

SPORTS

sports

EFC Bantamweight champion signs with Brave

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EFC Bantamweight champion J P Buys signed a multi-fight contract with Brave Combat Federation.

The 21 year old is the latest prospect to be signed from South Africa. Buys is trained by Richard Quan at the Fight Fit Militia.

The latest prospect to sign with the Bahrain based global promotion has won multiple titles for wrestling including African Wrestling Title, 12th Place at Wrestling World Championship and MMA Fight Stars Bantamweight Championship.

Buys had been a constant



J P Buys signed with Brave Combat Federation

presence in the corner of Chad Hanekom who competes in the Middleweight division of the promotion.

Bahrain a top destination for combat sports training

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The Kingdom of Bahrain has emerged as the top destination for Combat Sports training in the Middle East and Africa.

There is a major inflow of martial artists reaching Bahrain to train at the KHK MMA Gym in Bahrain which was found by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Athletes from USA, UK, Brazil, Russia, France, Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan, India, Ireland and more had visited the Kingdom of Bahrain for training of to set up a pre-event camp leading to competitions.

Brave Combat Federation which is found under HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al

Khalifa had featured over 220 athletes from 40 nations competing in events hosted across the world. The resultant exposure made Bahrain a leading destination for martial arts fans. In 2018, Brave Combat Federation had hosted events in Jordan, Brazil, Indonesia and the United Kingdom.

Kingdom is set to host IMMAF World Championships during November at the Brave International Combat Week 2018. This will mark the second time the event is hosted in Bahrain which put the nation as the only other nation than USA to host IMMAF World Championships. During Brave International Combat Week, athletes from over 103 nations are expected to visit Bahrain.

Murray to face Wawrinka in Eastbourne first round

Reuters | London

Andy Murray will face fellow three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka in the first round of the Eastbourne championships next week as both players continue their comebacks from injury.

Former world number one Murray returned after almost a year out with a hip injury at this week's Queen's Club tournament, but lost in the opening

round to Nick Kyrgios.

With Wimbledon looming Murray, twice a champion at the grasscourt Grand Slam, took an Eastbourne wildcard on Friday in a bid to test his fitness for the All England Club fortnight.

After losing to Kyrgios in three sets the 31-year-old expressed some doubt over his ability to play best-of-five-set matches and said he could even miss the tournament he won in 2013 and 2016.

Hamilton on pole in French Grand Prix

● Lewis Hamilton takes French GP pole on an all-Mercedes front row with championship leader Sebastian Vettel in third

Reuters | Le Castellet, France

Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton roared back to form yesterday to put his Mercedes on pole position for the first French Grand Prix in a decade.

Finnish team mate Valtteri Bottas, who had gone top moments earlier, had to settle for second -- just 0.118 of a second slower -- as the Silver Arrows locked out the front row in style.

Ferrari's championship leader Sebastian Vettel, a point ahead of the Briton after seven of 21 races, qualified in third place.

Today's race will be the first French Grand Prix since Magny-Cours in 2008 and the first



Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton competes during the qualifying session at the Circuit Paul Ricard in Le Castellet, southern France



French manufacturer Renault won the first French Grand Prix in 1906, then had to wait another 73 years for its second victory in 1979!

held at the southern Le Castellet circuit since 1990.

"It feels great to be back in France. It's such a beautiful place. I got a great response from the crowd and I'm delighted to be here for the first time," said Hamilton, who described his final session as 'so-so'.

The pole, in a time of one minute 30.029 seconds, was his third of the year and pushed his Formula One record to 75.

The battle of Formula One's four-times champions has ebbed and flowed, with Vettel taking back the lead in Canada after Hamilton had to make do

with an engine reaching the end of its life while rival teams had upgrades.

He finished fifth in Montreal, a favourite track, in his worst showing of the season so far.

Mercedes brought an upgraded power unit to Le Castellet and Hamilton, who has yet to win in France, has been consistently quick.

"I did push everything in the last attempt but pushed too much," said Vettel. "After first attempt I thought 'with a really amazing lap we have a chance' but P3 I'm happy with because the car should be good in race."

Federer beats Kudla to reach final

Reuters | Halle, Germany

Defending champion Roger Federer extended his unbeaten run on grass to 20 matches by defeating American qualifier Denis Kudla 7-6(1) 7-5 yesterday, and set up a Halle Open final with young Croatian Borna Coric.

The pair exchanged early breaks in overcast conditions before top-seeded Federer stamped his authority by winning the tiebreak 7-1, ending Kudla's 10-set winning streak this week.

Playing his eighth match in less than two weeks, the 36-year-old Federer seemed clearly fatigued but showed great mental strength to save five break points in the second set.

A lapse of concentration from Kudla in the 11th game allowed Federer to grab the only break point on offer before the Swiss



Roger Federer in action

served out the match in just under an hour and a half.

"Denis has played an excellent tournament and made it difficult for me," Federer said. "So I am of course very glad to have made it."

Nine-time Halle champion

Federer has reached his 12th final on German grass, and will next face 34th ranked Coric, who will make his first final appearance of the season.

The 21-year-old Coric, who defeated second seed Alexander Zverev earlier this week,



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ROGER FEDERER

advanced after playing just five games of his semi-final against Robert Bautista Agut.

The Spaniard was forced to retire after an unfortunate slip, with Coric serving at 2-3.

Federer, who must win a record-extending 10th title in Halle to remain at the top of the world rankings, holds a 2-0 head-to-head advantage over Coric.

BTA conducts junior ranking event

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Bahrain Tennis Academy (BTA) held a ranking event for their most promising juniors at their base at the Dilmun Club, Saar.

Invited players participated in matches against other academy players in a round-robin format in four age groups: 8-and-under, 10-and-under, 12-and-under and 13-and-over.

At the end of proceedings players were presented with a certificate confirming their ranking based on their match wins and points scored.

Yuto Ogawa (8&U), Abdulaziz Al



8-and-under players with BTA Director, Dan Barrie

Betairi (10&U), Jad Choueiry (12&U) the number one ranking in their respective age groups. and Romain Haessler (13&O) achieved

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