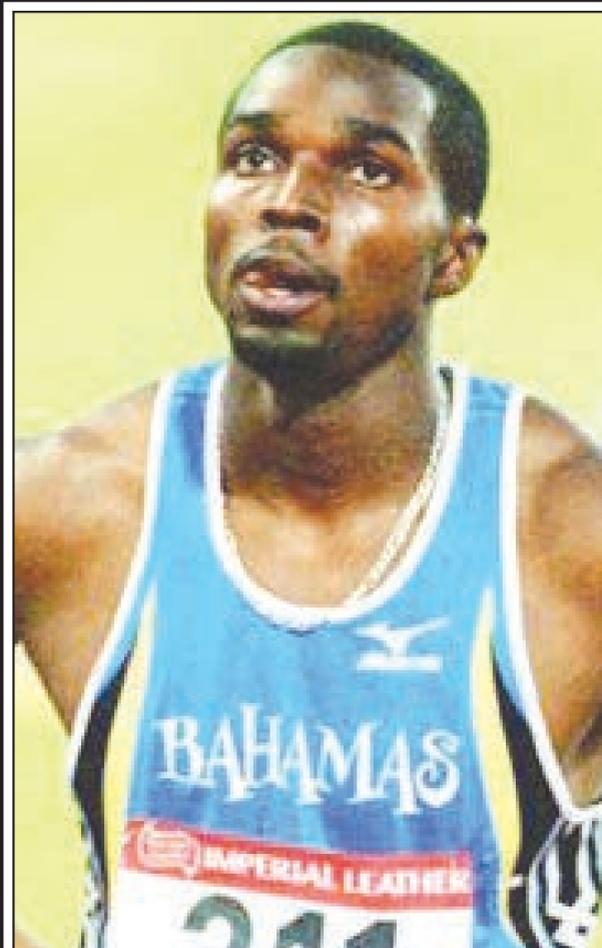


## SPORTS



AVARD MONCUR



CHRIS BROWN



STEVE GARDINER

# Bahamas' men's 1600 meters prominent status challenged

## Birmingham indicated lack of Bahamian men's 400 meters depth

The Bahamas was represented by just one quarter-miler at the recent Birmingham IAAF World Indoor Championships. It was Alonzo Russell and he was disqualified in the first round. He didn't get a further opportunity to add to the glowing legacy of The Bahamas, built by the depth of men's 400 meters sprinters through the years. Also, there was not a 1600 men's relay squad in Birmingham, carrying Bahamian colors. There does not seem to be a whole lot of men's 400 meters talent on the horizon for the country, either.

We are thus forced to ponder a particular question that relates directly to the incredible men's 400 meters depth we once boasted of.

"Is The Bahamas at the end of that long run as one of the top countries the world over in men's 1600 meters relay running?"

Eighteen years ago at the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, The Bahamas sent a quiet message to the world about what was to come for the country through its prime 400 meters men sprinters. The Bahamas placed fourth initially in the 1600 meters relay final and eventually moved up to bronze when the winning United States team was disqualified. That Bahamas' team included Avarad Moncur, Chris Brown, Carl Oliver, Troy McIntosh and Tim

Munnings. On that huge world sports stage however, leading up to the 1600 meters relay final, Avarad Moncur was outstanding. He had advanced almost to the final of the open 400 meters. Actually his 45.18 clocking that

The very next year, in Edmonton, Canada in the Alberta Province at the 2001 IAAF World Outdoor Championships, Moncur and his 400 meters colleagues cemented the rise of The Bahamas as definitely, one of the world's power countries.

again, were Brown, McIntosh, Oliver, and Munnings. At that moment in time, they reigned supreme over the entire world.

Yes indeed, The Bahamas was at the top of the world in the men's 1600 meters relay.

Through the years, with oth-

the 1600 meters relay.

With Chris Brown (The Eternal One) providing stability for the most part, going into the 2018 Birmingham IAAF Indoor event The Bahamas had won four Olympic medals (2012 gold, 2008 silver, and a 2016

Pinder a silver).

The Bahamas also won two World Relays IAAF men's 1600 meters silver medals (2014, 2015), and the World Relays Mixed 1600 meters gold medal in 2017. Let's not forget, that Steve Gardiner won the silver medal in the 400 meters at the 2027 IAAF Outdoor World Championships in London.

Clearly over the period, 2000-to-now, The Bahamas has been second only to The United States in consistency, regarding men's 1600 meters relay international competition and has been qualitative, on an individual basis as well.

Today, in my view, we have just Gardiner, Michael Mathieu and Russell who can be counted on to be competitive, consistently, during international competitions. Pinder still seems to be trying to get back to where he was before the devastating injury he suffered, running during the Chris Brown Bahamas Invitational back in 2013. Miller has been beset with injuries.

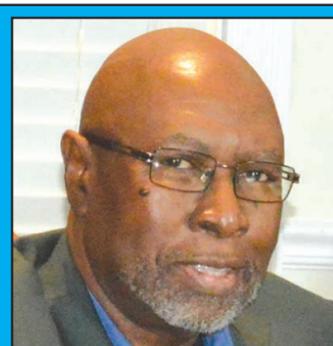
So, I ask again.

Is The Bahamas at the end of that long distinguished run as one of the world's power countries in the men's 1600 meters relay event?

One looks apprehensively into the future for the true answer.

(To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturupp at [sturupp1504@gmail.com](mailto:sturupp1504@gmail.com) or on WhatsApp at 727-6363).

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FRED STURUPP

# Sports Scope

missed getting into the top four of an incredibly fast first semi-final heat (inclusive of Americans Michael Johnson and Alvin Harrison), was better than the winning time in the second semi-final heat.

A young Chris Brown had advanced beyond the first round as well.

Moncur ran a blazing 44.64 in the final of the 400 meters open race and succeeded the great American Johnson as the world champion for the event. In the 1600 meters relay final, Moncur solidified his status as the best quarter miler in the world at that time, by leading The Bahamas to the gold medal. With him yet

er names (Andre Williams, Nathaniel McKinney, Andretti Bain, Demetrius Pinder, LaToy Williams and Ramon Miller) coming on stream as Munnings, McIntosh, Oliver and finally Moncur moved off the scene, the Bahamian 400 meters male sprinters would excel in the open sprints and especially in

bronze to go along with the bronze of 2000); four Outdoor IAAF World Championships relay medals (2005 silver, 2007 silver and 2003 bronze added to the 2001 gold); a 2016 Indoor IAAF relay silver plus a slew of individual IAAF Indoor individual medals won by Brown (gold, silver, three bronze, and

Romell Russell of St. George's High (STGH) also landed the bronze medal in the U-20 boys' 200 meters. He clocked 22.53 seconds. C.V Bethel's (CVB) Jude Murray won the gold in 22.14 seconds. Adrian Curry (SAC) took the silver in the time of 22.22 seconds.

The 4x100m closed out day two. Sunland opened the action for GB with a bronze medal finish in the U-13 girls' 4x100m final. The team of Dorsett, Kaily Pratt, Liberty Thompson and Cyniah Maycock clocked a time of 56.91 seconds. Queen's College runners were the eventual gold medal winners in 54.96 seconds, while Huntley Christie High took the silver medal in 55.49 seconds.

The quartet of Kirshawn McIntosh, Denard Adderley, Philando Williams and Levaughn Parker landed the national U-13 boys' 4x100 meters crown for TBCA. The team passed the baton

(Continued on Page 11)

# GB athletes capture more gold at National T/F Championships

SHAYNE STUBBS  
FN Sports Reporter  
[shayne@nasguard.com](mailto:shayne@nasguard.com)

Grand Bahama athletes captured 36 titles during the 2018 National Track and Field Championships that concluded on Sunday in New Providence.

On Friday and Saturday, this island's representatives added 22 national titles to the 14 won on day one this past Thursday. Following is a summary of day two and day three of the competition:

### Day Two - Friday, March 9

Day two at the Thomas A. Robinson Stadium was highlighted by Tabernacle Baptist Christian Academy (TBCA) securing four out of eight national titles in the various 4x100 meters finals, and more than half of the 200 meters titles national crowns, by winning five.

Sunland Baptist Academy (SBA)

swept the Under-13 division in the 200 meters finals. Much like she did last month at the Island event, Shatalya Dorsett added the 200 meters gold after having won the 400 meters crown this past Thursday. Dorsett took the 200 meters gold in the time of 27.26 seconds. Sarah Hepburn of Queen's College (QC) took the silver medal in 27.85 seconds and Demia Bowe of Patrick J Bethel High (PJBH) won the bronze in the time of 28.05 seconds.

Solange Sargent of Jack Hayward Junior (JHJ), finished fourth in the time of 28.22 seconds.

Malik Wood of Sunland Baptist completed the U-13 double in the boys' 200 meters. Wood became the national champion of that division in the time of 25.97 seconds. St. Augustine's College's (SAC) Tumaini Skinner landed the silver medal in the time of 27.70 seconds, and SBA teammate Cordae Strachan secured the bronze in the time

of 27.91 seconds.

Tabernacle pulled off a sweep in the U-15 division. Stephanie Dean became the reigning U-15 girls' national champion in the time of 25.63 seconds. Paige Archer (QC) was the eventual silver medal winner in 25.89 seconds, with St. Andrew's D'Arjha Davis settling for the bronze in 26.08 seconds.

Tabernacle's Deangelo McKie continued his run of dominance in the U-15 boys' 200 meters. His time of 22.93 seconds bested the field in his gold medal romp. Jamaal Flowers (QC) took the silver in the time of 23.98 seconds, and SAC's Otto Laing won the bronze in 24.37 seconds.

It was a bronze medal finish for Tabernacle's Collinigue Farrington in the girls' U-17 200 final. She finished with a time of 25.60 seconds. CARIFTA favorites Jaida Knowles and Megan Moss, both representing SAC, took the gold and silver respectively. Knowles

finished in the time of 24.10 seconds, well under the CARIFTA standard of 24.55 seconds. Moss finished slightly over that in the time of 24.76 seconds.

Eight Mile Rock High's D'Vontae Forbes had no trouble in the U-17 boys' 200 meters final. Forbes strode easily to the national crown in the time of 22.53 seconds, just over a second off the CARIFTA standard of 21.92 seconds. Litcinov Delhomme (PJBH) landed the silver medal in 23.32 seconds, while fellow EMRH Blue Jay Damico Austin won the bronze in 23.47 seconds.

Two bronze medal finishes were the highlights for Grand Bahama in the U-20 division. Kaylin Hewitt (TBCA) secured the bronze medal for her school in the time of 26.03 seconds. Doniesha Anderson (SAC) was the eventual gold medal winner in the time of 24.53 seconds. Wendira Moss of St. John's College (SJC) took the silver in 24.75 seconds.