

## SPORTS

# First year performance exposed Pintard's weak points in sports

The collective Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture structure is quite demanding. I have long advocated for the political powers that be, to separate them. Certainly the Bahamian sports commodity has become such a big wide body of significance, there ought to be an individual Ministry of Sports.

This tripartite portfolio was handed to Michael Pintard. While the jury is still out on how he did as the government's point person for youth and culture national matters, there was enough evidence to be examined, for a sports judgment, a report card grade.

Clearly, in sports, Pintard's

weak points were exposed. He appeared to have a shallow understanding of the national sports terrain. Pintard never showed, in my view, the ability to properly assess the sports scene and make progressive decisions. In a lot of ways, he actually seemed lost.

While I give him high points

for desire and a hands-on perspective, he just did not come off as someone who could command the full 'sports' respect of those he had to interact with, or give directive to, as a result of being the Minister of Sports. Indeed, the first year at the helm of the sports ministry seemed to be virtually a feeling-his-way process.

Subsequently, the sports areas of his national purview, looked to just be slowly moving along and in some instances, stalled. Frankly, I felt he was in over his head, largely because of the circumstances he faced. As a sports minister he did not seem to get the kind of support those in his position got in the past.

In his defense, also, funding clearly was limited as the Free National Movement Government took a decision to cut back. Nevertheless, a sports minister steeped in the knowledge of what ought to take place, would have been more aggressive in Cabinet, and as was the case with his predecessors, would have found a way to get funds in order to allow the Bahamas Sports Brand to maintain the prime pace inherited.

That's my take on the situation and the minister might feel the need to give proof to the contrary, but there certainly appeared to be at limbo situation associated with areas he had responsibility for.

Some criticisms of Pintard in his capacity as sports minister were scathing and, I think disrespectful, especially because of the language used. That particular situation begs a question though.

Why does he have a poor relationship with some sports leaders?

omings, under his watch were blatant.

I point out a few.

## SPORTS SCOPE

BY FRED STURRUP



**"Then, a great indictment was Pintard not being able to drive forward the National Sports Academy project. Perhaps more than any of his other frailties, Pintard's inability to get the National Sports Academy program moving significantly beyond the stage he met it at, illustrated a high level of inefficiency."**

The sports ministry with Pintard as the minister, failed in a whole year, to any appreciable degree, to address the complex in Moore's Island, which he met well along, moving towards completion.

Other government sporting facilities throughout the country, especially in other Family Islands were neglected. The track at field venue at the Patrick Bethel High in Abaco is a case in point.

Then, a great indictment was Pintard not being able to drive forward the National Sports Academy project. Perhaps more than any of his other frailties, Pintard's inability to get the National Sports Academy program moving significantly beyond the stage he met it at, illustrated a high level of inefficiency.

I present the cold facts. That's

all. In our national system, D is a passing grade. Pintard's performance as the national sports minister during the first year of the Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis-led Free National Movement governance was no better than a C-.

Base on what I observed, Pintard as the sports minister, appeared somewhat out of his league from May 10-2017 to May 10-2018. As aforementioned though, he has the strong desire and determination to be productive in his role as the Minister of Sports. With proper guidance, I suppose he could make a turnaround.

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**MICHAEL PINTARD**  
Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture



**200 METERS –** Mujinga Kambundji of Switzerland, left, Kyra Jefferson of the United States, center, and Shauna Miller-Uibo of the Bahamas, right, compete during the women's 200 meters at the Shanghai Diamond League track and field competition in Shanghai, China, Saturday, May 12, 2018. (AP PHOTO)

# Shauna Miller-Uibo wins, Steven Gardiner dominates once again

**SHAYNE STUBBS**  
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Shauna Miller-Uibo made her Diamond League debut while Steven Gardiner re-affirmed his dominance in the quarter-mile.

The elite world-class athletes picked up victories at the 2018 Shanghai Diamond League this past Saturday at the Shanghai Stadium in China.

In her debut, Miller-Uibo faced some familiar adversaries in the Netherlands' Dafne Schippers, Jamaica's Shericka Jackson and

the Ivory Coast's Marie-Josée Ta Lou in the women's 200 meters.

Nonetheless a near perfect start for the 400m Olympic Champion led into a smooth transition off the curve. Halfway through the final 100 meters of the race, the quarter-mile specialist turned on the after burners and took the

tape in the first place.

Her smooth 200 meters run in Shanghai allowed her to set a new meet record and season's best in the time of 22.06 seconds. Schippers was the eventual second place finisher with a season's best time of 22.34 seconds. Jackson finished third in the time

of 22.36 seconds.

The fast-paced contest saw several other season best times set by the remainder of the field. Ta Lou set a new season's best for herself at 22.58 seconds, while the United States' Jenna Prandini, Kyra Jefferson and Deajah Stevens each set new season best

times of 23.02 seconds, 23.05 seconds and 23.06 seconds respectively. China's Yongli Wei also clocked a season's best time of 23.56 seconds.

The 200 meters has become a focus for Miller-Uibo in an effort to strengthen herself even (Continued on Page 11)