

CM Punk believes he wasted matches on AEW wrestlers



Former WWE Champion CM Punk stated that he “wasted some matches on some people” when asked about any regrets with regards to matches that he had in rival company All Elite Wrestling.

In an interview with radio personality Peter Rosenberg at ComplexCon in Las Vegas, the “Best in the World” believes that there was no wrestler in AEW that he would have liked to have had a storyline with that he did not already tell.

CM Punk (real name Phil Brooks) was fired from AEW back in September 2023 after a backstage altercation with Jack Perry at the promotion’s ALL IN pay-per-view event at Wembley Stadium in London.

Punk’s two year stint in the promotion was marred with both controversy and injury, yet it began with such promise when Living Colour’s anthem “Cult of Personality” blared through the speakers of the United Center in Chicago to kick off an episode of Rampage.

On that day in August 2021, Punk made it clear in his initial promo that he was back because he wanted to work with the young talent that AEW had to offer.

Punk wrestled a total of 33 matches for the promotion with 25 of those being singles matches against 21 different opponents. Of those 21 men, 10 of them were under the age of the 35.

Those young wrestlers who managed to get their hands on Punk were Darby Allin, Powerhouse Hobbs, Daniel Garcia, Lee Moriarty, Wardlow, Max Caster, John Silver, “Hangman” Adam Page, “Absolute” Ricky Starks and Maxwell Jacob Friedman.

The last two men not only had the luxury of wrestling Punk twice but both also claimed victories over him.

It is unclear who Punk was referring to specifically but considering that most of these young pro wrestlers have failed to break in to the main event scene at AEW, Punk’s sentiment of “wasting matches” in the promotion may be valid.

The now 46 year-old Punk had matches against the likes of Matt Sydal and Dustin Rhodes, two men he had previously worked matches with in the WWE prior to Punk's seven and half year sabbatical from the sport.

Dream matches with names such as Kenny Omega, Adam Cole and Bryan Danielson never took place and a monumental match with New Japan Pro Wrestling Legend Hiroshi Tanahashi at the inaugural Forbidden Door event in 2021 was cancelled due to Punk sustaining a broken foot.

Any plans for trilogy matches with MJF and Starks were ultimately scrapped due to Punk's termination from the company.

Despite an underwhelming run in All Elite Wrestling, Punk seemed to be unfazed and has said that he has "had the time of his life" since returning to the WWE last year.

"I have had the time of my life though, coming back, I weigh this past year up against any year of my entire career" said Punk.

A year-long feud with Drew McIntyre culminated in a brutal Hell in a Cell clash at the Bad Blood event in October and was met with high praise from both fans and critics with famed wrestling journalist Dave Meltzer awarding the match 5 stars.

Regardless if Punk believes he has wasted matches in AEW, fans can look forward to a plethora of future bouts for the Second City Saint with talents from across WWE's three brands.

Punk's current direction is a storyline with five time World Champion Seth Rollins with the potential of a clash between the two as early as the Netflix premiere of Raw on January 6th.