

# THE DETROIT DIESEL

## Hell Week

by **Fred George** "The Detroit Diesel"



Wow! I can't believe it's finally over! What a crazy week we had. You see, Bobby, R.J. and myself were supposed to have the LA Fit Expo locked down. Unfortunately one of our main sponsors, who was contracted to set up a fight cage, backed out in the eleventh hour. That set off a firestorm; we ran around like monkeys with our heads cut off.



God must have been watching because I found out that two cages from the now defunct Art of War MMA promotion were up on the auction block. I snapped into action and purchased both Throwdown (soon to be TapouT) cages and two airline tickets by noon the next day.

Here was the problem: How do I get one to Detroit and the other to California ASAP?!?

Along came Gary McDowell and Dollamur Mats to the rescue. Gary sent me two empty semi-trucks as soon as I arrived in Dallas. Now it was up to me and Bobby Pittman to load two cages into two different trucks and get one to the LA Convention Center by Thursday! Remember it was now Saturday and nobody worked in the Bible belt on Sunday!

So on Sunday I flew home, repacked and jumped on another plane to Vegas for the Shot Show! That was awesome! Every gun manufacturer and Second Amendment-believing, gun-toting NRA member was there. In our sport, that meant Brock Lesnar, Randy Couture, Dan Henderson, Frank Mir, Matt Hughes, Tim Sylvia, Eric Prindle, Rashad Evans and myself. I even hung out with Ted Nugent and R. Lee Erney, the real life-turned reel drill instructor from Full Metal Jacket. I taught "arrest and

control" to Special Forces and A.T.F. personnel as well as worked "The Burn Machine" booth.

Needless to say I was burned out by Thursday, so I scrambled to the plane only to find out that my canvas for the cage had been stolen. It was back to the Chinese fire drill. I called Scott Ence at the TapouT Training Center in Vegas to borrow a 24-foot canvas. He called a driver to bring it to the Shot Show as I was already late for my return flight to LA. The driver dropped it on me without the box. No shit! I jumped in his truck and headed to Target to dumpster-dive for a new one. It wasn't a pleasant sight.

Now it was back to the airport where I ran into a TapouT retail store by my gate. No Shit again! These guys are



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everywhere. Now back to LA. I had no ride because Bobby was setting up the cage at the Expo. I called my friends, got picked up, took a shower, slept two hours, and ran to my gym for Burn Machines, mat cleaner, fight gear and a CSW banner.

Now I was late and drove 80 mph. I got a ticket and pulled into the Expo, only to find out those dummies put the cage panels on before I stretched the canvas! So I unbolted the cage, put the floor down and re-bolted it together as the fans entered. I changed into fight gear, grabbed a microphone and started fight demos for two days straight. Urijah Faber, Bruce Buffer, Eddie Bravo, Vladimir Matyushenko, Robert Emerson, Herb Dean, Eric Prindle, Hector Lombard, Juliano Prado, and Joker showed off their stuff in the cage.

Thank you to any and all participants who helped us out. You guys really rocked! Now if that wasn't enough, the show ended at 5 PM on Sunday and I had to tear down the cage, roll the mats, break down our booth, and load it all into the trailers by 7:30 PM. Oh no, not done yet!

As I left, Bobby called me to come back because I had to drive the tour bus to Orange County first. Needless to say, when I touched my head to my couch, it was lights out!!! I woke up and drove to the MMA Worldwide offices, and I am writing this article as we speak...well, you get the picture! You see, RJ hit me with this deadline this morning (January 26th). *(Editor's note: For a guy on his cell phone 24/7 he somehow managed to miss the dozen text messages, emails and phone calls sent over the past two weeks telling him his column was due. Honest mistake I'm sure.)*

I hope you enjoy the pictures I attached as it is a timeline of my life during the last week or two. Thank you to Dollamur mats, The Burn Machine, Shot Show, LA Fit Expo and all of you fans for supporting MMA!

