

2014 Awards: Title Reign of the Year

This one might surprise you a bit.

When you think about it, there weren't a ton of great title reigns this year. Most of the reigns were either transitional, short term, or really nothing all that special. Look at Havok with the Knockouts Title for example. The idea was to build her up for someone to build ala Lashley, but Havok wrestled something like five or six matches in total before dropping the title. That's really hard to get behind you know?

Speaking of Lashley, we'll start with his reign as TNA World Champion. Lashley's reign was actually a huge surprise for me as he finally hit the level that WWE was looking for. Imagine that: a guy with an intimidating look, a great physique, great amateur skills and no talking skills is better suited as a heel. This was your old school monster heel run and it worked really well as Lashley destroyed every major face on the roster. I wasn't crazy on Roode just getting another shot and taking the title, but it made him look like a world beater.

Off to the tag division, where we have some solid options.

Ascension held the NXT Tag Team Titles for just under a year and had almost no competition the entire time. This was another old school style run with shades of Demolition or the Legion of Doom: two big, strong guys who just beat you down while loving every minute of it. The only downside is the reign went on a bit too long and got repetitive, but the idea was solid and the title defenses were great.

Up on the main roster, we had the Usos doing the polar opposite. Instead of beating everyone down, they opted to just have one great, competitive match after another with their matches against the Wyatts and the Wrestlemania XXX pre-show blowing away a lot of the other tag team matches we've seen in the previous years. That being said though, the Usos' reign just doesn't feel epic. It's entertaining, but comes off like Strike Force: good matches and chemistry, but it felt like a long

transitional reign which took on a life of its own instead of something great.

One last tag team would be ReDRagon's ROH Tag Team Title reign....but I don't watch much ROH. I've heard good things but I can't really comment on it when I've only seen two or three of their matches.

That leaves my choice for the win: Adrian Neville as NXT Champion. This one is a lot more simple as Neville won the title in a big match, had a series of major defenses and then dropped the title in a classic. The reign went on for the better part of a year and had every necessary element of a great title reign. Some of the others come close, but no one else nailed it like Neville did down in the best promotion going right now.