



“I’d be like, ‘That guy didn’t want to fight you, but / will. If I drop you, I’ll wait till you get up. And if you want to fight again, I’ll be over there. Come get me in about 20 minutes.’”

Chuck Liddell *Gladiator*

37; MIXED-MARTIAL-ARTS FIGHTER; TOUGH GUY

Core Values

incredibly heavy hands, devastating overhand right; superb balance and strength; vastly underrated wrestling and grappling skills; unshakable work ethic. UFC champion since 2005; winningest UFC fighter of all time, with a 20-3-0 record (13 KOs, one submission, six decisions); nicknamed “the Iceman”

Highlight Reel

In 2005, Liddell knocked out the legendary Randy Couture, capturing the UFC light heavyweight title. “That was my biggest night,” he says. “My biggest and most satisfying win.” He KO’d Couture again in 2006, and floored Tito Ortiz months later. Liddell’s breakthrough

moment in the UFC came in 2002, when he won a bruising unanimous decision over Vitor “the Phenom” Belfort.

Confirm or Deny

“I think it comes from my work ethic more than anything. I’m just trying to be a good representative for the sport.”

Backdrop

Liddell’s father bolted when Chuck was three, leaving him with his mother and grandparents in Santa Barbara, California. “One of his other kids tried to get me to meet my father shortly after I started fighting on TV,” he says. “I just had no interest in it. I was 28 at the time, so I figured he was about 25 years too late.”

He got his start street fighting in college, where he wrestled for four years and picked up freelance brawls on weekends. “A lot of times a guy would want to fight someone who didn’t want to fight him,” he says. “So I’d be like, ‘That guy didn’t want to fight you, but / will.’ But I think the reason I stayed out of trouble during that time was because I was like, ‘If you want to fight me, I’ll fight you. If I drop you, I’ll stand there and wait till you get up. I’m not going to jump on top of you and hurt ya. And if you want to fight again, I’ll be over there. Come get me in about 20 minutes.’”

Parting Shot

“I never regret the past. You just move on and keep training and keep fighting.”—*Hikari Takano*