

## SPORTS

# 'Tabby' Falcons make strong case for GB as boys' basketball capital

## MCPHEE STARTED SUCESSFUL ISLAND BASKETBALL TRADITION



**THE BEST – COACH KEVIN CLARKE**, holding trophy with Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Michael Pindard and the Tabernacle Baptist Academy Falcons defeated the C. C. Sweeting Cobras 65-44 on Monday night past, to capture a second consecutive and eighth overall Hugh Campbell Championship.

### SPORTS SCOPE

BY FRED STURRUP



“Now, Clarke, his coaching associates, and the school’s assertive recruitment program collectively, is a major enhancement factor for the GB boys’ basketball legacy. Testimony to the depth of boys’ high school basketball in Grand Bahama, are the tough games, ‘Tabby’ has with the St. George’s Jaguars, the Jack Hayward Wildcats and, even the Sunland Stingers, to a degree.”

**W**hen it comes to high school boys’ competition, the view here is that Grand Bahama could effectively make the argument of being the basketball capital of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

The Tabernacle Baptist Academy Falcons, on Monday night, enhanced that institution’s legacy by capturing an eighth Hugh Campbell Basketball Championship.

‘Tabby’ was far too much for the C. C. Sweeting Cobras of New Providence and romped through the second and third quarters for a relatively easy 65-44 victory. The 21-point margin and the smooth interaction, all game, between Head Coach Kevin Clarke and his players, clearly demonstrated superiority over the Cobras and the plays called for them by Coach Mario Bowleg.

With the exception of an energized first quarter that saw the Cobras move out to a 16-9 lead, the contest was a rout in favor of the Grand Bahamian squad.

So, Coach Clarke has added two Hugh Campbell titles to the six won by his predecessor Norris Bain, cementing the status of ‘Tabby’ as the high school with the greatest boys’ basketball tradition in the Hugh Campbell Championship era. The eight titles owned by Tabernacle Baptist give an enormous clout to the discussion of Grand Bahama being the nation’s boys’ high school basketball capital.

During an earlier era, from the 1950s into the 1970s, St. Augustine’s College (SAC) in New Providence paraded the finest boys basketball players before audiences. Names, such as Godfrey “Pro” Pinder, Martin Lundy, Fred “Papa” Smith, Jason Moxey, Phil “Cabbage” Poitier, Geno Nairn and Sharon Storr, kept SAC supreme in senior and junior boys’ basketball.

Without a doubt, SAC had the finest boys basketball tradition in an island, New Providence, which was able to claim its right to the double title of being the basketball capital of the country in boys’ school and league play.

Then, the diminutive Gladstone “Moon” McPhee, who, arguably, still casts the largest shadow in Bahamian basketball, became a significant part of the Grand Bahama Scene. Grand Bahama subsequently went to the top in league play.

Island Lobster won the Bahamas Amateur Basketball Association (BABA) title. At the time, McPhee was the Grand Bahama-based BABA (now Bahamas Basketball

Federation) President.

On the high school scene, it was McPhee who led the way as his team, Catholic High, made history by winning the island’s first Hugh Campbell title. McPhee and Catholic would win two more Hugh Campbell titles before he moved to the Ministry of Youth. Undeniably, it was, McPhee, who started the successful Grand Bahama boys’ basketball tradition.

Now, Clarke, his coaching associates, and the school’s assertive recruitment program collectively, is a major enhancement factor for the GB boys’ basketball legacy. Testimony to the depth of boys’ high school basketball in Grand Bahama, are the tough games, ‘Tabby’ has with the St. George’s Jaguars, the Jack Hayward Wildcats and, even the Sunland Stingers, to a degree.

Tabernacle Baptist Academy is the No. 1 team in the country and based in the island worthy of being called the capital of boys’ high school basketball in The Bahamas.

### CONRATULATIONS COACH CLARKE AND THE TABBY FALCONS!



**THE DUNK – Shyrone Kemp hammers one through.**  
(PHOTOS: TORRELL GLINTON).

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