

JOSIAH HENSON, II (JOSH)

Josh Henson is widely considered the Father of Sombo in America. Sombo (also spelled Sambo or Camba) is a martial art that originated in the Soviet Union under Stalin as a system of unarmed self-defense for sold soldiers. The term “Sombo” is an acronym for the Russian Phrase “Self-Defense without Weapons (SOM-oborona Bes Orusyia). Sombo wrestlers have dominated the world of Mixed Martial Arts, including Dan Severn (UFC5, UFC7) and Oleg Taktarov (UFC6), as well the legendary Fedor Emilienko, whom Chuck Norris and others have called the greatest mixed martial artist of all time.

Josh Henson is a member of the U.S. Sombo Hall of Fame (the only person ever inducted twice, as both an athlete and contributor). He is also in the Wrestling Hall of Fame of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) and has been selected “Man-of-the Year” in five different AAU sports (including Sombo, wrestling, Taekwondo and Jiu Jitsu). He served as an interpreter at the FILA meeting in Toledo, Ohio in 1967 where Sombo became an international sport when it was adopted as the third style of wrestling by FILA (now UWW), the international wrestling federation recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). He later served on the FILA Sombo Committee, and was one of the founding fathers of FIAS, the international Sombo federation that was formed in 1983 when Sombo separated from FILA. He served as Vice-President on the first FIAS Executive Bureau and later served as Secretary General, then as international President of FIAS. He was instrumental in the inclusion of Sombo inclusion into the World Games and the Pan American Games, as well as into the World University games as part of the cultural program, and served as head referee at all three events.



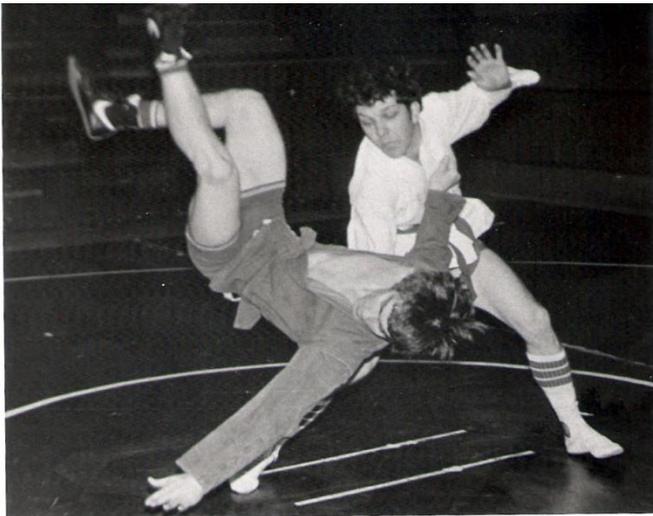
Josh is a two-time U.S. National Sombo Champion and was never scored upon in U.S. Sombo competition in his entire career. He participated in two FILA world championships and three FILA world cups representing the United States, placing as high as second. In 1975, while studying law at the University of Manchester in England, he assisted FILA Sombo Chairman Bert Jacob in organizing the first two international Sombo clinics held outside the Soviet Union, in Manchester, England (where he became the American ever to qualify specifically as an international Sombo referee). He accompanied the British team to Russia that year, where he became the first American to study Sombo in Russia. Upon his return home to the U.S., he was appointed to the first U.S. Sombo Committee under the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) in 1975 and helped organize the first U.S. National Sombo Championships that year. In 1979, he was a member of the first full team ever sent by the U.S. to a FILA world Sombo championships, in Madrid, Spain. In addition to being an athlete on the U.S. Senior

Team, he also coached the U.S. Espoir Junior Team and refereed the Espoir Junior World Championships held at the same time in Madrid.

Josh Henson's father was Joe Henson, an Olympic Bronze medalist in freestyle wrestling who was the first American ever to beat a Russian in the Olympic Games in any sport. Joe Henson was Vice-President of the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) for over 20 years and made the presentation to the IOC that won Taekwondo inclusion into the Olympic Games. Joe Henson introduced Taekwondo into the United States sport family when he was national president of the AAU. Josh Henson's uncle, Stanley Henson, is a Hall of Fame wrestler considered by some the greatest U.S. wrestler of all time. He beat every opponent he ever fought and never had an offensive point scored on him in a college career that included three NCAA Championships.



Josh Henson is an honors graduate of Harvard College, where he was an All-Ivy wrestler and Class Day Orator at Harvard commencement. He is currently an attorney in Washington, D.C., and has served as legal counsel to a number of international sports federations, as well as the World Olympians Association (WOA).



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