

Cavendish sprints to first stage win

Abu Dhabi

Britain's **Mark Cavendish** won a sprint finish for the first stage of the Tour of Abu Dhabi yesterday as race favourite Marcel Kittel of Germany crashed.

The 31-year-old Dimension Data rider pulled on the leader's red jersey after crossing ahead of Germany's

Andre Greipel (Lotto Soudal) and Italian Niccolo Bonifazio (Bahrain-Merida).

Germany's Kittel fell on the final kilometre stretch just before the sprint with the Quick-Step Floors rider finishing three minutes behind the winner.

The 189km stage between Abu Dhabi and Madinat Zayed crossed the desert, with Friday's second stage over 153km at Al Maryah Island. (AFP)

Scoreboard

First stage:

1. Marc Cavendish (GBR/DDD) 4hr 36min 56sec
2. Andre Greipel (GER/LTS) same time
3. Niccolo Bonifazio (ITA/TBM) s.t.
4. Simone Consonni (ITA/UAD) s.t.
5. Elia Viviani (ITA/SKY) s.t.

Overall standings:

1. Marc Cavendish (GBR/DDD)
2. Andre Greipel (GER/LTS) at 4sec
3. Manuel Mori (ITA/UAD) 4
4. Niccolo Bonifazio (ITA/TBM) 6
5. Mirco Maestri (ITA/BRD) 8



Mark Cavendish



Mark Cavendish (front) from Dimension Data cycling team celebrates as he crosses the finish line



Brave confirms venue, announces ticket sale

DT News Network

Manama

Brave 3: Battle in Brazil, the first ever international instalment of Middle East's number one promotion Brave Combat Federation, is going full throttle as the promotion announced the ticket sale for the card in Curitiba, along with the venue that will host the fight night.

The Max Rosenmann Arena, in São José dos Pinhais, Curitiba Metropolitan Area is the venue and the location less than 15 km away from downtown Curitiba and a facility used to host combat events, being the home of Brazil's Immortal FC.

Brave have opted for ticket sales with a fan-oriented strategy and focused in offering an international-level structure and fight card with tickets at affordable prices. The decision, according to Brave's CEO Mohammed Shahid, was taken considering Brazil's economic situation and the size of the country, which can lead to long trips by the fans.

"Tickets are now available on *BraveFights.com*. We have a stacked fight card. I am sure it's going to be a historic night," Shahid said.

Brave 3: Battle in Brazil will be headlined by the long-awaited clash between featherweight rivals Lucas "Mineiro" Martins and Paulo "Bananada" Goncalves. In the co-main event of the evening, welterweights Thiago "Monstro" Vieira will face the newcomer Carlston "Moçambique" Harris.

Other fights are Lucas Martins vs Paulo Goncalves (featherweight), Luan Santiago vs Ivan Castillo (featherweight), Ivan Lopez vs Marcel Adur (bantamweight), Julio Cesar Neves vs Nate Landwehr (featherweight).

This will be Brave Combat Federation's first international instalment after back to back events in the Kingdom. In 2016, the promotion was born under the patronage of HH Shaikh Khalid Bin Hamad Al Khalifa (KHK MMA) and 2017 will witness a regional invasion and international presence in many more countries.

Joburg Open: Peterson fires 62 in rain to lead

Johannesburg

American **Paul Peterson** defied torrential rain to fire a first-round 62 in the Joburg Open yesterday before the weather forced play to be suspended for the day.

The 28-year-old held a three-stroke clubhouse lead over Anton Rai and Paul Waring of England, Romain Langasque of France and Jbe Kruger of South Africa.

Seeking a second European Tour success after winning the Czech Masters last year, Peterson birdied nine holes and did not drop a shot.

"Birdieing half the holes is never bad so I felt really good out there," said the golfer from Tucson in Arizona.



Paul Peterson

"I got into a nice rhythm today, found the fairways with most of my drives and putted well," he added.

Only one of three major winners in the 210-man field managed to finish with former US PGA champion Y.E. Yang of South Korea carding a 71.

Former British Open winner Darren Clarke of Northern Ireland and ex-Masters title-holder Trevor Immelman of South Africa were both two over after 14 holes.

Defending Joburg Open champion Haydn Porteous of South Africa was four under after 14 holes.

The par-72 east and par-71 west courses at Royal Johannesburg and Kensington Golf Club are being used for the tournament.

Competitors play one round on each course and the final two rounds on the more challenging east layout. (AFP)

Scoreboard

- 62 - Paul Peterson (USA)
 65 - Jbe Kruger (RSA), Romain Langasque (FRA), Aaron Rai (ENG), Paul Waring (ENG)
 66 - Pep Angles (ESP), Dean Burmester (RSA), Teaghan Gauche (RSA), Francesco Laporta (ITA), Sebastian Soderberg (SWE)
 67 - Dylan Frittelli (RSA), Chris Hanson (ENG), Damien Perrier (FRA), Jaco Prinsloo (RSA), Jordan Smith (ENG), Joel Stalter (FRA)
 68 - Oliver Bekker (RSA), Alexander Bjork (SWE), Laurie Canter (ENG), Andrew Georgiou (RSA), Rikard Karlberg (SWE), Paul Maddy (ENG), Anthony Michael (RSA), Titch Moore (RSA), James Morrison (ENG), JC Ritchie (RSA), Marc Warren (SCO)
 Selected
 71 - Y.E. Yang (KOR)

Fantastic evening tonight with Frank Bruno

Manama

A fantastic evening is in store tonight with a boxing legend and sporting personality Frank Bruno in town as he talks about his long and illustrious career in boxing with over 40 fights including his two meetings with Iron Mike Tyson and winning the WBC Heavy Weight World Champion belt. The event which will start at 7.30pm at The Radisson Diplomat Hotel. Includes Bruno's speech, comedian compere Jerry Earl, an audience Q&A with Bruno, a gourmet dinner, sports memorabilia and pictures with the man himself.

Tickets are BD30 and further information is available on tel 00973 3388 6952, online www.ssmena.com. Enquiries can be made at bahrain@ssmena.com.