

Guseinov and Mokaev to represent Bahrain and KHK MMA in IMMAF Awards



Murad Guseinov celebrates after a bout

TDT | Manama

The International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF) announced this Thursday the nominees for Junior Athlete of the Year, and Team Bahrain and KHK MMA are well represented. Number one Junior Welterweight Murad Guseinov is among the nominees, representing Bahrain, while Muhammad Mokaev, the number one pound-for-pound junior amateur fighter in the world, is representing KHK MMA.

Both Guseinov and Mokaev fight out of KHK MMA, the team created by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa to give out opportunities to worthy young fighters who have come through the amateur system to represent their countries in the amateur circuit as well as going on to become professional stars.

Mokaev has made the jump to the professional ranks this

year, amassing worldwide attention and impressing with a string of fine bouts, remaining undefeated. He represents KHK MMA and Great Britain and Dagestan as a professional.

Welterweight Guseinov, meanwhile, became the junior world champion last year in the Kingdom of Bahrain and currently sits at the top of the rankings in his weight-class. Murad has also been recognized in the pound-for-pound rankings, as the number 3 junior fighter in the world. In addition to that, he also won the gold medal in the IMMAF European Championship, making him one of the biggest young amateurs in the world.

In the coming days, IMMAF will continue to announce the nominees for other awards as more Team Bahrain athletes are expected to join Murad and Muhammad.

The awards will take place online this year and winners are to be announced on December 11th.

Turkalj, Stoute call out Fakhreddine over title

Anton Turkalj and Todd Stoute have stepped up and put their names in the hat for BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight title

● Other fighters stepped in after Mohammad Fakhreddine call-out Mohamed Said Maalem for the vacant title

TDT | Manama

After Middleweight world champion Mohammad Fakhreddine spoke out about the possibility of facing Mohamed Said Maalem for the vacant BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight title, other fighters have stepped up and put their names in the hat for an eventual title fight.



Anton Turkalj said he would face both Mohammad Fakhreddine and Mohamed Said Maalem in the same night and would bet his fight purse that he would come out victorious



Anton Turkalj in action during a bout

Swedish phenom Anton Turkalj, who has won twice in two BRAVE CF bouts, commented on social media about going for the title, rejecting the idea of Fakhreddine and Said Maalem fighting for the belt. Turkalj said he would even face both men in the same night and would bet his fight purse that he would come out victorious.

Later, Anton used his own profile to put up a montage of

him holding the BRAVE CF title as if he was Captain America - using the belt as his shield.

Todd Stoute, on the other hand, had already expressed his desire for a rematch against Said Maalem. "Black Hulk" lost to Mohamed but has bounced back with a win against Cristian Constantinov.

Currently ranked as the number one Heavyweight and number two Light Heavyweight in

Canada, Stoute believes he deserves a title shot after impressing in all of his three BRAVE CF contests, with one loss and two wins.

After Fakhreddine's call-out of Said Maalem, Todd went on to say the title shot was his, and claimed he would be interested in fighting the Middleweight champ for the vacant Light Heavyweight world title as well.

Bahrain roster shaping up for qualifiers

● Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines set for exciting Group A battles as teams jostle for berths in FIBA Asia Cup 2021

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national basketball team will today finalise their line-up for the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 qualifiers being hosted by the Kingdom this week.

A national team official confirmed with TDT last night that the squad list will be formally submitted before today's deadline, with just two days to go before the start of action on Friday.

The Bahrainis, coached by former NBA champion Sam Vincent, have been practising behind closed doors the past few weeks. Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) president Waleed Al Alawi paid a visit to yesterday's training session and wished the national team success in their upcoming contests.

Bahrain is hosting qualifying games with seven nations participating. The Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia are in



BBA president Waleed Al Alawi, fifth from right, with Coach Sam Vincent, fifth from left, and other BBA and national team officials at the squad's training session yesterday

Group A of qualification, while Iraq, India, Lebanon and the host Bahrainis are in Group D.

All games will take place at the Khalifa Sports City arena in Isa Town between Friday and Monday.

Bahrain take to the hardwood twice in this qualifying window, first against Iraq on opening night and then facing India on Sunday. Both fixtures are scheduled for 7pm tip-offs.

All the visiting delegations were scheduled to have arrived in Bahrain by today, with Indonesia being the last team to reach the Kingdom. The teams began

practising locally yesterday.

Group A set for thrilling battles

Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines will be looking to make the most of their condensed playing schedule in Bahrain. Group A was also set to feature Korea, but they have withdrawn from this qualifying window. Because of this, Indonesia will only be taking to the court once, while the Philippines, who were also originally set to face the Koreans, will play twice instead of three times over four days.

Thailand are coached by

American Chris Daleo. They have travelled to Bahrain with a 10-player line-up. The roster includes Wattana Suttisin, Nakorn Jaisanuk, Anasawee Klaewnarong, Chatpol Chungyampin, Anucha Langsui, Sukhdave Ghogar, Montien Wongsawangtham, Chanatip Jakrawan and Nattakarn Muangboon.

The Indonesians have a 12-man squad, with naturalised player Lester Prosper among the team's newest additions who is expected to make a significant contribution. The other players are Abraham Damar



Group A was also set to feature Korea, but they have withdrawn from this qualifying window. Because of this, Indonesia will only be taking to the court once, while the Philippines, who were also originally set to face the Koreans, will play twice instead of three times over four days

Grahita, Andakara Prastawa, Hardianus Lakudu, Vincent Rivaldi Kosasih, Govinda Julian Saputra, Brandon Van Dorn Jawato, Kevin Yonas Argadiba Sitorus, Widyanta Putra Teja, Arki Dikania Wisnu, Agassi Yesh Goantara, and Juan Laurent Kokodiputra.

The Indonesians are being guided by former Muharra

Club coach Rajko Toroman of Serbia.

As previously reported on TDT, the Philippines have a 16-player team, led by popular standouts Dave Ildefonso, Kobe Paras and Justine Baltazar. The other players are Isaac Go, Juan Gomez De Liano, Matt Nieto, Dwight Ramos, Kenmark Carino, Calvin Oftana, Angelo Kouame, Rey Suerte, Mike Nieto, Javi Gomez De Liano, Jaydee Tuncab, Will Navarro and Allyn Bulanadi. The Philippines are coached by Jong Uchico.

Thailand have a tough schedule in upcoming qualifiers, playing two games in as many days to kick things off.

They first play the Philippines on Friday at 4pm, and then take on Indonesia the next day at the same time. On Monday, the Philippines and Thais face off again in the day's lone fixture, also with a 4pm tip-off.

The top two teams in each of the six groups at the end of this stage of the qualifiers will book their tickets directly to FIBA Asia Cup 2021. The third-placed teams in each group will then proceed to play in a separate tournament to determine four other teams that will complete the 16-team field of FIBA Asia Cup 2021.