

# BRAVE CF releases official poster for Belarus debut

BRAVE CF 51 to be headlined by Lightweight battle between Marcel Grabinski and Lucas "Mineiro" Martins

● Number of stars from Belarus to be featured

TDT | Manama

The fastest-growing MMA organization in the world, BRAVE Combat Federation will return to Europe with yet another huge fight card, showcasing the continental talents against top fighters worldwide. And the main event of BRAVE CF 51: The Future Is Here relates to that as perhaps the number one fighter in Germany Marcel Grabinski takes on Brazilian former world champion Lucas "Mineiro" Martins in a Lightweight battle.

Both men are heavily featured in the official poster that has just been released by BRAVE Combat Federation. Donning the colours of their flags on their faces, Grabinski and Martins are joined on the poster by the co-main event fighters.

A two-division champion in Germany, Grabinski made waves last month as he dismantled Issa Isakov in a Super Lightweight bout on the historic BRAVE CF 50 fight card. Now he will look to join the mix of top fighters at Lightweight with a win over Martins.

Lucas "Mineiro" Martins is



going for his fifth main event for BRAVE Combat Federation, but is eager to showcase that he will not be a stepping stone to the up-and-comer Grabinski and is looking forward to getting back to winning ways in Minsk.

Denis Maher will be among the Belarus representatives, and will be making his international debut on home soil, as he takes on Sweden's Fernando Gonzalez in a Super Welterweight match-up of epic proportions.

Maher, who is widely known as one of the biggest rising stars in the region, is one of Belarus'



**BRAVE CF 51 will feature athletes from Brazil, Germany, Sweden, Belarus, Russia, France, England, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Turkey**

best kept secrets and will look to announce himself in a big way on the world stage.

BRAVE CF 51: The Future Is Here takes place on June 4th at the Falcon Club, in Belarus, Minsk, and will be held in association with Rukh Sports Management.

BRAVE CF 51 will feature athletes from Brazil, Germany, Sweden, Belarus, Russia, France, England, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Turkey in yet another international fight card brought to the fans by the truly global organization in the MMA world.

## 'Disgruntled' Parks steps away from PBA season



Parks' absence is a big blow for Tropang Giga

TDT | Manila

TNT Tropang Giga star guard Bobby Ray Parks Jr. remains firm on his decision to skip the upcoming Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) 46th season.

The ballclub's foremost weapon during the PBA's 2020 Philippine Cup, Parks is taking a sabbatical for "personal reasons" although he had earlier cited the frustration of being unable to come to terms on a contract with management on coming up with his decision.

He reportedly thumbed down a "good two-year offer that superstars would grab."

"It is with a heavy heart that I will have to excuse myself and not partake in this year's PBA season due to personal reasons which in particular, my family," said the 28-year-old Filipino-American in his Instagram post.

The 6-foot-4 swingman is the son of the late Bobby Parks Sr., who is largely regarded as one of the greatest imports in the PBA.

The former ABL MVP said that it was not an easy decision to make, since he is in constant talks with TNT management regarding his contract. Parks, a free agent, signed a one-year extension with the ballclub last year.

"Right now, this decision is what is best for me and my family," he said.

Parks was traded to the Tropang Giga mid-season after being selected second overall by the Blackwater Elite in the 2019 PBA Rookie Draft.

Parks was the league's statistical leader inside the bubble

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BOBBY RAY PARKS JR.

in Clark, Pampanga, accumulating 38.2 statistical points. He normed 22.3 points, 7.8 rebounds, 3.1 assists in 17 games, en route to becoming one of the frontrunners of the Best Player of the Conference honors ultimately won by Stanley Pringle.

Due to his calf injury, he missed the last four games of the Philippine Cup Finals against Brgy. Ginebra, as his team fell in five games.

Parks also thanked team management and hopes to return to the team soon.

"Hopefully one day, once everything is resolved I can come back to the team and help bring a championship to TNT," said the NU alumnus.

Even without Parks, incoming TNT head coach Chot Reyes believes that his current roster can continue to contend in the upcoming season.

"First of all, our prayers go out to him, together with our wish that he finds resolution to his personal issues. Obviously losing him is a big blow, because Ray is such a big part of our plans moving forward. But I have faith in the players we have in this team. We will find a way," Reyes said.

## 'Demolition Man' fully focused on MMA

TDT | Manila

Despite an unsuccessful Brave Combat Federation debut last month, Filipino sensation Jenel "The Demolition Man" Lausa has no regret giving up his boxing career in favor of a total commitment to the sport of mixed martial arts.

Last March 11, the hard-hitting warrior fought for the first time at "BRAVE CF 47: Asian Domination" at the Arad Fort in Arad, Bahrain. He, however, lost via unanimous decision to 28-year-old Ryskulbek Ibraimov of Kyrgyzstan.

"The loss turned out to be a blessing, not just a lesson," Lausa said. "Now, I am living as a true and dedicated Filipino MMA fighter. Here in MMA, you have to think as a mixed martial artist day in and day out. Today, I can say that I see things clear as day."

He was last seen in action in the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) in 2018, where he lost to Japanese Yuta Sasaki. He fought in the UFC four times, finishing with a 1-3 record.

"I've been missing the MMA cage for too long. I'm so excited to share that I have joined the Brave Combat Federation," said Lausa, who signed an exclusive multi-bout contract with Brave CF last February.

"I will represent the Philippines in the biggest Asian event"

With a new home at Brave, the 32-year-old Concepcion, Il-



Lausa is motivated to come back stronger

I'm very, very happy I will be able to showcase my talent again so everyone will know that I'm representing the Philippines in MMA

JENEL LAUSA

oil native is motivated to come back stronger and put himself back in contention in the promotion's flyweight division.

"Coming back to mixed martial arts is really something that I look forward to. I am very grateful for this opportunity, and I value the trust that Brave CF has given me," he said.

Lausa holds a professional MMA record of 7-5 with two knockouts wins and two by way of submission. He once held the Pacific Xtreme Combat fly-

weight title by defeating Team Lakay's Crisanto Pitpitunge via split decision in 2016.

He is also an accomplished boxer, holding a perfect 10-0-1 record with six knockouts. He captured the Philippine Boxing Federation Super Bantamweight Championship in 2016 and then clinched the Global Boxing Organization Asia-Pacific Super Featherweight title three years later.

"I'm very, very happy I will be able to showcase my talent again so everyone will know that I'm representing the Philippines in MMA," Lausa said.

Though he admitted that it was a "tough" decision to call, Lausa believes that focusing entirely on MMA will benefit him in the long run.

"My priority right now is MMA and to perform to the best of my ability as part of BRAVE CF," Lausa said.

## Moyes sets sights on Europe as West Ham impress against Burnley



David Moyes celebrates a victory with Michael Antonio

AFP | London

West Ham United boss David Moyes picked an attacking side and told them to "go for it" against Burnley and they responded by racking up 22 shots on goal in a 2-1 win that puts them within touching distance of Champions League football next season.

The Hammers rose to fifth in the Premier League table, three points behind Chelsea in the final Champions League spot with four games left to play.

West Ham still have to face Everton (8th), Brighton & Hove Albion (14th), West Bromwich Albion (19th) and Southampton (15th), while Chelsea have a tougher run-in, taking on leaders Manchester City, Arsenal (9th), Leicester City (3rd) and Aston Villa (10th).