

## **MMA Betting Hindsight Is 2020**

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**The purpose of this piece is to recap this betting year to inspire and enlighten the reader. I was blessed with many opportunities throughout 2020, such as contributing to many betting sources via podcast, written content, and handicapping, which allowed me to realize that this is indeed what I am passionate about. I learned many lessons throughout the year and gained “small wins” that allowed me to trust in my future success. Now, I would like to share what I’ve learned with you. Enjoy!**

**A little background about me, I quit my safe corporate job in January of 2020 to pursue professional MMA betting. As a risk-taker, I was more than okay with the decision and still am. I wouldn’t feel complete if I didn’t take a leap of faith to pursue what I love. While the timing for my decision may seem “off,” I thought it was exactly when I was supposed to make the decision.**

**Before getting into the betting results, I would like to share what I did so you can pursue your passion too. It’s never too late to do something you love as a profession. Like everyone else who’s reached their career goal by succeeding with their passion, there are discouraging experiences you need**

to overcome on the way to such success. However, these discouraging experiences make us stronger and reassure us that nothing will stand in our way from doing what we love.

It took me until a few events in 2020 to realize that I "ran hot" in 2019 (i.e., a year where I profited nearly 100 units) and that my old process of handicapping fights needed to be modified because it was no longer working as effectively. Like you can, I rose to the occasion and really started to hone my craft as a handicapper.

I was down by as many as 14.24 units on the calendar year when I knew something needed to be different, and so I made changes. I began to study tapes diligently (i.e., with the commentary volume on because there are several good nuggets of information shared) while pausing the video to take specific, organized notes to draw a strong conclusion on the stylistic matchup at hand. Like so (i.e., the image below of my notes on Ricardo Lamas from UFC Fight Night: Smith vs. Rakic). I also investigated Tapology records (i.e., oppositions' pro records), fighter interviews, statistics (i.e., [ufcstats.com](http://ufcstats.com)), and fighters' Instagram pages (i.e., where they are training, what BJJ rank are they, etc.) more closely than I did prior.

Pros

- Vastly more UFC experienced than Algeo
  - Superior striker
    - More defensively sound (high guard & better head movement)
    - More technical
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree BJJ Black Belt
    - Looks to pass guard when in top position
    - Submission threat on the ground
    - Swept Mirsad Bektic
  - Crafty striking
    - Utilizes oblique kicks
    - Can utilize the body kick against Algeo who is taking the fight on short notice to tax his cardio
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**I noticed great results right away after these implementations as I profited 10.38 units per the below image from [betmma.tips/AnthonyS364](https://betmma.tips/AnthonyS364).**

UFC Fight Night 182, Las Vegas, 29th Aug '20

Pick	Opponent		Odds	Unit Bet	Unit Profit	Cash Profit	ROI
Robbie Lawler	Neil Magny	L	3.10	2	-2.00	\$-20.00	-100%
Impa Kasanganay	Maki Pitolo	W	1.67	3	2.00	\$20.00	67%
Sean Brady	Christian Aguilera	W	1.28	4	1.11	\$11.11	28%
<b>Straight Pick Event Totals:</b>			<b>1.76</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>1.11</b>	<b>\$11.11</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Fight</b>	<b>Pick</b>		<b>Odds</b>				
PrPi Mallory Martin vs Hannah Cifers	Martin wins inside distance	W	3.57	2	5.14	\$51.40	257%
<b>Fight</b>	<b>Pick</b>		<b>Odds</b>				
Pr Polyana Viana vs Emily Whitmire	Under 2.5 rounds	W	2.65	2.5	4.12	\$41.25	165%
<b>Prop &amp; Parlay Event Totals:</b>				<b>4.50</b>	<b>9.27</b>	<b>\$92.65</b>	<b>206%</b>
<b>Event Totals (Props, Parlays &amp; Straight Bets):</b>				<b>13.50</b>	<b>10.38</b>	<b>\$103.76</b>	<b>77%</b>

From this event onward, I managed to profit 32.71 units, went 12–6 on winning events to close out the year, learned more along the way, and managed to stay ahead of line movement by preparing for future cards well in advance.

I also began to include the rationale for bets I placed on betmma.tips so the reader can view my thought process in case they didn't purchase a subscription but wanted to learn after the fact. This gave me more confidence when placing bets because I could back it up with a reasonable stance.

UFC 254, Yas Island, 24th Oct '20

Pick	Opponent	Odds	Unit Bet	Unit Profit	Cash Profit	ROI
Robert Whittaker	Jared Cannonier					
Alexander Volkov	Walt Harris					
<b>Straight Pick Event Totals:</b>						
<b>Fight</b>	<b>Pick</b>					
Pr Alex Oliveira vs Shavkat Rakhmonov	Under 2.5 rounds					
<b>Fight</b>	<b>Pick</b>					
Pr Stefan Struve vs Tai Tuivasa	Fight					
<b>Prop &amp; Parlay Event Totals:</b>						
<b>Event Totals (Props, Parlays &amp; Straight Bets):</b>						
		Rationale: Robert Whittaker is the craftier and more varied striker of the two that possesses the superior round winning tools (i.e. higher output striking and the potential to wrestle & grapple). Whittaker also has superior footwork.  Additionally, Whittaker has faced and defeated the much higher level of opposition (i.e. Romero, Till, Hall, Souza, and Tavares). Cannonier will have a 4-inch reach advantage but we've seen Whittaker do well against good technical, threatening strikers with an even longer reach in the past (i.e. Uriah Hall).  Cannonier certainly has big power but I trust Whittaker's very good defense & ability to recover if needed to be avoid losing via TKO/KO over the course of 15 minutes and either win rounds or get a stoppage himself along the way.				

Personally, I have this fight lined as -300/75% Vettori winning. I believe the line is where it is because of the step-up in competition for Vettori, the short notice nature of this bout (even though Vettori was already preparing for Jacare the following week), and because Jack has the more proven resume (i.e. has wins over Gastelum and Jacare). Let's get into why I like this bet.

Jack seems to excel in matchups when he is the superior grappler and I don't think that's the case here. In the top position, Jack is very strong and will pursue the finish via submission (mainly guillotine choke) or ground & pound but the times Marvin has been put on his back in the UFC he's shown to limit damage and scramble back to his feet properly. On the flip side, when Jack has been put on his back, he's looked susceptible a lot of times (i.e. submitted by Ferreira, mounted a couple of times by Leites while being put in multiple submission attempts - granted he was injured during these sequences, and finished on the ground w/ ground & pound by Cannonier). Don't get me wrong, Jack has the threat of the heel hook and guillotine choke but if he can't pull off these submissions, then I don't like his chances on his back against Marvin (BJJ Brown Belt) who has shown to be a great guard passer & finisher from the top position.

In terms of wrestling, Jack telegraphs his takedowns by shooting from very far out and not setting them up via strikes. Jack will often force the takedown in fights when he is uncomfortable on the feet (i.e. against Cannonier and Souza) which is an issue here against Marvin who has shown good takedown defense. Marvin's offensive wrestling and physicality looks to be good enough to get Jack down

In terms of the striking, Marvin is much better defensively and has much sharper boxing. Jack is a bit longer in terms of arms reach and utilizes more kicks but striking overall favors Marvin. Marvin is also the more durable and more comfortable striker.

If Vettori losses, I think it'll be because he goes for an early finish but is unsuccessful and tires then Jack's able to take over, OR Jack happens to jump on a guillotine and be the first fighter to make Vettori tap in a pro-MMA bout. I see these two scenarios happening, at most, 25% of the time.

A very stout test for Vettori but one that I believe he passes.

**The image below shows the year's lowest profit point versus what closed off the year.**



**At this stage, I'm still learning more about MMA, which is truly a blessing. I believe that if there isn't more to learn then I could become bored with my passion, which I don't want to happen. The UFC's increased willingness to add new fighters on the roster and natural developments within the sport (i.e., implementation of calf kicks) also has me more intrigued when researching fights.**

I'm very grateful to get a profit of 18.4 for the year 2020. This year taught me many lessons along the way that will pay massive dividends for those around me and myself. Anyway, we did it. MMA betting for 2020 is in the books for me, and we are ready to take on 2021. Let's do this thing!

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