

## Tyson Fury declares himself 'the king'



### London

**Tyson Fury** claims he is "the king" of the heavyweight division as he plans his return to boxing after an absence of more than two years.

Fury accepted a backdated two-year ban from UK Anti-Doping for a violation this week, and the British Boxing Board of Control are meeting in January to discuss renewing the 29-year-old's licence.

Fury, undefeated in 25 fights and a former WBO, IBF and WBA champion, thinks his record makes him stand out from the crowd.

Speaking to *The Telegraph*, he said: "Someone labelled it the four kings right now, four undefeated heavyweight fighters in myself, Anthony

Joshua, Joseph Parker and Deontay Wilder.

"But I labelled it 'three peasants and a king'. There's only one king of the division and that's me."

With Fury set to return to the sport for the first time since shocking Wladimir Klitschko in November 2015, a fight with Anthony Joshua has been discussed.

Promoter Eddie Hearn believes it would be the "biggest fight in British boxing history", and Fury says he would have no trouble winning it.

"He is a big strong lad, good power, good physique, but what else can I say? There are levels to this game, and my boxing ability is way more advanced than his is," he said. (*skysports*)

# Brave MMA Athletes celebrate Bahrain National Day

### Manama

**Mixed Martial Artists** of Brave Combat Federation and global celebrities celebrated Bahrain National Day around the world.

The athletes thanked the Kingdom of Bahrain for providing a global platform for athletes without distinguishing language, cultures, religion and race.

They expressed their gratitude and respect towards His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. The athletes expressed their support and thanked His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for supporting the sport of Mixed Martial Arts and establishing Brave Combat Federation that is developing the sport Internationally.

The Kingdom of Bahrain made immense progress in the sport and is one among the global leaders when it comes to combat sports.

Bahrain national team made significant progress in the amateur division and the Kingdom hosted the biggest IMMAF World Championships till date under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

"Within a year the Kingdom of Bahrain reached out to nations around the world bringing together over 140 athletes from over 32 nations through the international platform established in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Brave Combat Federation. This is an achievement that the sports media property have made during the initial year of operation. We are overwhelmed by the international community of athletes reaching out to express their gratitude towards the Kingdom of Bahrain and towards the vision of our leader His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for developing the sport of Mixed Martial Arts and for his exemplary support and leadership in this initiative," said Mohammed Shahid, President of Brave Combat Federation.



## Bahrain-Merida presented new jersey for 2018



### Manama

**Bahrain-Merida** on Thursday unveiled a 2018 team kit that makes slight changes from their inaugural jersey in 2017.

The 2018 jersey is predominantly red with a blue stripe on the front. Representing the Kingdom of Bahrain,

the name Bahrain is written in gold lettering, gold being royal colour, while Merida is written in white.

Because the team's clothing technical partner, Sportful, supplied a collarless aero jersey, the flag of Bahrain moved this year from the collar to the back of the jersey, along

with the team's acronym - TBM (Team Bahrain-Merida).

The heart of the team's logo, an arabic pattern, is featured on the back of the jersey as well to help the Bahrain-Merida directors differentiate riders in peloton from the other red teams. (*cyclingnews*)

## Most teams would suspend Froome: Copeland



### Hvar, Croatia

**Bahrain-Merida** team manager Brent Copeland believes that Chris Froome should sit out of racing while his Salbutamol case is resolved. Froome returned an adverse analytical finding (AAF) for double the allowable limit of the asthma medication during this year's Vuelta a España.

Froome was notified of the findings on September 20, but the issue only came to light on Wednesday through revelations from *Le Monde* and the *Guardian*. Copeland emphasised that his issue was not with Froome or Team Sky themselves, but argued that continuing to ride while the case is ongoing gives cycling a bad

public image.

"I've known Chris for years, and I must be very clear that this isn't against him. I think that Chris can come back stronger than before, I know him and his mindset," Copeland said at Bahrain-Merida's training camp in Croatia.

"If you have a code of conduct or an ethics code then you should follow that. September 20 is when they were notified and Chris still presented himself at several events and [Team Sky] were negotiating with RCS about the participation of him at the Giro d'Italia, knowing what they had on their plate, which is difficult for me to understand as a manager." (*cyclingnews*)