

Executive Summary for Interview Questions

With this research study, we conducted in-person interviews at the CU Boulder Rec Center. The interviewers were Hua-Pei Yen, Nick Bender, and Ryan Hoffman. Participants for this research interview consisted of two male students between the ages of 18-25 and one male non-student age 60. Some of the key data collected from this user research study includes participant's level of involvement in Muay Thai, their initial impressions of our product, and insight about how our product could help or hinder their training. From the results of this study, we learned some interesting and valuable information that could help us with our design in several ways. These are things such as cost barriers, range of motion issues, and added weight and balance stress. The findings recorded during these interviews are presented below along with other data pertinent to our research.

For the in-person interviews, our group travelled to the CU Boulder Rec Center on a Monday afternoon to meet with students taking a "Level I (Basics)" Muay Thai class. Following the script we presented in our Data Collection Plan, we were able to successfully interview three participants.

The first, whom we will call 'Harry', provided us with positive feedback about our product and his interest in using it to help train. When asked about how he feels about the data collection aspect of our product, Sam replied "I really like the idea of knowing how hard I get hit and where it hit me". We feel that this is an important part of our product's design and we now know it should be included in all future revisions, if any.

Our next participant, 'Ron', has only been practicing Muay Thai for about 14 months. He doesn't compete in tournaments currently, but he is considering it in the future. Ron told us that "I'm just a beginner but I guess it's kind of useful because, if you know where you get hit, probably you can work on how to protect those places." When asked if he thought there were any concerns about the product, Ron was primarily worried

about the ability to move around freely while wearing it. Specifically, Ron said “If it’s like chainmail armor then that’s probably not very useful”. This is an excellent point that we would be sure to address during our design process.

The last participant in our interview will go by the name, ‘Hagrid’. Hagrid was a very interesting subject because of the length of time he has been involved in Muay Thai and other martial arts. We believe this makes Hagrid’s insight incredibly valuable to our research. Hagrid told us that, if the product was comfortable, he would wear it to all his trainings but at the very least the important trainings like when he coaches the US Olympic team. Main concerns for Hagrid were price and durability. For him, durability meant, “wear and tear you know, am I going to have to replace it every month or is it something that’s going to last for a while.” This was a great point that he made and we feel that this is one aspect that cannot be compromised because, not only is it important for the material, but also for the technology.