

Fighter Profile: Brock Lesnar

Brock Lesnar is good for the MMA biz. He was the youngest WWE heavyweight champion ever and he had a stellar NCAA career. Big Brock is a big name who carries over the boisterous WWE interview style and sells a lot of tickets.

He's also one of the few 'big names' who actually has the kahunas to get into the Octagon. His courage and commitment is to be admired because the Octagon is a very dangerous place. Just because he's a big strong wrestler doesn't mean he's going to be safe in there, there's always considerable risk that his career could be ended at any given minute and in very nasty fashion.



Fighters like Crocop will rupture your knee or liver, fighters' like Wanderlei or Anderson Silva will rupture your face, fighters like Frank Mir will break your arms or your knees or your ankles, fighters like Kevin Randleman will hoist you up and slam you on your head...

But Lesnar is not too worried because he's more than just a 'big strong wrestler'. He has really committed himself to MMA these last few years, training with Royce Gracie and various other MMA names in the pursuit of becoming a rounded fighter.

Originally despised by legions of UFC fans for having the audacity to presume a professional wrestler could even show his face in the UFC, he has begun to win them over with his fighting spirit and his evolving skill set.

Lesnar isn't the first pro wrestler to compete in MMA. Allen Coage ('Bad News Brown', an Olympian judoka) fought in Shootfighting in Japan in the mid 90's and was knocked out with leg kicks, (probably the main contributor to his early retirement due to knee damage). Tony Halme (Ludvig Borga, the 'Helsinki Wrecking Machine') fought in the UFC and lost to Randy Couture. Kurt Angle has voiced intent to fight in MMA although his performance against Daniel Puder indicates that unlike Brock, he's nowhere near ready.



Lesnar has done very well; he's the UFC heavyweight champion! His TKO victory over Couture certainly helped him win over some fans! He definitely didn't deserve a title shot against Couture, having won only 2 out of 3 MMA fights, but as I said and the promoters obviously agree, he's good for business. Plus It's pretty tough to argue with the results: your winner and champion: Brock Lesnar.

The Future for Brock Lesnar

I don't think Lesnar will hold that belt for very long, however. Frank Mir just beat Nogueira! In that fight Mir looked to be in the best shape of his life. By contrast, Brock's conditioning is questionable.

Last time they fought Mir had Lesnar beating his buttocks in only 90 seconds. This time around Mir has suggested that he may actually break something ("We'll see if he can make it out of the first round but hey, this time I'll make him famous on the break that I do to him")

Frank Mir has boasted before about breaking his opponent's bones, on more than one occasion. He snapped Tim Sylvia's arm in their notorious title match. In UFC 34 Mir broke highly decorated 5th degree BJJ black belt Roberto Traven's arm in just over a minute.

Some of my colleagues differ with me here, however, claiming that Brock won't be caught twice and this time around his superior size and power will be too much for Mir. They cite Mir's match with Brandon Vera for example, where Mir was overwhelmed and defeated in just over a minute. These are good points; Brock is certainly huge; he reportedly wears a custom-built glove as standard sizes are insufficient, and he overwhelmed Min Soo Kim in just over a minute.

But I'm sticking to my guns here, officially predicting that Mir will win again, by submission, when the exciting belt-uniting rematch takes place :)



*Robert G. Viles is a lifer martial artist, writer, business owner & registered nurse. He lives and trains in Southern Ontario.

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