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Oman Arena hosts first MMA event

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Jackson Area Mixed Martial Arts' debut in Oman Arena had a final tally of 17 fights on the card, and one of the most competitive bouts of the night came in the first matchup of the evening.

Huntingdon's Kendell Willis took on Bobby Smith, from Corinth, Miss., in a fight that went into the third round before a winner was determined.

Willis finally tapped out to Smith's rear-choke 1:40 into the third round.

The fight saw a lot of grappling, and it looked as if Willis might get a first-round win when he had a guillotine choke on Smith, but Smith was able to stand up with Willis holding on. Smith then slammed Willis into the mat to break the choke.

Smith came close to picking up a win in the second round when he clamped on an arm bar in the round's closing seconds, but Willis was able to keep himself from tapping out before the three-minute round ended.

The two battled for the upper hand in the third round before Smith finally gained the advantage with a choke while in position on top of Willis. Smith then rolled over to get more leverage on the legal choke and force Willis into tapping out for the win.

Other fights included Parsons' Paco De La Hoya picking up a win over Erin Hill when he forced Hill to tap out to a guillotine 2:14 in the first round.

Justin Lowery, from Jackson, defeated Johnny Cooper in 19 seconds with a guillotine.

Anthony McDonald defeated Sean Mabry in 1:35 when the referee stopped the fight after McDonald connected with numerous shots to Mabry's face and head in the early going. It appeared that Mabry lost control and was unable to defend himself, causing the official to end the fight quickly.

Brad Bailey picked up the quickest win of the first round of fights before the first intermission when he went straight for a headlock on Jonathan Erwin and locked in a guillotine front face-lock choke. Erwin tapped quickly.

Jordan Alves picked up a win over a taller Drew Ivey when he locked in a front headlock for a choke submission. Ivey looked to use his advantage of longer legs with numbers attempts at kicking close to Alves' head. Alves put the headlock on and got the win 1:03.

A second fight in the early part of the night went into the third round.

That was Zach Mills' win over Patrick Alger. Both fighters went in with the strategy of using kicks to the body to try to weaken each other, but they resorted to chokeholds once they began grappling on the ground and on the cage.

Mills was able to make Alger tap :56 into the third round with a rear choke.

Results from the rest of the fights were unavailable at The Sun's presstime. Log onto jacksonsun.com or check Monday's edition of The Sun's sports section to see who came out on top in the rest of the fights.

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