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Matt Serra

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(Redirected from [Matt serra](#))

Matthew John Serra (born June 2, 1974) is an [American mixed martial artist](#) and [Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu black belt](#). He is a former [UFC Welterweight Champion](#) and an [ADCC Submission Wrestling World Championship silver medalist](#). He began practicing martial arts at an early age, first studying [kung fu](#). In the 1990s, he began studying Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu under [Renzo Gracie](#) and on May 23, 2000 he obtained his black belt, the first American to do so under Gracie. He is one of only two people in MMA to defeat [Georges St-Pierre](#), the other being [UFC Hall of Famer Matt Hughes](#).

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Biography [edit]

Early career [edit]

Serra won first place at the [Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Pan American games](#) in 1999 and won third place at the 1999 World Championships in Brazil as a brown belt.^[2] Continuing his Martial Arts career, he competed in the [ADCC Submission Wrestling World Championship](#) choking out Takanori Gomi, winning a decision over Jean-Jacques Machado, and placing 2nd in the 66–76 kg division. Serra was invited to compete in [Pride 9](#) against [Johil de Oliveira](#) but the bout was called off at the last minute when Oliveira was burned in a pyrotechnics accident backstage.^[3] Soon after, Matt began to compete in the UFC organization where he built up a record of four wins and four losses. One of the losses was a close decision fight with future Welter and Lightweight champ [B.J. Penn](#) which would have earned him a title shot in the failed Lightweight tournament.

The Ultimate Fighter [edit]

Matt later became a participant in *The Ultimate Fighter 4: The Comeback* on [SpikeTV](#). On the show, Serra defeated [Pete Spratt](#) and

Matt Serra



Born	Matthew John Serra <div>June 2, 1974 (age 38)<div> East Meadow, New York, United States</div></div>
Other names	The Terror
Nationality	 American
Height	5 ft 6 in (1.68 m)
Weight	202.5 lb (91.9 kg; 14.46 st)
Division	 Welterweight <div> Lightweight</div>
Reach	68.0 in (173 cm)
Style	 Brazilian Jiu Jitsu , Boxing
Fighting out of	 East Meadow, New York
Team	 Serra Jiu-Jitsu ^[1]
Rank	<i>3rd degree black belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu under Renzo Gracie</i>
Years active	1999–present

Mixed martial arts record

Total	18
Wins	11
By knockout	2
By submission	5
By decision	4

Shonie Carter to reach the finals, his win against Carter avenging his infamous highlight-reel KO loss to Carter at **UFC 31**. On November 11, 2006, Serra defeated **Chris Lytle** by split decision to become the Ultimate Fighter 4 Welterweight Tournament Champion.

His win earned him a guaranteed title shot against **Georges St-Pierre** for the UFC Welterweight Championship,^[4] as well as a \$100,000 contract and \$100,000 sponsorship with Xyience.^[5]

Losses	7
By knockout	2
By decision	5

Other information

Notable relatives **Nick Serra**, *brother*

Mixed martial arts record from **Sherdog**

last updated on: September 26, 2010

Winning the title

[[edit](#)]

Serra fought St-Pierre on April 7, 2007 at UFC 69, and won the UFC Welterweight title via TKO at 3:25 of the first round. Prior to the fight Serra was considered a substantial underdog and consequently the fight is considered to be one of the biggest upsets in MMA history.

The Ultimate Fighter coach

[[edit](#)]

Serra coached season 6 of *The Ultimate Fighter* reality show with **Matt Hughes**. Team Serra finished 6–2 in the first round of fights, winning six consecutive times which gave Serra the right to pick the fights in the second round. However, from then on Serra did not corner a single fighter to victory and saw all his trainees eventually lose out. The finale saw Team Hughes fighters **Tommy Speer** and **Mac Danzig** face each other for the title of Ultimate Fighter.^[6]

Serra said in season 6 of *The Ultimate Fighter* reality show that **Joe Scarola** lost his job at Serra's jiu-jitsu school for quitting *The Ultimate Fighter* within the first week of the show. In exchange, Scarola opened his own academy which has created a feud among the two former friends.^[7] Relieving Scarola from his duties was difficult for Serra as the two were close friends, with Scarola serving as **best man** at Serra's wedding.^[8]

The two coaches were scheduled to face off for the UFC welterweight title at the conclusion of the series on UFC 79. Serra, however, was forced to withdraw from the fight due to a herniated disc in his lower back.^[9] The injury became evident when Serra was demonstrating a move to his student and fell to the floor in excruciating pain.^[10] In Serra's place, **Georges St-Pierre** fought and defeated Matt Hughes for what was then the interim UFC welterweight title.^[11] This led to Serra holding the welterweight title while St-Pierre held the interim title.

After St-Pierre vs Hughes at UFC 79, Serra confirmed to **NBC Sports** that his back was rapidly improving. He announced that he was scheduled to fight Georges St-Pierre at the first event to take place in Canada, **UFC 83**.^[12] This match would unify the interim and regular welterweight belts.

Rematch with St-Pierre and fight with Matt Hughes

[[edit](#)]

At **UFC 83** on April 19, 2008, Serra fought **Georges St-Pierre** in a match to determine the undisputed welterweight championship during the UFC's first-ever event in Canada, at the **Bell Centre** in **Montreal, Quebec**.^[13] Instead of striking, St-Pierre pressed the action early with a takedown and kept mixing up his attack, never allowing Serra the chance to mount a significant offense.^[14] In the second round, St-Pierre continued his previous actions, forcing Serra into the turtle position and delivering repeated knees to Serra's midsection.^[15] When Serra was unable to improve his position or defend against the strikes, referee Yves Lavigne stopped the fight.^[16]

Serra suffered a unanimous decision loss to **Matt Hughes** at **UFC 98**. Serra hurt Hughes early on in the fight with an inadvertent head-butt and a follow-up flurry of hooks. However, Hughes recovered and went on to win a close decision.^[17] After the fight Hughes and Serra embraced each other and ended their feud.

At **UFC 109**, Serra defeated **Frank Trigg** via KO (punches) at 2:23 of the first round, awarding him Knockout of the Night Honors.^[18]^[19] Serra was rumored to be headlining **UFC Fight Night 22** on April 17, 2010, versus **Mike Swick**, but the fight was turned down by Swick due to an arm injury.

At **UFC 119** Serra fought **Chris Lytle** on September 25, 2010. Serra lost the fight via unanimous decision.^[20]

In an interview with **Ariel Helwani** at **UFC 131** following **Chris Weidman**'s standing guillotine victory over **Jesse Bongfeldt**, Serra put over his prominent student, and addressed when or if he would be fighting in the UFC in the foreseeable future. Between the birth of his second child and the rigors of training (Serra himself confirmed that he weighed somewhere around 200 lbs. at interview time), he likened his current situation to that of **Rocky Balboa** in

the sixth film of the series, saying that he still "had some stuff in the basement".

Personal life

[\[edit\]](#)

Serra was born to an Italian-American family and currently resides in [Massapequa, New York](#).^[21] Matt and his wife Ann were married on May 26, 2007.^[22] The couple had their first child, a daughter named Angelina, on February 11, 2009.^[23] The couple had their second child, a girl in April 2011.^[24]

Serra and his brother [Nick](#) run two Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu schools at local strip malls in [East Meadow, New York](#) and [Huntington, New York](#). Serra currently trains with Ray Longo and trains fighters such as current UFC middleweight contender [Chris Weidman](#), [Pete Sell](#),^[25] [Luke Cummo](#), and Ultimate Fighter Live Finalist [Al Iaquinta](#). They fight under the Serra/Longo Competition Team.^[26]

Championships and achievements

[\[edit\]](#)

Grappling credentials

[\[edit\]](#)

- [ADCC World Submission Wrestling Championships](#)

ADCC 2001

66–76 kg: 2nd place

Record of opponents:

- Won: [Takanori Gomi](#) (sub), [Jean Jacques Machado](#) (pts), [Leonardo Silva Dos Santos](#) (sub)
- Lost: [Marcio Feitosa](#) (Conceded victory.)

CBJJ World Championships

2000 Brown Belt Medio: 3rd Place

Pan-American Championships

1999 Purple Belt Medio: 1st place. Ω

Mixed martial arts

[\[edit\]](#)

- [Ultimate Fighting Championship](#)
 - [UFC Welterweight Championship](#) (One time)
 - [The Ultimate Fighter 4](#) Welterweight Tournament Winner
 - [Fight of the Night](#) (One time)
 - [Knockout of the Night](#) (Two times)

Mixed martial arts record

[\[edit\]](#)

Professional record breakdown [\[show\]](#)

Result ↕	Record	Opponent ↕	Method ↕	Event ↕	Date ↕	Round ↕	Time ↕	Location ↕	Notes ↕
Loss	11–7	Chris Lytle	Decision (unanimous)	UFC 119	September 25, 2010	3	5:00	Indiana, United States	
Win	11–6	Frank Trigg	KO (punches)	UFC 109	February 6, 2010	1	2:23	Nevada, United States	Knockout of the Night.
Loss	10–6	Matt Hughes	Decision (unanimous)	UFC 98	May 23, 2009	3	5:00	Nevada, United States	Fight of the Night.
Loss	10–5	Georges St. Pierre	TKO (knees to the body)	UFC 83	April 19, 2008	2	4:45	Quebec, Canada	Lost the UFC Welterweight Championship .
Win	10–4	Georges St. Pierre	KO (punches)	UFC 69	April 7, 2007	1	3:25	Texas, United States	Won the UFC Welterweight Championship . Knockout of

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									the Night.
Win	9–4	Chris Lytle	Decision (split)	TUF 4 Finale	November 11, 2006	3	5:00	Nevada, United States	Won the TUF 4 ; UFC Welterweight title eliminator.
Loss	8–4	Karo Parisyan	Decision (unanimous)	UFC 53	June 4, 2005	3	5:00	New Jersey, United States	Return to Welterweight .
Win	8–3	Ivan Menjivar	Decision (unanimous)	UFC 48	June 19, 2004	3	5:00	Nevada, United States	
Win	7–3	Jeff Curran	Decision (unanimous)	UFC 46	January 31, 2004	3	5:00	Nevada, United States	
Loss	6–3	Din Thomas	Decision (split)	UFC 41	February 28, 2003	3	5:00	New Jersey, United States	
Loss	6–2	B.J. Penn	Decision (unanimous)	UFC 39	September 27, 2002	3	5:00	Connecticut, United States	
Win	6–1	Kelly Dullanty	Submission (triangle choke)	UFC 36	March 22, 2002	1	2:58	Nevada, United States	Lightweight Debut.
Win	5–1	Yves Edwards	Decision (majority)	UFC 33	September 28, 2001	3	5:00	Nevada, United States	
Loss	4–1	Shonie Carter	KO (spinning back fist)	UFC 31	May 4, 2001	3	4:51	New Jersey, United States	UFC Debut.
Win	4–0	Greg Melisi	Submission (armbar)	VATV 11	February 24, 2001	1	0:46	New York, United States	
Win	3–0	Jeff Telvi	Submission (guillotine choke)	VATV 7	January 29, 2000	1	0:30	New York, United States	
Win	2–0	Graham Lewis	Submission (armbar)	VATV 6	August 21, 1999	1	1:04	New York, United States	
Win	1–0	Khamzat Vitaev	Submission (rear-naked choke)	VATV 3	April 1, 1999	1	0:36	New York, United States	

- Note: His record does not include his two wins while on the *Ultimate Fighter* where he defeated Pete Spratt and Shonie Carter as they are classified as exhibition bouts.

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External links

[\[edit\]](#)

- [Matt Serra MySpace](#)
- [Official UFC Profile](#)
- [Matt Serra profile](#)
- [Official site](#)
- [Professional MMA record for Matt Serra](#) from [Sherdog](#)

Preceded by Georges St-Pierre	7th UFC Welterweight Championship April 7, 2007 – April 19, 2008	Succeeded by Georges St-Pierre
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V · T · E ·	The Ultimate Fighter - Season 4	[show]
V · T · E ·	The Ultimate Fighter - Season 6	[show]

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