

SPORTS



EARLY START – The young female players were given the opportunity to get an early start in learning the fundamentals of the game, during the Mini Basketball Showcase.

MINI BASKETBALL BECOMING A FOCUS OF THE BBF

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Young athletes around The Bahamas have become heavily invested in the sport of basketball over the past few years.

With the kind of enthusiasm younger players exude constantly, The Bahamas Basketball Federation (BBF) in conjunction with the Grand Bahama Basketball Association (GBBA), have given younger age bracket players their own shine for the month.

The month of October has been considered “Mini Basketball Month” throughout the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) territories, in which The Bahamas is a part. In that spirit, a number of schools on the island convened at the Jack Hayward Gymnasium this past Saturday afternoon for a full day of basketball action.

The day featured teams in the Under 10 and 13 Boys and Girls’ Divisions. Walter Parker Primary, Freeport Primary, West End Primary, Jack Hayward Stars, Tabernacle Falcons, Sunland Stingers and Bishop Michael Eldon Warriors were all the teams getting it on over the weekend.



ENCOURAGING TALENT – Organizer of the Mini Basketball Showcase, president of the GBAA Quinton Hall is pictured with the coach and young players of Bishop Michael Eldon School. (PHOTOS: SHAYNE STUBBS)

GBBA President, Quinton “3 Ounce” Hall, noted that

the GBBA was asked to host “something” that catered to

up-and-coming hoopers of tomorrow. Despite the last minute

nature of the event, Hall voiced that it was a great way to show-

case the younger talent. “We were asked to put something on in Grand Bahama and this is what it is. This is the development stage right here. This is the premiere, this is where the root of every country is and this is where all the stars are,” Hall expressed.

With that said, Hall added that it was a joy to host an event of this magnitude, it helped to see just how the sport comes full circle when he witnessed dozens of kids showcasing their talent, much like he did growing up.

“I have nephews and little ones that I know playing, and it’s amazing how basketball is just a cycle. You see kids playing that you’re friends with their parents, so for me it’s a joy to do something like this.”

Hall continued, “It’s a need. They need to get out and play more. You could see from the style and the way they play. It’s a just a lot of running up and down, but the more they play the more they start to understand the game. But I was impressed with some of the kids.”

Hall concluded by noting that the mini basketball venture on the island is expected to carry on once every month moving forward.

ROBINSON PLAYING GOLF AT QUALITY LEVEL

The compliments spill out of Northern Bahamas golf czar Ambrose Gouthro, when speaking about Devaughn Robinson.

The 29-year-old Robinson is widely regarded as the foremost Bahamian amateur golfer at the moment. High quality play by Robinson in recent times, in particular capturing the Houston City Amateur Championship earlier this month, has Gouthro and many others impressed.

“I have watched young Robinson play. He is disciplined and happens to be excellent in course management. He doesn’t get rattled and in my view, Robinson has the capacity to consistently compete at a top level. He is in his prime years, at 29 and we should be able to get at least another 11 really progressive years out of him, playing at a high level,” said Gouthro.

The sitting president of the Bahamas Golf Federation, Glen Archer’s letter last month to Victoria Lawrie, the Championship Coordinator for the upcoming 2018 Latin America Amateur Championship (LAAC), confirms Robinson’s status.

Responding to an invitation, on behalf of the Masters Tournament, The Royal & Ancient Club, and the United States Golf Association, for The Bahamas to be represented in the LAAC, Archer forwarded Robinson as one of the Bahamian nominees (Richard Gibson Jr. is the other). Robinson has a distinguished background in golf.

On the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)



DEVAUGHN ROBINSON

circuit, competing for Texas Southern University, Robinson added six medalist honors to his resume, including the

Southwestern Athletic Conference Championship. He is a veteran member of national teams and has made the cut in three

previous LAACs. “He’s one hell of a player. Robinson has matured well. He is a fine young man and a prime ex-

ample of what we can turn out in our junior program, if given the means,” Gouthro further stated.

It is the view of Gouthro and generally the national golfing fraternity, that the availability of top golf facilities in the country and the opportunities to play them regularly would make a great difference for the sport. I share the views of Gouthro and others, that the bothersome drawback for golf in The Bahamas and those who aspire to play the game to the highest standard, has been the inability to benefit from reasonable rates and conditions to play the best golf courses in the country.

There are many young Bahamians with golfing skills that could blossom into perhaps being Tiger Woods-like or similar, if afforded the opportunities to be on the nation’s prime golf courses with proper supervision, as often as their schedules permit. No doubt, when someone like Robinson achieves, others are inspired and would take advantage of heightening their games if the culture was in place for the

top golf courses to work with the federation and young golfers.

It’s a sad story, but an old one, and meanwhile the country is not able to maximize its potential in golf. However, out of such an inappropriate situation, still, a Bahamian such as Robinson sometimes emerges.

I congratulate Robinson and hold on to the hope that the nation will get to that point once again when our best golfing facilities bring the conditions in line with reason, so that our amateurs could improve their games, in their country.

The environment that Gouthro, Archer, I and others advocate, we once enjoyed. At that time, we produced the Young Lions, a legendary group of players who were the rage of the Caribbean and Latin America regions, several decades ago.

In the meantime, we must go to the greatest extent to encourage Robinson and his ilk.

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SPORTS SCOPE

By Fred Sturupp

