**Metamoris 2 Breakdown**

That was great night of grappling if I’ve ever seen one! It had everything you could ask for, even a grown man running around the ring for twenty minutes! Before we get into the breakdown of each fight let’s talk about the operation of Metamoris as a whole. Overall I was very impressed by the production value of the broadcast, Ed O’Neil and Rener Gracie provided great play by play coverage; I honestly forget how funny Rener is sometimes. The pre-fight interviews of each fighter were great and it was really a smooth rolling process save for some streaming issues. The only negative on the production end would have been from the pause in the broadcast when there was a rare loss in connection; they never lasted more than a few seconds, but in this sport we all know that can be the difference between a win and a loss.

Before we enter the first fight, we had a couple pieces of big news from the intermission of Metamoris 2. First off, Royce Gracie, the “Godfather of MMA” and the man who helped cause the tidal wave that is Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu was given a life time accomplishment award in the sport of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. I loved this; it was great to see “Uncle” Royce get the respect he deserves. In the future I wouldn’t mind seeing Metamoris and the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu community open up a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu hall of fame type scenario.

The next big piece of information that was dropped was the headliner for Metamoris 3! This has been a fight ten years in the making and it is something I am extremely looking forward to! Ladies and gentleman, Royler Gracie vs Eddie Bravo 2! This has been a drama point in the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu community, ever since Eddie practically made his name by defeating Royler by triangle choke there has been talk about a re-match. Much of this has been a will they, wont they scenario, but it is nice to see it finally happening; and it will make a great headliner for Metamoris 3 which was promised to take place this year.

**Torres vs Estima**

The first fight of the night was originally supposed to be Ryan Hall taking on Bill “The Grill” Cooper, but after some drama and one of the fighters being thrown off the card we were left with an equally interesting matchup between JT Torres and Victor Estima. I want to give props to both men for not only fighting their hearts out, but also taking this matchup on short notice.

This fight was basically a leg lock clinic, both men were sitting guard and working the 50/50while attacking with leg locks and toe holds. Both men had each other in danger on multiple occasions in this matchup with Estima having a nice Knee Bar that was in deep at the end, while Torres had a deep Ankle Lock attempt towards the middle of the match.

While Estima was very aggressive from the bottom and attacking with straight Ankle Locks and the works, Torres was in all aspects his equal. It was a very tough fight to call and the judges ( Jean Jacques Machado, Pedro Sauer, and Nelson Monteiro) called the match a draw.

**Dern vs Nicolini**

For the first time in Metamoris history (okay it’s only been one card) women took the mat, and believe me, they aren’t going anywhere! For me the big news in this fight was Mackenzie Dern, this is her first year as a black belt and at the tender age of 20 she is taking on a killer in the name of Michelle Nicolini.

From the opening moments of the match both women came out guns blazing and it was all action for the entire twenty minutes! Both women had their moments with Mackenzie Dern shooting quickly for a triangle choke and Michelle Nicolini attacking with an extremely deep Knee Bar in the closing minutes. Both women were working at a frantic pace, and this match really showed off their technique with both women sweeping and attempting to pass from a sitting position.

Again with another close match we went to the judges for a decision, all the judges scored the second match of the evening as a draw as well. The key take aways from this match are that the women are here to stay!

**Cyborg vs Schaub**

So this is the fight that everyone is going to be talking about. So before we get in to it let me say something, big props to Brendan Schaub for even stepping up against Cyborg; but Cyborg said it best “I want a guy that will enter my guard”. For the entire twenty minute match we saw Brendan Schaub goading Cyborg to stand up and play the takedown game with him. When these rare takedown attempts happened we saw Brendan Schaub sprawl and look for Guillotine Chokes and Anaconda Chokes that weren’t even there.

When Schaub finally did enter the guard of Cyborg (half guard to be precise) the crowd would erupt with cheers sensing the kill was coming. With Cyborg looking to setup his Tornado Guard and attack with Knee Bars and such, Schaub would successfully stuff these attempts before standing up and running away from Cyborg’s half guard. The highlights of this match were few and far between, but Cyborg did almost lock up a leg lock on one occasion before Schaub could run away.

With the fighters exhausting the twenty minute allotment we went to the judges for the third time of the night for a decision. With almost every person in the arena in agreement the judges declared Cyborg the winner by unanimous decision.

**Galvao vs Lovato**

After a disappointing match between Cyborg and Schaub, the audience was given an intermission to cool down and some special announcements to take their mind off the disappointment. Once the ten minute intermission was over we were all treated to a beautiful match between Galvao and Lovato.

This was the first match of the night where the two fighters actually looked for takedowns instead of pulling guard right off the bat. Both men showed some fantastic Judo skills and looked for trips and throws while attacking the opponent with their grips. Eventually one man began to break away, and that man was Galvao. Galvao had multiple flying submission attempts throughout the match and when it hit the ground he swept Lovato about three times in total. Both men battled to near exhaustion with Galvao passing Lovato’s guard and holding side control for a period of time.

At the end of the match both men were exhausted, and it seemed as if Galvao had executed the game plan that Lovato was looking to use. This was a pretty easy choice for the judges, as Galvao was awarded the unanimous decision after an impressive performance.

**Estima vs Vieira**

Following the beautiful match between Galvao and Lovato, Braulio Estima and Rodolfo Vieira took the stage. These men both continued at the pace that Galvao and Lovato had left behind. The big story of this match was guard passing, everyone says the hardest thing to do in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu is to pass the guard, and this match showed us why this is true.

As the match began both men took the center of the mat and Estima looked to pull guard immediately. This position was not left for the majority of the fight, with Vieira looking to break the grips of Estima and pass to side control. Estima should be known as the man with the un-passable guard after this match, using great grips and foot placement to nullify any attack that Vieira looked to use.

Eventually with minutes left in the match Vieira managed to pass and right away secure an Arm Bar that he looked to fully extend. Estima showed an iron will and managed to escape despite having his arm in what looked to be a fully extended position. Estima used this moment to capitalize and attack with a Knee Bar of his own in the closing seconds of the match. Had the time limit been seconds longer we may have saw a different result to the match.

Having expired all twenty minutes, we went to the judges for the fifth time of the night, this time to have a majority decision (two to three) in favor of Rodolfo Vieira. Both men looked great, and put on a grinding performance that really impressed the crowd.

**Aoki vs Gracie**

This was the moment that the crowd had been waiting for, and you could really feel the vibe in the building through the live broadcast. As the two combatants took the stage and the match began the audience was so quite you could hear a pin drop. Kron Gracie entered first with his father Rickson followed by Shinya Aoki.

As the match started, both men sought to feel the other man out for the first minutes of the fight. Kron attempted to startle Aoki with a couple of inside trips, but the Judo black belt Aoki would not have it. Eventually Kron jumped up and aggressively pulled guard. This was much to my surprise thinking that Aoki would look to attack with a flying submission.

After stuffing a pass by Aoki, Kron immediately attacked with a Guillotine Choke from the open guard. Aoki successfully defended and eventually worked his way back to his feet. As the men continued to work towards the edge of the mat, Kron jumped guard and simultaneously secured another Guillotine Choke, with the men so close to the edge, a bystander was forced to use his back as a way to keep the men in bound. Using this to his advantage, Kron flipped Aoki over and locked in the Mounted Guillotine to secure the tap, and the first submission of the evening.

Immediately the crowd erupted and Kron ran over to his father and jumped in to his arms. The Japanese vs Gracie rivalry had continued to his generation and the Gracie family secured another win tonight.

This closed the books on another successful Metamoris fight card, and in my opinion the night was a huge success and I can’t wait for Metamoris 3 headlined by Royler Gracie vs Eddie Bravo! What do my fellow practitioners think of the night? Is anybody excited to see the rematch between Gracie and Bravo? Feel free to leave your comments below and don’t forget to “like” and “share” the article!

* Josh Leduc