

# WWE Hall of Fame: Class of 2007

It may be weaker at the top but it's very strong throughout.

## Dusty Rhodes

While not much in the WWE, he was HUGE elsewhere and one of the most influential people in the history of wrestling. If you want to talk about someone who is a lifer in wrestling, Rhodes is a good place to start. He debuted 45 years ago and is still active in wrestling today. Think about that for a minute. That's a LONG time to do anything, let alone be in wrestling. Rhodes is a yes, and if you're not familiar with some of his stuff from the 70s, look it up. It's far different than what he's most famous for.

## Curt Hennig

Hennig is one of those guys where the more I see of him, the more I'm impressed by him. He had nearly unlimited talent and one of the best gimmicks in wrestling history. Hennig came as close to living up to the name Mr. Perfect as you could get and the various sports vignettes he had were some of the best promos ever. He never won the WCW or WWF World Title but he had a year long reign as AWA World Champion which is still solid enough to count for something. This is another easy yes.

## Jerry Lawler

Lawler is another guy that is legendary in the indies and one in particular, but he's equally if not even more famous for being the co-voice of Monday Night Raw and therefore the WWF

as a whole. Lawler has been doing commentary for about twenty years now as well as still wrestling occasionally. He's never won a title in the WWE but he's never needed to. Lawler has long since been at the level where his reputation is safe no matter what he does. Lawler is another yes and one of the few people who would make it into both the WWE Hall of Fame and any other wrestling Hall of Fame as well.

### **Nick Bockwinkel**

This is another name that isn't that well known by a lot of young fans but he certainly should be. Bockwinkel was the father of the smart heel, as he was very crafty but also very skilled in the ring. Before him, most heels were monsters that a hero would have to vanquish. Bockwinkel came along and changed the entire idea, showing that heels could win with their minds instead of brute force. He's very similar to Ted DiBiase in that regard, which makes him a very influential man indeed. He held the AWA World Title for over eight years combined and the tag titles for over three years. That alone makes him an easy yes vote.

### **Mr. Fuji**

I love Mr. Fuji! (Five points if you get that reference) This one might surprise you. Fuji was a pretty lame manager, but he was a very accomplished tag wrestler. He was a five time WWF Tag Team Champion and holds the record for most days spent as a tag team champion. He held a tag title for 932 days. Billy Gunn is second at 916 and had twice as many reigns. The next place down is over seven months shorter. Fuji managed Demolition during a large portion of their record tag title run and also managed Yokozuna to the WWF Title. On top of all that, he was in FUJI FREAKING VICE (look that up if you want some old school hilarity). I was thinking no at

first but a little research says he belongs in the Hall of Fame.

### **Jim Ross**

If Jerry Lawler is in, Jim Ross has to be in too. He's been the voice of the WWE for what seems like ever now and he continues to be a great commentator. His acting isn't exactly top notch half the time and he can be more than a little annoying, but the best way I can sum up JR is this: he and Lawler on commentary just feels right. Ross was also a force behind the scenes as he was VP of talent relations for a long time. He's a jack of all trades in wrestling and again I have no problem with him being inducted.

### **The Sheik**

Not the Iron Sheik but just the Sheik. This is a guy you probably haven't heard of but if you're a fan of ECW or Mick Foley or Terry Funk, you need to research this guy. He's arguably the father of hardcore wrestling in the US and was legendary in his main territory of Detroit. Sheik also trained Raven and Sabu, which may or may not be a good thing in your eyes. As for being in the Hall of Fame, this is more of a personal issue but I'm saying no. Hardcore wrestling has done more to hurt wrestling than anything else and Sheik introduced the style to the world. I'm saying no based on that alone.

### **The Wild Samoans**

This is the team that started the entire tradition in the wrestling world. From The Rock to Yokozuna to Rosey to Roman Reigns, it all started here. The Wild Samoans were a very

successful tag team and won multiple tag titles over the years. Afa also has been a successful trainer and trained Mickey Rourke for the movie The Wrestler. This is another team that is a yes, although there are a few other teams I would put in over them.

This is one of the most stacked classes from top to bottom ever and probably the best one yet with no huge negatives.