

= Ronnie Mann =

Ronnie Mann (born 12 October 1986) is an English professional mixed martial artist who competes in the featherweight division . A professional MMA competitor since 2003 , Mann has mostly fought in England and Japan .

Mann is a veteran of the former top English organisation Cage Rage Championships and was a quarter @-@ finalist in the Sengoku Featherweight Grand Prix in 2009 , losing to Hatsu Hioki . Mann is also the current Shark Fights Featherweight champion , after defeating Doug Evans in September 2010 .

= = Mixed martial arts career = =

= = = Background and early career = = =

Mann grew up in Cheltenham , England . Mann also idolised Marco Ruas and Royce Gracie as a youngster after being introduced to the Ultimate Fighting Championship . Mann began taking Muay Thai lessons at the age of 11 and participated in jiu @-@ jitsu and kickboxing tournaments at the age of 13 . Mann competed in his first amateur fight at the age of 16 and turned professional a year later . In Japan , he fought under the name of Ronnie Ushiwaka , his mother 's maiden name . (His Mothers Maiden Name was Promlert (THAI) Mann 's professional mixed martial arts career began in November 2003 with a win over Andy Dicks . A few months later , Mann made his Shooto debut , at Shooto Holland where he won via triangle choke after 56 seconds . Staying in Holland , Mann won a further fight , knocking his opponent out in under two minutes . Mann then recorded five successive submission victories .

= = = Domestic prominence = = =

In mid @-@ 2006 , Mann signed with top domestic organisation , Cage Rage and made his promotional debut at the Cage Rage : Contenders 1 event against Ashleigh Grimshaw . Mann later stated that the fight was one of his toughest , especially after being hit with an early low blow . The organisation , at the time , adopted the " open guard rule , " allowing fighters to stomp on each other . At the end of the third round , the fight was declared a draw , despite Mann feeling that he had the better of the fight , after a knockdown in the first round and a triangle choke attempt in the second round .

Mann later joined the Cage Gladiators promotion in England and made his promotional debut at Cage Gladiators 2 , against Denas Banevicius , winning via submission (strikes) at 1 : 42 of the first round . Three months later , Mann returned at Cage Gladiators 3 , defeating Chris Freeborn via submission (triangle choke) at 2 : 46 of the first round .

At Cage Rage 20 , in a rematch with Ashleigh Grimshaw , whom Mann had earlier drawn with , Mann controlled the stand @-@ up and the top position on the floor . Towards the end of the fight , Grimshaw attempted a comeback , utilising ground @-@ and @-@ pound offense , though Mann was declared the winner via unanimous decision after three rounds .

Mann 's next fight (and third in the Cage Rage organisation) was against top domestic prospect , Robbie Olivier . The fight saw both fighters neutralise the other 's ground game . In the stand @-@ up , Mann was regarded as being unusually tentative , which gave Olivier the opportunity to take him to the floor , where again , neither fighter was able to advance position or do anything of note . After three rounds , Olivier was declared the winner via unanimous decision .

At Cage Rage 24 , Mann faced Jordan Miller , who took the fight at short notice . Mann was able to take Miller down almost immediately in the fight and took a rear naked choke . Mann dominated from that point and soon after , transitioned to a triangle choke after just 53 seconds of the first round .

After this , Cage Rage became defunct and Mann re @-@ joined Cage Gladiators , immediately

competing against Frederic Fernandez for the Cage Gladiators World Featherweight Championship at the Cage Gladiators 6 event . Mann was able to utilise his wrestling skills again , dominating the takedowns , neutralising his opponent . Mann was able to take the unanimous decision after effective striking , leading Sherdog to once again label him " a star in the making . "

Mann was then scheduled to face future World Extreme Cagefighting standout Brad Pickett , though the fight was later cancelled after Pickett suffered a broken arm defending a high kick .

Mann instead took a fight in Croatia , defeating Ivica Djebic via TKO (injury) . Returning to Cage Gladiators at the Cage Gladiators 8 event , Mann defeated Steve McCombe via submission (choke) in the first round .

= = = Sengoku = = =

Mann then signed with Sengoku Raiden Championship in Japan , to participate in their Featherweight Grand Prix . In the opening round , Mann faced Tetsuya Yamada and defeated him via unanimous decision (30 ? 29 , 30 ? 29 , 30 ? 29) . During the first round of the fight , Mann was able to land powerful punches , before falling into a deep kneebar attempt from Yamada . After escaping , Mann was able to gain top position to end the first round . The second round saw Yamada attempt a standing Kimura , which was fought off by Mann , who was later able to take down Yamada twice , whilst fighting off a second kimura attempt . The final round saw poor kickboxing attempts by Yamada , which was countered by two takedowns . Finally , Mann looked to utilise an ankle lock , which was reversed into another kneebar by Yamada . After the third round ended , Mann was declared the winner via decision .

In the quarter finals of the tournament , Mann faced early tournament favourite , Hatsu Hioki who had previously defeated World Extreme Cagefighting veteran Chris Manuel . Mann weighed in at 142 @. @ 6 lbs , whilst Hioki , who was unbeaten in his last seven fights , weighed in at 143 @. @ 3 lbs . Mann stated that " [I] plan for an exciting and explosive fight . "

During the fight , Mann was able to land several successful punches , before Hioki took Mann down with a trip , where he was able to land knees and execute a D 'arce choke . After scrambling to avoid an armbar attempt , Mann fell to a triangle choke , tapping out at 3 : 09 of the first round . After the fight , Mann stated " I started off well , standing up , but I fell into his game . Fell into his trap . The punches were only small punches , but it was the triangle that was slowly coming on , so in the end , I tapped . "

After his elimination from the Featherweight Grand Prix , Mann competed in his third fight in Sengoku against Shigeki Osawa , who Sherdog labelled a talented young prospect . After three rounds , Mann was victorious , via unanimous decision .

= = = Move to North America = = =

Mann still had one more fight left on his Sengoku contract and also expressed a desire to join World Extreme Cagefighting and eventually fight Featherweight Champion Jose Aldo .

Despite his contract with Sengoku , Mann went on to make his North American debut against Doug Evans on 11 September 2010 at Shark Fights 13 . The bout saw Mann hit Evans with multiple combinations and low kicks , before utilising a flying knee . Evans counter @-@ attacked with takedowns , which he kept up into the final round . Mann won the bout via split decision (47 ? 48 , 48 ? 47 , 48 ? 47) to become the new Shark Fights Featherweight champion .

= = = Bellator Fighting Championships = = =

On 17 February , it was announced Mann had signed with Bellator Fighting Championships . He had his first fight for the promotion against Josh Arocho at Bellator 42 . Mann was able to dominate the fight with superior wrestling and won the fight via unanimous decision (30 @-@ 25 , 30 @-@ 27 , 30 @-@ 27) .

That win earned Mann a place in the Bellator 2011 Summer Series Featherweight Tournament

where he faced Adam Schindler at Bellator 46 in his quarter final match @-@ up . Mann stuffed all attempts from the wrestler to take the fight to the ground before he scored a stunning first round KO win with a right uppercut left hook combination which dropped Schindler before swarming on him with hammerfists to leave him unconscious on the mat .

Mann faced Pat Curran in the Featherweight tournament semifinals at Bellator 47 . He lost the fight via unanimous decision .

Mann fought Kenny Foster at Bellator 53 for a spot in the next Featherweight tournament . He dominated the stand @-@ up but then got taken down which gave him the opportunity to finish via submission (triangle choke) in the first round .

Mann was defeated by Mike Corey via unanimous decision (29 @-@ 28 , 29 @-@ 28 , 29 @-@ 28) in the Bellator Season Six Featherweight Tournament . In the first round he dropped Corey twice , but was outwrestled in the next two to lose the decision .

= = = Cage Warriors = = =

On 6 June 2013 Cage Warriors announced that they signed Mann to a five fight deal . He is scheduled to meet Jose Luis Zapater at Cage Warriors 57 . And he would go on to defeat Zapater by way of TKO (punches) in the 1st round .

He next fought Marat Pekov at Cage Warriors Fight Night 9 on 25 October 2013 . He won the fight via unanimous decision .

Mann faced Marcelo Costa at Cage Warriors 68 on 3 May 2014 . Mann lost the fight via rear naked choke in the second round .

= = Championships and accomplishments = =

Shark Fights

Shark Fights Featherweight Championship (One time)

= = Mixed martial arts record = =