

Calzaghe, St. Pierre Victorious On Saturday Night

Written by {ga=fightdr}

Friday, April 18 2008 7:00 PM -

It was business as usual on Saturday night for two of the top fighters in the world. In boxing, Joe Calzaghe stayed undefeated by gutting out a split decision win over the hard to watch Bernard Hopkins. In MMA, Georges St. Pierre avenged his upset loss to Matt Serra by punishing him for two rounds before an adoring crowd of hometown fans in Montreal, Canada. Our resident fight doctor recaps the fights.



Last night in Las Vegas, Bernard Hopkins lost to a white boy. Joe Calzaghe kept his undefeated record intact in a very uneventful snoozer of a title fight.

Hopkins and Calzaghe reminded me why I wasn't really interested in this fight when it was first announced. It is mostly due to the style of Bernard Hopkins. He just doesn't throw many punches and spends 12 rounds backing up and holding.

Bernard Hopkins landed one really solid punch in the first round that generated the only knockdown in the fight. After that he went into hiding only to pretend he got hit low a few times. He did almost nothing to win the fight.

Joe Calzaghe won a split decision and remained unbeaten. With the win he becomes the light heavyweight title holder. He never hurt Hopkins and fought a different style than we're used to seeing from him. The inactivity and defense of Hopkins is the main reason. At age 43, Hopkins does remain hard to hit.

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All 12 rounds were pretty much the same, Calzaghe was chasing Hopkins around the ring and they mixed in a few punches here and there. Referee Joe Cortez was the busiest guy in the ring as he was constantly breaking up the two fighters and issuing warnings.

With the loss I am hoping that Hopkins goes into retirement. I am tired of his act and I really don't see any fights that would make sense for him. He's as dirty as they come and he simply is classless.

Joe Cazaghe on the other hand can pick his next fight. I would love to see him and Kelly Pavlik go at it but that probably won't happen anytime soon. Pavlik's next three fights are already mapped out. The only thing I do know, whoever he fights next, it will be a lot more exciting than what I watched last night.

With all the thrash talking that was done leading up to the fight, I thought we were going to be in for a treat. When I'm wrong, I admit it. Last night's fight was hard on my eyes. The best part of the fight was that it wasn't on pay per view.

Also last night, the UFC held its first ever event in Canada. All the rowdy Canadian fans went home happy as they saw Georges St Pierre get his revenge on Matt Serra.

St. Pierre regained the welterweight title in dominating fashion and proved he is the best fighter in the world today. With apologies to Anderson Silva, GSP really is that good.

Matt Serra never had a chance last night. St. Pierre took him down as soon as the opening bell sounded and went to work. The fight was stopped late in the second round and GSP got a TKO victory. This fight went the way everyone expected the first meeting to go. St. Pierre simply outclassed his lesser opponent.

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Matt Serra is a good fighter, he's just not in the same category as St. Pierre. GSP's game has gotten better and better every time out and there might not be anybody that can beat him. When he's focused, he fights like a man possessed. It showed it last night as he wore out Serra and beat him up pretty good. His wrestling skills are phenomenal and his ground and pound got him the victory.

The undercard, as expected, wasn't really that good.

Rich Franklin got back on the winning track as he also outclassed his opponent. He defeated Travis Lutter by TKO in the second round. That might be the last time we see Lutter in the UFC. Franklin looked in great shape as he always does. He remains a top fighter in the sport, it's just too bad he's in the same division as Anderson Silva.

Another fighter I hope we don't see again is Kalib Starnes. He lost to Nate Quarry in a fight that was painful to watch. Quarry chased him around the cage for three rounds. It ended in a unanimous decision for Nate. One judge scored the fight 30-24 due to Starnes doing absolutely nothing.

Two Ultimate Fighter alum got pretty easy wins. Michael Bisping beat up Charles McCarthy for five minutes en route to a TKO victory when McCarthy couldn't answer the second round bell.

Mac Danzig made his first trip into the octagon after winning last season's reality show. He looked good in his submission victory over Mark Bocek. He finished it off with a rear naked choke in the third round.

Full results:

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Georges St. Pierre def. Matt Serra by TKO at 4:45, R2

Rich Franklin def. Travis Lutter by TKO at 3:01, R2

Nate Quarry def. Kalib Starnes by unanimous decision at 5:00, R3

Michael Bisping def. Charles McCarthy by TKO at 5:00, R1

Mac Danzig def. Mark Bocek by submission (rear naked choke) at 3:48, R3

Jason MacDonald def. Joe Doerksen by TKO (strikes on the ground) at :56, R2

Jason Day def. Alan Belcher by TKO (punches) at 3:58, R1

Demian Maia def. Ed Herman by submission (triangle choke) at 2:27, R2

Rich Clementi def. Sam Stout by split decision (29-27, 29-28, 28-29) R3

Cain Velasquez def. Brad Morris by TKO (punches) at 2:10, R1

Jonathan Goulet def. Kuniyoshi Hironaka by TKO (punches) at 2:07, R1

All in all, an okay fight card highlighted by Georges St. Pierre. He did what he was

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supposed to do and he was very impressive doing it. He is the future of the sport and is very exciting to watch. Even though the rest of the card was a letdown, GSP will always be worth tuning in.