

Jimmo wants it all

Local fighter pursues light-heavyweight title

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Ryan (The Big Deal) Jimmo gushes confidence and eventually plans to take over the world.

The Edmontonian will go toe-to-toe against Fort McMurray's Dwayne (D-Bomb) Lewis in an all-Alberta showdown for the vacant MFC light-heavyweight title Friday at the River Cree Resort and Casino.

With his most recent win at MFC 27 over Wilson Gouveia, Jimmo enters the five-round main event fight having won 13 straight bouts since he debuted with a loss to Lewis. He thinks he's finally hit his stride.

"When I fought Wilson Gouveia my last fight, I was just, you know, starting to find my right teachers and my right training partners," Jimmo said. "I've had 10 months to trust my training partners and build on what I was trying to do before. So I'm just going to go in there with excellence and (Lewis) will not have the same level of excellence as me."

Jimmo doesn't think his nerves will be a factor when he steps into that ring for his first championship fight, and the Saint John, N.B., native thinks fighting in Edmonton will help.

"To be fighting in a place where I'm living -I've been here for 1-1/2 years -is great. I have a lot of friends and supporters and I'm comfortable with everything that goes on here," Jimmo said.

Lewis is also on a roll of late. He has won 10 of his last 11 fights, and the grizzled veteran leads all competitors with 13 appearances in the MFC ring.

Jimmo knows he will need to avoid Lewis's powerful uppercuts and mean left hooks to come away with the win. Lewis has won eight bouts via knockout.

Although he's highly respected in MFC, Lewis knows the title fight will be tough.

"I'm stoked to be fighting for that beautiful belt and I'm stoked to be fighting Ryan Jimmo for it," Lewis said. "Jimmo is on a tremendous streak and so am I. So Friday night, man, we're just going to bang it out."

MFC president and CEO Mark Pavelich is also excited for Friday's event to get underway and believes the main event will showcase marquee talent.

"They're both ranked in the top 50 in the world . and I believe they're much higher than that," Pavelich said. "For me, it's very difficult for them to fight each other for this title, but I couldn't think of any more two human beings on the face of this planet that I'd rather have fight for this belt."

Eight other fights will take place Friday, including Edmontonians Sheldon Westcott in the welterweight division and Garret Nybakken in the lightweight division.

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