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Local fighters prepare to headline JAMMA

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For those who may be unfamiliar with mixed martial arts and have mental visions of two people in a cage looking to kill each other, Cody Moore and Anthony Johnson beg to differ.

And they should know since they are two friends both interested in the sport who will be headlining Jackson Area Mixed Martial Arts' first event in Oman Arena on Saturday night.

Cody Moore (6-2), from Jackson, and Anthony Johnson (4-2), from Lexington, are pretty good friends,

But on Saturday night, Moore, also known as "The Tennessee Kid," and Johnson, who has been called by some as "Superman," will put their friendship aside for three rounds to decide who is JAMMA's featherweight champion.

"We started in MMA about the same time toward the end of 2008, and we've seen each other fight a few times," Moore said. "But we had also known each other for a while before that."

Moore fights for Striketeam in Jackson, while Johnson fights for the Bullpit in Lexington.

"Cody's been fighting for a couple of months longer than I have been, but we've been keeping up with each other for a long time," Johnson said.

The two fighters were sharing a few laughs earlier this week while answering questions about their upcoming fight.

They both spoke of how excited they were to be in the headlining bout for the biggest event in the history of JAMMA, which had its first event in Nov. 2008.

"I think it's a good thing for me to know that our fight is going to be the main event on this card," Johnson said. "I plan on going pro at some time, and having experience in an event like this will be good for me."

Moore agreed with Johnson, but he said he plans on treating the fight like any of his previous eight.

"The lights, crowd and smoke are one thing, but once the cage door opens and it's time to fight, it's like any other fight," Moore said.

Doors open at Oman Arena on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. with the first of scheduled 19 fights set to start at 7:30 p.m.

- Brandon Shields,

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Additional Facts

Weigh-in tonight

JAMMA will be hosting a public weigh-in for all the fighters at Buffalo Wild Wings today at 8 p.m.
