

Pierson on Winnipeg's inaugural UFC card

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Sean Pierson is disappointed he won't be entering the octagon to fight in today's UFC 158 card in Montreal due to precautionary medical reasons.

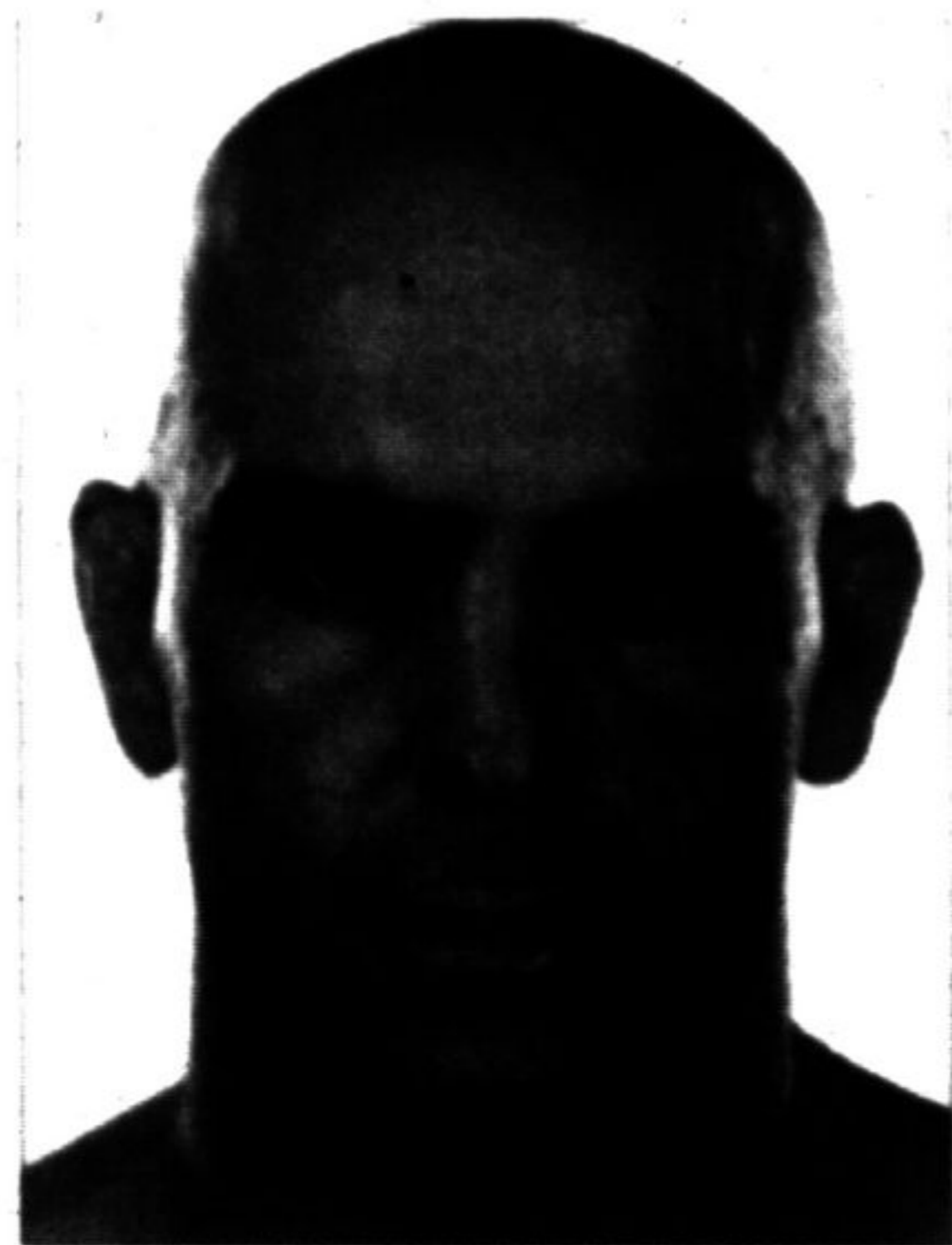
But the 36-year-old Stouffville resident received another opportunity to showcase his mixed martial arts skills by the UFC.

In announcing some matches for the first-ever UFC card to be held in Winnipeg as a part of UFC 161, Pierson was included as one of the combatants for the June 15 event, the UFC announced Wednesday.

Pierson is scheduled to take on TJ Waldburger in a welterweight match that will be part of an undercard featuring Mauricio Rua against Antonio Rogerio Nogueira and Dan Henderson against Rashad Evans.

A native of Temple, Texas, the 24-year-old Waldburger has a 16-7 overall record and is 4-2 in UFC.

For Pierson, who has a 13-6 overall mixed martial arts record and is 3-2 in UFC matches, the opportunity to resume his UFC



SEAN PIERSON: Stouffville man had to bow out of UFC 158 tonight for medical reasons.

career and to do it north of the 49th parallel has him psyched up.

'STACKED CARD'

"It's a stacked card and I'm super excited to be a part of it," Pierson said of UFC 161. "I still get to fight in Canada. It's partly my home because I like to fight for the Canadian fans and I've received a lot of support here (in prior fights

in Toronto and Montreal).

"I started my UFC career in Montreal and it's always my home away from home. But to fight in Canada I'm happy. It will be Winnipeg's first UFC card and I'm sure there will be a lot of fans."

Having watched Waldburger fight on TV, Pierson acknowledged he presents a major challenge.

Especially since Waldburger's style of grappling is in stark contrast to his and he's coming off a win in his most recent UFC match in Las Vegas Dec. 15 via submission.

The key, he said, will be in whoever can dictate their game plan.

"He's definitely going to be a tough opponent. He's a grappler, his strength is on the ground and he's a submission guy," Pierson said in describing Waldburger. "A lot of my fights are standing."

While Pierson won't be in the octagon for today's UFC 158 card, he will be among those in the Bell Centre offering his support to fellow Canadian and UFC welterweight champion Georges St. Pierre in his main event match against Nick Diaz.

At the same time, he will do some promotional work for the UFC 161 card.

To watch the action from the stands, he conceded, will be tough.

'I try to remain positive.

I didn't make the card (UFC 158) but first and foremost it's about my health. I have a wife and son and I'm soon to be 37 years old.'

Especially in seeing his replacement, Quinn Mulhern, fighting his scheduled opponent, Rick Story.

"It's just one of those things," Pierson said. "I try to remain positive. I didn't make the card (UFC 158) but first and foremost it's about my health. I have a wife and son and I'm soon to be 37 years old."

"Right now I'm having fun and I'm enjoying my time in the UFC."

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