

## Real MMA's inaugural event was a huge success!

By Thomas “*Psychic Tom*” Padgett

Las Vegas, Nevada. On Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, the sold-out crowd at the Silverton Casino's Veil Pavilion was treated to an action-packed night of pure, raw and intense amateur MMA and Muay Thai kickboxing competition.

The card was the initial promotion of RealMMA ([www.realmixedmartialarts.com](http://www.realmixedmartialarts.com)), and featured 7 MMA bouts and 4 Muay Thai match-ups. Each and every fighter gave it everything they had, and nothing, absolutely nothing was left in the ring.

After a stirring rendition of the national anthem by the talented Micah Honzay, the event was on.

The first bout was in the lightweight division and featured Dominique “Dom Dom the Don” Edwards taking on Kamen “The Humble Champion” Kreilick. The feel-out portion of this fight lasted about 3 seconds, then Dominique launched a withering barrage of punches and kicks. The fury of his attack was reminiscent of a man defending his family against an intrusion from Freddy Kruger.

However, Kamen stayed calm, covered up and survived an assault that would have stopped many opponents. Edwards kept coming, and Kreilick fired back, resulting in several furious exchanges. Later in the round, blood began flowing from Kreilick's nose, but the referee and ringside physician allowed things to continue – much to the delight of the crowd.

Round 2 began with a similar pace, and take-downs were added to the mix...brutal, hard-core take-downs. While on the ground, Edwards attempted a choke, but Kreilick reversed position, gained the mount and began a fast and furious ground and pound, almost looking like a hungry, impatient 3 year old pounding his fists on the dinner table. To his credit, Dominique withstood the fearsome onslaught, and the round ended with the crowd on its feet.

In the third and final round, both gladiators were justifiably worse for the wear. But their fighting hearts propelled them forward. The two exchanged take-downs, and toward the end of the round Kamen landed a hard left hand that appeared to stun Edwards. But Dominique showed tremendous heart by refusing to go down, and fought back until the final bell.

Both of these valiant warriors gave their all, *and what a great way to begin the night!* Kreilick was awarded a hard-fought decision victory. But in reality, both these gladiators emerged victorious. Their crowd-pleasing styles guarantee that they are both two young men on their way to the top. And the audience was more enthused than has been seen at many professional fights.

In the second fight, the crowd was treated to a Muay Thai welterweight bout featuring Garrett Jeppesen vs Anthony Arroyo. Round one saw Jeppesen coming forward in traditional Muay Thai style, landing powerful shots that backed Arroyo up. Garrett's powerful right roundhouse kick found a home in Arroyo's ribcage. But Anthony didn't come to lose, and fought back tenaciously.

In round 2, Jeppesen picked up where he left off, landing several right leg kicks that were felt several rows back from ringside. But once again, Arroyo hung on and battled back.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final round, it was more of same. Jeppesen appeared to be edging ahead. But Arroyo didn't know the meaning of the word "quit" and continued to give his all until the final bell. Jeppesen was awarded a unanimous decision victory.

In a pre-fight interview, Garrett was asked about his mental approach to fighting, and responded with "No emotion", and that was the way he took care of business. With his dedication to training and his professional attitude, Jeppesen has all the tools.

The third fight of the night featured the popular local favorite Kaine Marzola squaring off against Edward Dail Jr. in a lightweight battle. An Iraq war veteran and former marine, Kaine entered the ring to a loud ovation from his large and growing local fan base. To his credit, Dail, who stepped on short notice, seemed to take it all in stride, and the fight was on.

Marzola immediately shot in for a take-down, and Dail defended by attempting a guillotine choke, which Marzola powered out of with a vicious body slam that literally shook the ring. Kaine maintained side control while launching several brutal shots. But Dail was able to use crab-like movement on the ground to survive the round.

Round 2 saw Marzola once again on the attack, brilliantly mixing his shots between punches and kicks. Dail was looking for counters, but had no answer for Kaine's powerful take-downs. On the ground, Marzola varied his attack with numerous submission attempts and a vicious ground and pound. Toward the end of the round, Marzola secured an arm-bar, which appeared deep and locked. But the round ended before he could force the tap-out.

In round 3, Marzola immediately shot in, Dail again attempted a guillotine choke, and once again Kaine power-slammed his way out...deja vu all over again. Kaine began a devastating ground and pound, and finally the referee had seen enough, stopping the fight at 1:45 of the third round.

Dail proved his courage, and did the best he could. But Marzola's strength and technique was too much to overcome. A member of Team Vandy, Kaine trains under UFC and Pride legend Wanderlei "The axe murderer" Silva, and has all the trappings of a fighter on the way up. Keep him on your radar screen.

The evening's fourth fight was in the welterweight division and featured welterweights Javier Correa going against Jordan Joseph. Correa wasted no time taking Joseph down and attempting a guillotine choke. But he was unable to get position and finish it off. In the ensuing scramble, Joseph took Javier's back, secured leg control (locked "the hooks" in) and applied a rear-naked choke, forcing the tap-out at 1:51 of round one. Jordan has a low-key personality outside of the ring, and demonstrated that same mental poise against an aggressive, determined opponent.

There's no doubt that the ring announcer plays a vital role in the success of any fight promotion. It is also a fact that this role is often overlooked and under-appreciated. However, that was *definitely not* the case tonight. With her wide range of vocal intonation and a unique blend of quick wit, in-depth knowledge of the fighters and her vibrant personality, ring announcer Lisa "The Black Widow" King kept the excitement level skyrocketing at a blistering pace.

A former fighter herself, Lisa combined her knowledge of the sport with her incredible flair for showmanship that kept the crowd totally pumped and involved.

Lisa's acting skills, stunning beauty, and natural charm guarantee that she will be in high demand for future events. Check her out at: [www.theblackwidow.us](http://www.theblackwidow.us)

Throughout the evening, the crowd was entertained by the music of world-renowned DJ Ryan “Baby Chino” Dolan. In addition to Real MMA, Baby Chino has DJ'ed for the MMA organization King of the Cage, appeared on the *Steve Harvey* and *Arsenio Hall* shows, and has a residency at the *Beacher's Madhouse Room* at the *MGM Grand Hotel & Casino Grand Ballroom* in Las Vegas...all at the tender age of 11!

Baby Chino provided the walk-out music for each fighter, as well as delivering an improv set during intermission. With his talented ear for music and his experience, Baby Chino is definitely a name to remember. Check him out at: <https://www.facebook.com/djbabychino>.

The evening's fifth fight was a Muay Thai welterweight battle between Jacob Gomez and Christian “El Cajero” Cardona. The fight began with several controlled but powerful exchanges. Cardona landed an accidental low kick, but Gomez recovered, and the action continued. Suddenly, Cardona landed a perfectly-timed roundhouse kick to Jacob's head. Gomez showed tremendous heart by getting up at the count of 9, but the doctor ruled him unable to continue. The contest was stopped at 1:26 of the first round.

Before the fight, Christian stated that he had “one mission – finish the fight”, and that's what he did. Cardona's versatility and dynamic kicking skills make him a force to be reckoned with.

The sixth fight of the night was in the flyweight division, and featured Ruben “Mr. Smooth” Castillo getting it on with Tony Diaz. Upon entering the ring, the electricity emanating from both fighters could almost be felt at ringside...and proved to be a portent of things to come.

Round 1 started off as a free-swinging, good old-fashioned pier 6 brawl, a true slug-fest. The fight consisted of both fighters throwing caution to the wind, teeing-off and landing bombs, scoring brutal, potential fight-ending take-downs, reversals and chins of concrete shown by both warriors.

By round 2, it appeared that Castillo's height and reach advantage was working to his favor. But Diaz never relented, and continued his non-stop, free-swinging attack. And it paid off at the end of the round, when he landed a monster “right hand from hell” square on Castillo's chin, dropping Ruben like he had been hit with a sledge-hammer.

That mind-jarring punch would have stopped the average fighter. But the courageous Castillo was far from average, and as the round ended he made it back to his corner...then showed his determination to win by coming out for the third round.

Round 3 was more of the same give and take, with both fighter's continuing their non-stop attacks. In the final scramble on the ground, Tony got the mount, and combined with the earlier knockdown, it was enough in the eyes of the judges to win a unanimous decision.

The astonishing pace of this fight, along with its ebb and flow made it a candidate for Fight of the Night (FOTN) honors.

Fight 7 seen popular local veteran Scott “Spartacus” Kelsey throw down with California-based Raul Hernandez in a catch-weight fight at 150 pounds. Hernandez is trained by well-known UFC veteran Joe

Stevenson, and that training showed. Hernandez immediately shot in and went for a take-down. The experienced Kelsey remained calm, stuffed the take-down attempt and went for a guillotine choke, which he tried to finish on the ground.

But Hernandez defended well and slapped on his own choke. Scott almost escaped, but couldn't quite pull it off, in spite of Herculean efforts. Shortly thereafter, the referee stopped the fight at 48 seconds of round one, awarding Hernandez a submission victory. Scott didn't tap, but his right arm went limp, and the referee did a great job insuring fighter safety.

Kelsey stated after the fight that he thought he went unconscious for a brief second or two. "I don't tap to chokes" he added, mentioning that he had went unconscious due to chokes on two other occasions in prior fights. He further stated that "It's not my style to quit in fights". Hopefully, we will see both of these warriors return to action soon.

The eight fight of the night was in the flyweight division, and pitted Arthur "The Spider Monkey" Nicholas vs Adrian Gutierrez. The first round was a closely-contested technical striking battle.

In round 2, Gutierrez landed several vicious uppercuts, and eventually got the fight to the floor. Nichols showed great jiu-jitsu by staying calm and thwarting Gutierrez's submission attempts by scrambling, and making great use of his legs. However, Adrian was relentless, and eventually took Arthur's back, stretched him out and secured the tap-out at 1:45 of round 2.

At the intermission break, the crowd was captivated by a demonstration of Muay Thai by the Nak Muay Thai Academy. Both men and women practitioners from the school demonstrated the awesome, dance-like deadliness of one of the world's most brutal and effective fighting arts: Muay Thai style kickboxing. The demonstrators left no doubt about their years of dedication, determination and sacrifice that they have devoted to the art they love.

In addition to performing their official duties, the gorgeous ring card girls had the pleasure of tossing Real MMA T-shirts to the eager throng of fans, who seemed to enjoy each second...even if they didn't score a shirt.

The crowd was further excited by the introduction of NBA star Metta World Peace, who was welcomed with a thunderous ovation. World Peace has had an amazing NBA career, and he is eagerly looking toward the upcoming basketball season of 2014-15 with anticipation of returning to the court, and doing what he does best. For his latest happenings, check him out at: <https://twitter.com/MettaWorldPeace>

As if that weren't enough, rap star Lloyd was introduced, and sent the crowd into a frenzy as he handed out a trophy to the winner. Stay tuned for Lloyd's latest comings and goings at: [https://twitter.com/Lloyd\\_YG](https://twitter.com/Lloyd_YG)

The ninth bout was in the welterweight division, and featured Team Ruthless' Jose Garcia going up against the power-punching Kevin "Baby" Smith. Round one began with an immediate clinch. When the fighters were separated, Garcia threw a kick that Smith caught, and the fight went to the floor. Smith made a serious arm-bar attempt, but Jose showed good submission defense as the round ended.

In round 2, Smith exploded a devastating right-hand bomb that dropped Garcia. Smith then quickly took Jose's back, but couldn't sink in the rear-naked choke. Garcia scrambled and reversed the position.

Both were stood up by the referee as the round ended.

In the third and final round, Smith countered a kick by Garcia with a powerful right hand which knocked Jose down. Smith was unable to finish the fight, but did enough to earn a unanimous decision. Both fighters showed great technique, tons of heart, and both bear watching in the future.

The 10<sup>th</sup> bout on the card was a Muay Thai rumble in the woman's Super-Flyweight division. The combatants were Aubree "The Silent Assassin" Thompson squaring off against Toronto, Canada's Jennifer "JC Jenified" Caroline Chareunvong. Jennifer began like she was shot out of a cannon, knocking down Thompson twice with precise, powerful front leg kicks. Even though neither kick was ruled a knockdown, they were more than enough to carry the round for Chareunvong. Jennifer also showed great boxing skills with clean, crisp punch combinations and great lateral movement.

In round 2, however, the tide began to sway in Aubree's favor. Like the neighborhood dog that stubbornly won't stop chasing your car, Thompson relentlessly moved forward, scoring two knockdowns with her powerful right hand.

In round 3, Thompson continued to advance, even landing a spinning back fist. In spite of her slow start, Thompson was awarded a unanimous decision. Both women fought hard, showcased their fighting hearts...and both have bright futures.

The 11<sup>th</sup> and final fight on the card was a heavyweight Muay Thai showdown between Charles "Chucky" Williams and Jose "The Aztec Warrior" Camacho. Williams stated before the fight that his style was to "push the pace", and in spite of weighing-in at 307 pounds, he did just that. Williams was surprisingly agile, and moved forward, mixing up his shots. Jose countered with some savage leg kicks that had even a few fans at ringside wincing, which made the round close.

Toward the end of the round, Williams checked a kick from Camacho, and Jose went limping back to his corner in obvious agony.

But Camacho proved his fighting spirit was gigantic by coming out for the second round. The two exchanged punches, kicks and knees, and during one of the exchanges, "Chucky" went down from what was ruled a low kick, and the referee deducted a point from Camacho. Williams was able to continue, and even connected with a spinning back fist, doing enough to win the round. But Jose was undeterred, and continued to fight back.

Going into the final round, Camacho was hurt and behind on points. But like a Timex watch, he took a licking and kept on ticking. He definitely needed a comeback.

And comeback he did! Jose brought the crowd to its feet with a primal roar by launching an all-out, implacable assault. At one point, Camacho landed a withering right hand to the chin of "Chucky". Williams seemed staggered, and moved backwards on somewhat shaky legs. But "Chucky" proved his mettle and incredible will to win by digging deep and somehow hanging on, sending the crowd into a screaming frenzy.

With seconds left in the fight, the two fell into a clinch, then tumbled to the floor. The round ended, but Williams stayed down, grimacing in obvious pain and holding his shoulder. He eventually stood up, to the applause of the crowd. The judges decision went to Williams by scores of 29-28, 28-27 and 28-27.

Williams was diagnosed with a dislocated shoulder, and was seen later in the evening walking around with his arm in a sling. He also stated that he his shoulder injury occurred during the third round, when he threw an overhand right. Let's hope that Williams' shoulder and Camacho's ankle heal quickly, and we can see both of them back in action soon...maybe even in a rematch!

After the ring cleared, Brent Jones, the promoter of Real MMA gave a brief talk, and expressed his appreciation for all of the fighter's efforts. Brent is also running for Nevada Assembly 35, and he is **Nevada's Real Choice**. To learn more, check out [www.VoteBrentJones.com](http://www.VoteBrentJones.com)

Fight of the night honors went to Kamen Krielić and Dominique Edwards for the war they waged.

Thanks goes out to the folks at *Real Water* who worked so hard behind the scenes to make this event the huge success it was: Anthony, Doug, Amy, Melissa, Blaine and Bailey. Also, kudos to Rudy "Ruthless" Morales, who did an outstanding job as matchmaker. Rudy fought as an amateur for Real MMA, and has launched a successful pro career, competing in BAMMA, Bellator, and currently in the World Series of Fighting (WOSF). Rudy definitely has the potential to become a future world champ, and his fights should be added to your "must see" category.

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To learn more about Real Water, go to: <https://drinkrealwater.com>

Look for more exciting MMA and Muay Thai fight cards from Real MMA in the future. Real MMA is totally committed to a “fighter first” mentality, and is equally committed to bringing the same type of intense, crowd-pleasing cards as this one. Stay tuned!