

SPORTS

BAAA needs team with the capacity to enunciate

Tourism Minister could be major obstacle to host of Relays 2021

Overnight, when many politicians are elected, in their minds, they become virtual embodiments of all knowledge.

Thus, Dionisio D'Aguilar, unlike his late father Vincent, and uncle, Adrian, (who were major contributors to the Golden Era of Sports in The Bahamas), feels he has the appropriate rationale regarding the hosting of the International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF) Worlds Relays here in The Bahamas.

Does he have the sports background to recognize the many positive intangibles that are directly connected to the World Relays taking place in this country?

Just what about this D'Aguilar version verifies that he fully understands the great impact worldwide, as a result of The Bahamas being synonymous with the IAAF World Relays?

That was the case from the very inception of the global mega venture of the IAAF.

Yet, D'Aguilar has been reported questioning the benefits of hosting the World Relays. It is quite understandable that he would form the view that the

benefits for the national sports landscape and the wider Bahamas "are questionable" given his lack of meaningful sports background.

What does he really know about the sports terrain, nationally, regionally or internationally?

In this space from the outset, I lobbied for the Bahamian negotiators to make every effort to get a piece of the world television rights, owned by the IAAF, and a percentage (even if just 1-5 percent) of all international sponsorships. They were not successful.

Still though, the exposure the country has gotten, compares favorably with millions of taxpayers' money D'Aguilar seemingly condones being paid to marketing firms; and the millions advanced to ensure that prime golf events take place in the country.

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So, he looms as the biggest obstacle if the Bahamas Association of Athletics Associations



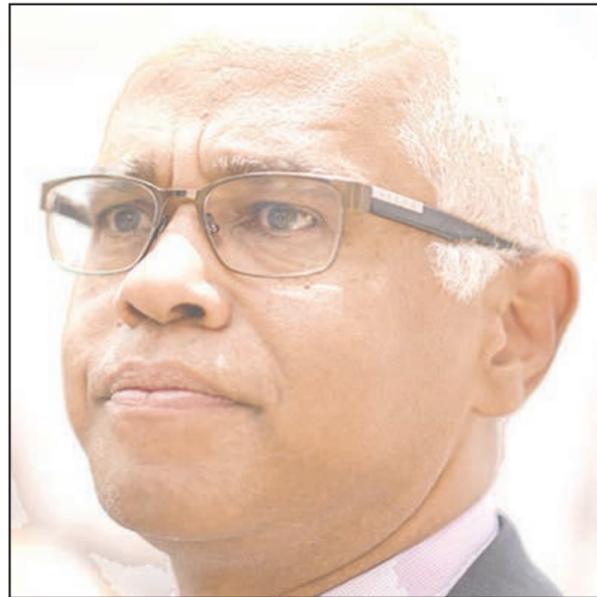
Sports Scope

by Fred Sturupp

(BAAA) is able to make the pitch for the Cabinet of The Bahamas to put the hosting of the World Relays, in particular the 2021 edition, back on the table.

The sports insight deficiency of D'Aguilar is even more

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DINIOSIO D'AGUILAR
Minister of Tourism

indeed Cabinet Members who are inclined to be supportive of the World Relays, how simply practical it is to renew the relationship.

This is the conclusion of a three-part series on the World

Relays. I just wished to provide some food for thought(s).

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Fast Track Winter Classic set Dec. 7 at GB Complex



WINTER HEAT - The third annual Fast Track Winter Classic takes place this Friday, December 7 at the Grand Bahama Sports Complex. Pictured left to right are Fast Track coaches Pharez Cooper and Ravanno Ferguson as they announced the event this past Friday, November 30. (PHOTO: SHAYNE STUBBS)

test.

A number of local track and field clubs are expected to participate in the event.

Both Fast Track coaches, Ravanno Ferguson and Pharez Cooper met with the media this past Friday at the Sports Complex to put the final push behind the upcoming event.

Coach Ferguson stated that he expects the athletes to put on a great showing and also explained why Fast Track decided to change the date and time format for the third annual classic.

"It's going to be a great event. It's going to give the kids a chance to sharpen their skills. It's going to be an odd distance meet, which means we don't run the regular races (100 meters, 200 meters and so on).

"The event is usually held on a

Saturday but this year we wanted to add a different twist to it by hosting a twilight meet. So, it gives the (primary school) athletes a chance to run under the lights of the Complex, to make it feel more grand to them as they don't get a regular chance to do that, as opposed to the high school kids, when they run during Island Sports," said Ferguson.

The Bahamas Association of Athletics Associations (BAAA) First Vice President, Ferguson, also indicated that the change in time and day should allow parents an opportunity to attend the meet.

"It also helps the association's mandate to create a bigger buzz centered around track and field meets around the country. "But most importantly we

want to try and bring the fans and spectators out here. We're trying to revive track and field in Grand Bahama. It's going to be a family oriented evening so we're encouraging persons to come straight from work.

"We have activities lined up for the non-athletes and extreme athletes. So, if you just want to come out and have fun we'll have the bouncing castles, face painting for the kids and a ton of raffle prizes for adults and kids. So, it won't just be a track meet it will be a family event," he explained.

Ferguson listed Fast Track Athletics and Fast Track West, Neymour's Athletics, Golden Eagles, Kenyan Athletics, 90 Degrees, Falcons' Athletics, as well high school teams, as probable for the competition this

Friday.

The event in itself is unique as it takes on an odd distance format. Traditionally, the region lacks an indoor season, which is where odd distance races are contested. With the absence of an indoor season here in Grand Bahama, and the country at large, this prompted the Fast Track coaches to replicate the indoor events, outdoors.

Coach Cooper further disclosed that this format would help the athletes relax a bit while also sharpening their talents.

"The distances, for instance, instead of being a traditional 100m, we'll have a 60m, 150m, and 300m. So it's just to simulate an indoor circuit which gives the kids the option to run a race and face less pressure of running in their special event.

So, it gives them an opportunity to come out and sharpen their skills and have a fun meet with less pressure.

"We want everyone out there to come have fun, open their season, test their skill level and we want the crowd to come out and support our athletes."

The Fast Track Winter Classic is a sanctioned meet by the BAAA and Grand Bahama Amateur Athletic Association (GBAAA). All the times recorded at the meet will be fully-automatic times.

Cooper closed his comments by making an important point.

"We have a branch of communication with a lot college coaches...so all respective times that could be accepted, will help the athletes get off to college."

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The outdoor track and field season is drawing near and Fast Track is aiming to get the local athletes primed and ready for the upcoming journey.

Staged under the "bright lights" of the Grand Bahama Sports Complex this coming Friday, December 7, is slated the Fast Track's Third Annual Winter Classic.

The pre-season competition gives athletes an opportunity to gauge their progress.

Yearly, the Winter Classic is hosted for the track and field athletes, to serve not only as a checkpoint to indicate the season is approaching, but to put their off-season workouts to the