

SPORTS



JONQUEL JONES



COACH YOLETT MCPHEE-MCCUIN



WALTIEA ROLLE

MCPHEE-MCCUIN, JONES, ROLLE contribute mightily to sports brand through basketball

Basketball federation challenged to highlight female contributors

The Bahamas Basketball Federation is challenged to step up to the plate, and become relevant in accordance to what is happening with the fairer sex version of the sport in this country.

The steady rise of Yolett (Coach Yo) McPhee-McCuin to top collegiate prominence in the United States, along with her past success in mentoring the national team, serves as yet, additional evidence of the valuable contribution of Bahamian females through basketball to the Bahamas Sports Brand.

Last week, Coach Yo signed on to head the women's basketball program at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss). Being in charge of one of the storied sports programs in the history of the United States is simply fantastic. Coach Yo is now positioned to be even more in the spotlight than was the case these past five years, when she elevat-

ed the women's basketball program at Jacksonville University.

She is drawing headlines nationally in the U.S. and worldwide, at the same time another Bahamian female is captivating world audiences through basketball. Reference is to the indomitable center/forward Jonquel Jones who has evolved as one of the top players, actually, and definitely the best rebounder in female basketball the world over.

Also competing on a level worthy of praise on foreign courts is the collegiate prime time pioneer of Bahamian women's basketball, Waltiea Rolle. As for Rolle, I venture that she is the most unappreciated contributor to the Bahamian sports power image, ever. Although Rolle never quite lived up to all the expectations of being a star in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), she was nevertheless, a trailblazer for The Bahamas in that regard and has been a nota-

ble performer in foreign league action.

Prior to turning pro, Rolle was a standout performer for the North Carolina Tar Heels in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

McPhee-McCuin, Jones and Rolle have emerged as the stellar three, of female basketball in Bahamian history. However, laying the foundation for them, were quite a number of luminaries, going back into the 1950s.

The time has come indeed, for the federation to showcase deserving Bahamian females, past and present, for their meaningful contributions to basketball. Quite frankly, those who control the federation should not have to be pushed to honor the lady stalwarts of the sport.

The federation has already paid tribute to the 40 greatest male players. In one of Bahamian basketball's greatest moments, in 2014, the federation honored 40 outstanding male basketball players.

It was expected that a similar effort to salute the great female players would have followed by now. We are now four years down the road and the time is right. Hopefully, sooner than later, the federation will come around to properly recognizing the great ladies of the basketball court.

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SPORTS SCOPE

BY FRED STURRUP



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