

SPORTS

Coach Rev. Anthony Williams laments lack of sports infrastructure in Moore's Island

The Rev. Anthony Williams was not critical at all.

He laments the lack of sports infrastructure in Moore's Island.

The gentleman is particularly saddened that the multi-sports complex that began long months ago, is still not near completion, and that the project has come to a halt.

However, typical of one who asked his immediate family to sacrifice along with him, and then proceeded to develop, with personal funding, a mini sports academy, Rev. Williams says he is committed to "continue on."

On Sunday, when we had a chat, he just seemed resigned to the task of having to carry on, against great odds, to make available a sports/education environment for the young athletes of the island.

"The project has come to a full stop. The track is laid out but with just the quarry (limestone substance) as the surface. That's not good to put athletes on. So, we can't use it because it is not suited for training. I spoke to the Minister of Sports once and he said he wanted to come down.

"The way it (track) is now, if,

according to what I heard last, they intend to use grass for the final surface, that should not take too long. The track area is smooth all the way around and can be completed with grass without much problems," said Rev. Williams.

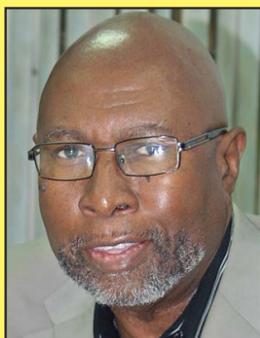
However, a synthetic surface, which ought to be the case, would have a considerably longer completion time frame.

Although at this point, Rev. Williams and his athletes would gladly settle for a grass surface to the track, I think that would be an injustice. All government projects ought to be consistent with the times.

Grass surfaces to tracks were acceptable half a century ago when Clifford Park and then St. Augustine's College field were the prime locations for athletic meets. It is planned for North Andros to have a state of the art track, complete with some form of a synthetic surface. Moore's Island deserves the same, in my humble view.

I revisit this subject because Rev. Williams and his fellow residents of Moore's Island have demonstrated through the

SPORTS SCOPE



By Fred Sturup

excellent performances of the home-produced athletes, a capacity to consistently enhance

the Bahamas Sports Brand.

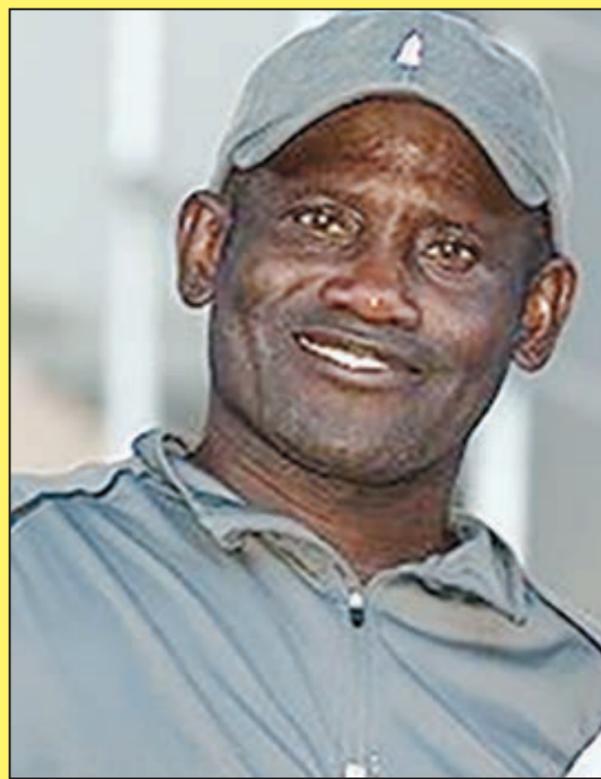
More than five years ago, Rev. Williams brought a group of unknown athletes to a notable meet in the capital island of New Providence. They astonished observers and the trend continued through the years, in the country and outside, at events such as the fabled Penn Relays that take place annually in Philadelphia, USA, at the University of Pennsylvania's Franklin Field.

Of course, Moore's Island also produced Steven Gardiner, one of the world's premier 400 meters stylists.

I feel obligated to lobby for Rev. Williams and the residents of Moore's Island, in particular, those who assist him with sports development. Other than a certified track, the proposed complex is to be outfitted for soccer, basketball and volleyball, I was once told.

Whatever the package, hopefully work will be re-started on the Moore's Island sports complex soon.

(To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturup at sturup1504@gmail.com).



COACH REV. ANTHONY WILLIAMS



THE CHAMPS – Tabernacle Christian Academy Principal Edward Johnson poses with the winning and historic female category Christian Academy Knights out of Knoxville, Tennessee. (PHOTO BY BUSTER LAING)

Knights cruise past valiant BMES for historic initial Tabernacle Thanksgiving female crown

BY BUSTER LAING
(Special to the Freeport News)

On Saturday Night, the visiting Christian Academy Knights out of Knoxville, Tennessee closed out the 2017 Tabernacle Baptist Thanksgiving Basketball Championship Game in the girls' category, the way they started, with total dominance!

The Knights cruised by top-ranked Bishop Michael Eldon

of Grand Bahama 37-23 in the historic championship game behind Most Valuable Player Hannah Carroll's 12 points. This is the first time there has been a female category at the Thanksgiving event.

From the opening games of the tournament on Wednesday, it was clear that CAK would be the team to beat. The girls' suffocating defense and motion offense surged them ahead of the rest as they steamed through round robin play go-

ing 3-0, out-scoring their opponents by a whopping 25.3 points per game.

The gold medal game saw a motivated team from Bishop Michael Eldon in front of their supporting fans, eager to prove their worth. However, CAK were determined to show that they were a cut above the rest and walked away with a convincing victory to claim top honor as the best girls' team in the TBCA Tournament this year.

"This has been a great experience for us the last four days. It was a lot of fun, and we have grown as a team," said Coach Caitlin Hollifield.

"We will go back confident and we believe we will make some things happen. They are a great group of young ladies and it's a pleasure to be their coach."

Kiajah Smith scored 15 points for the Warriors.

Following are the award winners:

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Hanna Carroll, Christian Academy, Knoxville, TN.

COACH OF THE TOURNAMENT
Caitlin Hollifield, Christian Academy, Knoxville, TN

BEST DEFENSIVE PLAYER
Tatyana Lockhart, Tabernacle Baptist, Grand Bahama

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM
Hanna Carroll, Christian Academy, Knoxville, TN
Amber Heatherly, Christian Academy, Knoxville, TN
Clair Brock, Christian Academy, Knoxville, TN
Myah Greene, Bishop Michael, Freeport, Grand Bahama
Joanna Munroe, St. Georges, Freeport, Grand Bahama
Tatyana Lockhart, Tabernacle Baptist, Grand Bahama.