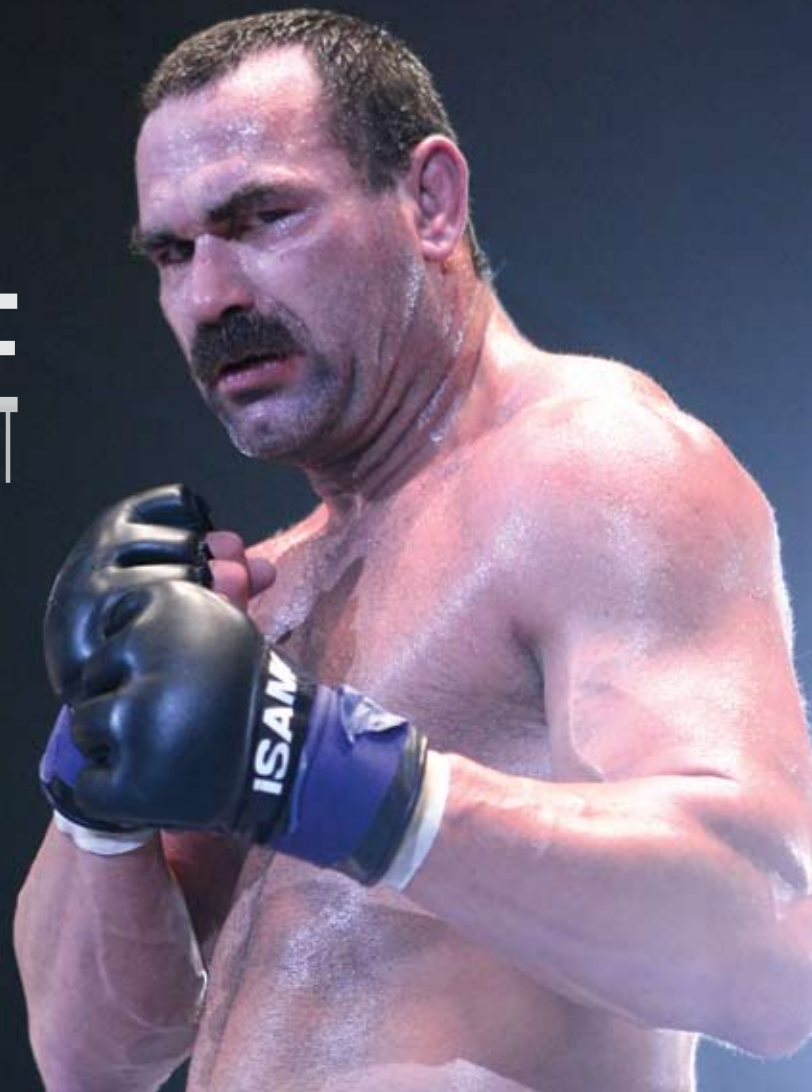


An Ode to a Legend ~ FRYESTACHE

BY BLAH BLAH

Anyone can dye their hair like Chris Leben, get tattooed like Alessio Sakara, or pimp-dress like Shonie Carter to get some attention. But how many fighters have the panache to grow a mustache? And I'm not talking about a little pencil-thin Purple Rain Prince mustache. I'm talking about a mustache with a life (and maybe a libido) of its own. I'm talking about Don "The Predator" Frye's 'stache—or "Fryestache" if you will.



Much of the power of the Fryestache comes from its extensive experience. Here we see the youthful Fryestache, already a formidable factor in Don's many wrestling victories at Arizona State.

Over the course of the last 12 years, Fryestache has amassed an MMA record of 17-6-1. Deflecting punches and absorbing leg kicks, Frye's mustache is as much responsible for his outstanding career as his wrestling, boxing, and judo skills. Imagine hitting Frye square in the face with an overhand right. Then imagine the shockwaves running through your hand courtesy of the tremendous force of Frye's reverberating lip mane.

Yoshihiro Takayama knows all too well the awesome power of Fryestache. For four and a half minutes at PRIDE 21 in 2002, Fryestache and Takayama went toe-to-toe in what can only be described as a hockey fight within a ring. Takayama and Fryestache traded a multitude of punches at point-blank range as neither one bothered to bob, weave, duck, or block. Eventually, the Japanese punching bag collapsed on the canvas and the lore of Fryestache continued to grow (much like Frye's first mustache at age six—pure speculation of course).

"While I don't have the power to grow a 'stache like Frye," says Frank Trigg, "it does give him a 'please don't touch me' kind of

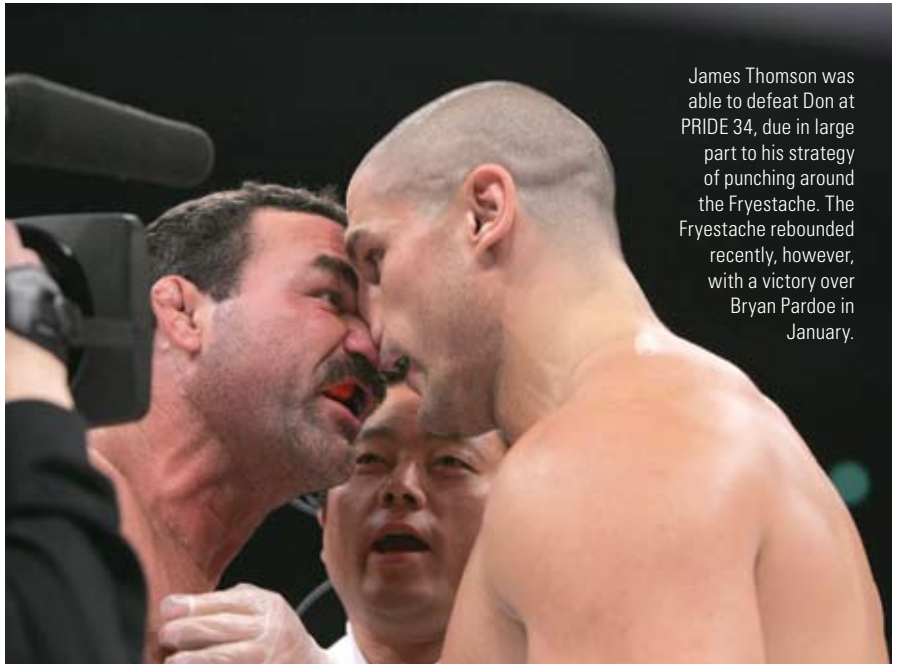
advantage in the ring. Who wouldn't want that?"

Joe Rogan adds, "I don't have the confidence to rock that mustache. It says a lot that a man in 2008 can rock a mustache that Tom Selleck wore in the 80's. If he wasn't so virile and masculine, you'd think he was gay or from another country....but the dude is from Arizona!"

LAY OFF THE 'STACHE, KEN

However, not everyone has a healthy respect for Frye's 'stache like Trigg does. The ongoing feud between Frye and arch nemesis Ken Shamrock dates back to the late 1990s. They even tried to settle their dispute in the ring at PRIDE 19 in 2002. Fryestache was victorious via split decision and the bad blood should have ended with Shamrock's defeat, but ohhh noooo.

Back in June, Shamrock made some derogatory remarks about Fryestache on the IFL's "Dear Don" segment. Ken quipped that Frye stole his mustache from Queen front man Freddy Mercury. It's one thing to verbally assault the American flag man-panties Frye wears, but I'll be damned if I will sit idly by and listen to Shamrock talk badly about Fryestache—the very essence



James Thomson was able to defeat Don at PRIDE 34, due in large part to his strategy of punching around the Fryestache. The Fryestache rebounded recently, however, with a victory over Bryan Pardoe in January.

of masculinity.

Never one to back down from an incendiary comment, Freystache lashed back with speculation that Mercury and Shamrock had a romantic relationship. Score another victory for Fryestache with that witty comeback. Shamrock is now 0-2 versus Frye. Also, keep in mind that Shamrock has sported muttonchops that would

make Ambrose Burnside cringe. So where does Shamrock get off talking trash about Frye's 'stache?

"I don't know why Shamrock would trash the 'stache," says Trigg. "Maybe Shamrock is game to take another beating from the Predator?"

It may be more complex than that. Shamrock may have a deeply rooted psycho-



**CAN'T... WIN...
FRYESTACHE...
TOO... POWERFUL!!**

Despite a significant size advantage, Chad "Akebono" Rowan was no match for the stache. he was submitted by guillotine choke in the 2nd at K-1 Hero's 5.

logical fixation on Frye's 'stache. Famous Greek philosopher Antisthenes, a pupil of Socrates and an accomplished wrestler, once said, "As iron is eaten by rust, so are the envious consumed by envy." My advice to Shamrock: Stop being consumed by the envy of Fryestache!

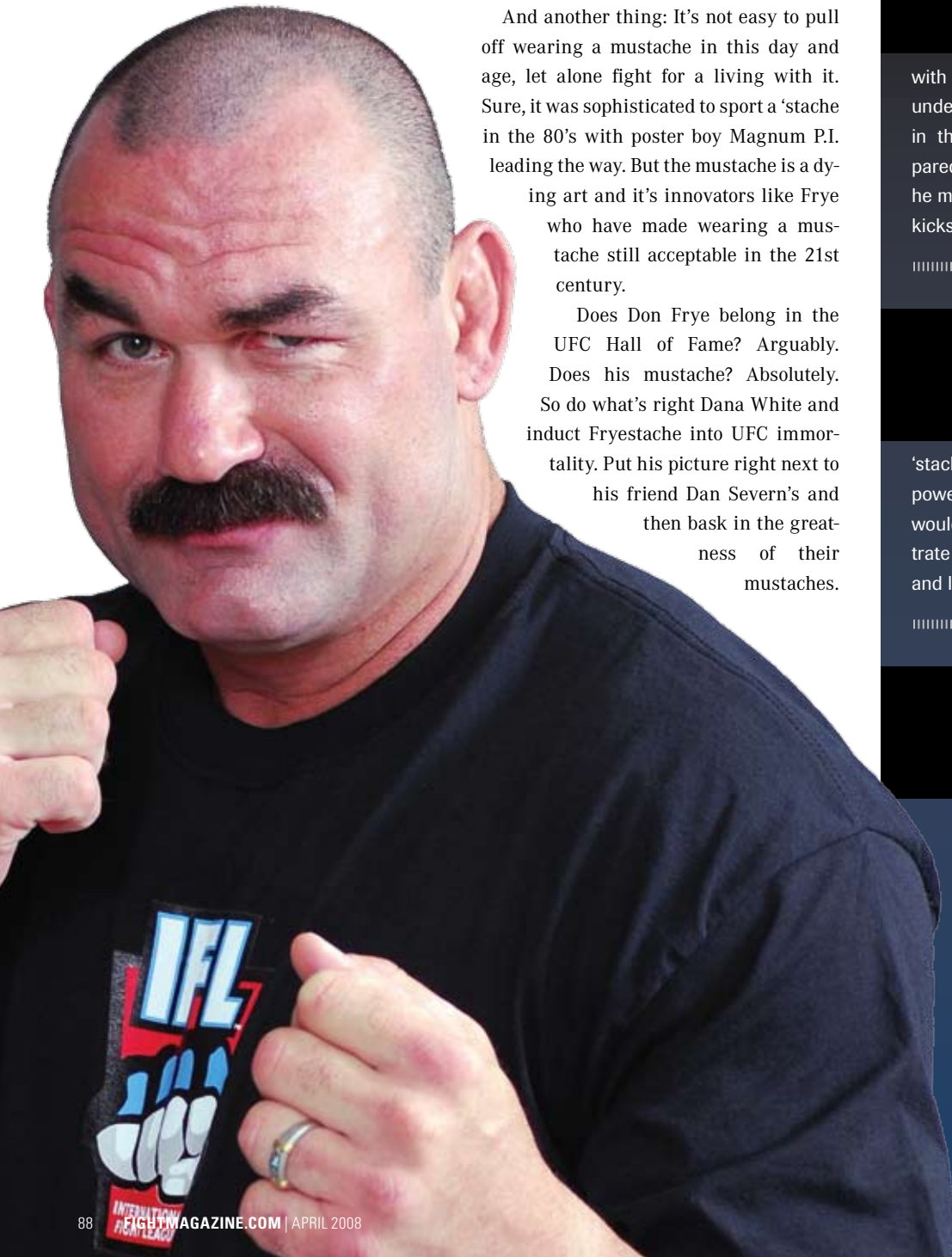
HALL OF FAME MATERIAL

The UFC has inducted five fighters into its Hall of Fame: Royce Gracie, Randy Couture, Ken Shamrock, Mark Coleman, and

Dan Severn. Are you telling me Fryestache doesn't belong in this company? Just look at his credentials. Frye won the UFC 8 tournament by beating Thomas Ramirez, Sam Adkins, and Gary Goodridge. He beat Amaury Bitetti at UFC 9, and won the UFC 11.5 tournament (Ultimate Ultimate 96) by defeating Gary Goodridge, Mark Hall, and Tank Abbott. Frye also beat Mark Hall and Brian Johnson before losing to Mark Coleman in the finals of the UFC 10 tournament. Not bad for a man and his mustache.

And another thing: It's not easy to pull off wearing a mustache in this day and age, let alone fight for a living with it. Sure, it was sophisticated to sport a 'stache in the 80's with poster boy Magnum P.I. leading the way. But the mustache is a dying art and it's innovators like Frye who have made wearing a mustache still acceptable in the 21st century.

Does Don Frye belong in the UFC Hall of Fame? Arguably. Does his mustache? Absolutely. So do what's right Dana White and induct Fryestache into UFC immortality. Put his picture right next to his friend Dan Severn's and then bask in the greatness of their mustaches.



IT'S ALL ABOUT RESPECT

Thanks to trailblazers like Don Frye and Dan Severn, the mustache still commands respect when worn properly. But few have the audacity and intestinal moxie to don the 'stache while in the cage. Here is a shout out to those who do:

.....

Maurice Smith

The former UFC heavyweight champion was never afraid to enter the cage

with his 'stache secured snugly under lip. What his mustache lacked in thickness and durability (compared of course to the Fryestache), he made up for with debilitating leg kicks and devastating punches.

.....

Chuck Liddell

The former UFC light heavyweight champion possesses a modified horseshoe

'stache and crippling knockout power. However, in the future, I would like to see Liddell concentrate more on his mustache density and less on his mohawk.

.....

Steve Mazzagatti

Now that John McCarthy is retired from refereeing, it's a great opportunity for

Mazzagatti and his mustache to seize power as the premier MMA ref. He will, of course, have to usurp the authority of Herb Dean and his intimidating dreadlocks, but with the proper mustache grooming and growth plan, I've got my money on Mazzagatti

.....