

On This Day: May 23, 1992 – WCW Pro: Back When They Were Insiders

WCW Pro

Date: May 23, 1992

Location: Civic Center, Columbus, Georgia

Attendance: 3,000

Commentator: Tony Schiavone

This would be six days after WrestleWar, but my guess is that this was taped months beforehand, meaning there won't be any references to it. This is another specialized Chicago edition of Pro, meaning it only aired in Chicago markets and had different commentary. It should be your usual hour long TV show either way. Let's get to it.

Diamond Stud vs. Dan Beard

Stud fires off some hard chops in the corner to start as the fans seem to be very into him. A chokeslam puts Beard down and a belly to back superplex does the same. The Diamond Death Drop (think the Razor's Edge) is good for the pin. The reason to think Razor's Edge? Stud would be in WWF as Razor Ramon in about five months.

Actually we do hear about WrestleWar as Tony talks about the Freebirds winning the US Tag Titles before hyping up Beach Blast 92, which was an AWESOME show.

Tony also runs down the rest of the card.

Madusa says Steamboat lusts after her while listing off some random movie titles such as Basic Instinct, Seven Year Itch and Fatal Attraction.

Eric Bischoff previews Beach Blast, which actually has some matches made. We hear about the Miracle Violence Connection vs. the Steiners, which actually main evented the show. The Steiners say they'll defend their titles here in America.

Dustin Rhodes vs. Richard Morton

Morton is a heel here and part of the York Foundation. He attacks in the corner but gets caught by a lariat to take him down. A gorilla press puts him down as well before Dustin pounds away with right hands. Dustin keeps pounding away but Morton begs for mercy...which Rhodes grants. A hair pull brings Rhodes down and it's off to an armbar.

Back up and Dustin pops him in the face to take over again, only to be caught in an atomic drop. This should be far better than it actually is so far. We hear about Rhodes vs. Stud coming up which sounds pretty good. Their matches in 95 were solid so maybe this will work too. Morton puts on a chinlock before sending Dustin into the corner, only to be caught by a lariat and a bulldog for the pin.

Rating: C-. This wasn't horrible but you would expect a lot more from two guys as talented as these two are. Morton was basically a jobber by this point while Rhodes was about to enter the US Title scene. The match wasn't too bad, but they could have done much better with about ten more minutes and a story.

The Freebirds say don't do steroids.

Here's the Diamond Stud with something to say. We get a clip of Stud costing Rhodes a win against I think Bobby Eaton. Stud says that he's the only real Stud and he's tired of hearing about Rhodes being one too. It's so strange to hear Hall's voice without the accent.

Greg Valentine/Taylor Made Man vs. Freebirds

This is non-title and that's Terry Taylor in case you weren't clear. The Birds don't have the belts here despite being called champions by Tony, making me think the match happened before the show but the commentary was recorded after. Garvin and Taylor start things off and they shove each other around until Jimmy grabs a wristlock. Off to Hayes as the fans want a DDT. Taylor shoves him into the corner and brings in Valentine who is immediately chopped back.

Garvin is back in now and the makeshift team pounds away at him. By

makeshift I of course mean former US Tag Team Champions but they don't even have a name so they're makeshift. Garvin is beaten down again due to a lack of talent but elbows out for a tag to Hayes. Michael speeds things up and lays out both guys with that good left hand of his. A cross body gets two on Taylor but Valentine sends Hayes into the post for the DQ.

Rating: D+. This wasn't bad but they were flying through it so fast that it didn't have time to develop. They were doing a fifteen minute match in a five minute time span here and it didn't work all that well. To be fair though, the idea of these two teams fighting for more than about five minutes is kind of terrifying, although they had a really solid match at WrestleWar so what do I know?

Eric tells us about the 30 minute Iron Man match with Rude vs. Steamboat at Beach Blast.

Steamboat says he's ready for Rude.

Rude says that he gets stronger as the night goes longer. Just ask the ladies.

Eric also tells us about Cactus Jack vs. Sting in a falls count anywhere match. Jack would call that the best match of his career for a long time.

Scotty Flamingo vs. Larry Santo

I wonder if the jobber is related to El. Flamingo quickly takes him down with an armdrag and pins him about 40 seconds later with an awkward looking piledriver. Flamingo would eventually become manager Johnny Polo in the WWF and Raven in ECW.

Famous Chicago sportscaster Jack Brickhouse talks about WCW being a member of the NWA and recalls some memories of working with various promoters. We hear about the NWA World Tag Team Title tournament, which stopped WCW cold.

Cactus Jack wants to know why the fans don't care about him. He also doesn't care that the title isn't a title match because he doesn't think Sting will be champion by then. Jack was an awesome villain because he only cared about violence and hurting Sting rather than the title, which

was very different.

Vinnie Vegas/Mr. Hughes vs. Ricky Steamboat/Nikita Koloff

Vegas is a sleazy Vegas high roller which isn't as bad of a character as you would expect. Hughes is a big power guy who played a bodyguard for years. Steamboat has a broken nose so he's in a mask at the moment. Ricky and Hughes get things going here and it's armdrags all around. Vegas is sent to the floor so Steamboat cranks on Hughes' arm, only to be taken down by pure power and crushed with an elbow drop. Off to the even bigger Vegas who easily slams Steamboat down so let's try Nikita.

Koloff can match power with anyone so he pounds away on Vegas' arm and hooks an armbar. Vegas' height keeps it from being much of a hold, so Nikita shoves him into the corner and now they fight over a lockup. Nikita takes him down with a shoulder and it's back to Steamboat. There's something cool about Ricky pounding away on a giant. Everything breaks down and a top rope chop to Vegas' head takes him down. The high cross ends him a few seconds later.

Rating: C. For a challenge match, this wasn't much of a challenge for Nikita and Steamboat. To be fair though, Hughes was nothing of note and Vegas was nowhere near what he was going to become. Nikita was back from leaving for a few years and was far smaller than he used to be and wasn't as interesting as a result. In case you're wondering, Vegas would become Diesel in about a year.

Eric previews the bikini contest at Beach Blast between Missy Hyatt and Madusa and wants to be a judge. Missy tells Madusa to keep her clothes on.

Tony previews next week's show and we're out.

Overall Rating: C+. For a 45 minute show, this was pretty good actually. We got some squashes, a feature match and some previews for one of WCW's best PPVs ever. 1992 WCW was surprisingly solid with Sting tearing it up against everyone he faced. The interesting thing here though was the Outsiders both appearing. That's one thing I never got: both guys had been in WCW like four years before and it was like they were aliens

invading when the NWO formed. They had been there before, so it's not like them jumping companies was unheard of. Anyway, surprisingly good show here.

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