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Moore victorious in JAMMA main event

By BRANDON SHIELDS
bjshields@jacksonsun.com

The final few fights of Jackson Area Mixed Martial Arts' event at Oman Arena on Saturday night saw a couple of Jackson fan favorites go home with decision wins while Bobby Taylor and "The Tennessee Kid" Cody Moore took home championship belts.

Moore took on Anthony "Superman" Jones in the final fight of the night, a five-round bout for the JAMMA featherweight championship that went the distance.

The judges' split decision went in favor of Moore for the title.

The bout mostly went in favor of Jones in the early rounds as he had the advantage over Moore with different chokes. On more than one occasion, Moore had Jones in a guillotine choke hold only to have Jones pick Moore up by standing and slam him down to break the hold.

There was one time when Jones picked Moore up, carried him across the JAMMA cage and drove him into the mat right in front of his own corner.

But Moore came back and was aided by a deduction of a point from Jones after one of his managers had a minor altercation with the referee in the second round.

When the five rounds were complete, both fighters lay on the mat exhausted while waiting for the announcement of who won.

When Moore's name was called, he had a large fan following crowd the entrance to the cage to celebrate the win after Moore and Jones hugged more than once in mutual respect.

Taylor picked up the bantamweight championship over David Smallwood in 1:03 in the first round when he got Smallwood on the ground and attacked his head.

In women's boxing, Jackson's Heather Bassett had what some called her biggest challenge of her career so far from Michelle Rowan, of Kentucky. The two boxers went the distance of three rounds, but Bassett picked up a unanimous decision to the pleasure of an overwhelming majority of those in attendance.

Greg Slack, a Jackson police officer, won a Muy Thai fight over Del Merritt by unanimous decision after neither fighter could get a knockout in three rounds of competition.

The most colorful fight of the night came when Damean Melton defeated Jimmy Farlow in 2:13. Melton connected with a punch to Farlow's face a few times early and drew blood quickly.

Melton did not let up on his attack and kept striking Farlow's head and face, picking up a win in the first round.

In other bouts, Justin Pennington defeated Cody Lane 1:10 into the second round. Chris Bolton

defeated Brandon Hardwick when Hardwick tapped out 2:38 into the first round. Tim Crossland picked up a win by judges decision over Manuel De La Cruize after the fight was stopped early in the second round when Cruize was unable to continue after a couple of illegal hits.

Shawn Johnson picked up a tap-out win over John Mullins 1:51 in the first round with a rear-naked choke hold. Jim Kendrick forced Chris Crayton to tap out 1:04 in the third round with a rear choke.

-Brandon Shields, 425-9751
