

JACOBS RETAINS TITLE AS NEW CONTENDERS EMERGE AT EFC 135



Johannesburg, South Africa – Thursday, 2 July 2026

On a crisp winter's night in Johannesburg, EFC Bantamweight Champion Faez Jacobs successfully defended his title, overcoming former EFC Flyweight Champion Gift Walker by unanimous decision after five captivating rounds in the main event of EFC 135, presented by World Sports Betting.

Walker repeatedly threatened with takedowns throughout the championship contest, while Jacobs answered with precise striking, damaging elbows and strong finishing moments on the ground to retain his title by scores of 48-47, 48-47 and 48-46.

Earlier in the evening, Khanyo Maqam continued his impressive rise through the lightweight division with a commanding second round stoppage of Congo Brazzaville's Emmanuel Sita. The Fight Camp product overwhelmed the experienced veteran with relentless ground and pound, forcing Sita to verbally submit to strikes before paying tribute to teammate Demarte Pena and declaring his ambition to reach the top of the division.

Another standout performance came from Moses Mokhari, who announced himself as one of the leading contenders at bantamweight with a devastating first round knockout of Bryn Gwavava. After surviving difficult moments in the clinch, Mokhari landed a perfectly timed one two combination that instantly ended the contest.

Ayanda Zwane also produced one of the night's biggest finishes, stopping Nerik Simoes with a spectacular knockout, while Charmaine Venter enjoyed a dream EFC debut, defeating Nepal's Anisha Khadka by first round TKO following an impressive striking display.

One of the night's most memorable contests came in the women's strawweight division, where Nicole van Wyk and Jessica Mouneimne produced a frantic opening round filled with heavy boxing

exchanges, elbows and aggressive clinch fighting. With just two seconds remaining in the round, Van Wyk secured a guillotine choke submission to complete one of the standout performances of the evening.

Earlier on the card, Salahuddin Plaatjies produced one of the night's biggest comebacks, surviving multiple submission attempts before reversing the momentum and submitting Mfanafuthi Ngobese with a rear naked choke in the second round.

Yaseen Adams continued his impressive progression with a second round TKO victory over Guide Moyo, while Eduardo Barros earned a unanimous decision over Mlungisi Mbizane after an entertaining striking battle. Josiah Obasi edged Jaden van der Merwe by split decision following three fiercely contested rounds in a catchweight contest that showcased the determination and toughness of both athletes.

Fight of the Night honours were awarded to Faez Jacobs and Gift Walker for their thrilling five round championship battle.

Performance of the Night bonuses were awarded to Moses Mokhari, Ayanda Zwane, Nicole van Wyk, Josiah Obasi, Jaden van der Merwe and Khanyo Maqam.

Official Results

Middleweight

Elisio Andre def. Trevor Mutsila by Unanimous Decision (30-27, 29-28, 30-26)

Flyweight

Salahuddin Plaatjies def. Mfanafuthi Ngobese by Submission (Rear Naked Choke), Round 2, 4:16

Lightweight

Clelio Diogo def. Nicolaas Vermaak by Submission (Rear Naked Choke), Round 1, 2:49

Bantamweight

Moses Mokhari def. Bryn Gwavava by KO, Round 1, 3:56

Women's Featherweight

Charmaine Venter def. Anisha Khadka by TKO (Strikes), Round 1, 3:27

Featherweight

Ayanda Zwane def. Nerik Simoes by KO, Round 1, 4:00

Featherweight

Yaseen Adams def. Guide Moyo by TKO (Strikes), Round 2, 2:12

Bantamweight

Eduardo Barros def. Mlungisi Mbizane by Unanimous Decision (30-27, 30-27, 30-27)

Women's Strawweight

Nicole van Wyk def. Jessica Mouneimne by Submission (Guillotine Choke), Round 1, 4:58

Catchweight (194 lbs)

Josiah Obasi def. Jaden van der Merwe by Split Decision (29-28, 28-29, 29-28)

Lightweight

Khanyo Maqam def. Emmanuel Sita by TKO (Strikes), Round 2, 4:48

EFC Bantamweight Championship

Faez Jacobs def. Gift Walker by Unanimous Decision (48-47, 48-47, 48-46)

Also announced during the broadcast, Chadrack Yemba will meet Boyd Allen for the interim featherweight championship in the main event of EFC 137, with both athletes coming face to face inside the Hexagon ahead of their highly anticipated title clash.

EFC now turns its attention to EFC 136, where Adrian Sanchez meets Bradley Swanepoel for the interim lightweight championship on Thursday, 6 August, live from the World Sports Betting EFC Arena in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Tickets and broadcast information are available at efcworldwide.com.