

= Turning Point ( 2008 wrestling ) =

Turning Point ( 2008 ) was a professional wrestling pay @-@ per @-@ view ( PPV ) event produced by the Total Nonstop Action Wrestling ( TNA ) promotion , which took place on November 9 , 2008 at the TNA Impact ! Zone in Orlando , Florida . It was the fourth in the Turning Point chronology and the first under its name to take place in November . It was originally scheduled for December , but TNA moved it to November in late 2008 for an unknown reason . It was the eleventh event in the 2008 TNA PPV schedule . Eight professional wrestling matches , with three involving championships , were featured on the event 's card .

The main event was for the TNA World Heavyweight Championship , in which then @-@ champion Sting defeated the challenger A.J. Styles . Kevin Nash versus Samoa Joe was also featured on the card . Nash defeated Joe in the contest . A Falls Count Anywhere match pitting Kurt Angle against Abyss was promoted for the undercard , which Angle won . The TNA Legends Championship was defended for the first time by Booker T against Christian Cage during the show . Booker T was the victor in the bout , thus retaining the championship .

30 @,@ 000 was the reported figure of purchasers for the event by The Wrestling Observer Newsletter . Turning Point had an attendance of 1 @,@ 100 people . Bryan and Chris Sokol of the professional wrestling section of the Canadian Online Explorer website rated Turning Point a 7 out of 10 , which was just above the 2007 event 's rating of 6 @.@ 5 . In his review , Phil Allely of the United Kingdom 's The Sun newspaper felt Turning Point was " a thoroughly enjoyable show " .

= = Production = =

= = = Background = = =

On the first day of 2008 , TNA updated their official website to publicize the official dates for all of their PPV events to take place that year . The next installment in the Turning Point chronology was scheduled for December 14 , 2008 . The date was later changed to December 21 , and the location was announced as the TNA Impact ! Zone in Orlando , Florida . In October 2008 , three events were rescheduled : Genesis , Final Resolution , and Turning Point . The first moved was Turning Point to the Genesis event date of November 9 , while Final Resolution was announced for some time in December . Genesis was later announced to be taking place in Charlotte , North Carolina on January 11 , 2009 . The song Indestructible by the rock band Disturbed was used as the official theme of the event . The promotional poster for the gathering , featuring Mick Foley , was released through PPV providers .

= = = Storylines = = =

Turning Point featured eight professional wrestling matches that involved different wrestlers from pre @-@ existing scripted feuds and storylines . Wrestlers were portrayed as either villains or heroes in the scripted events which built tension and culminated with a wrestling match or series of matches .

Heading into Turning Point , TNA 's main storyline was an on @-@ screen rivalry between professional wrestling veterans , who played the villains and called themselves The Main Event Mafia ( Sting , Kurt Angle , Kevin Nash , Booker T , and Scott Steiner ) , and the younger talent of the company , who played the heroic characters and were led by A.J. Styles and Samoa Joe . Multiple smaller rivalries broke off from this storyline , such as one over the TNA World Heavyweight Championship between the reigning champion , Sting , and the challenger , Styles . It began on August 10 at TNA 's Hard Justice PPV event when Sting assaulted Styles after his encounter with Angle . Sting then defeated Joe , an ally of Styles , at TNA 's Bound for Glory IV PPV event on October 12 after an assist from Nash , which later sparked a rivalry between Joe and Nash . Sting 's and Styles ' rivalry soon escalated to a point where storyline co @-@ owner of TNA Mick Foley

announced on the October 30 episode of TNA 's television program TNA Impact ! that the two would fight for the championship at Turning Point .

The build to the encounter between Joe and Nash began in December 2007 . On December 2 , 2007 at the previous Turning Point event , Joe was scheduled to take part in a Six Man Tag Team match , partnering with Nash and Nash 's longtime real @-@ life friend Scott Hall to face The Angle Alliance ( Angle , Styles , and Tomko ) . Hall , however , missed the event citing " food poisoning " , leaving Joe legitimately angered by the excuse . Joe went on to make an on @-@ camera statement in the ring insulting Hall . Following the incident , TNA began a storyline in which Joe was unhappy with his position in the company for various reasons and had continuous conflicts with Nash . After time , Nash became Joe 's on @-@ screen mentor , which led to Joe defeating Angle on April 13 at TNA 's Lockdown PPV event to become the new TNA World Heavyweight Champion . Joe and Nash 's partnership seemed to come to a close after Nash disappeared from TNA television in mid @-@ 2008 . He returned at Bound for Glory IV where he cost Joe the championship in his match against Sting . On the October 30 episode of Impact ! , Foley announced that Joe would face Nash at Turning Point .

Another bout advertised for the event was Angle versus Abyss in a Falls Count Anywhere match . At Bound for Glory IV , Angle lost to TNA founder and on @-@ screen co @-@ owner Jeff Jarrett with Foley as Special Guest Enforcer . On the Impact ! after Bound for Glory IV , Angle challenged Jarrett to another match at Turning Point , however , Jarrett refused . Angered by Jarrett 's refusal , Angle began assaulting several wrestlers in TNA to persuade Jarrett into accepting the challenge . On the October 23 episode of Impact ! , Angle challenged Jarrett again to a rematch , which Jarrett again refused . Jarrett , however , recommended Abyss as Angle 's opponent , who was a casualty of Angle 's attacks the previous week . On the October 30 episode of Impact ! , Angle fought Abyss in a contest which ended in a disqualification after Angle struck Abyss with a steel chair . Following their encounter , a match was promoted pitting Angle against Abyss in a Falls Count Anywhere match at Turning Point .

On the October 23 episode of Impact ! , Booker T introduced a new championship named the TNA Legends Championship and declared himself the inaugural champion . Afterwards , Christian Cage , who had remained neutral in the storyline , entered the arena and challenged Booker T to defend the championship against him at Turning Point . Booker T accepted after he added the stipulation that if Cage lost the encounter he would have to join The Main Event Mafia . Later on the October 30 episode of Impact ! , the match was made official when it was promoted for the event .

= = Event = =

= = = Miscellaneous = = =

The event featured employees other than the wrestlers involved in the matches . There were four overall commentators for the event ; Mike Tenay and Don West provided English commentary , while Hector Guerrero and Willie Urbina served as the Spanish announce team . There were three ring announcers for the spectacle as the normal ring announcer , David Penzer , was used for all but two contests . Retired Army veteran Sean M. Autrey served as the special guest ring announcer for the Rhino and Sheik Abdul Bashir encounter . Jeremy Borash announced the competitors for the TNA World Heavyweight Championship match , using a style similar to professional boxing as made famous by Michael Buffer . Shane Sewell , Earl Hebner , Rudy Charles , Mark " Slick " Johnson , and Andrew Thomas participated as referees for the encounters . Borash and Lauren Thompson were used as interviewers throughout the event . Besides wrestlers who were appearing in a wrestling role , Jeff Jarrett , Mick Foley , Scott Steiner , and Matt Morgan were also featured in backstage segments . Other than contractual employees being featured , the group Insane Clown Posse ( ICP ) and Scott Hall were seen in attendance . This was later revealed to have been scripted to occur , as TNA had asked ICP to attend the event , but were unaware of Hall being their guest .

= = = Preliminary matches = = =

The event commenced with a ten @-@ man X Division elimination rankings match , which involved Eric Young , Consequences Creed , Doug Williams , Homicide , Jay Lethal , Jimmy Rave , Petey Williams , Sonjay Dutt , Tanahashi , and Volador . The match was announced as following lucha libre tag team rules , in which a participant could be replaced if thrown from the ring to the floor , but not eliminated from the match unless by pinfall or submission . The order of elimination determined the standings in the X Division towards a future TNA X Division Championship match , in storyline . Homicide was injured during the match , thus was declared eliminated after a bad fall to the outside area . Lethal and Young were the final two men in the contest . Young was the victor in the match after slamming Lethal into the mat with a bridging back suplex at 17 minutes .

A tag team match pitting the team of Roxxi and Taylor Wilde against the team of Awesome Kong and Raisha Saeed , who were accompanied by Rhaka Khan , was held . After various maneuvers were performed by each competitor , Wilde gained the pinfall victory on Saeed after forcing her back into the mat with a bridging German suplex at eight minutes .

Rhino fought Sheik Abdul Bashir in the following bout . Ten year Army veteran Sean M. Autrey served as the special guest ring announcer for the encounter . The match lasted nine minutes , and came to a finish when Rhino pinned Bashir after a tackle .

The TNA World Tag Team Championship was contested between the reigning champions Beer Money , Inc . ( James Storm and Robert Roode ) , who were accompanied by Jacqueline , and The Motor City Machineguns of Alex Shelley and Chris Sabin . After several tag team maneuvers from both teams , Storm spat beer in Sabin 's face , blinding him . This allowed Beer Money to lift up and slam Sabin back @-@ first to the mat with their Drinking While Investing ( DWI ) tag team maneuver to gain the pinfall and retain the championship at 17 minutes .

= = = Main event matches = = =

The fifth match was Booker T 's defense of the TNA Legends Championship against Christian Cage , with the added stipulation that if Cage lost , he would be forced to join The Main Event Mafia . Booker T was accompanied by Sharmell for the bout . The match lasted for 11 minutes , ending when Booker T pinned Cage with a roll @-@ up .

A Falls Count Anywhere match between Kurt Angle and Abyss followed , lasting 17 minutes . At one point during the encounter while Abyss was standing on the concrete floor and Angle was on the stage , Angle performed a running leap off the stage into a somersault senton , connecting with Abyss on the floor . Angle was the victor in the bout , after throwing Abyss off of a scaffold through the Spanish announcers ' table , then descending and covering Abyss for the pinfall .

Kevin Nash fought Samoa Joe in the seventh contest of the night . The match lasted 12 minutes . At two points during the match , Nash performed his signature Jackknife Powerbomb with Joe kicking out before the three count . This led to Nash hitting Joe in the groin and placing his feet on the ropes for leverage in his winning pin attempt .

The main event was for the TNA World Heavyweight Championship between the champion , Sting , and the challenger , A.J. Styles . During the 15 minutes the match lasted , Styles executed his aerial technique the Spiral Tap , in which he jumps off one of the top padded turnbuckles , spins and flips in mid @-@ air before landing on his opponent . He then ascended the turnbuckle to perform the maneuver once again , but was distracted by Angle and Booker T. Later , Styles missed a pele kick on Sting , which allowed Sting to counter with a small package pin on Styles to retain the championship .

= = Reception = =

A total of 1 @, @ 100 people attended the event . In late 2008 , The Wrestling Observer Newsletter reported that the number of pay @-@ per @-@ view purchasers for the event was believed to be 30

@,@ 000 . Canadian Online Explorer writers Bryan and Chris Sokol rated the entire event a 7 out of 10 , which was .5 above the 2007 event 's rating of 6 @.@ 5 by Chris Sokol . The Falls Count Anywhere match was given the highest rating during their review , at 8 out of 10 . The lowest rating was given to the women 's tag team match and the Rhino versus Bashir bout , at 5 out of 10 . The main event match for the TNA World Heavyweight Championship was rated 7 out of 10 . Wade Keller of the Pro Wrestling Torch stated during his review that the Falls Count Anywhere match " had an epic feeling for a falls count anywhere brawl . It had various chapters , many convincing near falls , several creative big spots , and the crowd was into it . " While regrading the main event , Keller stated he thought it was a " good match . " James Caldwell , also of the Pro Wrestling Torch , mentioned during his review that Joe versus Nash had " good drama " due to the storyline " with a big game veteran vs. a big game ' Young Lion ' in a compelling match @-@ up . Joe losing should be treated as a huge deal with proper follow @-@ up to move Joe up to the next level . If he 's losing , it needs to mean something for his overall growth . " Phil Allely , a journalist for The Sun , stated he felt the event was " a thoroughly enjoyable show " . The event was released by TNA Home Video on DVD on March 24 , 2009 as part of the " TNA Wrestling : Cross The Line Vol . 2 " box set , which included the December 2008 Final Resolution event and the Genesis 2009 event .

= = Aftermath = =

On the November 13 episode of Impact ! , Cage was to be inducted into The Main Event Mafia ( MEM ) , however , they instead turned on and assaulted him . This led to Cage 's occasional tag team partner , Rhino , becoming involved in the overall storyline as the leader of the group The TNA Front Line after he was attacked by MEM on the November 20 episode of Impact ! . During that same telecast , Angle versus Rhino was announced as TNA 's Final Resolution event , with the added stipulations that if Angle won he would gain an opportunity to face Jeff Jarrett , while if Rhino won , then Angle was to be released from his TNA contract . Angle went on to defeat Rhino at the event , which led to Angle defeating Jarrett in a No Disqualification match at TNA 's Genesis event in January 2009 .

Sting and Styles went on to have another match for the TNA World Heavyweight Championship at Final Resolution . This time , the team of Sting , Steiner , Nash , and Booker T faced off against Styles , Joe , and two mystery partners ( The TNA Front Line ) in an Eight Man Tag Team match . The stipulations were if anyone from Styles ' team pinned a member of Sting 's team , then Styles won the TNA Title , while if anyone from Sting 's team pinned a member of Styles ' team , then Sting retained the title . The match was announced on the November 20 episode of Impact ! . Styles ' mystery partners were revealed on the November 27 episode of Impact ! as Team 3D ( Brother Devon and Brother Ray ) . Sting went on to retain the title at Final Resolution after he pinned Joe .

Eric Young got his TNA X Division Championship match on the November 13 episode of Impact ! against then @-@ champion Sheik Abdul Bashir . Though he defeated him to become the new champion , a week later the decision was reversed and Young was forced to relinquish the title belt to Bashir due to a controversial ending to their match . Young and Bashir fought for the championship once again at Final Resolution , with referee Shane Sewell interfering in the bout like he had done in the previous encounter , which allowed Young to gain the victory . Afterwards , Management Director Jim Cornette stripped Young of the championship . This set up a tournament for the title , ending at Genesis where Alex Shelley defeated Chris Sabin to become the new champion .

= = Results = =

X Division rankings match eliminations