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## [Weiser making pro fighting debut in Philly](#)

By Mike Meiler [Niagara Gazette](#)

Back in April, 21-year-old Eddie Weiser stepped into the cage in Parma, Ohio, with a 3-1 record as an amateur Mixed Martial Arts fighter. He faced a 31-year-old amateur Josh Martinez, who was fighting in his home state and boasted an undefeated record.

“Eddie’s just a kid and he fought a man,” said Don Lilly, Weiser’s manager and manager of Victory MMA in North Tonawanda. “He smashed him. After that, no (amateurs) wanted to fight him.”

Weiser won’t have to worry about finding amateur fights anymore. The former Grand Island and Buffalo State football player will make his professional MMA debut tonight at Locked in the Cage 9 in Philadelphia. The card will be streamed live at 7:45 p.m. at [www.lockedinthecage.com](http://www.lockedinthecage.com).

The 6-foot, 185-pound Weiser will take on a fellow first-time pro in 30-year-old Harry Dickey, who is three inches taller than Weiser and outweighs him by 30 pounds.

Lilly, who picked the fight, said that while Dickey has the size advantage, he’s not a great wrestler, which might be Weiser’s weakness.

“I think he could be a pro boxer, but he wants MMA,” Lilly said of Weiser, who won the 2007 New York State Golden Gloves Championship. “He’s got some of the quickest hands I’ve ever seen. We’ve just had to teach him wrestling.”

Weiser said that he’ll try to stay upright throughout the match.

“He’s more of a brawler,” Weiser said. “I’m going to try to use my standup game, though I’ve been training in jiu-jitsu in case the fight goes to the mat.”

Weiser trains and fights out of Victory, but has been training with Chuck Anzalone at the Buffalo Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy in West Seneca since the beginning of this year in order to round out his fighting style.

“At Victory, they teach more striking,” Anzalone said. “Jiu-jitsu focuses more on forcing your opponent to submit through grappling.”

Weiser said rule changes might be the biggest obstacle in going from amateur to professional. Amateur fights only last up to three rounds while professional bouts can go on for five. Weiser said he’s been focusing on his conditioning in preparation.

“The rule changes can add an extra six minutes to the fight,” Lilly said, “which is almost double what he’s used to.”

Lilly said that other rule changes could help Weiser, though.

“A lot more is legal in professional fights,” he explained. “They’re more violent. You’re allowed to elbow and knee your opponent’s head. These changes might benefit Eddie with his boxing background.”

Weiser said he can’t wait for the fight.

“I’m a little nervous but I couldn’t be more excited,” he said. “I definitely like my chances. ... I don’t think anyone is able to beat me right now. I’ll be going for the knockout.”