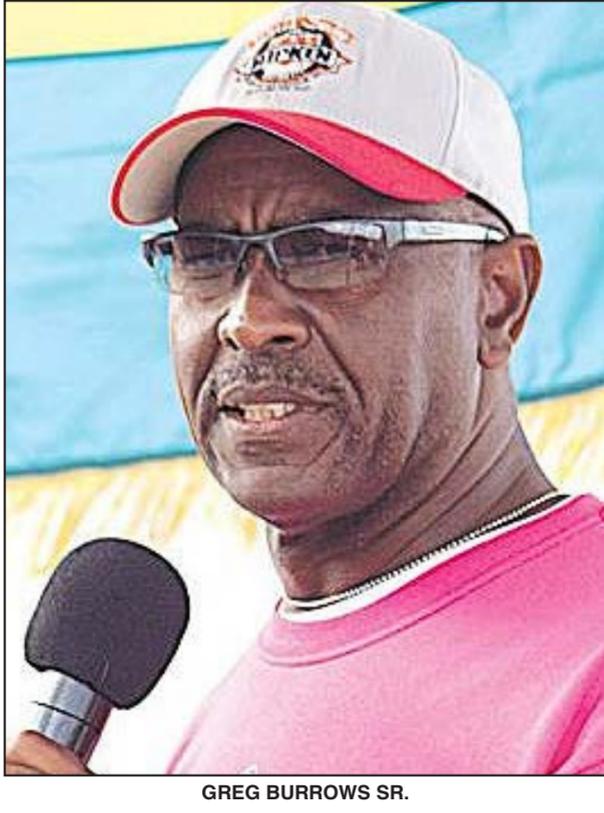


SPORTS



SAM RODGERS



GREG BURROWS SR.



CRAIG KEMP

Greg Burrows Sr. providing continued baseball service

World Baseball Classic coming up in 2021

This is a great time for baseball in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas!

What is so fascinating about the "one fold" status of national baseball presently, is that for the first time in some four decades the best administrative minds are working together for the betterment of the sport. The baseball leaders have the ingredients, in my view, to earn The Bahamas worldwide respect in the sport.

Among the prominent baseball mentors in the country, is one considered by many to be quite the polarizing figure. I refer to Greg Burrows Sr. who heads Freedom Farms baseball Organization. Despite his tremendous contribution to the development of baseball, he has rubbed some the wrong way. It is with regretful acknowledgement that I accept that an earlier Sports Scope column furthered this view of Burrows.

To the contrary, he is now poised to provide a rich brand of service to the continuing growth of baseball that could help take the sport in The Bahamas, to heights never attained before. The obligation to maximize this quality mixture of baseball knowledge is that of Bahamas Baseball Association President

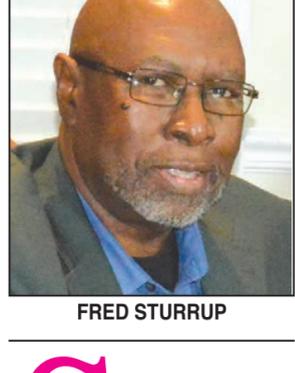
Sam Rodgers.

Rodgers has been joined in the present BBA setup by the three men who served as presidents of the disbanded Bahamas Baseball Federation, namely, Burrows Sr., Craig Kemp and Teddy Sweeting. That's an excellent cast. Of them all, Burrows Sr. is perhaps best connected in the baseball world. Rodgers would do well to utilize the full resources of Burrows Sr., Kemp and Sweeting.

He is able to form an outreach foursome that could bring under one umbrella, the best young baseball talents, to enable this country to either renew our connection to the National Baseball Congress in Wichita, Kansas, or craft a squad that could qualify for the World Baseball Classic of 2021.

The prime group with which Rodgers, Burrows Sr., Kemp, Sweeting and other associates such as Jeff Albury of the Junior Baseball League of Nassau (JBLN) and Will Rutherford of Grand Bahama, have to work with, is listed on the "This is Baseball Bahamas" website.

Our current minor league players and the collegiate performers make up a tidy lot. Following are the Bahamian professional baseball players: Jervis "Champ" Stuart—the New York Mets System, Anfernee Seymour—the



FRED STURRUP

Sports Scope

Atlanta Braves System, Teshard Munroe – the Boston Red Sox System, Todd Isaacs Jr.—the Cleveland Indians System, Jasadro Chilsholm—the Arizona Diamondbacks System, Lucius Fox Jr.—the Tampa Bay Rays System, Chavez Young –the Toronto Blue Jays, Shameko Smith—the Colorado Rockies System, Larry Alcine Jr.—the Pittsburgh Pirates System, Kyle Simmons—the Pittsburgh Pirates System, Dominic Collie

Jr.—the Arizona Diamondbacks System, Trent Deveaux—the Los Angeles Angels System, D'Shawn Knowles—the Los Angeles Angels System, Davonn Mackey—the Oakland Athletics System, Keithron Moss—the Texas Rangers System, D'Vaughn Knowles—the Texas Rangers System, Courtney Smith—the Texas Rangers System, Kristian Robinson—the Arizona Diamondbacks System, Tanaj Thomas –the Cleveland Indians System and Byron Ferguson Jr.— Independent System.

The collegiate crop include: Tevin Symmonette, a junior at Lipscombe University; Cole Dubet, a junior at Saint Luis University; Albury Major, a freshman at Xavier University; A.J. Rolle, a junior at Georgia State University; and Ural Forbes, a junior at Jackson State University.

That's the backdrop for what the BBA has to work with. The qualifying round for the 2021 World Baseball Classic will take place in 2020. With Burrows Sr. professed to be firmly in the trenches, the pathway to Bahamian baseball advancement is quite wide.

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



TEDDY SWEETING

YMCA's boxing program poised for big resurgence

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It has become clearer over the past few weeks that boxing in Grand Bahama is prepared for a comeback.

With the announcement of the Commonwealth Boxing Salute, set for July 11 - 12 at the St. George's Gymnasium and this month's Bahamian Sons: Backyard Rumble to take place May 26 at A Social Affair Convention Center, there is no time like the present to enhance the amateur ranks here in the "Second City."

The YMCA Boxing Program stands as a fitting starting point in that venture. Under the guidance of former amateur and professional fighter, coach Nathan Davis, the 'Y' program has seen its share of ups and downs. But presently, the former boxer sees the upcoming Salute as a great way to reignite the interest of amateur boxers on the island. More so, Fred Sturrup, Bahamas Boxing Commission (BBC) chairman, has already

pledged to assist with the program.

"The program is at a good start right now," he expressed this Monday from the Y's boxing facility, "I'm going to see that this program gets off the ground. It's a good stepping-stone for a lot of young kids right now."

Davis added that the program had a decent number of boxers enrolled, but with the lack of bouts, the number in registrants began to dwindle.

However, now, Davis sees the efforts of the BBC and Grand Bahama Sports Promotion Association (GBSPA) providing a resurrection in young athletes' interests.

"I had at least about 30 young men here at the YMCA training for fights and what not. But what happened was they got discouraged, because there were no events and they felt like they were just training and wasting their time. Even me, myself, got a little bit discouraged. "But I said I've been through this before. I was not going to quit. And here it is they came up with a program and something

to enhance the boxing program on Grand Bahama, and I plan to take advantage of it. I hope the young men, when they hear about it and see what's going on, they can come and enhance this program because they can go places."

Davis admitted he's "amazed" by the emphasis put on the sport locally with both boxing opportunities on the horizon. With the prospect of more bouts to take place in Grand Bahama, the former amateur turned pro said, he sees no reason to give up on the program now.

"There's a lot of young men out there on the streets that needs some proper guidance. And boxing has enhanced a lot of young men like Floyd Seymour and Sherman "The Tank" Williams, who has his fight coming up on the 26 (May).

"If these kids were to see where Sherman has gone, just like where they are right now, he started from here in his teen years. A lot then we used to have a lot of fights like going into The Bahamas Games and so (Continued on Page 11)



MAKING A COMEBACK — The YMCA's boxing program is back in full swing. With upcoming bouts in the Commonwealth Boxing Salute, July 11-12 at the St. George's Gymnasium and beyond, the Y is expected to see an increase in registrants. Pictured is Coach Nathan Davis, left, working with YMCA member Xavier Knowles, right. (PHOTO: SHAYNE STUBBS)