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COVERAGE OF THE TOUGHEST FIGHTERS IN THE TOUGHEST SPORT!

The South Rises Again

Northern Florida and Georgia Fighters Welcome UFC vets, Defeat their Students

Prime Osborne Convention Center,
Jacksonville, Florida
June 30th, 2007

Report and photos by Keith Mills

Jacksonville, FL—Thanks to "Ultimate Warrior Challenge" (UWC), the Florida scene has finally started to look like a state wide and not a fractured mirror with the largest piece being Miami. Until the beginning of this year, the Absolute Fighting Championships (AFC) was the Godzilla of the state, while Real Fighting Championships in Tampa had their own set of fighters, and the Combat Fighting Championships recently started in Orlando with yet another set. Now, the UWC is not only drawing fighters from the other three shows, but they are drawing in more out-of-state fighters to test them. The UWC, consisting of former King of the Cage matchmaker Chris Cordeiro and experienced promoter Marcello Foran, held one show back in February. In that show, Fit NHB, the team that fields Carlos Condit of the WEC, beat fighters trained by UFC veterans - including students of Crafon Wallace, Dean Lister, and Din Thomas. This show's original card looked similar in concept to the first, but due to several card changes the UFC veterans' students took on mostly regional up-and-comers from the likes of Team Trauma and Team Obake.

One of the most anticipated matches was Knockout Fitness/ATT's Matt Dorsten versus Fit NHB's Marcus

attempted rear naked choke, and after the two returned to their feet and traded knees and punches, Dorsten brought things back to the floor and secured that same choke. In the end it was Dorsten's conditioning that gave him the edge, but Foran did no dishonor to Fit NHB. Definitely keep an eye on these two.

ATT fielded yet another up-and-comer when Lew Polley took to the cage to face Tony Sousa. Polley has been making the rounds in the Florida shows last year, with a win over headliner Chris Baten. Don't be fooled by his record, which consists of all submission victories: this young man seems more comfortable on his feet exchanging or ground-and-pounding. In Round One Polley scored mostly with punches on the feet and on the ground, and went for a failed guillotine attempt. In Round Two Polley again took down and pounded on Sousa, and again went for a submission - this time a kimura - yet while he sought advice from his corner on how to finish it, Sousa was in no position to escape and it was a matter of time.

The most exciting fight of the night, if not the most technical, had to go to Terry Cohens versus Canan Dunn in the only heavyweight fight of the night. Cohens knocked Dunn down early in the opening exchanges and tried to finish the fight by following him to the ground, but

Dunn recovered and took Cohens mount. When Cohens turned to his belly, Dunn went for a rear naked choke and then an armbar, but accidentally fouled Cohens with a downward elbow strike. Cohens rolled out and returned to his feet, where he got a punch through



Polley [left] trading with Sousa

Dunn's defense that knocked him out. Dunn was perhaps a little too explosive, but definitely deserves closer inspection, while Cohens could be the savior of Florida's heavyweight scene.

On paper, Charley Blanchard versus Beto Nunes looked to be a classic wrestling versus Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu match and for the most part it was. What made this fight impressive was the dominance of Blanchard for such an early point in his career. After an opening kick by Nunes and takedown by Blanchard, the fight was all Blanchard scoring with heavy punches while keeping Nunes from positioning into half-guard or escaping. Blanchard has only had three other opponents so it is difficult to judge him, but having fought for only nine months he has serious potential.

John Mahlow is having a rough year. In 2006 he looked like he was turning his career around with significant wins in Ironheart Crown and APEX, but after losing a majority decision to Jani Lax he lost three more in King of the Cage, most recently against Jeff Curran. Returning now to welterweight, Mahlow rematched Anthony Lapsley - who he lost to by first round triangle choke in January. Lapsley's only loss going into this fight was to Carlo Prater in March, while his most recent bout saw him winning the NABC 175-pound superfight title in Legends of Fighting. Basically, Lapsley is on the way up, and this was perhaps Mahlow's last chance to stay in the same league.

Most of the action was in Round Three. Mahlow quickly scored a takedown and transitioned into a heelhook, and Lapsley came up and stood over him to deliver a series of strikes that opened a cut on Mahlow's forehead that looked in danger of ending the fight. Mahlow attempted an armbar, but appeared to have his hips too far from Lapsley's elbow to finish. However, referee Jorge Alfonso thought Lapsley was in danger, and asked Lapsley, "Have you had enough?" Alfonso



Baten on top trying to strike Goodman

Foran. Round One belonged to Foran with a powerful slam and less-damaging takedown, striking while hovering over Dorsten, and a guillotine attempt near the end of the round - but Round Two was much closer. Foran's opening hip toss was countered with an

later stated that Lapsley replied "yes", while Lapsley says he didn't tap and thought Alfonso was asking if he wanted to continue. All Mahlow knows is he was going for the armbar and was told to stop. With the crowd booing, the fight was ended and called a referee stoppage. Look for this fight to appear again on an upcoming card.

Team Trauma's Jonathan Brookins has been the most hyped lightweight in Northern Florida for the past year, with an explosive style both on his feet and on the ground. But Brookins has only once faced an experienced MMA fighter, so it is difficult to accurately judge him. This show was his first true test, as he faced David Loiseau's protégé Yves Jabouin, and he didn't seem phased by Loiseau, Denis Kang, and Dean Lister in Jabouin's corner. In Round One Brookins immediately tried to take the fight to the

ground, while Jabouin did a valiant job of avoiding most of the shots and showing holes in Brookins' standup defense. Brookins finally managed to take Jabouin down, where he stood above his opponent firing off punches to the head and body, but Jabouin returned to his feet before the end of the round. In Round Two Brookins seemed more comfortable standing, where he started to use combinations and set up his takedown better, this time mounting Jabouin and pounding out the TKO.

The main event was originally supposed to

UWFC

Baten took little damage before returning to his feet and unloading on Goodman against the cage for the TKO win. It was a very impressive performance from the relatively unknown light-heavyweight Baten.



Blenhard dominating Nunes



Dunn lands elbow on Cohens

be UFC veteran Seth Petruzelli versus Herbert Goodman, a battle of Knockout Fitness/American Top Team against the Lion's Den. However Real Fighting Championships' Chris Baten filled in for Petruzelli. In Round One the striking advantage went to Baten, as he scored the heavier shots standing, slammed Goodman twice, and ended the round dropping elbows. Goodman showed his own striking skills - although with less scoring - and reversed one takedown to go for a rear naked choke, but Goodman reversed and the rest of the round was clearly Baten. In Round Two Goodman opened with a takedown, and

The show looked better than their first, with a brand new cage being the main change. Television cameras taped the entire night but as of this writing no further information is available regarding distribution. No date for a third show is available, but plans are in the works to expand into New Mexico and even the United Kingdom. ☺

Results

- Jeremy May def. Shawn Gay**
-2:45 Round One by submission to strikes
- Matt Dorsten def. Marcus Foran**
-4:25 Round Two by rear naked choke
- Danny Brykett def. Brandon Bledsoe**
-4:08 Round One by TKO
- Lew Polley def. Tony Sousa**
-1:29 Round Two by kimura
- John Skidmore def. John Morrison**
-1:19 Round One by knockout
- Terry Cohens def. Canan Dunn**
-1:40 Round One by knockout
- Charley Blanchard def. Beto Nunes**
-3:43 Round One by TKO
- John Mahlow def. Anthony Lapsley**
-3:38 Round Three by ref stoppage
- Jonathan Brookins def. Yves Jabouin**
-3:35 Round Two by TKO
- Chris Baten def. Herbert Goodman**
-1:57 Round Two by TKO



Brookins tagging Jabouin