

## UFC Rio Rancho Betting Breakdown

### The Bets:

- Merab Dvalishvili 4 units @ -165
- Corey Anderson 2.5 units @ -190

### Merab Dvalishvili 4 units @ -165

“The Machine” is a pretty basic nickname, but it fits Merab Dvalishvili perfectly as he has shown in multiple UFC fights to push a tremendously high pace including a performance where he landed 11 takedowns in 3 rounds against a wrestler in Frankie Saenz. Dvalishvili is a tough fighter to beat for this reason but has two losses in the UFC (a questionable split decision loss to Saenz and a VERY questionable submission loss to Simon despite dominating most of the fight). My point is Merab Dvalishvili can very easily be undefeated in the UFC, but I am sure the losses helped him grow stronger. Merab is a bit wild on the feet due to his high energy style, but he is dangerous, varied, and aggressive. Technique for technique as it pertains these two in striking, I think it's close, so I expect Dvalishvili to win the striking exchanges due to the fact he is a more threatening striker, is more aggressive, and has the superior cardio. Casey Kenney is a very skilled, well-rounded fighter (I max bet him against Manny Bermudez) that has two good wins in the UFC thus far. After looking more into Kenney's fights, I noticed he gets noticeably tired in round 3 even in fights even where it's mostly striking-based. I also noticed Kenney can be taken down easily (i.e. Borg took him down multiple times and Bermudez took him down a couple of times) despite having a collegiate wrestling background. Despite beating Borg, Kenney struggled to get separate from the clinch so that is another avenue for Dvalishvili to win (clinch control and then takedowns). Dvalishvili has a variety of takedown techniques which I like as well (in the clinch and in open space) and is the better MMA wrestler in my opinion by a wide margin. Additionally, Dvalishvili should have a size advantage (Kenney has fought at 125lbs before). Now, Kenney is a good scrambler, but I do not expect him to scramble out of Dvalishvili's top control with his back on the mat as the fight progresses. Even in Kenney escapes Dvalishvili's top control, I expect Dvalishvili to take him right back down again and again until Kenney gets tired. Dvalishvili is very likely to outwrestle and tire out Kenney and win on the judge's scorecards (hence the 4-unit bet).

### Corey Anderson 2.5 units @ -190

From the eye test, Corey Anderson is very talented. Corey has speed, volume both in strike attempts & wrestling, great cardio, good mobility, and technical striking. Corey is a great round winner, but loses fights if his opponents can hurt him (i.e. Rua, Villante, Manuwa, and OSP). However, I do not expect Jan to earn a TKO/KO finish as Corey will be the faster fighter (always

mobile in the striking) and Jan is not a huge KO/TKO threat in general nor as big of a threat as the other fighters that hurt Corey. Corey also is not a power puncher in general, so he mainly wins fights by outworking his opponents and tiring them out over the duration of the respective bout length. However, in a 5-round fight, I can definitely see Corey earning a TKO on the mat if Jan gasses again like he did in their first meeting which was a 3-round bout. Jan Błachowicz is an improved fighter since his first meeting with Corey Anderson as he may have been cut with a loss to Devin Clark but managed to go on an impressive winning streak against notable opponents such as Jared Cannonier and Jimi Manuwa showcasing offensive wrestling, BJJ pedigree, durability, and technical striking. I will say that it was hard to tell if Jan improved his wrestling defense from the first meeting with Anderson despite it appearing so. Jan faced wrestlers and grapplers such as Souza, Clark, and Rockhold, but after watching film, I still believe Jan can be taken down (was taken down easily by Krylov). Clark was shooting takedown attempts from very far away (telegraphed) and Jan was bigger than Clark, so Jan had success in that bout wrestling wise. Against Souza and Rockhold, both fighters held Jan in the clinch for multiple minutes and did not display the proficient takedown technique that Anderson has. Jan also had the fence to assist with defending the takedowns against Souza and Rockhold, so I am assuming Anderson can effectively take Jan down (multiple times). I must say after watching their first fight, Corey had a huge speed advantage, cardio advantage, and wrestling advantage, so I expect that to be the case here again. Jan will be the more technical striker while he's fresh, but Corey is technical enough to be competitive if not outright be favored in the striking exchanges due to his superior pace (striking output) and pressure. As the fight progresses, the chances of Corey winning will go up just as they did in the first bout. I have Corey winning a dominant decision here if not a TKO finish late in the fight hence the bet.

