough to knock Breeze off the top and out to the floor.

Back in and we hit the first backbreaker (you knew those were coming), setting up Strong putting his knee in Breeze's ribs and pulling on the neck. Strong's dropkick gets two and he mocks Breeze's picture taking abilities. It's off to another backbreaker, this time with Strong keeping Breeze over his knee. The chinlock with a knee in the back stays on the designated target before Strong mixes things up with a modified Gory Stretch.

With that broken up, Breeze is fine enough to hit an enziguri for a quick near fall. The Supermodel Kick gets two more and there's a crucifix for the third straight two. The Beauty Shot is countered into a backbreaker to give Strong two of his own and Breeze is in trouble again. Some kicks to the face get Breeze out of a Strong Hold attempt but he gets caught in the belly to back faceplant for two more. Back up and another backbreaker is countered into a quick Unprettier for the pin on Strong at 13:13.

Rating: B-. Good match here, which is the case every time Breeze is around NXT. You would think that this could mean he gets to go somewhere because he's capable of pulling it off, but WWE has decided that someone of Breeze's size, look and gimmick isn't going anywhere and that's a big problem with the whole brass ring concept. At least he can do things like this here though, and that's as good as it's getting for him at the moment.

Overall Rating: C+. Perfectly watchable yet also skippable show here, with the matches mostly working and the wrestling being pretty good at times. It's an interesting concept that could be done on a much bigger scale in the future, though I would be worried to see what kind of things would happen if WWE was actually paying attention to the idea.

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