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BELLATOR MMA™

ILIMA-LEI MACFARLANE TO HEADLINE BELLATOR EVENT IN HAWAII WITH FLYWEIGHT TITLE DEFENSE AGAINST VALERIE LETOURNEAU

PLUS, LYOTO MACHIDA SET FOR BELLATOR DEBUT AGAINST FORMER MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMP RAFAEL CARVALHO AND BELLATOR'S WELTERWEIGHT WORLD GRAND PRIX CONTINUES

Airs live in Asia on 16 December, Sunday

ASIA, 12 December 2018 – The Neal S. Blaisdell Arena in Honolulu, Hawaii will host the homecoming of **Ilima-Lei Macfarlane** (8-0), as she puts her undefeated record and Bellator women's flyweight title on the line against No. 1 contender **Valérie Létourneau** (10-6) in the main event. The monumental event marks Bellator's first trip to Hawaii and the first major MMA show to be held there since 2008.

The event will air live on Paramount Channel on **16 December, Sunday at 10am (TH), and 11am (MY), with a same day primetime repeat telecast on 9pm (TH) and 10pm (MY)**. It will also air on MTV Asia and MTVph in the "MTV Presents: Bellator MMA on Paramount Channel" block on **28 December, Friday at 10.20pm (WIB), 11.20pm (SG/PH) and 12.20am (MY – 29 December, Saturday)**.

In addition, *Bellator Hawaii* will also feature the promotional debut of **Lyoto Machida** (24-8), where he is welcomed to the Bellator cage by former middleweight champion **Rafael Carvalho** (15-2). Also, the first-round of Bellator's Welterweight World Grand Prix rolls on when two undefeated 170-pounders, **Neiman Gracie** (8-0) and **Ed Ruth** (6-0), square-off for a shot at the world title against the winner of **Rory MacDonald vs. Jon Fitch** in the semi-finals.

A native of Honolulu, current Bellator women's flyweight champ Macfarlane made her pro debut in 2015 with a KO victory that went viral and has not looked back since, remaining undefeated in her career. With impressive victories over **Emily Ducote** and **Jessica Middleton**, "The Ilimanator" earned a shot at Bellator gold at *Bellator 186* in a rematch with Ducote, winning via submission. Most recently, she defeated **Alejandra Lara** and now looks for the biggest win of her career in front of her hometown fans. A proud graduate of Honolulu's Punahou High School in 2009, Macfarlane later attended San Diego State University, where she would go on to earn her Master's degree in liberal arts and science with a focus on indigenous issues – a subject she remains passionate about, launching "[The Ilimanator Scholarship](#)" for indigenous girls earlier this year.

The Canadian-born Létourneau, a former UFC strawweight title challenger, carries an impressive track record of thrilling fights, highlighted by a world title contest against former champion Joanna Jędrzejczyk. Since signing with Bellator, "Trouble" is undefeated after moving up to her more natural weight class, convincingly defeating **Kristina Williams** and **Kate Jackson**. At *Bellator Hawaii*, the American Top Team-product will look to improve upon her 10 victories as a professional, a tally that includes five finishes, with four coming by way of knockout, en route to becoming the next Bellator women's flyweight titleholder.

After signing with Bellator in June of 2018, Machida will make his highly anticipated debut on one of the biggest cards of the year. The former UFC light heavyweight champ, known as "The Dragon," will step inside the cage for the first time in a co-main event contested at middleweight. The two-division threat, who spends time training in both his native Brazil and Los Angeles, joins the organization on the heels of a highlight-reel KO over Vitor Belfort. The karate specialist owns notable career wins over Tito Ortiz, "Shogun" Rua, Dan Henderson, Rashad Evans and Randy Couture, and is looking to make an immediate impact on the roster. The always-dangerous Carvalho has his sights set on reclaiming his middleweight world title and it begins on December 15 against Machida. Previously, the Brazilian was riding a 15-fight win streak that included three successful title defenses and victories over **Melvin Manhoef** (x2), **Alessio Sakara** and **Joe Schilling**. Fighting out of Curitiba, Brazil, "The Blessed" has plans to prove that he is once again one of the best middleweights in the world.

Fighting out of New York City, Gracie has established himself as the next dominant force of the famed family. Following a successful grappling career, the Brazilian jiu-jitsu black belt made his pro MMA debut in 2013 with an impressive performance. With seven of his eight wins coming via submission, the Renzo Gracie-trained fighter is a threat to anyone in the welterweight division.

A former three-time NCAA Division 1 National Champion wrestler from Penn State University, Ruth will face the toughest test of his young career when he returns to action on Dec. 15. While boasting an extraordinary wrestling background, “EZ” has finished five of his opponents with strikes. The Fresno, Calif.-based fighter put the 170-pound division on notice following a second round-TKO of his most recent opponent in his welterweight debut.

Bellator Hawaii: Macfarlane vs. Létourneau Main Card:

Women’s Flyweight World Title Bout: **Ilima-Lei Macfarlane** (8-0) vs. **Valérie Létourneau** (10-6)

Middleweight Co-Main Event: **Lyoto Machida** (24-8) vs. **Rafael Carvalho** (15-2)

Welterweight World Grand Prix First-Round Bout: **Neiman Gracie** (8-0) vs. **Ed Ruth** (6-0)

Light Heavyweight Feature Fight: **Muhammed Lawal** (21-7) vs. **Liam McGeary** (12-2)

Lightweight Feature Fight: **Nainoa Dung** (1-0) vs. **Kona Oliveira** (1-0)

About Bellator

Bellator is a leading mixed martial arts and kickboxing organization featuring many of the best fighters in the world. Under the direction of veteran fight promoter Scott Coker, Bellator is available to nearly 1 billion people worldwide in over 160 countries. In the United States, Bellator can be seen on Paramount Network (formerly Spike), the combat sports television leader. Bellator is comprised of an executive team that includes top industry professionals in television production, live event orchestration, fighter development/relations, venue procurement, sponsorship creation/development, international licensing, marketing, advertising, publicity and commission relations. Bellator is based in Hollywood, Calif. and owned by entertainment giant Viacom, home to the world's premier entertainment brands that connect with audiences through compelling content across television, motion picture, online and mobile platforms.

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