

Jackson expects Forrest fire

Quinton 'Rampage' Jackson's latest defence of his UFC light-heavyweight title pits him against the young pretender of the division in Forrest Griffin. By **Gareth A. Davies**

UFC 86, in which Quinton "Rampage" Jackson (far right) puts his light-heavyweight title on the line against Forrest Griffin (right), has all the makings of a great contest.

Jackson is one of mixed martial arts' biggest stars. He has been fighting at the highest level for more than five years, and has beaten some of the best men in the division, including "The Iceman" Chuck Liddell.

Griffin, meanwhile,

served notice of his great potential last September against Mauricio "Shogun" Rua – who inflicted the most punishing defeat of Jackson's career on the American – when he forced Rua to submit with 15 seconds remaining.

Saturday night's fight, at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas, will not be the first time the two men have met.

In November 2007, Jackson and Griffin were

chosen as opposing coaches on *The Ultimate Fighter* reality show. There were no confrontations, no bad blood, no psychological games being played out between them, but each will have used the opportunity to size the other up over the course of six weeks.

The Ultimate Fighter is, of course, the programme that made Griffin, a former policeman, a fighting celebrity when he won

the first season in 2005. He defeated Stephan Bonnar in the final, which was the first-ever UFC live national television special in the United States.

Griffin, with a record of 15 wins and four losses, will start as the underdog against Jackson, who has a 28-6 win-loss record, and, perhaps more importantly, superior strength and wrestling ability.

UFC 86 is the first major UFC event held in the

US to be shown live in the UK, on Setanta Sports, which will also screen British star Michael Bisping's fight against Chris Leben, at the NIA in Birmingham, on October 18.

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