

**THE news dominating the MMA world this week is that Nick Diaz will no longer face Georges St Pierre for the UFC welterweight title.**

It is not an injury that has once again thwarted The UFC's main event, this time it's due to Diaz's inability to turn up to media commitments.

Last Tuesday he was expected to be in Toronto to promote the fight, he didn't show.

Then last Wednesday he didn't turn up to a press event in Las Vegas.

Not only did he not show but he went missing, even Caesar Gracie, his coach, could not find him.

Diaz had a dysfunctional relationship with the UFC while he fought in the organisation five years ago and Dana White said he would never fight for the UFC again.

With Zuffa's buyout of Strikeforce there was always a chance that we may see Diaz back in the UFC mix.

I was delighted when it was announced Diaz would fight St Pierre for the title. It was the best match out there for GSP. He has trashed everyone else in the division, barely raising a sweat.

Diaz would come to fight and pressure GSP, whether he would beat him or not is a different story, but he would make him fight.

Now it won't happen but all is not lost, the UFC has the biggest talent pool in all of MMA to choose from and all the best fighters in the world ply their trade with said organisation. Fortunately for the UFC, Carlos Condit had been scheduled to fight on the same show against BJ Penn.

Condit was promoted up to the main event, a fight he has earned over the last few years. He was the last ever welterweight champion of the WEC and has won 26 of his 27 fights by stoppage.

He has impressed in his last two outings with clinical knockouts of Dong Hyun Kim and the big punching Dan Hardy.

I fear he may come up short on the wrestling front but if he catches GSP then he has the power to knock him out. He is also unorthodox and pulls off techniques others wouldn't dare to try so may just have a little surprise up his sleeve for GSP, I doubt it but the possibility is exciting.

What about BJ Penn? Well this is the best bit, he will now face the one and only Nick Diaz.

Two guys with outstanding Ju Jitsu skills, who will most likely stand in front of each other and exchange kicks and punches.

But, isn't it all a bit two-faced? I mean one minute Dana White is doing his usual and getting all irate, understandably so, saying Nick Diaz is this, that and the other.

The next minute he is signing him to fight on the same card he just kicked him off. Clearly he will not be getting the payday he would have as main event but he will still do well out of the show.

I can't help thinking that Diaz been given this fight over rides his punishment.

Maybe it's me being dumb and White being very astute?

Either way everyone's a winner as we still have two really good, top-draw fights on the UFC 137 card.

What then happens if Diaz bests Penn and GSP beats Condit? Surely we are back to



Chris O'Donoghue, Waterford MMA, won his fight against, Chris Bouchard, Team Ryano, in a middleweight fight at The MMA Clinic Amateur Fight Night at the Rochestown Park Hotel recently.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

# Behaviour of Diaz changes the fightcard



O'Donoghue takes the fight to Brouchard.

## MMA

By BEN VICKERS

square one. Diaz will be number one contender but will White sanction the bout given the history?

The finalists of Strikeforce's Heavyweight GP were decided last weekend.

Josh Barnett defeated Sergei Kharitonov by arm triangle choke after weathering an early storm, getting his takedown and patiently using ground and pound to force the Russian into position for the choke.

He will now face Daniel Cormier, training partner of UFC heavyweight champion Cain Velasquez. Cormier battered big Brazilian Antonio Silva, rocking him early on with a right hand then pulverising Silva for a knockout win in just a little over three minutes.

Cormier has, seemingly, come from nowhere to find himself one win away from being very close to the top of the heavyweight pile. He has phenomenal wrestling and great striking ability which should match up well against Barnett's submission game and athleticism.

In Europe, Cage Warriors made an impressive return to Amman, Jordan for its second in-

stalment of Fight Night. Many regard Cage Warriors as the biggest show in Europe and Fight Night 2 may have cemented that regard. The sold-out New Boxing Arena bore witness to the crowning of a new welterweight champion, the last being Dan Hardy, as Gael Grimaud defeated Arni Isaksson by TKO.

It was a good night for the Irish as Cathal Pendred, Conor McGregor and Aisling Daly all came away with victories. We look forward to Cage Warriors 44 in London on October 1st, where Irishman Joe Duffy will fight Ivan Musardo for the lightweight title. My tip for fight of the night is Graham Turner v Ashleigh Grimshaw. Don't miss it.

# How to increase your chances of hitting the jackpot

CAMELOT, the organisers of the UK lotto, announced on Monday that the luckiest people in Britain were from Northwest of England.

And where are the luckiest people in Ireland from?

Where do you think?

Cork boasts more Lotto millionaires per capita than anywhere else in Ireland, with Skibbereen a well-known bonanza village.

The city and county won a whopping €35m in Lotto jackpots in 2010, with eight millionaires created in Cork in the space of just nine months last year.

In possibly the most useless piece of psychological research ever conducted,

Dr Richard Tunney, from the University of Nottingham, spent five years comparing 131 jackpot winners with a group of people who had not won and he found — drumroll — that the newly rich said they became more satisfied with their lives over that time while the non-winners experienced the opposite.

I'm guessing he got lotto funding for the research.

Our Lotto, which gave away €420 million in prize money and donated €244 million to good causes last year, looks like it will be sold by the Government.

Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore has said no decision has been made but it will be no surprise if the new licence for one of the



few state-owned companies that makes money is granted to a company outside the government. What would we want with a successful enterprise like that?

To the business at hand, the Lotto has rolled over for the 10th time and tops €8.5 million tonight.

The current odds of winning the Lotto

jackpot are 1 in 8,145,060, so for your €1.50 line you should really be getting over €12million off the odds.

On big jackpots the bookies often offer odds on the winning county, but none have been forthcoming yet.

But Paddy Power do offer 60-1 on the first six balls being evens and 40-1 on them being odds.

If anyone can tell me what the discrepancy is, please write in!

Some things can be done to increase your chances of winning.

It is far better to have combinations of two even and four odd numbers (or vice versa) or three even and three odd because these three patterns will occur in

about 75% of all draws.

Also, pick HIGH and LOW numbers.

Over 70% of all numbers that win have a sum that falls within the 100 to 158 range, with 129 being the average of winning numbers added up.

2, 39, 5, 38, 32 and 4 have been the most popular numbers in the past five years and they add up to 120.

You should also play less often, with more lines and avoid quickpicks as they are less likely to give you a greater spread of numbers

**Recommendation:** OK, this is a bit of an outsider, but: 1, 19, 23, 24, 36, 41.

Just don't let's all do it or there won't be enough to go around.