

Gilbert Melendez

Wrestling

Class of 2000

Gilbert “El Nino” Melendez excelled in the sport of wrestling at Santa Ana High School where he was a two-time CIF runner up and a two-time State CIF qualifier at 125 lbs. His accomplishments earned him a scholarship to wrestle at San Francisco State.

In 2001 while attending school at San Francisco State, he was introduced to the sport of Mixed Martial Arts. From 2002 through today Gilbert has established himself as one of the elite Mixed Martial Arts Fighters in the World by winning his first 13 consecutive fights. He became the first Lightweight Champion for the World Extreme Cage fighting organization. He was a 2 Time and the last reigning Lightweight Champion for the Strikeforce fight organization; he ranked as one of the top 5 best fighters in the world in the Lightweight Division for 6 years, and he ranked as one of the top 10 best Pound for Pound fighters in the world for 4 years. He currently fights at 155 lbs for the UFC, Ultimate Fighting Championships.

Gilbert has become a family man, a business man, a sports broadcaster, and actor. He administrates his own 7,000 Square foot MMA Gym in San Francisco; he is an MMA Sports Commentator for ESPN. Gilbert has continued showcasing the City of Santa Ana and Santa Ana High School by mentioning his hometown when interviewed by the media prior to his fights and at post-fight news conferences.