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Jun 18 · 6 min read



## THURSDAY MORNING HEADLOCK

### T hursday Morning Headlock | June 18th Edition

Welcome to the first edition of the Thursday Morning Headlock. Let's discuss some NXT, AEW, and whatever comes to mind in the wrestling world — shall we?

**NXT Tag Picture Logjam:** The Breezango v. Imperium match was solid. Fandango was the star of the match. The ending came off a little sloppy, but I did not foresee Imperium giving up the titles just yet. The men's tag team division is pretty full. You have Indus Sher, Lorcan/Burch, Breezango, and Imperium.

Another interesting, seemingly random pairing was teased in Dexter Lumis and Velveteen Dream. Both the NXT and North America title pictures are full. If you want to keep the feud going between them and UE, this could be the way to do it. Lumis and Dream are going to have to build some rapport before they eventually go after the titles as teased.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f\\_IOGO4NyA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f_IOGO4NyA)

**Robert...Stone Brand?:** So, where do I begin with this? You can point to the throw-up angle during a pandemic or the botched pin between Aliyah and Xia Li. Before that, the match was alright for what it was. Aliyah gets her first win on NXT TV this year. Maybe the Robert Stone Brand is not in the morgue just yet?

- As a quick note, I'm loving that NXT has multiple feuds going in the women's division. This has been one of the highlights of the show in recent weeks considering the NXT women's division is arguably the best in the WWE. Mia/Candice, Dakota & Raquel/Kacey & Kayden. Oh, and hi Mercedes!

**Unite The Belts:** Double champions are just all the rage in WWE lately. I'm going to try to break this down by wrestler:

1. Adam Cole: 381 days as NXT champion. Now, what would be the best cherry on top then adding the North American title on top of that? After all, he was the first-ever person to hold that belt. It would just be another checkmark on a legendary NXT run for him.
2. Finn Balor: The elder statesman and our returning champion. I feel like they've been holding off on Balor winning the title again. When he came back, I had a feeling that it would happen again. Given that the Undisputed Era is due at some time to move on to RAW or Smackdown, he would be a great darkhorse pick to be the next titleholder.
3. Johnny Gargano: NXT's first triple crown winner. I think Gargano is the least likely out of the four to become a double champion. If he's hoping that he and Candice become the first couple to hold both championships, there is a considerable amount of time for them to do that. Io is not giving up that women's title anytime soon.
4. Keith Lee: Now, I initially thought that Keith would be the one that would go after Adam Cole after In Your House. We might get a different variation of that now. However, he broke the hourglass and that's going to have some repercussions from Karrion Kross. Kross vs. Lee might be the program going into Summerslam which would be amazing.

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

**More Guts Than Brains:** Santos Escobar is great on the mic. El Legado del Fantasma is a dope name for the stable as well. If they want, Wilde and Mendoza can be another tag team that can be in the mix. For the 205 brand, you have the underdog babyface in Drake Maverick chasing after the Cruiserweight title against the makings of a really good heel stable.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4Pzuxa53yM>

**Homecoming:** These are the type of matches I envisioned when the women's tag team titles were first introduced. Too much talent in NXT to not take advantage of opportunities like this. Shotzi and Tegan both looked great and have gelled together as a

tag team. Bayley and Sasha made them look like formidable opponents. Even with the finish, it protects the babyface team a bit. I would love this match to run back at some point. Listen, on July 8th, you're already going to have a champion vs. champion. Give us what we want and add Bayley vs. Io to that card. You can't have Io attack Bayley and Sasha and leave us hanging, right?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWl-tF9qpT0>

Quick Notes:

- They are angling Damian Priest to become a babyface. This little mini-feud with Cameron Grimes should be fun.
- Man, remember how they built up Killian Dain? Where does he go from here?

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## AEW Dynamite:

*(Let's go ignite. Something something something in a flash of light. Cue Title Card)*

If you like tag team wrestling — boy, does AEW have a lot of them? I'm not sure what was being said in the opening match, but there were a lot of bleeps. Letting the curse words fly.

- The Omega/Hangman vs Marshall/Rhodes match was more designed to get QT over. Right now, there's a storyline involving Allie & QT. Allie is going to eventually cause a splinter between QT and Dustin. Then, we're probably looking at a singles match with Allie and Brandi.

- With FTR and the Young Bucks, they will have to lengthen that feud until at least All Out. I wouldn't burn that match on a random Dynamite or Fyre Fest. A lot of fans have been waiting for that match for a long time. The problem is, how are you going to lengthen the time before each team gets physical with each other?

This is where the deep roster of tag teams will come into play. Which presents another conundrum; how many teams will get sacrificed for this feud? The booking committee of AEW has its work cut out for them. On one hand, you want to build as much anticipation for this money match as you can without it being too prolonged. The flipside to that is not sacrificing your up-and-coming tag teams during it.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exrcbOLJ\\_Uo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exrcbOLJ_Uo)

- There was a nice little video package letting everybody know the background of Anna Jay who immediately got beaten by new signee, Abadon. Commentary puts it over as an upset, even though Anna barely got any offense in. "shrugs"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zcAFMOZ8Fs>

- Dark Order is on a recruiting spree. Rather take the NWO Wolfpac/Black and White joke that's starring at me as I type this, I take a closer look. The group needs a female presence. Anna Jay might make sense because she's a younger wrestler and still developing her skill set. She can grow into a new character being in the Dark Order. Colt Cobana? No. I think this will be a feud for Brodie Lee to eat up some time.
- MJF v Billy Gunn was your typical 80's/early 90's single match. Billy could easily overpower MJF, but he's the heel. He'll try to run, then he'll focus on a body part. Babyface will get some offense before the eventual tomfoolery of the heel to get the win.
- I did not see the signing of Ricky Starks coming. This is a very good pickup for AEW. He's done really good work with NWA previously. You should check it out if you can. It was smart for them to have his first match during the TNT championship open challenge. Cody has made it a habit to face the rising talent in AEW. Looking forward to seeing what they do with Starks in the coming weeks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvQvVpPsp8Y>

### Quick Notes:

- A fired-up Orange Cassidy is a welcomed change. After all, he did get beat up with a sack of oranges next week.

- Britt Baker continues to make the most of her heel turn. She's one of the best wrestlers angle wise on Dynamite.

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