

WWE NXT 12/2: War Table

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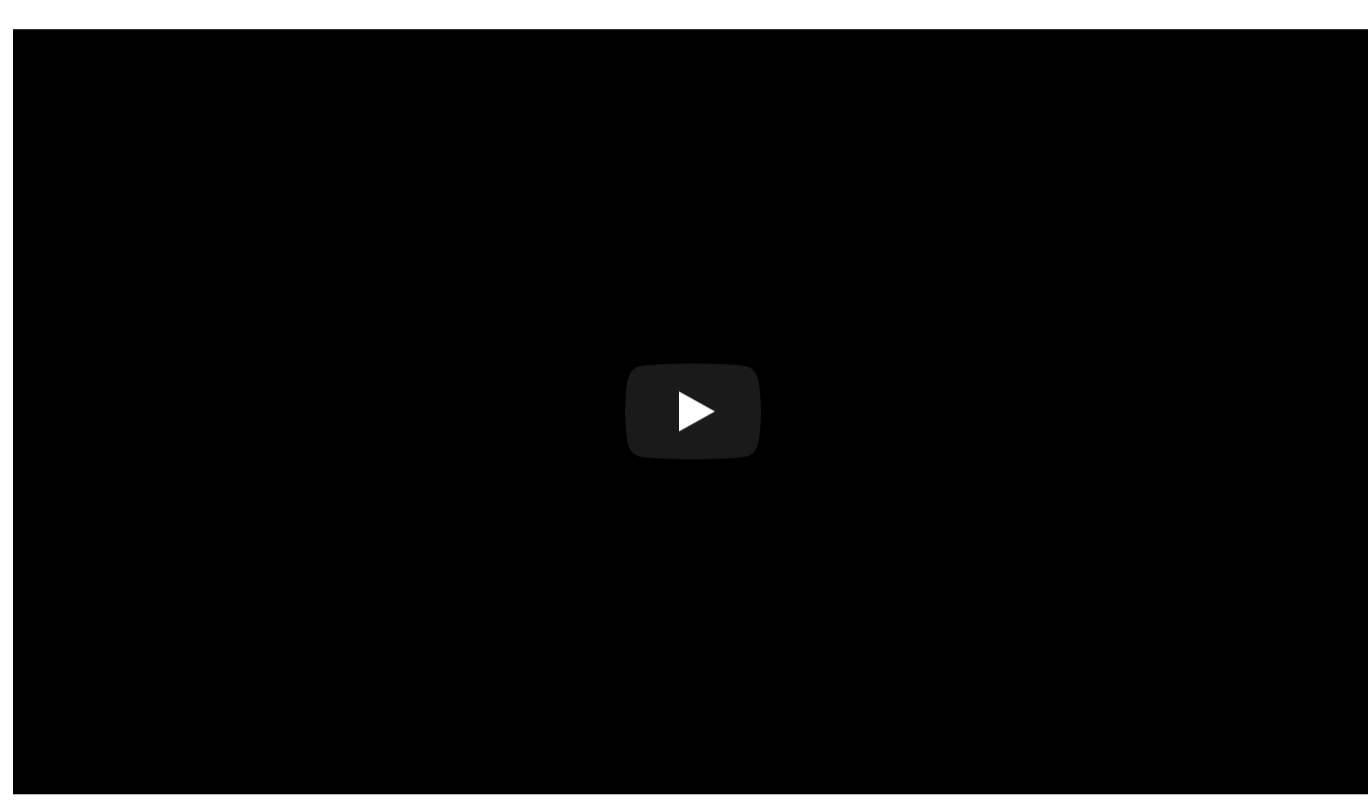


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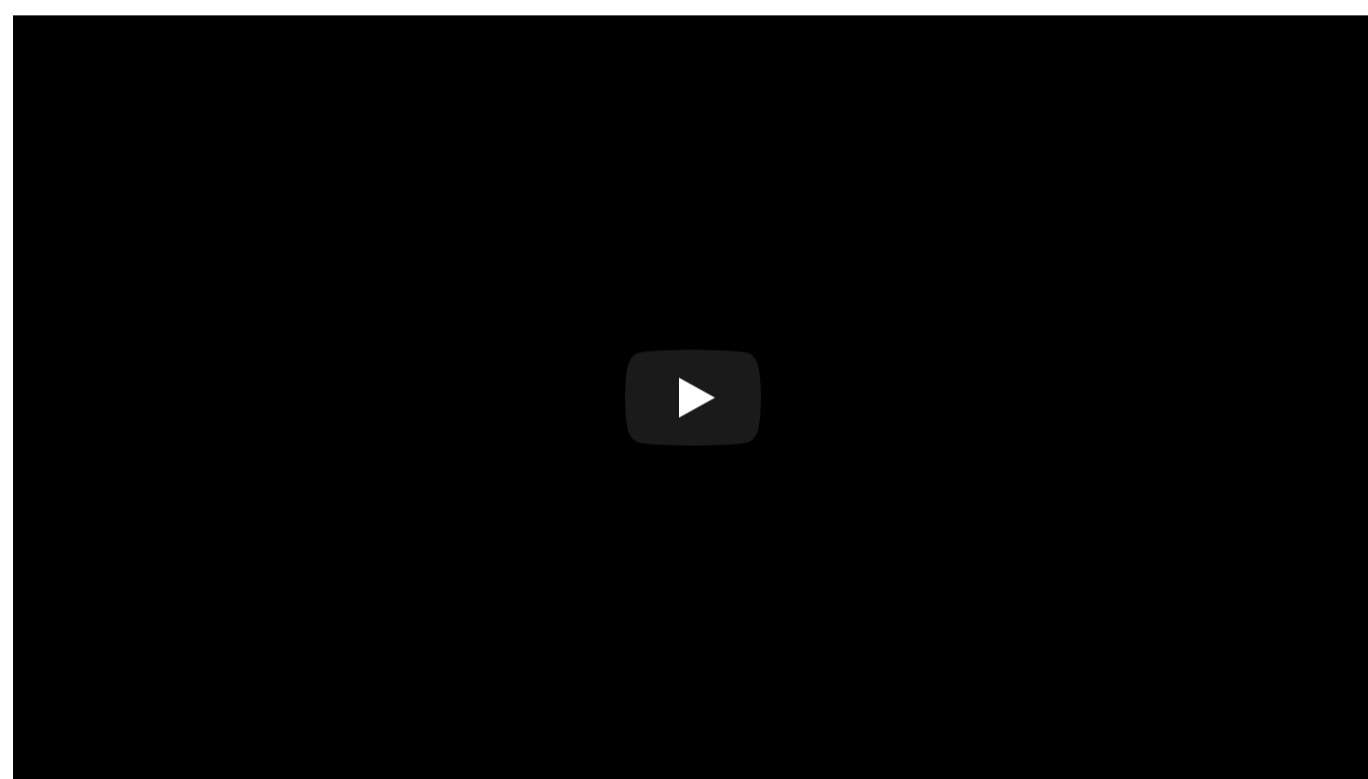
Season's greetings! We are at the precipice of the last big NXT event for the year. I didn't get a chance to say this before, but I'm glad that the WWE sprung to pay the money to use **Black Sabbath's** 'War Pigs.' I was as shocked as you are. Let's talk about this go-home show:

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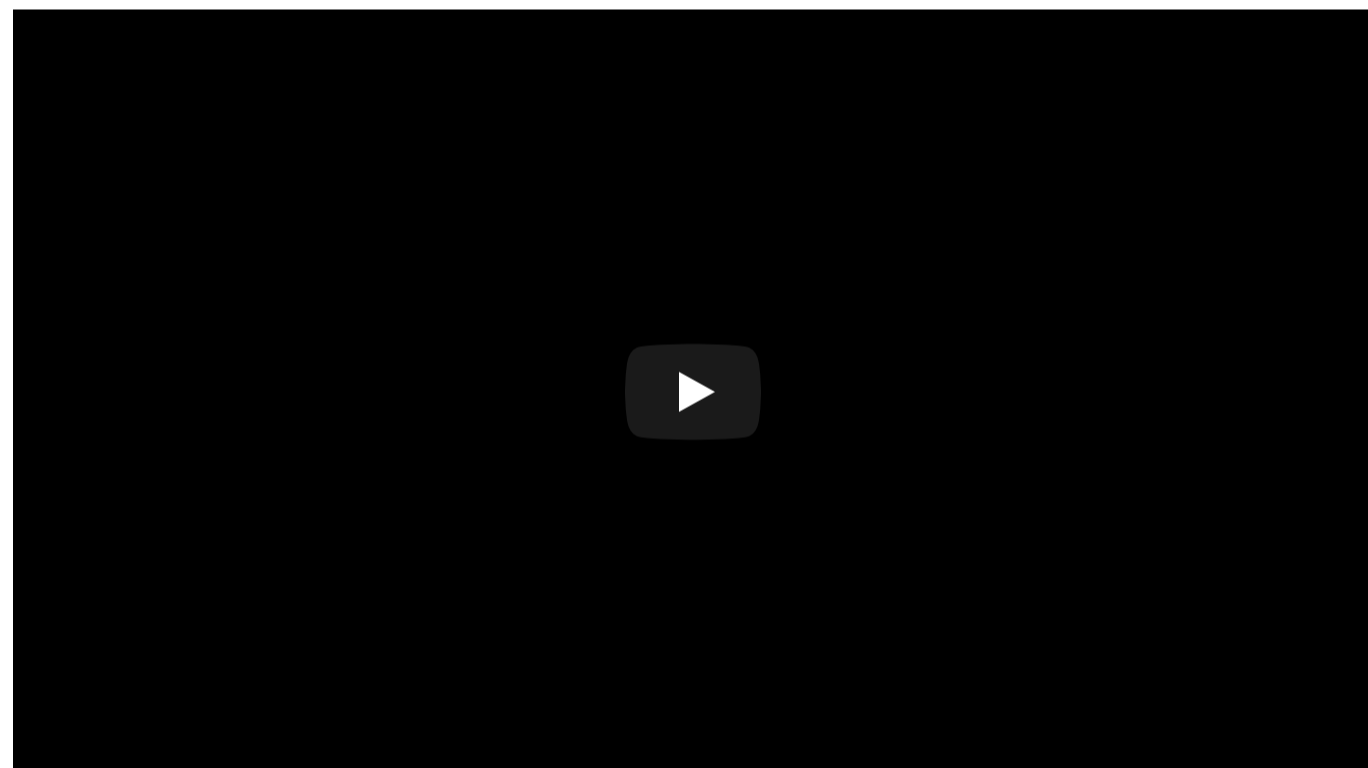
- When it comes to the actual War Games match itself, The Undisputed Era are the well-tested veterans of the NXT version itself. Having been in every single one and boasting a 2–1 record. Team McAfee is on a hot streak. Burch and Lorcan have the tag team belts. Pete Dunne won the advantage in the ladder match last week. Pat McAfee has done a great job at being the mouthpiece of the group. For the first time, The Undisputed Era are collectively in a vulnerable position for the first time in a while. That's why the group's face turn feels so fresh. It's wild that their almost four-year stay in NXT can still create ways for this group to thrive.



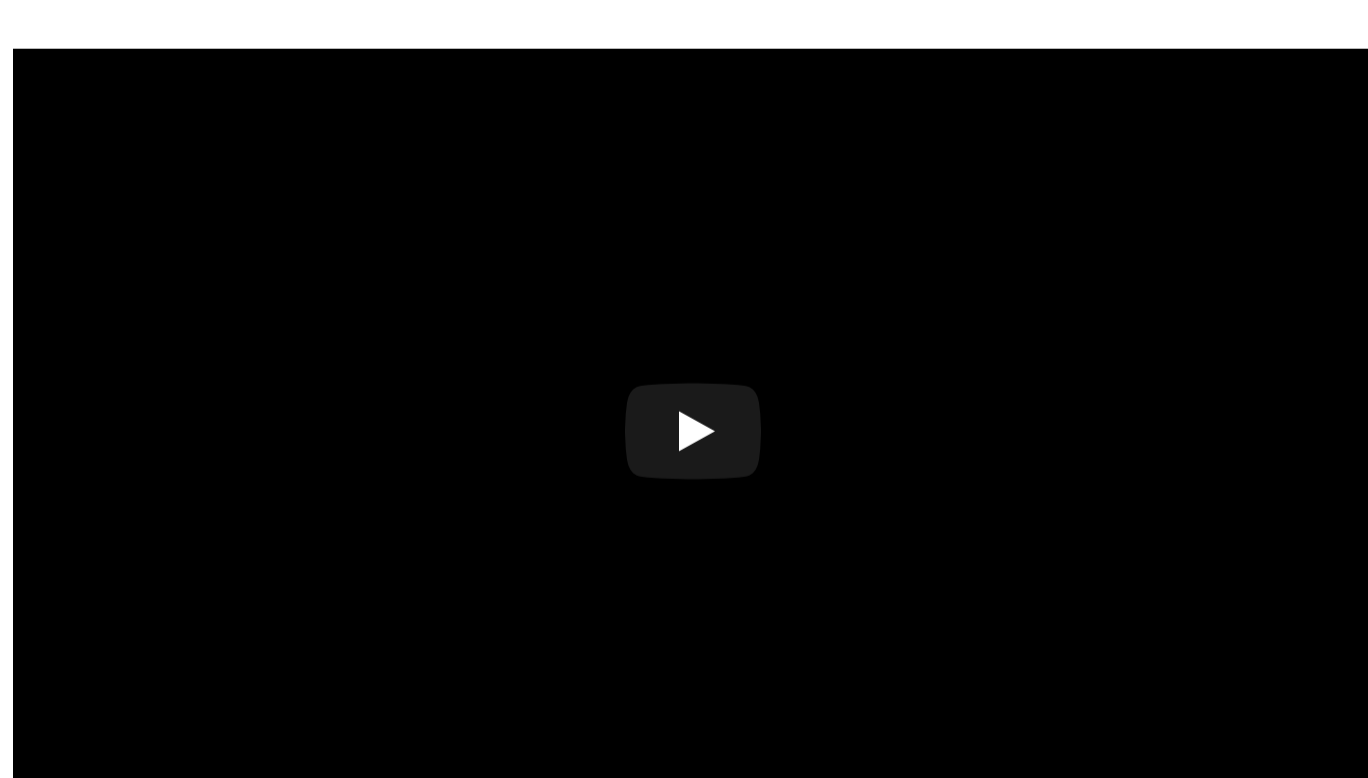
- On the flip side considering the Women's Wargames match, the face team has the advantage. This match has one of the best assortment of talent that NXT has seen as a collective thus far, plus a bunch of stories at play to make you invested. How is Toni Storm going to further assert her heel turn? How is the wildcard of Indi Hardwell going to impact the match? What are the surprises that Shotzi alluding to? Who is the person that is going to step up to challenge Io? Shotzi Blackheart vs. Raquel González was pretty good. Gonzalez was able to display her strength and Blackheart showed that she will do anything to get the upper hand. If there's a big spot with the ladder Sunday, I'm pointing her way to be in the center of it.



- Considering the tag match with Leon Ruff and Damian Priest, it was good that it was constructed as to Ruff wanting to prove himself. Priest took the brunt of the damage during the match and Ruff got the win. With the triple threat format, both Gargano and Priest are going to be there to help make Ruff look great. Johnny Gargano was there to play mind games — complete with two Ghostfaces (a nice nod to the two killers in the first *Scream*). Who are the men under the mask? One is probably Austin Theory. The other could be a toss-up (please don't let it be Dream)



- Well, look at the NXT Tag Team division. It's suddenly retooled and reloaded. Grizzled Young Veterans being mainstays of the U.S. brand helps things tremendously. Their match with Imperium shows off that sudden depth of the tag division and teases good combinations going forward as both teams chase Breezango. Ever Rise continues to be hilarious. As all three teams are heels, I would surmise that they'll eventually turn face soon along with the likes of Maverick and Dain.
- NXT champion Finn Balor was not on the show. However, I do think that we'll get an angle of some sort at War Games. There is a possibility of a returning Karrion Kross or even KUSHIDA who has been on a warpath as of late.
- Rounding out the card, I think the matches of Cameron Grimes/Dexter Lumis and Tomasso Ciampa/Tim Thatcher will be pretty good. Lumis being the boogeyman character to Grimes has been fun to watch. A strap match makes sense because Grimes will have to face his fear head-on. Ciampa vs. Thatcher is going to be a straight tough man match. I'm not sure who wins here because it feels like both men need it. However, with Ciampa being in NXT longer and Thatcher needing a big win to stay a credible threat, I could see it going his way.
- Somebody, please help Xia Li and Boa. It's the strangest and most intriguing NXT storyline going. Perhaps the person at the head of this transformation is going to be the person that challenges Io Shirai down the line. I'm just along for the ride.



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