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— Sage Northcutt

Photo by Coffman Photography

UFC CHAMP
KATY'S OWN

SAGE NORTHCUTT

Nineteen-year-old wonder kid from Katy is one of the most talked about competitors on the UFC roster. Here's why.

Written by Ashley Lancaster

After training with his dad and siblings in Katy for the last 15 years, Sage Northcutt isn't the least bit surprised to find himself going toe-to-toe in the UFC with some of the most intimidating fighters in the world. "Imagine going on an interview for a job you want and you've been able to get ready for it for 15 years. Do you think you'd get that job? Of course," he says. A devout Christian, Sage is giving his glory to God while taking on the ring.

An Unconventional Style

At 6'0" with a 71" striking reach, Sage is known in the ring for his multi-faceted, unconventional style that takes his opponents by surprise. This comes from a rich background in various forms of fighting, like sport karate, wrestling and grappling, and Jiu-Jitsu.

During his last two big-time appearances during Fight Night in Las Vegas, Sage has been the undisputed champion. At his UFC debut earlier in 2015, he took down opponent Francisco Trevino in 57 seconds, the fourth-fastest UFC debut in history. He also defeated Cody Pfister by submission after just two rounds.

This is an impressive record for his first two Fight Night appearances, and makes his peers and opposition wonder just what his secret could be.

A Successful Combination

Sage trains 20 hours per week right here in Katy at Gracie Barra, and he lifts weights at Lifetime Fitness in Cinco Ranch.

Preparation is perhaps his biggest asset. The 19-year-old began practicing martial arts when he was 5 years old and has always dreamed of going pro as a fighter. "When I was 9 years old I was interviewed for a sports magazine and was on the front cover. During my interview, I said I wanted to fight in the UFC and become a UFC champion someday." That dedication and long-term commitment has led to a 7 win, 0 loss, 0 draw record in the UFC.

A Firm Foundation

With this level of success, it would be easy to assume that Sage enjoys star treatment, but he's astoundingly humble and grounded. He credits this firm foundation to his faith, family, and the Katy community. "I've trained with my brother and sister from day one, and competed with them around the world. My dad has been my coach the whole time, and my mom has always been there to support me with everything," he says.

Colbey Northcutt, Sage's older sister and former professional kickboxer, could not be more proud of her brother's success in the UFC. "I've always been most proud of his extreme work ethic and how he puts 100% into everything he does, all while putting God first in his life. He is the most hardworking person I know and it shows. He is so disciplined and dedicated, and I know he will be the UFC world champion some day," she says. Before each fight, Colbey says the entire family gathers and says a prayer for God to place His protection around Sage. "I always get nervous when he fights. I've always been confident he will win, but maybe it's the big sister in me that gets nervous. I always want him to be protected, injury-free, and have fast finishes," she states.

Since he was little, Sage has wanted to use his success in the ring to bring God glory. "I know I'm supposed to use the UFC as a vehicle to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. After my last fight, when I was interviewed, I said to Google John

3:16. I was told by a friend that it was the most searched thing on Google for three straight hours worldwide. So if that's accurate, that's what I'm trying to do," he says.

Sage has other dreams besides UFC glory; he wants to complete his education. A fighting Texas A&M Aggie, Sage is currently studying his way through one of the best petroleum engineering programs in the country. Studying and fighting simultaneously is a big challenge, but one that Sage is ready to take on; education is paramount in the Northcutt family.



Northcutt earning his second legacy belt

Deep Katy Roots

Sage attended Seven Lakes High School until his junior year when he transferred to Katy High School (KHS). At KHS he was voted "Most Polite," homecoming king, won the award for "Most Outstanding Senior," and went to the state championship for wrestling.

Sage wants to see more Katy ISD superstars emerge and make it to the big leagues. "I think young athletes can do all things through Christ, like it says in Philippians 4:13. I think you have to be grounded spiritually, which will in turn, contribute to you having the right kind of character, as well as putting in the hard work and dedication toward your goal." **KM**

ASHLEY LANCASTER is a Katy-born and raised freelance writer who loves sharing the stories of cool Katy people.