

SPORTS



SHAUNAE MILLER-UIBO

Miller-Uibo, Jones make big "gender equality" statements

FEMALE SPORTS STALWARTS CASTING LARGE SHADOWS

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Never before in Bahamian history have two daughters of the soil, in separate sports disciplines, been at such a towering height among their world peers simultaneously; and at the same time as well, actually upstaging the best of the male counterparts.

There was of course, the era of the Original Golden Girls of sprinting superiority but, no male sporting performers really rivaled their ultra performances. Then, about half a decade

not always gotten full credit for what they have done, in comparison to the men.

Perhaps not so much with Miller-Uibo, but certainly, despite the wide body of stellar work that Jones had done on the basketball court before the world during a stint in Asia as the toast of the Women's Korean Basketball League and subsequently her awesome season that is just concluding in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), she has not gotten her just due.

Right now Jones sits as the finest Bahamian basketball player, for one season, in the country's existence. Both she and Mill-

er-Uibo are prime faces for the gender equality movement in the country. Indeed, those who are national female leaders and activists who don't think they are treated equally in society, ought to express gratitude to Miller-Uibo and Jones for making such a grand gender equality statement though their eyebrow-raising performances.

Quite frankly, if a mutual schedule could be worked out, Miller-Uibo and Jones ought to be paraded throughout the length and breadth of the country as visible proof factors of how high on the achievement ladder, Bahamians of the fairer sex can climb. Such a tour would serve as inspiration for thousands of young boys and girls and motivate them all to higher achievements.

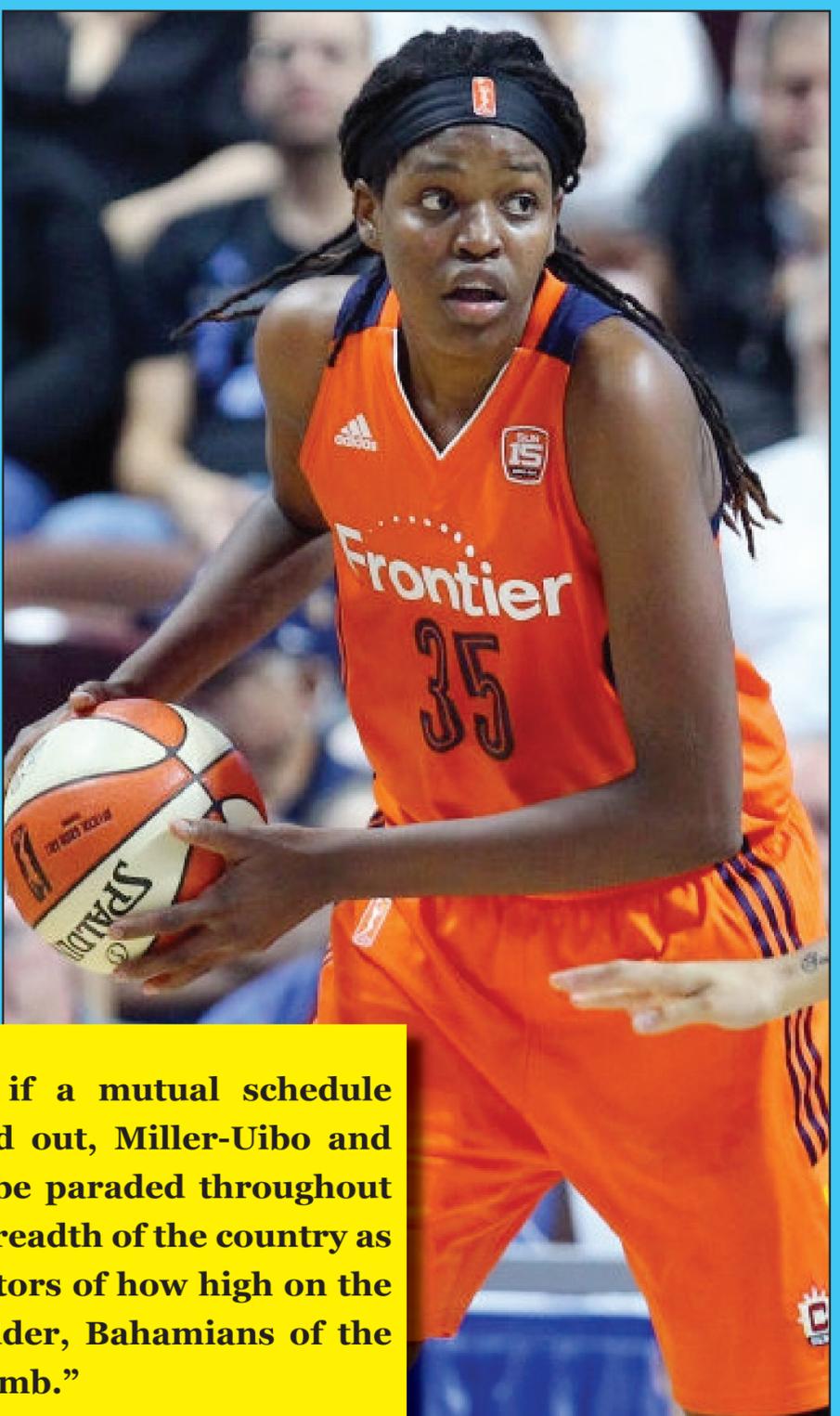
Miller-Uibo has just completed a prestigious Diamond League Finals double by capturing the gold medal in the 200 meters and the 400 meters. this, was of course on the heels of a 200 meters bronze medal, and being the reigning Olympic champion in the 400 meters to boot. She has been simply fantastic this past season and the world looks forward to the encore.

What about Jones. The grand lass of the Holmes Rock Community in West Grand Bahama became the first Bahamian basketball player to register a seasonal record performance when she pushed her rebound total as a Connecticut Sun superstar to 403 in Sunday's losing effort against the Los Angeles Sparks. Tina Charles had the previous mark of 398. Jones thus in eclipsing the record, had a milestone double, being the first WNBA player to hit the magic 400 total in a season.

The rebound record followed an All-Star starting selection, a highlight dunk during the Verizon Classic and a breakthrough regular season like few have ever experienced. Still to come are the play-offs. She and her Sun teammates have advanced to the second round of the WNBA post-season and will play again September 10. Jones is favored to capture the Most Improved Player Award and she should make the All-WNBA First Team and also the All-Defensive First Team.

These two valiant Bahamian ladies have been beyond outstanding. They are casting large shadows over the sports world.

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JONQUEL JONES

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Sports Scope

By Fred Sturrup



later, Tonique Williams reigned supreme in world track as a 400 meters specialist. Like the original Golden Girls, no fellow Bahamian female or male sports star were worthy at the time of being considered on par with her achievements.

What's happening now is indeed a first for The Bahamas.

In Shaunae Miller-Uibo of track and field and Jonquel Jones of basketball, The Bahamas can boast of two sports heroines who are at the very top of their "game" and owning the strong potential to be even much better. Both in their modest, but matter-of-fact styles have indicated that in their view much more is to come.

With their accomplishments in respective seasons the ladies have struck an extremely strong note for gender equality. Personally, I have always held the view that women at peak production levels, are at least equal to men, and in many instances surpass the best of the opposite sex in ongoing individual positive contributions. Sadly, through the years, women have

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