

Best Of 2019: Non-Wrestler Of The Year



IMG Credit: WWE

I'm really not feeling this one as no one jumps off the page at me this year. Usually this is the Paul Heyman Award but Heyman hasn't really done much this year. The stuff that he has done has been fine, but I can't think of anything off the top of my head that he did exceptionally this year. Therefore, we have to look elsewhere this year and...well maybe someone can win by default.

Tony Schiavone

I had a good portion of an Excalibur entry here but Schiavone has earned it more. Who in the world would have guessed that Schiavone would be so perfect at what he's doing in AEW? Schiavone was rarely anyone's favorite commentator during his heyday but he's been broadcasting in mainstream sports for decades so it's not like he's out of practice at calling something.

The big thing about Schiavone is he's right in the middle of the other two broadcasters. You have Excalibur, who is as over the top as they come with all of the move calls etc., and then you have JR, who wants to know if the early bird special is open yet. Schiavone is the normal guy calling wrestling and showing that when he doesn't have some horrible producer in

his ear, he's quite good at it and is worth having around. This is one of the biggest surprises of the year and as an old WCW fan, something I've enjoyed very much.

Zelina Vega

You kind of have to include Zelina here and while that seems to be the case as a near token inclusion, her partnership with Andrade has gotten better and better. They capped off the year with the United States Title win and that's the kind of thing that suggests Andrade is going to be one of the bigger stars in the company going forward. A lot of that is due to Vega and it has been awesome to see.

Vega really can do a lot of things, as she can talk incredibly well but she can also get physical if she needs to. That makes her a lot more valuable, and the kind of person that WWE will want to keep around for a long time to come. Vega is someone who can do all kinds of things and she does them all very well, as she has done everywhere she has gone in wrestling.

HHH

This is one where the appearances are limited but the ones that were there were some of the best and most important around. HHH was a major force in the Battle For Brand Supremacy and it made the situation that much better. It helps when he's the NXT boss but also a major star in WWE history, which puts him in one of the most unique positions in all of wrestling.

Much like Vince McMahon in his heyday, there is something about having the official boss involved in a story that makes it that much better. Yeah HHH is a great character, but he's also the one who put NXT together in the way that it is presented. It feels so much more real every time he's out there and that's the kind of thing you can always appreciate, because it doesn't come around often.

Mauro Ranallo

Mauro is one of those people you almost have to include on every list because there has been something he said during the year that gets your attention. This one was no different, even if you ignore the fiasco around Survivor Series weekend. There is no one who calls wrestling with the level of energy that he does and while he can get annoying at times, he is also someone who is always going to make an impact.

It's almost a weird case with Mauro as he's one of the best in the world at what he does, but other than a well placed MAMA MIA, you don't often have anything that really stands out from him. It's much more of an overall feeling as Ranallo can be as energetic as you want him to be (and often way too energetic) but it's still fun to listen to him because you can tell he's all in on what he is doing.

That leaves us with...well several options really, but this one stands out above the rest in my eyes.

Nigel McGuinness

I'm not sure if I can put my finger on it but there is something I absolutely love about listening to Nigel call a wrestling match. Maybe it's the accent or something but he sounds like he loves every second of what he does. There is a passion there and it shows every time he is calling anything. You can see how much he loves this and it makes the biggest difference in the world.

Nigel is someone who has the credentials to go with the voice and now he is getting the exposure on a higher level. He'll be able to do this as long as he wants to and that's a great thing for wrestling fans. You need someone with the in-ring experience to make commentary sound better and if they can sound as happy as they are as Nigel, it makes things so much better. I know it might not be the most common pick, but Nigel wins this for me this year.

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