

= Jim Wallhead =

Jim Wallhead (born 14 March 1984) is an English professional mixed martial artist who competes in the Welterweight division . He has competed for BAMMA , Bellator , and M @-@ 1 Challenge .

Wallhead is a member of Team Rough House and Leicester Shootfighters . In addition to his training at Leicester Shootfighters , Wallhead also works as a coach . Wallhead joined Team Rough House after back @-@ to @-@ back losses at the beginning of his professional career and dropped his competing weight from Light Heavyweight and Middleweight to Welterweight .

= = Mixed martial arts career = =

= = = Background = = =

Wallhead comes from a judo background , where he holds a black belt . He was introduced to judo accidentally after being taken to a class that was believed to be a karate class . Wallhead was successful early in his judo career for the Beaumont Leys Judo club , before moving to a club in Coventry under Olympic silver medallist Neil Adams . Under Adams , Wallhead won three Under @-@ 21s British titles as well as placing 7th in the European youth Olympics .

Wallhead joined Team Rough House in 2005 , following back @-@ to @-@ back losses between May and July 2005 . Wallhead is still a member of Team Rough House to this date , alongside fighters such as Dan Hardy , Ross Pearson , Paul Daley and Andre Winner. Wallhead also trains Muay Thai with the former multi @-@ time Kickboxing champion Owen Comerie , who previously trained Dan Hardy . Wallhead works his strength and conditioning with Ollie Richardson at the Leicester Tigers Rugby Union training ground . Wallhead also trains Brazilian jiu @-@ jitsu under Victor Estima , he holds a Blue Belt under him .

= = = Early career = = =

Early in his career , Wallhead was associated with the Urban Combat Leicester team . He made his semi @-@ professional debut against Steve Matthews on 8 April 2005 , in a two @-@ round fight . This fight was fought at heavyweight , at the " Cage Warriors : Quest " event where Wallhead was able to defeat his opponent with a rear naked choke after 27 seconds of the first round .

Wallhead soon turned professional and on 30 April 2005 , he made his debut at Cage Warriors : Ultimate Force . Jim fought Leslee Ojugbana , utilising knee strikes from the clinch , whilst preventing Ojugbana from succeeding with takedown attempts . After one @-@ sided striking from Wallhead , Ojugbana gave up his back and Wallhead was able to pull off a rear naked choke for his debut win after just 64 seconds .

Wallhead competed just weeks later and made his second professional appearance against Boris Jonstomp at Cage Warriors : Strike Force . This fight was fought at the lower weight of middleweight and saw Wallhead succeed with judo throw attempts early in the fight . However , Wallhead 's ground game was not to the same standard at Jonstomp 's and he lost via first round submission (neck crank) after 4 : 20 .

This was followed up by his second consecutive loss , two months later at the Cage Warriors : Quest 2 event , at the hands of Chris Rice . Wallhead was TKOd 3 : 32 into the first round , resulting in a 1 ? 2 record at the start of his professional MMA career . Following this loss , Wallhead joined Team Rough House after meeting Dan Hardy and receiving an invitation to join the team . Upon doing so , Wallhead dropped two weight categories to his current status as a welterweight .

= = = Early affiliation with Team Rough House = = =

In his welterweight debut and his first fight under Team Rough House affiliation , Wallhead was victorious . The fight took place at Cage Warriors : Strike Force 3 where Wallhead faced Greco

@-@ Roman wrestler Steve Singh @-@ Sidhu . Though Wallhead had dropped to welterweight , he still had a considerable weight advantage over his opponent who weighed in at 3 @.@ 5 kg less than Wallhead . This perhaps was significant as Singh @-@ Sidhu 's strikes seemed to have little bearing on Wallhead , who was able to land takedowns and a standing choke . Midway through the first round , Singh @-@ Sidhu appeared to be backing away from Wallhead , who chased him down with punches and knees to the head . After a shin strike to the head , Singh @-@ Sidhu 's corner threw in the towel , resulting in a first round TKO victory for Wallhead .

In December 2005 , Wallhead fought Welshman Paul Jenkins . This was Wallhead 's first title fight in mixed martial arts , as they competed for the House of Pain Welterweight title in front of Jenkins ' home crowd of Cardiff , Wales . Wallhead won the fight via majority decision after five rounds , giving him the title . Just over two years to that day , Wallhead rematched Jenkins in a kickboxing bout (thus not counting towards his pro @-@ MMA record) ; this time in Wallhead 's hometown of Nottingham . Wallhead showed effective low kicks and combinations which earned him a unanimous decision victory .

After his third successive victory , with his win over Henning Svendsen in March 2006 , Wallhead made his first title defense of his House of Pain Welterweight title just two weeks later . His opponent was John Phillips who was making his second professional appearance . Wallhead defeated Phillips to retain the title , after a TKO victory due to elbows .

After going 4 ? 0 under the tutelage of Team Rough House , Wallhead then faced Peter Angerer in May 2006 . Despite controlling the fight , Angerer defeated Wallhead via submission (arm @-@ triangle choke) . During the submission attempt , Wallhead 's arm was stuck , meaning he had to tap with his feet , earning the nickname " Scuba Steve " from his teammates .

= = = European and worldwide exposure = = =

Following his loss to Angerer , Wallhead entered the 2H2H 83 kg tournament in Holland , on just 72 hours notice , despite the tournament being at a higher weight than he was adjusted to . In the first round of the tournament , Wallhead defeated Camara Bouna via two @-@ round decision , before defeating Xander Nel in the final via TKO .

Wallhead then captured the Cage Gladiators British Welterweight Title , defeating the UFC veteran Jason Tan .

Returning to Cage Warriors , Wallhead faced the UFC @-@ bound Dennis Siver . Despite being on a three fight winning streak , Wallhead was submitted via armbar taking his record to 8 ? 4 . Wallhead faced Lewis Barrow four months later and won via submission (punches) to begin a four fight win streak . Wallhead 's next three fights resulted in submission victories ; a victory via choke over Jordan James , an arm @-@ triangle choke victory over Soli Clichko and a rear naked choke victory over Steven Lynch .

Wallhead began to gain more recognition and exposure in the United States when his fight against Charles Blanchard was featured on Inside MMA on HDNet . Unfortunately for Wallhead , this fight resulted in a decision loss . Wallhead would later state : " I didn 't throw my hands enough in the first round when I was fresh and that 's my own fault . "

Wallhead then began to show improved boxing and knockout power in his next few fights , the first of which was against Tom Haddock in April 2008 who he defeated via submission due to punches .

Just under three months later , Wallhead faced off against Fabricio Nascimento . Wallhead kept the fight on their feet throughout , preventing Nascimento 's takedowns . Frustrated by Wallhead 's superior boxing , Nascimento visibly showed his disdain . Wallhead took the unanimous decision victory which was regarded as the most important victory he had claimed at that stage in his career .

Wallhead 's next fight came at M @-@ 1 Challenge UK in September 2008 and was intended to be against Jason Ball . However , Ball had to withdraw with a knee injury and was replaced by Igor Araújo . In preparation for his fight with Araújo , Wallhead temporarily joined Xtreme Couture Mixed Martial Arts in Las Vegas , Nevada to further polish his skills .

Araújo himself had just finished training at Xtreme Couture and entered the fight having won seven

of his last eight fights . After just 79 seconds , Wallhead won via TKO due to punches - the fifth TKO victory of his career .

Wallhead then applied to become a castmember of The Ultimate Fighter : United States vs. United Kingdom . After passing the assessment and interview successfully , he was told he was " too experienced " for the show , though strangely , he was instead made into an " alternate " who would step up if another castmember withdrew with injury .

Wallhead would then have an eight @-@ month layoff . This was due to his signing with the debuting " British Fighting Championships " - an organisation aimed at combining domestic British MMA into one entity - that would eventually dissolve before its premiere broadcast . The knockout @-@ style tournament saw him drawn against the Brazilian Fabio Toldo . However , the BFC organisation would eventually dissolve and in May 2009 , the Ultimate Force organisation picked up the fight . The fight saw Wallhead continue to utilise his improved boxing after an early scare , where Toldo knocked Wallhead down . Wallhead would go on to defeat his opponent via knockout , which was described by one of Wallhead 's team mates as " one of the worst knockouts they 've seen " .

In September 2009 , Wallhead won the Clash of Warriors Welterweight title by defeating Marius Buzinskas .

In November 2009 , Wallhead scored arguably the most high profile win of his career when he defeated The Ultimate Fighter : United States vs. United Kingdom participant Che Mills at " Knuckleup At The Manor " in Newport , Wales . The fight , which was seen as " a clash between the UK ? s two top unsigned welterweights , " was a close fight that was difficult to score for the judges . Mills was able to block Wallhead 's takedown attempts and get back up quickly when Wallhead was successful . In the first round , Wallhead was able to take Mills down and get into side mount , though Mills almost won the first round in the eyes of the judges after a late flurry of strikes . The second round saw Mills use foot stomps and elbows from the clinch , which prevented Wallhead from utilising his wrestling . In the final round , Wallhead continued with takedowns before hitting Mills with elbows . With 45 seconds of the fight remaining , Wallhead was able to cut Mills with his strikes .

Wallhead 's overall control , strategy and constant aggression led to him taking a unanimous decision .

= = = Bellator Fighting Championships = = =

Despite speculation about joining the UFC , in December 2009 , Wallhead was signed by the Bellator Fighting Championships to compete in their 2010 eight man , number 1 contender Welterweight Tournament , which began on 8 April 2010 .

Wallhead 's first appearance in the tournament was scheduled to be at Bellator 15 against the American Jacob McClintock .

However , on 20 April , just two days before his fight with McClintock , Wallhead was forced to withdraw from the Bellator tournament as he was grounded in England due to the 2010 eruptions of Eyjafjallajökull . Wallhead was replaced by Ryan Thomas .

A month later , Bellator CEO Bjorn Rebney stated that they were aiming to include Wallhead in the third season - despite the absence of a welterweight tournament - with a view to including him in the fourth season 's welterweight tournament .

In the meantime , Wallhead took a fight in Cage Warriors against Shaun Lomas and defeated him via rear naked choke in the first round . Due to an injury to Wallhead 's previous opponent , Lomas had to step in at short notice , meaning that Wallhead competed at middleweight for the first time in two years .

Bellator 's plans to include Wallhead in their third season were confirmed in September 2010 , when Wallhead signed to face Ryan Thomas on 14 October 2010 at Bellator 32 . Wallhead went on to defeat Thomas via unanimous decision (29 ? 28 , 29 ? 28 , 29 ? 28) .

In the fourth season welterweight tournament opening round , Wallhead faced fellow judoka , Rick Hawn , losing via unanimous decision .

=== BAMMA ===

Wallhead made his BAMMA debut at BAMMA 7 against Frank Trigg . Trigg was set to face Tom ' Kong ' Watson for Watson 's middleweight title , but Watson suffered a back injury forcing his withdrawal and allowing Wallhead to step up as his replacement . In the opening round , Wallhead caught Trigg with a left hook which appeared to hurt him , before executing a successful takedown . He ended the first round landing ground @-@ and @-@ pound shots which opened up a cut on Trigg 's cheek . The second round saw Wallhead land the stronger strikes , but less often than Trigg . The final round was also close , though Wallhead once again managed to rock Trigg early in the round . The fight went to the judges , where Wallhead won via split decision (29 @-@ 28 , 28 @-@ 29 and 30 @-@ 27) .

He competed at BAMMA 8 in a welterweight bout against Joey Villaseñor , winning via first round KO .

Wallhead faced off against UFC veteran Matt Veatch in the main event of BAMMA 12 in Newcastle , England on 9 March 2013 . He won the fight via submission in the first round .

=== Return to Bellator ===

Wallhead returned to Bellator to compete in the season seven welterweight tournament . His opening round match was against Lyman Good . He lost the fight via unanimous decision .

=== Back to BAMMA ===

On 9 March 2013 he took on UFC veteran Matt Veatch at BAMMA 12 , winning by first round submission due to Rear @-@ Naked Choke . Wallhead faced former TUF contestant Eddy Ellis at BAMMA 13 on 14 September 2013 . He lost the fight in a highly controversial decision after breaking Ellis ' jaw in the first round and stuffing many of his takedown attempts .

=== KSW ===

In mid @-@ 2015 , Wallhead signed with Poland @-@ based promotion Konfrontacja Sztuk Walki , and is currently expected to face Rafał Moks at KSW 32 : Road to Wembley in a welterweight bout on 31 October 2015 .

=== WFCA ===

On 9 April 2016 , Wallhead fought at WFCA 17 against Gennadiy Kovalev . He won the bout via unanimous decision

== Mixed martial arts record ==

== Titles and accomplishments ==

Judo

Three time Under @-@ 21 British Judo champion

Seventh place in the European Youth Olympics

Mixed Martial Arts

Former House of Pain Welterweight champion (defended once , then relinquished)

2H2H 83 kg tournament winner

Former Cage Gladiators British Welterweight champion

Clash of Warriors Welterweight champion

= = Personal life = =

Wallhead has a son .