

Best Of 2010s: Rookie/Newcomer Of The Decade



IMG Credit: WWE

This is the trickiest of them all because it's hard to know where to stop. The point of this is not necessarily wrestlers who started their in-ring career over the last ten years but rather someone who showed up on a new show. This one is likely going to be all over the place as a result so bare with me, as I've never been quite comfortable with the specifics of how this one worked.

Four Horsewomen

This is a group joined at the hip that you can't really separate. I know there are a lot of arguments to be had about ranking the four of them and you could go with a lot of combinations, but what mattered is how much of an impact they had. These four came into WWE and showed that there was a future for women's wrestling. For years before, there was no reason to believe that women were going to be able to do anything in WWE. Now, the better question is what is left for them to do.

This is one of the most important groups of newcomers of all time because of what they meant, though what they can do in the ring is quite the accomplishment as well. Much like the Shield, they are going to be a big deal for a long time but

their impact is going to be more historical than anything else. They did something you don't see by changing the game and that's not bad for four newcomers.

Bray Wyatt

It's almost hard to believe that Wyatt has only been in WWE since 2013 as he feels like he's been around forever (to be fair, six and a half years is forever in wrestling). Wyatt has not been the most consistent performer in WWE, but there is something about him that lets you see just how good he can be. When Wyatt is at his best, he's one of the best in the world today with the character stuff as you can't take your eyes off of him a lot of the time.

Wyatt is the kind of person who does all kinds of things and now you have something as awesome as the Fiend to top them all. There are very few characters where you can feel the fans just go silent when they appear because no one knows what to do with them. That was the case when Undertaker debuted and it's still the case now with the Fiend. I'm curious to see what he can do next and that's a nice feeling to have.

Pete Dunne/Tyler Bate

With all due respect to Trent Seven, these two outclass him in almost every way and I can't split them up so we'll just put them together. Bate, who looked like a kid who got lost to 7th grade history when he debuted, has put on more instant classics than almost anyone I've seen in years, is starting to grow into a star and that bodes very well for the future because he really is that good.

Then there's Dunne and my goodness. Dunne is the kind of guy where you saw a future World Champion the day he debuted. The guy just had it and there was no denying what he could do in every aspect of wrestling. He looks tough, he has awesome matches, the aura is bouncing off of him, and he's in his

mid-20s. Dunne is as complete of a package as you can get and that's why it's always great to see him doing just about anything: you know you're seeing something special.

Matt Riddle

What is it about former mixed martial artists that make them successful in the ring? Riddle is the kind of guy who showed up and looked like he had been doing this for years. The Bro stuff is a gimmick that you should hate right off the bat but that goofy smile, incredibly physique and the next level that he can reach at a moment's notice make him impossible to turn down. Riddle is someone who feels like one of the most natural wrestlers you'll ever see and he hasn't even been wrestling for five years.

I remember back when Riddle was still wrestling in the indies and would be prominently featured over Wrestlemania weekend. I had heard so much about him that I needed to try to find a way to see him in person but it never could click. That's how you know someone has some credentials: the hype is so strong that you want to go out of your way to see them. Imagine what he'll do when he gets some more experience under his belt.

Ronda Rousey

What else is there to say about her? She debuted one year, had her first match ever at Wrestlemania XXXIV and then headlined Wrestlemania XXXV. That's the kind of run that very few have been able to pull off ever and Rousey did it while looking like she had been doing this for ten years. In a way she had a good base with MMA, but that didn't change how fast she took to wrestling.

The biggest thing for Rousey is that she wasn't just wrecking people with the armbar in ten seconds with one move on occasion. She was out there having long matches and looking like a natural with them. That's the kind of thing that no one not named Kurt Angle could pull off in their first year and

she made it look easy. You don't see that kind of talent ever and I'm hoping we get to see it again.

But then there's one (kind of) to top them all.

Shield

Yeah like I'm going to try to separate these three. This team may be the greatest trio WWE has ever seen (certainly the one with the most successful individuals) and to this day it's rare to see them outside of the main event scene. I don't remember the last time I saw anyone show up and take over like this but the Shield debuted in the main event and took over the company like it was the easiest thing they had ever done.

You can argue for a good while about which one of the three is the best, but there is no denying that the three of them showed up and took over WWE like they weren't even trying. These guys are going to be near the top of WWE for years to come and you can see how much WWE thinks of what they have with them. Not bad for three guys who just showed up out of the crowd one day.

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