

## Adur, Gordon to square off in Brazil



● **Marcel Adur will face Malcom Gordon in BRAVE Flyweight tournament**

**TDI** | Manama

After announcing Jose “Shorty” Torres vs Matheus Nicolau as the first bout scheduled for its prestigious Flyweight tournament, BRAVE CF officials have confirmed that a match between Marcel Adur and Malcom Gordon will also be featured in the first round of the contest that will decide the promotion’s very first World Champion up to 57kg. The Flyweight clash will take place in Balneário Camburiú, Brazil, at the upcoming BRAVE CF 35 card.

A long-time BRAVE CF veteran, Marcel Adur is going to his sixth appearance under the Bahrain-based banner. With a professional record of 15 wins and only 5 losses, Adur won 4 out of his 5 last bouts, including 3 TKOs.

With the Flyweight Tournament Adur will have his third shot at the BRAVE CF Flyweight

title, with the Brazilian being denied the first two due to events beyond his control. In 2018, the match against Velimurad Alkhasov ended up not being valid for the title after the Russian failed to make weight and in 2019 the fight against Jose “Shorty” Torres was cancelled last-minute after the American pulled from the card during the fight week.

Ranked #1 in the Flyweight division in Canada, Malcom “X” Gordon is set to make his BRAVE CF debut against Marcel Adur. The 29-year-old Calgary-born holds a professional record of 12 wins and three losses and is currently on a 4-win streak -- all of them via knockout or submission.

BRAVE CF 35 will take place on March 25th, 2020 and marks the fifth time the fastest-growing MMA organization in the world hosts an event in Brazil. The country will become the number one home of BRAVE Combat Federation alongside the Kingdom of Bahrain. The show is headlined by Cleiton “Predator” making the first defense of his Lightweight title against Guram Kutateladze.

## Shoaib Yousaf and Tae Kyun Kim to clash at BRAVE CF 36



**TDI** | Manama

Englishman Shoaib Yousaf and South-Korea’s Tae Kyun Kim are the latest additions to the return of BRAVE Combat Federation to Romania, scheduled for April 13. Yousaf and Kim will meet in a Featherweight bout (up to 66kg).

Fighting out of Lancashire, England, Shoaib Yousaf is currently on a 5-win streak, including his successful BRAVE CF debut last December, when he submitted Hassan Talal in the second round with a rear-naked choke in Saudi Arabia. “The Assassin” holds a professional record of seven wins and only one loss.

Still undefeated in his pro-

fessional career, South Korea’s Tae Kyun Kim had a meteoric rise since he made his debut in late 2017. Roughly two years after his first time inside the cage, Kim was arriving at BRAVE CF, in the stacked Kingdom of Bahrain card, defeating Erick da Silva via unanimous decision, expanding his record to six wins and no losses.

BRAVE 36 will take place on April 13, in Romania, marking the second visit of the fastest-growing MMA promotion in the world to the Eastern-European country. The card, promoted in partnership with local MMA powerhouse RFX, will be headlined by the Lightweight bout between England’s Sam Patterson and New Zealand’s John Brewin.

# Girrbach, Kramer and Hague share lead at Bahrain Open

**TDI** | Manama

Joel Girrbach of Switzerland, Max Kramer of Germany and David Hague of England were the joint-leaders yesterday after the first round in the \$75,000 Royal Golf Club Bahrain Open, following solid scores of six-under par 66.

Girrbach was playing his first competitive event in three months after losing his European Tour card last year. But his hard work paid off as he joined Kramer and Hague on top of the leaderboard. The 26-year-old was an even-par for opening day after successive bogeys on the seventh and eighth holes, but covered his last 10 holes in six-under par.

Hague, who turned pro after MENA Tour Qualifying School and recently finished runner-up at the NEWGIZA Open in Cairo, had an even better recovery. He was one-over par after eight holes and then made five birdies and a spectacular holed-out eagle from the fairway bunker on the 17th.

However, it was 36-year-old Kramer who had the most remarkable story of the day. The Dusseldorf-based player was diagnosed with an arrhythmic

heart last year and stopped playing after just four events in 2019. Now trying to make a comeback, he was seven-under par through 10 holes with two eagles, before losing steam towards the end of his round.

Frenchman Antoine Schwartz was alone in fourth place at five-under par 67, while there was a group of six players at 68 – Scotsman Scott Henry, the Irish duo of Paul McBride and Robin Dawson, Sweden’s Mathias Weiderman and the English pair of Tom Combe and Mitch Waite.

Girrbach, who graduated to the European Tour last season before finishing 229th on the Race to Dubai and losing his card, took nearly three months off from competitive golf to get his game back in shape, including a long trip to South Africa to work with his coach Dougie Wood. “I haven’t played a competitive round after missing out at the second stage of the European Tour Qualifying School,” Girrbach said. “It was a disappointing season and I put in a lot of work in my technique. This is the first competing round for me to see where my game is and I am very pleased.

“I felt ready after the win-



Joel Girrbach in action during the event



Max Kramer in action during the event

ter work and I was looking for tournaments to play. With my category on the Challenge Tour, I will only be able to play events from May. So, I asked a few friends and they all highly recommended the MENA Tour. I asked for an invite and here I am.

“I made a couple of mistakes towards the end of my front nine and I just tried to be aggressive after that. I drove the green on the par-4 10th, and nearly drove the green on the par-4 11th. Those two birdies were a good start to the back nine and I just continued from there.”

Kramer, on the other hand, is just happy to be back on the golf course after surviving a health scare last year that restricted his schedule to just four tournaments on the EuroPro Tour.

“I had played a few events at the start of 2019, but I wasn’t feeling very good. I went to the doctor and they found out I had arrhythmia of heart,” he said. “It was very scary when we found out because this is no age to get a heart condition. However, after three months of complete rest, I am much better,” said the German, who was part of the national team alongside two-time major champion Martin

Kaymer.

“It was an amazing round for me. I was seven-under par through the first 10 holes with an eagle on the third and par-4 10th holes. I played the last eight in one-over, but I am so happy with this round. Especially with what happened last year, and also the way I played last week in Oman where I shot an 11-over par round and was hitting the ball over the place.”

The consistent Hague was relishing a fast start, having opened with a 72 in finishing second in Cairo and a 69 in tied-10th place at the Ghala Open last week.

“I drove it really well all day and kept it in play even though I did not start that well. Made two three-putts from the fringe and was one-over par after eight. I just told myself to remain patient and the birdies would come, and that’s exactly what happened,” said Hague.

“The eagle on 17th was nice towards the end of the round. I hit it into the right bunker and had 142 yards from there. Hit a good shot and it took a couple of bounces and went in.”

Saudi Arabia’s Bahrain-based Saud Al Sharif, a member of Royal Golf Club, was the leading amateur at one-under par 71.

## Bahrain fall to dominant Lebanon in Fiba Asia Cup qualifier

**TDI** | Manama

Bahrain were outclassed by continental giants Lebanon 73-116 last night in their Group D qualifier for the 2021 Fiba Asia Cup.

The Bahrainis struggled against their heavily favoured rivals from the opening tip and were never in contention for the win.

The game was played at Nouhad Nawfal Sports Complex in Beirut and it was both teams’ second fixtures in this stage of qualification.

The loss was Bahrain’s first after starting their campaign with an inspiring win over India last week. The Lebanese, meanwhile, remained unbeaten after two games having added to their big victory over Iraq in the first qualifier.

Bahrain fell behind early last night and already faced a 20-point deficit in the first half. Lebanon were coolly confident and were boosted by their home crowd. They led 27-16 at



Bahrain’s Mohammed Buallay tries to drive past Lebanon’s Wael Arakji during their game last night

the end of the first quarter and then stretched their advantage to 50-31 at the half.

In the final 20 minutes, they never took their foot off the gas and led by as many as 43-point final margin. They were also red hot from the field, making 41 of their 66 shot attempts, including a stunning 19 three-pointers.

Elie Chamoun led all scorers with 26 points, including six triples, for Lebanon. Ali Mansour and Karim Zeinoun added 15 apiece, while Ater Majok, Mohamed Haidar and Aziz Abdel Massih contributed 12 points apiece.

CJ Giles paced Bahrain in the loss with 21 points and nine

rebounds. Mohammed Ameer was their only other player in double figures, finishing with 15 points.

There will now be a long break before the Bahrainis next take to the court in qualifying. That will be on November 26 when they play away against Iraq.