

SPORTS

Ministry of Sports' outreach should connect all programs

Sports Conclave has comprehensive agenda

The sports programs, in general, in every inhabited island of this Commonwealth of The Bahamas, ought to be monitored, guided and empowered by the Ministry of Sports.

The Sports leaders' Conclave that begins today at the National Stadium in the capital island of New Providence is full proof that under Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Michael Pintard, there is going to be a push to connect those who have assumed significant roles in nation building through sports development.

"It is our hope that our sports leaders use this opportunity to help us improve the level of service we as a ministry deliver. We welcome suggestions and open dialogue. We also hope that through this forum, (participants) will be informed on a variety of areas that impact us all. We recognize that there are some common challenges that are faced, but we also know that through discussions, resolutions can be achieved," said Director of Sports Timothy Munnings in an "invitation" communication.

I see the conclave as quite an important initiative, but note also that the same ought to be provided for sports leaders throughout the archipelago. Many of them operate at great disadvantage.



SPORTS CONCLAVE – National Director of Sports Timothy Munnings will be coordinating a major Sports Leaders' Conclave, beginning today at the National Stadium in New Providence and continuing through Saturday.

es. It's a pure labor of love on their part. Understandably, the Ministry of Sports would be hard-pressed to find the funds to accommodate sports leaders from across the country to a true national sports conclave in New Providence.

Islands and North Andros. The same could be the case in other geographical strategic sectors.

This New Providence-centric approach has never been ideal for the country. We will never be able to come near maximizing the true sports potential in the

ees will be given insights to, and have the opportunity to engage in dialogue about the following: Good Governance in Sports; the Bahamas Olympic Committee; the Role of Sports Liaison officers; Child Safeguarding; Sports Tourism; Doping In Sports; the

SPORTS SCOPE

By Fred Sturrup



Therefore it is suggested that in the spirit of fairness, Minister Pintard and Director of Sports Munnings should now plan to go into the various other areas of the country, and network with sports leaders who are unable to benefit from events staged only in the capital island.

For instance, there could be a Sports Leaders' Conclave for the Northern Region, hosted in Grand Bahama, with some travel and accommodation assistance given to those coming in from Abaco, Bimini, The Berry

country by catering primarily to the sports leaders and programs in New Providence. The country is much larger than New Providence and the sports leaders and their programs in other parts of The Bahamas are just as entitled, to whatever benefits are afforded, through the Ministry of Sports by the respective central administrations.

So while the forum this weekend is a most worthy effort, the concept has to be expanded.

The topics arranged for the conclave are on point. Attend-

Introduction of Sports into High School Curriculum; Disabled Participation in Sports; The Mental Game of Sports; Event Planning; Strategic Planning/Public Relations and the National Sports Authority.

The aforementioned should indeed lend a comprehensive outlook to the national sports picture.

• To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturrup at sturrup1504@gmail.com or on WhatsApp at 727-6363.



WHEN IT MATTERS — The pair of Seandre Todd, left, and Regis Cooper, right, came through in a big way to help the Tabernacle Falcons take a 1-0 series lead over the Jack Hayward Wildcats in the Derek Nesbitt/Obie Wilchcombe High School Basketball League senior boys' championship this past Wednesday. Game two takes place this evening at 6:00 p.m. (PHOTOS: SHAYNE STUBBS)

Falcons take game one

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Thanks to some timely solid play on the part of Seandre Todd and Regis Cooper, The Tabernacle Falcons took game one of the Derek Nesbitt/Obie Wilchcombe Senior Boys' High School basketball championship.

The Falcons out-last-ed their best of three series opponents, the Jack Hayward Wildcats, 49-46. Todd led the Falcons in scoring with 10 points whilst Cooper and Desmond Butler each added nine points in the win.

coach Kevin Clarke and the crew, who saw Todd and Cooper shake off their past rocky outings this past Wednesday evening at the Jack Hayward Gymnasium. Going into this series facing a tenacious squad in the Wildcats, Clarke made it clear to them they would be needed to come out victorious. He was left pleased with their response on the floor.

"They were ready. And I let them know it's impossible for us to win without them playing at a high level and they did that tonight.

"They (Jack Hayward) are a tough team. Coach (Desmond) Hall has them playing the right way; they're going to play hard. But once we fight we'll be

able to maintain." It was a close and intense first quarter. Still, the Falcons led 11-7 after a Joshua Dames three-pointer near the end of the first quarter.

However, the Wildcats collectively worked their way to an 18-17 lead near the end of the second quarter. But an Ethan Munroe floater gave the Falcons the 19-18 halftime lead.

The defending senior boys champion Falcons were the early aggressors out of the gate in the third quarter. The Wildcats countered the Falcons' energy and utilized their full court press, cutting off the Falcons' momentum.

From there, the Wildcats began to catch fire from three-point range. With

the 'Cats trailing 24-25 Clevon Clarke drilled home a three to give them a 27-25 edge. Later down the stretch the Wildcats held a 29-27 lead before a Jalen Hall three from deep boosted the Wildcats' lead, 32-27.

Next, the Wildcats' Shamar Pinder bombed away and hit another triple to give them a 35-27 lead with under three minutes to go in the fourth.

Nonetheless, a late push for the Falcons led by Butler and Todd got them back in it to trail 35-37, in favor of JHH.

Ultimately the Falcons found themselves back in front after triples from Dames and Todd to lead 42-39 early on in the fourth.

The score was 43-40 with 3 minutes remaining before a Tabby basket gave them a 45-40 lead. McKell Bethel, who finished with eight points in the loss, went to work in the post and made it a 45-42 game with 2:21 left. Off a missed three-pointer by Alfredo Brown, Todd skied in for a put back lay-up to give the Falcons a 47-42 lead with under two minutes left.

The Wildcats made it a 44-47 game with just over 20 seconds left by way of free throws. But Dames crossed over his defender on a drive to the rim for a lay-up that iced the win for the Falcons.

Game two of the series takes place tonight at 6:00 p.m.