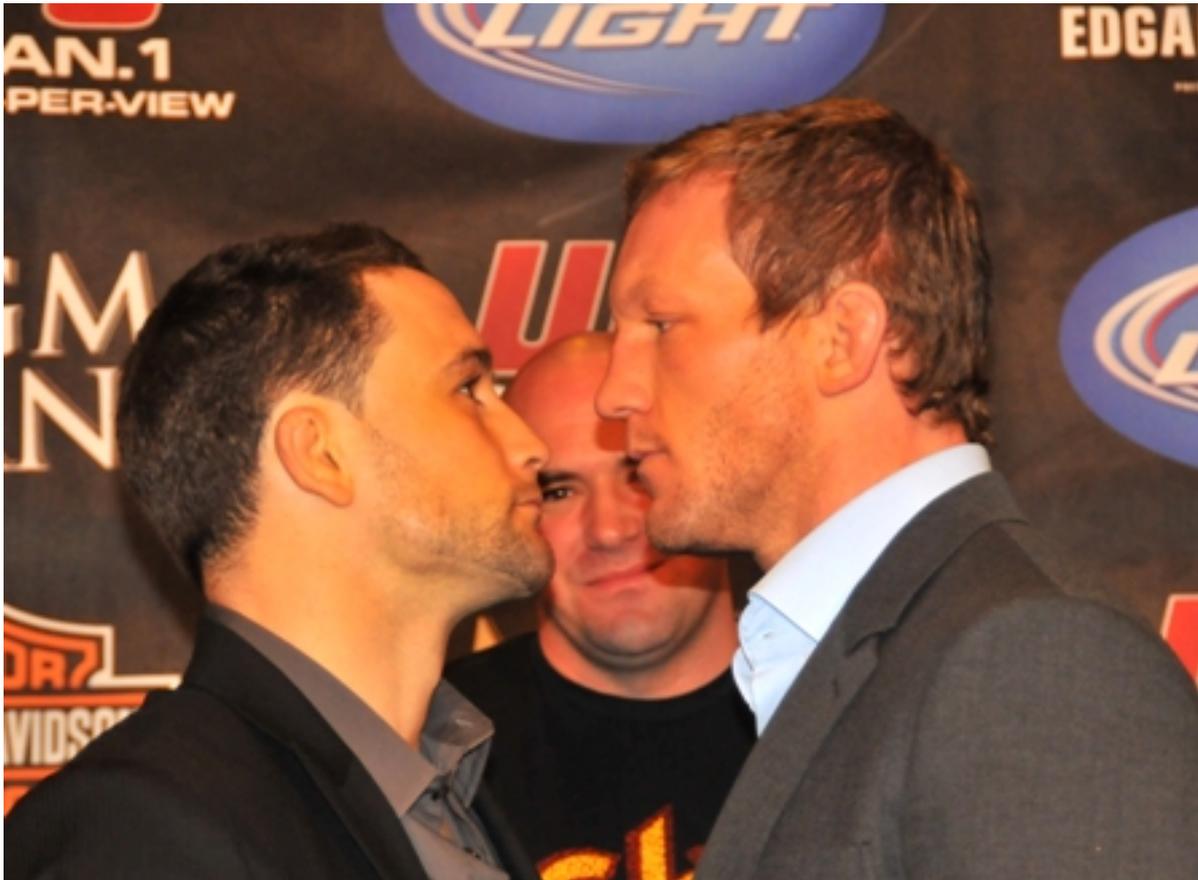


UFC 125 Preview: Frankie Edgar Vs. Gray Maynard

Written by David A. Avila

Friday, 31 December 2010 09:25



Few predicted Frankie Edgar would grab the UFC lightweight championship last year but he did. Most felt he would eventually win it but Edgar not only took the title, he beat one of the best mixed martial artists in history to do it.

Edgar (13-1) has emerged from the milieu of nondescript MMA fighters to become one of the more brilliant performers for Ultimate Fighting Championship. Next comes a rematch with Gray "The Bully" Maynard (11-0) tomorrow at the MGM Grand Casino in Las Vegas. UFC 125 will be televised on pay-per-view.

All it took was not one, but two victories over BJ Penn.

If you're not familiar with Penn, he's one of the most versatile fighters in MMA history and had been nearly unbeatable in the 155-pound lightweight division. That is until he clashed with Edgar. Until he met New Jersey's Edgar, the Hawaiian fighter chopped down lightweight opponents with ease. It was only the heavier welterweights he had problems against. Namely: Canada's Georges St. Pierre.

Edgar showed poise, speed and grit in defeating Penn in back-to-back fights. The world took notice.

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“You know, if I keep winning fights, the respect will come eventually,” said Edgar during a conference call.

Now Edgar will find out if he can avenge the only loss on his record.

“I just think I grew as a fighter. You know, mentally, you know, physically I, you know, possess differently skills, increased - you know, I think I boxed and got better, my Jiu-Jitsu got better and, you know, just have much more experience now,” Edgar says.

Maynard seeks to find out if Edgar has added any more fighting tools to his repertoire. Back in April 2008, the artillery shelled out was not enough to beat the Las Vegas fighter.

“It’s a perfect time. He had the chance and, you know, he took it and the time is now for me and I’m prepared,” said Maynard (11-0). “Any time you’re going up against the top in the world, you evolve and change and so I’m prepared for a new fight, so it will be good. I’m pumped for it.”

Though Maynard’s record indicates he is unbeaten that’s not entirely true. He did suffer a defeat to Nate Diaz during The Ultimate Fighter series and subsequently avenged that loss last January.

The UFC lightweight title is in Maynard’s bull’s eye.

“Looking to take the belt for sure,” said Maynard. “We’ll see on January 1.”

Edgar versus Maynard should be a good one.

Other bouts:

Nate Diaz (13-5) faces Dong Hyun Kim (13-0-1) in another welterweight tussle. Diaz is the only fighter with a win over Maynard. Anyone watching TUF remembers Maynard tapping out from a Diaz guillotine choke. The Modesto fighter has a tough fight against South Korea’s Kim.

Chris Leben (21-6) fights Brian Stann (9-3) in a middleweight fight. Leben is a veteran of MMA and if an opponent is not ready for a rough and tumble fight, well, that fighter is not going to win. Stann dropped down from light heavyweight and we’ll see if the cut in weight benefits the Marine.

Brandon Vera (11-5) meets Thiago Silva (14-2) in a light heavyweight match up. Vera is trying to rally back to the promising fighter he was tabbed several years back. Silva is a very tough customer and eager to crash the elite. A victory by either fighter could mean a ticket to the big time.

Clay Guida (27-8) versus Takanori Gomi (32-6) in a lightweight bout. Guida has become one of the most feared fighters without a title. No one has an easy time with the long-haired fighter. Gomi lost to Kenny Florian but knocked out Tyson Griffin. Can he survive Guida?

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Marcus "The Irish Hand Grenade" Davis (22-8) clashes with Jeremy Stephens (18-6) in another lightweight fight. Davis is a go-for-broke kind of fighter and is looking to get back in the win column after a tumultuous battle with Nate Diaz last August. Stephens needs a win too. In his last bout he lost to Melvin Guillard.

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joey3fingers says:

test theboxingforum.com

ultimoshogun says:

This card is full of what should be entertaining fights except for the main event...Gray Maynard is booooooring...Gomi vs Guida will probly steal the show...the "Fireball Kid" is almost unbeatable when he brings his "A" game and Guida has one the best motors in the sport.

Isaiah says:

Nice picture. It's always good to help out the bums on the street like those 2 in that picture gazing, lovingly into eachother's eyes as well as all the other no talent jokes that make up the UFC. It's also quite amusing that the chromedome joke behind them runs the ENTIRE "sport," pays his fighters peanuts and still doesn't make enough money that would rent out one of the rooms in Bob Arum's, Don King's, Oscar De La Hoya's, Manny Pacquiao's or Floyd Mayweather's mansions. I guess for mixed martial arts "supposedly" spelling the death of boxing, not to many people still want to waste good money on glass jawed bums who kiss the canvass from one punch, (Waah! Insert:"Smaller gloves excuse.) and then spend the rest of the "fight" groping eachother on the mat. Wow, what entertainment! LOL! Hey Dana! What's the prize for this fight? Do these guys get to fight over a sandwich and slurpee? How about you actually pay them something?! By the way, what kind of "man" is named Dana?! Any promoter in boxing worth mentioning have a name like that? Let's see.... Bob, Don, Oscar, Lou.... Nope! What about the boxers themselves? Emmanuel, Vitali, Wladimir, Shane, Miguel, Floyd, Juan..... Sorry Dana! Looks like you ride the SISSY SHIP alone! Get a wig to while you're at it punk! The bald look doesn't work for you! What? Do you think you're Bruce Willis or Michael Jordan or something?! LOL! Dana, you aren't good enough to shine either one of those men's shoes. In fact, go apologize to Mr. Jordan and Willis just for me mentioning your SISSY name in the same sentence with REAL men. SISSY!

Editor Mike says:

C'mon I-Man, I am a chrome dome as well! You want me going the toupee route as well??

Agreed, like to see some mo money trickle down to those guys. But White has a point when he says a lot of guys make fulltime pay as fighters, probably more than in boxing...You agree?

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[QUOTE=Isaiah;521]Nice picture. It's always good to help out the bums on the street like those 2 in that picture gazing, lovingly into eachother's eyes as well as all the other no talent jokes that make up the UFC. It's also quite amusing that the chromedome joke behind them runs the ENTIRE "sport," pays his fighters peanuts and still doesn't make enough money that would rent out one of the rooms in Bob Arum's, Don King's, Oscar De La Hoya's, Manny Pacquiao's or Floyd Mayweather's mansions. I guess for mixed martial arts "supposedly" spelling the death of boxing, not to many people still want to waste good money on glass jawed bums who kiss the canvass from one punch, (Waah! Insert:"Smaller gloves excuse.) and then spend the rest of the "fight" groping eachother on the mat. Wow, what entertainment! LOL! Hey Dana! What's the prize for this fight? Do these guys get to fight over a sandwich and slurpee? How about you actually pay them something?! By the way, what kind of "man" is named Dana?! Any promoter in boxing worth mentioning have a name like that? Let's see.... Bob, Don, Oscar, Lou.... Nope! What about the boxers themselves? Emmanuel, Vitali, Wladimir, Shane, Miguel, Floyd, Juan..... Sorry Dana! Looks like you ride the SISSY SHIP alone! Get a wig to while you're at it punk! The bald look doesn't work for you! What? Do you think you're Bruce Willis or Michael Jordan or something?! LOL! Dana, you aren't good enough to shine either one of those men's shoes. In fact, go apologize to Mr. Jordan and Willis just for me mentioning your SISSY name in the same sentence with REAL men. SISSY![/QUOTE]

Editor Mike says:

Will not be ordering I don't think. Budget austerity move. Will I regret that?

Isaiah says:

@Editor Mike. Heck no, I don't put you in the same boat as SCUMBAG Dana White. Just for leading this site, I put you a lot closer in the other bald men group such as Mr. Michael Jordan and Mr. Bruce Willis category, but don't you worry, I'm not a rear kisser, just telling the truth. Not all bald men are scum, just Dana White. LOL! Boxing will ALWAYS have it's place and not even the UFC can come anywhere near spelling it's death. On the previous subject, I also respect you on your Agnostic position, which means you simply don't know of a higher power compared to an arrogant "atheist" such as Richard Dawkins, who just screams and stutters, arrogance and bull feces. Don't wear a hair piece man. Just tell Dana White he should beg you for a janitor position around the office just for stealing your look and so he can see how a real man represents a REAL contact sport. (Most of the time, minus an occasional UFC article.)