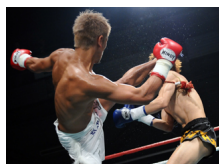


Big Bang 8 Results: Kido, Nashiro Score Wins, HIROYA Upset by Naoki

Written by Sam Sattler

Sunday, 26 February 2012 14:58 -



Taniyama Gym held the 8th event in its Big Bang series yesterday at Differ Ariake in Tokyo. On the card were top Japanese Middleweights Yasuhiro Kido and Yuji Nashiro taking on Baek Man-sun and Yukihiro Komiya, respectively. Also featured on the card were K-1 Koshien participants HIROYA and Hiroki Akimoto taking on Naoki and Ikuya Sasaki, respectively.

In the main event, Yasuhiro Kido scored another KO win, this time of Korean fighter Baek Man-Sun at 2:02 in the 2nd round. Kido (26-13-1, 12 KO) landed repeatedly with high kicks and strong combinations, knocking Baek down 4 times before the fight was stopped. As most know, Kido has had his struggles in the past, but he is now 6-1 (3 KO) in his last 7 and his sole loss was a close decision to Kenta, the man he is set to face next month at Krush.17 for the Krush 70kg title. The relatively easy win bodes well for Kido, who is coming in extremely hot while Kenta suffered a loss in his first fight since last September's K-1 MAX Japan Tournament.

In the co-main event, 2011 K-1 MAX Japan Tournament winner Yuji Nashiro took a close, but clear decision win over former RISE Middleweight champion Yukihiro Komiya on scores of 30-29, 29-28 and 29-29. Komiya (27-10-0, 6 KO) made it a fight, but Nashiro's (10-3-0, 5 KO) offense was too much for him. Until last year's K-1 MAX Tournament, Nashiro was a bit of an overlooked commodity because of his 1st round KO loss to Yuichiro "Jienotsu" Nagashima in the 2010 K-1 MAX Japan Tournament. He scored a pair of wins over Yutaro Yamauchi and Kenta right after that, but a loss to Yoshihiro Sato and a close extension round loss to Yutaro Yamauchi in the Krush 70kg Tournament really dropped him off the radar. That is, until he upset former K-1 MAX champion Albert Kraus in the opening round of last year's Japan MAX Tournament. Nashiro followed that up with a decision win over prospect Takafumi Morita in the semis and a 1st round KO of Yuya Yamamoto in the finals. Nashiro could be in line for a Krush title shot against the winner of Kido-Kenta, but in the meantime, I'd like to see a fight with either TOMOYUKI, who just upset Kenta, or Hinata. Komiya is now on a 2-fight losing streak as this was his first fight back since losing his RISE Middleweight title to Takafumi Morita last July.

In the big surprise of the night, 2008 K-1 Koshien champ HIROYA dropped a close split decision to former NKB Featherweight and Lightweight champ Naoki on scores of 29-28, 30-29 and 28-29. Naoki (19-5-2, 5 KO) was able to pressure HIROYA (10-5-0, 5 KO) offensively and land enough to pick up a win on the scorecards. For Naoki, this win puts him on a 4-fight win-streak, which is a great recovery from the 4-fight losing streak he had prior to that. He would make an interesting matchup for the winner of the RISE Lightweight title match between Yuki and Yuto

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Watanabe. HIROYA is now on a 2-fight losing streak after losing to Masaaki Noiri in the semis of the Krush Supernova Tournament. This was a close fight, but if HIROYA wants to be considered on the same level as the division's elite, this isn't a fight he should lose. It appears as though his defense has become his biggest liability, as he was outpointed by Noiri and even in his Supernova Tournament wins, he was getting hit a lot. For all of his offensive gifts, he will never break through if his defense isn't adjusted.

Finally, in a 60kg bout, 2010 K-1 Koshien runner-up Hiroki Akimoto kept his undefeated pro record with a 1st round TKO due to a cut over Ikuya Sasaki. Akimoto (13-0-0, 6 KO) landed with a high kick that opened up a cut on Sasaki (0-3-0, 0 KO) that caused the ringside doctor to end the fight. Akimoto made it to the semifinals of the 2009 Koshien Tournament where he ended up losing to Shota Shimada and made it to the finals of the 2010 Tournament, defeating the likes of Sho Ogawa and Keigo Ishida before he succumbed to low kicks against Shohei Hareyama. Akimoto followed that up with a huge 2011 in which he went 4-0 with knockouts in each of those wins, including a knockout of Turbo, his highest-profile opponent yet. Though he's only 19, it is time for Akimoto to start taking steps forward to higher-level opposition as he was likely only fighting someone like Sasaki to get his legs back under him after a 6-month layoff. The next step for Akimoto could be a shot at current MA Kick Featherweight champ Minoru Junibayashi. Sasaki is an MMA fighter as well, but has had just as little success in that as he has in kickboxing, as he is a paltry 1-6-0 fighting for Shooto and GCM Cage Force after starting 3-1 as an amateur.

Quick results after the break{jcomments on}

70kg Fight: Yasuhiro Kido def. Baek Man-Sun by 2nd round KO (right cross) at 2:02

70kg Fight: Yuji Nashiro def. Yukihiro Komiya by 3rd round Majority Decision (30-29, 30-28, 29-29)

63kg Fight: Naoki def. HIROYA by 3rd round Split Decision (29-28, 28-29, 30-29)

60kg Fight: Hiroki Akimoto def. Ikuya Sasaki by 1st round TKO (cut) at 2:40

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55kg Fight: Hiroaki Mizhuara and Youkou Okada fought to a 3rd round Majority Draw (30-28, 29-29, 29-29)

65kg Fight: Hiroki Nakamura def. NAOTO by 2nd round KO (leg kicks) at 1:03

68kg Fight: Mitsuhiro def. So Nakamura by 3rd round Unanimous Decision (30-24, 30-24, 30-24)

70kg Fight: Haruya def. Nobuhuki N720 by 3rd round Majority Decision (29-28, 29-28, 28-28)

68kg Fight: Hideaki Hoshikawa def. Kazuki Yamagiwa by 3rd round Unanimous Decision (28-27, 28-27, 29-26)