

# Mokaev rallies fans to urge BRAVE CF for a fight in Belarus

Muhammed Mokaev urges fanbase to convince promotion for a bout at BRAVE CF 51

● Mokaev went on social media to ask BRAVE CF president to give him a fight at the upcoming event in Minsk

TDT | Manama

**M**uhammed “The Punisher” Mokaev has been on a road towards making history ever since his professional debut with BRAVE Combat Federation. After earning five pro victories, and recently coming out victorious at the British Senior Wrestling Championship, Mokaev jumps in the conversation asking for a fight at BRAVE CF 51 planned for June 4th in Minsk, Belarus.

Viewed as the biggest rising star in the sport, Mokaev is a prime example of the importance of professional mixed martial arts promotions working alongside the amateur mixed martial arts scene and a testament to the BRAVE Combat Federation world-class scouting program.



Muhammed Mokaev in action during a bout

During his last fight under the BRAVE CF banner, Mokaev demonstrated his readiness for tougher and more challenging bouts by defeating the #1 Flyweight in the Nordic Europe region Abdul Hussein, a fellow amateur world champion, in a bout which his exceptional wrestling made the difference against a top opponent.

After winning his division at the British Senior Wrestling Championship, Mokaev shifted the focus back to mixed martial arts and went on social media

to ask the president of BRAVE CF Mohammed Shahid to give him a fight at the upcoming event in Minsk, Belarus, and urging his ever-growing fanbase to “convince” the fastest-growing organization in the world to promote his return to action.

This comes after his latest statement regarding the reason behind his desire to take part in the event.

“Belarus would be a great country for me to fight as there are Russian speaking fans that can finally watch me live,” says

“Belarus would be a great country for me to fight as there are Russian speaking fans that can finally watch me live. I believe I will be fight of the night again in Belarus. I had three fights in BRAVE CF and three Fight of the Night bonuses

MUHAMMED MOKAEV

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BRAVE CF 51: The Future Is Here has a stacked fight card ready to go, which is headlined by two of the top Lightweights on the roster, as former German two-division champion Marcel Grabinski takes on former world champion Lucas “Mineiro” Martins. The biggest show in Belarusian MMA history will be held in association with Rukh Sport Management.

# Zamboanga in ‘best shape’ of her career



Zamboanga is training hard for the bout

TDT | Manila

Undefeated Filipina fighter Denice “The Menace” Zamboanga is supremely confident of beating mixed martial artist veteran Seo Hee Ham in their ONE women’s atom-weight bout, declaring that “I’m in the best shape of my career.”

The division’s No. 1 contender has been gearing up for the biggest test of her budding career as an MMA warrior ahead of ONE: Empower, an all-women card event, at the Singapore Indoor Stadium on May 28.

“I’ve been preparing hard for this fight. A lot of pain, sweat, tears, and blood went into this training camp. I’m in the best shape of my career,” said the 24-year-old Zamboanga, who sports an immaculate 8-0 record, including three victories in ONE Championship.

“Physically, mentally, and spiritually, I’m ready for this fight. I’m ready to give it 100%, and do anything it takes to win.”

Though Zamboanga is considering the South Korean to be the “toughest opponent” so far in her career, the Filipina made it clear to make the terms mutual for her opponent.

Thanks to Marrok Force and her brother Drex, who also competes in ONE Championship, the younger Zamboanga had emerged as a “complete martial artist” throughout their 12-week training camp.

“More than anything, they continue to motivate me every day to be the best Denice Zamboanga that I can be,” the unbeaten Filipina said.

“I’ve diversified my game and transformed my style and

“Physically, mentally, and spiritually, I’m ready for this fight. I’m ready to give it 100%, and do anything it takes to win

DENICE ZAMBOANGA

techniques. I haven’t even stepped into the Circle with her, but I can tell you that Seo Hee Ham has already brought out the best in me.”

Against Seo, Zamboanga is set to face a seasoned MMA fighter who is a newcomer to the Singapore-based promotion.

One of the favourites to win the tournament, the 34-year-old Seo is banking on experience with a 23-8 record.

“I can say that this is the biggest challenge I could face in this tournament, especially for a first-round matchup. But this is what I live for, to test myself against the best,” said Zamboanga.

“I didn’t get to where I am by facing easy opponents. I’m heading into this fight with the best Denice Zamboanga you’ve ever seen.”

Zamboanga will face the fighter from South Korea who is riding high on a six-match win streak so obviously she is not taking her lightly.

“Ham is a very experienced fighter, the most experienced out of all of us. I’m not taking her lightly by any means. She’s held multiple world titles in different organizations, and she’s a legit, well-rounded striker,” said Zamboanga.

# PBA teams gearing up for return to practices

TDT | Manila

Several teams are easing back to training mode to shore up their chances in the 46th season of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) next month.

They are going on with their respective plans to hold face-to-face scrimmages following completion of all necessary safety protocols and swab testing requirements and approval from the league and local government units (LGUs) where they are looking to set up their camps.

Meralco, the first team to complete all necessary safety protocols and swab testing requirements, earning them the league’s green light to train, is setting up camp in Laoag, Ilocos Norte.

A 25-man squad assembled by head coach Norman Black will spend 10 days up north thanks to provincial governor Matthew Manotoc, son of PBA coaching great Tommy Manotoc.

“We are still going to practice in Ilocos,” Black said.

“It will be similar to the bubble set up like before. It will be practice then hotel then practice.”

Rain or Shine Coach Chris Gavina said they will proceed to Batangas City Coliseum for their training camp while awaiting an approval by Mandaluyong City for the use of the Reyes Gym.

Phoenix Super LPG team manager Paolo Bugia said they need to begin practicing by next week and are also waiting for the green light from Pasig City Hall. Blackwater and Magnolia are also waiting for a similar response from the Quezon City and San Juan City governments.



Alaska is eager to resume its practice session



The easing to general community quarantine (GCQ) of the National Capital Region (NCR) Plus was like a shot in the arm that the PBA needed to open its 46th season next month

But the three teams will still proceed to Batangas City for a closed-circuit training system.

“If we don’t get an approval from the LGU, we will practice in Batangas, we are not going to stay there and we’ll be traveling back and forth,” Bugia said.

The closed-circuit system obliges the teams to follow a

strict home-gym-home routine.

TNT KaTropa will still travel to Laoag City to set up camp at the Centennial Arena.

NLEX, on the other hand, intends to hold a team building activity in Subic also later this month.

The entire Ilocos Norte and Zambales, including Subic, are under MGCQ.

Blackwater tactician Nash Racela said that the squad is now waiting for the training permit to finally conduct practices in Aero Gym in Quezon City.

Terraforma assistant manager Ireneo “Iby” Bautista said they have no immediate plans of training in the provinces and are awaiting an approval from Parañaque City.

Barangay Ginebra San Miguel, Alaska, Northport and San Miguel Beer are still finalizing their plans for their respective camps.

Marcial said protocol violators will be meted a 75,000-peso fine and a 10-day suspension.

# Germany’s Ter Stegen to undergo knee operation, out of Euros



Marc-Andre ter Stegen  
AFP | Berlin

German international goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen announced yesterday that he is to undergo an operation on his right knee that will rule him out of Euro 2020.

“I have decided together with the medical team of the club (Barcelona) that I will do a complementary intervention on my knee. I’m sad that I will miss the Euro 2020 this summer with Germany,” the 29-year-old said on Instagram.

Barca said in a statement that Ter Stegen is scheduled to go under the knife on May 20. It will follow a similar operation in August last year, which kept him out of action until November. His announcement comes a day after Barca were officially left out of the running for the Spanish league title after a 2-1 home defeat by Celta Vigo left them seven points behind La Liga leaders Atletico Madrid with one game to play.

Ter Stegen has played just 24 times for his country as he has struggled to dislodge Bayern Munich stopper and Germany captain Manuel Neuer from the number one spot.

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