

Bahrainis go down fighting

Kingdom's women's national futsal team go down to Thailand in NSDF Women's Futsal Championship 2023 in Bangkok

● **Patitta Moolpho, Paerploy Hujaipecth on target for Thais on either side of half**

● **Bahrainis to go up against Japan in semi-finals, Thailand to face off with China**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's women's national futsal team suffered a tough 0-2 defeat to their Thai counterparts yesterday in the NSDF Women's Futsal Championship 2023, currently being held in Bangkok.

The Bahrainis conceded a goal on either side of half-time. Thailand's Patitta Moolpho scored

their opener while Paerploy Hujaipecth fired in their second.

Despite the loss, the nationals are through to the semi-finals as Group A runners-up. They will take on Group B winners Japan tomorrow, in a game scheduled for an 11am start, Bahrain time.

The other final four contest will be between the Thais and Group B runners-up China.

Moolpho opened the scoring yesterday with a low effort in the seventh minute of the first half. Bahrain tried valiantly to fight back and had a

number of near chances, especially after the interval. Hessa Al Isa, Fatima Hamad and Rawan Al Ali came closest to scoring, but were unlucky with their final touches.

Bahraini goalkeeper Zahra

Nezar also did well in the match to prevent the Thais from further adding to their advantage with a number of key saves. But the hosts eventually did with only a minute remaining in the match and with Bahrain's Rawan and Nezar constantly making quick substitutions in their search for an equaliser.

A mistake by the formidable Manar Ebrahim allowed number Hujaipecth to steal the ball behind her and needed only to

tap it into an empty net to seal the win.

"We are proud of all the players because they played well today," Bahrain head coach Lino Gomes from Brazil was quoted as saying.

"This game was a very good game. We have experience from playing with the Thai national team and we want a game

like this to develop the team further."

Of their semi-final clash with Japan, Gomes said: "Japan is a strong team. For us, playing with Japan is another great experience. It is another step for us to learn and to show everyone the potential of Bahrain's women's national team.

"There is no pressure in our game against Japan, because we have to accept that between Japan and us, the levels are quite different. But it will make the players the happiest regardless of the competition outcome."

Bahrain have a 14-player squad in Bangkok, that is completed by skipper Yasmeen Fayeze, Shaikha Al Anood Al Khalifa, Rose Fayeze, Amira Bader, Dalal Abdulla, Kholoud Saleh, Lilia Javed Sabkar, Maryam Abdulla and Iman Ramadan.



Bahrain's Amira Bader battles for possession with Thailand's Hataichanok Tappakun

”

Japan is a strong team. For us, playing with Japan is another great experience. It is another step for us to learn and to show everyone the potential of Bahrain's women's national team

LINO GOMES

tap it into an empty net to seal the win.

"We are proud of all the players because they played well today," Bahrain head coach Lino Gomes from Brazil was quoted as saying.

"This game was a very good game. We have experience from playing with the Thai national team and we want a game

Ylies Djiroun vs Lucas Martins: A fight for the legacy of the BRAVE CF Lightweight division

TDT | Manama

Fighters, fans, and the entire BRAVE Nation family will be glued to the BRAVE CF 74 main event as two warriors from the northern and southern hemisphere will battle it out for the center of attention on the west coast of France on Thursday night.

The epic Lightweight clash between France's Ylies Djiroun and Brazil's Lucas Martins will not only close out France's first-ever BRAVE CF event but more than that, will be a fight for the legacy of the glamorous 155-pound division.

Djiroun and decorated former champion Martins will offer a vivid breakdown of what it means to compete for a shot at the BRAVE CF Lightweight title, and with so much on the line, this bout promises to go down in the annals of BRAVE Combat Federation as one of the most competitive bouts in the brand's history.

For Martins (21-6), BRAVE CF 74 will be a chance to reclaim what was once his before facing darker days in which he recorded three losses amidst eight fight cancellations.

The 34-year-old knockout specialist can still scrap with the world's best, and he proved it in his comeback bout when he knocked out compatriot Henrique Marques at BRAVE CF 60.

But the fight veteran has been around long enough to know just how stacked BRAVE CF's Lightweight division is and the pressure that comes with that.

That, along with the birth of his daughter, has boosted Martin's drive to waste no time in



giving chase to another World Championship.

While Djiroun is as experienced as Martins with 26 fights and 19 wins, the Frenchman has not tasted the sweet success of holding a BRAVE CF belt yet, and that, compounded by the reality of him facing a superstar of Martins' stature in front of his home crowd, will fortify the submission specialist's mind to climb to new heights.

Despite Djiroun's impressive wins over Abdul-Rakhman Makhazhiev and the ever-dangerous and former number-one contender Olzhas Eskaraev, Martins has predicted a "first-round knockout over the grappler" in his pursuit of a title fight with undisputed champion Abdalham Kubanychbek.

"Djiroun is a good athlete,

and he is highly focused," said Mineiro earlier this week. "But he has never faced someone like Lucas Martins. When he stands opposite me in the cage, and he realizes who is standing in front of him, when he remembers who Lucas Martins fought and what Lucas Martins went through, you will soon see the fear in his eyes, and he will revert back to his little holding game. I am a different athlete now," concluded Martins.

Djiroun - a former French Pancrase champion, refused to be bothered by the psychological games laid out by Martins, sending out a warning of his own: "I can knock you out, Lucas. This is an MMA fight, not a wrestling match. Should it be via knockout, takedown,

or submission, I am ready for any opportunity. I hope you are ready for anything, too, Lucas," added Djiroun, who is well on his way to stardom after facing a troubling recent run which included two wins, one loss, and two cancellations.

The build-up and storyline behind this BRAVE CF 74 main event have been like none other before, and the dynamics involved have even left BRAVE CF President Mohammed Shahid waiting with bated breath. "The main event is the fight that's going to be focused on the mentality of these two athletes. It's not because these two athletes are coming at their peak, and they're looking with that hunger of, you know, 'I am this young guy at the top of my game and I want to go out there and win the fight'. This is different," says President Shahid.

"These are two veterans in the sport, two guys that have seen everything. They have gone through the ups and downs. The rise, the fall, and the rise again. I think that is going to be the theme of this main event. The sad part about this main event, for me, is to look at these two absolute warriors with amazing mentality, and only one story about the rise again can be written on that day."

BRAVE CF 74 takes place at the H Arena, in Nantes, France, in association with leading organization Hexagone MMA.

The show will transform France into the 29th nation to host a BRAVE CF show, which is an absolute record in the mixed martial arts industry as no other promotion has achieved that figure.

US beat Italy to reach Basketball World Cup semis



Paolo Banchero of the USA in action against Nicolo Melli of Italy during the basketball World Cup quarter-finals

AFP | London

The United States rebounded from their first defeat of the Basketball World Cup to book their place in the semi-finals with a resounding 100-63 win over Italy yesterday.

The Americans put their second-round loss to Lithuania firmly in their rearview mirror with a dynamic quarter-final performance to set up a showdown with either Germany or Latvia on Friday.

Mikal Bridges led the US in scoring with 24 points, and the Brooklyn Nets small forward also pulled down 7 rebounds.

Tyrese Haliburton was the winning team's second-highest scorer with 18 points, followed by Austin Reaves on 12.

The US stamped their authority on the game from the

first tip, and were 10 points ahead by the end of the first quarter.

Their lead grew to 22 by the end of a first half that saw crowd favourite Reaves provide a highlight with a massive rebound dunk.

Italy came into the game with the same 4-1 win-loss record as the US but their shooting touch deserted them, making only 23 of 75 field-goal attempts.

Simone Fontecchio was Italy's top scorer with 18 points, followed by Stefano Tonut on 11.

Serbia advanced to the semi-finals earlier in the day with an 87-68 win over Lithuania.

Germany play Latvia and Canada take on Slovenia on the second day of quarter-finals on Wednesday.

Man City to face Club Leon or Urawa Reds at Club World Cup

AFP | London

European champions Manchester City will face either Mexico's Club Leon or Japanese side Urawa Red Diamonds in

the Club World Cup semi-finals in December after yesterday's draw.

The UEFA Champions League winners and Copa Libertadores winners enter the

competition at the semi-final stage.

This year's edition is being held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and also features African champions Al-Ahly of Egypt,

Oceania champions Auckland City and home team Al-Ittihad.

The final of the Copa Libertadores is to be held on November 4.

Serbia player loses kidney at Basketball World Cup

TDT | Manama

Serbia's Borisa Simanic has undergone surgery to remove a kidney after being injured at the Basketball World Cup.

Simanic had an operation in a Manila hospital after being

hit by a South Sudan player's elbow during a pool game on August 30.

Complications arising from the operation meant he had to have further surgery on September 3, when one of his kidneys was removed, the team said Monday.