

Michael “Coach Wink” Winkeljohn

Born: October 13, 1962 Albuquerque, New Mexico

High School: Manzano High School 1980

College: University of New Mexico bachelor's degree in business 1989

Mike accelerated in sports in junior high school but following his parents' divorce, he began to get into fights and do what he says were “all the wrong things”. When Mike was 18, he walked into Mr. Bill Packer's Dojo to learn kickboxing. His life was forever changed at that point. His early goals were just to fight and prove himself to the world. As time went on, he wanted to win and attain world titles and challenge the legends in the sports. He grew to love it for the challenge and the sport to be world class and coach world champions.

Professional

- Mike excelled in Kickboxing for 17 years.
- Mike's fighting style earned him a reputation of extreme toughness and conditioning that led him to three world titles, including two International Sports Karate Association (ISKA) world titles in 1992 and one Muay Thai world title in 1993.
- Some of his early influences when began fighting were Benny “The Jet” Uriquidez. He admired Benny's toughness and creativity in fights. At times in his early fights, he wasn't always creative. These fights he lost were because he didn't have the tools or the right game plan. Most fighters have the conditioning and power, but it is the creativity and tactical smarts that makes a difference from a good fighter versus a world champion.
- In 17 years, Mike had a 25-7-2 records as a pro kick boxer and 2-0 as a boxer, won two International Sport Karate Association Championships and one Muay Thai world title. He had memorable battles with Marek Piotrowski to a draw in an ISKA world title match and a notable win over legendary Muay Thai World Champion, Coban Lookchaoemaeathong
- But he got the coaching bug and began his coaching career while he was still fighting. Mike became a better coach when he retired from kickboxing and focused on coaching. He opened his gym Wink's Gym in New Mexico in the early 1980's.
- Towards the end of Mike's fighting career, Mike, known as Wink met Greg Jackson through Chris Luttrell, but they became partners in 2007 when they opened their gym Jackson-Winkeljohn Mixed Martial Arts in Albuquerque. Mike and Greg are responsible for launching and helping grow the sport of MMA, from right here in Albuquerque.
- 2009 Mike became completely blind in his right eye, due to a training accident. Mike was holding a kick pad for a fighter, whose toenail lacerated Mike's right eye. Four surgeries would follow, but his vision could not be saved. All of this happened in the first year of marriage to his wife, Heather, while she was pregnant with their child. In between surgeries, Mike continued to hold mitts and train his fighters.

- In addition, Mike has taught for the better part of 38 years, teaching athletes, kids, and families in the sports of kickboxing, karate, and MMA. Mike has changed many children's lives by instilling confidence and motivation in them through instruction of martial arts.
- Coach Winkeljohn has built the gym where fighters from every part of the world come to train in Albuquerque, New Mexico with on-site housing and many other fighter related services. You can pretty much say that Albuquerque, New Mexico is known because of these two phenomenal Coaches Mike and Greg Jackson. Because of these two Coaches Albuquerque, New Mexico is considered the mecca of Mixed Martial Arts.
- Jackson Wink MMA is a World renowned and premier Mixed Martial Arts training academy located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and a home to some of the best MMA fighters to ever grace the sport of Mixed Martial Arts. Jackson Wink MMA Academy has been voted as a #1 MMA Camp in the world for many years.
- Striking coach and former world kickboxing champion has helped him turn raw talents like Jon "Bon" Jones, "Suga" Rashad Evans and Holly Holm into Ultimate Fighting Champions (UFC) Champions. He has helped convince born tough guys to "outthink, out strategize and out work" their opponents. Since 2009, he has done his training with just one eye.
- Notable athletes under their tutelage include:
 - Jon "Bones" Jones - UFC Light Heavyweight Champion
 - Rashad Evans - UFC Light Heavyweight Champion
 - George "Rush" St. Pierre - UFC Welterweight and Middleweight Champion
 - Holly Holm - UFC Female Bantamweight Champion
 - Carlos Condit - WEC and Interim UFC Welterweight Champion
 - Michelle Waterson - Invicta FC Champion
 - Frank Mir, UFC Heavyweight Champion
 - Andrei Arlovski - UFC 2-Time Heavyweight Champion
 - Alistair Overeem - Strikeforce Heavyweight Champion, 2010 K-1 Grand Prix Champion
 - B.J. Penn - UFC Lightweight Champion and UFC Welterweight Champion
 - Clay Guida - (UFC) Former Strikeforce Lightweight Champion
 - Tony Ferguson - UFC Interim Lightweight Champion
 - Diego Sanchez
 - Gina Carano
 - Donald "Cowboy" Cerrone
 - John Dodson, Diego Sanchez,
 - Countless other notable names of the sport.
- Mike and Greg have been featured in Sports Illustrated, ESPN, Forbes, and numerous other documentaries, radio shows, television programs, articles, and news features.

Honors

- 5th Degree Blackbelt in American Kenpo Karate
- 3009 UFC Gym of the Year.

- 2015 Named the New Mexico Sports Hall of Fame's Award of Distinction.
- 2015 World MMA Awards Top Gym Jackson-Wink MMA Academy

Community Involvement

- Coach Winkeljohn and his wife Heather run a very popular Non-Profit Organization that works with youth and teens who experience a variety of environmental, physical, and cognitive challenges by empowering and providing these kids with the skills and benefits of Mixed Martial Arts. Currently they serve around 40 kids, but the program is growing at the very fast pace.
- Another program Coach Winkeljohn and his wife established over many years is a Smart Girl Self Defense Program that teaches women and young ladies the self-defense needed to protect themselves, especially in Albuquerque. Classes get packed with as close as 100 women coming to learn from the best.

Family

- Heather, wife, who holds a bachelor's degrees in education and psychology, previously worked for several years as a Developmental Therapist to infants and children with special needs and is co-owner of the gym.
- Michelle, daughter
- Autumn, daughter has been participating in grappling tournaments.