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Tarverdyan Leads Victorious Night at Chaos at the Casino



The most compelling story – and knockout – of the night went to Edmond Tarverdyan, who officially made his comeback. (Photo courtesy of HyeFighters.com)

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Although they hailed from all types of different backgrounds and countries – among them Armenia, Russia, and every corner of greater Los Angeles – nine Armenian men walked into the ring with only one goal in mind. Victory.

Eight out of the nine HyeFighters proudly succeeded over the course of a night in which they represented their heritage, families, compatriots and respective combat sport in outstanding fashion at the “Chaos at the Casino” in Hollywood Park.

[Click for all of the pictures from the night here](#)

The most compelling story – and knockout – of the night went to Edmond Tarverdyan, who officially made his comeback. Although the former muay Thai fighter reinvented himself by making a switch to MMA, the results were strikingly the same when he delivered a flying knee to the jaw of Phil Nunez. Once Tarverdyan’s long right leg connected with Nunez’s chin, the echoes from the impact bounced between the walls of the building and the fight was immediately stopped. Fans emphatically approved of what was certainly the night’s most exciting finish. Tarverdyan celebrated his stellar first-round victory with a backflip and was greeted by his corner, which consisted of fighters the esteemed trainer coaches: Vanes Martirsoyan, Manny Gamburyan, Ando Dermenjian and Sevak Ohanjanian.

Roman Mitichyan, who has twice fought in the UFC and was on the Ultimate Fighter 6, channeled into his earlier glory in the main event when he made opponent William Sriyapai tap out from a leg lock early in the first round. Mitichyan’s submission was reminiscent of his 2007 UFC fight against Dorian Price, when in just 23 seconds he took his leg in an Achilles lock. It was Mitichyan’s first fight in 23 months. He improved his record to 8-3.

The night was an overall success, said George Bastmajyan. The owner of Lights Out Promotions was the mastermind, organizer and promoter of an event that saw a sellout crowd of 1,900 in Inglewood, California.

Considering there were mainstream attractions with a free nationally-televised UFC card on Fox, the pay-per view bout between Floyd Mayweather and Miguel Cotto, as well as the NBA and NHL playoffs, the support was more than obvious.

Bastmajyan – a Clippers season ticket holder – had to make a sacrifice himself by skipping the exciting game three home opener against the Grizzlies. He’ll reward himself after a tiring weekend by going to game four tonight.

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“I was very happy with the turnout,” Bastmajyan said. “At one point, I went all the way to the back, stood up on a chair and looked down to see that there was not one open seat in the place and most of the fans were wildly cheering. That really made me happy and was a highlight of the night knowing that all the fans were being entertained.”

In other MMA action, former UFC Ultimate Fighter 12 contender Sako Chivichian (6-1) edged out Preston Scharf in a split-decision victory. Chivichian was making his return to the cage after an 18-month layoff.

Ara Muradyan put on an entertaining striking and grappling performance to improve his record to 3-1 in a unanimous decision win against Octavio Morales (5-6).

The night also featured boxing. Georgi Karakhanyan was victorious in his professional boxing debut in a unanimous decision victory over a winless Tatsuro Ire. It was Karakhanyan’s second fight in six days. On April 29, the Tachi Palace Fights featherweight champion improved his MMA record to 18-3 with a first-round knockout.

Vito Gasparyan easily made work of Sergio Joel De La Torre, improving his record to 14-2. A clumsy De La Torre lost his footing and tumbled twice and then was knocked down twice – all in a debilitating first round. Thirteen seconds into the second, Gasparyan ended the fight with a powerful right uppercut knockout.

In muay Thai action, Alfred Khashakyan fought his final amateur bout before turning professional against Victor Joval. It ended in a second-round TKO victory. Sergey Martirosyan made his amateur debut with a decision win over Bogdan Gretchka. The only damper of the night was when amateur Ando Janoyan was knocked out 30 seconds into his bout with Daniel Hwang.

Aside from a night basking in victory, the night was full of commemoration and tribute as well. Gayane Zakharyan performed the Armenian National Anthem, and a moment of silence along with a ten-bell salute was given in memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide. The show was originally set to take place April 21 as a day of commemoration but a change was forced due to a double booking.

In celebratory and honorary fashion, Araz Araradian, the creator and founder of HyeFighters, honored Tarverdyan, Karakhanyan and Khashakyan with “Fight of the Night” bicep-belt awards. Sartonk Designs, a New Jersey-based boxing belt making company of over 40 years, was founded by Ardash Sahaghian and is currently operated by Edward S. Majian. They made the unique bicep-belt variation. Belt maker Armen Hakopian also handed out medals to every victor.

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