

MICHAEL MEETS BLADE

Luke Michael and JT Botha collide in pivotal EFC 137
middleweight showdown



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Former two-time EFC middleweight champion Luke Michael returns to the EFC Hexagon at EFC 137 determined to begin his climb back towards championship gold when the Cape Town athlete faces Pretoria's JT "Blade" Botha in one of the most compelling middleweight matchups of the year.

Michael's second reign as champion came to an end earlier this year when he lost the title to Diego Bandu. Now, with another championship run firmly in his sights, victory is essential if the decorated wrestler is to re-establish himself as the division's leading contender.

Renowned for his relentless pressure, long-range takedowns and suffocating top control, Michael has built a reputation as one of Africa's most accomplished middleweights. While his methodical style may not always produce highlight reel moments, it has consistently delivered victories against some of the toughest opposition the promotion has produced.

Standing opposite him is a man enjoying the best form of his professional career.

Pretoria's JT "Blade" Botha arrives on the back of a string of impressive performances that have showcased explosive boxing and growing confidence inside the EFC Hexagon. Training out of Team CIT alongside reigning EFC middleweight champion Diego Bandu and former UFC middleweight

champion Dricus du Plessis, Botha enters the biggest fight of his career believing he has the tools to upset one of the promotion's most decorated champions.

The stylistic battle promises to be fascinating. Michael will look to impose his trademark wrestling and grinding top game, while Botha is expected to rely on his sharp hands, disciplined takedown defence and aggressive striking. Having watched teammate Diego Bandu successfully neutralise Michael's wrestling to capture the championship, Botha will be hoping to follow a similar blueprint.

Fresh off another historic weekend for African mixed martial arts, congratulations to former EFC champion and former UFC middleweight champion Dricus du Plessis on another outstanding performance. His continued success on the global stage remains an inspiration to the next generation of African mixed martial artists and reflects the strength of talent emerging from the continent.

With championship ambitions on the line for both men, Michael and Botha know that victory at EFC 137 could prove decisive in shaping the future of the EFC middleweight division.

EFC 137 takes place on Thursday, 10 September at the World Sports Betting EFC Arena in Johannesburg.

Broadcast and ticket information are available at efcworldwide.com.

About EFC® - The Extreme Fighting Championship®

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