

Jeff Joslin

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Jeff “The Inferno” Joslin is a mixed martial art fighter out of Hamilton who achieved a record of 5-3-0 during an injury shortened career. The 6’0” and 170 lbs fighter has achieved a fourth degree black belt in karate along with a black belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and experience with boxing and wrestling¹ which he drew upon during his time in the ring.

Jeff Joslin was born April 30, 1975 in Hamilton, Ontario. His family home was located above his father’s martial arts school. Joslin’s father, Rick, was a three time Canadian karate champion and opened the family academy in Hamilton in 1967.² He recalls the fun times he had with his friends in the basement of his house playing games, sports and sparring in the gym.³ Joslin began training in karate at the tender age of five and says that he feels lucky that his whole life has focused on the “great sport of martial arts.”⁴

After a couple years of training, Joslin, like many other young boys growing up in Canada, turned his attention to hockey and stopped his martial arts training. He recalls this choice saying that “I think making that choice, as difficult I imagine it was for him [his father] at the time, is the reason I’m still an active martial artist today.”⁵ Joslin would eventually return to his training in order to prepare for an impending street high with a fellow high school student who would frequently bother and try to physically intimate him and his friends. Following the fight, Joslin was more motivated then ever to continue his karate training.⁶

¹ “The Inferno: Jeff Joslin - Profile.” The Inferno: Jeff Joslin. <http://www.jeffjoslin.ca/profile.html>

² *Ibid.*

³ Jeff Joslin. “My Story.” Jeff “The Inferno” Joslin’s MMA Blog: The Home of Lifetime Mixed Martial Artist. <http://jeffjoslinmma.com/my-story/>

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

Joslin was very successful in karate competitions. During a five year period in the early 90s, he won over 200 events in competitions all over North America but starting in 1993 his training focus would begin to shift.⁷ With the Ultimate Fighting Championship coming onto the scene in that year, his father Rick told him that he would need to learn Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.⁸

A series of VHS instructional tapes were the only lessons that Joslin had when he first started learning Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. He would watch a tape to learn a new technique and then go practice it with one of the teachers in his father's school.⁹ In 1994, Joslin attended Carlson Gracie Jr.'s BJJ Academy in Chicago where he diligently took notes and absorbed all the teaching he could get his hands on before returning home to train by himself once again.¹⁰ At this time, Joslin would train for hours each day, switching between partners so he would not wear them out. He could not get enough training and soon began to train under respected trainer Romero "Jacare" Caleanti.¹¹

Along with numerous awards in karate, Joslin also won a number of prestigious events in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Two of his biggest accomplishments were the Pan-American Championship and the Arnold/Gracie World Championship.¹²

Joslin soon noticed that his karate and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu were beginning to mix together and how effective they could be when used together. His first realization of this fact was when he seamlessly took down an opponent in a karate match and found

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² Scott White. "Names in the Game: Jeff "The Inferno" Joslin." MMA On Tap.
<http://www.mmaontap.com/mma/entry/names-in-the-game-jeff-the-inferno-joslin>

himself straddled on top him ready to unleash some ground and pound. From that point on, Joslin began to focus on mixed martial arts.¹³

There was still no one in Canada who could teach Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu so Joslin had to study whatever information he could get his hands on from books, magazines, and movies. From his notes, Joslin constructed a well organized 700 page manual to refer to when training on his own.¹⁴

As his skills continued to increase, Joslin decided it was time to work towards his first mixed martial arts fight. He also began to train with boxing and kick boxing coach Vito Brancaccio at this time. Brancaccio trained Joslin until he could compete with some of the best boxers in Canada, a skill that would be important when he stepped into the ring for his first mixed martial arts fight.¹⁵ To further bolster his repertoire, Joslin trained with the wrestling team at Guelph University to work on his mat skills.¹⁶

Jeff Joslin's first mixed martial arts fight came in 2002. He started his career quickly, winning his first four matches all by knock outs.¹⁷ Unfortunately, Joslin's hot start would soon be halted by a pair of controversial defeats to tough opponents.

The first controversial lose came against Jonathan Goulet who was reward an unanimous decision victory in a fight that was clearly evenly matched. The second, and more controversial of the two, was when the decision victory was given to Jon Fitch in their match. Fitch head butted Joslin early in the match and later faked an injury in order to get a break when Joslin had him pinned against the ropes and was proceeding

¹³ Jeff Joslin. "My Story." Jeff "The Inferno" Joslin's MMA Blog: The Home of Lifetime Mixed Martial Artist. <http://jeffjoslinmma.com/my-story/>

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

to unless a pounding on his hapless victim. Normally, an injury would result in a standing eight count, but instead Fitch was given a five minute break to the displeasure of the crowd. In the end, the decision victory was given to Fitch when it was clear to everyone in the audience that Joslin had done enough to win the match.¹⁸

Despite these two controversial losses to tough opponents, Joslin won the Apex Fighting World Welterweight Championship in 2006. Soon after taking home the belt, Joslin was contacted by Joe Silva from the Ultimate Fighter Championship, who asked him if he was willing to fight Josh Koscheck on an upcoming fight card. He lost the match to Koscheck but still described the match as “awesome!”¹⁹

Joslin’s career was looking very promising having just signed a three fight contract with the UFC. Unfortunately for this rising star, while training for his next fight he suffered a concussion when he slipped and bumped his head on the mat. The concussion kept him out of training for a year and a half and put his mixed martial arts career on hold.²⁰

Since then Joslin has returned to training and says he feels like he could step back into the octagon. Fear of the permanent damage that a second concussion would cause, which could limit his ability to be a good husband and father to his two children, has kept him from doing so.²¹ Joslin now focuses on training the next generation of fighters at Joslin’s Mixed Martial Arts, the gym his father opened forty-five years ago at 436 Concession St., Hamilton, Ontario.²²

¹⁸ Scott White. “Names in the Game: Jeff “The Inferno” Joslin.” MMA On Tap.

<http://www.mmaontap.com/mma/entry/names-in-the-game-jeff-the-inferno-joslin>

¹⁹ Jeff Joslin. “My Story.” Jeff “The Inferno” Joslin’s MMA Blog: The Home of Lifetime Mixed Martial Artist. <http://jeffjoslinmma.com/my-story/>

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² *Ibid.*

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