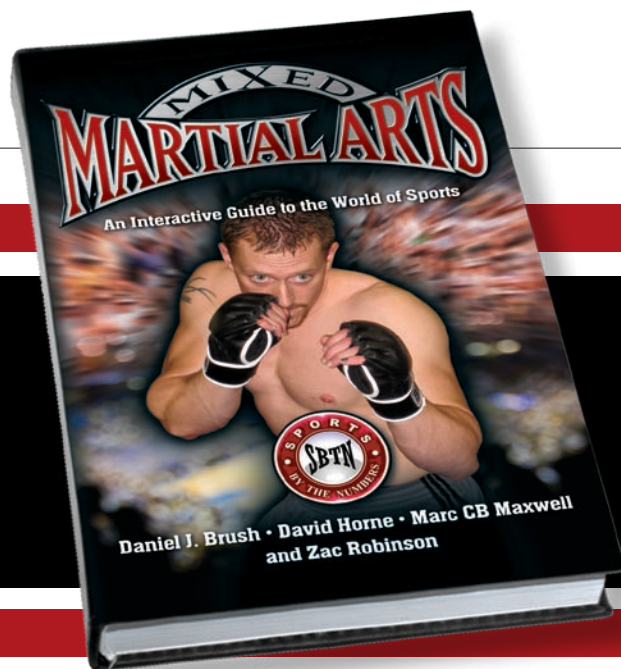


## READ A BOOK

'Mixed Martial Arts:  
An Interactive Guide to the World of Sports'

BY KELLY CRIGGER

If you like trivia, are addicted to "Jeopardy!" or just love to throw around little-known facts at a party, then Zac Robinson is your new Zen master. Robinson's new book, 'Mixed Martial Arts: An Interactive Guide to the World of Sports', is a compilation of a thousand tidbits of MMA trivia, like fact No. 523: Matt Serra was the first American to be awarded a black belt in BJJ under Renzo Gracie on May 23, 2000. Cool.



A long-time MMA addict, Robinson got the idea for this book after attending UFC 75 in London. Along with fellow stat masters Daniel Brush, David Horne and Marc CB Maxwell, he set out to delve into the tedious world of numbers to find every strange morsel he could about the sport. Their volume of mind-blowing and mind-numbing facts was published by Savas Beatie as part of a series for trivia addicts called "Sports by the Numbers."

"For the most part, the numbers introduce a very short story that stands alone," says Robinson. "This makes the book great for reading while taking a dump or waiting at the doctor's office. You can just pick it up, turn to a page, read a little bit and then turn somewhere else."

Following Robinson's advice, I took a seat on my porcelain throne and dove in by flipping to my age. Fact No. 40 states, "Time (0:40) of the quickest fight at UFC 9, when Mark Hall TKO'd Koji Kitao." For fun, I added my age and my wife's age and flipped to fact No. 58. Okay, I'm lying. I flipped to fact No. 74, which states, "Record (7-4) of Ryo Chonan, when he defeated Anderson Silva with a stunning flying scissor heel hook."

With 1,000 facts about MMA, it's probably inevitable that not all of them are riveting. For example, fact No. 727 states, "Through 11, the percentage of Lyoto Machida's bouts (72.7) to go at least into the third round." Try quoting that one around a water cooler and

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being taken seriously.

In between all the numbers are 10 short essays that describe and validate the growth and legitimacy of MMA through the years, including a letter to "Big" John McCarthy thanking him for his dedication to the sport and for all the numbers he's garnered as a result. The book's interactive feature is a Web site for readers to visit ([www.sportsbythenumbers.com](http://www.sportsbythenumbers.com)), where they can participate in blogs and conversations regarding the authors' favorite numbers. So what's Robinson's favorite stat?

"That's a pretty tough one," he says. "Dan Henderson beating Yvel, Big Nog, and Babalu all in one night is pretty cool. Mayhem Miller has some pretty funny numbers, one about Sacagawea and a couple about his fight with Mark Moreno."

Overall, it's a very interesting book that can arm you with all the tools you need to be the smartest guy in a room full of MMA fans. When you're watching a rerun of Tank Abbott and Kimbo Slice's EliteXC fight, you can drop fact No. 272: Tank Abbott has never fought in a second round.

I bet Alex Trebek didn't even know that.

### MMA By The Numbers: Facts from the Book

- Number of times Tito Ortiz has fought outside the UFC: 1
- Number of strikes Georges St. Pierre threw in his victory over Jon Fitch at UFC 87: 607
- Length of Japanese professional wrestling star Yugi Nagata's MMA career: 83 seconds. (He fought twice and was stopped early in the first round both times—first by Mirko "Crocop" Filipovic and then Fedor Emelianenko!)
- Combined winning percentage in MMA of three of Helio Gracie's seven sons, Rickson, Royler and Royce: 78%
- Date the mayor declared honorary "Rich Franklin Day" in Cincinnati Ohio: 2/21/2006
- Ken Shamrock's Pancrase record: 14-2 from September of 1993 to March 1995