

SPORTS



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS – The Doris Johnson Mystic Marlins can once again sing the classic song “We Are The Champions” after a repeat title effort during the 2018 HOYTES Geneva Rutherford Girls Basketball Tournament. Above, the champion girls are pictured with Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Michael Pintard, next to Patron Geneva Rutherford and Coach Kevon Spence.

Doris Johnson Mystic Marlins reign supreme!

Preeminent girls’ basketball tournament gathers momentum

The HOYTES (Helping Our Youth through Education and Sports) Geneva Rutherford Girls Invitational Basketball Tournament is now a distinguished part of the Bahamian sports landscape.

Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Michael Pintard, a presence at the beginning and ending of the tournament, is clearly delighted that indeed the event is quite special. He helped to build the excitement with a rousing tournament opening address this past Wednesday at the Jack Hayward Gymnasium.

On Sunday, he was significantly a part of the enthusiastic atmosphere, presenting awards and posing with the talented successful players and teams. Tournament Founder Gladstone “Moon” McPhee, Tournament Director Sharon “The General”

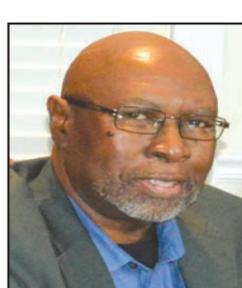
Storr, West Bahamas District Education Chief Ivan Butler and Patron Geneva Rutherford all expressed sentiments of full satisfaction with the five-day sports spectacular.

A general agreement classified the tourney as “the most competitive ever.”

It is not an overstatement to refer to the tournament as one worthy of being celebrated and accepted as one of the core aspects of the national sports picture. The contests that determined the actual championships were extremely competitive, but the tune was already set by thrillers, in particular the triple overtime senior girls contest between the R. M. Bailey Pacers and the Doris Johnson Mystic Marlins.

A cliché is most appropriate in this instance. The contest

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BY FRED STURUP

was one that no team deserved to lose.

It was however, the defending champion Mystic Marlins moving on to the championship game, once again. They faced the Prince Williams Falcons in the tourney’s finale and onlookers were treated to another clas-

sic that went down to the wire, with the Marlins ultimately prevailing, to repeat as champions.

Earlier, in one of the semi-final match-ups, the St. George’s Lady Jaguars pinned Prince Williams right to the wall, but the more experienced group out of New Providence escaped

and moved on to face the Marlins. While the senior championship game was between two teams out of New Providence, it was an all-

Grand Bahama affair for the junior championship.

The Eight Mile Rock Blue Jays put up a valiant effort but could not hold on against the Sister Mary Patricia Falcons.

The four top senior teams were evenly matched. They are proof also of the incredible national high school girls’ basketball talent pool. There is the strong view being expressed that because of the growing prominence of the HOYTES invitational for girls, the argument can well be made that the Mystic Marlins are the best female high school team in the country.

Although not endorsed as

a national championship, the tournament is approaching the point of being compared in a meaningful way with the Hugh Campbell Invitational for high school boys.

No, it hasn’t quite reached the status of being the outright counterpart tournament to the Hugh Campbell event, but the teams that competed can take pride in being party to something that is growing wonderfully well. The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture is the anchor sponsor of the event.

An undisputable fact is that the HOYTES Geneva Rutherford Invitational Girls Tournament is rapidly gathering momentum.

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ANTOAN RICHARDSON MOTIVATES YOUTHS TO BE LEADERS

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Retired professional baseball outfielder Antoan Richardson shared his blueprint on becoming leaders to young adult males recently.

On February 17, the Alpha Males: Men of Tomorrow Seminar was held at the Pelican Bay Hotel. The seminar featured a number of motivational speakers for teenage males, with Richardson playing a part on the roster of speakers.

As a professional athlete, the former New York Yankee athlete’s career saw a number of twists and turns playing for a number of minor league teams and just two major league teams. For young males at an important time in their lives his story about his humble beginnings to the walk-off run he scored on Derek Jeter’s last at bat was used as inspiration for the young men convened at the Pelican Bay Hotel.

The former Minor and Major League outfielder first used the story of a retiring architect who was requested to build one more house before he retired from a company. In a reluctant fashion the architect “cut some corners” while building the house only to find out in the end that he was building the house for himself as a retirement gift from the company he worked for.

“So the point of the story is every time you touch something make sure that you put your best effort into it because you never really understand if it’s an opportunity or an obligation. That was an opportunity for him to first of all create a beautiful house for himself and his family, but that was another opportunity for him to make a mark on the artist and the mastery of what he did in his work,” he explained.

Richardson went on to explain that the most important trait in a leader is creating other leaders.

“Currently, right now, I’m learning that process as I go. The thought is when you hear lead you think of others following behind you. The reality of it is great leaders create other leaders and the ironic part about it is; when you create other leaders their going to follow you.

“When you start to think of these different people that’s in your mind that you think are great leaders you start to look at the people behind them. Look at the at the New England Patriots. The Patriots have been a pretty good team over the past couple of years; they’re either losing in the Super Bowl or winning the Super Bowl.

“But every off-season they lose a coach. Every off-season they have a coach going somewhere else. So that’s probably saying something about that organization and about that leadership

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BE A LEADER - Former Minor League and Major League Baseball outfielder Antoan Richardson gave motivating words at the ALPHA Males Seminar this past February, 17 at the Pelican Bay Hotel. He used his ups and downs in the game of baseball to encourage the young adults to be leaders. (PHOTO: SHAYNE STUBBS)