

The Street Fighter

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January 8, 2017

To think a street fighter is not a practiced fighter is ignorance and it can get you killed. I grow up with a lot of self-taught fighters. They couldn't afford formal training, nor did they want or need it. But they can hang a tree trunk and hit it. They can lift weights. They play fight with their friends to build toughness. They watch and learn what other people do in fights. Dirty fighting like eye gouging, sucker punching, 'pain' inflicting shots aiming for real pressure points, understanding weapons of opportunity, fighting not one, but multiple enemies, how and when to pick up rocks, bricks, pipes, bottles and dirt to better serve their use. Some of these people became so good at what they do that they controlled the behavior of the entire neighborhood of punks. At least, until they get beat up, got to jail, or, worse, KILLED. And it was almost always about survival after things escalate. Take one of these street fighters and put him in a martial art will usually evolve them as fighters.

"The difference between martial arts and Combative, is that martial art is something that you do with someone, in other words there is this reciprocal exchange of movement going on "when he does this and I react by doing that", whereas Combative are "something that you do to someone or on someone".

A street fighter may use a blunt object, knife, or gun his/her environment. A practicing martial artist is not trained to fight like that. The body advantages from training such as endurance and reflexes would not make a difference over adrenaline of the street fighter.

I have known martial arts practitioners that got messed up by these fighters. Serious street fighters bent on NEVER losing because their life will depend on it are as dangerous as a true black belt level fighter. Most street fighters where I am from are always thinking about how effective something will be in a real fight. The most effective ones are the ones with a single heavy hand punch, developed a combo that can be done without thinking, learned a fast sucker punch, hard kick, and has built their body to withstand impact. Toughness. They tend to teach themselves how to muscle off spears and tackles because they are common. They also learn through trial and error with friends, what works in wrestling and take downs. How to stop a wide weapon attack, because they are common. Cheap shots like head-butts, groin shots, ear slaps, and nose punches. For instance, I was taught at 7 years old, because fighting and physical bullying was VERY common, was the sucker punch to the nose. It does not matter how big a bully, a solid sucker punch followed by kicks as hard as you can muster will give you time to run away. Most also have no concern for their opponent. They also fight to end all future fights. "If I make an example of this one, others won't try to fight me." Or even more common, "If I beat up this bully, the other bullies might think twice before picking on me and go after an easier target."

However, a good martial artist who practices and utilizes real world training may have an edge because they are practicing using their skills for street fighting. In a street fight, there are no rules. The point of a street fighter to fight is to fight and live. A martial artist tends to work on their mind and self-control and restraint.

I painted a graphic picture, but street fights were not always about killing each other. Killing someone can get you killed. The goal isn't to kill. That only happens when people are high off of meth or stupid drunk. Or they underestimate the fear in someone and get shot or stabbed by a less powerful person on the wrong day. The goal from what I understood was respect. You can't go and treat other people in whatever way you wish. Disrespectful behavior and slandering others are what started most fights. This was about 60-70% of the fights. The others were about people stealing, snitching, domestic stuff with girls, and drug/alcohol related issues. The law had little influence back then. Sometimes, I think the cops were some of the best street fighters back then.