

THE PUNISHER CONFIRMED TO DEFEND TITLE AGAINST THE SON OF THUNDER AT FINAL CARD OF THE YEAR

EFC 130 Martin Van Staden vs Adrian Sanchez

2 October 2025



The promotional graphic for EFC 130 features two fighters, Martin Van Staden and Adrian Sanchez, against a white background with grey hexagonal patterns. Martin Van Staden, on the left, is wearing a large gold and black championship belt and has tattoos on his arms. Adrian Sanchez, on the right, is wearing black boxing gloves and has a beard. In the center, the text 'EFC 130' is in a black box, followed by 'VAN STADEN vs SANCHEZ' in large black letters, and 'LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP' in a yellow box. At the bottom, a black banner contains the 'WORLD SPORTS BETTING' logo on the left, 'THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER' in the center, and 'WORLD SPORTS BETTING EFC ARENA' on the right.

Johannesburg, South Africa - *EFC Lightweight Champion Martin Van Staden will defend his belt against Adrian Sanchez at EFC 130. A legend of the sport in South Africa, the two-time champion Van Staden has fought 36 professional bouts over sixteen years, and on December 4th he might just be facing his final challenge!*

One of the legends of African mixed-martial arts, EFC Lightweight Champion Martin Van Staden reminded the world of his awesome firepower when he dethroned the formerly imperious incumbent Igeu 'Smiley' Kabesa last year with a second round stoppage. Taking the 155lb belt for a second time, 'The Punisher' is one of the most exciting athletes to have ever fought in the EFC with wrecking balls for fists and a highlight reel that is the stuff of legend during a career in

which he established himself as the most feared striker on the continent. He demonstrated such prowess by putting on a standup clinic against Britain's Gavin Hughes at EFC 68 with a second-round KO and in his subsequent victory made even shorter work of his opponent at EFC 85 with a first-round finish of fellow veteran Pietie Coxen. With other demolitions of promotional standouts such as Leon Mynhardt, Dino Bagattin, Jadyson Costa, Jeremy Smith and even after taking current teammate Dricus du Plessis three rounds at EFC 50, it is evident that Van Staden requires a quality dance partner for what could be his final EFC bout, and that is exactly what he will face in Sanchez.

'Son of Thunder' is the owner of some of the 155lb division's most talked about finishes. Fighters like Bobo, Kanzeko, Simbowe, Katikati and Ngwalangwala have all fallen to his fearsome finishing ability. In fact only one fight out of his last five outings have gone past the first round due to him shutting it down on the ground and on the feet. Continuing to shine under the coaching regimen of grappling standout Cameron Pritchard, the Mother City Matador finally has the title shot he has petitioned for these past few years. But it is against one of the greats.

It was six years ago when Van Staden last went to a decision in the Hexagon having won an astonishing seventeen times by way of knockout. And Sanchez has been destroying opponents here and abroad with his last opponent in Dubai a few months ago being saved by the Doctor. This is not just a fight. It's not just a title. It's history. And the biggest clash in African combat sports this year that every single sports fan simply can't afford to miss.

EFC 130 Van Staden vs Sanchez for the EFC lightweight championship takes place on Thursday 4th of December 2025, live from the World Sports Betting Arena at the EFC Performance Institute in JHB, South Africa.
Broadcast information at www.efcworldwide.com