



By EARL WATT

- Leader & Times

Mario Muñoz did in 10 seconds what Robert Jones could not do in four minutes — deliver enough strikes to force official Troy McCarter to end the fight.

The bout brought an end to a night of fights that had the capacity crowd cheering at a fevered pitch Saturday in the National Guard Armory.

“It was the biggest and best we’ve ever done,” promoter Dave Rine said. “The crowd was the largest we’ve had.”

Muñoz has become a local favorite, and for the first four minutes, he found himself with his back to the mat while Jones tried to find an opening to deliver a knockout blow. Muñoz never gave him the chance, and despite having a full mount, Jones could not capitalize on the advantage.

Muñoz was able to spin Jones off, and while Jones tried to maintain his balance next to the cage, Muñoz delivered uncontested blows to the left side of Jones’ head. Before further damage could be done, McCarter stepped in to call the fight.

It was a solid match-up like most up and down the card.

“As a matchmaker, you try to line up fights that are even,” Rine said. “I think I finally got it right. A lot of it is luck. People came from everywhere, and it was an amazing night. We didn’t have a bad fight.”

The final bout of the night was an example of the entire night, and despite Muñoz appearing to be in trouble early, he bided his time until his opportunity came, and when it did, Jones could not defend himself.

“Mario had patience,” Rine said. “We’ve been working on his brazilian ju jitsu. We put Mario in some of the strangest positions and how to work out of them. He did it perfectly.”