

2026 Unfrozen Caveman – Preview

The 25 is behind us. Onward to the next 25. The Serb relishes a UFC in familiar surroundings. Five times in Tucson in the last 10 years. The Serb can't help but wonder exactly how lazy has this TD gotten. Perhaps only A Lister MacKenzie himself is lazier! Lolliness aside, The Serb admits that Tucson is a worthy host. And familiarity breeds contempt (© The Serb) which, of course, The Serb loves. So what to make of The 26? [The Serb is running it back – didn't take in 2025, but will be huge in 2026! The 26!]



The Serb is traditionally wont (why isn't it want?) to go all The Serb and question, belittle, ridicule, and shame everything UFC. It's a tradition and The Serb suffers for a good tradition. The Serb sleeps at night knowing that The Serb's loving and caring tone always comes through and those in the way of The Serb's tough words leave the process better people. [note: The Serb is often very drunk at night as well.]

Now for The 26, let The Serb snicker: Baby Bears? One Man Scrambles? A single 36? Mid PM tee times? Carryover Cap? What is going on with this TD? The Serb is roundly embarrassed. Okay – that's done. Now please allow The Serb to not care how people feel and just give the facts of The 26.

The 26 venues are as good as any UFC before The 25 (that's the one with Pebble Beach):

- Tucson National (Catalina) - former host of the PGA Tucson Open and Champions tour Crapbox Classic.
- Ventana Canyon (Canyon) – just a really good and nice course
- La Paloma (Canyon/Hill) – current host of the Crapbox (those old don't play the hardest holes that are slated for The 27)
- Tucson Country Club – current home of the NCAA power University of Arizona men's and women's golf teams
- The Gallery North – past host of the WGC-Accenture Match Play tournament.
- Ventana Canyon (Mountain) – Golfweek: Best Resort Course Golf in AZ. Skins host for a reason. Great course.
- The Serb knows these venues well. The Serb played them often in the 60s when The Serb was stationed at D-M AFB.

The 26 field is spectacular:

- Lots of Grizzly Vets: BT5, TST, LUF, W, BDD, YCC, TW5, PTG, TBK, DOED, JUD, and ATR (TSB)
- A few uber-successful mid-AMs: BKB (2 for 2), GNR (3 for 6), XOT (1 for 2)
- A gaggle of Saucy Noobishes: HRM (one UFC), DJ (Majors rookie), SMBA (UFC rookie), BLY (Majors rookie)
- The Serb enjoys this field, couldn't care less about the schlubs (TT, SWT, JRY, MGY, MEL, WAR, ERN) eschewing
- The Serb also wants to wish STL happy healing and let's get back in the fold at The 27!. The UFC is not the UFC.

As The Serb peruses the handicaps and the matchups and thinks up The Serbs thoughts, The Serb wonders about the “random” draws and those immune to extreme goodness and extreme not as goodness (kinder, gentler The Serb) in this UFC. The Serb can't “help” but lament for the WotB, aka Keeper of “the” Castle, (JUD) and then pine for the BotW, aka King of the Dump (SMBA). The positions are softened a bit by the hidden movement within the field of these Mama Bears. The Serb thinks. The Serb is not sure how that all works and The Serb has a PHD in human trafficking (the good kind). If The Serb don't know, who does?

The 26 features the winners of 17 of the past 25 UFCs. The Serb is impressed with that. GNR, XOT, and BKB have swept the Tucson 4 to date. BT5 has 5 UFCs but all before electricity. TST has 2. Overall, there are seven past winners. Let The Serb attempt to make something of this:

The Serb's Prediction:

Pretenders:

SMBA, ATR, PTG, LUF

Probably Out of the Mix:

BT5, BLY, W, YCC, TST

Probably In the Mix:

BDD, DJ, DOED, XOT, HRM

Contenders:

BKB, JUD, TW5, GNR, TBK

Darkhorses to Win: HRM, BLY, SMBA

Winner of The 26: BKB, duh.