

= Wanderlei Silva vs. Quinton Jackson =

Wanderlei " The Axe Murderer " Silva versus Quinton " Rampage " Jackson is a mixed martial arts trilogy that began in the now @-@ defunct Pride Fighting Championships in Japan . All three fights have been contested at the Light Heavyweight limit of 205 pounds ( 93 kg ) and televised live on pay @-@ per @-@ view .

The trilogy features three particularly violent fights in mixed martial arts , with all three contests ending in a knockout or technical knockout . On two occasions , the loser of the fight was rendered unconscious . The second fight in particular has received high acclaim , as it was named the 2004 Fight of the Year by the Wrestling Observer Newsletter awards . The trilogy is also known for the rivalry and bad blood between the two fighters . Indeed , Chris Parry of the Vancouver Sun considers the matches between Wanderlei Silva and Quinton Jackson to be " legendary " for the hatred and violence displayed . MMAWeekly.com considers Silva vs. Jackson to be among the greatest trilogies in the history of mixed martial arts .

The rivalry began in the months leading up to Pride Final Conflict 2003 on November 9 , 2003 , where the first fight took place . Silva was victorious in the first meeting , after landing close to 20 standing knee strikes to Jackson 's face before the contest was halted . Silva once again bested Jackson with a combination of knees in the subsequent rematch at Pride 28 : High Octane , leaving the latter motionless and hanging between the ropes . The third fight took place in the Ultimate Fighting Championship ( UFC ) at UFC 92 : The Ultimate 2008 on December 27 , 2008 . This time , however , it would be Quinton Jackson avenging his two earlier defeats to Silva by knocking him unconscious with a left hook .

= = Background = =

The rivalry between the two fighters reportedly began around the Pride Middleweight ( 205 lb ) Grand Prix . In an attempt to set up a " tune @-@ up " bout for Kazushi Sakuraba , who had just been defeated by Silva , Pride brought in Quinton Jackson , a relative unknown at the time , to face the Japanese fighter . The fight did not go as expected , with the much bigger Jackson overpowering Sakuraba and landing several punches . Sakuraba was eventually victorious via submission , but Jackson established himself as a legitimate contender to Wanderlei Silva 's Pride Middleweight Championship in the process .

Following this success , Jackson began to direct several personal insults at Silva , a gesture that infuriated the champion . Silva was in the midst of what would be a 17 @-@ fight unbeaten streak . He captured the championship from Sakuraba at Pride 17 , and defeated him a total of three times . Jackson continued his negative comments towards the champion , and directed his latest insult at Silva 's training camp at the time , the Chute Boxe Academy .

These insults culminated in an altercation between the two on March 16 , 2003 , at Pride 25 . Following a victory over Kevin Randleman , Jackson was given the microphone and started talking directly to Silva , who was sitting at ringside , saying " I want you boy . It 's gonna be me and you . " Silva immediately jumped to his feet and made his way into the ring . He was now face @-@ to @-@ face with Jackson , who continued by saying , " You have my belt , you 're keeping it warm for me . " Silva responded by yelling " MY BELT ! " and giving Jackson a forceful shove . Jackson , visibly upset , advanced towards Silva as dozens of Pride officials intervened . Jackson stood still as he was surrounded by officials , while Silva had to be constantly restrained from charging at Jackson . Jackson later stated that he was instructed by Pride executives to make these comments . He added that Silva 's shove infuriated him , and he was ready to fight Silva immediately .

Since then , Jackson has further clarified the origins and the nature of the bad blood between the two . According to Jackson , the rivalry exists because he was one of the few fighters in Japan who was not afraid of Silva outside of the ring . Jackson stated that fighters were afraid to eat or be in an elevator with Silva , but he was not one of them . He added that the bad blood is only coming from Silva 's end . Silva , on the other hand , cited Jackson 's apparent insults towards him on the internet to account for the bad blood in an interview prior to the UFC 92 fight .

= = Pride Fighting Championship = =

= = = Pride Final Conflict 2003 = = =

The first meeting between the two took place in the final round of Pride 's Middleweight tournament at Pride Final Conflict 2003 on November 9 , 2003 . The venue for the fight was the sold @-@ out Tokyo Dome in Tokyo , Japan , with a live audience of 53 @,@ 000 . The two fighters each fought in the same night prior to the finals , with Silva defeating Hidehiko Yoshida , and Jackson defeating Chuck Liddell , respectively . On the line was the Pride 2003 Middleweight Grand Prix Championship .

The fight began with Jackson looking to close the distance early . Jackson immediately went for a double @-@ leg takedown , and picked Silva up . Silva then locked his legs , creating a standing closed guard , and applied a guillotine choke . The two stayed in this position until Jackson loosened his own grip , taking the fight to the ground for the first time , with Silva holding onto the chokehold .

After going to the ground , Jackson managed to slip out of the choke . Jackson began to attack with ground and pound , dealing strikes to Silva 's body while Silva answered with the same from the bottom . Jackson began to land punches to Silva 's face , and the latter attempted a Juji @-@ gatame , a variation of an armbar . Silva could not pull off the hold , and Jackson moved into side control shortly after . From here , Jackson threw punches to Silva 's head and followed by landing two knees , again to the head ( which were legal under Pride rules ) .

Jackson spent the next 5 minutes working on body strikes from closed guard . The referee then decided to return the fight to stand up due to inactivity . This decision by the referee is seen as controversial by some commentators , such as Dave Meltzer . Jackson has also voiced his displeasure for the stand @-@ up . Sam Caplan , an MMA journalist , added that the Pride referees were employees of the promotion , and Jackson was victim of several " hasty " stand @-@ ups from the officials . Whether he was referring specifically to the fights against Silva is unknown . Shortly following the stand @-@ up , Silva secured a Muay Thai Clinch and landed approximately 20 knee strikes to Jackson 's face and several soccer kicks to the head before the referee called a stop to the contest . Silva was declared the winner by Technical Knockout at 6 : 28 of the 1st round and the Pride 2003 Middleweight Grand Prix Champion .

= = = Pride 28 : High Octane = = =

The rematch took place on October 31 , 2004 at Pride 28 : High Octane . The venue for the fight was the Saitama Super Arena in Saitama , Japan , with a live audience of 24 @,@ 028 . This time , Silva 's Middleweight Championship was on the line . Jackson became the number one contender after knocking out Ricardo Arona with a slam at Pride Critical Countdown 2004 .

The second fight began with Jackson moving forward and getting into a clinch early . The two exchanged strikes in this position before breaking up . Jackson followed by throwing a brief flurry of punches and landing a knee . About halfway into the first round , Silva threw a flurry of punches and landed several knees from the Muay Thai Clinch before pushing Jackson against the turnbuckle . Jackson scrambled out of the clinch and scored a takedown with a combination of a leg trip and a headlock . Jackson attacked with ground and pound , but to limited damage , while Silva attempted submissions unsuccessfully . The referee then stood the fighters up due to inactivity .

Silva re @-@ opened the action standing with a combination of punches and kicks . Jackson answered with a straight right hand , knocking Silva on to the canvas . Jackson followed Silva down and looked to finish the fight in Silva 's closed guard . Jackson moved into side control shortly after and landed a clean knee strike to Silva 's head followed by several punches , again to the head to end the round .

The second round began with the two fighters exchanging a flurry of strikes . Silva then attempted a takedown with a combination of a body lock and a trip , but Jackson reversed it into a takedown of

his own . The action stayed in Silva 's guard very briefly , until the two scrambled back to their feet .

During the subsequent exchange of strikes , Silva landed a direct right hook on Jackson 's face , stunning Jackson and sending him backpedaling towards the ropes . Silva closed the distance and secured a Muay Thai clinch . From here , Silva landed approximately 5 knee strikes to Jackson 's head , causing him to fall into the ropes , unconscious and with blood pouring out of his face . Silva was declared the winner by Knockout at 3 : 26 of the 2nd round to remain the Pride Middleweight Champion .

Following the second fight , Jackson fought a pair of disappointing performances against the Rua brothers , earning a controversial decision over Murilo and getting brutally TKO 'd by Mauricio . These fights caused the rivalry to " cool down , " because Jackson was no longer promoted as a contender for Silva 's Middleweight Championship . Silva 's unbeaten streak was ended in his next fight , when he lost a split decision to heavyweight kickboxer , Mark Hunt . The streak lasted from August 2000 to December 2004 . The rivalry between Silva and Jackson would be rekindled in the Ultimate Fighting Championship more than 4 years later .

= = Ultimate Fighting Championship = =

Wanderlei Silva signed with the UFC in August 2007 , and had two fights in the organization , a decision loss to Chuck Liddell at UFC 79 , and a 36 second knockout victory over Keith Jardine at UFC 84 . Quinton Jackson joined the organization in December 2006 , became the UFC Light Heavyweight Champion with a technical knockout of Chuck Liddell at UFC 71 , and successfully defended the belt at UFC 75 against Dan Henderson . Jackson then lost the championship to Forrest Griffin in a decision at UFC 86 .

It was announced that the third fight between Wanderlei Silva and Quinton Jackson would take place at UFC 92 . The winner between the two would likely be the next challenger for the UFC 's Light Heavyweight Championship . " Showdown " Joe Ferraro expected the third fight between Silva and Jackson to " steal the show " at UFC 92 , and would " no doubt be one for the ages . " Jason Probst of Sherdog expected the fight to be a " solid fight at worst " and an " epic struggle at best . " Adam Morgan of FiveOuncesofPain.com predicted another " classic battle " between the two . Kevin Iole of Yahoo ! Sports added that it would not be a surprise if the contest turned out to be the fight of the year .

The fight was announced after a series of personal incidents involving the former UFC Light Heavyweight Champion . Among them were Jackson 's split with former trainer and mentor , Juanito Ibarra , relocation to the UK @-@ based training camp , Wolfslair , hit and run arrest , and possible jail time . There were questions surrounding Jackson 's mental health , following an apparent episode of delirium on the day of his arrest on July 15 , 2008 . UFC President Dana White attributed the condition to a combination of Jackson not eating and sleeping for four days , while drinking only water and energy drinks . White added that drugs or alcohol were not factors in the incident . Jackson 's personal problems and mental state became central issues for those who analyzed the fight , including for Randy " The Natural " Couture , a fighter noted for his exceptional ability in fight analysis . After consideration of these events , speculation arose as to whether putting Jackson back into action against Silva would be too soon .

Wanderlei Silva reiterated his dislike for Jackson in pre @-@ fight interviews , and asserted that his sentiments toward Jackson have not changed since their previous fight . In an interview with UFC.com , Silva stated that he was not fighting Jackson for money , but for " pure pleasure . " He again cited Jackson 's apparent insults toward him on the internet to account for the animosity . Jackson on the other hand , insisted that the third fight with Silva was not about avenging his two prior defeats , but was " merely his job . " He also added that the third encounter with Silva was inevitable , especially after Silva signed with the UFC .

Silva and Jackson had another brief altercation , this time at the UFC 92 weigh @-@ ins . After both tipping the scales , they participated in an intense staredown for photography . In the course of the staredown , Wanderlei Silva shoved Quinton Jackson before the UFC officials and security quickly intervened . Jackson could be seen smiling and saying something to Silva immediately preceding

the scuffle . Jackson followed with his trademark howl and a " throat @-@ slashing " gesture , as Silva was escorted away .

= = = UFC 92 : The Ultimate 2008 = = =

The third fight between Silva and Jackson took place on December 27 , 2008 at UFC 92 . The venue for the fight was the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas , Nevada , with a live audience of 14 @, @ 166 .

The fight began with Jackson taking the center of the cage as Silva circled outside . Jackson opened the action with an overhand right , and immediately moved backwards . Both fighters appeared cautious for the opening minutes of the fight , exchanging strikes and quickly moving away . Silva focused on leg kicks , while Jackson focused on working the jab .

At 3 : 21 of the 1st round , after Wanderlei flurried and missed a punch with his right hand , Jackson countered with a left hook on Silva 's jaw , sending the latter on to the canvas and rendering him unconscious . Jackson followed with three punches to Silva 's head on the ground , two of which occurred after referee Yves Lavigne attempted to halt the contest . Wanderlei remained on the canvas for several moments , but appeared to be OK as he left the cage under his own power .

Following the fight at UFC 92 , Jackson drew criticism from Todd Martin of CBS Sports for ignoring referee Yves Lavigne 's attempt to stop the contest . Martin compared Jackson 's actions to Renato Sobral 's continued choke of David Heath following a tap out , which led to Sobral 's dismissal from the UFC . Martin called for punishment against Jackson , but no action was taken against Jackson for this allegedly unsportsmanlike behavior .

= = Aftermath = =

The rivalry between Silva and Jackson has been regarded as " exceptionally violent , " and the fights in the Pride Fighting Championship have been considered to be two of the most brutal matches to ever take place in the organization . Chris Parry of the Vancouver Sun asserted that the two fights in Pride will be remembered as " some of the best fights in this era , " and as " some of the most devastating boxing and kickboxing exchanges seen in years . " The rematch at Pride 28 has been noted as an exciting fight with back @-@ and @-@ forth action , and was also named the 2004 Fight of the Year by the Wrestling Observer Newsletter awards . The first fight at Pride Final Conflict 2003 has also gained fight of the year consideration .

Jackson 's next fight was not against the new UFC Light Heavyweight Champion , Rashad Evans , as the pre @-@ fight reports suggested . UFC President Dana White indicated that the original plan was for Jackson to receive an immediate title shot , but Evans requested time off to recover from injuries he sustained from his fight against Forrest Griffin . Instead , Jackson faced Keith Jardine at UFC 96 , and was victorious by unanimous decision . He was then scheduled to face Rashad Evans at UFC 98 , but it was later revealed on March 11 , 2009 that Jackson needed surgery to repair torn ligaments in his jaw , effectively cancelling the bout against Evans .

In a post fight interview following UFC 92 , Wanderlei Silva stated that he would be making his return to action in the Summer of 2009 , preferably at UFC 100 . He added that would like to fight Jackson for a fourth and even fifth time if possible . Silva 's next fight was a catchweight contest against Rich Franklin at UFC 99 , in Cologne , Germany on June 13 , 2009 . Silva lost by unanimous decision in a competitive fight .

While Silva had an impending fight with Franklin , he was still asked about his future with Jackson . Indeed , in an interview with Fighters Only Magazine , Silva reiterated his desire to fight Jackson for a fourth time , and added that he wants it to be the final fight of his career . He also said that he no longer has problems with Jackson outside of the cage . Silva ended by saying that he spoke with Jackson at UFC 95 in London , England , and the two shook hands .