

NAAFS NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS

The day is December 5th 2009. The venue is the John S Knight Center in Akron Ohio. The event? The NAAFS' 2009 Night of Champions. With an arena full of fight fans, and over 60,000 people watching online live, Akron Ohio was about to hold one of the most action packed MMA events of the year.

With 9 titles on the line, and a who's who list of Midwest fighters on the card, I knew going in, that I was about to see some great action. Even with those expectations, I was still blown away.

Setting up the start of the main card was Jessica Eye vs Marie Colangelo. Jessica is by far one of the most popular fighters in the NAAFS and she had the entire arena on its feet as she walked to the cage. When the fight started she immediately pushed her opponent against the cage where she started unloading knees and punches, to the face and body of her opponent. She continued this assault for almost the entire fight, before being taken down at the end of 3rd...in what was a brief scare as Marie took her back and looked for the rear naked choke but was unable to finish. This turned out to be yet another one sided assault as Eye battered her opponent with knees enroute to a Unanimous Decision victory and the title.

In what was easily the upset of the night, local prospect "Smoking" Joe Heiland out of Strong Style Fight team was taking on relatively unknown Daniel Straus out of Vision MMA. This fight was nothing but fireworks from the opening bell as both fighters traded shots, with Straus landing the more effective blows, and even pulling out some risky maneuvers along the way. Straus ended up picking up the unanimous decision in a hard fought, and impressive debut.

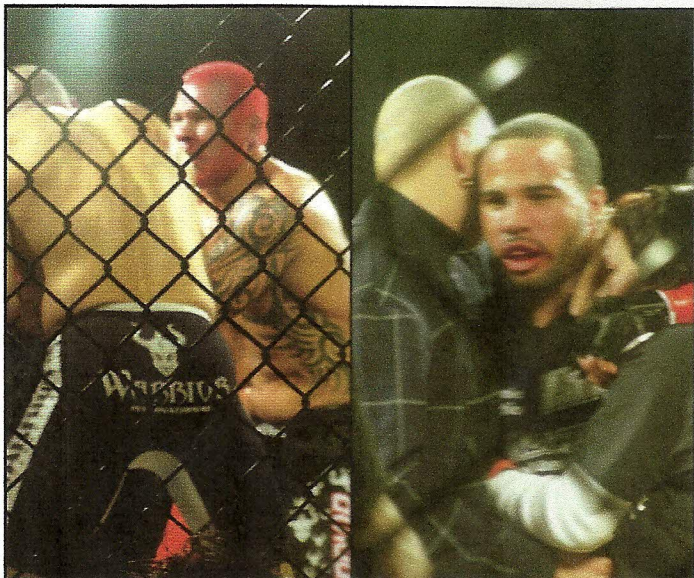
Undefeated Big John Hawk made his way to the cage next to take another undefeated HW prospect in Thad Schlichter. Thad scored early in the fight on the feet, rocking Hawk, and turned it into high gear looking for the finish. He scored on several more hard strikes, bloodying up and wobbling Hawk again. John regained composure and scored a

takedown where he started to take control and unload some ground and pound. The second round was all Hawk, as he took the fight back to the mat and beat his opponent up as he controlled the fight. The 3rd round started the same as the second, with Hawk scoring a nice takedown and raining down punches from the top...only this time the punches were landing much harder and Thad had no defense for them. The referee showed compassion and jumped in at 2:37 of the second calling a halt to the bout...and making Hawk a legitimate contender for the HW title.

MW champion Alan Weickert was up next against rising star Chris "the Assassin" Lozano. Weickert who was coming off of a win over Sean Salmon was looking confident early landing some good strikes as he looked to get the fight to the ground. Lozano was able to keep the fight standing and started to stalk his opponent waiting for an opening to take advantage of. Alan began to trade punches which isn't a smart idea, when going up against Lozano. With only 5 seconds left in the first Chris landed a devastating shot dropping Alan to the canvas, and ending the fight. Lozano sprinted out of the cage, where he grabbed his Mother and Brother and brought them into the cage with him. He dedicated the win to his mother, and even placed his belt around her waist at one point. A Classy move and a great showing by Lozano.

Now it was time for the main event as UFC veteran Forrest "The Meat Cleaver" Petz was taking on WW champ Brendan Seguin. This fight was a slugfest! Petz and Seguin stood toe to toe for almost the entire fight trading shots, Petz bloodied Seguin pretty good, and continued to land the better shots, but at no time did Seguin ever back down. He kept coming forward and landed some good shots of his own, but did not do enough to keep his title. Petz won an unanimous decision and walked away as the new NAAFS welterweight champion.

This was a great way to cap off another exciting year of MMA action. I look forward to seeing what the NAAFS has instore for us next year!



By Mike Denny for MMA Sports
Photo by Mike Denny (c) MMA Sports

