

SPORTS

WR Phillip Dorsett, a quandary for Bahamian followers of NFL

Phillip Dorsett does not get into action afield very much but I think of him, as one of the key deep threat wide receivers on the New England Patriots team.

He is actually about the fourth wide receiver choice for future Hall of Famer Tom Bradley, but following his sensational grab of a 31-yard pass in a key fourth quarter moment; with less than 11 minutes remaining; that continued a Patriots' drive two Sundays ago against the Jacksonville Jaguars; it will be interesting to see what happens on Sunday during the Super Bowl.

Yes, New England and Brady are back for another Super Bowl and could win a sixth championship. The game is to take place on Sunday beginning around 6:30 p.m., Eastern Standard time and New England will be taking on the Philadelphia

Eagles, at the U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

With few exceptions, New England is one of the teams Bahamians love to hate. The Bahamas is saturated with Miami Dolphins hard-core fans and there are also

sizeable groups of NFL followers who pull for the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Dallas

Cowboys and the San Francisco 49ers, mostly.

This Sunday, while many Bahamians are apt to pull for the underdog, Dorsett being a part of the New England Patriots, presents a conundrum.

Do you go all out emotionally for the Bahamian?

Indeed, Phillip is a second generation Bahamian. His father is Howard Dorsett, born in The Bahamas (New Providence); and his grandfather is Thomas (an Exuma native). Perhaps Foster Dorsett's approach to this 48th version of the Super Bowl would be the same as a large degree of other local fans and American football pundits.

Yes, Foster is closely related to Phillip. A former track star and Bahamas Association of Athletic Associations (BAAA) President, Foster is a grand uncle, as is Burkett Dorsett (the former Bahamas Softball Federation President). Foster is one of the diehard supporters of the Miami Dolphins, a

team that has been a sorry item in recent years.

He wants the best for Phillip.

"I do not like New England! No, I don't! But, this is the moment in time every player yearns for. They want to make it to the Super Bowl. So, I am happy for my grand nephew and proud of him."

"I will be pulling for Phillip Dorsett. That means if he wins New England will win. That's OK. I will be hoping New England wins for his sake. I am, though, a proud Miami Dolphins fan," said Foster.

As for me, it's the Dallas Cowboys! It would be a good balance for me if Dorsett figures prominently, and New England wins. However, if Brady and company captures another Super Bowl championship and the homeboy isn't a factor at all, I would be disappointed.

What are the chances that Dorsett will be called upon to any appreciable degree by Brady and the New England offensive coordinator?

I would say that prior to the superb catch against the Jaguars it would have been slim-to-none. However, Dorsett has proven his ability to haul the ball in at crunch time and that deserves a few Brady launches, thrown his way against the Eagles.

This could be a career-turning game for Dorsett. He is the Bahamian flavor in the NFL, but not a noted player. In three seasons (2015, 2016) with the Indianapolis

Colts, before being traded to New England, his career recep-



PHILLIP DORSETT

tions total is just 63 for 947 yards and three touchdowns.

At the present though, he is just 25, injury-free and poised to crossover into the star territory. He came into the NFL with good credentials, great speed and good

hands. He will be challenged to transfer his talent to Super Bowl achievements.

Whatever happens however, Phillip Dorsett will no doubt be a primary focus of Bahamians come game time on Sunday.

"I do not like New England! No, I don't! But, this is the moment in time every player yearns for. They want to make it to the Super Bowl. So, I am happy for my grand nephew and proud of him."

~ Foster Dorsett

Go Phillip!

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SPORTS SCOPE

BY FRED STURRUP



SWEEP ON THE WAY? - The Grand Bahama Secondary School Athletic Association Obie Wilchcombe/Derek Nesbitt High School Basketball League senior boys' play-offs got underway this past Wednesday at the Jack Hayward Gymnasium. Joshua Dames, pictured left, paced the Falcons to a 54-48 game one win over the St. George's Jaguars in their best of three series. Dames dropped in 15 points. Right, Trimaime Ferguson wins the tip for the Jack Hayward Wildcats in their 59-48 game one win over the Sunland Stingers. If both the Wildcats and Falcons are victorious in tonight's contests, they move to face each other in the GBSSAA senior boys' championship. (PHOTOS: SHAYNE STUBBS)

Falcons, Wildcats closer to GBSSAA Championship

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After Wednesday's game one match-ups in the Obie Wilchcombe/Derek Nesbitt High School Basketball League senior boys' play-offs, the Tabernacle Falcons and Jack Hayward Wildcats are one game away from the ultimate showdown.

The Falcons out-last the St. George's Jaguars at the Jack Hayward Gymnasium in the first game of their best of three series. Powered by recently

named Grand Bahama Secondary School Athletic Association Player of the Year Desmond Butler's 16 points, the Falcons took game one by a score of 54-43. Joshua Dames was smooth off the bench and poured in 15 points to pace the defending GBSSAA champions to victory.

The Falcons held the early 9-6 edge at the end of the first quarter. But the Jaguars opened the second quarter with a quick 8-0 run capped off by an acrobatic reverse lay-up from Kingey Thompson (15 points) to give the Jags a 14-9 lead.

The Falcons' response in that

quarter was led by Ethan Munroe who drilled home back-to-back threes to give the Falcons a 15-14 lead with under five minutes remaining in the second quarter. The 2017 Hugh Campbell Champion Falcons went into half-time with a one-point, 17-16 lead.

Things got out of hand for the Jaguars as the Falcons eventually rolled to a double-digit lead in the second half. The Falcons' lead got even more comfortable as they led 50-35 with under three minutes to go in the fourth, allowing the champs to run away with the win.

The Wildcats took the next step in their journey and handled the Sunland Stingers in their game one clash. The Wildcats got a huge lift out of Trimaime Ferguson. His 15 points led the Wildcats to a 59-48 win over the two-time GBSSAA champions. Clevon Clarke added 13 points in the winning effort.

For the majority of the first half the Wildcats and Stingers traded the lead. The Stingers were the early aggressors in the opening stanza but only held a slim, 13-12 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The teams continued to ex-

change leads throughout the second quarter. But midway through the second, Clarke sparked a run for the Wildcats with back-to-back threes that gave the Wildcats a 22-19 lead. Ultimately the Wildcats went into half-time with a 29-22 advantage.

Howard Burrows, 14 points, and Joshua Cornish, 13 points did all they could to charge the Stingers but the Wildcats' momentum was too much to overcome this time around.

Game two for both series takes place this evening beginning with the Stingers and Wildcats at 5:00 p.m., followed by the Fal-

cons and Jaguars at 6:00 p.m.

In junior boys' action the Jack Hayward Stars rolled past the St. Paul's Saints 43-4. Daniel Malory led the Stars with seven points. Ricardo Rolle led the Saints with three points. The junior Falcons routed Dominion Tech 53-7. Jarret Hall totaled 10 points for the Falcons in the win.

The junior Stingers defeated the Sister Mary Patricia Russell Panthers 23-17. The Eight Mile Rock Blue Jays out-asted the Grand Bahama Academy Flames, 26-9 and the junior Jaguars quieted the Mary Star Crusaders 23-17.