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# Blood Brothers

By **JONATHAN SNOWDEN**

While promoters in MMA typically follow the pro wrestling model with a huge emphasis on promotional branding and over-the-top feuds, some of the sport's biggest stars have quietly been studying their sister sport of boxing. In boxing, there is no brand that attracts an audience. The fighters are the stars and people pay to see Oscar De La Hoya and Felix Trinidad, not a "Don King Production."

The role model for fighters everywhere looking to take control of their career, and their finances, is Oscar De La Hoya. De La Hoya used his own celebrity and drawing power to create his own company, Golden Boy Promotions. Now instead of a simple fight purse, Oscar gets a piece of the whole pie. He gets a cut from the PPV gross, the gate, the site fee the casino pays, the foreign broadcast rights, ringside advertising, closed circuit, everything.

"You know, being a promoter now, it's kind of like opening the door and finding out what really is inside the house, so to speak. You know, a fighter doesn't



FRANK SHAMROCK

know what's going on when it comes to how to promote a fight and where the money comes from and now that I've been a promoter for four years, I've learned the insights of how this boxing world really works," De La Hoya told doghouseboxing.com. "And one of the main reasons why I turned promoter is to educate the fighter and little by little, with my company, we can hopefully educate the fighters and the way they handle their careers."

De La Hoya doesn't have opponents, he has partners. Bernard Hopkins is now the president of Golden Boy East. Shane Mosley is



## Blood Brothers cont...

president of fighter relations. These fighters are determined to take their name value and use it to make every penny possible in the waning years of their careers, while at the same time building a stable of younger World Champions to follow in their footsteps.

Frank Shamrock has been watching De La Hoya closely and is ready to make his own leap. After he completes his commitments to Strikeforce and EliteXC he will be ready to make the giant jump from fighter to promoter. The fight that he thinks is attractive enough to draw the money he needs to go it alone has been announced: Brother versus brother. Frank Shamrock versus Ken Shamrock.

"I think it's going to be the event that opens MMA up to the mainstream world. And that's brother versus brother. We've got a quarter and a year so far, when we're going to do it and that's first quarter of 09," Frank said. "We're talking to every major network and distributor and arena. We're going to change the way that mixed martial arts is promoted and also the way that the talent are paid. Right now the companies own everything. They own the show, they own the fighters, they own the distribution, they own the product. They own everything. These guys go in as basically hired talent, so they go in and fight and walk

**"I think it's going to be the event that opens MMA up to the mainstream world. And that's brother versus brother"**

away with whatever purse is negotiated."

Brother versus brother is a powerful story, as old as the first fight in human history, Cain killing Abel. Critics think the brother aspect will turn fans off, but to Frank it's what makes it so compelling. "I think it's going to draw a bigger fan-base, people who don't know anything at all about a Mixed Martial Arts event and now hear about this idea," Frank said. "It's a powerful story and a once in a lifetime event. If you think about it, UFC was launched on a question. Who would win between each martial art? We're asking a question again only now, it's brothers. And it's brothers that are already famous and have already built the sport."

Even though the two men legitimately don't like each other, it hasn't stopped them from coming together and making the best deal possible. Both are known as mavericks, men willing to speak their minds and get the most they can out of promoters. It would be easy to sell this fight to Elite XC or another organization. The names involved are big enough for them to have made a pretty penny and promoters are interested. "I've been looking at that fight since I met Frank Shamrock, and I'm continuing to look at it and trying to get it done," Elite XC promoter Gary Shaw told ProElite.com "I don't think it's a negative image. I think that what's great about mixed martial arts is the different disciplines. So to me, this is a fight that I think both Shamrocks would like, and I think it's a fight that would serve the public. You're not asking a man to go in against his mother. This is two brothers, both professionals. It's not an amateur against a professional. To me, blood brothers -- nothing better." Instead the adopted brothers have chosen to go it alone.

" Ken and I are going in to this as part-

ners. And we're going to present it, hire the promoter, hire a distributor and keep the lion's share for ourselves because I think that's the new paradigm for mixed martial arts," Frank said. "It's silly that these guys are stuck in these six year contracts where their going to make, if they're lucky, \$30,000 a year fighting. I think the UFC is taking horrible advantage of people, especially since they're making hundreds of millions of dollars on pay per view. I think it's time for a shift."

The fight itself seems almost an afterthought compared to the seismic shift of the new business model the Shamrocks are creating. Frank is confident he will win the fight rather easily. "Ken's stuck in the old ways, the old style. With my ability to move fluidly and effectively and efficiently, Ken will get banged, try to take me down and ground and pound me, I'll slip out and choke him unconscious." Ken sees it differently. He beat Frank up for years when they trained together and doesn't think anything has changed. "He walks around saying he's the Lion's Den guy and this and that. He was probably my third best guy when I was training them all, behind Bohlander and Mezger," Ken told [irishwhipfighting.com](http://irishwhipfighting.com). "Also, Frank has problems against people who can take him down and he knows I would take him down. Look at his fight against Renzo. I can knock him down and punch him out."

Both have warmup fights before they go after each other. Frank will fight the very tough Cung Le March 29 th for Strikeforce, while Ken travels to the UK to take on journeyman Robert Berry for Cage Rage. Conventional wisdom says that it's hard to sell fighters coming off a loss and there is a distinct possibility that both men will be on a losing streak coming in to the fight. Yet, the Shamrock brand name seems impervi-

ous to losses. People just like watching them fight.

"I'm sure it would take some value from it, but my brand, the way I market, the way I present myself, and my fanbase, they've never been diminished by a loss," Frank-Shamrock said. "People respect what I do and how I do it. If I create it, they show up."

Ken Shamrock has always been an innovator, starting the sport in Pancrase and the UFC, creating the first successful fighter house and fight team, and making himself a mainstream name. If the fight is a success, it could be a template for other fighters who are unhappy with the table scraps offered by Zuffa and other promoters; fighters like Randy Couture. Once again, Ken would be leading the way for the sport to follow, a final gift to the fighters in the MMA world.

"I think Ken is probably looking at this as an exit strategy. For me it's just a beginning. I've got ten more years planned and 20 more fights. So, I'm just starting out. I'm 35 and I'll retire when I'm 45. The beauty of it is, I work out everyday, for me it's a way of life, it's not a job or something that I go to and do. I'm a martial artist," Frank said. "Everyday I train my body, and I train my mind, and I get a little bit better every single day. I'm only getting better, I'm only getting smarter and I'm only getting healthier."

## MADE IN AMERICA FAILS TO BE ALL IT CAN BE

By LEE CASEBOLT

Matt Hughes is my favorite fighter.

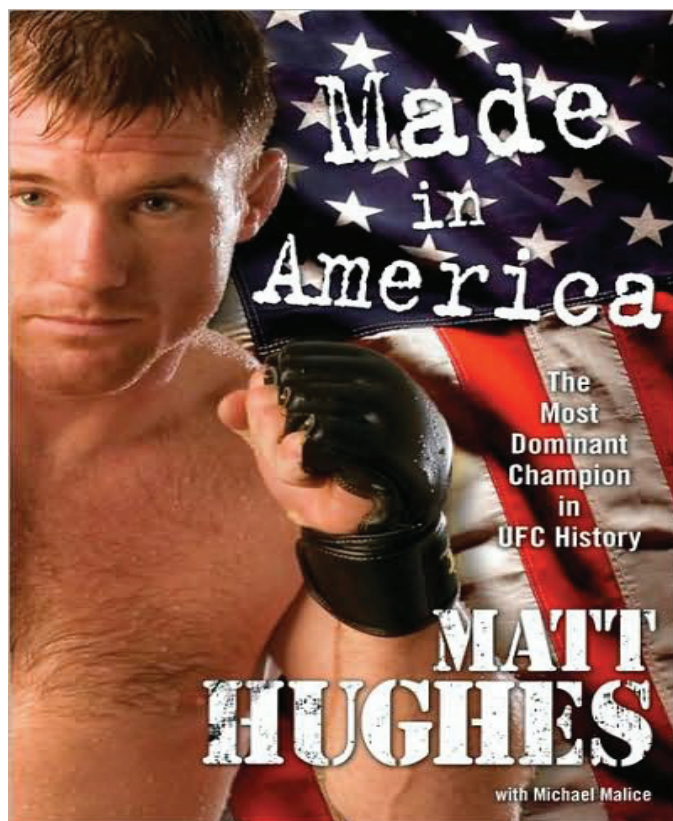
It's not that I relate to him on any sort of personal level. We're both hyper-competitive, but I was on the debate team in high school and the most athletic thing I ever did was run my mouth. Meanwhile, Hughes has been wrestling since he was a fetus. Had we gone to school together, he probably would've given me a wedgie and stolen my lunch money (and the joke's on him – I didn't have any lunch money) if we crossed paths at all. Other than that, we're both Caucasian males of approximately the same age, residing in adjacent states. Otherwise, we couldn't be more different.

And I didn't jump on the Hughes bandwagon after he became the most dominant UFC champion of all "times". I was rooting for him when he beat Valerie Ignatov (look him up) in his one sided snoozefest of a UFC debut. I'd gone to see him fight in tiny venues in Illinois and Iowa, beating up guys whose names I can't remember. Frankly, I was with the UFC brass and overwhelming internet opinion in expecting Carlos Newton to absolutely embarrass him in their first bout. Hadn't the much less talented Dennis Hallman done so twice already?

Sorry, Matt.

I love Matt Hughes as a fighter for one simple reason. My favorite thing in all of combat sports (which is to say very nearly my favorite thing in all the world) is to watch some poor bastard get picked up against his will and thrown to the ground with maximum force. If the poor unfortunate happens to break something on the way down, so much the better. If I weren't something of a sadist, I'd watch soccer. Nobody in the short history of MMA has ever done that as well as Matt Hughes, and I love him for it.

So, naturally, when my favorite fighter "writes" an



autobiography (I haven't believed an athlete has written his own autobiography since I was thirteen years old), I feel compelled to buy it, as much out of obsessive collectorhood as any belief that the book will be any good. As a public service to you, the discerning TotalMMA reader, I feel likewise compelled to review said tome, so that you may make an informed decision as to whether to shell out the twenty four bones on your own. That, and Iain and Jon will probably send me mailbombs if I blow my first deadline.

The fact of the matter is, no one comes out of *Made in America* looking particularly good. Matt Hughes and his (perhaps aptly-named) co-writer Michael Malice are not afraid to throw anyone under the bus at any time. Some targets are predictable; it takes Hughes about six lines to get in his first shot

### America cont...

at Frank Trigg, and there are plenty more where that one came from. But Hughes doesn't play favorites. He'll call out Tim Sylvia, Rich Franklin, or Randy Couture as quickly as Georges St. Pierre or B.J. Penn. For that matter, he isn't shy about mentioning his own failings, either. From teenage violence and college pranks to personal infidelities and spiritual weakness, Hughes spends every bit as much ink on his weaknesses as he does on his strengths.

The tone of the book is very similar to that of any of Hughes' on-camera interviews. He has the same "voice" in print that he does when speaking, which implies that either the SpikeTV editors didn't edit as much as some people claim, or Hughes and Malice are adeptly following their lead in building the Matt Hughes character. Personally, I'm inclined to believe the former, if only because I find it hard to believe that Hughes is willing to put that much effort into a consistent image.

Regardless, how you feel about the Matt Hughes on television will very much impact what you think of the Matt Hughes in print. If the reader is predisposed to think Hughes is a jackass, there is more than enough material to support that. He isn't at all shy about knocking everyone around him, including teammates and MMA icons. Only mentor Pat Miletich seems immune. He rather matter-of-factly details some frankly horrendous behavior earlier in his life; it never fails to amaze me how many felonies people are willing to admit to in print.

A more sympathetic reader can find mitigating factors, though. His "country boy" image brings with it certain preconceptions, but Hughes' early life wasn't exactly The Waltons. He shared the same sort of fractured family life that it seems most fighters do. Most tellingly, while Hughes is quick to judge – fairly or unfairly – he is just as willing to change an opinion in the face of new information. It's a rare

trait. Randy Couture and Tim Sylvia, most notably, see positive reversals in judgment before book's end.

The biggest criticism of the book has nothing to do with Hughes as person, though. Made in America should be a unique chance to see the history of MMA through the eyes of someone who's literally done it all. Hughes went from nobody journeyman to poster boy world champion. Along the way he's trained with and fought virtually everyone worth talking about in the sport. Matt Hughes, for whatever reason, didn't want to write that book. He makes the kind of errors – referring to "Mark" Severn, confusing Ken and Frank Shamrock – that indicate he does not particularly care about the sport of MMA, or about the history he makes. More damningly, neither does his co-author, and neither do his editors.

Made in America is so much shallower than it should be. The first Hughes/Newton bout, an all-time classic that established Hughes as a world-class fighter, gets just a few paragraphs and not the slightest detail. Workouts with MFS Elite, which could be a fascinating look into how the first great MMA camp puts together fighters, get even less. Hughes' book, like Hughes' career, is primarily a money-making opportunity. It exists to market a soon-to-retire Matt Hughes, whose income will soon rely more on his name recognition than on his physical skills.

That's Hughes' prerogative. Far be it from me to criticize a fighter for making money. Most don't make nearly what they should, and end up the worse for it. All the same, Made in America reminds me a lot of the Hughes/Lytle bout. Matt Hughes got what he wanted out of it, and it wasn't really bad, per se, but I can't help thinking there should have been more there. Unless you're an MMA completist, or a particular fan of Hughes, you can afford to give this one a pass and not miss anything of substance.



## MARIO SPERRY: SETTING A NEW FOUNDATION

By **TOMMY HACKETT**

It's a new day for Mario Sperry, the newest coach for the International Fight League.

The two time Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu World Champion and 13 year veteran of MMA is busy creating not only a new competition team and school, but one in a new home, in a new country, and for a new organization. While plans for his Las Vegas school are being finalized, he's imparting his wisdom to students at seminars across the US, like yesterday at Marcelo Alonso's Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy in Seattle. The occasion marked Sperry's fourth visit to the Emerald City to visit his old friend from the Carlson Gracie Team.



Working with MMA and BJJ champions like Rodrigo Nogueira and Ricardo Arona may seem like a world apart from conducting a seminar where he may be expected to help introduce the "gentle art" to a new student. But in conversation with Sperry, the two appear to have a surprising amount in common.

"I've always believed that jiu-jitsu is a very simple art," the world champion begins, taking a break as the seminar breaks between its gi and no-gi instruction.

"My jiu-jitsu was always very simple, very effective. I instruct very directly, I go straight to the point. The things I like to teach are very easy to learn. That's why most of the students have no problem. They can be white, purple, or black belts. My goal is to make sure everyone understands the most important principles of any position. The details in the foundation are very important."

Sperry adds that he actually hasn't changed much

of his approach to jiu-jitsu training since his first tournaments.

"I do the same things," he continues. I've always believed in drills, working hard at the same positions. Make a strategy for each different opponent and it worked very well, especially in jiu-jitsu."

He smiles when asked about his favorite moments in his long career as a teacher and fighter in jiu-jitsu and MMA, saying "it would be impolite to choose just one."



"I've been very blessed to work with a lot of good fighters," he continues. "Fighters who have the will to be champions: Rodrigo Nogueira, his brother, Ricardo Arona, Paulo Filho, Buscape, many great fighters. Those guys gave me a lot of wonderful moments. There's so many, I wouldn't dare say just one."

Sperry's quietly confident demeanor has been a constant throughout his career, earning the nickname "Zen Machine." But he remembers an exception or two, like falling to the mat and making the sign of the cross after his US debut, a victory in the Reality Superfighting promotion, in 1995. "I'm a very religious guy, we Brazilians are very religious. Fighting for us is more than a job, it's our lifestyle. That fight was one of my greatest moments because it was my first fight out of Brazil. I spent one month training here in America, away from my family. I really thanked God for everything."

From the national to mundial jiu-jitsu championships, to Abu Dhabi, to fighting and training some of the best fighters in the world for what was the

## Sperry cont...

biggest MMA organization in the world of the day, Sperry has seemingly seen it all.

“I was in PRIDE for seven years,” he says. “I went to Japan 52 times! Sakakibara was awesome, he was a cool guy. They were very organized, a lot of discipline. They had been in the market for a long, long time.”

But the legend isn't done yet, and he will see a chance to build another great MMA moment next month, as he captains his new team of fighters for the International Fight League. His team will face a team captained by Randy Couture, who Sperry has incidentally been training with since arriving in Las Vegas last year. Sperry describes the UFC champion as “a true gentleman. When I came to Vegas first time, right before his fight with Gonzaga, I came over to his place for a bit and helped him train for his fight. He treated me real well. The other fighters treated me really good. I felt like home.”

Regarding leading a team of fighters to face his new friends at the Xtreme Couture gym, Sperry admits, “It's a little awkward. Actually my fighters aren't training there. Two guys, they're in Brazil, I'm bringing them over. I basically don't have a team right now. But the guys there at Xtreme Couture are very professional, they're cool. I like to be there. Sometimes I share some information. It's a good exchange.”

Sperry won't be fighting at that show, but he doesn't rule out a return to the cage, either.

“I'm open for anything,” he begins. “Right now I'd like to set down my family, my life, get my family here, get a home, get the gym. My life is kind of confused right now. I'm not able to train like I'd like to. I know in two three months this will be over and I'll be training real hard and the IFL or any other place, I'd like to fight.”



**“I basically don't have a team right now. But the guys there at Xtreme Couture are very professional, they're cool. I like to be there. Sometimes I share some information. It's a good exchange.”**

**-Mario Sperry**

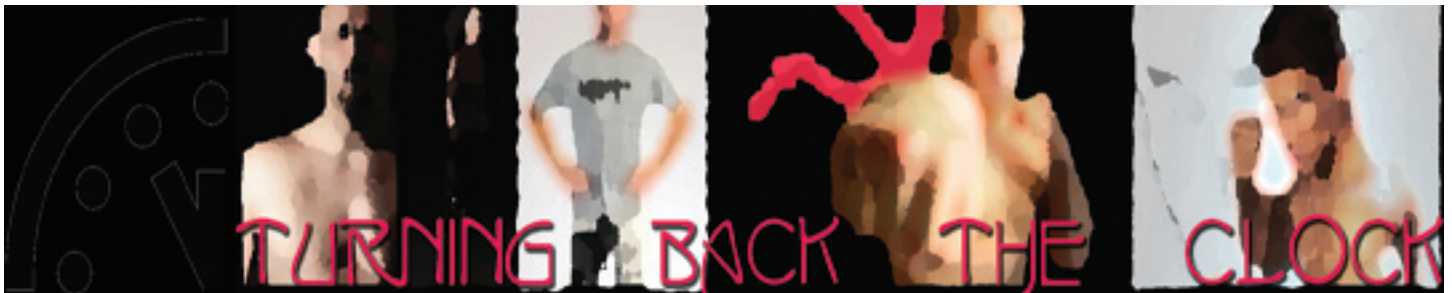
Sperry expects to have classes running at a Las Vegas location in a few months time. He's clearly excited for the new beginning, but describes the process as a difficult one.

“I have to view the location. Two, three months ago I didn't even know I was going to be in Las Vegas. I went to NY, Texas, did my research. I like Vegas, people really enjoy fighting; people breathe fighting. I like the weather. It's hot, I like it!”

Sometimes it's hard to picture the Mario Sperry seen in Paul Vele's Day of the Zen documentary, famously walking along the beach in Rio to enjoy his country's beautiful coast, in the middle of the desert.

“Yeah,” he says with a laugh. “I'm going to be working, it's gonna be even better for me. When I lived in Rio, I lived right in front of the beach, right in front of one of the best spots but I could not surf, because I had to work in the day. 20 years ago, I could go surf and then train. Now, if I surf, I have to rest the whole day!”

Still, as in his principles of jiu-jitsu, the foundation remains. He says about his new home with a wink, “Hawaii's five hours, straight flight.”



## By Scott Newman

*I can't sing, I can't dance, and it beats working for a living. – Phil Baroni.*

I'm sure every fighter has their own reason for getting into the sport of MMA. For every Baroni who apparently wanted to avoid the 9-5 life (and who wouldn't?), there's a myriad of others who basically stumbled into the sport. High school or college wrestlers who found their talents were best suited to pounding another man in the confines of a cage. Life-long martial artists who ended up making the transition when they found their karate training just wasn't doing it for them.

Some likely have more unique reasons – perhaps finding it a way to get themselves out of street fights or gang situations. In the future, I'm sure, young people will look to break into MMA for their shot at the glory, the fame, and the celebrity that goes along with being a top fighter. And then there are those rare breeds of people who are simply born to fight. Born warriors.

Rich Franklin and Randy Couture have stated in the past that they view MMA as simply a competition, a human chess game. This breed of fighter would disagree. Many of the men who claim to be “born



fighters” are probably not, in fact. They're using the term in order to amp up their reputation. On the flip side, there's Enson Inoue.

Now, I'll freely admit, I am a little on the ignorant side when it comes to the majority of Inoue's fighting career. Sporting a record currently standing at 11-8-0 (according to Sherdog), Enson's documented fighting career began in the mid-90's, in the Shooto promotion. After a brief stop-off in the UFC, Inoue faced the likes of Frank Shamrock and Randy Couture in Japan before finding himself in the PRIDE ring.

Enson only fought five times in PRIDE and I've only seen four of those fights. In my early days of watch-

### Newman cont...

ing MMA I heard about the reputation Inoue had as a tough guy, but at that point I'd seen little to back it up. Granted, I'd seen him pass out rather than tap to a Rodrigo Nogueira triangle, but while that showed toughness it didn't seem to live up to the legendary reputation the guy sported. Somehow, with what more educated fans were saying, I expected more.

And then I saw him fight Igor Vovchanchyn.

It almost seems strange to be talking about Inoue-Vovchanchyn as a classic fight, as really it's largely one-sided. PRIDE as a promotion always did enjoy putting on a good beating, and back in the late 90's and early 00's nobody dished out a beating quite like Igor Vovchanchyn. Despite losing to Mark Coleman in the finals of PRIDE's Grand Prix earlier in 2000, coming into the fight with Enson – at PRIDE 10 on 8/27/00 – Vovchanchyn held a record of thirty-two wins with two losses. One of those losses was the afore-mentioned one to Coleman, and the other was a controversial “chin-in-the-eye” submission. Vovchanchyn had defeated thirty-two men and more often than not it had been in the most brutal fashion possible – with clubbing blows from his sledgehammer-like hands. Inoue had only had three fights since 1997 – Vovchanchyn had won four fights in 2000 alone. I wasn't around to see betting lines but I don't think I'd be wrong to presume Igor was the heavy favourite.

The first notable point of the fight is pointed out by commentator Eddie Bravo. Eddie's noticed that Enson's come in wearing gi pants rather than trunks or shorts, and praises him for this gameplan, noting that Inoue's lone chance in the fight is probably to catch Vovchanchyn with a submission from his back, and the pants will give him more hope of doing that than trunks would. It's pretty clear that Enson's smartest gameplan would be to get this fight to the mat as soon as possible. Instead he comes charging

out of his corner like a madman, and throws a right hand at the Ukrainian that lands. A brief clinch, like the calm before the storm, follows, and then the trade that follows has to be seen to be believed. Both men throw a series of haymakers that, if any of them landed cleanly, would probably be enough to knock out an elephant. Luckily for both neither man lands cleanly, simply throwing too hard and too fast to care for accuracy. In a Rocky IV-esque moment Inoue actually lands the best shot of the trade – cutting Vovchanchyn under his left eye. But as we've seen before real life isn't like the movies, and unlike Ivan Drago, Vovchanchyn doesn't slow down.

Instead, almost inevitably, Igor lands the harder punches as the trade continues. When you're hit on the jaw repetitively, even Enson Inoue's level of heart will struggle to keep you vertical, and the punches finally take their toll, wobbling him. Vovchanchyn follows by simply throwing him to the ground and following him down. Time to make use of those gi pants, and sure enough Enson throws his legs up for a triangle attempt, but Vovchanchyn's having none of it. After avoiding the attempt, it's clobberin' time. It would probably be argued today that of all the fighters to compete in MMA, Fedor Emelianenko has the most devastating ground-and-pound attack. Watching this fight, it's hard not to argue in favour of Igor Vovchanchyn in those stakes. Punch after punch after punch lands, and Enson takes them all. In the UFC this round would be over. In PRIDE there's still five minutes to go. And it's five minutes of sheer pain for Inoue, as Vovchanchyn continues to punish him with those sledgehammers.

Three minutes to go. Lesser men would've tapped out long ago but Enson's still hanging in there, still taking shots from Vovchanchyn who's now landing at will, but somehow Enson's still with it. Vovchanchyn passes to half-guard, and then gets free of that, looking for the full mount. Enson rolls slightly to his side, trying to avoid the blows, but

### Newman cont...

only exposes himself further as Vovchanchyn opens up with some of the most vicious punches I've ever seen in a mixed martial arts fight; hard, clubbing blows to the head and the face, over and over. If this were presented as evidence in a court of law Igor would be looking at a 25-year stretch. Instead the bell mercifully rings, and the Ukrainian calmly stands and heads for his corner. Enson Inoue remains on the canvas, his head freakishly swollen like he's been involved in some sort of horrific accident.

The second round never took place, as the doctor duly stopped the fight between rounds, due to the culmination of damage to Inoue's head. Enson Inoue never quit. His corner never threw in the towel and seeing Inoue's horror at the doctor stopping the fight, I have to believe that if they had thrown in the towel he would never have forgiven them. Enson Inoue wanted to carry on the fight and come out for the second round. I hate to imagine what might've happened had that been the case. Enson Inoue wasn't thinking that far. Because he's a born fighter.

Often I wouldn't defend what appears to be stupidity in the name of bravery. I laughed at the idiocy of TUF V's Marlon Sims, for example, when he denigrated other members of the cast for tapping out while he, the warrior, allowed himself to be choked unconscious. But with Enson Inoue, somehow it's different. Even as a fan who has seen precious little of his fighting career, I can see that. Perhaps it's because it's clear that he's not refusing to quit because he thinks it'll make him seem more like a "warrior".

I've seen Enson talk online in an unbelievably frank manner about what it means to him to never quit in a fight. This man doesn't refuse to quit to make himself seem more of a warrior. He refuses to quit because he is a warrior. And that's what makes his fight with Igor Vovchanchyn a classic. No matter

that Igor won the fight in the most convincing way possible. No matter that the fight's largely one-sided. The fight's still primarily about Enson Inoue and it is still a war. Perhaps, in a way, it was a war in Enson's mind, too. I'm sure part of him wanted to quit as those sledgehammer-like blows pounded the side of his head in. But the stronger side of him kept him in the fight. Some fighters call themselves "born warriors" because they're trying to convince themselves that's what they are. On the flip side, there's Enson Inoue.



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THE JAPAN REPORT  
BY MARC STAHLING

## UPCOMING SHOWS

Pancrase Shining, January 30

Pancrase's first show of 2008 is highlighted by a welterweight re-match, and a lightweight championship eliminator. Satoru Kitaoka looks to extend his five fight win-streak, which included submission victories over Paul Daley and Fabricio Monteiro, as he faces a man who has beat him once before, Katsuya Inoue. It will actually be their third fight, as they fought to a draw in January of 2006 in addition to Inoue's decision win from 2004. Cage Force lightweight tournament winner Artur Oumakhanov returns to Pancrase to challenge Shoji, in a match that will set the stage for a new lightweight King of Pancrase to be crowned later in the year. Oumakhanov is undefeated against Japanese competition, with his only professional loss coming against Andre Amade in last year's HERO\*S GP. Here's the full card as of press time:

### Cage Force EX-Eastern Bound February 11

After being one of the most exciting promotions in 2007, Cage Force looks to keep that momentum as they have just announced two tournaments that will take place in 2008. They will be bantamweight(61.2kg/135lb) and

## Pancrase Shining

Katsuya Inoue  
vs. Satoru Kitaoka

Artur Umakhanov  
vs. Shoji Shoji

Gadzhiev Alavutdin  
vs. Yuji Hisamatsu

Shinsuke Shoji  
vs. Yuichi Ikari

Daisuke Hanazawa  
vs. Wataru Takahashi

WINDY Tomomi  
vs. Emi Tomimatsu

Sotaro Yamada  
vs. Strasser Kichi

Yuki Yamasawa  
vs. Seiya Kawahara

featherweight(65.7kg/145lb). This is definitely an event to keep your eye on. Announced thus far for the February show are two first round featherweight tourney fights, as well as two non-tournament bouts. See News & Notes for more information about the stellar tournament line-up. Here's the current card as of press time:

FW Tourney Round One: Takeshi Yamazaki vs. Daiki Ozaki

FW Tourney Round One: "Wicky" Akiyo Nishiura vs. Jong Man Kim

Taiyo Nakahara vs. Motonobu Tezuka

*Japan cont...*

Tetsuo Seto vs. Toshinari Takahashi

## News & Notes

-The announcement of the two Cage Force tournaments is a reason to get excited, as they have brought in many top fighters at 135 and 145 lbs:

### BANTAMWEIGHT PARTICIPANTS:

Daichi Fujiwara, Taiyo Nakahara, Takeya Mizugaki  
Paul McVeigh

### FEATHERWEIGHT PARTICIPANTS

Armando Sanchez, Antonio Carvalho, Adrian Pang  
Wickey Akio, Daikai Ozaki, Yuji Hoshino  
Tsuyoshi Yamazaki, Jong Man Kim

Two tournament fights have been signed for the April show. They are Adrian Pang vs. Armando Sanchez and Antonio Carvalho vs Yuji Hoshino. The latter should be an excellent fight, with the winner being a favourite to take the whole thing.

¶Big news on the WVR: Sengoku front, with three bouts being recently confirmed. They are Phil Baroni vs. Sanae Kikuta, Makoto Takimoto vs. Evangelista Santos and Kazuo Misaki vs. Siyar Bahadurzada . It would not be all that surprising if Takimoto doesn't end up facing Cyborg seeing as how he's got a fight scheduled with the tough Gegard Mousasi on February 1. Misaki's opponent, the Afghan-native Bahadurzada is the reigning Shooto light-heavyweight champion(183 lbs.), although he has never been tested by a top fighter. Misaki will do just that. The rumour mill is running rampant saying that the Hi-dehiko Yoshida-Roger Gracie bout is nearly official. Other announced participants Fabricio Monteiro and Ryo Kawamura

¶The previously announced tournament for Ryo Chonan's vacated DEEP middleweight title, scheduled for the February 22nd card has been finalized. The eight man line-up looks like this:

RYO, Sojiro Orui, Ryuta Sakurai, Yuichi Nakanishi  
Riki Fukuda, Daijiro Matsui, Eiji Ishikawa  
Yuya Shirai.

Already scheduled for this card are Hisae Watanabe vs. Yasuko Tamada and Barbaro44 vs. Koichiro Matsumoto.

¶DEEP has also announced the creation of a flyweight(45kg) women's title, which will be decided through a 4-person tourney. The competitors are Satoko Shinashi, SACHI, Fukuko Hamada and Kayoko Nagashima. This looks like Shinashi's tournament.

¶As was expected by many, Yoshiyuki Yoshida has signed a deal to fight in the UFC. The deal is for four fights, and it is expected that his first bout will be in the Spring. Hopefully the UFC also signs Brit Dan Hardy who lost a controversial DQ to Yoshida in December.

¶American Top Team management have confirmed that JZ will fight Shinya Aoki at a show in March, presumably run under the HERO\*S banner, although what the show will actually be called is currently unknown

## Calendar

1/30 Pancrase Shining  
2/11 Cage Force  
2/22 DEEP 34  
3/5 Sengoku  
3/16 Professional Shooto



# Tom Gentleman Rankings For January 27th 2008

Heavyweight	Light Heavyweight	Middleweight
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. FEDOR EMILIANENKO</li> <li>2. RANDY COUTURE</li> <li>3. TIM SYLVIA</li> <li>4. ANTONIO RODRIGO NOGUEIRA</li> <li>5. ANDRE ARLOVSKI</li> <li>6. FABRICIO WERDUM</li> <li>7. GABRIEL NAPAO</li> <li>8. CHEIK KONGO</li> <li>9. MIRKO CROCOP</li> <li>10. ALEKSANDER EMILIANENKO</li> <li>11. BEN ROTHWELL</li> <li>12. SERGEY KHARITONOV</li> <li>13. BRANDON VERA</li> <li>14. PEDRO RIZZO</li> <li>15. JEFF MONSON</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. QUINTON JACKSON</li> <li>2. RASHAD EVANS</li> <li>3. KEITH JARDINE</li> <li>4. CHUCK LIDDELL</li> <li>5. TITO ORTIZ</li> <li>6. FORREST GRIFFIN</li> <li>7. LYOTO</li> <li>8. DAN HENDERSON</li> <li>9. SHOGUN RUA</li> <li>10. WANDERLEI SILVA</li> <li>11. THIAGO SILVA</li> <li>12. HOUSTON ALEXANDER</li> <li>13. WILSON GOUVEIA</li> <li>14. VLADIMIR MATYUSHENKO</li> <li>15. JASON LAMBERT</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ANDERSON SILVA</li> <li>2. RICH FRANKLIN</li> <li>3. PAULO FILHO</li> <li>4. ROBBIE LAWLER</li> <li>5. YUSHIN OKAMI</li> <li>6. FRANK TRIGG</li> <li>7. MAYHEM MILLER</li> <li>8. NATE MARQUARDT</li> <li>9. KAZUO MISAKI</li> <li>10. YOSHIHIRO AKIYAMA</li> <li>11. DENIS KANG</li> <li>12. JORGE SANTIAGO</li> <li>13. MATT LINDLAND</li> <li>14. JEREMY HORN</li> <li>15. TREVOR PRANGLEY</li> </ol>
Welterweight	Lightweight	Featherweight
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. GEORGE ST. PIERRE</li> <li>2. MATT HUGHES</li> <li>3. JON FITCH</li> <li>4. JOSH KOSCHECK</li> <li>5. MATT SERRA</li> <li>6. DIEGO SANCHEZ</li> <li>7. KARO PARYSIAN</li> <li>8. JAKE SHIELDS</li> <li>9. THIAGO ALVES</li> <li>10. CARLOS CONDIT</li> <li>11. MARCUS DAVIS</li> <li>12. BROCK LARSON</li> <li>13. NICK THOMPSON</li> <li>14. JOSH BURKMAN</li> <li>15. DREW FICKETT</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. JZ CAVALCANTI</li> <li>2. VITOR SHAOLIN</li> <li>3. MITSUHIRO ISHIDA</li> <li>4. GILBERT MELENDEZ</li> <li>5. SEAN SHERK</li> <li>6. TATSUYA KAWAJIRI</li> <li>7. TAKASHI NAKAKURA</li> <li>8. KENNY FLORIAN</li> <li>9. FRANK EDGAR</li> <li>10. ROGER HUERTA</li> <li>11. BJ PENN</li> <li>12. TAKANORI GOMI</li> <li>13. HAYATO SAKURAI</li> <li>14. YUSUKE ENDO</li> <li>15. LUCIANO AZEVEDO</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. AKITOSHI TAMURA</li> <li>2. LION TAKESHI</li> <li>3. HIROYUKI TAKAYA</li> <li>4. ANTONIO CARVALHO</li> <li>5. URIJAH FABER</li> <li>6. HATSU HIOKI</li> <li>7. JEFF CURRAN</li> <li>8. FREDSON PAIXAO</li> <li>9. MASAKAZU IMANARI</li> <li>10. WAGGNEY FABIANO</li> <li>11. RANI YAHYA</li> <li>12. MIKE BROWN</li> <li>13. MARK HOMINICK</li> <li>14. BAO QUACHE</li> <li>15. JONG MAN KIM</li> </ol>