

The Northern Touch:
News and Notes from Canadian MMA

By Kelsey Mowatt

Nick Ring Continues March to PRIDE Debut

PRIDE U.S. auditions finalist Nick Ring managed to pull out yet another crucial victory Saturday night by defeating Eastsidaz fighter Mike Malone by TKO at the ICON Sport card in Honolulu, Hawaii. With PRIDE Fighting Championships now closely monitoring Ring's career, another win puts the Calgary middleweight fighter one step closer to making his debut for the Japanese event and brings his combined amateur and professional MMA record to 6-0.

Ring, by all accounts, looked rather impressive in taking out Malone, moving the fight to the ground and ending it via strikes from full mount at 3:04 of the first round.

"It was a pretty quick fight and Malone did not hurt me," Ring explained. "In the fight we got to the clinch fairly early and I took him down a couple times from the clinch, I got a mount position on him the second time we hit the ground and I finished the fight with punches from the mount." Ring was also quick to give Malone due credit and wished him all the best. "I want to take a moment to give respect to Malone and thank him for taking the fight, I have heard some good things about him and I want to wish him luck for his next competition."

Fighting in Hawaii has been an interesting experience for Ring, whose last fight in July also took place in the same venue. That night at Super Brawl 41, Ring defeated Hawaiian fighter Kimo Wolfel by rear naked choke, much to the chagrin of the Honolulu crowd who, according to Ring, let the Canadian "mainlander" know he was not the evening's fan favorite. Although this past Saturday's fight saw a rather similar reaction from the Honolulu crowd, Ring understands it's all in good fun.

"The crowd definitely has that anti-mainlander edge," Ring said, "but I think they realize the show aspect of the fights because even though they boo you when you're in the ring they aren't really rude to you outside the ring. I think that the Hawaiians are just really into the fights and want to cheer on the hometown fighters. You just have to accept that they are going to hate you and give them the bad guy that they are looking for." Saturday night also saw Jason "Mayhem" Miller defeat popular Hawaiian fighter Falaniko Vitale by rear naked choke at 2:41 of the second round, and according to Ring, Miller, in assuming the "bad guy" role, is quickly becoming one of ICON sports most popular fighters.

"Just look at Mayhem Miller he is a mainlander and a great bad guy, he makes fun of the crowd and just says whatever, he gets the crowd going and they love every minute of it. Mainlander or not I think he is quickly turning into the most popular ICON fighter."

As for Ring now, he awaits further word from PRIDE on who and where his next opponent will be on the road to making his PRIDE debut.

"I don't know what will be next for me just yet but you will be seeing me again soon," Ring said before leaving some parting advice, "Keep getting buffed everybody and I will see you later." ☺

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