

# Collision – June 24, 2023: The Longer Version

## Collision

Date: June 24, 2023

Location: Scotiabank Arena, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Kevin Kelly

It's the go home show for Forbidden Door and the big attraction this week is again CM Punk and again he is in a multi-man tag. Other than that though, we have Hiroshi Tanahashi vs. Swerve Strickland in a match that should be great. Other than that, Sting and Darby Allin need a mystery partner for tomorrow night and get to announce him tonight. Let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Ricky Starks, FTR and CM Punk are ready for their eight man tag tonight.

Bullet Club Gold and the Gunns are ready for their eight man tag tonight.

Opening sequence.

Tony Schiavone is in the ring to find out who is Sting and Darby Allin's partner but Chris Jericho and Minoru Suzuki cut him off. Jericho doesn't know who Sting and Allin could find who is tougher or sexier than them, so they're done waiting. What matters is that Schiavone knows the partner, so TELL US WHO IT IS.

Cue Sting and Darby Allin, with the latter asking where Sammy Guevara is this week. Maybe he finally thought better of it, because if he shows up at Forbidden Door, Darby will beat his a\*\*. Just like the partner did to Jericho at the Tokyo Dome.

Cue Tetsuya Naito to stare Jericho down and send him running outside. Not the biggest surprise, but a good choice.

Miro is sick of his god being a coward and bows before no man. He renounces his god and wife because he is ready to hurt people.

### Swerve Strickland vs. Hiroshi Tanahashi

Feeling out process to start with Tanahashi taking him into the corner and firing off some air guitar. Strickland isn't having that and guitars him right back before sending it to the floor. A kick to the ropes serves as a low blow on the way back in and Strickland gets to choke away. Tanahashi is sent over the ropes but skins the cat for a headscissors to put Swerve outside.

Strickland ties him up in the ropes though and hammers away as we take a break. Back with Tanahashi hitting something close to the Sling Blade and striking away. The running Downward Spiral gives Strickland two but a much better Sling Blade plants Strickland again. The High Fly Flow hits raised knees but the Swerve Stomp only hits the mat. Tanahashi shoves him off the top and now the High Fly Flow can finish Strickland at 10:45.

**Rating:** B-. This was a match that gave me some very high hopes when I first saw it advertised and it wound up being pretty good. Tanahashi is getting up there in years and is nowhere near what he once was, but he is still capable of having a perfectly good match. Strickland losing to a legend isn't going to hurt him, but he does need to start moving up the ladder already.

Post match MJF pops up on screen to say he's getting out of Canada as fast as possible. He holds the most important title in the world and doesn't want to watch a bunch of indy geeks from Japan wrestle. MJF promises to do painful things to Tanahashi with his air guitar to wrap it up.

## Brody King vs. Andrade El Idolo

Andrade kicks King's leg out to start and gets up a raised boot in the corner. A headscissors out of the corner drops King again so he sends Andrade into the ropes, where we get the Tranquilo pose. King is sent outside and there's the big moonsault from the top to take him down again. Back up and King knocks him down hard to the floor with a chop and we take a break.

We come back with King working on the taped up shoulder until Andrade makes it to the apron. The dragon screw legwhip over the rope takes King down and a high crossbody puts him down again. The running knees in the corner give Andrade two but King Death Valley Drivers him into the corner. Andrade is right back with another shot to the leg though and the Figure Four is loaded up. Cue Julia Hart with Andrade's mask but the distraction doesn't work. Instead, Andrade elbows King down and the Figure Eight goes on, only to have Buddy Matthews run in for the DQ at 12:56.

**Rating:** B-. Another solid match from Andrade, who is working extra hard since his return. While there is a very good chance that is to get a certain other company to notice him, I'll certainly take what I can get while it's available. Andrade finding some friends to go after the Trios Titles isn't a bad idea and if it means King getting to maul people, I'm all for it.

Post match the House beats Andrade down. Malakai Black pops up on screen as Hart holds up the mask. The lights go out...and that's it.

Here are Christian Cage (holding the TNT Title) and Luchasaurus (the TNT Champion) for a chat. Christian is back home in Toronto and now he knows that it breeds losers. He mocks the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Toronto Raptors, including former Raptors star Kawhi Leonard, who left a few

years ago. Now for a couple of housekeeping items: there will be no more open challenges and you will have to earn a title shot, like HE did. Christian is ready to take the title to the next level. Luchasaurus was barely mentioned and said nothing, but he does get to carry Christian around on his shoulders.

Various people talk about what it would mean to win the Owen Hart Foundation Tournament. The interesting point here: Jim Neidhart trained Roderick Strong? That's a new one on me.

### Women's Owen Hart Foundation Tournament First Round: Willow Nightingale vs. Nyla Rose

Non-title and Marina Shafir is here with Rose. Nightingale ducks a clothesline in the corner to start and takes her down, setting up the big chops. Rose is knocked outside, where a Shafir distraction lets her post Nightingale as we take a break. Back with Nightingale sending her into the corner and hitting a middle rope missile dropkick for two. Rose muscles her over with a suplex though and then drops her with a gordbuster for two of her own. Nightingale slips out of a powerbomb and hits the Pounce to drop Rose again. The Babe With The Powerbomb finishes Rose at 8:54.

**Rating:** C. Nightingale is in a weird spot at the moment as she doesn't seem likely to win the TBS or AEW/ROH Women's Titles, so this might be her high point for the time being. She can make a run in the tournament and still be the NJPW Strong champion, but, much like several others, she needs to win something from around here for a change. Maybe the tournament is it, but anything involving more Nightingale is a good thing.

Post match the Outcasts surround Nightingale but Skye Blue makes the save with a chair.

Scorpio Sky talks about how he struggled to get here. Then his success controlled him but no more. He is one half of the first Tag Team Champions, the first Face of the Revolution and

a two time TNT Champion. Now you'll find out who he really is.

### Powerhouse Hobbs vs. Jeremy Prophet

Hobbs knocks him into the corner to start and doesn't seem pleased when Prophet tries a rollup. Some clotheslines drop Prophet and the spinebuster finishes him at 1:37.

Here's what's coming on various shows.

### CM Punk/FTR/Ricky Starks vs. Bullet Club Gold/The Gunns

It's a VERY mixed reaction for Punk here, which almost had to be expected. White bails from the threat of facing Punk to start and hands it off to Robinson instead. A shoulder drops Robinson so it's Harwood coming in for a headlock of his own. Said headlock is ground away a bit before it's off to Starks for the hip gyrating Old School on Colten. White comes in for the save and NOW he wants Punk. That's fine with Punk, who gives him a hip gyration of his own and then wins a chop off.

The GTS and Blade Runner are both broken up and White sends him outside. The big staredown is on and we take a break. Back with Robinson getting caught in FTR's Doomsday Device, with White having to make a save. Something like a Demolition Decapitator gets two on Austin (the fans are NOT pleased with Punk) but it's off to White for a dragon screw legwhip.

White starts working on the leg but brings Colten in for a chop off. Punk gets taken down again though and we take another break. Back again with White yelling that Punk doesn't belong in this ring anymore and getting planted on his efforts. The running knee in the corner rocks White but the Gunns break up the tag attempt. Robinson's GTS attempt is blocked and Punk kicks him in the head. The Gunns are kicked away and the diving tag brings in Starks to clean house.

Roshambo is broken up and we settle down to White rolling Starks up (with trunks) for two. Blade Runner is broken up and

the Gunns are back in to beat up Harwood. Wheeler takes both of them out and hits a big dive to the floor. Not to be outdone, Punk dives at White but gets caught in a swinging Rock Bottom. Starks gets one of his own for two and the spear hits White. The Gunns are cleared out but Robinson gets in the big left, setting up Blade Runner for the pin on Starks at 23:43.

**Rating:** B. Another long and good match, but it didn't feel as long this week. It's almost strange seeing Punk's team lose so early and while I could have gone for someone other than Starks taking a fall, it does open some doors for the future. As for Punk, what mattered here was he had a much longer stint in the ring this time and didn't look horrible. He has a long way to go, but Sunday's Forbidden Door match should tell us some more about what he is doing. Solid main event, and I can go or something like this once a week.

The winners celebrate to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. I'm not sure it was quite as good as last week but what matters is having the solid action while also building up Forbidden Door. This show featured some guest stars and we'll have to wait for next week to see how the norm might feel around here. I liked it again and the wrestling was good to rather good, though it's still strange to have it be so different from Dynamite. That's not a bad thing, but it's certainly rather jarring in a lot of ways.

### Results

Hiroshi Tanahashi b. Swerve Strickland – High Fly Flow

Andrade El Idolo b. Brody King via DQ when Buddy Matthews interfered

Willow Nightingale b. Nyla Rose – The Babe With The Powerbomb

Powerhouse Hobbs b. Jeremy Prophet – Spinebuster

Bullet Club Gold/The Gunns b. CM Punk/FTR/Ricky Starks – Blade Runner to Starks

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# **Collision – June 17, 2023 (Debut Episode): An Actual Difference**

## **Collision**

Date: June 17, 2023

Location: United Center, Chicago, Illinois

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Nigel McGuinness

It's the debut episode of the new two hour Saturday night show and the big draw is the return of CM Punk. After being gone for about nine months due to an injury/suspension, Punk is back for a six man main event which has some potential. Other than that, the card looks decent enough so let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence, set to Saturday Night's All Right For Fighting by Elton John.

The fans are chanting for CM Punk so here he is, with a pair of shoes around his neck and a bag in his hand. Punk talks about how he's back and fired of being nice. This is still the wrestling business and it's for serious people. When he was fifteen years old, he wouldn't have believed that he would sell out all kinds of buildings and arenas around the world. He's tired of being nice and tell him when he's telling lies.

Punk says he has made his career because he is uncompromising and that makes people uncomfortable. He is the truth and that makes people uncomfortable. FANS: "F\*\*\* THE ELITE!" He points out some pro and anti-Punk signs in the crowd and says you can call him whatever you want. He is the one genuine article in a business full of counterfeit bucks. The king is back and he has some things to get off his chest. He has a question for Chicago: why would he change?

If you're here today and you feel he owes you an apology, here it is: he's sorry that the only wrestlers softer than him are the ones you like. He picks up the bag and implies that the World Title is in there, saying it's his until someone can pin him or submit him or it. He takes the shoes off his neck and says he knows there are people who wanted him to leave them in the ring and walk away. Instead, he isn't walking away until someone can fill those boots. Stop him when he's telling lies.

I'm not sure how much of a difference this kind of a promo is going to make. If you like Punk, it was great but if you don't, it was more of the same from him. Punk is one of the most polarizing figures in wrestling and that was on display here, as he took a few shots in some thinly veiled references while also showing more fire on the microphone than most of the roster. He's a star, and if he can stay healthy (that's a big if), there is no reason to not have him as a focal point. Seeing what happens when he's not in Chicago will be



interesting, but this felt like a huge moment.

### TNT Title: Luchasaurus vs. Wardlow

Wardlow is defending and Christian Cage is here with Luchasaurus. They go straight to the brawling and fight to the floor, with Luchasaurus sending him into the steps for one back inside. Some shots in the corner drop Wardlow again and we take a break. Back with Wardlow hitting an electric chair and driving shoulders in the corner. Luchasaurus catches him on top though and a chokeslam brings him down for two.

Wardlow pops back up and loads up the Powerbomb Symphony but Christian gets on the apron. Not that it matters as Wardlow hits the first powerbomb, but spends too much time loading it up and gets chokeslammed for two. Wardlow tries to pick him up for something but can't quite get it, instead settling for a powerslam. The Swanton makes it worse and Wardlow is fired up...but Christian takes a camera from a ringside photographer and breaks it over Wardlow's head. Luchasaurus hits him from behind to win the title at 10:50.

**Rating:** C. I guess the TNT Title is designed to be the one that changes hands a lot, and now I'm sure Wardlow will get to rebuild himself and win it back, because he has spent what feels like years doing just that. Luchasaurus getting the title is fine enough, but my goodness I do not get what they are doing with Wardlow. He seemed ready to break into the main event (which could use some homegrown stars) and instead he's just doing the same thing over and over.

Post match Christian grabs the title and celebrates with it, as Luchasaurus never actually touches the thing.

QT Marshall says that Powerhouse Hobbs was never advertised to be WRESTLING tonight but he's here anyway. He'll win the Owen Hart tournament.

### Andrade El Idolo vs. Buddy Matthews

Julia Hart is here with Matthews. The fans are happy to see Andrade and they start fast by running the ropes. Andrade does his hang in the ropes deal and avoids a charge to send Buddy outside. A cartwheel moonsault off the apron drops Matthews again and they crash onto the announcers' table.

Back in and Matthews pulls him shoulder first into the post, followed by a knock off the apron and into the barricade. A top rope meteora gives Matthews two and we take a break. We come back with Andrade working on the leg and hitting the double moonsault for two. Matthews gets a hanging DDT but his knee gives out in the corner. That allows Andrade to hit a discus elbow but Matthews is back up with a jumping kick to the face for two. The Figure Four goes on and Andrade turns it into the Figure Eight for the tap at 13:05.

**Rating:** B. These guys were working hard and the arm vs. leg stuff worked, but egads it was strange to see Andrade get that strong of a reaction. I can't imagine he sticks around that long but for now, or at least for tonight, the fans were way into him and that is a good sign for his future. Matthews looked good as well, and if he ever gets out of the House of Black (which he doesn't need to at the moment), there should be a strong singles push waiting on him.

Post match respect is offered but the lights go out. Cue the House of Black to lay Andrade out.

Here is Tony Nese, with Mark Sterling, to lead this out of shape crowd in exercise. We'll start with stretching, but someone cuts him off.

### Miro vs. Tony Nese

Miro runs him over to start and hits some of Sheamus' forearms to the chest. Nese gets in a neck snap across the top and adds the Randy Savage jumping neck snap. Miro pulls his high crossbody out of the air but a Sterling distraction lets Nese get in a kick to the face. That earns him a Miro Up and a

swinging release Rock Bottom plants Nese down. The camel clutch finishes Nese at 3:17.

**Rating:** C. This was about getting Miro back out there and having him run through someone annoying. That certainly worked, as Nese got flattened in short order. I'm sure there was more to it than meets the eye, but how Miro was stuck sitting at home for six months instead of doing something like this is baffling. He has a presence to him and that is the kind of thing that anyone would want on their show.

Video on CM Punk.

### Ruby Soho/Toni Storm vs. Willow Nightingale/Skye Blue

Blue is the hometown girl. The Outcasts jump Blue and Nightingale to start and the beating is on outside before the bell. Storm even shoves Blue's mom at ringside and gets slapped for her efforts. Nightingale Pounces Soho into the barricade and Blue adds a hurricanrana to drop Storm. The bell rings as Nightingale takes over inside, only to get taken into the wrong corner as we take a break.

Back with Nightingale clotheslining her way out of trouble and bringing Blue in to clean house. Everything breaks down and Nightingale plants Toni with a pumphandle slam. Storm is right back with the hip attack to each of them, setting up the spray paint. Nightingale isn't having that though and the paint hits Soho by mistake. Code Blue finishes Soho at 8:04.

**Rating:** C. Good enough match here and it was nice to see the emotional Blue get a win in front of her hometown crowd. I could go for seeing her get a bit of a push towards a title shot, though if AEW doesn't strap a rocket to Nightingale, I have no idea what to tell them. For now, this felt like a step towards something else and it went fine.

Ricky Starks is in the Owen Hart tournament.

Jeff Jarrett is ready to hurt Mark Briscoe...in a concession stand brawl!

Here are the Acclaimed and Billy Gunn for a chat. They're so happy to be here that Billy bought a new scissoring outfit. They might as well stick around for Dynamite and here's a scissoring to commemorate the moment. And that's it.

Here's what's coming on various shows.

### FTR/CM Punk vs. Samoa Joe/Bullet Club Gold

Harwood and White start things off with the latter firing off chops in the corner. A backdrop gets Harwood out of trouble so it's off to Robinson for a strike off. Wheeler comes in for some dropkicks but a glare from Joe cuts him off. A gorilla press plants Robinson and it's back to Harwood, who immediately hands it off to Punk. Wheeler hits a middle rope powerslam on Robinson with Punk getting two and calling for the Go To Sleep. That's broken up so Joe comes back in for the big showdown. Joe chops away in the corner but gets pulled down into a chinlock as we take a break.

Back with Harwood caught in a chinlock before Robinson stands on his head. Harwood finally manages to get over to the corner and brings in Wheeler to clean house, including a rollup out of the corner for two on Robinson. A Rick Steiner powerslam gives Wheeler two and it's back to Punk for a Demolition Decapitator and a near fall of his own.

We take another break and come back again with Robinson hitting a backsplash for two on Wheeler. Joe enziguris him in the corner but Wheeler grabs a belly to back suplex to drop Robinson. The hot tag brings in Punk to clean house but White rakes his eyes. White's swinging Rock Bottom gets two but the Bladerunner is blocked.

Instead Punk takes him into the corner for the PowerPlex into Punk's top rope elbow. Joe comes back in to take Punk out and

everything breaks down. Joe gets the Koquina Clutch on Punk and White sleepers Harwood. Wheeler breaks that up and Harwood makes the save, meaning it's the Shatter Machine to Robinson. Punk adds the GTS for the pin at 25:12.

**Rating:** B. This is an example of a match that was long without being great. There were times when it felt like they were just stretching things out because they had to and that gets old quickly. What mattered here was getting Punk back in the water and his flourish at the end looked good. Punk and FTR do work well together, and I wouldn't be surprised to see it be a semi-regular thing. For now, you can probably get two feuds out of this and it should work well.

Punk and FTR celebrate to end the show with nothing interrupting them.

**Overall Rating:** B+. There's a lot to this one and we'll start with the biggest: it felt like an AEW show but not Dynamite. There was nothing but straight matches throughout and it felt more like a traditional wrestling show. Punk got the big promo at the beginning but other than that it was mainly wrestling based with a few interviews and some talking in the middle. Commentary was a nice change as well, with Kelly and Nigel being SO much more laid back than what you get on Wednesdays.

As for everything else, the action was good, the stories (what there were of them) made sense and it felt like a show that wasn't just trying to be the same thing. If this is what we get on Saturdays then we're in for some fun nights. It was a heck of a debut, though I'm curious to see how things are going in a few months when they're out of Chicago and the new show smell has worn off. For now though, heck of a show and more enjoyable than most Dynamites in a lot of ways.

### Results

Luchasaurus b. Wardlow – Clothesline to the back of the head  
Andrade El Idolo b. Buddy Matthews – Figure Eight

Miro b. Tony Nese – Camel clutch

Skye Blue/Willow Nightingale b. Ruby Soho/Toni Storm – Code Blue to Soho

CM Punk/FTR b. Bullet Club Gold/Samoa Joe – GTS to Robinson

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