

Brian Bowles Knocks Out Miguel Torres, Captures WEC Bantamweight Title

By Ariel Helwani

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Brian Bowles defeated Miguel Torres via knockout - Round 1, 3:57

Move over, Mike Brown, there's a new upset kid in World Extreme Cagefighting.

Brian Bowles shocked the MMA world on Sunday night when he defeated Miguel Torres via first-round knockout to capture the WEC bantamweight title.

Torres had won his last 17 fights in a row, a streak that dated back to June 2004. It was only his second loss in 39 professional MMA fights.

Torres actually stunned Bowles with a barrage of left and rights, which had the new champ backpedaling to get out of danger. However, as Torres kept moving forward, Bowles connected with a short right hook which dropped Torres. He then landed a series of rights and lefts, which eventually knocked Torres out cold. Torres needed a few minutes to get up, but he was able to leave the cage on his own.

"He had me rattled there pretty bad," Bowles said after the fight. "I kind of recovered, and saw him come in a little hard, and swung a good hook; hit him right on the jaw."

Bowles improves his professional MMA record to 8-0. The Georgia-native was scheduled to face Torres in April, but was forced to pull out of the bout after injuring his back. Once known as a one-dimensional wrestler, Bowles continues to prove that he is as dominant on his feet as he is on the ground.

Bowles had told Versus.com in June that he was going to knock Torres out, and his prediction proved to be true Sunday night.

"I was just confident that I could win," he said. "I convinced myself that I could beat him, and I just stayed calm. A lot of other people, I think, get caught up with the hype with him, and are afraid of him. I just wasn't worried about that; I put all that to the side."

Indeed, Bowles looked very confident and relaxed throughout the fight. In the past, we've seen fighters try to trade strikes with Torres from the get-go, but Bowles picked his spots, and fought intelligently. He actually rocked Torres early in the fight, as well.

It will be interesting to see who Bowles will defend his newly-won title against first. There would obviously be a lot of interest in an immediate rematch with Torres, but something tells me he'll defend the title against Dominick Cruz first, and if he passes that test, we'll see Bowles vs. Torres II in early 2010.

Either way, Bowles said he's looking forward to defending his title soon.

"Oh, I'm pumped, man. It's what I'm here to do. I want this belt. I got it, and I earned, and I want to keep on defending it."

This result is perhaps even more shocking than Brown's featherweight title victory over heavy-favorite Urijah Faber last November. And just like that helped breathe new life in the featherweight division, this will do the same.

In other words, Miguel Torres has finally found the rival and test he was looking for at 135 pounds.