

SPORTS



THANKS FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE – The Neymour's Athletics Club held a special ceremony this past Friday evening at the Grand Bahama Sports Complex, where they honored corporate Grand Bahama for its support of the club. Each sponsor in attendance received a personalized plaque of gratitude on behalf of the club. The club heads into year two since it's revitalization and looks forward to the road ahead this track and field season. (PHOTO: SHAYNE STUBBS)

Neymour's Athletics Club salutes corporate sponsors

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As the newly revamped Neymour's Athletics Club gets ready for the upcoming track and field season, members took the time out, recently, to thank those persons that have helped to revitalize the club. This past Friday (September 28) evening, at the Grand Bahama Sports Complex, 18 companies that had a hand in helping the club's revitalization were honored by the Neymour's Athletics brand for their timely assistance. The list of companies included – Stuart Price, Coral Windows; Erica Gates, Garden of the Groves; K. Peter Turnquest,

Deputy Prime Minister; Joseph O'Brien, City Services; Lawrence Palmer, Freeport Insurance Agents; Thomas Smith Sr., Albuild Construction; Aaron Brice, Epic Battery; Ray Darville, Overseas Marine Group; Noah Symonette, Freeport Restaurants; Rexy Roll, Western Air; Grand Bahama Power Company, Wolfgang Gieger, ABC Construction; Clayvon Duncombe, Phluid Phactory; Nelson Bethel, Bethel's AC; Stephano Borsetto, Mechanical Engineering; Kent Osmen, Verified Services; Rodnell and Rodney Zaberman, Laington Steel and Godfrey Waugh, Waugh Construction. The Deputy Prime Minister was in attendance and offered remarks on the club and how far it has come since it was first es-

tablished by the late "Godfather of Sports," Basil O. Neymour and head coached by the late Errol Bodie. "It's certainly a pleasure to be here supporting the Neymour's Athletics Club. This club has a very special significance to me and my family," Turnquest shared. "As you know coach Bodie would have been one of the early coaches and family to me. So, we're certainly happy that the legacy and excellence that this club produces are continuing. "So, I want to thank coach (Jerial Forbes) for continuing and the whole team for ensuring that these kids get the level of training and assistance they need to fulfill their full potential." Turnquest further acknowledged the need to "do more"

for youth and athletics, which is just another vehicle for young people to achieve their goals. The Deputy Prime Minister noted that funding and the spirit of volunteerism has decreased throughout the country. In turn, he congratulated all of the companies that have given their support in recent memory toward the betterment of the athletes. "We will never get there if we don't have the funding and support of members of the community like yourselves. So, I want to take the opportunity to thank you for what you have been doing in supporting these athletes and young Bahamians across this island and indeed some throughout this country." As head coach, Forbes let the companies know that he and the

athletes were eternally grateful for their help in year one. "As the great Basil Neymour once said, 'We're building character through athletics.' As I grew under this brand those words became a lifestyle. When you use the word building, as a construction pioneer it tells you that you will bring from the foundation up. "For Mr. Neymour, he took those words personally. That word building is something he did with myself ... My mandate, my objective as the head coach of Neymour's Athletics is to try and be as great as he was with youth development in Grand Bahama and in The Bahamas. "Myself and others are relics of his hard work. Day-by-day, year-by-year we pursued everything that he wanted us to pur-

sue – running fast times, going off to universities, representing The Bahamas and bringing home medals. "Mr. Neymour was always simple. A simple thank you and that would have done it for him and he would give you his very last. So, with that said corporate Grand Bahama we appreciate you all. From the bottom of my heart we appreciate you guys for helping with these kids. Some of them come from hard backgrounds and single parent homes and we're trying our best to not allow it to be a revolving door with the kids that are from the hardened areas." Forbes concluded that it is all about producing and developing the athletes to see their full potential on and off the track and field.



DPM
K. PETER TURNQUEST



JERIAL FORBES

Grand Bahama Development Fund to propel island's sports program

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The Government of The Bahamas will in the immediate future begin crafting, along with the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA), a document that will define the Grand Bahama Development Fund (GBDF). Prime Minister (PM) Perry Christie disclosed as much on Monday. "The MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) also provides a commitment to social and infrastructure investments in Grand Bahama that will deliver tangible contributions to the quality of life for the residents of Freeport. While individual investment projects can be very helpful, too often we pursue disparate projects that do not reinforce our broader development agenda. To that end, subsequent to signing the MOU we intend to seek to work with the GBPA to create an ongoing 'Grand Bahama Development Fund', which would make investments that can help to carry Grand Bahama forward." So said the PM in part, during a compelling presentation that related directly to Grand Bahama. The idea of a development fund is a good one but the suggestion here is that it be broadened far beyond the scope of sporting facilities. Private inde-



Sports Scope

by Fred Sturup

pendent development programs such as HOYTES (Helping Our Youth Through Education and Sports), the Grand Bahama Sports Scholar/Athlete Awards initiative, the Grand Bahama Sports Promotion Association, the Mychal Thompson Foundation, the Tabernacle Invitational Tournament, the YMCA program and such of the ilk should be included in the mix. Yes, they should definitely be a focus also, of the GBDF. They all in an appreciable way contribute to the development of nation builders of the future through their various sporting initiatives. The GBDF should

certainly not be one-sided, geared primarily to help the government with sporting facilities. The "refurbishing and expanding of athletic facilities" as heralded by Prime Minister Christie in his landmark Memorandum of Understanding (Government of The Bahamas/Grand Bahama Port Authority) announcement on Monday in the House of Assembly, ought to be prioritized but should not be the end of all of the GBDF. Actually, the GBPA would certainly relate to the GBDF. Through the years, investment patriarchs Edward St. George and Sir Jack Hayward were active in fostering sporting programs and events. The GBDF in essence would simply be continuity by those who carry on for the aforementioned iconic figures in Grand Bahama history. It is good to know that although the Christie Government is focused on the GBPA strengthening the economy of Grand Bahama, the island's sports family has not been forgotten. The view here is that generally with his House of Assembly presentation, Christie certainly got a bump in likability in Grand Bahama.

•To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturup at sturup1504@gmail.com