

# 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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# On This Day: March 7, 1992 – WCW Pro: This Is For You Chicago

## WCW Pro

Date: March 7, 1992

Location: Civic Center, Columbus, Georgia

Attendance: 3,000

Commentator: Tony Schiavone

This is another show I've never looked at before but it's the equivalent of probably Main Event today, not to be confused with WCW Main Event which is an entirely different show. We're a few days past SuperBrawl which means Sting finally won the world title back from Lex Luger, who is on his way out of the company now, not to be seen again for over three years. I'm not sure what to expect from this one so let's get to it.

We open with Rude talking about how he's beaten Sting before and he can do it again.

P.N. News vs. Fred Avery

News is a 400lb white rapper who is as stupid as he sounds. Avery weighs about 300lb himself and is from Wyoming of all places. News pounds away and dropkicks (kind of) Avery down. A clothesline puts Avery down again as does a fireman's carry/Samoan Drop. News pounds away very slowly and hits a side slam before strolling around even more. Off to a reverse chinlock for a bit as this is dragging already. A belly to belly puts Avery down and a top rope splash ends this. News' music was playing before the splash even hit.

**Rating:** D. News was as fat a fat slob that ever entered the ring this side of say Loch Ness. This was slow and plodding with News walking around the ring, likely in search of a Twinkie to prevent collapsing. He feuded with Steve Austin of all people at this time because when you have Austin, you put him in a feud with a fat tub of goo like News who can barely move an inch.

The new World Champion Sting talks about a title defense against Rude in Chicago.

### Terry Taylor vs. Larry Santo

Taylor gets things going by sending Santo into the corner and dropping him with a jawbreaker. Santo is sent to the floor as we hear about Taylor taking Marcus Bagwell under his wing, only to turn on him in an attempt to destroy him. Taylor drops some knees on the back of the head and puts on a Boston Crab which goes nowhere. Taylor won't even cover off a sitout powerbomb or a powerslam. The Five Arm (a forearm with a semi-clever name) puts Santo out of his misery.

**Rating:** D+. Not that this was good but it was better than the drek we sat through before this. Taylor though is one of the guys that I never have cared for no matter what he did, primarily because of his lame gimmicks. At this point he was the Taylor Made Man which meant he wore nice clothes. Seriously, that's it.

## Danny Wilson vs. Abdullah the Butcher

Butch is a guy who will run over everyone in sight and doesn't care about rules at all, making this a more intense than usual squash. That's what I can't stand about these old shows: there's nothing to say about them because it's the same stuff over and over again. It's the same destruction over and over again and there's nothing to say here. Wilson is thrown to the floor and run over with a shoulder block back inside. Two big running 400lb elbows end this.

**Rating:** F+. Again, what do you want me to say here? Thankfully Butcher didn't stab anyone in the head or main Wilson this time which is a step in the right direction for him. I've never been a fan of the guy as he's in that camp that thinks bleeding everywhere and dropping an elbow or two makes you a wrestler. Now granted he's done different stuff before, but his WCW stuff was dreadful.

We get a video from Jesse Ventura at the post-SuperBrawl party. Sting shows up for an impromptu press conference. He says he'll face anyone who wants to face him and he'd love to defend it in Japan. Sting talks about how strong Luger (the guy he beat) was before Jesse asks what the trash talk was about. Apparently they were saying this is it and they were asking each other if they were ready. Sting doesn't know who his next opponent will be but here's the Dangerous Alliance, headed by Rick Rude.

He's very happy about Sting being champion and offers Sting a drink. Sting says he has no reason to drink with Sting so there's a drink to the face. Sting is ready to fight right now and it's on with Rude getting a front facelock and riding Sting down with ease. The rest of the Alliance shows up and Sting is WAY outnumbered until security makes the save.

We get a segment called the Brickhouse Bonus which is an editorial from Jack Brickhouse, a legendary Chicago sportscaster. This is the Chicago version of WCW Pro, which is the same from a content perspective, but has stuff like that thrown in, along with ads for Chicago shows.

## Young Pistol Steve vs. Ricky Steamboat

Steve is Steve Armstrong of the Armstrong Family. Feeling out process to start with Ricky carefully taking him into the corner. Steve heads to the apron as we're over two minutes into this with barely any contact so far. A few shoulders put Steve down before Steamboat slaps him for no apparent reason. Ricky wants a test of strength but Armstrong stays in the corner. Armstrong grabs a headlock takeover out of the corner as they've got a lot of time to use here.

Another headlock takeover puts Ricky down again but Steamboat counters into a top wristlock. They go to the mat for some chain wrestling until Armstrong goes to the hair to keep him down. They get back up again with Steamboat taking over via a clothesline and a chop. Out to the floor now for nothing of note so we head back in for Steamboat to keep control. Armstrong goes into the corner a few times but he sends Ricky's head into it instead to take over again.

Some punches to the face keep Steamboat down as Tony rambles about someone slapping someone else in the face. I would have more details about that but listening to Tony Schiavone makes my head hurt. A suplex puts Armstrong down but Armstrong hits one of his own on the Dragon. Ricky pops back up though and pounds away on Steve in the corner. Steamboat misses a clothesline and it's off to a surfboard by Armstrong. A sunset flip gets one for Armstrong but Ricky rams him face first into the mat. Armstrong misses a charge and hits the ropes, allowing Ricky to go up top and finish with the cross body.

**Rating:** D+. This is one of those matches that was long for the sake of being long which doesn't make it entertaining. At the end of the day, this was a former world champion against a lower midcard tag guy. This would be like Orton taking ten minutes to beat Epico. At the end of the day, it's really hard to stay with a match that long when it's just ok. Nothing to see here.



We run down the house show card again.

Rude says he's going to show Chicago who the better man is between he and Sting.

Brian Pillman says don't do steroids.

**Overall Rating:** D. This was your basic show from this era: a bunch of squashes and a feature match which didn't work all that well. 1992 was decent at times, but you need more than this for a show to work. To be fair though this was the lower level show of the era which didn't do it any favors. This was boring stuff, but at least it was relatively short.

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