

Weidman silences Silva with stunning left hook

IN Las Vegas this weekend a left hook was landed that was felt across the MMA world.

In the main event of UFC 162 Chris Weidman landed the shot that shocked not only Anderson Silva, but the whole MMA community worldwide.

Many experts had called the fact that they thought Weidman was the real deal and the man to dethrone the greatest mixed martial artist of all time.

They were right, but the manner of the defeat leaves a bit of a bitter taste in the mouth.

The Anderson Silva that turned up to fight was a very different guy to the Anderson Silva that turned up to fight Chael Sonnen and the majority of his other opponents.

He does have form for acting the fool and almost looking like he is not taking the fight seriously but this was something else.

Yes, Silva is a genius. Yes, he has won fights before whilst showboating. It's almost a part of him these days, that style is what elevated him to the next level from the rest of the

MMA

By BEN VICKERS

best as he could toy with top level guys.

This fight however looked more like he had no interest, has the best fighter in the world got bored with the fact that no one is really challenging him anymore?

I am not trying to detract from the achievement of Chris Weidman, he did what he had to do and laid solid hands on the former champion.

He earned the middleweight title and of that there can be no question but something just doesn't add up to me.

In an interview before the fight Silva even stated that Weidman would be champion, when asked how he saw the fight ending, .

Surely that is a strange thing to say before a title defence?

Weidman scored an early take-down in round one and landed some good ground and pound, but Silva was not hurt.

He got back up and was landing



Ben Sheehan, MMA Clinic and Gelegonya Szabolcs, Cork Sambo, pictured in action at the Battlezone MMA Fight Night Amateur Lightweight Division at Neptune Stadium.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

very solid and effective kicks, he kept putting himself against the cage and allowing Weidman to take shots at him.

During the break he danced around his corner and was talking constantly to Weidman before again landing solid leg kick work and clowning around.

A minute into round two Weidman landed the left hook that silenced Silva's mouth and won him the world championship belt that Silva has held for so long.

After the fight Silva said he didn't want a rematch and seems to have his heart set on a boxing match with Roy Jones Jr.

There are victims here, Chris Weidman has had his achievement marred by Silva's actions and must feel disrespected.

The fans paid big money to watch a fight either in Vegas or on pay-per-view and were not rewarded with the fight they deserved.

I feel there is only one way the truth can out, we need that re-match and we need, or deserve, Silva to turn up and bring his 'A' game not his clown game.

As it stands right now we have a new UFC middleweight champion of the world — well done Chris Weidman.

The co-main event saw Frankie Edgar take part in his first non title bout since 2009, meaning he only had three rounds to beat Charles Oliveira.

Edgar is renowned for being a slow starter but showed no signs of that trait on his way to a comfortable unanimous decision over the dangerous and talented Brazilian.

Edgar wants nothing more than another shot at Jose Aldo and may get one if he can get another good win under his belt.

Oliveira is still young and so talented that he will always be in the mix, Edgar is one of the most technically gifted fighters in the business and is probably the toughest too so losing a decision to him will not put too much of a dent in his career prospects.

Cub Swanson continued his rebirth in the featherweight division with his fifth win in five fights and his fourth stoppage in the same period.

He overcame veteran Denis Siver, it took him three rounds but he managed to bludgeon the German into semi-consciousness.

What Swanson brings to the fight, which makes him dangerous, is not only his well rounded skill set but a cast iron will to win and a level of

aggression second to none.

He must be knocking on the door for a title shot with the streak that he's on.

Is he ready for Jose Aldo? I don't know, but he would bring the fight to Aldo and I would love to see him get his shot.

The big guys went at it on the under card with Dave Herman taking on a resurgent Gabriel Gonzaga.

These heavyweights are always dangerous and often if you blink during these bouts it could be over.

Gonzaga took just 17 seconds to dispose of Herman as he landed a punch that would have decapitated most people.

Gonzaga has challenged for the heavyweight title before, but came up short against Randy Couture.

He is making one more push towards the summit and will have definitely opened a few eyes by his presence and force and make him a force in the division once more.

Herman may find himself looking for another job with his recent form and failed drugs test.

All in all it was an awesome card and the middleweight belt changed hands.

I look forward to seeing how the division plays out now.

Cool down in this hot weather with a Bath double

HAVE you darkened the door of a book-makers this week? If you are nodding your head as you read you should feel proud of yourself.

In other countries, during the summer, they might say: "Today is as warm as last Tuesday."

On Oliver Plunkett Street, overheard yesterday, someone said: "This reminds me of 1976."

Decades pass over our soaked soil without seeing such sustained sunshine (PaddyPower offer 8/1 on this being our hottest year on record, 7/2 to be the wettest), yet there you were, chewing a tiny plastic pen, scanning the newsprint

on the wall. As others were parading parcels of flesh on Patrick Street that hadn't been exposed to solar rays since Fianna Fáil had a majority, you were marvelling at those two lads who were rushing in and out to back number seven in every race at Roscommon.

I take my hat off to you, because since the clouds packed their bags a fortnight ago I haven't been able to concentrate on either odds or even sport and this has resulted in some of the silliest tips ever printed in this section of the paper. I'd apologise if I was a bigger man.

Instead today I am going to arm you



with some tips for staying cool.

What to wear is very important. Lightweight, light-coloured cotton clothes as cotton absorbs perspiration and its evaporation causes you to feel cooler. The light colours reflect the sun's radiation and sends the rays bouncing to-

wards less appropriately dressed people.

While you're out, keep the house curtains drawn to stop it heating up like a greenhouse. If you're in, you can parade around in the nip without frightening passersby.

Eat spicy food. Although this may be the last thing you fancy in hot weather, curries and chillies stimulate heat receptors in the mouth, enhance circulation and cause sweating, which cools the body down.

Just try not to spill any on your light-coloured cotton T-shirt.

Slow down and avoid strenuous

activity which will stimulate your body and raise its core temperature. Explain this to your other half when the subject of weeds and power washing is raised.

I'm not going to tell you avoid alcohol because it dehydrates the body and you are going to ruin tomorrow with an unwanted sticky hangover.

Have a pint of water after every three drinks and you'll feel a lot better come the morning. Normal service will be resumed tomorrow if I manage to follow all the above tips.

RECOMMENDATION: Double up Big Thunder and Portrait in the 7.40 and 8.40 at Bath tonight for a 5/2 double.