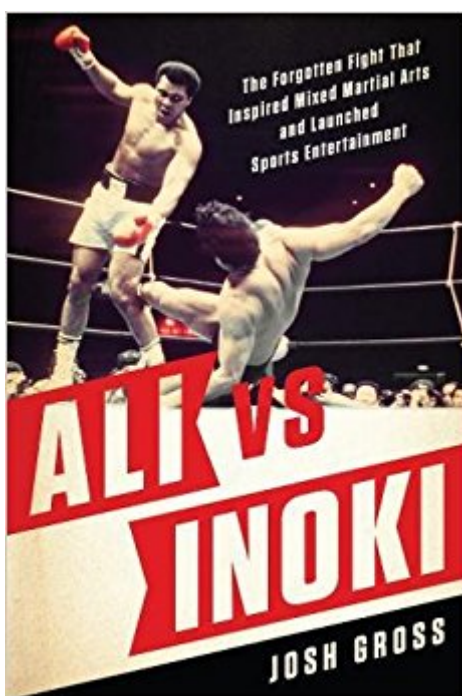


The book was found

# Ali Vs. Inoki: The Forgotten Fight That Inspired Mixed Martial Arts And Launched Sports Entertainment



## Synopsis

Named one of the "40 Best Books of 2016" by The New York Post &#147;Inoki can use his bare fists. He can use karate. This is serious. There's \$10 million involved. I wouldn't pull a fraud on the public. This is real. There's no plan. The blood. The holds. The pain. Everything is going to be real. I'm not here in this time of my life to come out with some phony action. I want you to know this is real."&#151;Muhammad Ali, June 14, 1976, The Tonight Show

On June 26, 1976, Muhammad Ali fought in a mixed-rules contest against iconic pro wrestling champion Antonio Inoki for the so-called &#147;martial arts championship of the world. Broadcast from Tokyo to a potential audience of 1.4 billion in 34 countries, the spectacle foreshadowed and, in many ways, led to the rise of mixed martial arts as a major sport. The unique contest was controversial and panned by wrestling and boxing supporters alike, but the real action was behind the scenes. Egos, competing interests, and a general sense of apprehension over what would happen in the ring led to hodgepodge rules thrown together at the last minute. Bizarre plans to &#147;save Ali if the fight got out of hand were even concocted. In Ali vs. Inoki, author Josh Gross gets inside Ali's head leading up to the match by resurrecting pre-fight interviews. Gross also introduces us to Inoki, the most famous face in Japan who was instrumental in shaping modern mixed martial arts.

## Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: BenBella Books; 1st edition (June 21, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1942952198

ISBN-13: 978-1942952190

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 1 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #103,062 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Boxing, Wrestling & MMA > Martial Arts #17 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Mixed Martial Arts #26 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Boxing

## Customer Reviews

&#147;It's only fitting the Josh Gross&#151;an early MMA adopter and as fine a writer/reporter as

the sport has&#151;gives us this dispatch of an original boxer-versus-grappler contest. Our only question: when's the movie coming out?Ã¢âÂ• &#151;L. Jon Wertheim, executive editor, Sports Illustrated "If you're interested in Muhammad Ali, the history of combat sports or pro wrestling, this book is a must-have in your collection." &#151;Denny Burkholder, features writer for CBS Sports

Josh Gross is considered a pioneer of mixed martial arts journalism. His reporting spans MMA's shift from an underground, counterculture free-for-all to a multibillion dollar industry regarded as one of the world's fastest growing sports today. During 15 years in the business, Gross can claim to be the only reporter who covered MMA full-time for Sports Illustrated and ESPN. Josh is known for investigative works, and he hosts a popular podcast, Gross Point Blank.

Fun book, considerably better than the fight itself! Covers a ton more than just the titular event, with tons of great stories about people like Jhoon Rhee, Rikidozan, Gene Lebell, both Vince McMahons, Classy Freddie Blassie, etc. Explains the motivations of all the parties involved, from the fighters to the promoters to the fans who paid to see it in arenas and movie theaters across the US. This is a great boxing book, a great wrestling book, and a great mixed martial arts book. Recommended to anyone who has even a passing interest in fight sports or pro wrestling.

As a longtime fan of both MMA and boxing (plus pro wrestling), I have been waiting to read this book since the day I first heard about it and it has not only lived up to the hype, but exceeded it in many ways. This book doesn't just do a good job with detailing what happened before and after the fight, but it also delves into great detail about the fight itself with round by round recaps. A must read for all sports fans.

If you are a MMA fan, then you have to read this book. This is where MMA started, an event which left people guessing what they had just witnessed. It might have not turned out as people wished, but its place in combat sports history is without question.

Great Book especially if you are a boxing or MMA fan

Josh Gross is awesome. Big fan all the way to the Beatdown days with TJ and the Shorty B theme song. As an author he is great.

Very good read that delves into the history of the events and what lead up to it. Excellent!

Great memories and behind the scene

Great read

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Ali vs. Inoki: The Forgotten Fight That Inspired Mixed Martial Arts and Launched Sports

Entertainment Parting the Clouds - The Science of the Martial Arts: A Fighter's Guide to the Physics of Punching and Kicking for Karate, Taekwondo, Kung Fu and the Mixed Martial Arts

MMA Training: The Ultimate Beginners Guide To Mixed Martial Arts (Including Drills & Tactics)

(MMA, Martial Arts, Self Defense, BJJ) The Muhammad Ali Story: The Inspiring Life and Journey of the 'Greatest of All Time' Muhammad Ali (Includes: 150 Muhammad Ali Quotes) Fight for the

Forgotten: How a Mixed Martial Artist Stopped Fighting for Himself and Started Fighting for Others

Fight Like a Physicist: The Incredible Science Behind Martial Arts (Martial Science) Heart for the

Fight: A Marine Hero's Journey from the Battlefields of Iraq to Mixed Martial Arts Champion Martial

Arts for the Mind: Essential Tips, Drills, and Combat Techniques (Martial and Fighting Arts) Martial

Arts for Women: Essential Tips, Drills, and Combat Techniques (Martial and Fighting Arts) Martial

Arts for Children: Essential Tips, Drills, and Combat Techniques (Martial and Fighting Arts) Martial

Arts for People with Disabilities (Martial and Fighting Arts) Martial Arts for Athletic Conditioning

(Martial and Fighting Arts) Martial & Fighting Arts (Martial and Fighting Arts Series) Martial Arts for

Children: Winning Ways (Mastering Martial Arts) Martial Arts for Women: Winning Ways (Mastering

Martial Arts) Ground Fighting Techniques to Destroy Your Enemy: Mixed Martial Arts, Brazilian Jiu

Jitsu and Street Fighting Grappling Techniques and Strategy (Self-Defense Book 3) Heavy Bag

Training: For Boxing, Mixed Martial Arts and Self-Defense (Heavy Bag Training Series Book 1)

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu: The Ultimate Guide to Dominating Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Mixed Martial Arts

Combat Beast: Blood, Struggle, and Dreams at the Heart of Mixed Martial Arts Double End Bag

Workout: For Boxing, Mixed Martial Arts and Self-Defense

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)