

Brave to diversify talent pool in FY 2018



Ahmed Amir punch

Manama

The Bahrain based Mixed martial Arts promotion will be extending the talent pool in FY2018 due to the unprecedented growth achieved and due to the rising market requirements.

President of Brave Combat

Federation, Mohammed Shahid made a formal announcement addressing the global partners in operation.

Also to support the same, Brave Combat Federation will intensify its efforts in operations, content

distribution and digital enablement. This makes the organisation among one to the organisations to achieve highest growth rate in the region alongside the organisation with the highest growth rate in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Brave

has enabled operations in Middle East, Brazil, India and European Union which will set to expand in the coming months.

The proceedings about the diversification process is set to be revealed in the coming weeks.



Peter Sagan shows off his new bike computer

Sagan to race with Wahoo Elemnt Bolt

London

Next season, world road champion Peter Sagan and his Bora-hansgrohe teammates will be racing with Wahoo Elemnt Bolt computers on their handlebars.

The sponsorship is a major breakthrough for Wahoo, the US company best known for its Kickr smart trainers.

While Wahoo Kickrs are no stranger to the ranks of elite road professionals, the Wahoo Elemnt Bolt GPS computer has not yet been used in the WorldTour peloton, where Garmin Edge and SRM PC8

head units are the norm.

Although, we did spot an Elemnt Bolt recently on Marcel Kittel's 2018 Katusha-Alpecin Canyon Aeroad.

Bora-hansgrohe will also use Wahoo's Tickr heart-rate straps, which work on both ANT+ and Bluetooth.

The Bolt is the slimmed-down version of the original Elemnt GPS computer, which is configured via a rider's smartphone.

Wahoo designed the Bolt and its mount with aerodynamics in mind - a first for bike computers. (*cyclingnews*)

Ex-250cc rider Debon will rider coach Lorenzo

Paris

Former 250cc racer Alex Debon has joined the coaching team of Ducati MotoGP rider Jorge Lorenzo for 2018. Triple MotoGP champion Lorenzo endured a difficult first season with Ducati in 2017, finishing a lowly seventh in the championship and scoring just three podium finishes as team-mate Andrea Dovizioso narrowly lost out in a close title battle with Honda's Marc Marquez.

Debon has already started working with Lorenzo, joining

the Spaniard's entourage for last month's Valencia and Jerez post-season tests.

Debon will be present at every MotoGP race in 2018 and will work alongside Pirro.

Debon (below) made 152 starts in the 250cc/Moto2 category between 1998 and 2010. Ducati test rider Michele Pirro was assigned to Lorenzo as a coach this year, but the Italian's wildcard races and CIV Superbike commitments prevented him performing his duties at some events. (*autosport*)

Max Verstappen was tough in rough patch

London

Red Bull boss Christian Horner says Max Verstappen's capacity to cope with difficult moments was the most impressive aspect of the Dutch driver's 2017 Formula 1 season.

Verstappen endured a run of poor reliability that cost him several potential podium finishes and allowed Red Bull F1 team-mate Daniel Ricciardo to finish well clear of him in the championship.

After an engine failure in August's Belgian Grand Prix, Verstappen admitted he was starting to lose faith in Red Bull and Renault ever being able to get on top of their problems.

But Red Bull's form improved dramatically in the second half of the season, allowing Verstappen to win two races and convincing him to sign a contract extension with

the team.

Horner said Verstappen refused to let negative emotions get the better of him and continued to work as hard as ever during the difficult moments, which impressed the team.

"I think Max has had the benefit of experience and he has just grown in experience of racing in general," said Horner. "It is easy to forget it is only his fourth year of car racing."

"What has really impressed me this year is the way that he has dealt with some of the difficult moments."

"There have been quite a few of those, particularly in the summer months, but he has kept working hard at it, he has kept the hours up on the simulator every week and his application is first class, and obviously his ability is unquestionable." (*autosport*)



Max Verstappen drives his car (file pic)