

UFC 8



TAILGATE PARTY

The one thing I love about tailgating today is you don't really have to have a big game or race to throwdown a tailgate party anymore. All you really need is a flat piece of real estate, a liquid propellant and a group of people,

wa la a tailgate party!

Well on this typical steaming hot July 11th evening in Orlando, Fl. Fridays Front Row Sports Bar had invited the crew of Tailgateville.com to come out and set-up the rig for a tailgate/viewing party for The Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC 100). They wanted a tailgate/viewing party in the parking lot of their restaurant so the guests could watch the fights outside and of course what a better viewing vehicle than our custom Tailgateville trailer with four flat panel TV's, HD satellite and our monster sound system.

It's the biggest event in mixed martial arts history, and for UFC 100, the Ultimate Fighting Championship brought out the big guns. Two championships were on the line when UFC heavyweight title holder Brock Lesnar defended his crown against rival Frank Mir in their long-awaited grudge match, and UFC welterweight champion Georges "Rush" St-Pierre aka (GSP) put his belt up for grabs against Brazilian knockout artist Thiago "Pitbull" Alves. Also, The Ultimate Fighter coaches collided as Dan Henderson took on Michael "The Count" Bisping in a pivotal middleweight showdown.



The hosting of an event like this in the parking lot of a sports bar requires a bit of logistical planning on the front end that's for sure. Multiple permits were required from the city, including a special event permit to allow drinking in the parking lot, a tent permit and an "I promise to behave" permit. Orlando's finest Police department was on site for any potential amateur parking lot UFC challenges.

This was the second year Friday's Front Row put on this event which was marketed in conjunction with a local radio station WJRR and "The King of Beers". This was Tailgateville.com's first ever UFC tailgate/viewing party and we had no idea what to expect. So here's how it goes.



The tent was installed in the parking lot the day before during a torrential down pour that looked like a river running through it. I thought this tent would provide all the necessary cover in case of inclement weather on fight night, "wrong". We arrived with the trailer the next day, Saturday around 3pm to start setting up for the evening's party which was to start at 7pm with fights starting at 10pm. Set-up was progressing along nicely until the evil witch of weather unleashed her fury directly over our event. It rained so hard and the wind howled for a solid hour all the while this storm never moved. I think the cloud eventually ran out of



water. The crazy thing was the wind blew sideways from the west for the first 30 minutes so we covered all our gear and moved it under the tent to one side and then it blew completely from the opposite direction for the next 30 minutes, so we moved it to the other side. I mean sideways and probably 4 to 5 inches in that hour. We had to put our speakers up on tables the rain was running through the tent so hard. We had our 20' tall fabric banners blown all up down the street and parking lot, our coolers on wheels were blown down the street as well as all our flags. Luckily we found everything once it stopped. The great thing was it lowered the temperature about 15-20 degrees during that time for the rest of the evening.

We scrambled for the next hour to put Humpty Dumpty back together again, not knowing what our rain soaked electronics would do. Luck be a Lady, fired everything up right at 7pm and all was working. The only thing left was to hope my mobile satellite dish set-up would get the Pay for View event at 10pm without any major heartache. You know how those things can go! Well for the next three hours we jammed the tunes, beverages were flowing, smokers were smoking and a gentle breeze blew through the tent. Guests continued to stream in steadily during this time and I think the final count was over 800 people were there at the venue and watched the fights. Having tailgated most of life through out the southeast at everything from boat races to NASCAR to football to concerts. I have become familiar with every type of crowd you would imagine to see at one of those events; The bubbas at the races, the super fans at football, the girls gone wild at Kenny Chesney, etc. Do any of you know what the crowd at a UFC 100 fight in a bar looks like, I bet not?



UFC 100 TAILGATE PARTY



Well let me tell you this, just about any women there could have kicked my ass and I'm not kidding. I was very surprised to see so many women there to watch these fights and they weren't just their with there significant others either.



Now that it was approaching 10pm and the start of the fights was drawing near all I had to do was pray the fights would actually appear on my TVs as planned and paid for. Wa La, Lucky once again, it was show-time and all systems were a go. I switched the monster sound system to fight mode and the tent roared to life as the ring announcer introduced the first fight of the evening .Did I mention that the people had been there already 3-4 hours pounding the bar before the first fight came on?



Well the bell finally rang, the fighters touched gloved knuckles, began circling the octagon ring and the ass whoopins' began. In the first 30 seconds these guys in that ring were pounding each other. The tent was roaring, people cheering for their guy and the women were vicious as they screamed at the TV's. I didn't realize this was the first of 7 fights. As each fight concluded the crowd drew closer and closer to the Trailer/TV's in anticipation of the title bout between Lesnar and Mir. No one was disappointed as each fight was intensely entertaining. The crowd only got ugly when someone decided to upgrade their viewing position and block someone else's view.



In the end GSP prevailed over the Pitbull in a 5 rd decision and Brock Lesnar pummeled Frank Mir in the title bout with a second round TKO. The crowd really enjoyed this event and remained relatively calm throughout the night. The Front Row Sports Bar, and Orlando Police did a great job of maintaining peace and the soaked to bone Tailgateville.com boys packed up, grabbed a cold one and headed home.

Needless to say this wasn't your typical tailgate party, but the more tailgate parties we do, typical seems to be changing as the sport of tailgating matures.

See ya in some parking lot soon,
Darren

