

OXFORD RESIDENT

Jake “David” Jensen

MAKING WAVES IN MMA

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That Like a true fighter, Jake “David” Jensen is an enigma. The mixed martial artist and boxer lives his life like Clint Eastwood, the no-name stranger riding into town to take care of business, only to ride off into the sunset once the job is complete. Where did he come from? Nobody knows. Does he have a family? Not sure. Does he have kids, a college degree, a job, or a significant other? He ain’t saying.

Jensen exists in the shadows, only coming into the daylight when necessary and keeping his private life incredibly private, a near impossibility for an athlete making waves in a sport that is custom-made for over-the-top self-promotion. Jensen has almost no social media presence, no website to promote his appearances, and information about his career as a professional fighter is spotty at best. That’s just the way he likes it.

“I’m a little bit of a ghost on social media,” says Jensen during a Zoom call from his home in Oxford. “I have an Instagram account, and I think it has one post.”

Jensen did reveal that he has been active in athletics since he was 10 years old, playing baseball, studying boxing and martial arts, and was a decathlete on the Mary College track team in North Dakota. He even had a stint playing hockey while living in the upper Midwest, where he was encouraged to use skills as a pugilist.

“I was the enforcer,” he explains.

“They would give me a number and I’d go out there and flatten the guy and the crowds would love it. That’s pretty much what I did in the sport.”

Despite his relative anonymity, Jensen has been making a name for himself in MMA circles, with the occasional boxing and kickboxing bout thrown in here and there,



mostly as a journeyman brought in by the promoter of an up-and-coming fighter. Typically, the journeyman is the underdog and meant to be a stepping stone to pad the opponent’s record. Jensen, however, doesn’t play by those rules.

“A lot of times, promoters have their guys that they want to protect and promote, and they try to find them easy fights,” says Jensen. “I’ve always kind of stayed under the radar so promoters didn’t really know what I was about. They have me come in as basically the lamb for the slaughter to fight guys that they thought were the up-and-coming stars. I’d fight them, beat them, and then sort of just fade off into the darkness.”

Undefeated in all disciplines with a record of 19-0, Jensen is squarely focused on the octagon of MMA. Now representing Blue Collar Fight Promotions based in Attalla,

Jensen was the main event of the MMA Clash at the Coosa earlier this month at The Venue at Coosa Landing in Gadsden. Competing at 170 pounds, Jensen put his 9–0 MMA record on the line against journeyman fighter Daniel Pearce for the BCFC Welterweight Championship. Jensen says he and Pearce have different approaches to MMA, which made their bout one of the most interesting on the fight card.

“My style in mixed martial arts has always been standup. That’s what the crowds like to see,” he explains. “They don’t like to see guys rolling around on the ground. They like seeing people get knocked out and put down on the canvas, and my style transitions very well between boxing and MMA.”

Prior to the Clash at the Coosa, Jensen described Pearce as “a ground guy. He does a lot of jujitsu, so it’s going to be an interesting matchup. We have conflicting styles, so it’s just going to come down to who’s the better man at fighting that night.” This publication was prepared before results from the fight were available.

When not training or competing in MMA events, Jensen operates his own construction company, which he launched shortly after moving to Oxford in 2023. Now 32, Jensen believes he realistically has another five or six years of professional fighting left in him. A man of deep Christian faith and an interest in social issues, Jensen wants to use fighting as a way to make a difference, especially to young men who, he says, are hearing the wrong messages in today’s culture.

“Fighting is just one route I want to go into. I have ambitions to get into politics, so I want to use fighting as a platform to project myself into politics. I think that we have a crisis with our young men. I think that there are not many good role models, and I think that what we see on the screen is not good for a lot of our young men. So I want to change that.”

