

## MMA = the Roman GLAD-iator

There is no place for MMA in a society trying to hold on to civility. It is a blood “sport” (I use the word very loosely here) as much as cock-fighting, where the goal is an attempt to bloody and disable your opponent any way you can as quickly as you can. Just listen to how disgustingly excited promoter Dana gets when he watches. The more gruesome and bloody the more frenetic he gets. Blood is money to him.



**Now I'm not prudish** about physical sports. I'm now 57 years old. I played men's Saturday divisional rugby for the Meraloma club until I was 53 with occasional Sunday away games played with the over-40s. In my 38 years of rugby, of course I was blooded for stitches my share of times strictly by accident. The goal of rugby is to get the ball past the try line and to stop your opponent cleanly from doing so. In all those years I had perhaps three head-injuries, years ago called concussions. They were not an integral part of the sport the way they are a part of MMA. In MMA the ultimate match is the **knockout**. Blood, as well, is an integral part of the sport, far more so than it ever was in boxing. Why? because intentional kicks, knees and elbows to the head and face are a part of the contest.

**One day** my daughter called to share her “best” dad award story. She and my 14 month old grandson Daniel in the stroller, were passing by a father loading three young kids into his large SUV. She noticed he had bent down and put his large, half full, plastic cup of Cola, under his truck, before strapping his toddler into the car seat as the other two kids jumped in. As he stepped into the car, Tee reminded him that he had forgotten his drink to which he responded loudly with a string of freakishly f-ing foul language-telling her to mind her own frac&in' business. It served to make me think of a society in collapse??

I take my grandson across to Connaught park three days a week, while I look after him as my daughter teaches. On too many occasions, we have witnessed young boys not wrestling, but aggressively mimicking MMA. What the H-E-double LL are parents doing letting them watch it on TV. On several occasions I asked fathers to keep their 4 and 5 year old boys from faking spin kicks at my grandson in the toddler swing. “Oh they're only playing!” almost makes me feel like playing knock the dad out sometimes.

**Since MMA came in to existence** anyone can see there has been an increase in those males who do get into scrapes are going for as much blood as possible. While having a beer after a game on west Broadway I have witnessed too many times, guys going at it, and mates having to pull someone off who went crazy with blood lust. The recent case of the Victoria police being involved with the fight in the street, was just such an incident.



**As Roman society began to fall apart**, bloodlust at the Coliseum rose to new heights. Humans ended up being hacked, beaten and burned to death for entertainment and lighting.

Yes I have watched MMA. I have suffered with curiosity and eventual disconcertion, through a couple of bloody matches. I spent my entire rugby career playing hard, but knowing head injuries were to be avoided if possible. In MMA, elbows to the head and face are an integral part of a perfect KO or TKO match.

I cannot help being reminded through MMA how blood-sport popularity rose as Roman society disintegrated as their economy was imploding. They too had relied too heavily on one source for over-extended centralized wealth- the breaking backs of their global peasants. We, our dependence on now waning fossil fuels.

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