

UFC 98: Lyoto Machida vs Rashad Evans

Contributed by Scott Burgess
Wednesday, 20 May 2009
Last Updated Wednesday, 20 May 2009

UFC 98 main card has light heavyweight stars "Sugar" Rashad Evans and Lyoto "The Dragon" Machida doing battle in the Octagon, Saturday May 23, at MGM Grand Garden Arena, Nevada. Not only are these two the best 205-pound fighters, they both have an unblemished record with no losses. UFC oddsmakers at BetUS.com have Lyoto Machida as -200 moneyline fav over Rashad Evans who is listed as +150 underdog. Be sure to get your UFC 98: Lyoto Machida vs Rashad Evans Prediction in now at BetUS.com

Lyoto Machida holds an undefeated record that includes victories over former UFC light heavyweight champion Tito Ortiz, former UFC middleweight champion Rich Franklin, and current UFC lightweight champion B.J. Penn. His most recent win was at UFC 94 against Thiago Silva. After scoring several trips and knockdowns, Machida managed to knockout the grounded Silva in the final second of the first round. Machida's first UFC knockout earned Knockout of the Night honors and a 65,000 bonus. Machida uses a unique style that combines elements from his diverse training background. Often described as "elusive", Machida relies on cautious and precise counter-striking that frustrates his opponents into making mistakes. Although his style is effective, it's deemed boring and unsatisfying to watch.

Thoughts on his opponent Rashad Evans - Rashad is a strong athlete. From what I have seen, he seems to be a complete fighter.

Rashad Evans holds notable victories over Stephan Bonnar, Michael Bisping, Chuck Liddell, Forrest Griffin and took Tito Ortiz to a Draw, which he should've won. His most recent win was at UFC 92 against Forrest Griffin. Evans faced champion Forrest Griffin for the UFC light heavyweight belt. Griffin controlled most of the first two rounds with effective striking and low kicks. In the third round, however, Evans caught a low kick and countered with a straight right hand that dropped Griffin. Evans followed Griffin to the ground and eventually managed to finish the stunned champion with ground and pound. With the victory, Evans became the new UFC light heavyweight champion. Evans is great at takedowns and is just as good at defending them. He has superb knockout punches which he used to knockout Chuck Liddell, he loves to use his left hook.

Thoughts on his opponent Lyoto Machida - Lyoto is very tough, probably one of the toughest challengers in the 205 weight class. He has loads of talent and is very tricky.

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When: Sat, May 23, 2009 10:00 PM ET
Line: BetUS.com
Pick: Rashad Evans +150

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The Bottom Line: Rashad has the better style of fighting with a powerful left hook. He also has the better ground n pound. Go Rashad! Be sure to get your UFC 98: Lyoto Machida vs Rashad Evans Prediction in now at BetUS.com and receive a 10% sign-up bonus on your initial deposit!