

The Roseland Theater was at full capacity Saturday night. The action in the cage provided the sold out crowd with a very entertaining exhibition of martial arts.

David Beasley
General Associate Editor

The always dependable Full Contact Fighting Federation hosted another thrilling night of combat sport. Saturday night's Rumble at the Roseland number 71 attracted a stampede of fight fans, emerging from all around the Portland Metro area and beyond. The venue was bursting at the seams with exuberant supporters of the Northwest mixed martial arts scene. The roar of the crowd was ever present throughout the night, a constant reminder of the scale and importance of this competition.

The fourteenth fight of the night was the 135 pound Lightweight Championship: Brent Messineo versus current champ Journey Newson.

Both fighters began with fast boxing.

"Journey, Journey!" chanted the crowd. The fighters exchanged strikes and Newson attempted a spinning kick.

"Journey, Journey!" chanted the crowd again as round 2 started. More striking exchange with Newson picking shots and Messineo being aggressive, sneaking fadeaway kicks after punches. Newson attempted another spinning kick after some good punches. More fast strikes by both. Round 3 continued with the crowd chanting louder. Newson kept up the good strikes and evasion, Messineo stayed with the gameplan of good kicks with a few more this round. Newson exploded with a fast takedown right as the horn sounded the end of round 3.

"Let's go red!" the crowd chanted at the opening of round 4. Newson landed a spin kick this

time, to the head. Good exchange and more footwork by Messineo while Newson occupied the center of the cage. Newson attempted another spin kick, then takedown attempt.

Round 5 inspired more chants and continued with standing strikes. Newson came out very aggressive and landed an excellent spin back kick to Messineo's stomach, then during a takedown attempt, picked him up and slammed him gaining top control and launching punches until the horn ended the final round. The crowd erupted with cheers, Newson climbed the cage and pointed to chanters.

"Newson, Newson, Newson!" they chanted. Defending his title for the first time, Newson wins via unanimous decision.

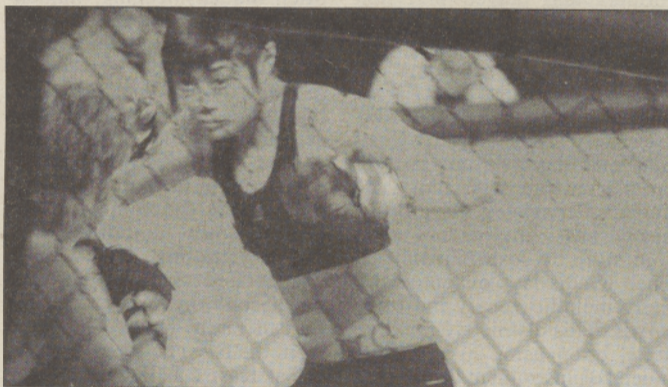
"I gotta get back to my Jiu Jitsu game, the boxing's good obviously," said Newson about the match.

For the fifteenth fight the crowd was treated to a tremendous performance by exceedingly talented fighters in the Women's 125 pound Flyweight Championship. Katie Howard 5'5" of Girls Gym

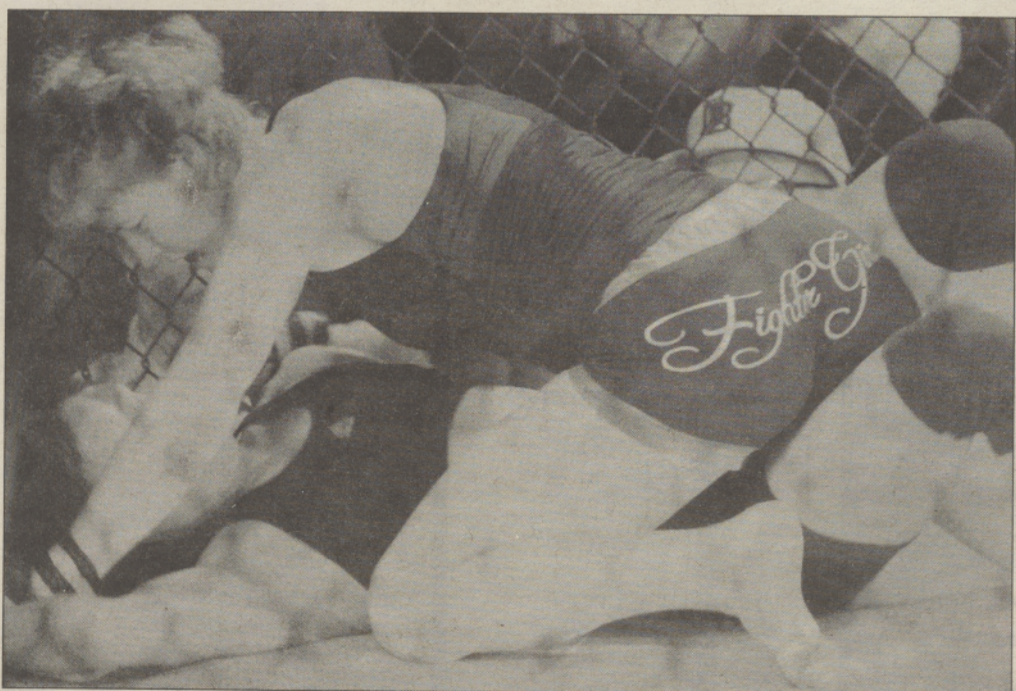
versus current champ Emily Corso of Alive MMA. Round 1 opened with punches to clinch against the cage. Corso set the pace with a single leg takedown, but Howard defended with solid grappling to gain a reversal, then Corso attempted an armbar from bottom and Howard used good top control to defend the armbar.

Fans whistled and hollered from the balcony between rounds as the ring card girls signaled round 2.

Corso immediately grabbed another single leg takedown, Howard defended on the bottom with punches. As Corso postured up punching from top, Howard kicked straight up to the face, catching Corso hard, but Corso passed the guard of Howard to gain top mount position. Rolling around to Howard's back, Corso attempted a choke and punches from back control until the end of round 2. Corso entered round 3 with a huge smile. Howard snapped out a precise trip takedown after a brief exchange, but Corso reversed the position. Howard shot another up-kick at Corso which gave her leverage for a reversal.



Contender Katie Howard performed very competitively against Corso at Rumble at the Roseland 71.



In top position Flyweight champion Emily Corso dominates Katie Howard. Corso won her first title defense by armbar tapout Saturday night retaining her title and impressing the audience in The Roseland Theater.

Roseland crowd witnesses seismic event



Photos by Brittany Horne The Clackamas Print

Lightweight champ Journey Newson picks up Bent Messineo to slam him to the canvas. Newsons earned a unanimous decision victory and kept the championship belt.

Corso's cornerman loudly urged her to underhook Howard's left arm. She gained her feet and attempted a single leg. Howard defended until the end of round 3.

Round 4, Corso fought hard for a double leg takedown and got it. Corso threw punches in half guard. Grappling, Howard used good defense until the end of round 4.

Round 5 Corso shot for a single leg attempt and against the cage pulled it off landing on top. Howard reversed the position. Corso defended from bottom with an armbar and forced a reluctant tapout from Howard. Corso retained her title in one of the most exciting and technical fights of the night.

"I'm very happy about the takedowns. That's what I wanted. She's got some nice up-kicks though. That was seriously the best fight anyone has given me,"

said Corso.

She also commented on her successful takedowns.

"I'm not a wrestler originally, so it's getting really exciting for me. I trained wrestling, boxing, Jiu Jitsu and kickboxing. My game plan was not to keep her standing, to take her to the ground. I started doing wrestling 1 year and a half ago with Jonathan Osborne, a very good wrestler.

Corso praised her opponent.

"I have utmost respect for her, she came at me all 5 rounds, she's smaller than me."

Katie Howard is indeed a talented combatant; her amazing prowess will continue to draw a crowd of martial art connoisseurs whenever she fights. Her inspirational speed and technique solidify her as a top female competitor. Fight fans look forward to her next bout, as well as Corso's next title defense.

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