

JACOBS AND WALKER REIGNITE RIVALRY AS EFC 135 FIGHT WEEK GETS UNDERWAY



Johannesburg, South Africa – 29 June 2026

EFC 135 fight week officially got underway on Monday as the stars of one of the promotion's most anticipated events took centre stage at the official Media Day ahead of Thursday night's championship event.

Headlining the card, EFC Bantamweight Champion Faez Jacobs and former EFC Flyweight Champion Gift Walker once again shared the stage before their bantamweight title showdown. The contrast between the two South Africans was unmistakable. Jacobs spoke of bringing "violence" and "ruthless aggression" to the Hexagon, insisting every fight is a matter of honour, while Walker remained composed, explaining that his focus is simply on claiming the championship and continuing his pursuit of the UFC.

The pair ended proceedings with an intense staredown, providing one of the defining moments of the afternoon.

Earlier in the event, unbeaten Zimbabwean Bryn Gwavava and South Africa's Moses Mokhari produced the liveliest exchange of the day. Both athletes predicted stoppage victories before squaring off in a tense face off, adding further anticipation to one of the card's most exciting bantamweight contests.

Women's strawweights Jessica Mouneimne and Nicole van Wyk showcased the respect that martial arts is built upon. Mouneimne spoke about the responsibility of representing both her faith

and the sport, while Van Wyk praised her opponent before expressing her excitement to help showcase the continued growth of the women's division.

The international flavour of the card was also on display as Nepal's Anisha Khadka, travelling from Dubai for her EFC debut, spoke proudly about representing her country on Africa's biggest mixed martial arts stage. Her respectful exchange with South Africa's IMMAF World Champion Charmaine Venter set the tone for what promises to be a compelling women's featherweight contest.

Representing Congo Brazzaville, Emmanuel Sita delivered one of the day's most heartfelt moments, speaking of his ambition to become the first athlete from his country to capture EFC gold. Across from him, rising South African lightweight Khanyo Maqam remained calm and measured, insisting his complete focus remains on Thursday night's challenge.

Another athlete attracting attention was South Africa's Jaden van der Merwe, who revealed he has been assisting Dricus du Plessis during preparations for his upcoming UFC title defence while setting his sights on becoming one of the continent's leading light heavyweights.

EFC 135 features athletes representing South Africa, Angola, Congo Brazzaville, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Nepal, highlighting the international depth of the promotion as competitors from across Africa and beyond meet inside the Hexagon.

The official EFC 135 weigh in takes place on Wednesday at 10:00 and will stream live on the EFC YouTube channel, before the action goes live on Thursday, 2 July from the World Sports Betting EFC Arena in Johannesburg.

EFC 135 Fight Card

Bantamweight Championship

Faez Jacobs vs Gift Walker

Lightweight

Emmanuel Sita vs Khanyo Maqam

Catchweight 194 pounds

Jaden van der Merwe vs Josiah Obasi

Women's Strawweight

Jessica Mounemne vs Nicole van Wyk

Bantamweight

Eduardo Barros vs Mlungisi Mbizane

Featherweight

Yaseen Adams vs Guide Moyo

Featherweight

Ayanda Zwane vs Nerik Simoes

Women's Featherweight

Charmaine Venter vs Anisha Khadka

Bantamweight

Moses Mokhari vs Bryn Gwavava

Middleweight

Nicolaas Vermaak vs Clelio Diogo

Flyweight

Mfanafuthi Ngobese vs Salahuddin Plaatjies

Middleweight

Elisio Andre vs Trevor Mutsila

The official EFC 135 weigh in streams live on the EFC YouTube channel at 10:00 on Wednesday, 1 July.

The preliminary card broadcasts live on Discover Sport from 15:00, with the main card broadcasting live from 19:00 on SuperSport, SABC Sport, Discover Sport, DAZN and other international broadcast partners.

Tickets and broadcast information:

www.efcworldwide.com