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At It's Showtime Japan 3/M-1 Fairtex Challenge Raorak Muay Vol.3 on September 11th, WBC Japan Super Bantamweight champion and M-1 Featherweight champion Genji Umeno knocked out Thai Wutidej Lookprabaht in the 4th round. Umeno used elbows to open up Wutidej which led to a 3 punch combo that set up the final uppercut-elbow combination that put Wutidej out. The win will likely get Umeno a fight with current WPMF Featherweight champion Yosuke Morii. It also puts Umeno in a good position with Lumpinee Stadium as Wutidej was ranked 5th at Feathweight which recently got a new champion, Penaik Sitnumnoi. At just 22, Umeno has solidified himself as one of the top featherweights in Japan and extends his current win streak to 8. I also expect Umeno to defend his WBC title against the winner of October's Ryuya Kusakabe-Rookie matchup in January. He holds a previous victory over Rookie and a matchup with Kusakabe would be a highly entertaining fight between two young, promising fighters.

In the co-main event, the aforementioned Yosuke Morii was able to defeat former WBO Featherweight boxing champion Ratanchai Sor Vorapin by first round knockout. I believe that M-1 was more or less setting up a fight between Morii and Umeno were they to win their bouts as they set up a small Featherweight tournament with these two fights. The next It's Showtime Japan/M-1 event is on November 13th, so that fight could take place then.

#2 ranked WPMF Featherweight Daiki Nagashima picked up a majority decision win and could get a shot at the winner of Umeno vs Morii some time in the future. Up next for Nagashima will likely be a title fight against current J-NETWORK Featherweight champ Masato Sato.

Former It's Showtime 61kg champion Sergio Wielzen was set to face off against Kanongsuk Weerasakreck, but one of them missed weight and the bout was changed to an exhibition.

At Korakuen Hall on September 10th, former Rajadamnern Stadium champion and Shootboxing convert Bovy Sor Udomson put a halt to Toby Imada's Shootboxing run by taking a unanimous decision over the Bellator fighter on scores of 28-26(x3). Imada scored a first round knockdown on Bovy, but Bovy answered back with a down in each round. Imada's incredible run in Shootboxing began at last year's S-Cup where he was a late replacement for Charles "Krazy Horse" Bennett. Imada upset Shootboxing standout Takaaki Umeno, knocking him out at the end of the 3rd round. Then, in the semifinals, Imada pulled a huge upset by defeating 2-time K-1 MAX champion and 3-time Shootboxing S-Cup champion Andy Souwer by split decision. Imada was TKO'd by Buakaw Por Pramuk in the finals of the tournament, but returned to Shootboxing in June, scoring yet another upset over Shootboxing mainstay Hiroki Shishido. For Bovy, the win stops a 5-fight losing streak and is his first win in Shootboxing in nearly a year and a half.

In the co-main event, Shootboxing superstar RENA was upset by former Bellator fighter Jessica Penne by majority decision in the second extension round. The fight was a majority draw after 3 rounds and couldn't be decided in the first extension round as the judges scored it a split draw. According to Dan Herbertson, RENA controlled rounds 1 and 3, but Penne scored a shoot point in round 2 to send it to the extension round. RENA apparently controlled the extension round as well over a tired Penne, but did not get help from the judges who sent it to a 5th round where Penne scored another shoot point to lock up the win. The loss is a huge disappointment for RENA who was coming off of a dominating win over Zaza Sor Aree and was getting ready for her fight with Erika Kamimura on November 23rd.

In a match for the vacant Super Welterweight championship, former boxer and #2 ranked Satoru Suzuki scored 3 knockdowns on #1 ranked Kenji Kanai, forcing a referee's stoppage and netting Suzuki the Shootboxing title.

Sengoku fighter Shigeki Osawa was also victorious at the event, taking his first win in Shootboxing, an upset over J-NETWORK Super Lightweight champion Yusuke Sugawara. Osawa used his grappling to score shoot points and secure the victory.

RENA's younger sister MIO picked up her second straight win under the Shootboxing banner, taking a unanimous decision win.

Also at the event, 55kg champion Ryuya Kusakabe vacated his title, likely to focus on fighting in Krush and with WBC Japan. {jcomments on}