

# Steve-O

Interview: Jennifer Swift

Photos: Nicole Pittman  
& Chris Staab

Perhaps Jackass' most notable stuntman, Steve-O is no stranger to taking a few punches. On MTV's show "Wild Boys" Steve-O has jumped in the open ocean with Great White Sharks, tempted a den of lions dressed as a Zebra, and even stared down several deadly Black Mambas. But even the seemingly fearless Steve-O says he would never test any of the animals that pace around inside a mixed martial arts cage. Jennifer Swift has the exclusive story of one of MMA's wildest fans.





Hi Steve-O, thanks for having us up to your apartment!  
No problem! Thanks for coming.

So tell me, how long have you been a fan of MMA?  
Ever since I saw this documentary called, "The Smashing Machine..." It's fu@k1nG GNARLY! It's about Mark Kerr. It was an intense introduction to MMA! I watched that S#it over and over again. It was CRAZY!

Do you remember the first UFC you saw?  
I don't know if they even called it the UFC back then, but it was about 1996. I worked in a video store in New Mexico and it was my job to reshelF the videos that people brought back. That's when I saw my first one.

Who would you say is your favorite fighter?

I'd have to say Mark Coleman, he is such a likeable guy. I like Tito Ortiz too. I am actually working on a book right now and one of the first titles we were throwing around was called, "This Is Gonna Hurt." My purpose was to be really honest, and my story is NOT flattering. I figured that telling my life story is a painful proposition, so the title would fit. Turns out that Tito Ortiz had already put out a book with that title!

Did you decide on another name?

Yeah... "Professional Idiot: A Memoir!" {Laughs}

Back to Mark Coleman, what makes him your favorite?

I just really like his attitude. His whole purpose is to provide for his family and I really like that. I think there is something very noble about that.





**Do you ever go to see the fights live?**

**You know, I have never been to one. I was recently presenting an award at an MMA show out in Vegas and I met Dana White that night. We were both like "NO WAY!" We were both excited to meet each other! He invited me out to the fights, and I was psyched and planning on going on New Year's Day. Then, I had to send him an email and flake out. I really have to get this book delivered! I am really under the gun to get this done.**

**You went to clown college, what did your parents think of that?**

**{Laughs} Around the same time I went to clown school I had a cousin that decided to be a mortician and learned to embalm dead bodies. I remember my mom & my aunt getting drunk and laughing hysterically... arguing whose son was the bigger loser! What's worse? A clown or a mortician?**

**{Laughs} Mom was into it though, but my dad wasn't really feeling it.**

**He was resistant to my whole pursuit of a career in entertainment.**

**Shortly afterwards he pledged his support. He told me**

**later that he had kind of done a disservice**

**to me. This is not what he would have**

**chosen for me, but he saw how**

**committed I was. Ultimately**

**what drove us apart, was**

**the thing that brought**

**us so close**

**together.**

**If you were a fighter, what would your walkout song be?**

**{Laughs} Well let's see... if I was a stripper my song would be Motley Crue's "Wild Side." I don't know I have always loved Motley Crue so yeah, it would definitely be "Wild Side."**



**If you had to pick one martial art as your favorite, what would it be? Probably wrestling. There have been more than a couple of times when I have anticipated being punched by someone and I have kinda ducked and went for their feet. I have actually wrestled my way out of fist fights... so I guess my choice would have to say wrestling is my favorite.**

**From someone who has overcome addiction, what advice would you give to someone who is struggling?**

**You don't ever overcome it. You might overcome a period of 24 hours, but addiction is not something you can just put behind you. You deal with it on an ongoing basis. You don't want to push it on people who aren't ready, you know? It just wouldn't work.**

**You've been clean and sober for 2 1/2 years now, right?**

**Two years, nine months, two weeks and 5 days. And, for a long time I thought there was nothing I could do about it. I felt like I was a lost cause. I felt like I was beyond help and there was no point in changing the way I was living. I was lying to myself. But, if I WAS going to tell someone anything... I'd say it IS possible to change the way you live. But, the only thing that makes people want to change the way they live is by getting their a\$\$ kicked really bad. You have to get beat up by it before you do anything about it. It sounds weird, but one thing you hear people tell those who are struggling is, "I hope it's REAL bad, and I hope you are having a real hard time. I hope you are having a hard enough time to actually, finally do something about it." Because if it's just a little bad they will just continue doing what they are doing. So you want to say, "I hope your life sucks so fu@king bad that you become willing to make a change."**

**So what's next for you?**

**I'll be on tour for a while!**

**Plus I have my book**

**coming out in June. I**

**really strive to keep my life as normal as possible.**

**I have spent these last couple of years trying to acclimate to a normal lifestyle.**

**I am finding the separation of Steve-O from Stephen Glover.**

To see video of this interview, check out our digital edition! Steve-O also performs a skate stunt for our cameras inside his apartment!

