

AFRICA VS BRAZIL AT EFC 123

A COLLISION OF COMBAT CULTURES

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Johannesburg, South Africa – On May 8, the beating heart of African MMA will roar once more as EFC 123 ignites the World Sports Betting Arena with an explosive international card. Africa’s greatest warriors stand tall, prepared to defend their home turf against an elite battalion of Brazilian fighters. In this global showdown, pride, legacy, and championship gold are all on the line.

In a thunderous return to the Hexagon, former champion Amanda “Mad Dog” Lino steps back into the spotlight, determined to reclaim her throne in the women’s flyweight division. Her last EFC appearance was against none other than Manon Fiorot, who is now fighting for UFC gold — proof of the level Lino competes at. But standing in her way is a wrecking machine: Brazil’s own Mariana Salles, a knockout artist with bad intentions and an eye on EFC domination.

The main event sees the brutal light heavyweight champion JC Lamprecht defend more than just a title — he’s fighting for legacy. Known for his vicious finishes and unrelenting pace, JC’s only professional loss came against his own teammate and current UFC middleweight champion, Dricus du Plessis. Now, JC must survive the fury of Luis Paulo Picanço, a dangerous striker from Pará, Brazil, who’s come to shake up the division.

In the flyweight division, the undefeated sensation Willie “The White Lion” van Rooyen is set to battle for the vacant EFC Flyweight Championship against Brazil’s seasoned veteran Kleberson Sousa. With Edson Machavane relinquishing the belt to take ONE Championship, the door is now open — and the jungle is waiting. The White Lion’s roar will meet the calm, calculated force of Brazilian experience in a fight destined for the history books.

As Africa’s MMA takeover continues, EFC matchmakers have been forced to scour the globe to find athletes capable of testing the continent’s finest. Time and again, fighters from Brazil, Europe, and beyond have arrived to challenge the best — and sometimes beat them. Brazilian names like Ekson, who stunned favorites, and European standouts like Danny Henry and Cyril Asker, who toppled local legends before entering the UFC, serve as reminders: the Hexagon is a proving ground for the world.

Now, a new wave of contenders arrives — and with them, new consequences. Will Africa’s champions stand tall and follow the trail blazed by icons like Soldierboy, Dalcha and du Plessis? Or will Brazil’s warriors once again break through, taking African gold with them?

On May 8, the place of MMA’s future takes on the land of its fighting tradition.

EFC 123 Africa vs Brazil takes place on Thursday 8th May 2025, live from the World Sports Betting Arena at the EFC Performance Institute in JHB, South Africa.

Broadcast information at www.efcworldwide.com