

# CLASH OF THE TITANS

*Final EFC of the year unleashes a battle for glory!*

12 DECEMBER, 2024



*EFC 120 was an action-packed night of mixed martial arts, closing out the year with an unforgettable series of bouts that had fans on the edge of their seats. From title changes to grudge matches and debut victories, this event had it all. Here's a closer look at the key moments of the night:*

The night ended with a thrilling title fight in the welterweight division between Luke Michael and Zaakir Badat. Michael came out aggressive, looking for a takedown early on, but Badat's Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu skills and physical strength were on full display. Despite Michael's efforts, Badat was able to quickly regain control and reverse the position before unleashing a hellacious onslaught of ground and pound. The Champ then locked in a rear-naked choke, forcing Michael to tap out in the first round, securing Badat's victory and remain as the Welterweight Champion. His successful title defence marked his reign as the king of the welterweight division, further solidifying his elite status in EFC.

Though Michael came up short in this fight, he remains a formidable athlete in the middleweight division, holding onto his title in that division, setting-up intriguing future matchups in 2025.

The co-main event was a highly anticipated clash between Igeu "Smiley" Kabesa and Martin "The Punisher" Van Staden for the lightweight title. Both athletes were well aware of each other's strengths and weaknesses, and the fight played out with a sense of calculated strategy and intense action. The bout delivered exactly what fans were hoping for, with both men showcasing their skills and heart. However, it was Martin Van Staden who emerged victorious, staggering the champion with short but powerful shots and dethroning the most decorated EFC champion in history by sinking in a second-round rear-naked choke and claiming the Lightweight Championship. His performance was a testament to his resilience and tactical approach in the fight. Igeu Kabesa needed immediate medical attention post bout and was subsequently transported and admitted to hospital for urgent care. The EFC team is hoping to hear positive news regarding the situation and our thoughts are with him.

The grudge match between Musa Setwape and Shannon Van Tonder was full of bad blood, and as a result it did not disappoint. At the culmination of a heated fight week, Van Tonder proved to be the superior athlete on the night, outclassing Setwape on the feet to claim victory. His win answered the question of who the better athlete on the night was, with Van Tonder securing bragging rights in the rivalry though the record between the two foes now remain one a-piece. The result was a definitive win for Shannon Van Tonder, who cemented his place as a top contender in the division despite agreeing to the trilogy fight to decide who will have the ultimate bragging rights.

The prelims were filled with exciting prospects and raw talent, showcasing some of the best athletes South Africa has to offer.

Jaden Van der Merwe, a newly signed athlete, lived up to the hype by defeating seasoned competitor Christopher Matukane. Van der Merwe displayed his potential with a dominant performance, and the referee stopped the fight due to aTKO, signalling a bright future for Van der Merwe in the organization.

JT Botha made a sensational comeback after a tough streak, and with a deadly right hand, he took out his opponent in just 39 seconds, marking a quick and dominant victory.

Terrence Born, also making his professional debut in the heavyweight division, had a spectacular first outing. He faced Jeremie Tshibala, and the fight was a spectacle from start to finish. Born won his pro debut via a rear-naked choke, earning a Technical Decision after the referee intervened, adding another promising prospect to the EFC roster.

Overall, EFC 120 lived up to its billing as a showcase of South African MMA, with exciting matchups, brutal finishes, and title fights that will be remembered for years to come. The event not only crowned new champions but also featured the rise of fresh talent, making it a thrilling night for MMA fans. With so many storylines in play, there's no doubt that the future of the EFC looks brighter than ever!

### **OFFICIAL EFC 120 RESULTS:**

#### **Main Card**

#### **WELTERWEIGHT TITLE FIGHT**

Zaakir Badat def Luke Michael via Tapout due to rear naked Choke Round 1 (3:55)

#### **LIGHTWEIGHT TITLE FIGHT**

Martin van Staden def Igeu Kabesa via Tapout due to Rear Naked Choke Round 2 (3:24)

#### **BANTAMWEIGHT FIGHT**

Shannon van Tonder def Musa Sethwape via Unanimous Decision after 3 rounds

#### **FEATHERWEIGHT FIGHT**

Ken Sekeletu def Vince Bembe via TKO due to Strikes in Round 1 (3:50)

#### **BANTAMWEIGHT FIGHT**

Sibusiso Sovendle def Ntando Zondi via Split Decision after 3 rounds

#### **Prelim Card**

#### **MIDDLEWEIGHT FIGHT**

JT Botha def Khulekani Hlongwa via TKO due to Strikes in Round 1 (0:39)

#### **BANTAMWEIGHT FIGHT**

Moses Mokhari def Rian Dunn via TKO due to Strikes in Round 2 (1:10)

#### **HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT**

Terrence Born def Jeremie Tshibala via TKO due to Strikes in Round 2 (1:57)

#### **BANTAMWEIGHT FIGHT**

Thimna Mhlauli def David Mambo via TKO due to Strikes in Round 1 (3:19)

#### **MIDDLEWEIGHT FIGHT**

Jaden Van Der Merwe def Christopher Matukane via TKO due to Rear Naked Choke in Round 1 (2:40)

**PERFORMANCE BONUSES:**

Jaden van Der Merwe

Thimna Mhlauli

Moses Mokhari

JT Botha

Shannon Van Tonder

**FIGHT OF THE NIGHT:**

Zondi vs Sovendle

***EFC 121* is presented by World Sports Betting and takes place on Thursday, 6 March 2025, live from the World Sports Betting EFC Arena in JHB, South Africa.**