

SPORTS
sports

For Sam Patterson, 'The Future' is now

Sam "The Future" Patterson is set to face John Brewin at BRAVE CF 36 in Romania

TDT | Manama

Sam "The Future" Patterson will be a part of his first main event, on April 13th, as BRAVE Combat Federation returns to Romania for BRAVE CF 36. As he takes on John Brewin in the headlining spot, Patterson knows it's the biggest bout of his career so far - a win against his Kiwi counterpart could potentially leave him on the cusp of a title shot.

Sam is coming off the biggest win of his career, with a third-round submission victory over famed striker Cian Cowley, after dominating the stand-up against the Irishman. "The Future", however, feels his second to last fight - a draw against Ahmed Amir, was actually the catalyst for his career surge.

"I learned a lot in that fight. I've always been told to never leave it in the judges' hands. I think I won, but I'm sure Ahmed feels he won too, which is fine. We are all entitled to our own opinions. But that fight taught me so much. I always prided



Sam Patterson arrives prior to a fight

myself on having great cardio, pace for three rounds and felt but I never put it to test before. great. That gave me the confidence I needed to go all out from

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the start”.

It was that change in mentality that led Patterson to his career-defining win (so far) in Saudi Arabia. The aggressor from the start, Sam led the way against Cowley, scoring with kicks and stinging jabs, and putting his opponent on the backfoot throughout the fight. It is a strategy that served him well, but now he will face a man just like him in his next outing. Can Patterson take out "Trouble" Brewin and move up in the Lightweight division?

Bahrain lose third straight after falling to Syria



Bahrain's Jameel is challenged by the Syrian defence as he goes for a basket during their game

TDT | Manama

Bahrain suffered their third successive defeat in the King Abdullah II Basketball Cup 2020 in Amman late Thursday night after falling to Syria 64-81.

The Syrians controlled the game from the very start. They led 18-16 at the end of the first quarter, which they stretched to 40-29 following a dominant second period.

The Bahrainis reduced the deficit in the third, but only marginally, as they continued to trail 50-59, but then Syria closed things out strong with a 22-14 fourth quarter.

Syrian big man Abdulwahab Al Hamwi made the most of his size advantage to lead his team with 15 points, 15 rebounds and two blocks. He was named the Player of the Game.

With the result, the Bahrainis remained winless in the competition after losses to Lebanon and Jordan in their previous two games. They have one fixture remaining, which is against Iraq.

The Syrians' win was their first in four contests. Their game against Bahrain was also their last of the competition.

The Bahrainis are competing in the tournament as part of their overseas training camp in Amman where they are preparing for their upcoming

YOU KNOW WHAT
The Bahrainis are competing in the tournament as part of their overseas training camp in Amman where they are preparing for their upcoming qualifiers for the 2021 Fiba Asia Cup.

qualifiers for the 2021 Fiba Asia Cup.

Five teams in all are participating in the Jordan event, namely Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Bahrain and hosts Jordan.

The Bahrainis are in Group D of Fiba Asia Cup qualification along with India, Lebanon and Iraq. They open their campaign against their Indian counterparts next Friday.

Bahrain, coached by former NBA champion Sam Vincent are in Amman with a team that includes Mohammed Hussain, Ahmed Aldurazi, Ali Shukralah, Mohammed Buallay, Subah Hussain, Mohammed Salman, Mohammed Qurban, Maytham Jameel, Hesham Sarhan, Ahmed Abdulaziz, Mohammed Ameer and Muzamel Ameer.

Liverpool's Mane and Milner in contention for Norwich game - Klopp

Reuters | London

Liverpool winger Sadio Mane and midfielder James Milner are back in contention for the Premier League leaders after the pair recovered from injuries that had sidelined them in recent games, manager Jurgen Klopp said yesterday.

Mane was forced off with an injury in Liverpool's 2-1 win over Wolverhampton Wanderers on Jan. 23 while Milner has missed the last seven games in all competitions due to a muscle injury.

"Millie (Milner) and Sadio are back. When they are back you start thinking (about starting them) immediately. I hope it stays like this," Klopp told reporters ahead of Saturday's trip to bottom side Norwich City.

"Apart from (Xherdan) Shaqiri, (Nathaniel) Clyne and (Paul) Glatzel, all the players are in training. We have some good options, hopefully it stays like this, it would be great for the decisive part of the season."

Klopp also said that they had not made any decision on whether forward Mohamed Salah would compete for Egypt at the Olympics as one of their senior players.

Egypt's Olympic coach Shawky Gharib told Reuters on Wednesday that Salah's participation at the Tokyo Games



Liverpool winger Sadio Mane and midfielder James Milner during a training session

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JUERGEN KLOPP

later this year would depend on the forward and Klopp, but the German boss said he did not have any details to make a decision.

"We cannot discuss it as we

don't know too much yet," Klopp said. "We will speak and we will see. Do I want to lose a player in the pre-season? No, of course not.

"Nobody contacted us so far. It's an Olympic Games. I'm a sports person... We have to see how we can deal with it."

Norwich lost 4-1 at Anfield on the opening day of the season but Liverpool were under pressure in the second half when the visitors threatened to wrest back control of the game as the promoted side created numerous chances.

However, Klopp said that Liverpool were still rusty at the start of the campaign and that it was no longer the case.

Barcelona still joint La Liga favourites - Setien

Reuters | Barcelona

Quique Setien says Barcelona should still be seen as joint favourites to win La Liga along with Real Madrid, ahead of his team's clash with Getafe on Saturday.

Barcelona, second, face Jose Bordalas's side at Camp Nou and can pull level with Madrid if they win, before their rivals host Celta Vigo on Sunday.

Madrid are in good form and have winger Eden Hazard poised to return from injury, while Barcelona forward Ousmane Dembele was recently ruled out for six months with a hamstring tear and striker Luis Suarez is still sidelined.

"Many leagues are decided by small details, that none of the teams fighting for the title can control," Setien told a news conference yesterday.

"I think we are exactly equal favourites with Real Madrid. We have three points less but we have a game against them there."

Barcelona hope to be allowed an emergency signing to replace Dembele, pending ratification from the Spanish FA on the French winger's medical report following his operation this week.

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