

Best Of 2018: Most Improved Of The Year



IMG Credit: WWE

This one is going to be open to a simple question: how good was the person coming into 2018? If you were that good already, it's kind of hard to see top level improvement. It's not impossible, but it's going to be a lot more difficult to pull off. At the same time though, there are some people who went from good to great or even higher than that, which is why some of these people might feel all over the map.

Elias

While Elias is far from perfect, he had a remarkable 2018 with the singing/guitar playing going further than it had any right to. He's getting bigger spots and feuds on the card, while also putting out an album and getting sponsored by Fender. That's not bad at all considering his whole deal is singing stupid songs about other wrestlers. He wasn't exactly great down in NXT but now he's a mainstay on the Raw roster. That's pretty good, and I could see him lasting with this for a long time.

Nikki Cross

There's an old Chris Rock line that says "whatever happened to crazy". Well it turns out that it's become a Scottish wrestler named Nikki Cross.

You often hear wrestlers described as crazy or a lunatic, but what exactly does Dean Ambrose do that's crazy? It's really a lame gimmick most of the time because it's often in name only. Cross on the other hand seems completely insane at times and makes it work to perfection. A lot of that happened this year, with the HE'S COMING stuff working wonders.

Dakota Kai

Despite not having a Team Kick to captain, Kai has turned what sounds like a fairly simple and goofy name into something that works. Kai is downright adorable and yet still makes the kicks look great. I know she's down with an injury at the moment, but there are very few who can make what she does work. Give her a few big wins and she could be ready for a title run down the line.

Shayna Baszler

Dang it's been a good year for developmental women. Baszler is a little older than most of the people on this list but she's become one of the most consistent performers in NXT or WWE for that matter. The submission stuff works and she has an ability with her promos that just makes her sound dangerous. She was ready for the main roster six months ago, which didn't seem likely just a year ago. Not bad for twelve months.

Johnny Gargano

This would fall under the category of "used to be great, now incredible". I don't think anyone really doubted that Gargano was going to be someone who would go from a successful tag wrestler to one of the best in the world, but I don't think anyone thought it would come that fast. Gargano is in the running for Wrestler of the Year and that wasn't looking likely a year ago. There's a big difference between good and outstanding, which is what this year did.

Tommaso Ciampa

Everything I said about Gargano? Replace it with Ciampa.

Since I can't pick between those two though, I'll go with a different choice and someone that I think you see coming.

Becky Lynch

Yeah of course it's Becky, because she went from one of the run of the mill women on the roster (as in talented but not getting anywhere) to the most popular person on the roster. Lynch is someone who could be a huge star for years to come and the star that the division has been looking for for years now. She has all the tools and has started to put them together, which seemed to happen overnight. That's an improvement of the year if I've ever heard one.

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