

SPORTS

Unsung sports historian Bryan Wright passes on

It was a stunning moment for me.

Churchill Tener-Knowles and I often have morning chats. He called on Thursday morning. We discussed several present sporting issues then he told me of an earlier telephone call he had gotten from Willie "Mays" Francis. It was to inform him that Bryan Wright had died.

For me it was as if I was struck by a blow.

Wright was the professor of sports. Since I reached the point in my early life of being able to recognize people, Bryan was one of them. He has been one of my strong supporters. Though quick to defend me, we had our share of hot debates about sports in general and sports personnel, national and international. To say that Wright knew much about sports would be an understatement. I remember quite well, our last verbal engagement regarding a sporting matter.

It was another sad occasion.

Upon the passing of Dr. Bernard Nottage, erroneous information was being circulated that he was the last of the sprinters from the historic 1968 Bahamas Olympic Team. I had to set the record straight and I wanted to get in touch with Philly Johnson, who I knew to still be alive and the absolutely last member of that 1968 sprint team.

Who did I call to get Johnson's number?

It was Wright. Of course we chatted about that 1968 team. Wright, an unsung sports historian in his own right, knew

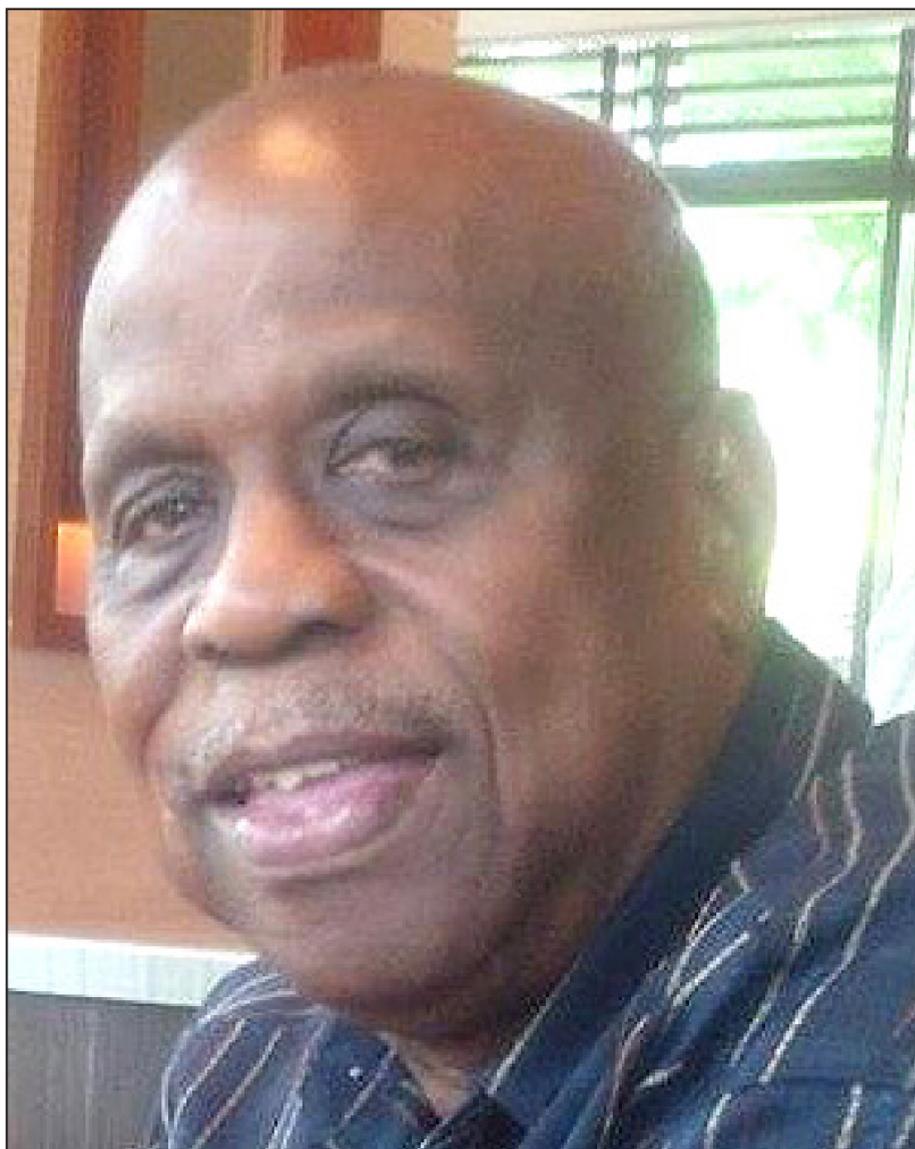
quite well about that team. We talked about Tommy Robinson, Norris Stubbs, Kevin Johnson, B.J. Nottage and Gerry Wisdom. Wright chuckled about B.J. being classified as the last of the 1968 sprint group. In his usual sardonic style he said: "We can't be bothered with these people who claim to know history, but really don't. We know Philly was on that team."

Bryan Wright was indeed quite knowledgeable about sports history, Bahamian in particular. There have been times when I got in touch with Wright, just as with Jeff Williams and George Capron, to verify past sports details.

Never considered a top athlete, he did play a good bit of softball during the early years, both at the old Silk Worm Farm, just across from the homestead of the great educator Horace Wright's homestead on Shirley Street, and the Eastern Parade. Nobody could beat him "talking" sports though.

Ironically just, as I was producing this column, I got a call from George Capron, who had watched both Wright and I grow up in the middle east sector of New Providence. I gave Capron the sad news.

"Stop that. My goodness. Bryan's gone. I've known him just like you, from you guys were little boys. He grew into a great fellow. He came out of a very decent home environment. Even though he was not athletic physically, he did have an athletic mouth. He know everything



BRYAN WRIGHT

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SPORTS SCOPE

By Fred Sturup



about sports activities that he observed and focused on. Yes, Bryan knew his sports," said Capron.

Tener-Knowles also has lasting memories about Wright.

"With Bryan, you're talking about decades and decades of us knowing each other. He was one of the top quality persons I

ever met. We are certainly losing a lot of our group," said Tener-Knowles.

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a long and productive career in service at National Insurance. Accordingly, he will be missed by a goodly amount of those he worked with, as well as his sporting associates.

At the age of 72, Wright has left us.

May his soul forever rest in peace!

I extend condolences to his immediate family.

(To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturup at sturup1504@gmail.com or at WhatsApp at 727-6363).



11 BIKES DONATED - (left to right) Conchman Triathlon Committee President John Bradely, Conchman Triathlon Committee Chairman Christopher Baker, GB Cycling Club President Kenton Roker, and Genesis Academy Principal Ricardo Major pictured with the 11 bikes purchased and donated to the GB Cycling Club.

(PHOTO: SHAYNE STUBBS)

Conchman Committee makes available 11 bikes to local club

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The Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) Conchman Triathlon Committee was in the giving mood, as a result of an anonymous donor this past week.

Eleven bicycles were generously donated to the care of the Grand Bahama Cycling Club this past Monday at the Genesis Academy. The donation comes

just ahead of the upcoming Triathlon, set for November 4 on Taino Beach.

The triathlon event now features a high school segment that was introduced last year. However, the committee was made aware that it was difficult for some high schools to field teams for the competition because there were no bikes for the students to ride.

"We resolved then that we would try to find a solution to that," noted Committee Chairman Christopher Baker, and ac-

cording to him, "we found a very generous donor that would give us the money to buy 11 bikes. We went ahead and bought the bikes. And Kenton Roker, president of the GB Cycling Club, is going to look after them and the children can get in touch with him to train with him when they are out training. And they will be available to use in the Conchman Triathlon."

Five schools took part in last year's inaugural high school segment, with a total of 15 teams participating for the

various cash prizes. The St. George's Jaguars were the first-year champions.

"This year they're really keen to get more teams in from each school and we're hoping to have more schools. I'm hoping Eight Mile Rock (High) will also join us and make it an even bigger event."

Roker has long advocated for high schools to get more active as it pertains to cycling.

"To be able to get more schools participating, because of the donation it's very good.

Also, even after the triathlon we're going to continue to allow the students to participate in cycling events and we're going to start here with the Genesis Academy.

"The principal here at Genesis Academy, Ricardo Major, is an avid cyclist himself. He's going to make sure, through his students, that Genesis is one of the first schools to start a cycling club. So, we look forward to cycling growing because of this donation."

With the help of the gen-

erous donation, Major said he sees nothing but positive things moving forward and opening the students' minds to something new.

"We're really excited about this idea of these bikes. Over the course of the year the students here at Genesis and also the Columbus Houses would have access to the bikes to do expeditions and to learn riding safety; also to get involved and exercise. Just exploring Grand Bahama was one of the ultimate goals."