

= Rufus ( Street Fighter ) =

Rufus ( ????? , R?fasu ) is a fictional character in the Street Fighter series of fighting games . Designed by Daigo Ikeno for Capcom 's development team , he first appeared in the arcade version of Street Fighter IV and later in related promotions and media for the title .

A very large , overweight martial artist , Rufus seeks to defeat Ken Masters , angered by his claim of being the " number one fighter in America " . Along the way he instead fights many people he confuses for Ken due to similar attire or hair color , regardless of gender . The character is voiced by Wataru Hatano in Japanese , and Christopher Corey Smith in English .

Since Rufus 's introduction , the character has received a mostly positive reception . Though some criticism has been made over the character 's design and aesthetic , the majority have praised the character as exceeding expectations based solely on his appearance .

= = Character design = =

While previous Street Fighter titles relied almost solely on Capcom 's Research and Development branch , the development team instead allowed other branches of the company to give input on the design of new characters , due to the influx of fan requests from outside Japan . Rufus was designed based upon marketing research on what sorts of characters an American audience would enjoy playing , and was one of several characters considered for inclusion during the game 's development .

Designed by Daigo Ikeno , Rufus was initially intended to be a bald slender black male wearing a gi named " King Cobra " , meant to be a more acrobatic counterpart to series characters Ryu and Ken and voiced by Wataru Hatano . His fighting style was intended to be " breakung @-@ fu " , mixing elements of Chinese martial arts with breakdancing , which they perceived as a fad in the United States at the time , and Ikeno developed the character 's concept around it . Midway through the process of recording the character 's lines , however , art director Takashi Kamei proposed that they have the character be overweight , an idea Ikeno agreed with . As a result , the design was gradually changed completely , becoming more obese and turned into a blonde , long haired white male , a design which Ikeno later admitted was in fact rushed . The changed appearance surprised many of Capcom 's staff members , including Hatano , who remarked " Wait , is that my character ? " Rufus final appearance was chosen over his initial design because the developers felt he would " freak people out " . Street Fighter IV 's executive producer Yoshinori Ono likened his inclusion to that of Blanka in Street Fighter II , noting that Rufus ' " over @-@ the @-@ top " design was intended to help set the game apart from the " really cool @-@ looking but ultimately bland " characters of Tekken and Virtua Fighter .

In an interview , Ono noted they made Rufus intentionally silly , adding that he could be called an " American Dan " in terms of being a joke character in the game 's roster . He later referred to Rufus as " quite grotesque to look at " when describing the new characters for the game . When asked about comparisons between Rufus and Bob , a character introduced by Namco for their Tekken series around the same time , Ono emphasized that the characters were different in many regards , and while Bob represented a " cool fat guy " , Rufus represented a " weird fat guy " . Other Capcom staff members including community manager Seth Killian have received the character warmly , noting Rufus as their favorite new character in the series .

Street Fighter IV sound director Masayuki Endou developed the character 's musical theme for the title with a " freewheeling spirit " in mind due to Rufus 's motorcycle and personality , utilizing an American drummer and drum set for parts of the theme . Feeling it would be an interesting approach , Hatano 's recorded voice samples to be incorporated into the character 's background music . The development team agreed , feeling that his voice gave the character presence and fit Rufus ' overall image .

= = = Personality and attributes = = =

Rufus is an American motorcycle repair shop mechanic . Using a self @-@ taught fighting style from watching martial arts films and putting his own spin on the attacks , he believes he is handsome and America 's best martial artist . Rufus takes himself very seriously in this regard , to the point of referring to himself as " Lord Rufus " and regarding rude people as beneath him . Capcom describes the character as having a hasty personality , prone to jumping to conclusions to achieve a goal and sacrificing accuracy for speed . Rufus tends to speak in a long @-@ winded manner , demonstrated through considerably long victory quotes at the end of fights . His girlfriend , Candy , accompanies him as a result of him protecting her from an angry waiter she attempted to balk and paying the bill .

Rufus is depicted as a large , heavily obese blond male . His head is mostly bald , with a long braided ponytail jutting from the top , and a mustache extending down the sides of his mouth to his chin . His clothing consists of a yellow and black sleeveless jumpsuit with padded shoulders , with the closing straps left open due to his girth and exposing the center of his torso and lower abdominal hair . Black shoes cover his feet , while black fingerless gloves cover his hands and most of his forearms . His secondary outfit is similar , changing the jumpsuit to a dark blue and green version with sleeves and a raised collar , additionally removing the gloves and changing his hairstyle to a double ponytail . Other alternate designs were considered but rejected , amongst which included an Elvis impersonator appearance and martial artist attire . Rufus stands 1 @.@ 95 m ( 6 ft 5 in ) tall , and weighs 185 kilograms ( 408 lb ) .

For Super Street Fighter IV , a third outfit intended to resemble the Chinese jiangshi was included , consisting of a long Chinese robe , black hat with his ponytail extruding from the top , yellow and black striped pants , and a yellow strip of paper meant to represent a sealing charm extending from the front of the hat and over his face . The developers considered to have the charm able to be knocked off by an opponent 's attacks , and as a result alter his attack patterns and power ; however , they felt this overcomplicated the character , and instead abandoned the idea . Assistant producer Natsuki Shiozawa cited the outfit as one of her five favorites in the game , feeling that design suited his body well .

= = Appearances = =

Introduced in the 2008 video game Street Fighter IV , Rufus is angered that martial artist Ken Masters is declared the best fighter in America . Per Candy 's suggestion that he find and defeat Ken to prove himself as the best , he declares Ken as his rival and sets out to find him . However , along the way he repeatedly mistakes other fighters for Ken , attacking similarly dressed or blonde people regardless of gender , and blames the mistaken identities on his belief Ken is using decoys to delay him , notably , the character Abel . He eventually confronts Ken , who states he does not know who Rufus is , which angers him further before they fight . In the game 's conclusion , Rufus is shown pushing his broken down motorcycle uphill with Candy on board , using it as training and blaming Ken for the predicament . At the conclusion of Super Street Fighter IV , Rufus repairs his motorcycle and at Candy 's request for a colder climate , heads due north to the North Pole . Rufus appears with his official tag partner , Zangief in Street Fighter X Tekken .

Outside of the video game , Rufus has also appeared in UDON 's Street Fighter comic series . First appearing in their Street Fighter II Turbo comic in February 2009 , Rufus is shown to hate Ken for being named the best fighter in America as well as for the media attention he receives , feeling Ken put no effort into the achievement . Taking Candy along with him , Rufus sets out to find and defeat Ken at the story 's conclusion . Later appearing in the second issue of UDON 's Street Fighter IV comic book , Rufus attempts to find him through his friend Sakura Kasugano , defeating Dan Hibiki in the process but is himself defeated afterwards .

= = = Gameplay = = =

Rufus was purposefully made faster than his outward appearance would indicate and given the ability to string his attacks together more readily , in order to " [ defy ] expectations based on what

he looks like " , and to contrast against other large characters in fighting games . During development of his attacks , the developers devised several options for his fighting style , considering different ways to combine it with his appearance . After considering his design , they decided to allow his movements to be quick and strengthened by the inertia of his body fat , accompanied by martial artist yells and shouts .

Rufus 's gameplay has been compared to the fighting styles used by Street Fighter III characters Yun and Yang by the development team , notably in regards to his diving kick attack , and emphasized mobility while attacking . Other attacks were designed as a means to negate enemy offensives , such as the Galactic Tornado , which destroys enemy projectiles while drawing the opponent closer to Rufus for a final strike . His Ultra Combo , Space Opera Symphony , is a barrage of attacks that requires close proximity to the opponent , dealing several blows and ending in a final upwards blast .

In Super Street Fighter IV , a second Ultra Combo named " Big Bang Typhoon " was added , consisting of Rufus spinning his body with arms outward in a tornado @-@ inspired fashion . The attack was designed to have deceptive range , but a long startup period . In addition , several attacks were altered in terms of range and damage . This in turn gave the development team trouble and relied on a lot of " trial and error " to balance the character .

= = Promotion and reception = =

To promote Street Fighter IV and the character , artwork of Rufus including hand @-@ drawn sprites of the character is included in Xbox Live themes . Worldwide restaurants Wan Zhu Ji and Benitora Gyoza Bo offered four Street Fighter IV themed meals , which included a nimonono meat dish named after the character . At organized events , Capcom distributed a limited series of Street Fighter IV cards to promote the arcade title , one of which features Rufus in a fighting stance .

Rufus has received mixed to positive reception since his debut . GameDaily named Rufus the strangest of the new characters introduced in Street Fighter IV , placing him 12th on their " Most Bizarre Fighting Characters " list and noting his high attack speed despite his weight . IGN described Rufus as one of the most interesting new characters introduced in the title , due to the " juxtaposition between his comical size and impressive speed " and added that his attack set " shows that if you can get past Rufus ' comical exterior , a capable fighter hides within . " IGN AU stated that while they felt the character was the ugliest in the game , they enjoyed his unpredictability and acrobatics , as well as his attitude . 1UP.com called Rufus a worthy addition to the series , " despite ... outward , me @-@ too appearances " . Anime News Network described Rufus as well @-@ designed and engaging , despite initial reservations regarding the character . VideoGamer.com praised Rufus as one of the game 's better new characters in the title , in heavy contrast to other additions such as Crimson Viper . GameTrailers praised the character and noted he " definitely offered something different " , adding " You may not have expected a game 's most obvious jiggle physics to apply to a male character . " Stars and Stripes noted the level of detail in Rufus 's animations and movements , describing his mobility as " weirdly awesome " .

In contrast , Doug Buel of The Tampa Tribune considered Rufus a character the game could have done without , describing him as " an obnoxious , overweight fighter with a big mouth " , additionally citing the character as the game 's worst feature . GameSpot described him as " a bit of a sight gag " , though noting his speed as " deceptive " . A reviewer for the New Straits Times felt that though the character stood out from the other newcomers , his play was too " lethargic " . Giant Bomb 's Jeff Gerstmann noted that the character was " a bit out of place " with the rest of the cast , describing him as a " big , bobbing belly with appendages " , though he added that Rufus was feasible as a playable character .