

2013 Awards: Rookie of the Year

Part one of a double shot today as I forgot to put anything up yesterday.

Rookie of the year is a tricky award in wrestling. What do you classify as a rookie? Bray Wyatt debuted in WWE in 2013, but Husky Harris was around years ago. There's little argument that Shield has been a force in WWE, but they had one match in 2012. It's hard to come up with official criteria, but for the sake of these we'll go with any new character in 2013. I'll leave Shield off because they'll win enough this year. Based on that, there are a lot of nominees this year.

A few honorable mentions:

Sami Zayn. If you watch NXT, you get this one immediately. Sami Zayn is the former El Generico and is currently chasing Bo Dallas' NXT Title. He is about as perfect an underdog as you can ask for and has put on some outstanding matches against guys like Antonio Cesaro and Jack Swagger. He's going to move up to WWE one day and will fit like a glove.

Ethan Carter III. He's the Rick Rude of modern wrestling. Now before you old school fans jump down my throat, think about this for a minute. Rude was a glorified comedy wrestler in the WWF but once he jumped to WCW, he became a killer and the top heel in the company for over a year. Carter was as goofy as you could ask a wrestler to be in WWE but he jumped over to TNA and is now playing a solid heel. The guy is going to be a big deal in TNA and is a rare instance of TNA getting a good steal from WWE.

Now for some actual nominees.

Wyatt Family. These guys are CREEPY. If you watch Survivor Series 1990, the crowd goes silent for Undertaker's debut. Not because they're bored, but because they have no idea what to make of the guy in front of them. That's the vibe I get from these guys. Wyatt is so perfect for the character it's unreal as well as a good sign. Instead of letting him be Husky Harris and having him lose for a year before cutting him, they realized the talent that was there and found something that fit him perfectly.

However, he might not have the most potential out of all of them. I dig Luke Harper more and more every time he's out there. That discus clothesline of his is AWESOME and looks like it could take anyone out. The look in his eyes is just disturbing and he's got a great finisher to top it off. What more can you ask for from a guy? He's got a future once the Family breaks up and the gimmick change is so easy too.

Now for the winner: Big E. Langston. This guy is actually a rookie by WWE's standards and looks like he's going to be a big deal for a long time. He's been treated like a monster (save for that stupid loss to Del Rio) and is already in the main event scene. They're actually protecting this guy and he has the promo skills to back it up. Considering he only started wrestling about four years ago and is just 27 years old, that's remarkable.

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