

QA FIGHTING & TALK

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WORDS / JACK BIRCH

Amanzimtoti's middleweight Chuck Norris dreams of UFC glory

Hi Cameron, welcome to Fighting Talk Q&A! Tell us a bit about yourself and where you're from.

I'm 19 years old from Amanzimtoti, Durban, with an amateur record of 3-3. In the past I fought at heavy and light heavy, but I've now dropped down to middleweight.

How did you get into MMA and how soon did you begin competing?

I got into MMA 6 years ago when I started training at CombatCoaching.com with the intention of learning and losing weight. After about 4 years I wanted to test my skills and experience what it felt like to be in the cage. After one fight I was hooked.

Did you come from a traditional martial arts background or have any combat sport experience before starting MMA?

When I was about 8 I used to think I was Chuck Norris because of my ginger hair but, other than that, no experience at all!

What do you enjoy about MMA and why do you compete?

That you can punch your opponent in the face, and then afterwards still be mates and have a drink together! But seriously I enjoy being able to test my skills against a good opponent and the fact that no matter how many techniques you've learnt and can apply in your training or fight there are still so many more to learn.

Tell us about your fights so far. Which have been particularly memorable?

My first fight was in one of Larry Vorster's Shuriken tournaments. I fought at heavyweight and ended up losing on a points decision, but the fight got me completely hooked on competing in MMA. My second fight was at MFC against Jason de Broize, at light heavyweight, and I lost on decision again. I then got my first win against Dwayne Davey, again at light heavy, by decision. I was then fortunate enough to fight in the Seychelles against Bryan Steyn. The bout was at a catch weight of 88kgs and I won by TKO,

definitely a highlight! Next fight was against Gareth Sawyer at AFL which was an extremely tough fight as about 10 seconds in he landed a left-right combo which completely rocked me, but I recovered and won by TKO in the 2nd. I came out of that fight with an eye swollen almost shut and a concussion. My next fight was the toughest of all! I fought Keron Davies for the KZN middleweight title and lost at the end of the 3rd round.

What are you most proud of achieving in MMA so far and what are your goals for the future?

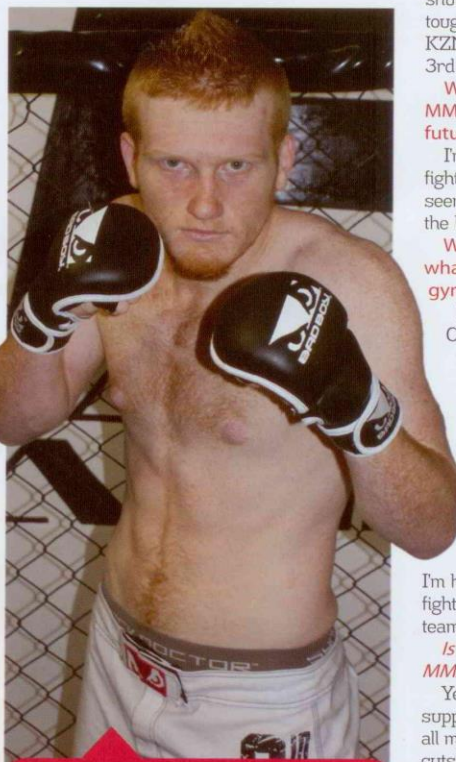
I'm proud of fighting for the KZN title and fighting at an international event. My goal may seem generic, like most fighters I want to reach the UFC!

Where do you train and how often, and what do you get up to when you're not in the gym?

I train at Morné Swanepoel's CombatCoaching.com in Amanzimtoti and form part of Morné's MMA competition squad - Team MMA Fighter. On average I have 9 training sessions a week if I'm not preparing for a fight. If I have a fight coming up I add in a little more. It's hard for me to stay away from the gym because I also assist with coaching some of the beginner students. Team MMA Fighter always has guys competing so when I'm not competing I'm helping the other members prepare for their fights. Coach Morné places a lot of emphasis on team work.

Is there anyone that has helped you on your MMA journey that you would like to mention?

Yes! To my friends, thank you for all the support. To my family, thanks for putting up with all my diets and my moods during my weight cuts! I love you guys! To my team, thank you for all the times you guys sacrificed your training to help me with mine and thanks for supporting me no matter what. To my coach, thanks for all that you've done for me and helped me to achieve. I never would've been able to do it without you, thank you so much! **FO**



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