

**Anderson da Silva** (born April 14, 1975) is a Brazilian mixed martial arts fighter.



Born name: **Anderson da Silva**

Alias: **The Spider**

Born date: April 14, 1975

Born site: Curitiba, Brazil

Residence: Curitiba, Brazil

Nationality: Brazilian

Height/Reach/Weight: 1.88 m/1.97 m/84 kg

Style: *Muay Thai, Boxing, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Tae Kwon Do, Judo, Capoeira*

Rank: black belt in *Tae Kwon Do*, black belt in *Judo*, black belt in *BJJ*, yellow rope in *Capoeira*

Years active: 2000–present MMA

### **MMAWeekly: Silva Analyzed**

*Written by Damon Martin of MMAWeekly.com*

Anderson Silva has solidified himself as one of the most dominant fighters on the planet since coming to the Ultimate Fighting Championship with his devastating striking and intimidating style. He has knocked out former middleweight champion Rich Franklin twice, finished Nate Marquardt and also dispatched of Chris Leben and Travis Lutter. Now Silva will face likely the toughest challenge of his entire career as he squares off against the last Pride 183-pound champion, Dan Henderson, at UFC 82: Pride of a Champion.

Here is a breakdown of what Silva will bring into his title fight with Henderson.

#### **STRIKING:**

There is no question that Anderson Silva's

biggest weapon is his unbelievable stand-up and Muay Thai clinch game. He has shown throughout the years to have pinpoint accuracy with his punches, working a perfect boxing jab to set up anything from kicks to his signature knee strikes.

Silva is willing to give up position to go for a big strike, as he did in his fight with Travis Lutter in which he went for a flying knee and ended up putting the jiu-jitsu fighter in his guard when the knee didn't land flush.

His Muay Thai clinch is legendary, especially going back to watch his fights with former champ Rich Franklin, in which he was literally able to move the fight around the cage by controlling his opponent's head and neck with his clinch.

Silva may be the best striker that has ever set foot into MMA and because of the diversity of his strikes. No one can predict (ask Tony Fryklund) how he will find a way to knock an opponent out.

#### **GRAPPLING:**

There aren't too many weak spots in Silva's game, but when compared to Henderson this may be the one place he will lack coming into this fight.

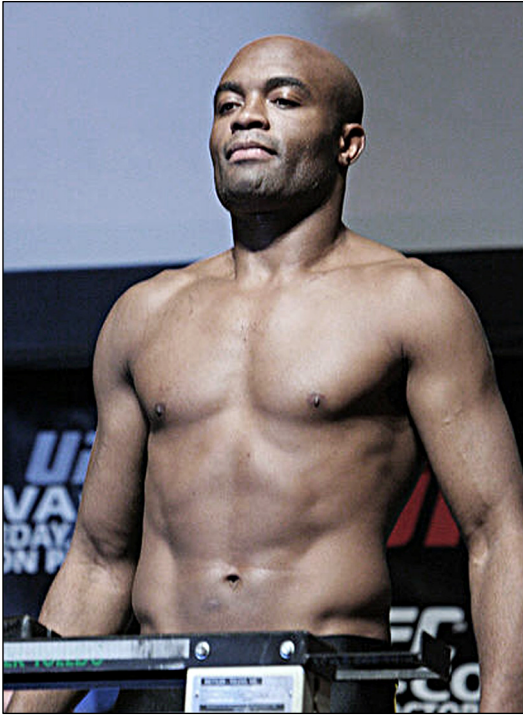
As previously mentioned, Silva is a fighter who is willing to take chances in his stand-up game, which can ultimately land him on the ground or pulling guard on his opponent, leaving him to deal with a ground and

pound attack from above.

The one moment in his UFC career that could be classified as Silva being in trouble was in his fight against Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu black belt Travis Lutter, when Lutter passed the champion's guard and ended up mounting him and raining down shots. Silva stayed calm and composed and worked his way out, but he did put himself in that position. If he ends up in a similar position with Henderson he may not find a way out.

What Silva does do very effectively is control his opponent's grappling with his jiu-jitsu background. His long legs are troublesome for most fighters at 185-pounds because he is able to lock on guard or even a body triangle with his legs and keep his opponent from raising up and throwing any power shots. Add to this Silva's ability to throw very dangerous elbows from the bottom and even in that position his strikes can end a fight.

In his fight with Nathan Marquardt, Silva nullified Marquardt's ground attack by using his defensive guard game and eventually the fight made its way back to the feet.



While his wrestling is suspect, his overall grappling can still be very useful in ending a fight.

#### **SUBMISSIONS:**

One aspect of his game that gets overshadowed many times when talking about the current middleweight champion is his tremendous jiu-jitsu game.

Holding a black belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu under the Nogueira brothers, Silva uses his long arms and legs to trap an opponent and look for submissions during a fight. He was able to trap Lutter in a triangle choke employing this very strategy in their fight.

Silva's guard could be one of the best in the business because he is able to avoid taking much punishment while on the bottom and at the same time he is consistently looking for opportunities to move his legs up an opponent's back looking for an armbar, triangle choke, or another submission.

While his win over Lutter is classified as submission by strikes, it was his triangle choke that trapped Lutter and allowed Silva to unload

elbows to his head to end the fight. He may never be seen in the same light as his jiu-jitsu trainers, the Nogueira brothers, when it comes to his ground game, but he can be just as equally as dangerous if he can lock onto an arm or an opponent's neck to finish a fight.

#### **OCTAGON CONTROL:**

Silva has literally controlled the pace of every single fight he's had in the UFC if you break it down to the fact that he's able to put his opponent where he wants them in almost any position. On the feet, it's almost a forgone conclusion that Silva's movements seem to keep any opponent on the defensive and if he locks on his Muay Thai clinch, a look of panic almost washes over a fighter.

Silva is also able to control the fight on the ground because of his superior jiu-jitsu. He uses the ground just enough to get his opponent to stand back up where he shows his true superiority.

#### **CONDITIONING:**

Anytime a fight is five-rounds versus three, the question of conditioning has to be asked. As of yet, Silva has done nothing to make us ask questions about his gas tank. None of his fights have made it out of the second round. But since defeating Franklin in October 2006 to win the middleweight title, he has prepared for three subsequent title fights, which potentially could have gone five rounds.

Silva's stand-up game is so unbelievably controlled that it's just not likely that he would gas himself out trying to finish an opponent with a flurry of punches or kicks because that is simply not his style. He is accurate and deadly with his jab and clinch work, and he doesn't over exert himself when it's not necessary.

On top of that, Silva isn't a fighter who cuts a lot of weight to make the 185-pound limit, so there is little worry of him cutting weight the wrong way and losing energy during a fight.

#### **THE "X" FACTOR:**



Silva's training camp for the upcoming fight with Henderson included Antonio Rodrigo Nogueira and his brother Rogerio Nogueira, both of which have fought and defeated Henderson in past matches. While it is not likely that Silva will employ the same game plan that they did, it can be a mental edge to have that advantage in his corner. As far as common opponents, Silva and Henderson do share a couple, but it's not likely those fights will gauge where these two will go in their match-up. Silva and Henderson both faced Ryo Chonan. While Henderson knocked him out in under a minute, Chonan defeated Silva with one of the craziest submissions in MMA history, but it's not likely to be duplicated in this fight.

Silva knocked out Carlos Newton, while Henderson defeated him by unanimous decision.

While Silva has shown an icy demeanor in the cage when fighting and an almost vicious style that seems to put his opponents away, what could break his concentration in this fight is if Henderson is able to take him down and control him on the mat repeatedly. If this happens, Silva could become frustrated and give up a dominant position to Henderson, but again, every round starts standing and that's where Silva is most dangerous.

### **KEYS TO SUCCESS:**

For Silva to defeat Henderson, the game plan seems simple... keep the fight standing and work the Pride champion over with jabs until he moves in and gets caught in a Muay Thai clinch that could end the fight. Henderson has shown a tendency to stand with more and more opponents lately and if he plays with fire in this match-up, he may very well get burned.

What Silva doesn't want to do is become tentative because of Henderson's wrestling pedigree and keep away and not go for any big strikes. Silva's tendency to throw the flying knee or big kick, while dangerous to both his opponent and himself, is an intimidating weapon that may keep Henderson from shooting for his legs and make him only work for a Greco-Roman clinch takedown.

If the fight makes it to the ground, Silva needs to frustrate Henderson much like he did Nate Marquardt and not let him work any real offensive ground and pound. Back on the feet, Silva should pepper Henderson with jabs because of his longer reach and then move in for the kill if he's able to put his opponent against the cage and unload a barrage of punches and knees.

<http://www.spidersilva.com/news/articles/69-mmaweekly-silva-analyzed>

## **Defending Anderson Silva**

*By Darren Wong*

*Web Site: BleacherReport.com Sports Correspondent*



Anderson Silva lost a ton of fans due to his puzzling performance against Demian Maia.

For two rounds, Silva toyed with Maia like a cat playing with a mouse, but he didn't finish his prey and spent the remaining three rounds coasting to an easy decision.

Some people say that Silva disrespected the sport, the fighters, the UFC, and the fans.

Others say that Anderson Silva is bad for the UFC and for mixed martial arts in general.

It's easy to make the argument that what Silva did was disrespectful, but that's not necessarily bad for the UFC or the sport. When all's said and done, Silva's antics might actually end up making him a bigger star than before.

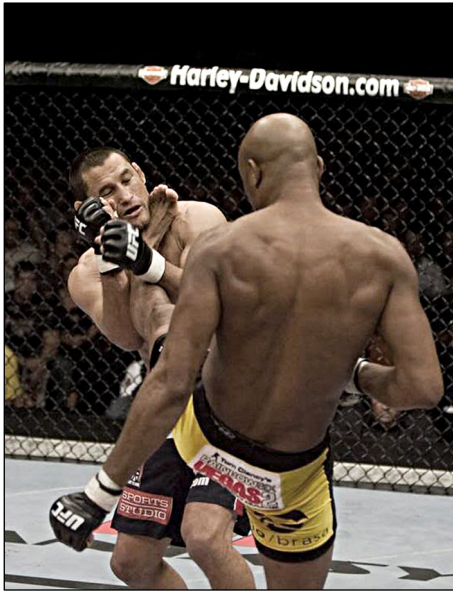
### **The purity of the sport is intact**

If Silva went out and won his fight by some sort of technicality, that would be damaging to the sport. Instead, he went out and proved that Maia had no chance of hurting him no matter how much time he was given.

Silva didn't break the sport. In all his recent fights he's just proved that he's way better at it than anybody else.

It's hard to fault a guy for flaunting his dominance.

### Anderson Silva's antics haven't really hurt his marketability



A lot of people like mixed martial arts strictly for the violence. When Silva was deconstructing Rich Franklin's face and debunking the myth that Chris Leben only gets tougher when he's been hit, the fans loved it.

Now that Silva has had multiple nonfinishes in the UFC, those violence-loving fans can't be sure that he'll deliver, so unless they've come to appreciate other aspects of the sport, they're going to think twice about ordering a pay-per-view headlined by Anderson Silva and another helpless victim.

In order to market Silva now, the UFC is going to need to put him up against opponents who can force Silva to either finish or risk losing the fight.

Rich Franklin and Dan Henderson were such opponents. Silva destroyed them, because they were too dangerous to toy with.

As long as Silva is fighting those kinds of guys, he's going to put on

impressive performances, and people are going to want to see him fight.

### Silva was never a huge draw

Silva has never been a big draw in the UFC and he's never been the guy fans can relate to. It's been far easier for North Americans to relate to beer-bellied Chuck Liddell, an all-American like Rich Franklin or the exceptionally charismatic Georges St-Pierre.

If Silva was an English-speaking American, he'd be the biggest star in the sport by now, but a penchant for knockouts wasn't enough to turn him into a household name, and he's never really been embraced as a hero on this continent.

### How Silva can become a bigger star than before



Silva might not ever be a big hero, but he gives the UFC something it desperately needs -- a top-notch villain.

When Silva fights, he doesn't just dominate his opponents. He taunts them, embarrasses them and ultimately deprives them of their manhood. It would be one thing if he was doing that to other villains, but when he's doing it to Rich Franklin and Forrest Griffin, it puts Silva into some serious villain territory.

Add his new disregard for the fans and UFC management, and we've got ourselves a bona fide villain, which makes him a refreshing change from the contrived heels that the UFC spins out every year on *The Ultimate Fighter*.

More than that, being a heel makes Silva an ideal foil for the hero types of the UFC.

All of this lines up perfectly if Silva is matched up against a guy like the mild-mannered St-Pierre, the fresh-faced Jon Jones, or perhaps aging legend Randy Couture.

We all look up to our heroes, but the UFC needs villains just as badly, and

Anderson Silva may end up being the best UFC villain ever.

[http://www.askmen.com/sports/fanatic\\_250/288\\_defending-anderson-silva.html](http://www.askmen.com/sports/fanatic_250/288_defending-anderson-silva.html)

### Next victim, please

"The most important thing is to stay focused and to concentrate," says Silva through Soares at his Black House

gym, in Los Angeles.

"I don't feel that I'm at my peak yet," he says, "I have a lot of things to learn and improve."

"He's such a creative artist, I love watching him fight," says Greg Jackson, who trained Nate Marquardt for his



title fight against Silva at UFC 73, "especially in the Leites fight. I really like that he didn't play Leites' game, but what I really enjoy - I mean, punching a guy in the leg? He does such creative things, such interesting things for a guy like me to see. It shows you just what kind of skill set this guy has. He's an amazing fighter."

What is it that makes him so far ahead of other fighters?

"My intelligence and my persistence to always be improving," Silva says. That's it.

Anderson Silva idolizes Spider-Man because, in his own words, "he was the only superhero who had bills to pay."

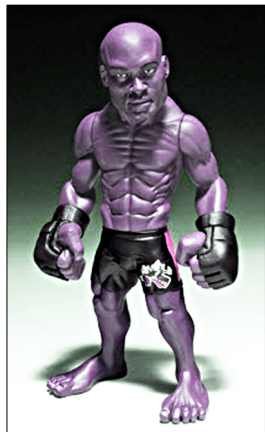
"My biggest fear in my life is not being able to do what I want to do, which is train and fight," says Silva.

"I feel that God has given me two legs and two arms, and they're able to work. And he's given me the coordination to do the things that I can do in the cage. My biggest fear is that something would happen that I wouldn't be able to do that."

*/UFC magazine feb-mar 2010/*

## Fightin' Fanboys: Anderson Silva

"I will use my wisdom against 'Sandman,' which I think is many times superior to that of my opponent's in a fight," Silva said. "I train a little of everything - Jiu-Jitsu, wrestling, boxing, Muay-Thai - there's no specific martial art that we concentrate on; MMA involves everything. I feel relaxed about [the fight]."



"[Spider-Man's] style is similar to me, especially his speed," he said. "I identify with his daily life. His way of being, how he is always playful even through bad times, he always tries to solve things in the best way possible and is always happy. I think I am kind of like that too."

There's another way the two are similar—whoever dares test "The Spider's" skills usually ends up bruised and beaten. For performing each of their respective heroics, there's something else that now bonds them forever—an action figure that UFC has put into production to join the many Spider-Man ones he owns. "I feel fulfilled professionally and personally," Silva said about having his talents as a fighter honored with his own figurine. "I am very happy to be part of MMA history, to be remembered by those who will buy the action figure."

<http://marvel.com/news/>