

2013 Awards: News Story of the Year

For once we have a close one. There were some big stories this year and picking the biggest is actually difficult. As usual we'll go with some nominees first.

Bruno Sammartino comes back to WWE. This is minor by comparison but to see Bruno on Raw and at Wrestlemania was long overdue.

Hulk Hogan and Eric Bischoff leave TNA. This is less of a news story and more of an answer to several prayers. I won't say these two were universally bad for the company but the bad outweighed the good. The focuses on the Hogan drama and Garrett Bischoff from a few years ago dragged the good stuff down and it just never ended. Hogan would have been great as a GM character who showed up once every few weeks and made a match and OCCASIONALLY got physical. Having everything centered around Hogan got old fast and the fact that we never got a payoff to Hogan vs. Bully Ray really hurt things.

TNA running out of money. It isn't as high on the list because of one simple things: there isn't much of a surprise here. TNA has cut PPVs down to like three a year, moved onto the road and hasn't cut any major salaries. I'm no economist, but it's clear that a model like that isn't going to last long at all. Things seems to have stabilized in recent months with Hogan and Bischoff leaving and moving back to Orlando. Yeah it's a step back, but it's either step back or fall off a cliff.

Death of Paul Bearer. Not so much of a story as it is a big surprise. Bearer seemed to be in far better health and was certainly more normal sized than when he weighed well over 500lbs. From what I can find people saw him looking bad on

March 2 and he was gone on March 5. That's a very quick turnaround and was a shock to wrestling fans everywhere.

This brings us to the winner: Darren Young coming out. No it hasn't meant much since, but think about this for a minute. The NBA has one active player who is out (yet not on a roster), MLB, the NFL and NHL have zero. Darren Young is in a physical contact sport in very little clothing yet came out anyway. Luckily there hasn't been a lot of backlash that we know of and might be helpful for others in the future. It hasn't meant much since, but this was big at the time.

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