**UFC 243 Betting Breakdown**

**The Bets:**

* **Israel Adesanya 4 units @ +120 & 1 unit @ +115**
* **Maki Pitolo 3 units @ -250**
* **Ji Yeon Kim 2 units @ - 170**
* **Callan Potter vs. Maki Pitolo 5 units @ -175**

**Israel Adesanya 4 units @ +120 & 1 unit @ +115**

I.A. will have a 6.5 reach advantage (per ESPN.com) over Whittaker in this matchup & is the more varied, more technical, and more experienced striker (pro kickboxing included). The only fighter in the UFC that fights better at range than Israel is Jon Jones in my opinion. Whittaker does have the superior punching power in this matchup, but he will need to close distance enough and be effective with those opportunities enough to either win rounds or win via KO/TKO. Due to Israel’s great distance management I believe Whittaker’s chances of closing distance/being effective with it will be mitigated. Whittaker over the past couple of years has dealt with injuries and two long layoffs. It did not seem to affect him against Romero in their second bout, but another factor I considered to a lesser extent combined with the fact that I.A. has been very active in the UFC since his debut.

**Maki Pitolo 3 units @ -250**

Pitolo is the better fighter from the eye test in my opinion. I believe Pitolo is the superior athlete, striker, wrestler, and threatening finisher. Potter’s best skillset is his submission grappling, but I do not believe Potter has good enough offensive wrestling to take down Pitolo. Also, Pitolo has shown proficient submission grappling from his previous fights, so if this fight does hit the mat, Pitolo can still have success and should avoid getting submitted at the least. Potter has shown that he can be rocked and finished via strikes on more than one occasion (i.e. in his UFC debut was knocked out by Jalin Turner) and Pitolo is aggressive, has power in his hands, and is the superior striker by a wide margin.

**Ji Yeon Kim 2 units @ - 170**

Kim is the superior striker relative to her opponent Nadia Kassem. Kim is a much more technical striker than Kassem and will hold a 6-inch reach advantage (per ESPN.com). Kim is also the bigger fighter here as she has fought at 135lbs and Kassem has fought at 115lbs. I do not expect this fight to end up on the mat where this size advantage will be as relevant, but it is another advantage for Kim nonetheless. Kassem’s striking is not technical nor as fluid as Kim’s. Also, Kim is more UFC experienced, has fought the better competition, and has the better footwork. I expect Kim to win a decision here comfortably.

**Callan Potter vs. Maki Pitolo 5 units @ -175**

I see a line I like and I bet it accordingly. That is what happened here. In theory, I could’ve waited for Pitolo’s ITD prop to bet instead, but I like this early line for FDGTD. I believe Pitolo should win inside the distance here due to Potter’s inadequate striking defense combined with the fact he has been finished via strikes more than once and Pitolo’s threatening striking attack. Potter “catching” Pitolo in a submission is a reach in my opinion, but something that can objectively happen which would be the case for Potter winning inside the distance.