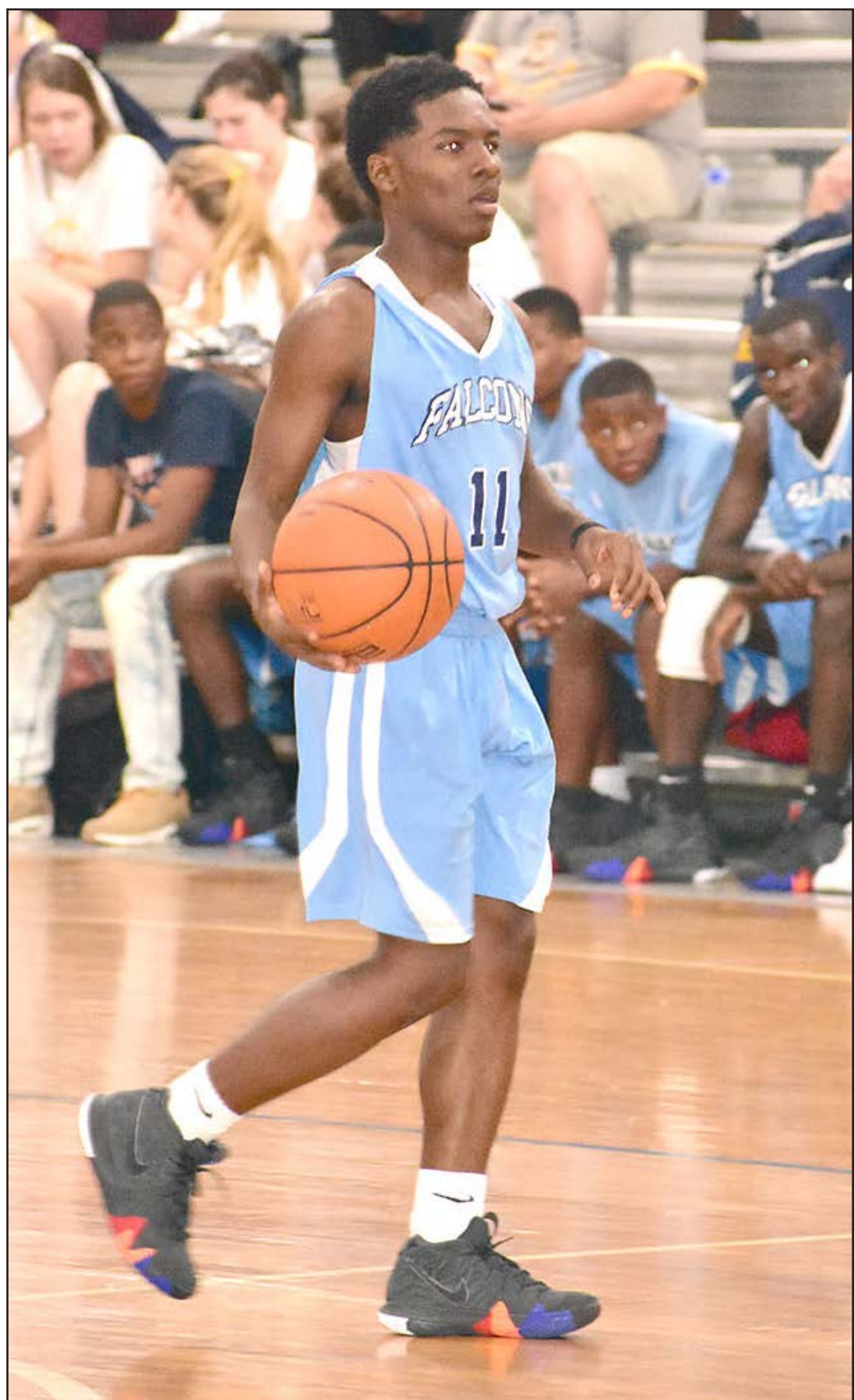


SPORTS



POWERING THROUGH - Joshua Dames, center, pictured as he powered through the Science Hill defense en route to the basket during day one of the 20th annual Tabernacle Thanksgiving Basketball Classic this past Wednesday. Dames poured in 21 points.



POUND FOR POUND - Ethan Munroe's hot shooting helped spark the Tabernacle Falcons in their victory over the Science Hill Toppers. Munroe dropped 17 points in the win. (PHOTO: SHAYNE STUBBS)

Falcons top Science Hill IN THANKSGIVING TOURNAMENT OPENER

SHAYNE STUBBS
FN Sports Reporter
shayne@nasguard.com

On the back of Tabernacle Falcons' guard/forward Joshua Dames' 21-point performance, the host team of the 20th annual Tabernacle Falcons' Thanksgiving Classic got their first win of the tournament over the visiting Science Hill Toppers.

The Domino's Tip-Off Classic champions led by as many as 13-points in the contest and eventually came away with the 58-51 triumph this past Wednesday. The Tip-Off Classic Most Valuable Player Ethan Munroe chipped in with 17 points in the Falcons' victory.

Toppers' big-man Jake Matthews registered 11 points and got assistance from forward Andrew Miller who finished with

nine points.

Both teams brought a ton of energy to the St. George's Gymnasium from the opening tip. The Falcons and Toppers engaged in a fast pace start to the first half.

The Falcons led 14-8 before a three-point basket from Munroe put the Falcons up 17-8. That shot prompted the Toppers to call a time-out with just over nine minutes to go in the first half.

His plate is full, but hopefully he does not miss some important aspects that ought to be addressed. In particular, for today's focus, I point to the plight of the lesser affluent sports federations and programs.

Previously in this space, I threw out the challenge for the government, through the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, to ensure parity of funding in sports. Just as the track and field fraternity produced two medals

at the IAAF World Championships in London, the potential is there for other disciplines to begin climbing to the point where they can achieve as much or more on the international stage. Let's look, for example, at the Bahamas Judo Federation. That body sent a clear message during the recent Commonwealth Youth Games, staged in July in New Providence. Two of its athletes, Kara Hanna and Mya Beneby, won bronze medals. It was a surprising, but heart-warming achievement and an indication of the depth The Bahamas could have in sports, if federations/programs received the appropriate funding in government grants.

Those same two athletes were selected to be a part of the judo team that competed in the World Cadet Championships in Santiago, Chile. Alas, in each case, they did not make it past the opening round. These young ladies possess the potential to be extremely good at their craft. There is no doubt about that.

However, their development phases need to be financially fortified, as are their world and regional peers. The national sports family would be well served if Minister Pintard has this focus, as a priority.

Hanna, fought in her opening round, an athlete from Croatia. Beneby had to go against an Australian. In both instances, their opponents were out of programs that pay meaningful

42-35. Another Munroe three made it a 10-point lead for the Falcons, 45-35 with 7:01 to go.

Munroe's hot shooting continued as he buried another three making it a 13-point deficit for the Toppers, 48-35. The Toppers, however, responded with a three of their own with 6:30 remaining in the half. The score stood at 48-38.

Science Hill continued to find life as another three-pointer fell for them to make it a 48-41 game in favor of Tabby with 5:19 remaining.

The back and forth action continued for both teams as Dames made it a 50-42 game after a strong drive and finish at the rim. Seconds later a toppers' three-point bomb brought them back within five to trail 50-45.

Munroe's killer instinct shined brightly as the game headed into the final minutes of the half.

Munroe was left open in the corner and that three-point basket made it a 52-44 game for the Falcons with under four minutes remaining in regulation.

The Falcons went full steam from that point forward to eventually close out the Toppers.

OTHER RESULTS FROM DAY ONE: GIRLS

Science Hill - 70
Erin Egerbrecht: 18 points
Jeila Greenlee: 16 points

BMES Lady Warriors - 23
Arjene Stubbs - 19 points

University High - 36
Courtney Hewtey: 16 points
Gracie Crabtree : 10 points

Tabernacle Lady Falcons - 22

Alexis Williams: 10 points
Boys

Johnson County - 61
Blake Atwood: 39 points
Troy Arnold: 11 points
Columbia High - 56
Liron Thomas: 19 points
Devin Longstreet: 11 points

C.I Gibson Rattlers - 78
Darryo Saunders: 21 points
Rashaun Strachan: 15 points

Oakridge High - 67
Javontae Thomas: 17 points
Kell Slater: Eight Points

Westwood High - 67
Ta'Jay Dunlap: 17 points
Mequaje McDaniels: 13 points

Dobyns Bennett High - 51
Charlie Browder: 20 points
Riamello Wadsworth: 10 points

Plight of less affluent sports programmes should be a focus

• First Published September 15, 2017.

No doubt the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Michael Pintard has seen a lot and heard much in four months at his new post, which should educate his thinking as he addresses The Bahamas' sports brand going forward.

He was recently at the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Conference in Uganda. Pintard flew from that African nation to London, England, for the 16th International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships and was in place to get an up close view of the finest track and field athletes in the world competing.

Team Bahamas was there. The minister got a lot to bring back home. There was a post-championships report that informed of Minister Pintard's intention to take a good look into the government subvention program for elite athletes.

Previously in this space, I threw out the challenge for the government, through the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, to ensure parity of funding in sports. Just as the track and field fraternity produced two medals

at the IAAF World Championships in London, the potential is there for other disciplines to begin climbing to the point where they can achieve as much or more on the international stage. Let's look, for example, at the Bahamas Judo Federation. That body sent a clear message during the recent Commonwealth Youth Games, staged in July in New Providence. Two of its athletes, Kara Hanna and Mya Beneby, won bronze medals. It was a surprising, but heart-warming achievement and an indication of the depth The Bahamas could have in sports, if federations/programs received the appropriate funding in government grants.

Those same two athletes were selected to be a part of the judo team that competed in the World Cadet Championships in Santiago, Chile. Alas, in each case, they did not make it past the opening round. These young ladies possess the potential to be extremely good at their craft. There is no doubt about that.

However, their development phases need to be financially fortified, as are their world and regional peers. The national sports family would be well served if Minister Pintard has this focus, as a priority.

Hanna, fought in her opening round, an athlete from Croatia. Beneby had to go against an Australian. In both instances, their opponents were out of programs that pay meaningful

attention to their development, with excellent backing from their respective governments. The Bahamas Government can't match Australia or Croatia in sports funding. That's conceded. Something can be done though. With its allocation of sports grants, the government can ensure a leveled playing field from the outset. Give all registered federations the equal amount of grants. Do the same, in contributions, to the various sports programs.

Let everyone start on the same line and see what happens.

• To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturupp at sturupp1504@gmail.com on WhatsApp at 727-6363.

attention to their development, with excellent backing from their respective governments.

The Bahamas Government can't match Australia or Croatia in sports funding. That's conceded. Something can be done though. With its allocation of sports grants, the government can ensure a leveled playing field from the outset. Give all registered federations the equal amount of grants. Do the same, in contributions, to the various sports programs.

Let everyone start on the same line and see what happens.

• To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturupp at sturupp1504@gmail.com on WhatsApp at 727-6363.



Sports Scope
by Fred Sturupp