

# Cyr enjoys impressive debut in mixed martial arts

*Delivers third-round knockout in Michigan cage match*

**By Steve LeBlanc**  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

One look at Craig Cyr and it's hard to imagine that he'd be fazed by anything. However, the 34-year-old Milton native admits to having a certain amount of apprehension earlier this month in Bay City, Michigan.

Of course being locked inside a cage is bound to be at least a little unnerving for even the most confident and capable of fighters — especially one debuting in a new

form of combat after an eight-year hiatus. "Somewhat, I guess," said the soft-spoken and stoic-looking mixed martial arts newcomer, when asked about any butterflies associated with his first battle in enclosed surroundings. "It's just not something I'm used to."

Returning to competition after nearly a decade — having punctuated a highly-decorated kickboxing career with back-to-back Florida State and North Eastern titles in the late '90s — there was some question as to Cyr's chances for a successful comeback.

Not only was he switching to a new sport,

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**CRAIG CYR**

but was starting against a hometown favourite — Michigan's Eric Stenson — with seven fights under his belt, five of them victories.

But the local welterweight — nicknamed the 'Cyclone' — would soon lay any doubts to rest, with a third-round knockout of his U.S. rival, courtesy of a thunderous left-right combination to the head and subsequent rear roundhouse kick that put an explosive exclamation point on his mixed martial arts debut.

"It was great to win that first match," said the five-foot-nine-inch, 160-pounder. "Once the bell rang I felt good in there. I actually surprised myself with how much stamina I had, especially having taken the fight on only three-and-a-half weeks notice."

Describing mixed martial arts as combat

• see FIGHTER on page A18

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