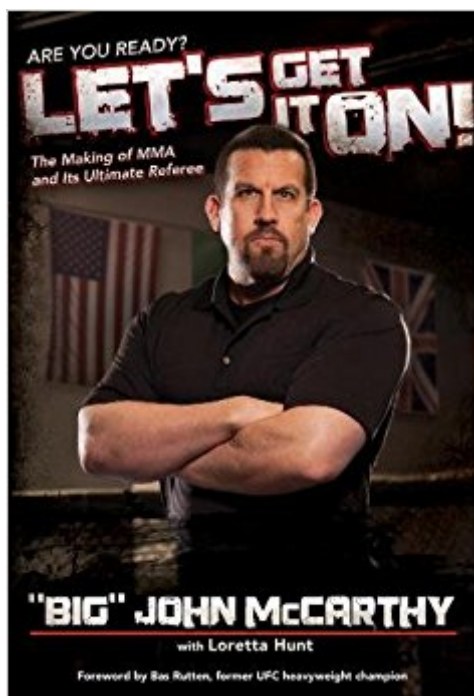


The book was found

Let's Get It On!: The Making Of MMA And Its Ultimate Referee



Synopsis

An intimate profile of the legendary mixed martial arts (MMA) referee, this first full-length autobiography of pop culture icon **Big John McCarthy** details every aspect of his life; from his strong-handed Los Angeles upbringing to his involvement in the naming of the sport, his role in its regulation, and MMA's rise in stature. The narrative follows **Big John** through his 22-year career as a Los Angeles police officer, where he taught recruits arrest and control procedures as well as survival tactics, then his 15-year career as MMA's premier official in the chain-linked cage. A fixture of the sport, **Big John** started refereeing at UFC 2 in 1994 when MMA was in its infancy and went on to officiate at every major UFC event but two until 2007. Following a one-year hiatus as a color commentator and on-camera analyst for MMA and boxing events, he returned to MMA refereeing in 2008. In his own words, "Big" John relates his insider's perspective from the midst of many of the sport's greatest moments; from Tito Ortiz vs Ken Shamrock I at UFC 40 in 2002 to Randy Couture vs Tim Sylvia at UFC 68 in March of 2007; along with his account of the birth of the sport in America, its evolution, and MMA's ongoing struggles for acceptance.

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Customer Reviews

"Great storytelling, great insight, and a great history of the UFC's rise. A subtle reminder that, much as we like the mano a mano of the sport, the third man in the arena can make all the difference." **Jon Wertheim**, Sports Illustrated senior writer, author, *Blood in the Cage*"

no-nonsense, hands-on account of the blood and sweat that lifted MMA from the sports blacklist and turned it into a billion-dollar industry. McCarthy didn't just observe history—he helped make it." —Jake Rossen, ESPN.com "Big' John has been around from the UFC's very beginnings and has experienced this sport from a perspective few will ever know." —Chuck Liddell, UFC champion and Hall of Famer "Big' John McCarthy has long been MMA's best and most knowledgeable official. He's been in the most amazing seat from the beginning in every arena this sport has ever been in—the hot seat in the cage!" —Randy Couture, UFC Hall of Famer and six-time champion "One of the best books ever written about the sport ... Part history and part biography, both parts equally fascinating." —SBNation.com "The only thing bigger than his authoritative presence is his knowledge of the sport he helped build." - Mauro Ranallo, MMA commentator "Compelling ... Many books have been written about MMA history, but the perspective from a primary figure in the sport sets this apart from previous efforts. At 418 pages, it's a hefty word, but fans will devour his stories and breeze through this highly entertaining tome." —Chicago Sun-Times "A testosterone-fueled, adrenaline pumping joy ride, and fans will surely be thrilled to meet the man they know so well from TV." —Publishers Weekly

"Big" John McCarthy served as an officer with the Los Angeles Police Department for 22 years and is the world's preeminent mixed martial arts (MMA) referee. McCarthy has officiated over 1,500 bouts worldwide since his debut at UFC 2 in 1994 and is one of the original authors of the sport's rules and regulations in the United States. —Loretta Hunt is a journalist who has penned more than 3,000 articles on all aspects of mixed martial arts since 2001. She has written for ESPN.com, SI.com, and the Los Angeles Times. —She is the coauthor of the New York Times best seller *Becoming the Natural: My Life In and Out of the Cage*, the memoir of UFC Hall of Famer Randy Couture. —Bas Rutten is a former MMA fighter known as El Guapo, an actor, an author, and a TV commentator. He is a former UFC heavyweight champion, the weekly cohost of HDNet's *Inside MMA*, and the author of Bas Rutten's *Big Book of Combat*, Volume 1 and Volume 2.

I had no idea the debt that the sport of MMA, especially professional MMA owes Big John McCarthy, but it's huge. This book is a must read for those interested in the sport of mixed martial arts. John helped organise the original pre Zuffa, pre SEG UFC when it was nothing but an info-mercial for Rorion Gracie's gym. He literally wrote the rule book for the sport - and then was a massive influence in getting the rules recognised by state regulators. To me the biggest downside of this book is John's integrity - he spoke of a few times he saw weakness, doubt etc in a fighter or

organisation, but unless it is already out there in some form, he pretty much has not told us much that was pretty much unique to his viewpoint. Highly recommended despite that. If you're into MMA and want to understand the sport today, you should read this book to understand where it came from and how it got to where it is.

McCarthy has been a key figure in the evolution of the sport and to read about his experiences both in the ring and behind the scenes is an eye opening journey. I'd have appreciated a bit more about the rules and judging, maybe more about his thoughts about fighting and the fighters themselves as well. If you are interested in MMA this book gives a great insightful explanation of how we got here. I hope he follows it up with another when he retires and has more leeway to speak his mind without it impacting his role in the sport.

A few months ago, when the UFC was first airing on FOX, I went to a TGIFs to have dinner with a few friends. We wanted to watch the fight while we had dinner, and we asked one of the waitresses if she could put the channel on FOX sports. She asked me directly about what sport we were trying to view, and of course I told her that it was mixed martial arts - or, since she seemed to have no clue, I used the misnomer "Ultimate Fighting." She quickly frowned and replied, "That sport is too violent for this family restaurant; we don't show sports like that here," and she walked away. This was in 2011. This situation gave me a small glimpse into the resistance MMA enthusiasts like John McCarthy have had to wrestle (no pun intended) against since the sport's inception in North America in 1993. John McCarthy has been defending the sport since UFC II, and has continuously argued against some of the sport's harshest critics. Yet, with an unflinching belief in the sport, McCarthy has not only defended the sport in front of various athletic commissions and a multitude of critics, but he has moved the sport forward by creating rules, training referees, and opening up a MMA gym. The book begins with McCarthy's troubles while growing up, which involved some bullying and some frequent street fights. He talks about his stint in power lifting and in bodybuilding. He goes on to discuss his time in the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and his first introduction to the sport of MMA. He talks - in candid detail - about training with Rorion Gracie and the early UFCs. Lastly, McCarthy spares no detail in this book. He goes into his falling out with the UFC and his time working for The Fight Network (TFN). This is undoubtedly one of the best books on the MMA market right now, and any true MMA fan will enjoy reading this book. Give this book a read, and I promise you that you won't be disappointed.

The first half of the book describes John's life preceeding his involvement with the UFC. Many good anecdotes about his younger days, and his time with the LAPD. The book then transitions to his involvement in the organization's creation, and it's rules, and regulations. From no holds barred grappling, to today's unified rules. John clears up some myths about his falling out with Zuffa, and states in his own words why he left refereeing for a time. Overall it's a fun read if you are a fan of MMA.

"The propaganda of the victor becomes the history of the vanquished." The TRUE history of MMA is now available in John McCarthy's "Let's Get it On!" Most everything else is just propaganda. John's incredible life story is the no holds barred (pun intended) history of what really went on in the traveling circus days of the early UFC, followed by its ascent to its current popular status. In typical John McCarthy fashion, he takes every opportunity to give credit where credit is due without being overly critical of those who would have killed MMA in its infancy. As an extra bonus, John's book objectively details the events in the years surrounding the riots in Los Angeles. Not unlike his service as the best referee in all of MMA, John served as one of LAPD's finest Officers, an Officer that many of us who served in those years actively sought to partner with. As luck would have it, John was "in the right place at the right time," to take his objectivity and consummate professionalism into what would become MMA. MMA as we know it exists because of John's early efforts. Disagree, agree? Doesn't matter, get this book, disregard the propaganda, and read the compelling TRUE history. Thanks John, truth reigns, un-vanquished! Joe Hamilton

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