

## SPORTS

# Director of Sports

## Munnings confident Sports Authority issues being resolved

### SPORTS SCOPE

BY FRED STURRUP



## LESTER COX BRIDGING GAP REGARDING GM

The National Sports Authority (NSA) has been an embattled entity for quite some time now.

Under a previous management, concerns in great numbers were expressed by representatives of sporting bodies. The disharmony surrounding the NSA also included, I have been told, conflicts with former Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Dr. Daniel Johnson.

More recently, infighting has been intense and the NSA has not been productive.

Well, Director of Sports Tim Munnings, on Thursday, expressed optimism that the issues that plagued the NSA will be resolved soon.

"Everything will be smoothed out in time. The management team is capable of functioning," said Munnings.

He did acknowledge however, that there are some areas he would like to see more progress in.

"I'd like to see more activities getting accommodated by the NSA. There should be more marketing of the facilities. The maintenance of facilities need to be ongoing and the NSA needs to stay on top of that," said Munnings.

As for the situation regarding a functioning general manager, the nation's sports director admitted that presently no one is actually performing in that capacity.

"A general manager has been identified. He is a Bahamian but his situation is still being sorted out. Presently, Mr. (Lester) Cox, who is a board member, is bridging the gap," informed

Munnings.

The NSA, established by the Sports Authority Bill of 2010, is an essential government sporting arm. Some of the primary functions set out in the Act are:

1. To own, establish, develop, improve, manage, maintain and take full control of all government sporting facilities.

2. To foster, support or undertake in co-operation with the Minister of Sports, provision for government sporting facilities.

3. To encourage the promotion, development and coordination of sports and the achievement of excellence in competitive sport.

4. To facilitate sports related activities for the promotion of youth development.

There is much more, but the

forementioned is indicative of the importance of the NSA to the vibrancy of the national sporting landscape. In all instances, the Minister of Sports is to be advised and updated.

Unfortunately, the NSA has been floundering in recent times.

Director of Sports Munnings claims the NSA is on a more progressive course. There is much to do to prove its worth and to justify the funding earmarked annually in the national budget for the NSA, salaries, stipends etc.

Hopefully, Director Munnings' confidence will pan out positively for the NSA.

(To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturup at sturup1504@gmail.com or on WhatsApp at 727-6363).



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~ TIM MUNNINGS  
National Director of Sports

## U.S. soccer eyes culture change, with new coach by year's end

RONALD BLUM  
AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Earnie Stewart intends to change the culture of the American national team by having the next coach and his staff work out of the U.S. Soccer Federation's headquarters in Chicago.

In his first public comments since starting the new job of men's national team general manager on Aug. 1, Stewart said the coach will be announced by the end of the year, possibly ahead of November exhibitions against England and Italy.

Stewart said ability to speak English was a requirement and that knowledge of soccer in the region, the U.S. and Major League Soccer a preference. He denied that Columbus Crew coach Gregg Berhalter is a

front-runner and said he has no regrets Juan Carlos Osorio took himself out of consideration by agreeing this week to coach Paraguay.

After reaching out to 15 to 20 people in the American soccer community to develop a profile, Stewart knows what he wants.

"We are a country that are aggressive in the right sense of the word, that we're a little bit in your face," Stewart said Thursday. "There's also a way that that could be implemented in a system, in a formation, by a coach."

Stewart spoke a day before the Americans play an exhibition against Brazil, their seventh game under interim coach Dave Sarachan.

The USSF was upended with a 2-1 loss at Trinidad and Tobago last October that ended the Americans' streak of seven straight World Cup appearanc-

es. Bruce Arena, who replaced Jurgen Klinsmann in November 2016, quit three days after the defeat. USSF President Sunil Gulati decided not to run for a fourth term, and Gulati confidant Carlos Cordeiro was elected president in February. The federation board established new GM positions for the men's and women's national teams.

While Gulati was the driving force in the hiring of Bob Bradley in 2006, Klinsmann in 2011 and Arena, Cordeiro and longtime Chief Executive Officer Dan Flynn will not participate in coach interviews and delegate the task to Stewart, USSF chief sport development officer Nico Romeijn and chief soccer officer Ryan Mooney.

Stewart, a midfielder who made 101 appearances for the U.S. from 1990-2004, will make a recommendation to the USSF board, which has final say.

The new coach will be the first in USSF history to work primarily at the federation's headquarters in Chicago. All federation men's and women's coaches will be required to work out of Chicago, though an exception is being made for current women's national team coach Jill Ellis, whose team has a World Cup next year and an Olympics in 2020.

"The culture that I believe in is actually sitting face to face and talking about situations and styles and principles and formations and strategies and getting the best out of each other," Stewart said. "It's yin and yang, and the best way is around the table every single day."

Arena, Klinsmann and Bradley all lived in Southern California while coaching the Americans. Stewart doesn't think the requirement will cause any candidates to withdraw.



EARNIE STEWART

"I don't think it'd be healthy that somebody sits down at a table ... and he says I want to live on the beach and be there most of my time," he said.

Stewart wouldn't say whether the 64-year-old Sarachan is a candidate. Berhalter, 45, was a

defender who made 44 appearances for the U.S. from 1994-2006, often alongside Stewart.

"We played together and we've communicated with each other, but friends? That's a little overboard, I'd want to say," Stewart said. "We have a professional relationship and we played with each other."

Jay Berhalter, Gregg's brother and the USSF chief commercial and strategy officer, is not involved in the hiring process.

Stewart said he has been contacted by six or seven candidates, either directly or through agents. It's possible only one candidate will be interviewed.

"It's somebody that has to have a we mentality, somebody who wants to work together," he said. "I think that's important because in this day and age I don't think one person can do a whole job, especially a country as big as this, as we are."



Basketball Hall of Fame inductee Ray Allen, right, smiles after he was presented his Hall of Fame jacket by Naismith Hall of Fame President and CEO John Doleva during a news conference at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, Thursday, Sept. 6, 2018, in Springfield, Mass.

(AP PHOTO/JESSICA HILL)

## Allen, Nash, Kidd, Hill in lineup for basketball hall

JIMMY GOLLEN  
AP Sports Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — The most prolific three-point shooter in NBA history would like to make the case for the mid-range jumper.

On the eve of his induction into the basketball Hall of Fame, Ray Allen says that watching the conference finals last year convinced him that teams are over-relying on the long-range shot. The Houston Rockets missed 27 straight threes in Game 7 against Golden State last year, and the Boston Celtics went 7 for 39 from beyond the arc against Cleve-

land in the East finale.

Even though Allen reached the Springfield, Massachusetts shrine, thanks in part to his three-point shooting, he also had a mid-range shot. And fellow Class of 2018 member Grant Hill says Allen wasn't afraid to drive past the defender to the basket.

Also to be enshrined on Friday night are Steve Nash, Jason Kidd, Maurice Cheeks, Tina Thompson, coach Lefty Driesell, Charlie Scott, longtime executive Rick Welts, NBA executive Rod Thorn, Katie Smith, the late Ora Mae Washington and Croatian star Dino Radja.