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Articles

Stuntman Raises Cancer Awareness While Punching Into A New Guinness World Record

By Eva Marie Fredric

Detroit, Michigan native--Ron Sarchian was only 3 years-old when he lost his father to testicular cancer as he candidly reveals, "I have no memories of my dad really. It's a lot to throw at a kid at that age. I know once they diagnosed him, he didn't live that long and back in '67 cancer was a taboo. (A stigma that still exists.) People stayed away from you. The neighborhood I grew up in was pretty tough. My mom and I lived near 8 Mile and Woodward. Like the movie "8 Mile," it used to be the border between the blacks and the whites. We moved to Royal Oak after the '67 riots and my dad had died."

Sarchian was fortunate to have uncles to help his mother raise him, giving him not only a trade (carpentry) but a male influence that all boys need. At age eight, Ron started working out with the heavybag which gave him focus and ultimately a purpose he never dreamed of; to send a strong and clear message. He says, "This devastating disease really hits home for me also because my dad was only 33 years old when I lost him."

Sarchian always wanted to break a Guinness World Record and he punched his way past the original record--24 hrs. 13 minutes--to-- 36 hrs. 3 minutes--between June 15th and June 17th--earmarking his 40th birthday on June 16th. His original goal was to double the record time of 48 hours but settled with his secondary goal with no stimulants or drugs and to avoid an emergency room visit for dehydration or hand injury.

He hit over 250,000 punches while training for over a year then another 100,000 punches when he broke the record. Currently, he's raised close to \$4,000 for Lance Armstrong's Peloton Project--a cancer organization that is committed to enhancing the quality of life for those living with, through and beyond cancer.

Sarchian has done a lot of specialty stunts, fire, high wire, skydiving and was on several soaps as a regular, initially discovering his love for being on a set during "Northern Exposure" as a stand-in.

While in high school he started taking Tae Kwon Do lessons to augment his football training and later when living in Seattle, he decided to train and fight as an amateur full contact fighter.

"Kickboxing is a very vague term these days because there are so many types of fighting. I really enjoy the skill of kicking with both legs because it really has become a lost skill with so many leg kicks and all of the ground fighting these days. The bottom line is fighting is fighting and the mentality is that once you get into the ring you want to punish your opponent as much and as often as possible.

"The new and most popular type of fighting seems to be ground fighting or grappling. Since mixed martial arts fights are so popular, the fighters need to be schooled well in everything. The more experience and training you have, the more versatile a fighter you will become."

Says Sarchian who loves teaching and training people. He also plans to break two other Guinness Book records.

To donate to the Peloton Project, look up <http://www.laf.org> and Ron's membership number is: 200132290 or call LAF direct at (512) 236-8820, or send a check made out to LAF and send to 14622 Ventura Blvd., #308, Sherman Oaks, California 91403 to Ron Sarchian.



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