

MANYAMALA VS SANTOS HEADLINES EFC 140 IN FLYWEIGHT TITLE SHOWDOWN

From international competition to a remarkable rise through the professional ranks, two South African careers meet with championship gold on the line



Johannesburg, South Africa - 12 October 2026

Barely eighteen months after making his professional MMA debut, Brandon Santos is preparing for the biggest fight of his life. On Thursday, 3 December, the young South African will challenge reigning EFC Flyweight Champion Tumelo “Mellow” Manyamala in the main event of EFC 140 at the WSB EFC Arena in Johannesburg.

Standing between Santos and a remarkable championship achievement is a fighter who has already experienced the international stage, trained under UFC legend Daniel Cormier and established himself among the leading flyweights in African MMA.

For Manyamala, the journey to the top began long before he entered the EFC Hexagon.

Born in Pretoria and later raised in Knysna, Manyamala was introduced to combat sports by his father. The two would watch old Muhammad Ali fights together before a young Tumelo was introduced to karate. Kickboxing, Muay Thai and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu followed, laying the foundations for his professional MMA career.

Throughout his EFC career, Manyamala has represented Pride Fighting Academy (PFA), where he trains alongside reigning interim EFC Lightweight Champion Adrian Sanchez. The Cape Town-based team has played a central role in his development, guiding his rise through EFC and helping him reach the international stage.

His impressive run of victories inside the EFC Hexagon eventually earned him selection for Season 33 of The Ultimate Fighter, where he competed under UFC legend Daniel Cormier against some of the world's most promising MMA athletes.

Manyamala returned to EFC and, in February this year, defeated Ntando Zondi over five rounds to claim the EFC Flyweight Championship.

Now another young South African wants what Manyamala has.

Fighting out of Mighty Warriors in Vanderbijlpark, Brandon Santos has wasted little time establishing himself as one of the country's most promising emerging professionals.

Santos made his professional debut in June 2025 and, less than eighteen months later, finds himself preparing for an EFC championship fight.

His rise has been remarkable. After an early setback against Emerson Pedro, Santos responded with three consecutive victories, including impressive first-round submissions over Kgaugelo Moitshela and GodKnows Ndlovu, followed by a convincing decision victory over Lihle Ngamntwini at EFC 133.

Those performances have earned him the biggest opportunity of his young career.

For Santos, victory on 3 December would represent an extraordinary achievement. In little more than a year as a professional, the Vanderbijlpark athlete could go from making his EFC debut to becoming the organisation's flyweight champion, placing his name among South Africa's leading MMA athletes.

But standing in his way is a champion who has already travelled much of the road Santos hopes to follow.

Manyamala has experienced the international stage, trained under one of the sport's most respected figures and fought his way to the top of the EFC flyweight division. Having finally secured the championship, he now faces the challenge of defending it against a new generation of ambitious contenders.

For Manyamala, EFC 140 is an opportunity to establish himself as the division's dominant champion. For Santos, it is the chance to accelerate his career and take a major step towards the opportunities that his opponent has already experienced.

Two South African careers, separated by experience but united by ambition, will meet in Johannesburg with the EFC Flyweight Championship on the line.

With EFC 139 taking place on Thursday, 5 November, preparations are already underway for EFC 140, the promotion's final event of 2026. Manyamala vs Santos will headline the year-end fight card, with further bouts to be announced in the coming weeks.

EFC 140 is presented by World Sports Betting and takes place on Thursday, 3 December at the WSB EFC Arena in Johannesburg, South Africa. Tickets and broadcast information are available at:

<https://efcworldwide.com>

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