



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Combat Zone 30 — Triple X at The Rock November 20, 2009

DENNIS OLSON VICTORIOUS IN UNANIMOUS DECISION IN MAIN EVENT AT THE ROCK ; HOME TOWN FAVORITE DAN KEEFE ALSO SCORES UNANIMOUS DECISION IN CO-MAIN EVENT



by Lynn Snierston

SALEM, NH — Dennis Olson bloodied and battered the previously undefeated John Manley for three full rounds in the main event of Combat Zone MMA 30 at Rockingham Park's sold out Sports Club on Friday night before pulling out the impressive victory by unanimous decision.

"He's very tough, the toughest guy I've ever fought. He took a beating but he wouldn't quit," said Olson, who improved his record as a pro to 8-2-0 and hails from Amherst, NH and fights for Gracie Barra in Nashua.

Olson, one of the best and strongest mixed martial arts fighters in the region, used his core power, superior wrestling ability, Jiu-Jitsu skills, and cage smarts to prevail over Manley, who is now 5-1-0 and fights for Team Link in Adams, MA. Olson gets better with every fight.

"This was make or break time for me," said Olson, who used his solid techniques to work out of some tight spots while being controlled on the ground and fights at 170 pounds. "I knew it was time to stop being careful and go all out. That's how I pulled out the win."

In the co-main event, homegrown Dan "The Ghost" Keefe, a former state wrestling champion at Salem High School and a first-team All-State defensive end in football, fought in front of his hometown crowd for the first time and used his determination and domination on the ground to win by unanimous decision over a very game Brett Chism from Valdosta, GA..

For the beginning of their bout, Keefe and Chism started off slowly as they felt each other out and then were almost mirror images of one another for the rest of the first round as they traded punches and kicks and remained mostly upright. The action in the 185-lb. division heated up late in round two as Keefe took the upper hand when he got his opponent to the ground and demonstrated his wrestling skills, and then he turned the fight in his favor in the final round.

"In the second round I saw him flinch when I kicked him and then I smelled blood," said Keefe, who added that he could feel the overwhelming support of the crowd. "In the third round, I had the opportunity to take

him down. Once I got him down, I stayed busy and worked my elbows and the short punches so that he couldn't execute any of his submissions. My game plan on the ground worked out exactly as I had planned." Keefe, who is a guard at the maximum security prison in Massachusetts and fights out of Xtreme MMA in Chelmsford, MA, improved his professional record to 6-1-0 while Chism, who holds a title belt in Georgia, dropped to 11-7-0.

In the first of the six pro fights when three rounds extended from three to five minutes each, the 205-lb. heavyweights battled and 46-year-old Greg Williams was overpowered by a younger and stronger Chad Lightfoot, who had a 13-year age advantage. Lightfoot of Attleboro, MA and Connors MMA stayed undefeated at 2-0-0 when the fight was stopped in 2:46 of the second round while Williams (0-1-0) of Dalton, NH and Team Kaze lost his first pro fight.

Jared Dumais of Derry, NH and Xtreme Fight Team improved his record to 2-1-0 when he submitted Jeff Silva (0-1-0) of Lawrence, MA and Premier Fight Team by a rear naked choke hold in 4:17 of round two in the 145-lb. class. Dumais continued to out work his opponent until he wore down Silva and forced the submission.

A very aggressive and strong John Ortolani (1-1-0), fighting in the 165-lb. class, couldn't overcome the experience of 39-year-old Mike Littlefield (7-4-0) even though Ortolani was 16 years his junior. Littlefield, from Taunton, MA and fighting for the Boneyard, knocked out Ortolani from Billerica, MA and Gracie Barra NH with a solid right cross in 3:01 of the first round.

One of the most intriguing fights on the under card featured a rare bout between two women and Shannon Harney (2-0-0) remained undefeated when she employed her superior skills, which included her ground and pound game, to overpower Melissa Demers (0-0-0) in the 110-lb. class. Making her debut in the cage, Demers of Derry, NH and Team Fury couldn't fend off the stronger Harney of Lynn, MA and Team DWMMA so the referee stepped in and stopped the fight in 1:56 of the first round.

In the first and most competitive of the six amateur bouts, Jamie Courtney (1-1-0) of Lawrence, MA and Team Fury and Jesse Menize (0-1-0) of Derry, NH and Premier Fight Team got the night off to a rousing start and the crowd roaring on its feet as they bloodied and battled each other intensely for the full three rounds before Courtney was declared the winner by a narrow split decision.

For his gutsy and inspiring performance, Courtney earned the trophy, sponsored by Chang's Taekwondo America, as the Amateur Fighter of the Night. Courtney and Menize fought as 145 pounders.

Next up Nate Ainsworth (2-0-0) of Lisbon, NH and Team Kaze scored a TKO over AJ Campbell (0-1-0) of Holderness, NH and AC MMA in the 145-lb. division when the referee stopped the fight in :44 of the second round. Taylor Trahan (1-1-0), who is only 18 years old, of Lisbon, NH and Team Kaze made light work of his fight when he submitted the six years older Shelby Young (0-2-0) of Nashua, NH and Gracie Barra NH by an arm bar in 1:44 of round one for the 155 pounders.

In the next battle in the 145-lb. class, John Green (2-0-0) of Winooski, VT and the Green Mountain Boys needed only 2:54 of round two to submit Dave Irving (1-1-0) of Canton, MA and Prime Athletics by an arm bar. David Spero (1-1-0) of Atkinson, NH and Premier Fight Team took Mike Winters of Cortland, NY and Team Bomb squad the full three rounds of three minutes each in the 170-lb. division before Winters was declared the winner by the unanimous decision of the judges.

Combat Zone 31 returns to Rockingham Park on January 15, 2010 with an all amateur card.

RESULTS:

Pros:

Dennis Olson(8-2-0) of Amherst, NH def John Manley (5-1-0) of Adams, MA by unanimous decision

Dan Keefe (6-1-0) of Salem, NH def Brett Chism (11-7-0) of Valdosta, GA by unanimous decision

Chad Lightfoot (2-0-0) of Attleboro, MA def Greg Williams (0-1-0) of Dalton, NH by TKO (round 2)

Jared Dumais (2-1-0) of Derry, NH def Jeff Silva (0-2-0) of Lawrence, MA by submission (4:17 round 2)

Mike Littlefield (7-4-0) of Taunton, MA def John Ortolani (1-1-0) by knockout (3:01 round 1)

Amateurs:

Jamie Courtney (1-1-0) of Lawrence, MA def Jesse Menize of Derry, NH by split decision.

Nate Ainsworth (2-0-0) of Lisbon, NH def. AJ Campbell of Holderness, NH by TKO (:44 round 2)

Shannon Harney (2-0-0) of Lynn, MA def Melissa Demers (0-1-0) of Derry NH by TKO (1:56 round 1)

Taylor Trahan (1-1-0) of Lisbon, NH def Shelby Young (0-2-0) of Nashua, NH by submission (1:44 round 1)

John Green (2-0-0) of Winooski, VT. def Dave Irving (1-1-0) of Canton, MA by submission (2:54 round 2)

Mike Winters (2-0-0) of Cortland, NY def. David Spero (1-1-0) of Atkinson, NH by unanimous decision