

Ahli, Manama open Top Six with wins

Defending back-to-back champions Al Ahli dominate in 116-82 win over Al Najma while Manama rely on hot-shooting of Ahmed Salman to claim win over Al Hala

● American Antonio Blakeney scores 32 points to lead Ahli balanced attack against Najma

● Guard Ahmed Salman buries 10 three-pointers to spearhead Manama past Hala

TD | Manama

Back-to-back defending champions Al Ahli and arch-rivals Manama both made winning starts last night in the Top Six of the 2021/2022 Zain Bahrain Basketball League. Ahli were dominant against Al Najma, leading by as many as 41 points in a 116-82 victory, while Manama relied on the hot hand of point guard Ahmed Salman to help lift them to a 113-105 win against Al Hala.

Both games were played at the Khalifa Sports City arena in Isa Town.

The Top Six continues on



Al Ahli's Subah Hussain looks to make a move against Al Najma's Ali Jaffar

Monday when Manama go up against Najma.

In Ahli's big win, they quickly built a commanding lead and never looked back. They stretched their 30-11 advantage after the first period to 55-28 at the interval, and continued to pile on the pressure in the second half.

Ahli enjoyed their biggest gap, 111-70, following a Mohammed Qurban basket with a little under

three minutes to go in the final quarter.

The victors had six players in double figures for a balanced attack. Antonio Blakeney top scored with 32, while Hesham Sarhan had 18 off the bench. Mohammed Kowayed, who also came on as a super sub, finished with 14, while Jamaican Adrian Uter scored 13 and took down 12 rebounds. Maitham Jameel and Ahmed Al Durazi contrib-



Al Hala's Hasan Gerashi is guarded tightly by Manama import Davion Berry in the post

uted 12 points apiece for Ahli, who buried an impressive 15 three-pointers in the affair.

For Najma, Ali Jaber scored 19 while Canadian Shane Osayande and Fadalallah Abbas each had 16.

Meanwhile, in Manama's win last night, Salman was on fire from beyond the arc to help inspire his team to the result.

Manama powered ahead 32-19 at the end of the first quarter

and then extended their lead to 63-46 at the break. But Hala were able to battle back in the third quarter and get to within striking distance, 78-89, and got as close as seven, 101-108, with just under two minutes to play.

But Manama had an answer and closed things out in the end.

Salman finished the contest with a team-high 34 points, which included a whopping 10 three-pointers.



The Top Six of the Zain Bahrain Basketball League features the best teams from the preliminary round, facing off for the right to earn four places in the semi-finals

Devin Ebanks added 26 points, while fellow-American professional Davion Berry chipped in with 15 markers. Mohammed Hussain was their last player in double-figures with 10 points. Berry and Hussain each dished out eight assists in the game.

US import Brian Halums had a game-leading 43 points for Hala in the loss. He made eight triples for his team. Hasan Gerashi contributed 19 off the bench, while Anthony McClain added 16 and 18 rebounds for Hala.

BRAVE CF 56 winners receive 95,000 MMAON tokens

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BRAVE Combat Federation keeps expanding its business and reinforcing its position as the most revolutionary MMA organization in the world. As part of the efforts to share the compensation of the endeavors with athletes, the truly global MMA promotion joined forces with digital network MMAON to the traditional post-event awards.

For BRAVE CF 56, held back in December in Serbia, 10 athletes were awarded a grand-total of 95,000 MMAON tokens - the platform tokens controlled by a smart contract deployed on Ethereum network. As it's standard, the best fight, submission, knockout, and performance were awarded, and additional win bonuses were distributed to all the winning fighters of the card.



10,000 MMAON tokens were earned by Borislav Nikolic and Matiss Zaharovs, stars of the "BRAVE CF 56 Fight of the Night." The Knockout of the night was awarded to Jakob Nedoh, Nikolay Nikolov got the Submission of the night, and Abdullah Al-Qahtani had the Performance of the Night, with the trio earning 10,000 tokens each.

On top of that, each of the 9

winners of the night, including the three fighters awarded with the individual bonuses, got extra 5,000 MMAON tokens as a victory bonus.

Throughout all the upcoming events, the BRAVE CF Bonuses will be distributed in partnership with MMAON, offering extra incentive to the fighters competing and engaging audiences around the world.

Fakhreddine vs Said Maalem II for light heavyweight world title booked for BRAVE CF 57

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Mohammad "The Latest" Fakhreddine of Lebanon and Mohamed "L'Ambiance" Said Maalem of Algeria will meet again for the vacant BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight World Championship at BRAVE CF 57 on March 11.

Both fighters were scheduled to fight on April 1st at BRAVE CF 50, however Fakhreddine withdrew due to illness a few minutes before the fight. They faced each other for the first time at BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood in August 2021 but the match-up came to an unsatisfactory end when the Italian Federation of Grappling and Mixed Martial Arts decided to overturn the outcome of the bout following a thorough investigation.

It was found that there were



illegal strikes made by Said Maalem on Fakhreddine in the final sequence, something that contributed to the stoppage of the match.

Now, the two will have to run it back with a chance to have a much more definitive ending and crown the new BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight World Champion.

BRAVE CF 57 is scheduled to

happen at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town, Bahrain, as part of the BRAVE International Combat Week.

Also slated on the monumental card is the battle for the available BRAVE CF Bantamweight World Championship, pitting hometown hero Hamza Kooheji opposite Canadian standout Brad "Superman" Katona.

Kyrgios smashes racquet, flips finger as he reaches doubles final

AFP | Melbourne

Tennis' bad boy Nick Kyrgios was at it again yesterday, smashing a racquet and flipping a finger at the crowd as he and partner Thanasi Kokkinakis ensured an all-Australian Melbourne Park men's doubles final for the first time in 42 years.

Kyrgios and Kokkinakis defeated third seeds Horacio Zeballos and Marcel Granollers 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 to set up a final on Saturday against fellow Australians Matt Ebden and Max Purcell.

The combustible Kyrgios hit boiling point as he complained about the net cord machine, then pulled out of a service motion at 4-2 in the first set.

He also complained that the



Nick Kyrgios

Rod Laver Arena crowd were yelling in between first and second serves, despite the fact that he and Kokkinakis had been whipping up the fans into a boorish frenzy.

He flipped a finger at one section of the crowd, petulant-ly threw a ball against a wall and smashed his racquet after he dropped his serve.

"When are you going to control the crowd, bro?" he pleaded with the chair umpire, James Keothavong.

Team Bahrain will go for nine golds at IMMAF World Championships

TD | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain is set for gold windfall today and tomorrow as nine fighters have qualified to the finals of the IMMAF World Champions, the amateur mixed martial arts event that is being held in Abu Dhabi this year.

In total, Team Bahrain will receive 14 medals, with bronze guaranteed for Fabiola Silva, Murad Ibragimov, Gimbat Magomedov, Sultan Omarov, and Pasha Kharkhachaev.

Today, Gadzhi Gaziev and Mohamed Alsameea will attempt to become the first world champions for Bahrain this year as they fight in the junior finals in their respective weight-classes.

Tomorrow, other seven finalists from Team Bahrain will attempt to earn gold medals for



Mohammed Zuhair Alsameea celebrates his victory

the nation, namely Aieza Ramos, Beatriz Consuli, Raiane Guimaraes, Kurban Idrisov, and Rasul Magomedov, as well as reigning world champions Sabrina Sousa and Ramazan Gitinov, who will

be going for their second gold medals.

Team Bahrain brought in 23 fighters to the world championships, and despite suffering with injuries, has shown the



Mohammed Al-Sameea

tremendous commitment of KHK MMA under the vision of His Highness Shaikh Khaled bin Hamad Al Khalifa, to earn 14 medals - with five bronze guaranteed and a potential nine golds to come.