SIMOES ANSWERS THE CALL AS MAGEKHA GETS A NEW CHALLENGE AT EFC 140!



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With just under two weeks remaining until EFC 140, a change to the fight card has created an intriguing new contest between an Angolan and a South African athlete with very different paths through the sport. Former EFC featherweight title challenger Nerik Simoes has stepped forward to face Lucky “Hercules” Magekha in a catchweight bout at 150 pounds on Thursday, 3 December, at the World Sports Betting EFC Arena in Johannesburg.

Originally scheduled to face Bruce Mayasi, Magekha now finds himself preparing for a vastly different challenge after Mayasi was forced to withdraw. In his place comes a seasoned veteran who has competed against some of the organisation's finest athletes, including former EFC Featherweight Champion Igeu Kabesa.

Representing CIT under renowned coach Morne Visser, Simoes is a highly accomplished mixed martial artist whose experience extends well beyond his own competitive career. Also working as a coach and personal trainer, he has spent years developing a sophisticated understanding of the sport, combining technical striking with an extensive grappling arsenal.

His championship encounter with Kabesa remains a significant chapter in his career. Against one of the most formidable featherweights in EFC history, Simoes pushed the champion into the third round, demonstrating the composure and determination required to compete at the highest level.

Inside the Hexagon, Simoes is a difficult puzzle to solve. Sharp elbows and knees make him dangerous at close range, while his ability to control opponents from top position or threaten submissions from his back means there are few places where he cannot attack. Accepting this fight on approximately fourteen days' notice adds another dimension to the contest, but Simoes has never been short of confidence in his ability to compete against elite opposition.

Waiting for him is Lucky “Hercules” Magekha, an athlete whose relentless energy and aggressive fighting style have made him an exciting presence in the EFC featherweight division.

Representing Mamelodi Warriors, Magekha brings a formidable kickboxing background, having earned his black belt in the discipline before establishing himself in professional MMA. His ability to maintain a punishing pace, deliver powerful combinations and force opponents into exhausting exchanges has become a defining feature of his performances.

At EFC 132, Magekha delivered one of the standout moments of the evening, stopping Johannes Rudolph with strikes in the second round to earn Performance of the Night honours. He has also ventured beyond South Africa to compete at UAE Warriors, gaining valuable experience.

But Magekha is far more than an aggressive striker. His strong top control, resilience on the ground and ability to scramble back into attacking positions make him a demanding opponent wherever the contest unfolds. Against Simoes, he will be looking to turn that physical intensity into an advantage over three rounds.

The change of opponent presents a fascinating tactical battle. With the veteran accepting the challenge at short notice and Hercules determined to continue his rise, neither athlete can afford to underestimate the other.

EFC 140 takes place on Thursday, 3 December 2026, at the World Sports Betting EFC Arena in Johannesburg, headlined by the EFC Flyweight Championship showdown between reigning champion Tumelo “Mellow” Manyamala and challenger Brandon Santos.

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