

Royal Rumble IV will be the best to date, says Tony Davis

Bahrain's Royal Guard prepare for toughest British opposition yet

● Royal Rumble IV date officially announced

● Five former world champions attending live

● Royal Guard unbeaten since 2022 debut

● UK Armed Forces strongest opponents yet

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TDT | Manama

The Royal Rumble has never been shy on spectacle, but this year's edition might just raise the bar. Tony Davis, Bahrain Boxing Federation head coach, technical manager, and architect of the event, is convinced Royal Rumble IV will be the most ambitious to date.

"So this one will be the best to date," Davis told TDT. "We will have five former world champions there amongst the crowd, who will assist in delivering the weigh-in on the 26th of November at the British Embassy, whereby HMA Alistair Long has kindly agreed to host it. Two of the former world champions are DAZN commentators, so they will interview both teams, interact with the crowd, and then commentate live on the fights. We will also have Amal Al Anburi performing at both the weigh-in and fight night."

The black-tie affair will unfold on November 27 at the Crowne Plaza Bahrain, under the patronage of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Stars in the Stands

The Royal Guard won't lean solely on the crowd's energy; the atmosphere around the ring will add to their focus. The ring will be surrounded by star power, with former world champions Amir Khan and Rocky Field-



HH Shaikh Khalid receives a token from Tony Davis at Royal Rumble III

ing among the guests, alongside Lawrence Okolie, Darren Barker, and Barry Jones. Their role won't be ceremonial either.

"Having the presence of such icons is really important," Davis explained. "Amir and Darren were former teammates of mine while trying to qualify for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. Lawrence visits Bahrain regularly and has participated in our domestic events, even doing padwork during Dilmun competitions. What I normally do is take them round the schools for a visit the day before the event to inspire the youth of Bahrain. The schools host practical elements and Q&As for the kids and staff, and this time we may even bring both teams along."

Royal Rumble IV goes beyond publicity, evidently designed to grow Bahrain's boxing culture.

A Streak to Defend

The Royal Guard's record in the Rumble is immaculate. In 2022, they steamrolled the British Army's Fusiliers, taking



Tony Davis once led the UK Armed Forces boxing team, which is the very squad now flying into Bahrain to try to end the Royal Guard's unbeaten run

eight of nine bouts. In 2023, they dispatched the Parachute Regiment, and last year they dominated the Royal Engineers again with six wins in eight contests.

Davis doesn't chalk it up to luck. "I personally feel it's my philosophy and how I deliver it to the team of boxers. Preparation is another key aspect, and of course I wouldn't be able to do this without my assistant coach



Tony Davis (top left) with Bahrain's Royal Guard boxers during training in Riyadh

Fathi Missaoui, a 1996 Olympic bronze medallist. The opposition in the previous events was never easy. The Fusiliers were a former regiment of mine I wanted to give something back to. The Parachute Regiment was formidable, and the Royal Engineers have a diverse and experienced group, drawing from all engineer units."

He added, "This, though, ultimately is the biggest test of all. Although we beat the British Army on their home soil last year, this time they will be supported by the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. This will be the sternest test to date."

Fighting for More

The Rumble has always been about more than fists and footwork. Last year, BD60,000 was raised for the Royal Humanitarian Foundation. This year promises another windfall for charity, with added entertainment too.

Bahraini boxing fans can expect a more refined spectacle than ever. For Davis, the event



Action from last year's event

carries extra weight as he once challenge his Royal Guard. The coached the very UK Armed stakes, therefore, are personal Forces team now coming to as they are professional.

BRAVE CF bids Eliezer Kubanza farewell

Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation has bid farewell to one of its most electrifying athletes. The Democratic Republic of Congo's Eliezer 'King Kong' Kubanza embarks on the next chapter of his professional career in pursuit of bigger opportunities on the global stage.

Kubanza joined BRAVE Combat Federation with a reputation as a ferocious striker and, over the course of his tenure with the promotion, he lived up to every expectation. With his explosive style and fearless approach

inside the cage, 'King Kong' quickly became one of the most exciting acts in the BRAVE CF super welterweight division and a fan-favourite among African mixed martial arts supporters around the world.

Representing the DRC, Kubanza carried the flag for a new generation of African athletes making their mark on international promotions. Always thrilling and dominant, Kubanza not only cemented his position as the No. 1 contender in the super welterweight division but also underscored his role as a true trailblazer for

African MMA. BRAVE CF takes immense pride in having been the platform where he showcased his talents, built his global reputation, and inspired countless fighters across the continent.

Kubanza's departure now opens up a dynamic new chapter for BRAVE CF's super welterweight division. Luiz Cado remains the reigning champion and, with the top contender no longer in the picture, the race for the next title challenger is wide open. No. 2-ranked Alex Lohoré, who represents Côte d'Ivoire, now has a clear path to

make his case for a shot at Cado's crown. Standing right behind him is Kamal Magomedov at No. 3, with Zagid Gaidarov and Rami Hamed rounding out the top five and keeping the competition fierce.

This shake-up promises to inject even more excitement into a division already known for its high-level talent and unpredictable battles. African MMA fans, in particular, will be watching closely to see if Lohoré can seize this opportunity and bring another African flag to the forefront of BRAVE CF championship contention.



Eliezer Kubanza reacts after a win (file photo)

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