**UFC Singapore DraftKings Breakdown**

Welterweight Demian Maia vs. Ben Askren

I am interested to see how Askren responds after having his first pro MMA loss from July. Also, I am interested to see what game plan he comes in with. He will be the superior wrestler relative to Demian Maia, but Maia is the superior submission grappler, so will Askren use his wrestling defensively to keep the fight standing or take Maia down and hang out in top position? It’s a legitimate question. Another legitimate question is who to favor in the striking department. I will say Maia has improved his striking throughout his career, but his cardio remains a liability. Overall, I favor Maia in the striking and submission grappling, but Askren will have the superior cardio and wrestling. I slightly lean towards Askren to bounce back.

**For DK: I recommend an underweighted stance on this bout as it should be popular (it is the main event) and there’s good chance (50-65% in my opinion) that the winner of this fight does not accrue a proficient amount of DK points due to the lack of upside with wrestling and/or submission grappling. I would prefer to target Maia ($7,700) of the two as I believe he is one of the more likely underdogs to win their respective bouts on this card. Askren ($8,500) would be a more intriguing play if I knew he was going to come in with a more wrestling oriented game plan AND there was not an abundance of other DK plays priced around him (i.e. Dariush, Salikhov, Lookboonmee, and Evloev).**

Lightweight Michael Johnson vs. Stevie Ray

Both of these fighters are coming off KO losses. Stevie Ray’s was in June (versus Santos) and Johnson’s was in March (versus Emmett). Johnson is also moving back up to Lightweight which can help his durability and cardio. The only way I see Ray winning this bout is if he can find a way to get Johnson on the ground where he will be the superior submission grappler, but I do not believe that will happen as Johnson has very good takedown defense and Ray is not a proficient offensive wrestler. I will favor Johnson’s striking to defeat Stevie Ray as I believe he is more durable (Ray was knocked out by Santos, rocked by Kajan Johnson, and TKO finished by Felder), the faster striker, has more power, and is more technical.

**For DK: I would prefer to target this fight in cash games as I believe Johnson ($9,300) is a favorite that is safe to win with the upside of a potential early knock out. I do also believe Johnson will be sneaky in tournaments as there are several fighters in his range that can win and finish too. Ray ($6,900) I would not play in GPPs as there are several other underdogs, I’d rather target due to the better possibility of a win. I would only consider Ray as a cash game punt hoping he can go all three rounds with Johnson.**

Lightweight Frank Camacho vs. Beneil Dariush

I like this fight a lot! Dariush has bounced back impressively winning against Drew Dober and Thiago Moises. I consider Dariush is a skillful fighter because he is a high-level submission grappler, can wrestle adequately, has some power in his hands, is technical, and has solid cardio. Dariush’s kryptonite has been his durability (i.e. was knocked out by Hernandez, TKO’D by Nijem, and knocked out by Barboza). Camacho is an interesting test as he is a solid submission grappler, has a solid wrestling game, good cardio, and is aggressive. I believe Dariush should win this bout as long as he does not get finished via strikes. Should be an action fight for as long as it lasts!

**For DK: I like both sides of this fight. Dariush ($8,400) can finish the fight via strikes or a submission (Camacho was nearly choked out by Damien Brown). Camacho ($7,800) can win this fight via TKO/KO or by having a higher work rate than Dariush. I prefer to target this fight over the main event.**

Heavyweight Ciryl Gane vs. Don’tale Mayes

Gane looks like a really solid fighter. He is athletic, has a submission game, light on his feet, is fast, very explosive, varied striker, strong Muy Thai, and has shown solid cardio. The only flaw I see in Gane’s fighting style is he keeps his hands low which is a liability in general, but I believe is even more of a liability at heavyweight where the variance is higher due to larger fighters carrying more power in their punches. Mayes competed on DWTNCS a few times and had mixed results. Mayes has some power and is athletic, but he swings wildly and as a result is pretty open defensively. I believe Gane wins this bout as he is the superior striker and fighter as long as he does not get caught by a big punch from Mayes.

**For DK: I prefer to target Gane ($9,200) as he has a good chance of winning and finishing the fight. I would only consider Mayes ($7,000) if making 10+ lineups because of the leverage that can be gained on the field if he beats Gane by KO/TKO**.

Welterweight Muslim Salikhov vs. Laureano Staropoli

This is another bout that should be exciting for as long as it lasts. Muslim Salikhov comes from a very high-level striking background that has translated well in the UFC by earning two KO victories over Nordine Taleb and Ricky Rainey. Salikhov is a powerful, varied, and technical striker that will have a lot of success in the UFC if his bouts take place in the striking department. Laureano Staropoli is a striker too that is varied and aggressive, but is a bit wild and willing to exchange. I am favoring Salikhov to win this bout due to his superior striking. I predict a knockout win for Salikhov over a decision (Starpoli has been finished via strikes once before).

**For DK: I prefer to target Salikhov ($8,600) because I believe the most likely outcome is a KO/TKO victory for him. I do not have interest in playing Staropoli ($7,600) as I believe he does not beat Salikhov due to the wide striking disparity here.**

Women's Strawweight Randa Markos vs. Ashley Yoder

Both of these ladies specialize in grappling. I believe Yoder is the superior submission grappler and wrestler in this matchup. Yoder looked very dominant her most recent bout against Kondo showcasing her submission grappling skills. In the striking, I also favor Yoder who will have a reach advantage and is more aggressive than Markos.

**For DK: I prefer to target Yoder ($7,900) or pass on this fight completely. Yoder is the only underdog I am picking (and betting) to win outright. She can put up a good score in a win scenario via grappling with a potential submission (Markos was submitted by Courtney Casey at UFC 202 and by Rose Namajunas on TUF). I would fade Markos ($8,300) on DK.**

Lightweight Alex White vs. Rafael Fiziev

I believe Fiziev is the much better MMA fighter here. Fiziev comes for an extensive striking background, throws hard, is the more technical fighter than White, and comes from a sambo background too which may play a role in this bout as a path to least resistance. White’s primary path to victory is a KO/TKO finish as he has power assuming Fiziev’s durability is a question mark (was TKO’D by Mustafaev in April). Other than that, I feel comfortable stating Fiziev should win this fight. Fiziev can earn a TKO/KO finish himself (White was rocked by Clay Collard and Jim Miller & was also knocked out by Lucas Martins) OR can wrestle as White has shown a susceptibility to takedown defense and submission grappling.

**For DK: I prefer to target Fiziev ($8,900), but if making a few lineups, White ($7,300) makes for an interesting play due to his suppressed ownership with the potential to finish the fight.**

Featherweight Enrique Barzola vs. Movsar Evloev

Two fighters that are most successful dominating as wrestlers. Barzola has great cardio, can land takedowns in volume, is durable, and is the much more UFC experienced than Evloev. I believe Evloev has less advantages in this fight than Barzola, but I do believe he is the superior wrestler which is why I am favoring him to win this bout. I believe Evloev can takedown and control Barzola for long enough to earn a decision victory. I see this fight as pretty competitive though as Barzola is a capable wrestler.

**For DK: I prefer to target Evloev ($8,700) for his takedown upside, but other than that scenario, I do not see how the winner of this bout puts up a lot of DK points. Barzola ($7,500) is a pass for me in this matchup as his best skillset (wrestling) will be strongly mitigated against a superior wrestler in Evloev.**

Heavyweight Sergei Pavlovich vs. Maurice Greene

Pavlovich is the superior striker here. I also believe he should have good enough takedown defense to keep this fight standing where he is the superior technical striker and has a reach advantage. Greene is a solid fighter, but his reach advantage that he typically holds and ground game are mitigated on paper here. Outside of a scenario where Greene catches and hurts Pavlovich with a big shot, I do not foresee Greene winning this bout.

**For DK: I prefer to target Pavlovich ($9,000) as he can get s KO/TKO victory. Greene ($7,200) will almost surely put up a big score in a win scenario. I would not target Greene unless making a few lineups.**

Women's Strawweight Loma Lookboonmee vs. Aleksandra Albu

Loma Lookboonmee is making her UFC debut. Loma trains at Tiger Muy Thai, can wrestle adequately, is strong in the clinch, and is an adequate submission grappler. Albu is physically strong and aggressive, but she does give up her back (i.e. versus Curran and Whitmire). Albu does slow down as the fight progresses, can be taken down, and does not move her head much off the center line when striking. I feel comfortable favoring Loma here even though it is her UFC debut due to her technical advantages over Albu.

**For DK: I think Loma Lookboonmee ($8,200) is very sneaky as she is very reasonably priced & can grapple and/or get a rear-naked choke finish. Albu ($8,000) does not interest me on DK in this matchup.**

Heavyweight Raphael Pessoa Nunes vs. Jeff Hughes

Interesting heavyweight bout here. Nunes fought Ciryl Gane in his UFC debut and looked okay prior to getting submitted. Nunes is aggressive and throws hard & that honestly may be enough to beat Hughes who is much more patient and not as threatening of a striker. That being said, I still could see Hughes earning a TKO/KO finish, but he goes to decision a lot in win scenarios. I slightly favor Hughes due to the superior UFC experience and being the more technical fighter on paper, but this is a fight one where I definitely disagree with the current odds (-240 Hughes vs. +200 Nunes per 5Dimes at 11:28am CST).

**For DK: Despite my pick of Hughes ($8,800) to win, I prefer to target Nunes ($7,400) on DK. Nunes is a live underdog that can win via KO/TKO or have a higher work rate than Hughes to earn a decision victory. I would prefer to fade Hughes as there is an abundance of fighters in his salary range that I believe have a stronger chance of putting up a higher scores in win scenarios.**

AJ’s Flash Knockdown Picks:

**Lock ‘em in (cash games):**

* *Ciryl Gane $9,200*

**Favorite fades:**

* *~~Randa Markos $8,300~~*
* *~~Jeff Hughes $8,800~~*

**Low-owned live underdogs:**

* *Ashley Yoder $7,900*
* *Raphael Pessoa Nunes $7,400*

**Underdog (relative to DK pricing 🡪 below $8,100) to consider in cash games:**

* *Stevie Ray $6,900*
* *Ashley Yoder $7,900*
* *Demian Maia $7,700*

**Low-owned tournament plays:**

* *Loma Lookboonmee $8,200*
* *Rafael Fiziev $8,900*