

Tick Tock: NXT/June 10th Edition



Murjani Rawls [Follow](#)

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Photo Credit: WWE

The best thing that the NXT television edition did for me was to get me excited about the brand's future. One of the prevailing criticisms of the black and gold is that wrestlers often overstay their welcome. To the point, where they often lose the shine that they grow into. NXT's cupboard is full — while that may be a good problem to have from a personnel standpoint, it's bad for the talent. However, post-In-Your-House, we have some intriguing storylines in place that will lead us into Summerslam weekend. (In whatever form that shows up)

The Undisputed Era Is Reeling: Surprise, surprise. Adam Cole was victorious over Velveteen Dream at Takeover: In Your House. To say the prospect of a Dream title reign in NXT has cooled off would be underselling it. There are rumors that he might be moving on to Raw or Smackdown, so I get not putting the title on him here.

How do you finally get the Undisputed Era out of NXT? You stack the deck against them considerably. To the tune of Dexter Lumis, Velveteen Dream, and as we saw, Karrion

Kross. The match between Lumis and Cole was very good. This was the first time we got to see Lumis take considerable damage. It was almost like a future championship match audition and he passed it with flying colors. They protected him with Roderick Strong getting involved. His beef is more torturing the other members of the Undisputed Era which is fine. I'm happy that NXT is investing in a wrestler with character.

If Strong and Fish are occupied, that leaves room for Kross to go after Cole directly. Even with his match against Ciampa at In Your House, Kross was made to look like an unbeatable force. Usually, the Undisputed Era has a plan to combat everyone and everything. Not too sure they can do that here. Kross might finally be the guy that ends the historic title run for Cole. It's going to be fun to see how Kross makes his life a living hell.

Is it too soon for him? I don't think so. One of the things that NXT has to do to keep momentum going is to bank on big personalities when the iron is hot. Karrion Kross was not brought there to be rolling in the weeds — so to speak. You bring him to your promotion to make an impact. Let it roll.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwjH309ljvM>

Tag Teams, Tag Teams, and More Tag Teams: NXT now have a bunch of prospects — not only for their men's tag division, but maybe for the women as well. Shotzi Blackheart and Tegan Nox are going to challenge for the women's tag team belts next week on NXT TV. (Whomever the victors are after Backlash on Sunday). You look at the wealth of talent that is the NXT women's division and there's no coincidence on how things stacked up after the match between Dakota Kai and Kacy Catanzaro.

I don't think that Io and Rhea are done with each other. That's going to be your championship program going into Summerslam weekend. Although, it was cool to hear Dakota Kai stake her claim as well. I fell like they dropped the ball with that storyline when Shana Baszler had it. Look at these combinations; Kayden and Kacy, Dakota and Raquel, and Shotzi and Tegan. If you want to beef up that women's tag team division; now is the time considering everybody is in the same place.

On the men's side — Breezango has taken on the storyline role of Tyler's Breeze's 'welcome back' NXT-singles run. Their time on Smackdown was not what they wanted it to be. Now, as the number one contenders, they want to make it count. You have Breezango, Inter Sher, Lorcan and Burch, and Imperium.

El Hijo...I Mean, Santos Escobar?: When the segment between Drake Maverick and El Hijo started, I initially thought this was covering up for what happened at the end of last week. There were some complaints that Maverick getting the NXT contact

overshadowed El Hijo's title win. (Ehh...kinda.) Did anybody not see the El Hijo heel turn coming? Still, very well executed. This angle did three things:

1. It gives wrestlers like Raul Mendoza and Joaquin Wilde an important role.
2. It gives El Hijo another layer in a small stable as he's now known as Santos Escobar.
3. The cruiserweight has been looked upon as the forgotten part of the WWE brand. Now, you have a strong heel stable for either Maverick to overcome the odds against or to buy some time until Jordan Devlin gets back.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wz0DRieCNZI>

Finn Has His Finger Guns Pointed At the Limitless One: Now if you would have asked me two weeks ago — I would have thought Finn Balor was going for the NXT championship. Given the result of the mixed tag, I don't think that Johnny Gargano is quite done with Keith Lee yet. Balor has previously beaten Gargano and with the match against Cameron Grimes, he was playing more of a babyface role. They could have some unfinished business to attend to before Balor gets his shot.

As an aside, how about some character development for Grimes? It was good to see him get some time to build this classic cowardly heel persona. With Damion Priest, if Dijakovic wasn't on his way to RAW, he would be my pick to do so. It'll be interesting to see how NXT keeps both Priest and Grimes occupied over the next couple of weeks.

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