

# A GIFT FOR SHAKA

**Sithembiso Hadebe gets a major opportunity against former EFC champion Gift Walker at EFC 138**



**Johannesburg, South Africa - 24 August 2026**

Sithembiso "ShakaZulu" Hadebe has been handed a major opportunity at EFC 138, but the gift comes in the form of former EFC champion and recent title challenger Gift Walker on Thursday, 1 October at the WSB EFC Arena in Johannesburg.

For Hadebe, the stakes are significant. After almost two years away from professional competition, the BJJ black belt returned at EFC 136 and immediately defeated Godfrey Mkhwanazi by unanimous decision. Now, just weeks later, he moves from a successful comeback to facing an athlete who was competing for EFC gold in his last appearance.

Training out of Ronin MMA in Johannesburg, "ShakaZulu" holds a 5-2 professional record and has lost only twice during a career that has included competition across EFC and UAE Warriors. His technical takedowns, high-level Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and effective counter-striking have made him a difficult assignment, and victory over Walker would place his name firmly into the championship conversation.

Walker, however, has considerably more at stake than his name being used for a headline.

The 26 year old House of Tinkerbell athlete is a former EFC flyweight champion who most recently challenged Faez Jacobs for the bantamweight championship, pushing the champion through all five

rounds. Six of Walker's eight professional victories have come by submission, and his career has already included championship contests and high-level opposition across multiple promotions.

Having fought for the title in his last appearance, Walker enters EFC 138 with his position among the division's leading athletes to defend. A victory reinforces his claim to remain near the front of the championship queue. A defeat would allow Hadebe to leap forward by adding a former champion and recent title challenger to his résumé.

It may be a Gift for ShakaZulu, but it is an opportunity that comes with one of the toughest assignments available. For Walker, there may be less immediate upside, but victory would serve as a reminder that anyone looking towards the bantamweight championship may first have to get past him.

EFC 138 is presented by World Sports Betting and takes place on Thursday, 1 October at the WSB EFC Arena in Johannesburg, South Africa. Tickets and broadcast information are available at: <https://efcworldwide.com>

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