

SPORTS



MOORE'S ISLAND DORM

# Moore's Island National Sports Academy project now on hold

One of the challenges facing the sports arm of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, is continuing the development program ignited by the previous administration. Today, the focus is the Moore's Island aspect of the National Sports Academy.

The project, inclusive of a dormitory to house 40 student/athletes, a track, a soccer field, a beach volleyball/soccer facility, tennis courts, a center for community activities inclusive of rest rooms and a viewing section, was on course, via the schedule of the Ministry of Sports for the official open-

ing ceremony to take place this month.

Not a word has been given regarding the project thus far by the new leadership in the sports ministry. Clearly, based on the body of work still necessary to bring the project to completion, September, unless construction furiously gets underway again, will not be the opening month for the first phase of the National Sports Academy.

The Treasury is not budging as one would like, so financial restraint is understandable. At the very least though, an update should be given regarding the

much-publicized project which was earmarked to be the first significant physical presence, heralding the era of the National Sports Academy. A lot had been done already by the previous administration. The government had partnered with private individuals, putting in 50 percent of the cost towards the dorm.

The Ministry of Works had seen to the construction of the track and it was at the stage whereby just a decision had to be made as to whether the running area would be grass or synthetic. The early views led to a grass running surface, but engineers countered that decision because of the lack of sufficient water in Moore's Island to keep the track watered and ready for competition. The last bit of information reaching me indicated that the Ministry of Works and representatives of the construction team were trying to come up with the most feasible synthetic material that would be durable but still



PERRY CHRISTIE  
Former Prime Minister



MICHAEL PINTARD  
Minister of Sports

Sports Academy is brilliant. It was one of the good ideas former Prime Minister Perry Christie had. However, as with so many other projects, he was unable to provide the leadership that inspired follow-ups and the process straight through to completion. The expectation is high within the country's sports fraternity that the present government will continue on with the National Sports Academy. I strongly believe the interest is there.

Much work has to be done however. The Moore's Island project will launch the National Sports Academy. We are now in the fourth month of the new government. Hopefully word will be forthcoming soon about the Moore's Island National Sports Academy phase.

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## Sports Scope

By Fred Sturupp



# Minnesota center Fowles earns AP Player of the Year honors

NEW YORK (AP) — Sylvia Fowles had a stellar year to lead Minnesota to the top seed in the WNBA play-offs.

Her efforts earned her Associated Press WNBA Player of the Year honors on Tuesday. The award was chosen by the 15-member media panel that votes for the weekly poll.

"It means a lot," Fowles said in a phone interview. "I think a lot of people forget the work you have to put in. Like I said before, by far this is probably the hardest job to keep up with the stats and playing good throughout the season. I credit the other MVPs and players of the year for helping me up my game."

Fowles averaged 18.9 points, 10.4 rebounds and shot 65.5 percent from the field this season to help the Lynx earn a bye until the semifinals of the play-offs. She received 14 of the 15 votes with Candace Parker earning the other one. It's the second year that the AP is giving out awards for the WNBA.

Connecticut's Curt Miller was chosen as the AP's coach of the year, also receiving 14 of the 15 votes. He led the Sun to a fourth place finish in the standings after the team lost Chiney Ogumike to an injury before the season started. The Sun lost five of their first six games before winning 17 of the next 21.

"I'm humbled because there wasn't a lot of expectations on this group," Miller said. "Such a credit to those players, every adversity we had, they responded."



AP HONORS — Minnesota Lynx center Sylvia Fowles (34) looks to shoot against Indiana Fever's Jennifer Hamson (5) during the first half of a WNBA basketball game Friday, August 18, 2017, in St. Paul, Minn.

The Sun were led by Jonquel Jones, who won the AP's most improved player. Jones broke the single-season rebounding mark becoming the first WNBA player to top 400 rebounds in a season. She finished the year with 403 boards.

"She's a very special elite rebounder and she's only scratched the surface," Miller said of his

second-year player. "She will get better defensively and offensively. She will only get stronger around the basket."

Other award winners include Los Angeles' Alana Beard, the defensive player of the year; Dallas' Allisha Gray, rookie of the year; and New York's Sugar Rodgers; sixth woman of the year; Epiphanny Prince, comeback player of the year. Prince missed most of last season while recovering from an ACL injury. She and Rodgers helped the Liberty to the third best record in the league.

Beard was the defensive anchor for the Sparks, who were second in points allowed, giving up just 75.2 a game.

Gray, picked fourth by the Wings in the draft this past April, was joined on the all-rookie team by teammate Kaela Davis, Atlan-

ta's Brittney Sykes, San Antonio's Kelsey Plum and Washington's Shatori Walker-Kimbrough. "I came in and continued what got me here. Being consistent with my game and staying within my element and not doing anything I'd do outside my element," Gray said.

Fowles headlined the AP first-team All-WNBA. Also on the first team were Tina Charles, Skylar Diggins-Smith, Candace Parker and Nneka Ogumike. The second team was Jones, Breanna Stewart, Maya Moore, Brittney Griner and Diana Taurasi.

### POWER POLL

The Los Angeles Sparks finished the season where they started, atop the AP Power Poll. The Sparks received 14 of the 15 first place votes and held the top spot for the final three weeks of the season. Minnesota was sec-

ond.

"Ever since the All-Star break we started to play better," Los Angeles' coach Brian Agler said. "Odyssey (Sims) has helped us lately and Jantel (Lavender) getting more minutes has helped as well. When you know your top seven are playing well that's a good start."

The Lynx were followed by New York, Connecticut, Phoenix, Washington and Dallas. Seattle, Chicago, Atlanta, San Antonio and Indiana rounded out the poll.

### PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Brittney Griner averaged 30.5 points, seven rebounds and shot 63 percent from the field to help the Mercury win both their games this week. Others receiving votes included: Minnesota's Maya Moore and New York's Tina Charles.

# TSONGA AND PUILLE LEAD FRANCE IN DAVIS CUP AGAINST SERBIA

PARIS (AP) — Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and Lucas Pouille will lead France in singles play in the Davis Cup semi-finals against Serbia.

France captain Yannick Noah selected the 12th-ranked Tsonga and 20th-ranked Pouille ahead of No. 22 Gael Monfils, who is named as a reserve.

Tsonga is 18-7 in career singles and Pouille is 3-1.

"Jo remains our No. 1, we spoke a few times on the phone," Noah said. "He told me he's motivated for this semi."

Noah added that Richard Gasquet and Gilles Simon, who were overlooked, were both "disappointed, but they understood my

choice."

Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut will play doubles at Stade Pierre-Mauroy in Lille from Sept. 15-17.

The countries have not met since the 2010 final, which Serbia won 3-2. But the Serbs will be without Novak Djokovic, who is skipping the rest of the season because of an injured right elbow.

"Djokovic pulling out is very good news for the (France) team," Noah said. "It's certain that we have much more of a chance."

France last reached the Davis Cup final in 2014, losing to Switzerland.

The winner will play Belgium or Australia in the final.



BACK HAND — Gael Monfils, of France, plays a shot to Steve Johnson, of the United States, during their first-round match at the Rogers Cup tennis tournament in Montreal, Monday, August 7, 2017.