**UFC Tampa Betting Breakdown**

**The Bets:**

* **Mackenzie Dern 2 units @ -160**
* **Miguel Baeza 3 units @ -190**
* **Eryk Anders vs. Gerald Meerschaert 2.5 OVER 1.5 Rounds @ -145**
* **2nd leg of parlay: Joanna Jedrzejczyk 3.5 units @ -400**

**Mackenzie Dern 2 units @ -160**

Dern is the superior submission grappler by a wide margin. If this fight goes to the mat, I expect Dern to have a lot of success. Grappling is a facet of MMA where the superior fighter in that area has success much more often than say striking. I also favor Dern striking as she has superior technique, is more aggressive, and is the more threatening striker. She is coming in off a layoff, but prior to Ribas’ fight with Whitmire, Ribas had not fought since 2016. I believe Ribas can win fights in the UFC vs. opponents she is a superior submission grappler over, but that is not the case versus Dern here.

**Miguel Baeza 3 units @ -190**

Baeza is the much more well-rounded MMA fighter. His opponent, Aldana, likes to brawl and even in that scenario has still struggled to win in the UFC (i.e. vs. Song Kenan and vs. Laureano Staropoli). Aldana is open defensively and is wild. Other than a brawling striking style, Aldana has not shown a different stylistic approach to his MMA fights. I believe Baeza is more durable, has better risk management, has better wrestling, and the superior ground game which will lead him to victory.

**Eryk Anders vs. Gerald Meerschaert 2.5 OVER 1.5 Rounds @ -145**

Both of these fighters have a reputation of being finishers, but both are very durable. Meerschaert’s best skillset is his submission grappling, but I believe Anders is the superior athlete and I believe will have good enough takedown defense to keep the fight standing where Meerschaert has not shown to be finishing threat (except against Spicely). Anders has power, but he is tentative when striking and Meerschaert is very durable. Also, even if Anders initiates wrestling, I believe he avoids the submission attempts (if there are any) from Meerschaert while he is in top position.

**2nd leg of parlay: Joanna Jedrzejczyk 3.5 units @ -400**

I believe JJ will have good enough takedown defense and size to keep this fight standing where she will hold the advantage due to her superior technique, volume, reach, and efficiency. Joanna is much more experienced in 5 round fights in the UFC too. A lot of Waterson’s success has come through her wrestling and/or submission grappling, but I do not believe her technique (head and arm throws mainly) is good enough to takedown JJ who’s shown great takedown defense at 115lbs (i.e. vs. Andrade). I really like JJ to win the strikers’ battle here.