

# Jose Torres joins BRAVE CF's campaign

TDT | Manama

**B**RAVE Combat Federation is doing its part in the fight against the coronavirus (COVID-19).

As the coronavirus continues to put a halt on life around the world and the number of confirmed cases and deaths continue to increase with each day, the Bahrain-based mixed martial arts (MMA) promotion became the first organization in the sport to launch such a campaign geared towards stopping the spread of the coronavirus as well as raising awareness. The campaign is under the KHK Heroes Foundation.

This international social media awareness campaign also has the support of BRAVE's fighters.

For one, BRAVE has launched programming displaying content such as full fights on its YouTube and Facebook pages. It has also posted workouts for the quarantined from fighters themselves and videos on safe greetings.

Among the fighters showing support for the campaign is top Flyweight Jose "Shorty" Torres. The two-time amateur world champion was set to compete in a tournament at BRAVE CF's upcoming shows, but the events were postponed because of the worldwide pandemic. While the American Top Team fighter (9-1 professional MMA record) was naturally disappointed, health and safety ultimately come first.

"BRAVE 35, BRAVE 36 and BRAVE 37 are all postponed and on a to-be-announced basis be-



Jose 'Shorty' Torres speaks during an event

cause of the COVID-19 coronavirus worldwide pandemic," Torres said. "BRAVE Combat Federation is a worldwide promotion.

**“**We travel everywhere. And not just specific countries, but the world is freaking out. Guys, we definitely need to stay calm

JOSE TORRES

that's why BRAVE is asking us to use the hashtag #UnitedWeFight because we're all fighters in the long run.

"Please check up on people, especially the elderly, people

who could easily be affected. BRAVE tried their best to try and make these fights happen but then it looked at travel bans, fighters not being able to compete, health risk and even the fans not being able to show up. They do this for the fans. It is a very smart thing that they cooperated with the government, local communities, everyone helping with this COVID-19 virus."

Like everyone else, Torres is hoping things eventually subside and the world can go back to normal. That includes the BRAVE CF fight schedule resuming once again.

Until that happens, BRAVE CF will continue to spread awareness and promote safe practices to combat the deadly coronavirus pandemic.

## Newlands aftermath helped Australia improve behaviour - Paine

Reuters | Melbourne

**P**layer behaviour has significantly improved throughout Australian cricket after 2018 Newlands scandal and the scrutiny that followed the episode, test captain Tim Paine said.

Australia's ill-tempered tour of South Africa exploded in a ball-tampering scandal in Cape Town two years ago, leading to a review of the team culture among other measures.

Paine and coach Justin Langer, who replaced Darren Lehmann after the episode, have since worked on improving the team's on-field behaviour.

Fast bowler James Pattinson and batsman Marcus Stoinis were sanctioned by Cricket Australia for abusing opponents in domestic cricket last year but Paine saw them as aberrations.

"You're looking at one or two very isolated instances, one with Patto and one in the Big Bash," Paine said.

## Buttler auctions World Cup final shirt for hospital appeal

AFP | London

**E**ngland's Jos Buttler is auctioning the shirt he wore in last year's dramatic World Cup final win in support of hospitals treating the coronavirus.

The 29-year-old wicketkeeper/batsman played a key role in England's thrilling defeat of New Zealand at Lord's in July, scoring a fifty, batting in the Super Over and then running out Martin Guptill off the very last ball of the match.

In a social media video posted on Tuesday, the 29-year-old said he would be posting the jersey, signed by all members of the World Cup-winning squad, on eBay.

All proceeds will go to the Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals' charity.

"As we all know, hospitals, doctors, nurses and the NHS are all doing quite an incredible job at the moment," Buttler said.

"And in the weeks and months to come they are going to need our support even more.

"Last week, the Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals'



England's Jos Buttler claims the crucial wicket in the World Cup win (file photo)

charity launched an emergency appeal to provide lifesaving equipment for those two hospitals, specialising in lung and heart conditions in preparation for the COVID-19 outbreak.

"To help with their fundraising effort I'm going to be donating this shirt, which is the shirt I wore in the World Cup final last year, signed by all the players who were members of the squad."

British television personality Piers Morgan submitted a bid of £10,000 (\$12,422) but the value

of the shirt had soon passed the £12,000 mark.

Cricket, in common with many sports, has seen its fixture programme brought to a shuddering halt by the global spread of the coronavirus.

Buttler was on England's tour of Sri Lanka that was recently abandoned during a warm-up game and was due to play in the lucrative Indian Premier League Twenty20 event, which has been postponed until at least April 15.

## Coronavirus lockdown convinces Man City's De Bruyne to defer retirement

Reuters | London

**M**anchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne has deferred his retirement by "two more years" after the coronavirus lockdown made him realise how much he will miss football when he finishes his career.

The pandemic has brought global sport to a virtual standstill with events postponed, suspended or cancelled. The Premier League season has been suspended until at least April 30 after positive cases in several teams deemed it necessary.

After an injury-plagued 2018-19 campaign, De Bruyne was back to his best this season, leading the league with 16 assists and on course to break the Premier League record of 20 in a season before the league was suspended last

month. "I told my wife I'm going to play a little longer," De Bruyne, 28, said in a live video on his Instagram page. "After this lockdown, I cannot stay at home. I told her I'm going to take two years more.

"It's time to play football again. I miss it and it's difficult. But we are not important, football is not important. People love football... but you need to stay safe."

De Bruyne said he and his family were in self-isolation after his children fell ill last month, which is why he did not travel back to his native Belgium.

"I've been at home now for two weeks," De Bruyne added. "At the beginning, my family and my kids were a little bit sick so that was a little bit worrying but they are alright now. It took eight or nine days... but now they're better luckily as you never know what is going to happen.

"People ask why I'm not in Belgium. It's because I'm self-isolating in England. I live here so I'm here with my kids and wife."

City were second in the league standings and leading Real Madrid 2-1 after the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie before the season was suspended.

Kevin De Bruyne

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## Morgan says England could field two teams

AFP | London

**W**orld Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan says he is open to England fielding two teams on the same day at separate venues if the coronavirus outbreak leads to a compressed home international season.

The England Test team, skippered by Joe Root, could face either West Indies or Pakistan, who are both due to arrive for three-match series, while Morgan's white-ball side take on Australia in 50-over and Twenty20 matches scheduled in July.

"I see every option being viable during this extraordinary time," said England limited-overs captain Morgan during a conference call on Wednesday.

"Certainly I've never experienced anything like it and I don't think anyone else has. I think the serious nature of the situation economically and financially for the game is something that we have never come across."



Eoin Morgan celebrates during a match

All domestic cricket in England has been postponed until May 28 at the earliest, with the West Indies series still scheduled to start on June 4.

England and Wales Cricket Board chief executive Tom Harrison, announcing a £61 million (\$76 million) aid package on Monday, said touring international sides were being "very flexible, innovative and massively understanding", with

Morgan indicating his teammates would adopt a similar approach.

"Certainly from a players' point of view, we want to do as much as we can to try and keep things going," Morgan said.

"If there's an opportunity to play as much cricket as we can, I'd like to think every player would be behind it. I certainly am.

"But obviously times are still

uncertain at the moment... Realistically we can't think about playing, when our first game will be, or how many we will play until the situation is downgraded from a pandemic."

One consolation for Morgan during the outbreak is that the 33-year-old Dublin-born batsman recently became a father after his wife Tara gave birth to a son, Leo.

"My wife gave birth to our first child three weeks ago so we have been preoccupied looking after the baby," said Morgan.

"We've been isolated for a bit longer than anyone else, which is really nice.

"We've been dealt a really good hand when it comes to things that are going on at the moment and have been bunkered away for a while, and haven't been under pressure to go off and play cricket, which has been really nice.

"It's been good fun and a very exciting time for us."

## Patrick McEnroe feeling fine after mild case of coronavirus

Reuters | New York

**R**etired tennis player Patrick McEnroe has recovered from a mild case of coronavirus, he announced on social media on Tuesday.

McEnroe, younger brother of seven-times Grand Slam champion John, said he had been tested after experiencing "some minor symptoms" about 10 or 11 days ago.

"My tests just came back positive," the 53-year-old said on Twitter. "That's the bad news. The good news is I feel fine. My symptoms have passed. I feel 100%.

"I'm an example of someone that has been able to fight



Patrick McEnroe looks on during a press meet

through it and I'm doing absolutely fine."

McEnroe, 53, lives in the metropolitan New York City area, one of the hardest hit cities for the virus in the United States.

He reached a career high ranking of 28 before retiring in 1998, and was later a U.S. Davis Cup captain.