SCRAPP!

MAGAZINE



COVER STORY:
JKB (JudoKickbox)
The world's first Cuban-based
Form of MMA Training

MARCH 2015
scrappfightmag.com

THE CURRENT STATE OF THE UFC

HUGE BUSINESS:
Examining
The Brock Lesnar Effect

UFC 187:
Which Fight
Are You Most Excited For?

THE LIST:
Top 5 Upsets That
Weren't Really Upsets

SCRAPP!
FIGHT MAGAZINE

Table of contents

For March 2015 we have the following:

07 **Old School Meets New School As Don Frye Attends WFFMMA**
Article By: Todd Jackson

10 **The Current State of the UFC**
Article By: Michael Davis

14 **JKB (JudoKickbox)** The world's first Cuban-based Form of MMA Training
Written By Jenny Patrizia/Edited by Melissa Ingram Photo Credit JKB

20 **UFC 187:** Which Fight Are You Most Excited For?
Article By: Jeremy Klump

24 **Huge Business:** Examining The Brock Lesnar Effect
Article By: Jay Anderson

27 **UFC on Fox 15:** The Event People Need To Be Talking About
Article By: Jeremy Klump

31 **The List:** Top 5 Upsets That Weren't Really Upsets
Article By: Michael Davis

38 **The Value of Integrity and the Cost of Dishonor**
Article By: Todd Jackson



Copyright 2015, by scrapp! fight magazine all rights reserved no part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without permission in writing from scrapp! fight magazine. the publisher accepts no responsibility unsolicited manuscripts, photographs, artwork or advertisements. scrapp! fight magazine is a quarterly publication all information regarding editorial content is deemed reliable. no representation is made as to the accuracy hereof and os printed subject to errors and onissions.

HEY MMA FANS

CHECK OUT THE HISTORY OF PANCRASE



OVER 127 FIGHTS

90 plus minutes of content for

$4.95 USD

15 Years of Excellence

Video on Demand

Narrated by

King of Pancrase

Josh Barnett

PANCRASE HYBRID WRESTLING

WWW.PANCRASELIVE.COM

SCRAPP!

STAFF



GEORGE BOLEY
Publisher
George has been an MMA fan since 1990, has been in martial arts for the 27 years. George is the Program Director for Sports Action Network International and the Current Host the Knuckle UP radio show on Sports Action Network Radio.

JOSH DAVIS
Managing Editor
Josh Davis is a freelance journalist covering the world of mixed martial arts. In addition to being the NEW Editor in Chief of Scrapp! Fight Magazine website. Josh writes for MMA Sport Magazine and the themmacorner.com website.

SCRAPP!

CONTRIBUTORS

TODD JACKSON
Contributor

JEREMY KLUMP
Contributor

MICHAEL DAVIS
Contributor

JAY ANDERSON
Contributor

JENNY PATRIZIA
Contributor

For a Subscription to one of the Newest Combat Sports Publications

Scrapp! Fight Magazine goto:



ONLY $1.99 AN ISSUE*

*With A Yearly Subscription

Walmart Save money. Live better. | SCRAPP! FIGHT MAGAZINE | COSTCO WHOLESALE | BARNES&NOBLE.com www.bn.com

SPORTS ACTION NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

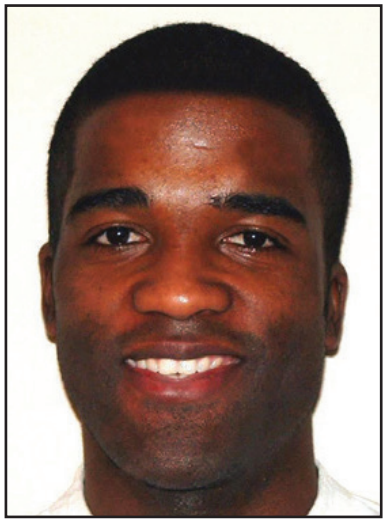
ONLINE

"NEVER MISS A FIGHT AGAIN"

www.sportsactionnetwork.tv

WWW. SPORTS ACTION NETWORK .TV

Message From the Publisher



Hello Scrapp! Readers,

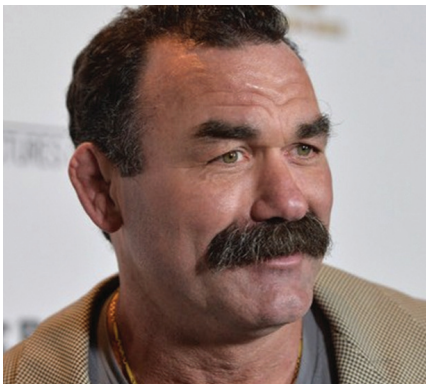
I wanted to info you all of the upgrades we've made for 2014. Subscribers to Scrapp! Fight Magazine website will now be able to view their subscription from their mobile device. Our publication can now be used on such popular mobile platforms as iPhone / iPad, Android or any other HTML5 enabled device. Users of such devices will now be able to use view our online publications even without installing Flash Player. Just log on to our site from you enabled mobile device, go to the subscription tab and start reading.

This will not replace the apple app or the android app we are developing, this just gives our premium users better options. More good thing to come.

Keep reading,
George

OLD SCHOOL MEETS NEW SCHOOL AS DON FRYE ATTENDS WFFMMA

Article By: Todd Jackson



(Alberto E. Rodriguez)

For many fight fans in Tucson Arizona it has been far too long since The World Fighting Federation set up shop and brought a venue to its knees. As it turns out the wait was well worth it as the staff of the WFF returned to T-Town in style Saturday night and reminded local MMA fanatics exactly what they had been missing.

Putting on their first event in Tucson since last year, a card stacked with talent was as entertaining as it was explosive. As they often do Thom Ortiz, Brandy Pierce, and the athletes they feature lived up to if not exceeded expectations for a packed house that deafened the ears on more than one occasion.

Sitting cageside and commentating for the WFF was none other than living MMA legendary icon Don The Predator Frye. His presence added to an already electric environment that only a Tucson MMA crowd can bring. The athletes competing really rose to the occasion of fighting in front of a man who defined mixed martial arts long before it was mixed martial arts.

Serving as the spark plug for a volatile show Kyler Phillips of The MMA Lab dominated his way to an armbar opportunity in the second round of the first fight of the evening. Leo Tena showed heart but was unable to answer the attack of the very composed and technical Phillips.

Later a unique story line unfolded. As mentioned before Don Frye was sitting cageside enjoying the competition. His MMA fame started as an open weight tournament competitor fighting as a firefighter out of Sierra Vista Arizona on February 16 1996.

In the third fight of the evening, February 21 2015, Dabin Hanson made his way to the blue corner fighting out of Sierra Vista Arizona looking to improve to 2-0 as an amateur. Nineteen years after Frye won the UFC 8 tournament Hanson stepped into the cage of a regional show fighting out of the same small Arizona town.

The contrast is quite compelling to say the very least. Well suffice to say Hanson devastated his opponent earning a first round TKO stoppage. During his post fight interview he turned to The Predator and spoke directly to him calling him an inspiration and dedicating his victory to the legend who was one of the greatest pioneers this game has ever known.

It was a special moment which could never have never been scripted and could not have been more perfect.

That was followed up by a lighting fast TKO victory by Edwin Louis who must have had a hot date back in his hotel room. He absolutely overwhelmed and smashed his opponent early in the first round spending more time walking out that he spent ending the fight in devastating fashion.

Earning Submission of the Night honors Sam Compton returned to the WFF cage and endured an early barrage from Andre Blake who appeared to have crushing wrestling early in the first. Once Blake realized he could manhandle his opponent in grappling exchanges he became more aggressive which is where Compton really switched gears.

Crafty off his back Compton capitalized on his opponents aggression and threw up a barrage of submission attempts eventually sinking in a debilitating triangle choke that forced Blake to submit. It was yet another impressive and significantly dominant performance by Compton who wasted no time warning the entire division that his time is indeed now.

In what was arguably a fight of the night performance Adam Ortiz and Steven Prior locked horns and engaged in savage combat for three entire rounds. Their cage chemistry resulted in a split decision that quite honestly could have fell on either side of the cage without a doubt.

While the result favored Ortiz it was not the judges score cards which told the true story of the fight. It was truly poetry in motion as each fighter found their moments of strength while grappling and striking their way towards the final bell. It was a back and forth battle which featured all the bitter sweet flavors of MMA.

Ridiculous scrambles, vicious striking exchanges, takedowns, and defense were all the stars across a two man show that had fight fans on their feet and screaming at the top of their lungs.

A split decision went the way of Ortiz but this wasn't the type of fight where an athlete can place all their faith in a decision. It truly was the journey in this case where two modern day samurai crushed one another and sacrificed everything to entertain their fans. Simply put, mission accomplished.

Later in the evening Kamuela Kirk and Kyle Reyes looked to raise the bar a notch or two in their own fight of the night performance. It was a fight which saw Kirk aggressive and effective early but a fight which saw the composure of Reyes play just slightly better as the fight pressed on.

It was another back and forth affair that resulted in yet another split decision.

The confidence of Kirk was apparent early as he really let the gamesmanship speak for him attacking boldly and aggressively. He brought a style that would have thrown lesser fighters off and he really looked sharp early.

On the other hand Reyes was able to weather that storm and subtly make his mark as the fight went on. Slow and steady won the race as his calm and composed approach remained consistent and began chipping away at the confidence of Kirk.

While Kirk never withered nor gave an inch, the consistency of Reyes proved to be the difference in the eyes of the judges who gave Reyes the nod in a razor thin split decision. It was yet another example of a fight where results, while important, were overshadowed by a spectacular bout between two amazing rising fighters.

In the main event Jose Melendez and Ramon Lopez went to war as well. It was a three round affair which saw Lopez start strong. As the rounds went on though Melendez began to find the scrambles and striking exchanges favor his technique.

When the smoke cleared Melendez emerged victorious over an extremely game Lopez capping off what amounted to a ruthless night of MMA action. It was the cherry on top of a combat arts Sundae and the whole time Don Frye was sitting wide eyed and bushy tailed enjoying some inspirational combat arts action.

Fight fans filled the lobby filing out of the venue and discussion were bubbling like bottles of champagne as this fight and that fight were discussed with great enthusiasm. While every athlete competing in the game desires their place in the ranks of the top promotions of the game one thing is always going to serve true.

Nothing beats hearing thousands of fans buzzing about you, your opponent, and what you accomplished together on a night that defined the future of the sport. All the while you start to realize that future is you.

FOLLOW SCRAPP!

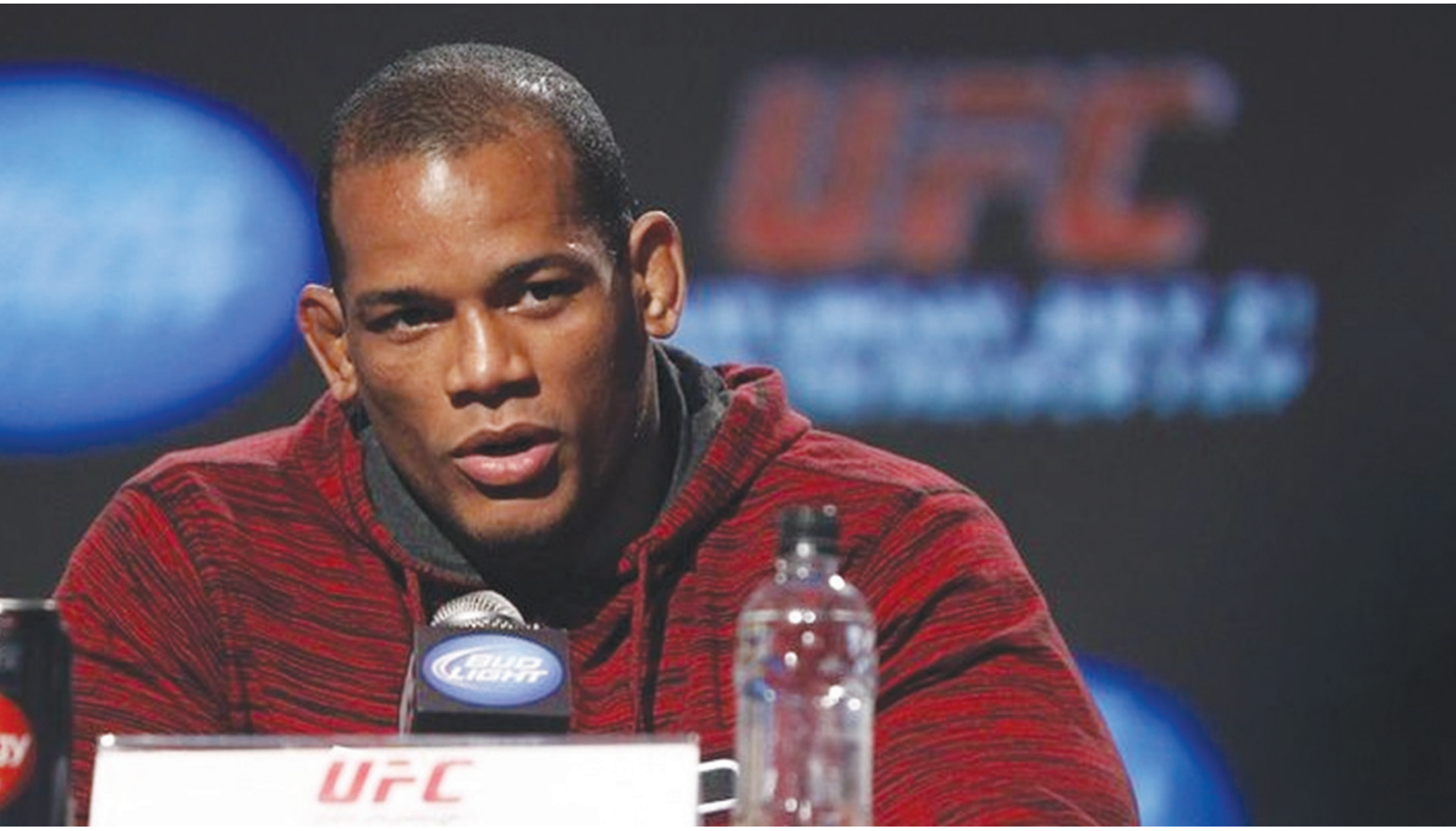
FIGHT MAGAZINE



SCRAPPFIGHTMAG.COM

THE CURRENT STATE OF THE UFC

Article By: Michael Davis



(Esther Lin/MMAFighting)

The sport of mixed martial arts has seen it's fair share of ups and downs over the last twenty some odd years. At the present moment, we are in a downturn that is unprecedented in the modern era of MMA.

While MMA is a sport, it's also an entertainment product. The overall pulse of the MMA market can be measured with an analysis of the organization with the greatest stake in the game, the UFC.

When fights fall through due to injuries and other circumstances fans groan in dismay and their lack of trust in fight announcements is reaffirmed. The media will touch on that sentiment as well, but there is often talk of the financial losses that take place do to fights falling through.

The majority of that conversation is based on the short term profits losses that take place. With a focus on pay-per-view numbers, ticket sales, and television ratings it can be easy to lose sight of the larger financial damages that can take place.

What isn't alway's discussed, primarily because it's dry subject matter that fans may not want to listen to, is the im-

pact on UFC's credit rating. In November of 2014 Standard and Poors (S&P) released a revised profit outlook for Zuffa, LLC, the parent company of the UFC. The projection was showing that Zuffa, LLC could be facing as much as a forty percent profit loss for the year. That kind of drop in profits could certainly cause a credit downgrade which would impact the UFC's global expansion and even their domestic business.

S & P released a statement stating, "A negative rating action could occur if we are not confident that Zuffa's operations are recovering meaningfully by the first quarter of 2015."

It's now the end of February, and it has been a rough few months since the initial profit loss projection issued by S&P. Toward the end of December it was announced that the UFC was be faced with a class action lawsuit. Former and then current UFC fighters were members of the class action case, siting anti-competitive business practices as the basis of the case.

Once the press died down a bit on the class action case, yet another story broke that would bring a negative light to the UFC and the sport as a whole. Jon Jones, the UFC lightweight champion and one of there biggest stars had tested positive for cocaine in a pre-fight drug test.

With Jon Jones out of rehab and his brother winning the super bowl things once again seemed to be returning to normal in the world of mixed martial arts. Not for long though as more controversy broke around welterweight contender Hector Lombard testing positive for a designer steroid following his fight at UFC 182 against Josh Burkman.

Just when you thought it couldn't get much worse, the news broke that Anderson Silva had tested positive for two different steroids in a pre-fight drug test. Nick Diaz, his opponent also tested with levels of marijuana metabolites that grossly exceeded the allowable limits. Weeks later we would also find out that Anderson Silva failed his post fight test with two more banned substances in the cocktail, Oxazepam and Temazepan.

While the shows still went on and undoubtedly generated high profits and great numbers. How will S&P view the UFC and their abilty to generate long term profits with all of this fall out?

Aside from keeping the shows in place the UFC has done some great things this year too. Perhaps in response to the threat of a credit downgrade and massive financial losses, but great things none the less. Just this week the UFC announced their plan to combat p.e.d. and banned substance use by their athletes. Implementing and lobbying for longer suspensions and more frequent random tests.

Toward the end of last year the UFC also announced their landmark deal with Reebok. The deal is an exclusive apparel deal which has ruffled the feathers of many managers and fighters stating concerns around losing sponsorship income. The deal goes into affect in July of 2015 and the proof will be in the results, but it looks to be a step in the right direction for the sport.

So many promotions have failed or been acquired by the UFC over the past two decades. There are many reasons for it, but one factor is certainly the cost of doing business. Zuffa, LLC has provided financial backing to the UFC that has kept them afloat through some much trying times. The events of the past year have shined a light on the cost of doing business and the trials that these organizations face.

The UFC has been the most pro-active , resilient, and well funded of all of these organizations allowing them to flourish to what they are today. They are one again reacting to the issues that face them and only time will tell how they fair, and how the sport as a whole fairs.




SPIKE PRESENTS
BELLATOR MMA 135
BANTAMWEIGHT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
WARREN VS GALVAO
BANTAMWEIGHT CO-MAIN EVENT
DANTAS VS RICHMAN
FRI. MAR. 27 // 9/8C // SPIKE
WINSTAR WORLD CASINO & RESORT // THACKERVILLE. OK
ticketmaster
GOLD BOND ULTIMATE
MONSTER ENERGY
WinStar WORLD CASINO AND RESORT
DAVE & BUSTER'S
Miller Lite
DRAFT OPS
BELLATOR.COM
FIGHT CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Listen.Watch.Read

all from your phone

Available Shows:

Inside the Cage
Grappling X Radio
Knuckle Up
The 13th Round
Cage Radio: MAT
MMA Scraps Radio
Pure Adrenaline Radio
FIST-TA-CUFF RADIO
MMA Gospel Radio
MMA Frontline
MMA Torch
MMA Sucka Radio
AND GROWING!



Available on
ANDROID
iPhone

JKB (JUDOKICKBOX)
THE WORLD'S FIRST CUBAN-BASED FORM OF MMA TRAINING

Written By Jenny Patrizia/Edited by Melissa Ingram Photo Credit JKB



Carlos Finales has trained top Hispanic celebrities such as Don Francisco and Sissi Fleitas, as well as many MMA fighters in Cuba and the U.S. He holds black belts in Judo, Karate, Kickboxing and Taekwondo. Finales and his partner Eric Castaño, have used their knowledge and experience to create the first and only Cuban-based form of mixed martial arts training, JKB (Judokickbox). Finales owns JKB gyms in both Cuba and the U.S.

Brazil has Jiu-Jitsu, now Cuba has JKB. The 'Cuban Style' mixed martial arts program is comprised primarily of Judo, Kickboxing and Boxing. According to Finales, there are currently over 500 Cubans training 'JKB style' in Cuba.

JKB is also becoming a popular fight style internationally. There are JKB instructors teaching this 'Cuban' form of MMA in other countries as well; countries such as Spain, Italy, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico and the U.S.

Scrapp! Fight Magazine recently had the opportunity to conduct a one-on-one interview with Carlos Finales and he was happy to give Scrapp! reader's the inside scoop on what JKB is all about.

SFM: *What was your motivation behind creating a form of martial arts specific to Cuban fighters?*

CF: Like many Cuban's, my partner and I are very passionate about the sport. We wanted to offer Cubans living inside (and outside) of Cuba the opportunity to be part of a unique 'Cuban-based' MMA program. We wanted to introduce a special form of martial arts, one that encourages respect as well as a different way of teaching and training. It is vital for Cuban fighters to be able to identify themselves on a global level and we feel that JKB will help them achieve that.

SFM: *What makes JKB different?*

CF: JKB combines Judo, Kickboxing and Boxing (primarily). JKB gives fighters in the program continuous recognition by motivating them to excel by earning different belts. They do not earn these belts by winning a competition, they rise in rank through their own hard work and dedication. JKB is not only for fighters, it is for everyone; men, women and children of all ages.

SFM: *You mentioned that JKB is made up of primarily Judo, Kickboxing and Boxing. How does this impact the fighter's ground game? Do you incorporate Wrestling and/or BJJ training into the program as well?*

CF: When JKB athletes have to participate in events or pure MMA skills, these athletes will incorporate some moves of Jiu-Jitsu, wrestling and other varied techniques - but the foundation of JKB is based on judo, kickboxing and boxing. Our athletes are capable of confronting any competitor in any form of combat fighting. JKB athletes are prepared to take on karate, judo, jujitsu, boxing etc., with great success and no fear.

SFM: *You hold a black belt in many disciplines, please tell us more about your mixed martial arts background.*

CF: In the past I was a member of one of he most prestigious Judo groups in Havana. My master teachers were none other than Luis Gatson and Federico Guardia. I was also trained in self-defense by Master Jesus Cuspinera Navarro and placed 4th in the world championship in Italy.

SMF: *What are some of the biggest challenges for MMA fighters based in Cuba?*

CF: In many cases, Cuban fighters lack


JKB
JUDOKICKBOX
First Cuban Mixed Martial Art
WW.JUDOKICKBOX.COM

important resources such as nutritious food and adequate training equipment. Many Cuban fighters have to improvise. For instance, they may only have access to a small amount of beans for protein or sugar water with lemon for a drink to boost energy. They may only have access to old tires and heavy rocks for training equipment. Due to lack of resources such as these, fighters in Cuba are often more prone to injury and of course their recovery time is longer.

In the US, athletes have direct access to proper foods, supplements, training equipment and gear, even medical teams if they are injured. A majority of Cuban fighters do not have this luxury, but they are as fierce and determined as ever. There are many skilled elite fighters in Cuba. Those who know and understand the situation in Cuba have a greater respect and admiration for Cuban athletes.

SFM: *The Obama administration recently 'loosened' the embargo on Cuba. Has this improved the situation for Cuban fighters that want to compete in the US? Do you feel it easier, more difficult or the same?*

CF: What I can tell you in that respect is that we are awaiting the results between political issues between US and Cuba and on what impact these results can have with Cuban athletes, artists and Cuban professionals. Once visas are offered to them, it will be a great opportunity to showcase the hidden talents Cubans have and have had to the rest of the world. Right now we are awaiting for visas to be approved so JKB fighters can participate in upcoming MMA fights.

SFM: *What do you hope JKB will help Cuban fighters achieve?*

CF: We hope that JKB will open doors for Cuban fighters worldwide. Eric Castaño and I believe JKB will be adapted by Cubans as their first and foremost form of MMA. We hope that, just like Jiu-Jitsu was claimed by Brazilians, JKB will be claimed by all Cubans. The World Federation of JKB has pledged to help as many athletes, masters, and representatives as possible. Working alongside JKB sponsors such as World MMA Association - WMMAA Pan-American division and its president Tomas Yu and BEST DEFENSE and its president Rene Valdes, we can show the rest of the word that JKB is here to stay.

SMF: *What are your goals for JKB?*

CF: We want to show the world that JKB is unique, in what we offer to MMA fighters. JKB or Judokickbox is founded on Judo, kickboxing and Boxing. My biggest goal is to have JKB be passed down from generation to generation and acknowledged as the world's first Cuban-based MMA form of its kind.

When you speak with Finales, his passion and dedication to JKB, Cuban fighters and the sport of MMA is apparent. Scrapp! Fight Magazine would like to wish Finales and the JKB team the best of luck in their endeavors!


FIND PRO AND AMATEUR FIGHTS
UPCOMING EVENT LISTINGS
PROMOTERS DIRECTORY
SEMINAR LISTINGS
FIGHTER PROFILES
GYM DIRECTORY
ONLINE STORE
MMA FORUM
MMA RECRUITER.COM


THE FIGHT FACTORY
WWW.THEFIGHTFACTORY.EU
"MMA
IT 'S MORE THAN JUST A SPORT,
IT'S MY LIFE!"
THE MMA DUDE
MMA LIFESTYLE SOCIAL NETWORK
COME GET SOME


WORLD LIGHTWEIGHT TITLE FIGHT
GAETHJE VS PALOMINO
JUSTIN
LUIS
WSOF 19
THIAGO SILVA VS RONNY MARKES
SAT. MARCH 28 // 9:00 PM ET 6:00 PM PT
COMERICA THEATRE • PHOENIX ARIZONA
LIVE ON NBCSN
MMA WORLD SERIES OF FIGHTING
ticketmaster
EVERLAST HYDRATE ELITE
Comerica THEATRE

UFC 187:

WHICH FIGHT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED FOR?

Article By: Jeremy Klump



(Esther Lin/MMAFighting)

UFC 187 may be one of the most anticipated cards in recent history after it was announced on February 18, 2015. The event will take place on Saturday May 23, 2015, in Las Vegas.

Whenever you see an event that says, "Jon Jones vs.," you are automatically drawn to it. This event, UFC 187, is Jones vs. Anthony Johnson for the light heavyweight title. "Bones" Jones is coming off of a dominant victory against Daniel Cormier and has many people asking if anyone can really beat him. He is fighting "Rumble" Johnson who recently TKO'd Alexander Gustafsson, the fighter many thought could be



the one to knock off the current champ, and will probably be a very big underdog for the fight.

What makes this event even better, if an event can get any better when Jones is fighting on it already, is there is another title fight on it.

In the co-main event Chris Weidman will be taking on Vitor Belfort for the middleweight title. Weidman has defended his title twice now and has a tough matchup against Belfort. Belfort is a very good striker and has won his last three fights by KO/TKO. This may be Weidman's hardest title defense just because when he fought Anderson Silva it was the second time in a row, which meant he was fully prepared for him.

Jones is my favorite fighter in the UFC, if you did not know, and I get excited to WATCH him fight. Usually this would be the fight I am most excited for whenever he is on a card, but not this time around. The Weidman vs. Belfort fight should be great too, but again there is another fight that excites me more than this title fight as well.

I don't know about all of you, but Khabib Nurmagomedov vs. Donald "Cowboy" Cerrone has me pumped up. I am more excited to WATCH these two go at it on May 23 than I am to watch two title fights, one of which has my favorite fighter.

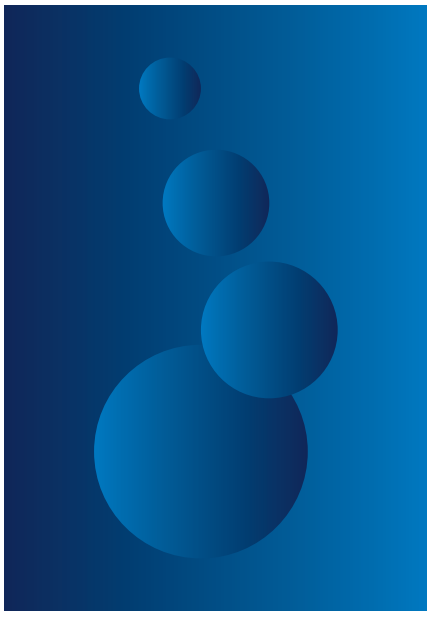
The reason?

These two, Nurmagomedov in particular who hasn't been a stranger to twitter trash talking, have been talking trash on twitter to each other. Nurmagomedov wanted to fight Cowboy before, but Nurmagomedov tore his meniscus and was sidelined six months.

There is nothing better than two fighters who talk a lot of trash or have "beef" leading up to the fight. Then, before you know it, the door of the cage closes and all of that means nothing. Whoever wins this fight is almost a lock to fight for the lightweight title, which will be either current champion Anthony Pettis or his challenger Rafael dos Anjos, who fight on March 14 at UFC 185.

This card is stacked with fights and is headed by the two title fights. There are also two other big fights where Travis Browne takes on Andrei Arlovski and Joseph Benavidez takes on John Moraga. This event has a lot to be excited for, but I am most excited for the Nurmagomedov vs. Cowboy fight.

Which fight are you most excited for?

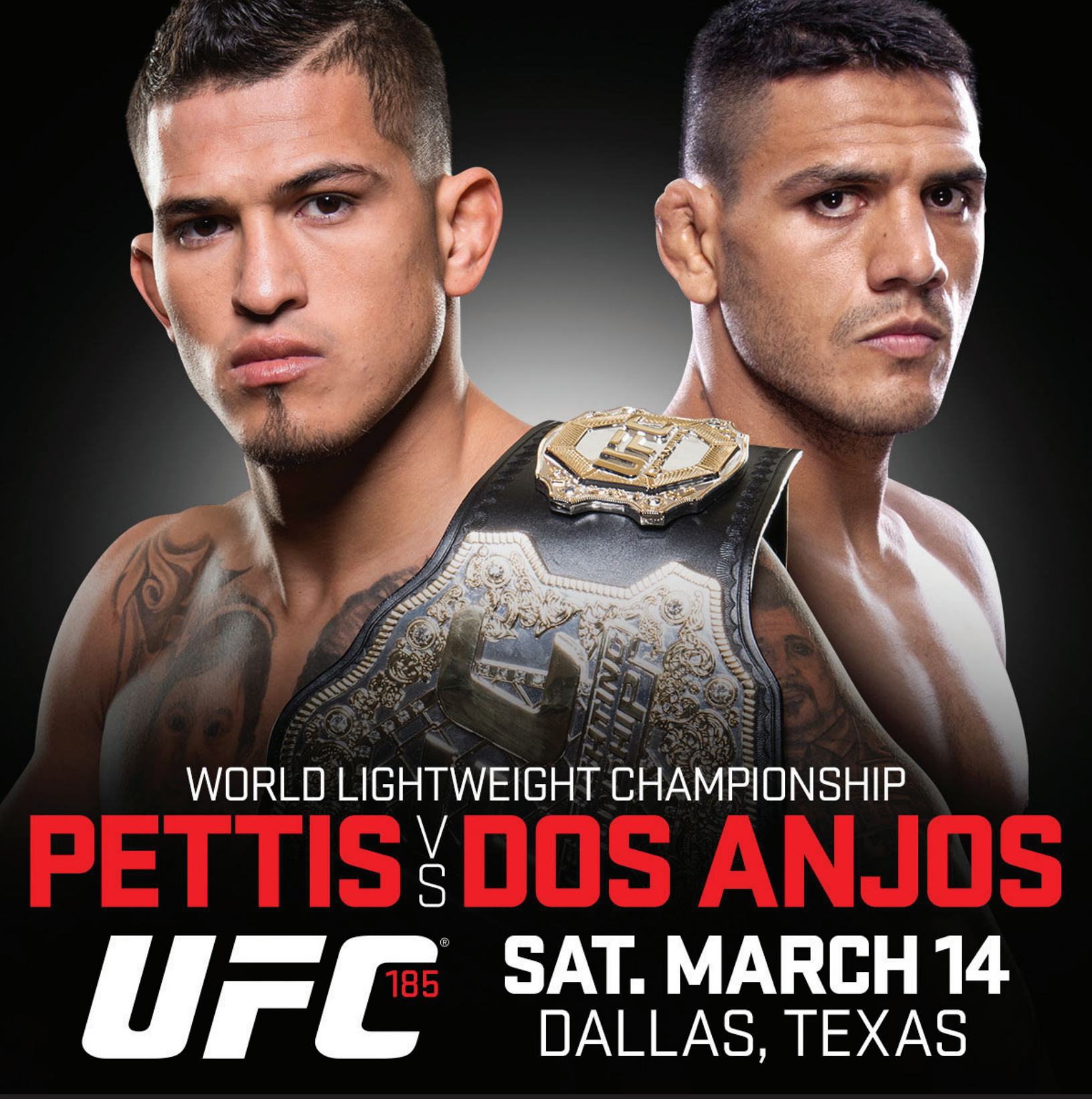


KNUCKLE UP!

Every Thursday
4pm est

www.sportsactionnetworkradio.com




WORLD LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
PETTIS VS DOS ANJOS
UFC 185
SAT. MARCH 14
DALLAS, TEXAS

HUGE BUSINESS:
EXAMINING THE BROCK LESNAR EFFECT

Article By: Jay Anderson



(Esther Lin/MMAFighting)

The latest rumor and scuttlebutt on Brock Lesnar is that he may not be returning to MMA after all. Let's just get that out of the way right now. Concerned about the possibility of further concussions should he return to the Octagon, Lesnar, according to any number of "inside sources" in addition to former WWE commentator Jim Ross, appears to be leaning towards re-signing with the WWE, where he has a part-time, sweet heart deal and reigns as their world champion. Fair enough — Lesnar has had his share of health issues over the years, and is entitled to protect his quality of living later in life. Though it is sad news for fight fans.

Sad news for those hoping to see a second run for the former UFC heavyweight champion. Sad news for those who wanted to see him in a rubber match with Frank Mir, or up against an Alistair Overeem no longer chemically enhanced (we hope). Sad news even for those who despise the man and only wanted to see him fail.

Most of all, however, it's disappointing news, if true, for the UFC's pocketbook. In the wake of the Anderson Silva drug test, and a horrible 2014 in terms of PPV viewership, a return to

the fold by Lesnar would have made huge money. Garnered a massive amount of attention. After all, several of his UFC fights were in the million buy range on PPV. Who other than the now-departed Georges St. Pierre has been that sort of consistent draw in the promotion?

Yet even if Lesnar's return doesn't happen, and even years after he first transitioned to the MMA world and became one of the most dominant heavyweight champions in UFC history (he remains tied for most title defences, after all), Brock Lesnar, and the Lesnar effect, remain a huge deal in MMA. Consider, just as partial evidence, the number of articles dedicated to the man's possible return, with nothing but the wispy smoke of rumour behind them. Consider the uptick in traffic every article covering Lesnar's will-he, won't-he flirtation with a return to the octagon gets. Consider the reaction by fans on message boards across the MMA and pro wrestling communities.

And consider the number of fighters who have now called him out for a return bout. Frank Mir. Alistair Overeem. Brendan Schaub. Antônio Rodrigo Nogueira. Even Bobby Lashley. Some of these call-outs have been respectful, some, not so much. All understand what the Lesnar Effect ultimately means: big money. At the end of the day, a fight against Brock Lesnar represents big business for all those involved. Huge business really.

Josh Barnett knows that well — but he, for one, feels that it isn't just about the money. Speaking to Ariel Helwani onThe MMA Hour this week, Barnett, who has not appeared in the octagon in slightly over a year, confirmed he was ready to make a return to action. He also brought up the idea of a fight with Lesnar, a man who he no doubt understands better than most: Barnett has also worked as a pro wrestler, under the NJPW and IGF banners in Japan, among others, and has respect for the product that is pro wrestling. About a fight with Lesnar, Barnett stated that

That would be huge business. It would be a great match to make happen. I always put my voice out there in terms of wanting that fight. But then again, at this point, I think it just sounds like I'm joining the chorus of all these MMA heavyweights that have all, it's kind of same thing as CM Punk, these guys are all out there running their mouths saying they want to beat Punk or beat Lesnar, because they think it's an easy payday, because they think they see some lack of ability in their MMA game because of their not being fighters for their whole life. If they're going to get out there and get that glory, and get the notoriety and get this guy, they see it as an easy shot.

*For me I think of it as the business side of things. Not the business side of 'oh, I'm going to make so much money,' but the business side of two pro wrestlers, the styles, seeing the two of us go at it is because people will find interest in it and the fight will be interesting itself. Not just in 'Hey, I'm some guy who's going to bully some other guy who's got less experience, and then I act like I'm king s*** of turd mountain.'*

It's an interesting take from a fighter who has been on both sides of the equation. And a reminder that, despite not having competed in the UFC since December 30th, 2011, Lesnar remains both big business and an intriguing, sought after opponent. Even as a ripple effect, the Lesnar Effect carries on. You see it in the call-outs, you see it in the attention other pro wrestlers who have moved, or are considering a move, to the world of MMA are getting. You see it in the passion of the fans, regardless of what side they take when it comes to the polarizing former champion.

Soon enough, we'll have final word on the matter. Lesnar will return, or he won't, and the MMA chapter of his career will eventually close either way. There's no questioning, however, the mark the Lesnar Effect, and the man himself, has made on the sport.



BUILDING THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL VIDEOGAME MAGAZINES

FULLY INTERACTIVE

XBOX ONE GAMER INTERACTIVE

EVERY 2 WEEKS

ONLY 99P

£1.49 MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION

ISSUE 1 FREE!



DOWNLOAD TODAY!

ITUNES • GOOGLE PLAY • AMAZON

SEARCH FOR **XBOX ONE GAMER INTERACTIVE**
ISSUE ONE FREE FROM: **WWW.POCKETMAGS.COM**

UFC on Fox 15: THE EVENT PEOPLE NEED TO BE TALKING ABOUT

Article By: Jeremy Klump



(José Youngs/The MMA Corner)

The world is currently talking about the newly announced UFC 187 fight card that features Jon Jones vs. Anthony Johnson for the light heavyweight title, Chris Weidman vs. Vitor Belfort for the middleweight title, and the long-awaited Khabib Nurmagomedov vs. Donald Cerrone fight. Also announced on the card was a heavyweight contender fight between Travis Browne and Andrei Arlovski followed by another contender fight, but at the flyweight division, between Joseph Benavidez and John Moraga. Obviously this event deserves the attention it has gotten, but there is a fight card that people need to be talking about that happens before UFC 187.

On April 18, 2015, live on Fox at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, the UFC will be giving you one of the best, if not the best, free fight cards of the year: UFC on FOX 15.

The card currently consists of these fights (Bout Order TBD by UFC):

- #3 Lyoto Machida vs. #5 Luke Rockhold
- #2 Ronaldo Souza vs. #6 Yoel Romero
- #5 Cub Swanson vs. #10 Max Holloway
- #8 Felice Herrig vs. #10 Paige VanZant
- #8 Ovince St. Preux vs. #14 Patrick Cummins
- #11 Jim Miller vs. Paul Felder
- #6 Takeya Mizugaki vs. Aljamain Sterling
- Chris Dempsey vs. Eddie Gordon
- Corey Anderson vs. Gian Villante
- Nick Catone vs. Vitor Miranda
- Kenny Robertson vs. George Sullivan

UFC fans all over the world should be jumping up and down that this card is free. In my opinion, some of these fights could easily be on the main cards of a PPV.

Here are some of the fights we should be looking forward to:

#3 Lyoto Machida vs. #5 Luke Rockhold:

Machida is coming off of an impressive TKO victory over CB Dolloway and is looking to show that he deserves another title shot. Rockhold has won three fights in a row and is looking to move into top contention with what could be one of his greatest victories of his career.

#2 Ronaldo Souza vs. #6 Yoel Romero:

Souza is currently on a seven-fight win streak and his last loss was in 2011, to the main event fighter, Rockhold. He is taking on Romero who is on an impressive five-fight win streak, with his last victory over Tim Kennedy. Both of these fighters could move up and be close to a title shot with a victory.

#5 Cub Swanson vs. #10 Max Holloway:

Swanson is coming off of a loss to Frankie Edgar and is looking to bounce back to have his name being floated around for a title shot. He is taking on Holloway, who just recently beat Cole Miller by way of unanimous decision and is on a five-fight win streak. Some people think that this is too big of a step for Holloway, but we will find out on April 18.

#11 Jim Miller vs. Paul Felder:

This is probably the fight I am most excited for and UFC fans should start to get excited for as well. Miller is one of the best to do it at the lightweight division, but after a loss to Donald Cerrone he has moved down the stacked lightweight division rankings. He is taking on Felder who is coming off of the knockout of the year in many people's eyes. Felder is 2-0 in the UFC and 10-0 in his career that has had some impressive knockouts. A win over Miller would be huge for Felder's career and would get him ranked in the lightweight division, and in my opinion, maybe even in the top 10. A win for Miller would cement his solid ranking in the division and probably move him back into the top 10. This fight is going to be awesome and I am already predicting a fight bonus will be awarded when this one is over.

#6 Takeya Mizugaki vs. Aljamain Sterling:

Same story for this fight as in the Miller vs. Felder fight. Mizugaki is coming off of a loss to Dominick Cruz, but is trying to show the UFC that he is a top contender in the bantamweight division. His opponent, Aljamain Sterling who has one of the best nicknames in MMA [Funk-Master], is oddly similar to Felder with a 2-0 record in the UFC and a 10-0 career record. If Funk Master can come out with a victory on April 18 he could also see his name jump up the rankings, but in the bantamweight division.

Chris Dempsey vs. Eddie Gordon:

Gordon has something to prove after losing his last fight by an amazing head-kick KO to Josh Samman. I am looking forward to seeing if The Ultimate Fighter 19 winner can bounce back and get a victory in April. He is taking on Dempsey who is coming off of a loss in his UFC debut to Ilir Latifi by KO as well.

Kenny Robertson vs. George Sullivan:

Robertson is currently on a three-fight win streak and is 15-3 in his professional MMA career. He is taking on Sullivan who is currently on an eight-fight win streak and is 2-0 in his UFC career. I think this fight is very underrated and I think Sullivan is a very underrated fighter. He has a chance to make a solid run in 2015 if he can beat Robertson at UFC on Fox 15.





TUF 10 Team Rashad Shorts



Venum Neo Fight Shorts - Blue



UFC MMA Middleweight Champion Anderson Silva Signature Thermal



Tapout Brazil Board Shorts

Jaco Resurgence Fight Shorts - Black, White, Green, Brown

Performance Price **$59.95** ADD TO CART

Contract Killer Stained Fight Short - White

Performance Price **$54.95** ADD TO CART

Sprawl GripFlex XT Competition Edition Fight Shorts -Urban Camo/Black

Performance Price **$56.50** ADD TO CART

NEW! Tri-Coasta Main Event Shirt

Performance Price **$29.95** ADD TO CART



Jaco Resurgence MMA Fight Shorts



Stained Fight Shorts by Contract Killer



Sprawl GripFlex XT Competition Edition-Urban Camo/Black



Tri-Coasta Main Event Tee

Xtreme Couture Patriot Shirt

Performance Price **$39.00** ADD TO CART

Archaic Marble Tee - Navy

Performance Price **$27.95** ADD TO CART

Bad Boy Scrapper Fight Short - White

Performance Price **$54.95** ADD TO CART

Clinch Team Hendo USA Shirt

Performance Price **$19.95** ADD TO CART



Randy "The Natural" Couture's signature shirt UFC 102



Archaic Marble Shirt - Navy Blue



Bad Boy Scrapper Fight Short



The Ultimate Fighter Clinch Team Hendo USA Shirt

NEW! One More Round (OMR) Crown of Thorns Shirt

List Price: $40.00

Performance Price **$34.95** ADD TO CART

NEW! One More Round (OMR) Duel of Knights Shirt

List Price: $40.00

Performance Price **$34.95** ADD TO CART

Tapout USA Board Shorts

Performance Price **$61.99** ADD TO CART

Hitman Hat All Star MVP 210 FLEXFIT - Black

Performance Price **$31.99** ADD TO CART

The List:
TOP 5 UPSETS THAT WEREN'T REALLY UPSETS

Article By: Michael Davis



(Esther Lin/MMA Fighting)

It's always exciting to root for an underdog. From an empathetic perspective, it's something most people can relate to. Sometimes, in mma there are matches made that almost don't make sense due to the perceived disparity between talent levels. Those moments can elevate a fighter into the next level, and carry them to greatness.

It's only in hindsight that most fans and odds makers can look back and realize that a fighter had the skills and talent all along. Hype and promotional marketing can lead you away from rational analysis of the skills and stylistic match ups, but on fight night all of that goes out the window.

Once again, our writers Blane Ferguson, Jose Youngs, and Michael Davis are going to put together their top five favorite fights that were upsets that really weren't upsets.

Ferguson's List

5. Johny Hendricks vs. Jon Fitch – UFC 141

My theme for this rendition of the list is hindsight. I'm looking at fights, that at the time were upsets, but looking back we can see they were just the beginning of championship careers. For my first item of the list takes us back to UFC 141. Fitch was a -240 favorite, Hendricks a +190 underdog. Hendricks knocks Fitch's head across the cage in 12 seconds and goes on to win the UFC welterweight championship. Fitch, on the other hand, got cut by the UFC only two fights after that and recently failed his pre-fight drug test for his World Series of Fighting welterweight championship bout.

4. Cain Velasquez vs. Brock Lesnar

Velasquez wasn't an underdog by a massive margin (+125) and he's easily the best heavyweight on the planet when he's healthy. We know that now, we know that there's not another heavyweight in the promotion that has shown the ability to hang with a 100% Velasquez. Lesnar (-155) was coming off his epic, comeback win against Shane Carwin and his popularity was at an all-time high. We all know the rest, Velasquez steam rolled through Lesnar and is still the UFC heavyweight champion. Now we just need him to stop getting hurt.

3. Junior dos Santos vs. Fabricio Werdum – UFC 90

Coming off back-to-back finishes against Gabriel Gonzaga and Brandon Vera was starting to build a little bit of hype for Werdum leading into his upcoming fight against the 6-1 promotional newcomer Junior dos Santos. Flash forward to now and there's a chance we see the second edition of this fight depending the unification bout for Werdum's interim UFC heavyweight belt and Velasquez' actual championship. Both fighters have had historic careers in the heavyweight division, but I'm including this on the list because I don't think many people had the slightest hint of how devastating dos Santos would become in the UFC.

2. Georges St-Pierre vs. Matt Hughes II – UFC 65

Hughes had already beaten GSP before their second encounter at UFC 65. With only a second left in the first round at UFC 50, Hughes was able to make GSP tap due to an armbar in their bout for a vacant welterweight title and start his second run as king of the division. It would make sense for him to be the slight favorite in their rematch, but now we know it was the start of a hall of fame, GOAT-status title reign (minus the setback against Serra) for Georges St. Pierre

1. Anderson Silva vs. Rich Franklin – UFC 64

This, in my opinion, would be the easiest fight to look back at and say, "how in the world was he not the favorite" leading up to the middleweight championship bout at UFC 64 between. Again, hindsight is our friend for this list, because looking back at we can see the level of talent that Franklin had defended his middleweight was going to do absolutely nothing to prepare him for Silva. Silva had just come off an impressive UFC debut against Chris Leben and watching his highlight finish over Franklin is like seeing highlights of Michael Jordan winning his first championship in 1991.

Youngs' List

5. Joe Lauzon def. Jens Pulver – UFC 63

For years Jens Pulver as the guy at 155-pounds. With heavy hands and a stellar wresting attack, "Lil' Evil" picked up wins over the who's who of the lightweight division. After some time away from the bright lights of the UFC, Pulver was making his grand return, in what was supposed to be his first step toward reclaiming his title. His opponent that night, Joe Lauzon, a neardy looking, Massachusetts native was just an afterthought. While he did have the skills when it came to the submission aspect of the game, nobody thought he could match Pulver's ferocity on the ground, let alone on the feet. But just over 40 seconds into their matchup Lauzon planted a picture perfect hook to the chin of the UFC veteran, sending him crashing to the canvas. At first it appeared as if Pulver had been the victim of a lucky punch. But as years rolled on and Lauzon picked up win after win and post fight bonus after post fight bonus, the world realized it was more than a lucky punch. It was an outcome everyone should have seen coming.

4. Junior dos Santos def. Fabricio Werdum – UFC 90

After walking away with back-to-back TKO victories, it appeared Fabricio Werdum would be the next logical choice for the next number one contender in the UFC's heavyweight division. As a multiple time jiu-jitsu champion, no one could match Werdum's skill set on the ground. This made his next opponent all the more puzzling as he would be matched up with promotional newcomer Junior dos Santos. At the time dos Santos, a stand up specialist, was only seven fights into his MMA career and had recently suffered first round submission loss. It was appeared as essentially being throw to the lions agains the veteran Werdum. But 80 seconds into their bout, dos Santo planted with a massive uppercut between the eyes of Werdum, turning his lights off and sending him crumpling the canvas. A star had born. This was just a taste of what would come later as Dos Santos would go on to rattle off six more victories before earning the UFC's heavyweight championship with a first round knockout over Cain Velasquez. Moral of the story: Anything is possible once that cage closes.

3. Chris Weidman def. Anderson Silva I – UFC 162

This may come as a surprise to many, but I do not consider Chris Weidman's knockout victory over Anderson Silva in the main event of UFC 162 an upset in any sense of the word. Initially, as their battle approached, I predicted a fairly effortless victory for Silva to pad his legendary resume with yet another highlight-reel victory. But Weidman did not care, nor should he, about the fans' or the media's opinion was on his upcoming title opportunity. All he knew was that his fellow fighters, the most important fans in the fight business, had his back. So looking back at that historic July night, I cannot call Weidman's second-round knockout victory an upset because almost everyone who actually knew what they were talking about were all saying the same thing: Weidman was going to win. It doesn't hurt that he would go to defeat Silva in their immediate rematch and follow that up with a hard-fought decision win over former light heavyweight champion Lyoto Machida.

2. Frankie Edgar def. B.J Penn I – UFC 112

Entering as +725 underdog, on paper Frankie Edgar's unanimous decision win over B.J. Penn, who was at the time, was widely considered one of the top three pound-for-pound fighters on the planet. Penn entered this contest having defended his 155-pound title with three consecutive violent stoppage wins. He looked unstoppable as he licked the blood of victims off his gloves. But aura of invincibility was stripped away as Edgar shocked the world and he claimed Penn's UFC belt that fateful night in Abu Dhabi. He would follow this with an even more dominating win over Penn in their rematch before putting on back-to-back Fight of the Year performances against Gray Maynard. In hindsight, Edgar's initial win over Penn was far from an upset, more of a coming out party for one of the world's top fighters below 170-pounds.

1. Royce Gracie def. Ken Shamrock – UFC 1

Shamrock at the time was billed as the "The World's Most Dangerous Man." With a bodybuilder physique, a stare that could cut through an opponent's soul and pedigree that was unrivaled at the time in terms of unarmed combat, Shamrock was the clear favorite to win UFC's first ever one night tournament back in 1993. After dispatching his first opponent with, it appeared Shamrock was well on his way to running the table. That all changed in the form of Royce Gracie, a scrawny, unknown Brazilian wrapped in what would become his trademark gi. It took Gracie less than a minute to cut through Shamrock's defenses on the mat before locking on a tight rear naked choke, forcing his hulking opponent to submit. The rest, as the say, is history. Gracie would go on to not only win that tournament but also UFC 2 and UFC 4, cementing himself as the most important fighter in the UFC's earliest years and bring the Gracie name to the pantheon of MMA.

Davis' List

5. Benson Henderson vs. Brandon Thatch – UFC Fight Night 60

There was a time when Benson Henderson seemed unbeatable against any man not named Anthony Pettis. That time has come and gone. Since losing his title to Pettis, he has been defeated twice by Rafael Dos Anjos and Donald Cerrone. Taking the fight against Brandon Thatch on short noticed seemed like an emotional and desperate decision. He would be fighting a young, up and coming fighter, in his home town which happens to be located in Colorado at altitude. Henderson's recently losses and size disadvantage played key roles in making him an underdog with the odds makers. As the fight went past the 2nd round it became clear that Henderson still had the skills that led him to the title. In the fourth round he was able to secure the rear naked choke, and immediately show the world he did it all with a tooth pick concealed in his mouth. Henderson is back, and we should have never doubted him.

4. Johny Hendricks vs. Jon Fitch – UFC 141

Coming into the fight Jon Fitch was considered the permanent number two guy in the welterweight division. He defeated everyone they put in front of him, except Georges St. Pierre. He also went to a draw with B.J. Penn just prior to the Hendricks fight, but who could fault him for that. Hendricks on the other hand had beaten mid level talent and lost to Rick Story a few fights back. No one expected Hendricks to win, but he did. Only twelve seconds into the first round and Fitch was out cold. It didn't seem real, and it kind of seemed like a fluke knock out. Hendricks has gone on to prove himself by capturing the title. Though he recently lost to Robbie Lawler, no one would be shocked to see the belt around his waste once again.

3. Junior dos Santos vs. Fabricio Werdum – UFC 90

At the time, Junior Dos Santos had a professional record of seven wins and one loss that he accumulated on the regional scene. A seven and one, regional fighter, fighting in the heavy weight division had absolutely no business in the Octagon with Fabricio Werdum. A revered veteran of Pride, Werdum was as heavy favorite coming into the fight. Some betting sites had him as high as -600 favorite over the relative unknown Dos Santos. Dos Santos put himself on the map that night with a knock out victory in the first round and he hasn't looked back. He is now a former UFC champion, a perennial contender, and the second biggest name in the heavy weight division.

2. T.J. Dillashaw vs. Renan Barao- UFC 173

Leading into the fight, T.J. Dillashaw was viewed as a top five fighter. He was considered talented, but not yet prepared to face the likes of then champion, Renan Barao. A prominent member of Sacremento based, Team Alpha Male he was viewed as the future, but how could he defeat Renan Barao? It turns out the answer to that question was dominantly. He put he hands on Barao in the first round, and Barao was one step behind him for the rest of the fight. The odds on Dillashaw were as high as +765. With their rematch in the near future the odds are quite different now. Dillashaw is a -265 favorite over Barao and it's now difficult to imagine him getting derailed any time soon.

1. Anderson Silva vs. Chris Weidman I – UFC 162

Leading into the fight their were some Weidman proponents, but mostly it seemed impossible to imagine Anderson Silva losing. It wasn't about Weidman's skills, people believed in Weidman. It was more about Silva and his aura of invincibility. He had lost before, but it was a distant and faint memory. Considered the greatest of all time, how could he lose to someone with only nine fights at the time. Weidman came in and shocked the world by knocking out Silva. Not only did he knock him out, but he did it while Silva was disrespectfully mocking him. We all know how things have gone since then. Weidman defeated Silva a second time, an defended his belt against a very talented Lyoto Machida. He now seems unstoppable, and there isn't a fighter on the roster that would make him the underdog again any time soon.



2015.3.1

PANCRA



5 DIFFER ARIAKE

ISE 265

THE VALUE OF INTEGRITY AND THE COST OF DISHONOR

Article By: Todd Jackson



(Esther Lin/MMAFighting)

It seems like just yesterday that the dilemma of morality for mixed martial arts focused on practices which took place within the cage. The focus was on the safety of the athlete, the brutality they inflicted and endured. There were questions regarding the contrast between two bare knuckled monsters destroying each other and the forced bloodthirsty practices of dog or cock fighting.

Oh how far we have come. Long and tireless has been the journey of ascending this slippery slope of legitimizing this ruthless bloodsport from near extinction to becoming the fastest growing athletic phenomenon the world has seen in quite some time.

Every intricate detail has been examined and improved upon since those days. Ranging from administering a universally accepted rules mindset, implementing weight classes, utiliz-

ing only the highest trained officials, elevating cutman practices, to even suggesting uniformed athletes.

Most of the changes to the sport have been in response to the ongoing criticism of the thing many hold dear, MMA. Those criticisms drove the sport into a better place, into the light if you will. Those criticisms were heard loud and clear and while those criticizing might have hoped MMA would just quietly sail off into the darkness, the effect was quite to the contrary. The improvements made due to those who tried to tear it down have now, over time, elevated the sport to heights nobody could ever have imagined.

That success has brought with it many burdens though. As notoriety has come in leaps in bounds so has scrutiny on some of the more elusive details of a game which as a whole is amazing. Yet under a microscope it is a sport which has more than its fair share of glaring flaws.

Much like a teenage athletic phenom thrust into the spotlight at such a rapid pace nobody thought to ask if this kid was prepared for such overwhelming success and all that comes with it. MMA has emerged in its adolescent years swinging for the fences and breaking down barriers. Prosperous would be an understatement when describing the value and potential of this sport as it grew up before our very eyes.

Like the phenom MMA has seen great success come relatively quickly and with that success so have the temptations become greater. Power, victory, notoriety, legendary status, but most importantly riches dangle like a carrot on a string. All these things are attainable for those ranging from coaches, to athletes, to promotions.

Just as history has shown us time and time again when many of those carrots are dangled man can quickly become corrupted by desire to attain them hastily as opposed to taking the long road. One need look no further than our great American past time to see how those aspirations for quick success have tarnished the legacy of a game which has stood for over a century. How the actions of a few have ruined even something like the Baseball Hall of Fame and complicated how we judge the successful against the legendary.

So we fast forward from a time when mixed martial artists were just perceived as barbarians to the present where they are far more. They are now perceived, by the trained eye at least, as some of the most superior athletes walking the planet. Look no further than former UFC welterweight champion Georges St. Pierre if you need supporting evidence as such.

The point here is one of the sport's greatest proponents towards driving its forward progress hasn't been Dana White, it wasn't the UFC, it was the athlete. Without quality and forward thinking athletes the UFC died years ago in some half empty arena filled with drunken slobs screaming kick his ass sea bass.

Those same drunken slobs now sell out some of the worlds greatest venues and enjoy world class elite competition on a regular basis. They don't show up for the mediocre or random fight. They show up for the elite. Without those elite athletes they show up to see it would be a Tough Man competition.

The questions have been raised throughout the years though. As the sport, as the athlete and what is expected of them progresses, what is acceptable and what is not. Where is the line between integrity and dishonor drawn? Another far more important question must also be asked. What are the repercussions when that line is crossed.

Or far worst than that, how severe are the consequences when that line is blurred?

The echoes of a legend failing a drug test for performance enhancing drugs spread throughout the sport like a drop in the center of a placid body of water. The ripples will reach from the pinnacle of the sport to its foundation.

For every contender, for every champion, for every legend caught with their hand in the cookie jar there is an army of rising talent behind them. There are humble aspiring athletes cutting their teeth at regional shows looking towards their own goals of greatness who see the legacy of those they aspire to with now tarnished legacies.

In addition to the athlete, don't for one second think that there aren't still hyenas in the wait, just drooling at an opportunity to shred everything the MMA community has built and pick the carcass clean discrediting it all as a fluke. They are anxiously waiting to point their finger and say "I told ya so!" with regard to our sport being a flash in the pan and far too barbaric to expect anything more than savages destroying themselves like crabs in a barrel.

They are a distant second though to the damage that is caused to the community when these failures come to light. For every kid that spent countless hours on the mats honing his grappling, kicking the banana bag working his leg kicks, eating healthy to stay in shape and do it right. For every one of those young athletes who aspires to be a fraction of what Anderson Silva has accomplished in his career, how crushing is the news that he may not have done it naturally?

That my friends is the true failure of our sport and our community. When it happened in baseball they talked about it being the culture of the game. It was commonplace. Sadly it would appear that culture is alive and well in MMA circles spanning the globe.

The time is now to slam our fist on the table and demand this culture be reformed from the top down. It is time to explore every option, to exhaust every opportunity, in an effort to crush the idea that cheating is an option when chasing MMA glory.

MMA does not have a century old history of legendary athletes to rely on to hold our faith. There are no Jackie Robinsons or Lou Gherigs to reassure us that our game can be legendary regardless of scum like Barry Bonds and Alex Rodriguez.

MMA as a community must take a step back and raise the bar. Even if it costs a few million pay per view buys to run a bum out of the sport the long term effects of not doing so could be far more devastating.

Now the echoes of that decision would hold weight. Then again, to stand idly by and do nothing, that also holds weight. It holds far more weight to be quite frank. To define the line clearly would be immediately costly. Yet if those in charge continue to blur it as they have chose to do for years now, the cost may be too much to bear.

For every Benson Henderson, for every Jose Aldo, or Cain Velasquez, there is a wealth of integrity. Their integrity and the impact they have on the sport is priceless. It elevates those around them and it is athletes like them who have brought the sport to new heights. Their contributions can never be quantified both in and out of the cage.

Sadly the dishonor of some of their peers has had an equal if not superior effect on things. Sadly a battle has begun in our sport and the scales are tipped unless those in a position to do so demand reform.

As it stands today the value of integrity may not be able to foot the bill when considering the costs of dishonor. Time will tell.

inside fights

total combat sports coverage

The absolute best destination for complete coverage of mixed martial arts and boxing. Whether it's **Brock Lesnar and the UFC** or **Manny Pacquiao's pursuits** in the sweet science, we've got you covered.

www.insidefights.com



Official Partner