

England 'stronger' after 2016 World T20 heartbreak, says Jordan



England's Chris Jordan reacts during a match (file photo)
AFP | London

Chris Jordan says England's 2016 World Twenty20 final heartbreak against the West Indies made them a stronger team as Eoin Morgan's side seek redemption in this year's tournament.

England had one hand on the trophy in Kolkata before Carlos Brathwaite smashed Ben Stokes for four consecutive sixes to win the match for the Caribbean side.

Three years later England became world champions in the 50-over format and they are among the favourites for this year's T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates and Oman, starting on Sunday.

Jordan conceded only eight runs in the penultimate over of the 2016 final, leaving the West Indies needing 19 off six balls bowled by Stokes and he admonished himself for prematurely thinking the game was over.

"I'll never take myself to that place again," said the 33-year-old seamer. "I definitely won't be thinking that way after bowling the 19th over until it's fully, fully over."

"We tend to laugh about it now, but we definitely came out stronger for it as a unit. "I wouldn't say it haunted



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us too much. Someone has to come up victorious and for something like that to be done in the last over, you can't write that."

Jordan believes England, the top-ranked T20 side, now make "clearer" decisions in crunch moments, which he said helped during the victorious 2019 World Cup campaign.

"The team was on autopilot," he said. "In any situation you saw the game slow down a little bit and everyone came up with an informed and correct decision."

Medvedev powers through at rain-hit Indian Wells

Top seed Pliskova, defending champion Andreescu blown away at Indian Wells

● **Medvedev overcomes Krajinovic to set up Dimitrov clash at Indian Wells**

Reuters | Indian Wells

US Open champion Daniil Medvedev "put the pressure on" to earn his 50th win of the season at the weather-hit ATP/WTA Indian Wells, defeating Filip Krajinovic 6-2, 7-6 (7/1) in the third round on Monday night.

The 25-year-old Russian delivered a dynamic performance in a second-set tiebreaker to pull away from the Serb and increase his match record to 50-10 this season.

"It was a really tough match," Medvedev told AFP. "The first set I got lucky in a few moments. The second set I started well, but he raised his level."

"I am happy I managed to fight on every point and get it to a tiebreak. I was super solid in the tiebreak and really put the pressure on."

World No. 2 Medvedev moves on to the round of 16 where he will face Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov, who cruised past American Reilly Opelka 6-3, 6-4 during a windy day session.

Medvedev has been ranked second in the world since early in the year and says his goal is to one day be No. 1, which is held by Novak Djokovic. Medvedev defeated him in the US Open final.

"Since I was six I dreamed



Daniil Medvedev hits a shot against Filip Krajinovic

about being number one," Medvedev said. "But he is the real No. 1 this year. He won three Grand Slams. That is the reality."

"It is one of my goals. I just need to win a hell of a lot of matches and Grand Slams."

Play was delayed for about an hour in the night session before the start of Medvedev's match after heavy rain and gusting winds swept through the Palm Springs, California area.

The worst of the bad weather arrived in the middle of the first evening match between Coco Gauff and Paula Badosa.

Action resumed after a small army of volunteers helped dry the main stadium court at the Tennis Garden.

Organizers then had to shuffle the schedule, postponing some doubles matches and moving others to empty courts to get them started sooner.

Medvedev beat Djokovic in the US Open final last month to prevent the Serb from becoming the first man since the legendary Rod Laver to win all four Grand Slams in the same year.

In his US Open victory speech, Medvedev said he forgot to get his wife an anniversary gift. He said Monday that winning a first Grand Slam title was all she had asked for.

"I love my wife," he said. "She played tennis until she was 18. We have a saying in Russian -- one boat in the journey. It was a better gift for her, than even for me, that I won the US Open."

Elsewhere in the men's draw, Argentina's Diego Schwartzman defeated Daniel Evans of Britain 5-7, 6-4, 6-0 and Casper Ruud of Norway rallied to beat South Africa's Lloyd Harris 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4.



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DANIIL MEDVEDEV

Top seed ousted

In the women's draw, top seed Karolina Pliskova and defending champion Bianca Andreescu both crashed out.

Pliskova lost in straight sets to unseeded Beatriz Haddad Maia 6-3, 7-5 in a third round match.

Playing on one of the outer courts, Brazil's Haddad Maia jumped out to a 3-1 lead in the second set before the Czech picked up her game.

Haddad Maia fought back, clinching the match on her second set point when Pliskova flubbed a backhand off the top of her racquet.

Lucky loser Haddad Maia moves on to face Estonia's Anett Kontaveit in the round of 16. The red-hot Kontaveit continued her fine run by ousting Andreescu 7-6 (7/5), 6-3.

Kontaveit, who is seeded 18th, stretched her win streak to eight straight matches and continued her domination over Andreescu, winning all three career matches over the Canadian.

"I have been feeling really well on the court," said the 25-year-old Kontaveit. "I have a lot of confidence."

Fans favour Jose Torres to prevail over Ali Bagautinov ahead of BRAVE CF 55 clash

Reuters | London

BRAVE Combat Federation will return to Russia on November 6 to host another electrifying live event—this time around in the bustling city of Rostov-on-Don. From top to bottom, the 11-bout card is loaded with some of the best mixed martial artists on the planet. As the much-awaited extravaganza draws near, fans across the globe share their thoughts on one of the most anticipated contests at BRAVE CF 55.

In the main event, hometown favourite Ali "The King Puncher" Bagautinov is set to lock horns with Jose "Shorty" Torres of the United States in the last semifinal match-up of the BRAVE Flyweight World Title Tournament. According to the latest fan poll conducted on the organization's official website, 70 percent of the fans believe that the American dynamo will have his hand raised in triumph against Bagautinov.

The 29-year-old native of Chicago, Illinois previously held the flyweight and bantamweight belts in a North American promotion. He was also a champion in the amateur ranks, winning the 135-pound category at the IMMAF World Championships two years in a row.



Jose Torres and Ali Bagautinov



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Replicating the same success on the global stage is the next target of Torres, but it will be no easy task as Bagautinov has been in the game for more than a decade and has a wealth of fight experience on his resume.

Aside from that, Bagautinov will have his countrymen behind him on fight night, which will most likely put pressure on Torres to perform to the best of his ability. The winner of the said encounter will earn a seat in the tourney finals to square off with the highly-touted Velimurad Alkhasov to determine the first-ever BRAVE CF Flyweight World Champion at a yet-to-be-announced event.

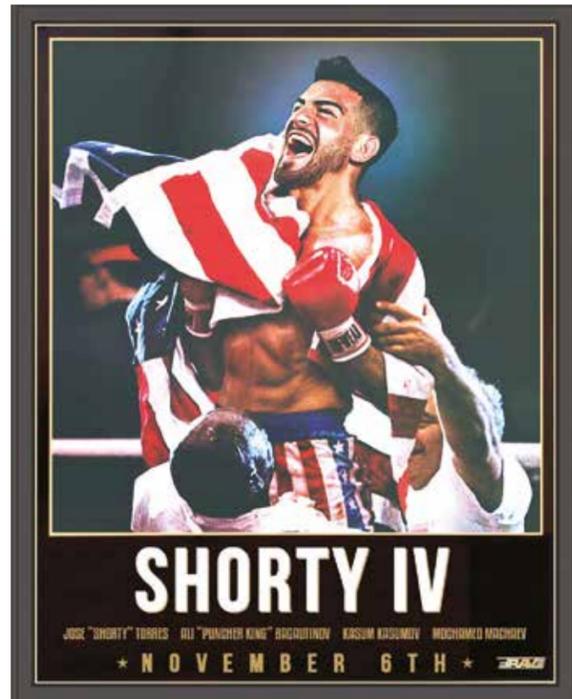
Inspired by Rocky Balboa, Shorty Torres releases poster for upcoming BRAVE CF 55 bout in Russia

TDT | Manama

In 1985, Rocky Balboa travelled across the world to land in Russia in order to take on the biggest challenge of his career on Christmas Day. Across the ring, Ivan Drago was the Soviet boxer who had killed his former opponent and friend Apollo Creed during an exhibition match months prior. After a 15-round war, Rocky knocks out Drago within seconds on the clock and delivers an inspiring speech about change to a previously hostile crowd who's now in the middle of a standing ovation... and then, roll credits.

The plot of Rocky IV, the fourth installment in the successful Sylvester Stallone movie's franchise, took millions to theatres in the 80's and touched the hearts of many others since then, including the young Jose "Shorty" Torres. So much so that, when he had the chance, Torres didn't think twice about reenacting what is one of his favourite movies.

The similarities are there in fact, except, of course, for the whole revenge part of it. Shorty is about to leave his hometown of Chicago, roughly 800 miles away from Rocky's Philadelphia, and go all the way to Russia to take on the biggest challenge of his career, one that can



Poster released by Shorty Torres

have huge implications in his future.

Torres, who even got himself a Rocky-inspired poster for the bout, will face Ali "Puncher King" Bagautinov in the main event of the evening of BRAVE CF 55, on November 6, in Rostov-on-Don, Russia. The win-

ner of this much-anticipated Flyweight bout will move to the prestigious BRAVE CF Flyweight World Title against Velimurad Alkhasov.

But in order to see if Torres is Rocky or Apollo in this story, we'll have to wait a few weeks more.