

SPORTS



<http://thefreeportnews.com>



NEW COMMUNITY LEAGUE – Member of Parliament for Central Grand Bahama and Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Iram Lewis (kneeling, center) gave his full support to the new basketball league in Lewis Yard, during the official opening at the YMCA basketball court on Wednesday, August 23, 2017. (PHOTO ANDREW COAKLEY)

Central Grand Bahama MP encourages more community sporting activities

ANDREW COAKLEY
Bahamas Information Services

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Works and Member of Parliament for Central Grand Bahama, Hon. Iram Lewis, in keeping with his promise to do his part to revive community activities that will bring together residents, launched a basketball tournament on the grounds of the YMCA in Lewis Yard on Wednesday evening, August 23, 2017.

The tournament, which is expected to be the first of many, attracted boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 18 to the popular basketball park, all hoping to get a spot on one of the teams. The majority of the players

hailed from the Lewis Yard, Pinder's Point and Hawksbill communities, with a few players travelling all the way from Eight Mile Rock to be a part of the basketball tournament.

"This is what building a community is all about," said MP Iram Lewis.

Lewis told the youngsters gathered for the opening ceremony that the tournament, which will eventually be formed into a league for the community, will allow the youngsters the opportunity to not only fellowship with each other, but to enhance their gifts as ball players.

In his short speech of motivation to the players, Lewis told the eager players that one of the goals of success in sports is that

of consistency and determination. To prove his point, he pointed out that one of the richest basketball players in the world and one of the most popular, Michael Jordan, was cut from his high school basketball team.

Yet, Jordan went on to become one of the greatest basketball players of all time.

"What am I saying to you? I'm telling you to never give up," said Lewis. "If you don't make it as a starter on one of the teams in this league, don't give up...continue to push. Let your goal be to become the best player you can be."

"However, the most important thing is to learn the fundamentals of the sport. You cannot succeed without learning the basics. You learn the fundamentals and then

you improve upon them. Remember, sports builds character."

Lewis admitted that when he was in primary and junior schools he was not as involved in sports as he should have been, but noted that once he got serious about the sport of track and field, he learned quickly and was able to make the National team and competed in two Olympic Games.

"Sports can help you travel around the world," added Lewis. "I was able to travel to places like Australia, Atlanta and other places through the avenue of sports. The same can happen for you, but you have to be disciplined, be focused, be willing to learn and have the right attitude. "Unsportsmanlike behavior

will not be tolerated. This is a community league and so you should represent your communities well.

The tournament, which begins on Tuesday, August 29 and will run through Thursday, August 31, 2017. Organizers of the league are "Solo" Rolle and coach Ben Russell. Although the league has been started in Lewis Yard,

Lewis said that plans are in the works to extend the league to other communities within the Central Grand Bahama constituency, after which time, inter-league play would commence.

"I'm extremely pleased to see the energy among these young players," added Lewis. "I was driving by one day and I saw

them playing pick-up games, so I stopped and after watching for a while, I suggested that they organize a league.

"I promised them that I would see if I could assist in helping to get some funding for it and ensure that it is properly organized and that was how this all got started. But we're hoping to expand this league next year.

"But they've put in the effort to bring something positive to their community and this is what I like to see. So I'm going to be here to support them, to watch the games and to encourage them. Not only can events like this build character in these young people, but these events can bring together communities and make them stronger."

Stackers take game one of YMCA Commercial League finals

SHAYNE STUBBS
FN Sports Reporter
shayne@nasguard.com

A second half surge by the Container Port Stackers and a short-handed bench spelled doom in game one for the Grand Bahama Elites.

The final two teams left standing in the YMCA Commercial League Championship began their best-of-five series Wednesday night at the YMCA Gymnasium. The Stackers rallied to take the Elites 73-63 in game one of the series.

Young Regis Cooper poured in a game-high 14 points for the Stackers. Tadd Martin, Melik Smith and Irvin Lewis each added 13 points in the win. Ahmad Pratt, though, erupted for a game-high 23 points, while Marco Cooper chipped in with 17 points.

The Elites came out swinging and used the three-ball to open up the first quarter with a quick 9-0 run. The Stackers made a brief run but eventually trailed the Elites 14-7 at the end of the first quarter.

Things were a lot closer and intense in the second quarter. The Stackers were two points away from tying or taking the lead midway through the second quarter. But the Stackers eventually went into halftime trailing the Elites by five points, 31-26.

It was a different tale for the Elites once the second half began. The Stackers turned out to be the aggressors in the early goings of the third quarter. They came out the gates strong and eventually played their way to hold a 43-40 lead. The teams traded the lead back and forth most of the quarter but the stackers held the 56-51 advantage after three.

One could hint that fatigue began to creep in on the shorthanded Elites. Nonetheless, the Stackers opened up a 12-point lead in the early goings of the fourth and eventually led 63-51. The Stackers would eventually do what was necessary to hold off the Elites.

Game two took place last night but results were not known up to press time. Game three takes place tonight at 8:00 p.m. at the YMCA Gym. Games four and five, if necessary will take place next Monday and Tuesday at 8:00 p.m.



LAY-UP – The Container Port Stackers held off the Grand Bahama Elites in game one of the YMCA Commercial Championship. (PHOTO: SHAYNE STUBBS)

SPORTS SCOPE By FRED STURRUP

Will be back in FULL swing next week

