

WWE NXT 09/23: O’ Reilly Time



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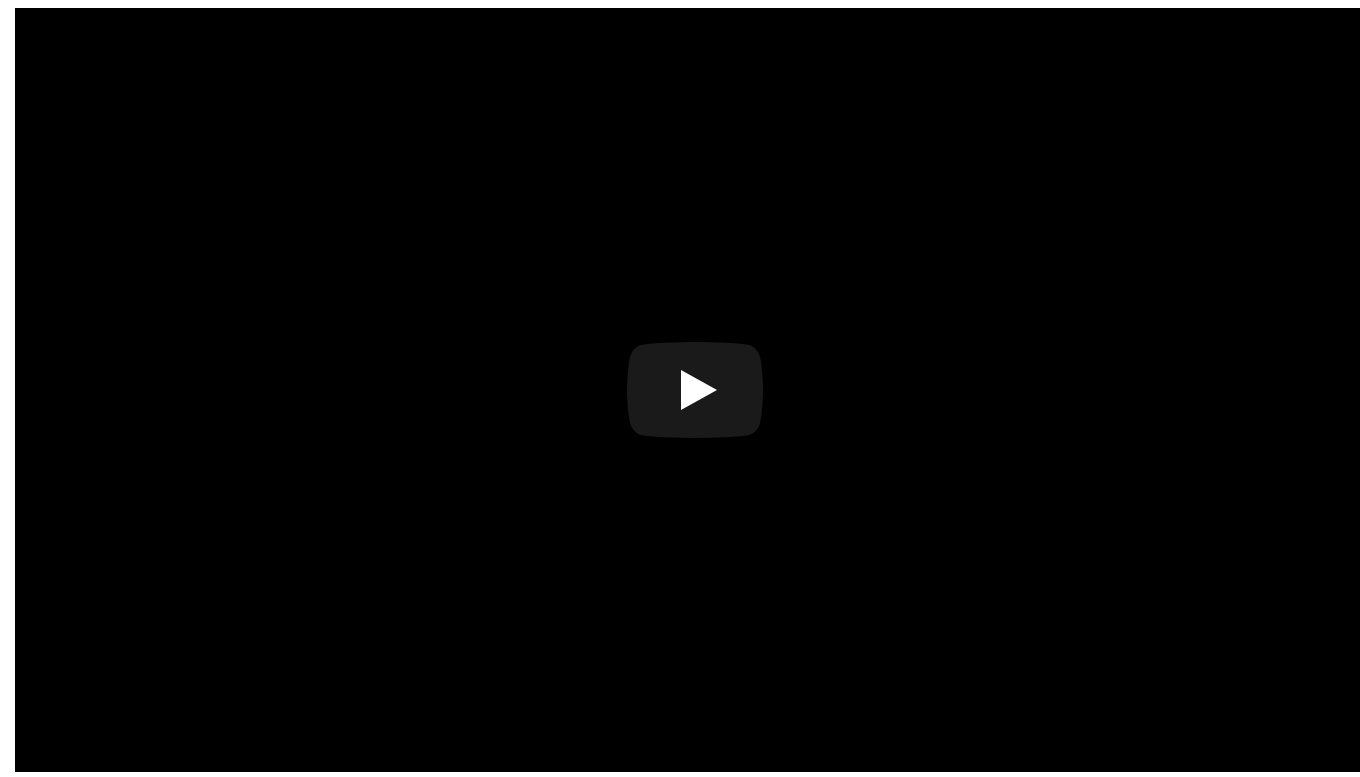


Photo Credit: WWE

The Poison Pixie Is the Next In Line: Nothing like a good ole’ battle royale to kick off an NXT episode. There were a lot of new faces amongst the mainstays to the point where you knew who were going to be featured wrestlers. At first, it was a Rhea Ripley/Raquel Gonzalez expose to see who can eliminate the most people. That’s until they went toe-to-toe — this was alluding to a feud between the two. Good for Raquel having her first feud sans Dakota Kai.

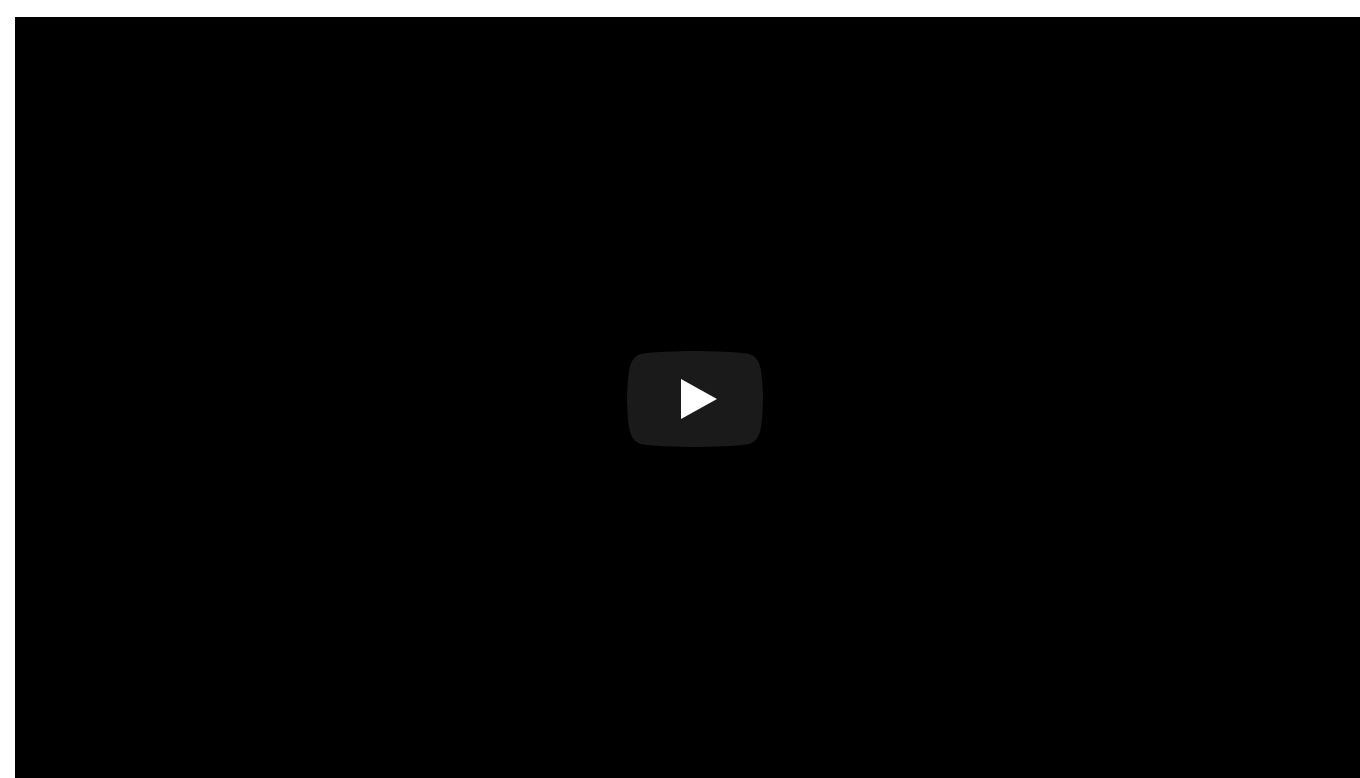
Kacy Catanzaro was able to play on her Royal Rumble theme on avoiding elimination with her acrobatics. Shotzi Blackheart had another strong showing being one of the final two coming off the match with Io Shirai last week. She’s being positioned to be one of the top babyfaces in the division. Candice LeRae was the right choice to win. She and Shirai have a long history, plus it plays into the whole notion of her and her husband being the first couple holding gold. They both finally get a shot at the same time.

Don’t forget Tegan Nox — as LeRae attacked her before the match, she’s probably going to get involved at Takeover or the tag match next week. Nox might even try to make a play into the title match itself given her being robbed of a chance by LeRae.



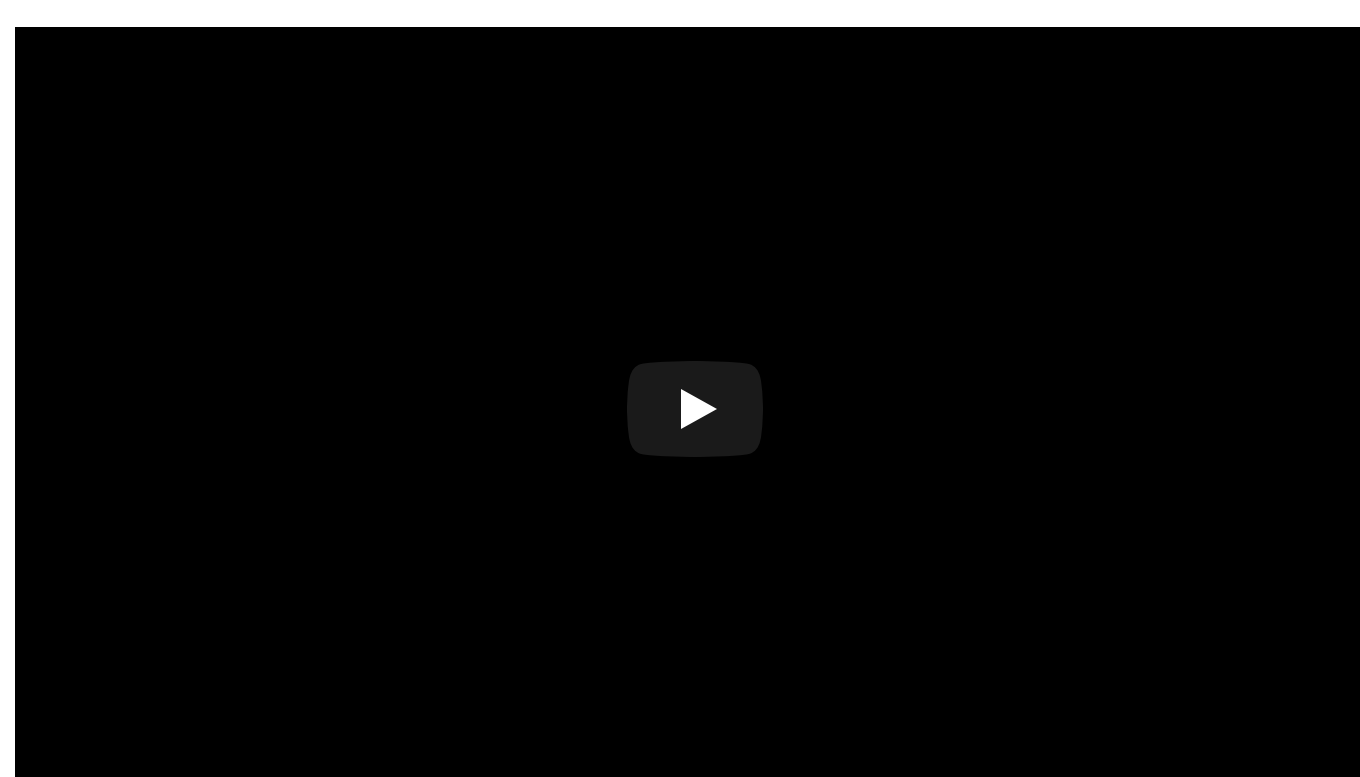
Time for O’ Reilly: Just to begin, I heard all the collective boos when Velveteen Dream attacked KUSHIDA. I know that it’s payback for what KUSHIDA did to him a couple of weeks back, but still. With that being said, he and Kyle O’ Reilly leading the gauntlet off was a treat. If there’s one thing that NXT does well, it’s that they feature all of their talent property in this multi-wrestler matches.

Bronson Reed looks like a star building upon his wins in recent weeks. Cameron Grimes is forever the opportunist and picked his spots carefully throughout the match. Even in defeat, Timothy Thatcher is still dangerous. The best thing in this match booking wise was having O’ Reilly fight from underneath until the end. Yes, the banter from Grimes stated the obvious, but for people who have been waiting for singles O’ Reilly to come out — now is your time. It gives NXT a fresh match that they needed in the championship title picture and who doesn’t want to see O’ Reilly vs. Finn Balor?



Creative Way To Pick A Tag Contender: At this point, we’ve seen every combination of the men’s tag team division fight each other. This week, NXT got creative. It was a good choice to mix up members from each team to go against each other. If you remember, two years ago, Lorcan and Burch and The Undisputed Era had a great NXT Takeover match. Let’s switch things up and let Lorcan and Burch get the win this time.

Who’s This Mysterious Challenger?: A return at NXT Takeover is upon us to take back what’s theirs. Some people say Bo Dallas. Some have said Robert Roode. Either way, there are no objections to adding to an already large talent pool in NXT. When you look past NXT Takeover, if Finn Balor retains, he’s going to need a long-term program if you don’t feel as though guys like Cameron Grimes and Timothy Thatcher aren’t ready yet. Karrion Cross is still nursing an injury. Going the previous champion route, you can have a storyline of NXT elder statesmen trying to stake their claim on who is on the Mount Rushmore of the brand.



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