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Combat Zone 29 — The Rock

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KITTREDGE def. CONTALDI IN MAIN EVENT OF COMBAT ZONE MMA AT ROCKINGHAM PARK FRIDAY NIGHT



by Lynn Snierson

and enthusiastic crowd in the Sports Club at Rockingham Park on Friday night.

Kittredge (9-1-0) from Vermont and fighting for the Green Mountain Boys Studio, controlled the tempo and pushed the fight in his direction by outlasting Contaldi, out of Team Bombsquad in New York, in each of the three bruising rounds in the 195 lb. pro class.

“The difference was my training,” said Kittredge. “He’s tough. He’s a wrestler, just as I am, but I felt like I hit him harder. I outlasted him and edged him out in every round.”

In the co-main event presented by Combat Zone MMA, former UFC superstar Pat Miletich and the founder of the Miletich Fighting System worked the corner for Brent Kinberger of Manchester, who was one of four local Militech fighters on the card. Kinberger put his undefeated record on the line against Magno Almeida, who came all the way from Brazil to accept the challenge, and the first round was a classic display of mixed martial arts by both tough and talented fighters in the 155 lb. class.

But Almeida, the holder of a black belt in Jui Jitsu, was able to submit Kinberger, who earned a brown belt in the same art, with an arm bar in 2:24 of the second round for the 1:55 lb. combatants. Almeida returns to South America with a 7-1-0 record while Kinberger can be proud of his effort and his 5-1-0 record.

“That was a very technical fight,” said Miletich. “Magno is very experienced in the ground game and Brent just got hit at the end. I’m very proud of the way he fought and of all of my fighters, who fought very well tonight.”

Miletich can certainly take pride in Ed Carr of Hooksett, NH and is the owner of the area Miletich Fighting System franchise. In the first of the seven pro bouts, Carr showed an abundance of courage and sheer will by defeating Jose Santiago of Pawtucket, RI after he suffered a brutal kick below the belt in the first few seconds of the opening round in their 225 lb.

heavyweight class. Carr improved to 4-1-0 by storming back to score a TKO in 3:21 of that round and Santiago, who clearly felt remorse about the low blow, remained winless at 0-4-0.

Next up was John Levasseur of Manchester, NH and also representing Miletich, who used his skills and experience as a boxer in his first pro cage fight in the 150 lb. division against James Soucie of Methuen, Ma and Team Fury. Levasseur (1-0-0) relied on a combination of punches before getting Soucie (0-2-0) to the ground in the second round and then rained down strikes to win by TKO at 1:18 in the first round.

Then John Ortolani of Billerica, Ma and Gracie Barra NH was aggressive from the bell and dominated the first round as he used his ground game to get Eddie Brito of Derry, NH and Team Valor on the mat and struck him repeatedly. Brito (1-3-0) tapped out at 1:58 and Ortolani (1-0-0) won his pro debut in the 170 lb. class. In the following pro contest for 145 pounders, Zach Burhans from New York and Team Bombsquad fought both the crowd and local heavy favorite Jared Dumais of Derry, NH and Shocka MMA for the full three rounds where both used their strength and skills. When Burhans (3-0-0) was declared the winner by unanimous decision, the partisans on hand expressed their displeasure at the result and support for Dumais (1-1-0).

Then as soon as Dan Pasquarella of Manchester, NH and also representing Miletich and Lamont Lister of Team Bombsquad tapped gloves in the 185 lb. pro division, the action was non stop. Pasquarella, a former three-time state wrestling champion, simply outclassed Lister (7-7-0), who made a name for himself in the IFL and was the more experienced warrior. But Pasquarella (4-0-0) was extremely aggressive and very strong on his way to a TKO at 2:35 in round one as he remained undefeated.

The amateurs started the night with five fights and Taylor Trahan (0-2-0) of Lunenburg, Vermont and Joseph DeLisia (1-0-0) of Peabody, Ma, who was making his debut in the cage, went the full three rounds before DeLisia was declared the victor by unanimous decision. In the second bout between homegrown products Will Gianetti (0-1-0) of Salem, NH and Team Fury, who was also making his debut, and Nick Rivera (2-0-0) of Derry, NH and Premier Fight Team, the

crowd screamed its approval of the spirited exchange of blows that lasted from the first round until 1:23 of the second when Gianetti was submitted by a guillotine choke hold.

Corey Wilson of Rumford, Me and Lamont Milton of Chelsea, Ma and Team Fury went to the mat quickly in the first round of the third fight. Milton (2-0-0) got superior position and put on a demonstration of ground and pound before the referee stopped the match at 1:15 of the round. In the next fight between a pair of first timers, Jesse McElligott (1-0-0) from West Roxbury, Ma submitted Garrett Morrow (0-1-0) of Plaistow, NH and Premier Fight Team with a rear naked choke hold in :43 of round three.

In the final test of the amateurs, David Spero (1-0-0) of Atkinson, NH and Premier Fight Team and Peter San Antonio (1-1-0) of Haverhill, Ma and Pro-Star MMA battered and bloodied one another in an intensely fierce battle before the referee called the doctor in to the cage in the third round to examine San Antonio. When the action resumed Spero, another first timer, took command and won by TKO when the referee intervened again to stop the fight at 1:48.

Combat Zone MMA will return to Rockingham Park with another thrilling night of cage fighting on Friday, November 20 and the event will be eagerly anticipated as it is shaping up to feature Calvin Kattar and Dennis Olsen, two of the best fighters in New England who are rising MMA stars, in the two main events.