

Close Encounters

People say the oddest things when they meet a UFC fighter in person *By DANIEL DOWNES Illustration by KYLE HAASE*



PAT BARRY ↻

This past summer I went to a GNC to buy an energy drink. The guy behind the counter was like 18 years old. I hand him my credit card and he kind of stares at it for a little bit. So I ask him, "Is there something wrong?" He replies, "Nah, it's just that your name is Patrick Barry and there's this guy in the UFC named Pat Barry who just fought. Your names are kind of similar." So I told him, "I've heard of that Pat Barry guy. He's pretty good." So then he tells me, "Yeah, he's okay. He's undersized and has no ground game." So I just grabbed my drink and didn't say anything.



PHIL DAVIS

A few months ago I was on a flight back home and wound up talking to the woman next to me. She asked me what I do for a living.

I told her that I fight in the UFC. She got all excited and said, "Oh, my kids probably love you! What's your name?" So I told her my name was Phil Davis. She said, "Nope, never heard of you." She then looked me up on her phone and yelled out, "Oh! You're Mr. Wonderful!" I guess my nickname is more popular than my real name.



CUB SWANSON

I've had all different types of experiences. People can be completely rude or make my day. Usually they'll look at me and blurt out,

"What happened in that last fight?" That drives me nuts! Once in a while they'll even try to give pointers. I have the best coaches in the world. I think I'm okay. My pet peeve though is when people ask, "Are you ready?" Of course I am!



MIKE PYLE

I was on a fishing trip in Idaho with a buddy of mine, and we found the perfect camping spot right by a river. It was a huge spot, and I only have a 13-foot trailer, but I figured since we're in the middle of nowhere, what's the harm? The next day, these two tour-bus-sized campers pull up, and I could tell that they were eyeing my spot. A lady comes out of the camper—she seemed a little tipsy—and started yelling at me. "What are you doing taking up this big space?" and things like that. Then her husband walks up and said, "Uh, honey, I don't think you should talk to Quicksand like that. That's Mike Pyle." I don't think she cared. She kept ranting.



JULIE KEDZIE

I was with Greg Jackson when he was training Georges St-Pierre for a fight in Las Vegas. This was after weigh-ins and we were in the lobby area of the Mandalay Bay and the place was swarmed with fans. People were crowding us and then a guy asked me, "Can I get a picture with you?" Trying to be humble, I said, "Nah, I'm nobody important." So then he tells me, "I know. You're just a cute chick in Vegas."