

SPORTS

New BAAA chief Archer seems prepared for demanding role

•First published on November 30, 2018
All that can truthfully be said,

thus far about new Bahamas Association of Athletics Association (BAAA) President Drume

meco Archer, is that he is responding quite well, initially, to the demands to be dealt with if the pre-elections cycle promises are to be fulfilled.

Last Saturday, Archer and his slate virtually trampled incumbent President Rosamunde Carey and her team of candidates, to take over control of the second most powerful track and field organization in the English-Speaking Caribbean, behind only Jamaica. It was a powerful message crafted by Archer as he bombarded members of the national track and field fraternity with promises of having the capacity to be the kind of administration that would earn the right to be called the greatest of all time (GOAT).

He promised to network on behalf of the athletes, in particular to provide the best development and progressive forum, collectively; to be inclusive of all who participate in the sport, in every corner of the archipelago; and above all, to perform his duties with the fullest of transparency.

Archer, by his own admission takes over a broke organization. He should know that if he holds firmly to the ideals he put forth along the way to winning a coveted national sports presidency, the Government of The Bahamas, Corporate Bahamas and staunch track and field-supporting individuals will rally to the cause.

From a historic perspective and given the availability of prime international products such as Shaunae Miller-Uibo and Steven Gardiner, to go along with past world elites, the BAAA should be a marketing giant, capable of promoting several events each year that generate revenue to go well along with the government grants and corporate donations and sponsorships.

So, yes, according to Archer, he took over the BAAA with the money chest bare. It is now



DRUMECO ARCHER
BAAA President

for him to prove his worth and make the parent body for athletics in The Bahamas as viable as is possible.

He seems prepared to work, hard. Those are the early signs I have noticed. Right away, he has to leave for Monaco, where the International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF) 2018 Awards Presentation bonanza event will take place next week, Tuesday, December 4. Miller-Uibo is a finalist.

It will be an opportunity for Archer to do further networking with IAAF President Lord Sebastian Coe and other IAAF executives, about the possibility of the World Relays returning to The Bahamas in the year 2021. Much has been written about the Bahamian Government's decision not to pay the \$5 million fee to the IAAF for the rights to host the 2019 World Relays.

Clearly, Lord Coe and his colleagues in the IAAF were disappointed at the turn of events related to The Bahamas bailing

out. It took Lord Coe and his associates months to find a replacement nation to host the 2019 World Relays. Finally, Japan stepped in. Accordingly, the fourth edition of the IAAF World Relays will be hosted by the city of Yokohama, in Japan.

We move beyond that now. The new BAAA President, Archer, is firmly on board the lobbying ship for the 2021 IAAF World Relays and my understanding is that he plans to be proactive, in pursuit of this mega international sporting event.

Then, there is another immediate item on the table. I refer to Grand Bahama.

"I wish to recognize the historic contribution of the island of Grand Bahama to the national track and field development, as well as some of the prime athletes who have been produced there. It is the plan to give a major focus right from the outset, to Grand Bahama and move right on around the country. We



Sports Scope

by Fred Sturup

will be inclusive of all within the national track and field family," said Archer on Thursday.

His early initiatives are pleasing.

Hopefully, particularly, in regards to bidding for the hosting of the 2021 IAAF World Relays, Archer will be afforded a responsive Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis. This is a grand opportunity for the prime minister to ensure some national balance to the negative comments his government has been receiving in recent times.

He and the government are at odds with the union movement in the country. Several significant government departments are up in arms over salaries, and owed entitlements; and in general, are disturbed over not getting the kind of appropriate treatment they are insisting upon.

PM Dr. Minnis could find Archer and the World Relays an excellent collective plank to work from, in regaining popularity in the land for the government.

•To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturup at sturup1504@gmail.com or on [WhatsApp](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/00299a61111111111111) at 727-6363.

Super Bowl Matchups

The previous time the Rams played in a Super Bowl, the opponent was New England. It didn't work out so well for the then-St. Louis team.

The Patriots, of course, have made a habit of being in the NFL championship game — this is their eighth since that 2002 victory over the Greatest Show On Turf.

Here's how they'll match up in Atlanta:

WHEN NEW ENGLAND HAS THE BALL

Thanks to a dominating line led by LT Trent Brown (77), C David Andrews (60) and RG Shaq Mason (69), Tom Brady (12) barely was touched and never was sacked by Kansas City in the AFC title game. And the Chiefs led the league in sacks. If that group can be just as stout against All-Pro DT Aaron Donald, the only unanimous choice for the squad, Ndamukong Suh (93) and Michael Brockers (90), Brady could have another one of his MVP performances. However, the secondary he'll face this time is far superior to what the Chiefs put on the field, particularly with cornerbacks Aqib Talib (21) and Marcus Peters (22) — and backup Nickell Robey-Coleman (23), he of the now-infamous helmet-hit pass interference non-call against the Saints.

Those two must be aggressive at the line of scrimmage against WRs Julian Edelman (11) and Chris Hogan (15), who were so open on some routes against Kansas City it looked like a passing drill.

The other intriguing matchup here is TE Rob Gronkowski (87) against safeties Lamarcus Joyner (20) and John Johnson III (43), who are physical enough to deal with Gronk, but it's a wearying and thankless task.

And there's this for LA to deal with: Rookie Sony Michel (26) has become a ground force with his power and instincts. Fellow RB James White (28) is one of the best receivers out of the backfield in the league, and third-stringer Rex Burkhead (34) scored twice, including the winning TD for the AFC crown.

Rams' defensive coordinator Wade Phillips will challenge Brady with his schemes, but LA must disrupt the QB's timing and comfort zone. Brady's O-line has to prevent that.

WHEN LOS ANGELES HAS THE BALL

Michel's former teammate at Georgia, All-Pro RB Todd Gurley (30), has been battling knee issues. While late-season pickup C.J. Anderson (35) has been masterful, the Rams need a healthy and productive Gurley for the Super Bowl. At least he's had extra time to heal.

Gurley led the NFL with 21 TDs and ranked fourth with 1,831 yards from scrimmage. He'd be a handful as a receiver for Patriots LBs Dont'a Hightower (54) and Kyle Van Noy (53), who comes off a superb outing in Kansas City. So one of the DBs, perhaps safeties Devin McCourty (32) or Patrick Chung (23), could get some assignments.

will be eager for a big game after the Patriots dealt him to LA last off-season. He'll likely see plenty of All-Pro CB Stephon Gilmore, who struggled a bit in KC.

New England managed four sacks of Patrick Mahomes and the Rams can't be that generous if they expect to carry off the Lombardi Trophy. Steady linemen LT Andrew Whitworth (77), LG Rodger Saffold (76) and RT Rob Havenstein (79) must hold their own against DE Trey Flowers (98), Van Noy and the guys on the interior for New England.

Goff vs. Brady would seem a mismatch. But Goff and his team beat Drew Brees for the NFC title.

SPECIAL TEAMS

What more can Greg The Leg do? Well, LA placekicker Greg Zuerlein (4) could follow his clutch work in the Big Easy with a Super Bowl-winning boot.

Rams' P Johnny Hekker (6) converted a fake punt for a first down at New Orleans and has one of the most powerful legs in the league.

The Rams aren't exceptional on returns, but they aren't inept, either. JoJo Natson (19) has handled most of the punt runbacks, while Blake Countess (24) is the kick returner.

The Patriots are more likely to break something in the return game with Cordarrelle Patterson (84) on kickoffs. New England features the usually reliable Edelman on punts, although he did — or didn't — fumble one against the Chiefs.

Stephen Gostkowski (3) has made more pressure attempts than nearly any current NFL placekicker this side of record-setter Adam Vinatieri, and Ryan Allen (6) does a solid job punting.

COACHING

Seeing how the Patriots dominated the Chiefs early on both sides of the ball, OC Josh McDaniels and unofficial DC Brian Flores had a superb game plan. But KC began moving the ball almost at will in the second half, and the Rams are capable of the same. That makes for a key question: Can LA slow down the precision passing and powerful/slashing running of Michel?

LA coach Sean McVay is the hot commodity on the pro football market. Every team looking for a new head coach has at least investigated people who've worked with McVay, who just turned 33. He's innovative, aggressive and, in some ways, one of the guys, something New England's Bill Belichick most definitely isn't.

INTANGIBLES

The Patriots are so experienced in this environment. Nothing that happens in Atlanta during Super Bowl week is likely to bother them. Same thing probably will apply when they get on the Mercedes-Benz Stadium field.

Brady, 41, will be the oldest starting QB in Super Bowl history. A sixth title would tie the Patriots with the Steelers for most in the Super Bowl era.

The Rams could energize the Los Angeles area about the NFL with a championship just three seasons into their return to Hollywood. They won the Super Bowl once, but representing St. Louis in the 2000 game.

West Indies women win 1st match in Pakistan without problems

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — The West Indies women's first cricket match in Pakistan was a 71-run victory that passed without incident on Thursday.

Pakistan has staged only short limited-overs series against Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, a World XI, and the West Indies since a deadly terrorist attack in March 2009 against the Sri Lanka test team in Lahore. A women's team from Bangladesh also toured Pakistan in October 2015.

The West Indies women, making their first appearance in Pakistan in 15 years, agreed to play three Twenty20s there before both teams fly to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, for three one-day internationals.

Opener Deandra Dottin top-scorer for the West Indies with 90 in a total of 160-2, then Pakistan, playing its 100th T20, was bowled out for 89 in 18 overs. Medium fast bowlers Shamila Connell (3-29) and Shakera Selman (2-8) led the way.

The next T20s are on Friday and Sunday, all in Karachi.

West Indies captain Stefanie Taylor will join the team in Dubai as she didn't come to Pakistan due to security fears.



Pakistan's batsman Nida Dar is runout as West Indies wicketkeeper Kycia Knight appeals during the first Twenty20 in Karachi, Pakistan, Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019. West Indies women's team beat Pakistan by 71 runs to take 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

(AP PHOTO/FAREED KHAN)

Sabalenka beats van Uytvanck in St. Petersburg opener

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Aryna Sabalenka recovered from a second-set slipup to reach the St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy quarterfinals on Thursday, beating Alison van Uytvanck 6-1, 6-4.

In her first match since reaching a career-high ranking of No. 10 on Monday, the Belarusian trailed 3-1 in the second before winning four games in a row.

Sabalenka, who had a first-round bye, will next face Ekaterina Alexandrova, who beat qualifier Tereza Martincova 7-5, 6-2.

Sabalenka defeated Alexandrova 6-3, 6-3 this month on her way to winning the Shenzhen Open title.



Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus returns the ball to Alison Van Uytvanck of Belgium during the St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy-2019 tennis tournament match in St. Petersburg, Russia, Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019.

(AP PHOTO/DMITRI LOVETSKY)