

## BOC holds welcome ceremony for Manama basketball team



Manama team members and officials at the welcome ceremony

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) organised yesterday a special welcome ceremony for the Manama Club basketball team upon their return to the Kingdom from Dubai, where they made basketball history

after becoming the first-ever champions of the FIBA West Asia Super League.

The reception was held at the Hall of Ceremonies at Bahrain International Airport, and in attendance were General Sports Authority (GSA) vice-president His Highness Shaikh Salman bin

Mohammed Al Khalifa, GSA CEO Dr Abdulrahman Askar, BOC secretary general Faris Al Kooheji, Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) Captain Waleed Al Alawi, and other GSA, BOC, BBA and Manama officials.

The celebrations included a cutting of a cake which was

decorated with a picture of the team.

Manama captured the gold medals in the inaugural edition of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA)-sanctioned tournament after defeating Kuwait SC 67-59 in the final of the FIBA WASL Final Eight



HH Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa cuts the cake with Manama Club president Yousif Zaman, left, and team captain Hasan Nowrooz

# 'This one was for Gino'

Bahrain Victorious rider Matej Mohoric wins final stage of Tour of Slovenia, dedicates victory to late teammate Gino Mader

● **Triumphant Matej Mohoric completes 142.6-kilometre, fifth and final stage in 3:07:49**

● **Slovenian claims first stage victory of his season, ranks second in general classification**

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Team Bahrain Victorious rider Matej Mohoric won an emotionally charged final day at the 2023 Tour of Slovenia yesterday.

Mohoric crossed the finish line in the southeastern city of Novo Mesto with tears in his eyes, smiled, and pointed to the sky in honour of the late Gino Mader, his Bahrain Victorious teammate who tragically passed away on Friday following a very serious crash during stage five of the Tour de Suisse.



Matej Mohoric, left, with other race winners

"This one is inspired by Gino, and for Gino," Mohoric said.

The Slovenian completed the 142.6-kilometre, fifth and last stage yesterday in a total time of three hours seven minutes and 49 seconds, finishing ahead of Filippo Zana and Luka Mezgec, both of Team Jayco-AlUla, who rounded out the top three.

Towards the end of the race,

Zana had no answer for Mohoric's superiority over the last few hundred metres of cobbles.

"I knew that today's course suited me, and in the finale, I was so focused," Mohoric said. "I wanted to win so badly; I just wanted the stage win. I certainly wasn't thinking about the GC [general classification]."

"For me—to get the first one

“For me—to get the first one on the board this season, and above all, for Gino. It was a little bit emotional today for what happened this week, but I wanted to give it all on the road

MATEJ MOHORIC

on the board this season, and above all, for Gino. It was a little bit emotional today for what happened this week, but I wanted to give it all on the road. Everything went as planned.”

Mohoric was classified at the end of the Tour of Slovenia second overall on the GC. His stage win was his first triumph of the season.

Amongst Bahrain Victorious' other riders, Wouter

Poels claimed a place in the final stage's top 20 in 20th, while Nicolò Buratti was 54th, Phil Bauhaus 96th, Dusan Rajovic 97th and Cameron Scott 106th from nearly 120 competitors.

This year's Tour of Slovenia was the 29th edition of the five-stage race. It is a part of the UCI ProSeries, featuring some of the top teams and riders in the world.



Matej Mohoric gestures as he crosses the finish line as the winner in the final stage of the Tour of Slovenia

## Sports hall of famer Kirik Jenness says HH Shaikh Khalid improved martial arts forever

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Brave Combat Federation, the Bahrain-based Mixed Martial Arts promotion founded under the vision of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, is at the forefront of combat sports worldwide. Those are the words of Kirik Jenness, the official record keeper of MMA in the United States and Combat Sports Hall of Famer.

In Bahrain, where he will serve as a colour commentator for the upcoming BRAVE CF 71 and BRAVE CF 72 fight cards, which take place at the Bahrain National Stadium on June 19 and 23 respectively, Jenness spoke about the impact of the Bahraini initiative in the sports



Kirik Jenness

world.

"BRAVE CF is different from other MMA promotions in a number of ways", Jenness said.

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tion that the vision of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa has had on this sport cannot be overstated. Bahrain has become a focal point for the

entire combat sports community", he continued.

"The amount of talent found by BRAVE CF's scouting program and then converted into international superstars is enormous. That's something that has the entire world keeping a close eye on the country and His Highness's initiative. He has definitely changed Mixed Martial Arts forever!"

BRAVE CF 71 is the first event of a series of two cards held by the promotion in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Today's fight night will be headlined by a Featherweight title eliminator bout between Omar Solomanov and Ilyar Askhanov. The event will be broadcast live on BRAVE TV App and Bahrain TV.

## Murray claims Nottingham Open to extend winning streak

AFP | Nottingham

Andy Murray claimed a second title in two weeks at the Nottingham Open yesterday to continue his fine preparation for Wimbledon.

The three-time Grand Slam champion followed up his win at Surbiton last week with a flawless display to beat Frenchman Arthur Cazaux 6-4, 6-4 to claim the tournament without dropping a set.

Murray's 10-match winning streak is now his best since he topped the world rankings in 2017 and before he required career-threatening hip surgery.

After winning two Challenger Tour events, the 36-year-old faces a step up in quality when he heads to the ATP 500 event



Andy Murray poses with the winners trophy

at Queen's Club this week, where he will face world number 18 Alex de Minaur in the first round.

But a strong showing at the tournament he has won five times could improve Murray's ranking sufficiently to be seeded at Wimbledon next month.