

## A Debut Well Worth the Wait

Paulo Filho introduces himself to US fans with a bang

By Michael Ronquillo

MMA fans got their money's worth this Sunday as WEC delivered a solid card for fight fans around the world.

Two title fights highlighted the show in the second live televised PPV delivered by Versus. The stage was set at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas where welterweight champion Carlos Condit made short work of Brock Larson and Paulo Filho introduced himself with an exclamation point to US fans.

The challenger Larson outweighed the defending welterweight champion Condit and had the strength advantage. However, Condit proved that technique was greater than strength by submitting the aggressive striker with a picture-perfect armbar from the guard.

"I was expecting to take this fight to him no matter where it was," Condit declared. "Technique over strength, right there."

The stockier Larson attempted to take control of the fight by taking the fight to the ground and raining bombs on the submission specialist. The hunter would become the hunted, however, as the challenger became a little overzealous; all it took was a split second for Condit to swing his left leg over and push his hips up to lock a tight armbar on the challenger, submitting him in just over 2 minutes of the first round.

In other news, the undefeated Paulo Filho made his presence felt as he finished off Joe Doerksen with some lethal strikes to claim the vacant 185 pound strap. The undefeated foreigner appeared to be out of his element in a cage setting, but he quickly adapted as he teed off on the Canadian native. This was a finish that Filho hadn't planned and he was quite surprised with his opponent.

"He came well prepared; he was well prepared on the ground, he defended my takedown well," said Filho. "I let my hands go and finished the fight."

Doerksen did his homework, as he had his sights on keeping the fight away from the ground. He defended himself well from all of the Brazilian's takedown attempts; when he was taken down, he would immediately get back up. Frustrated, the Pride import finally had enough, changing his gameplan to accommodate Doerksen.

The Brazilian Jiu Jitsu specialist opted to use strikes, as a surprised Doerksen would find himself on the receiving end of a flurry of punches. The UFC veteran got more than he bargained for, however, as he could not weather the storm that was Paulo Filho.

Enough was enough as Doerksen was saved by referee John McCarthy who stopped the fight from a vicious TKO.

Nothing beats a better debut than to not only win your match but to win the vacated WEC middleweight championship as well!

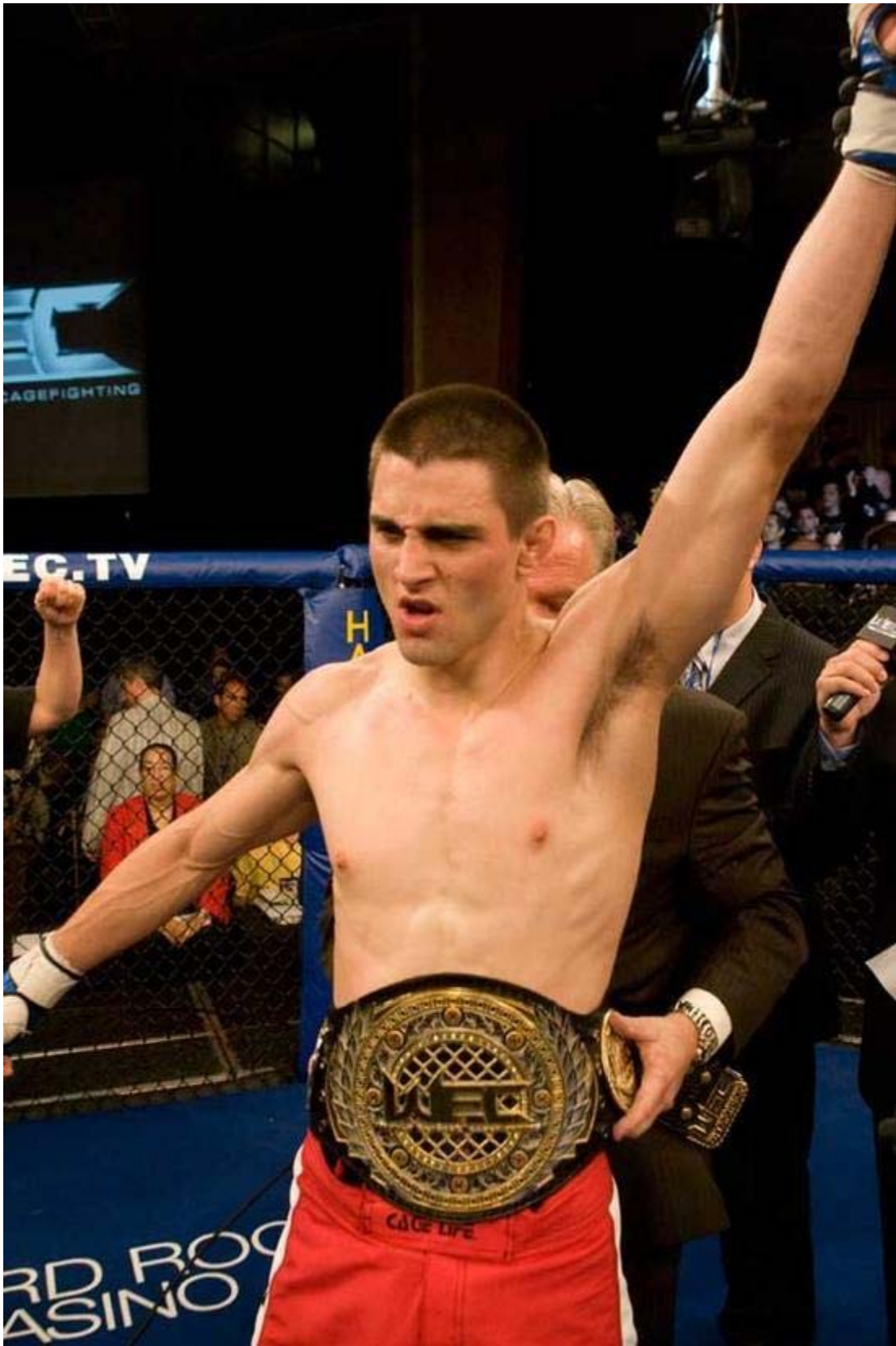
Here are the quick results of the card:

- Blas Avena def. Tiki Ghosn via Submission (rear naked choke) at 1:01 of Round 1.
- Steve Cantwell def. Justin McElfresh via TKO (strikes) at 0:47 of Round 1.
- Eric Schambari def. Logan Clark via Unanimous Decision after 3 Rounds.
- Antonio Banuelos def. Justin Robbins via Unanimous Decision after 3 Rounds.
- Hiromitsu Miura def. [Fernando Gonzalez](#) via Submission (strikes) at 3:35 of Round 2.
- Jamie Varner def. Sherron Leggett via TKO (strikes) at 4:08 of Round 1.
- Jeff Curran def. Stephen Ledbetter via Unanimous Decision after 3 Rounds.
- Paulo Filho def. Joe Doerksen via TKO (strikes) at 4:07 of Round 1 to become the new WEC MW champion.
- Carlos Condit def. Brock Larson via Submission (armbar) at 2:21 of Round 1 to retain the WEC WW championship.

WEC returns to the Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas on September 5. Check back here at Mixed Martial Arts Monthly for more information as it develops!



Picture for front page: Paulo Filho vs. Joe Doerksen



Carlos Condit retains his title in a successful 3 minute title defense.