

SPORTS  
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## Wheeler calls out Fakhreddine for next edition of Brave

TDT | Manama

Sidney Wheeler challenged Muhammad Fakhreddine to face him in the next edition of Brave Combat Federation.

Wheeler had to withdraw from the bout at Belfast due to illness he faced during the weight cuts leading to the weigh-ins. Competing in the welterweight division, Wheeler made an impact with Brave 10 hosted in Amman, Jordan.

The fight marked the return of Muhammad Fakhreddine after his first loss in a fight by TKO. However due to the withdrawal of Wheeler, Fakhreddine was left without a bout.

Wheeler stated, "I want to apologise to Brave Combat Federation, my opponent Muhammad Fakhreddine, my family and to my coaches for not being able to compete in the fight night. I am that cer-



Sidney Wheeler

tain that I can make a dominating victory against one among the best fighters from Lebanon. I challenge Muhammad Fakhreddine to take up the fight and face me in the upcoming edition of the promotion."

## Jeremy Kennedy signs with Brave CF

● Kennedy holds an 11-1 record and trains at Xtreme Couture full time

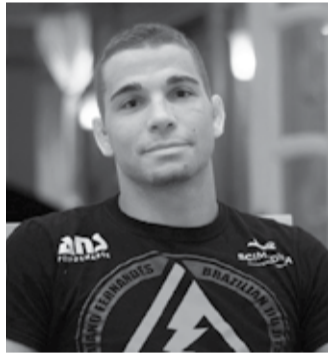
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Jeremy Kennedy has signed with Brave Combat Federation ending his tenure with UFC.

Kennedy holds an 11-1 record and trains at Xtreme Couture full time.

The 25 year old fighter from Canada is among the top talents in the world and held a 11 fight win streak before taking his first loss.

"I chose Brave CF because when I went out a couple times



Jeremy Kennedy

to corner Gary Mangat, I really liked their team and how they ran things. Brave CF is one of the bigger organisations based out of Asia, so I wanted to test myself against some of the best international fighters in the world," said Jeremy Kennedy.

## Khalifa Sports City ready to host Futsal League

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The High Organising Committee of the Khalid bin Hamad Futsal League announced that the Khalifa Sports City is ready to host the prestigious event which will take place next Sunday and will continue until August 9, 2018.

This comes following the latest visit made by several members of the High Organising Committee to review the condition of the hosting venue to ensure a smooth kick-off to the event.

It's worth noting the High Organising Committee have nearly completed all the preparations ahead of the event.

"We are working tirelessly

for the event's kick-off especially as the event will feature six different leagues," said Contests Committee President Ibrahim Al Bouri.

Khalid bin Hamad Futsal League will take place under the patronage of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of Bahrain Athletics Association and Honourary President of Bahrain Sports Federation for Disabilities.

The event will be organised by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs in coordination with HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Media Office under the theme #Generations.Gathering.

## Wawrinka rocked by ATP Queen's blow

● Sam Querrey beats Stan Wawrinka 7-5, 6-7 (3/7), 6-1

AFP | London

Stan Wawrinka's Wimbledon preparations suffered a blow as the Swiss star crashed to a 7-5, 6-7 (3/7), 6-1 defeat against Sam Querrey at Queen's Club yesterday.

Wawrinka has struggled to return to peak form since sustaining a left knee injury last year that required two operations and wiped out the second half of the Swiss star's season.

Still hampered by the problem this term, Wawrinka was sidelined again for three months in between a second round exit at the Australian Open and a first round loss in the French Open.

The three-time Grand Slam champion had swatted aside British youngster Cameron Norrie in the first round of the Wimbledon warm-up at Queen's.

But Wawrinka faded badly



Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka reacts

in the final set against Querrey as the American world number 13 condemned the 33-year-old to his seventh defeat in his last nine ATP Tour matches.

It is a major setback for Wawrinka ahead of the July 2 start of Wimbledon, where he has never made it past the quarter-finals.

Querrey, who won Queen's in 2010, will play Croatian top seed Marin Cilic or Luxembourg's Gilles Muller in the quarter-finals.

American prodigy Frances Tiafoe moved into his first ATP Tour grass-court quarter-final with a 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 win against Argentina's Leonardo Mayer.

Tiafoe, ranked 62nd, is looking to add a second ATP title to his maiden success at Delray Beach in February.

The 20-year-old outlasted Mayer to stop the world number 38 building on his surprise first round victory against third seed Kevin Anderson.

Tiafoe next faces France's Jeremy Chardy, who beat Russia's Daniil Medvedev 7-6 (8/6), 6-3.

## Cavalheiro set to face Harris



Rodrigo Cavalheiro in action

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Rodrigo Cavalheiro made a statement with his victory in Belfast against Karl Amousou. The welterweight fighter from Brazil was initially set to face Carlston Harris at Brave 8 hosted in Brazil.

However Harris landed in the title fight since Muhammad Fakhreddine had to withdraw from the bout due to medical reasons. Harris went ahead to win the championship.

After his knockout victory in Belfast, Cavalheiro is campaigning for the match to take place against Harris which was initially cancelled. However, in

multiple occasions the promotion had stated that Jarrah Al Selawe who has the most wins in the promotion will be the number one contender for the

championship.

"I want to be one of the big names in the Brave Combat Federation. So I am ready to fight as soon as possible for the championship. My aim is to fight in the Kingdom of Bahrain in the presence of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa. As a fighter it will be the greatest honour and privilege to be crowned as a champion by Sheikh Khalid. There is no promotion in the whole world which is capable of giving such a great honour for athletes other than Brave Combat Federation," said Cavalheiro who currently trains at the Noguchi Academy.



I want to be one of the big names in the Brave Combat Federation. So I am ready to fight as soon as possible for the championship

RODRIGO CAVALHEIRO

## Japan's Sugita stuns Dominic Thiem in second round

AFP | Halle Westfalen

Japan's Yuichi Sugita shocked Dominic Thiem to send the Austrian out in the second round of the ATP Halle grass court event yesterday, 6-2, 7-5.

Third seed Thiem, French Open runner-up to Rafael Nadal earlier this month, was joined on the sidelines of the pre-Wimbledon tune-up by Japanese seventh seed Kei Nishikori, a 6-2, 6-2 loser to Karen Khachanov.

In 2017, the 36th-ranked Russian also beat Asia's top player in the second round at Halle, when Nishikori was forced to quit with a hip injury.

Thiem switched over to grass this week and came to the court with a first-round win in northern Germany at a venue styled as a smaller replica of the All England club's iconic Centre Court at Wimbledon.

The Austrian was on the back foot early as he lost the opening set to his 52nd-ranked opponent.

Sugita was unable to convert on three match points but hammered his sixth ace to claim victory on a fourth after 88 minutes.

The Japanese will be playing a grass court quarter-final for the second time in his career when he takes on American qualifier Denis Kudla, who defeated Greek teenager Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-4.