

picture this!



KEVIN
RANDLEMAN
GOES INTO
ORBIT WITH
240 POUNDS
OF RUSSIAN
CARGO.

Houston, we have a problem

The scene was *Pride Critical Countdown, June 20, 2004, at the Saitama Super Arena in Japan. American fighter and former NCAA wrestling champion Kevin “The Monster” Randleman was slated to fight Pride Heavyweight Champion Fedor Emelianenko. While the well-rounded Russian was the heavy-betting favorite, Randleman’s freakish athleticism had achieved the impossible before. Less than two months prior, he had viciously and unpredictably knocked out kickboxing ace and supposed heir to the Pride throne Mirko “Cro-Cop” Filipovic. In this fight, Randleman unleashed a new trick, and launched Emelianenko into space as if he were Sputnik I. Even though Randleman lost the fight, his epic slam of Emelianenko will go down in MMA—and maybe even NASA—history.*



“In practice I get Mark Coleman into that position, and he always tries that Kimura thing. So every once in a while, I practice throwing him, but we never actually throw each other. We’ve both had our necks broken before. Obviously, that move is a neck breaker.”

“It was a high-crotch changeover throw. I shot on his leg, and when he came up in the air, I was kind of to the side of him. I cut the leg out from underneath, just like a table. Think of a table. If you cut one of those legs out, it’s just going to fall that way.”

“Fedor was reaching for a wristlock to bring it around my back. And as soon

as I felt it, I just knew to drop down, change my levels and pick him up. But when I picked him up, I didn’t expect to go as high as I did. Fedor just went with it. I couldn’t believe how high my feet were myself.”

“You can’t hurt me if you’re in the air. As a wrestler, I know that you’ve got no power with your feet and hips unless your feet are touching the mat.”

“When he hit the mat, he was stunned. I didn’t feel any movement underneath me. I wanted to throw knees, but my feet were in the ropes. As my feet were coming out, he came back alive. He knew exactly what to do.”

“When I watched it, I couldn’t believe that I hadn’t broken someone’s neck in the ring before. So everyone better be worried about getting close to me. I know for a fact that there will be a lot of throws in my fights in the future.”

“A-class fighters are prepared for just about anything. Fedor is a military man. He’s been up and down the river a million times. I’m not his first boat ride.”

“This guy is a great fighter. I love fighting him. If I could train with Fedor for a month, believe me, the guys at 205 pounds would be f---ed. You train with guys like that and you can’t help but shine. Steel sharpens steel.” 🤝