

UFC 97 Results: Anderson Silva dances past Thales Leites

Contributed by Steve Hastings
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The UFC 97 results on the Anderson Silva vs Thales Leites are in from Montreal, Canada and the battle of the Brazilians was won by the Spider Anderson Silva in a unanimous decision that went the distance. It was the longest UFC fight ever for Silva.

UFC middleweight champion Anderson Silva broke the UFC record with nine consecutive wins in the octagon and was successful at doing so with a decisive victory over Leites. The opening line in the Silva vs Leites UFC 97 fight at Sportsbook.com had Anderson Silva listed as the -500 money line odds favorite, but early betting action came in heavy on the Spider driving the line up to Anderson Silva -600 odds at fight time.

For the first two minutes of the round, the two Brazilians danced around the ring as they both looked for an opening against the other. With two minutes left Leites kicked Silva in the leg but it did no damage as the two continued to dance around the ring. Silva kicked out Leites leg and Thales welcomed the Spider to get on the ground. The referee signaled for Thales to get up but the two engaged and again and Thales was able to lock up Silva against the octagon. The air horn went off with both men against the cage.

Thales was able to taken Silva down at the start of the second round. Anderson was able to straighten out Thales so that he could prevent Leites from striking. Silva was able to land a few elbows to the head of Thales but eventually Leites got off of the Spider. Anderson decided to stay on the ground so Thales came back on top of the Spider. Eventually Anderson got up and the two started to square off in the center of the ring. Neither fighter was able to land any significant blows but Silva was the aggressor towards the end of the round.

The action started a lot faster in round three, with Thales on his back within the first twenty seconds of the round but Silva got him to get up. Silva got poked in the eye and landed on the ground but the referee made him get up again. Thales wanted Silva to get down into the guard but the Spider was not going to have any of it. Thales attempted to strike the Spider a few times but was looking very winded. Silva landed a few body kicks and leg kicks that were very distracting to Thales. Anderson was stalking Thales around the ring and on occasion would lay on the ground wanting Silva to get into the guard but the Spider kept walking away. Silva won the third round clearly.

This was the first time in his career that Anderson Silva fought in the fourth round. As the round started, Silva proceeded to kick at Thales left knee. Silva started to play with Thales and was doing some shoulder shakes. Anderson kept attacking the left knee of Thales throughout the round. Thales went for a take down with two minutes left in the round but Silva backed out of it. The round ended with Silva frustrating Leites by continuing to land bombs on the left knee of Thales. Silva won the fourth round.

Thales went for a leg lock with four minutes into the fifth and final round but Silva wiggled out of it very quickly. Then Silva pounded on a covered up Thales and seemed to be really wearing down his fellow Brazilian MMA fighter. Leites looked bloody and tired and the Spider barely looked ready to go another five rounds. Anderson continued to work on the left knee of Thales. With about a minute left in the round Thales became aggressive and landed a side kick but Silva held his leg and just stood there. The round ended with another victory for Anderson Silva

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