

SPORTS

# Bahamian Commonwealth boxing champions included in GB Independence Week activities

## Grand Bahama Port Authority expanding sports outreach

The Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) is expanding its sports outreach far beyond the usual responses to requests for donations. Just recently the GBPA paid a special tribute to the Golden Knights, those quarter mile standouts, who brought The Bahamas fame and glory when they captured the 1600 meters relay gold medal at the 2012 London Olympic Games.



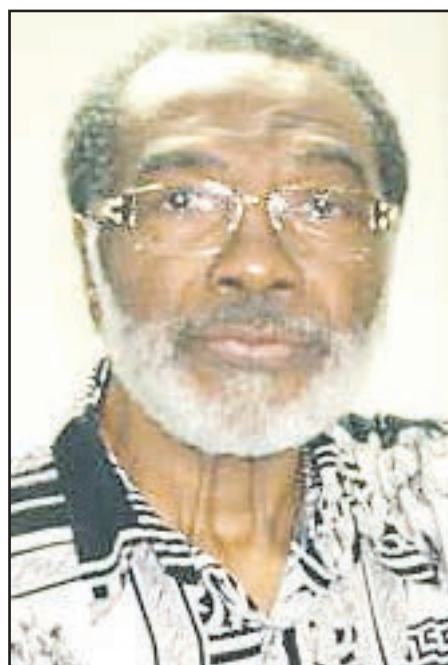
### SPORTS SCOPE

BY FRED STURRUP

During the upcoming 45th Independence Celebrations in Grand Bahama, the GBPA will participate in yet another event to salute sporting stalwarts, this time from boxing.

During a dinner-boxing show on Thursday, July 12, former Commonwealth Champions Gomeo Brennan, Ray Minus Jr., Steve Larrimore and Jermain Mackey will be saluted. At a joint press conference recently, Sarah St. George of the Office of the Chairman at the GBPA and President Ian Rolle endorsed the connection with boxing.

The heightened sports focus by the GBPA rekindles mem-



GOMEO BRENNAN



RAY MINUS JR.



STEVE LARRIMORE



JERMAIN MACKEY

ories of yesteryear when the GBPA partnered substantially with bringing the world famous Super Stars, Professional Golfers Association, 10K Road Race and powerboat events to Grand Bahama.

The Commonwealth Boxing Salute affair will further strengthen The Bahamas Commonwealth sports link. The Bahamian sports history is heavily Commonwealth-flavored.

In 1948, Bahamian international sailors Durward Knowles and Sloane Farrington won the Star Class elimination series in order to represent Great Britain at the Olympic Games. (At the time, the Bahamas Olympic body had not been formed).

Ten years later, Tommy Robinson brought Bahamian athletics into the Commonwealth mix at the highest level when he won gold (220 yards) and silver (100 yards) sprint medals.

Then, in 1963, Gomeo Brennan became the first Bahamian to win an international boxing

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~ Vincent Strachan.

championship. He defeated Briton Mickey Leahy at the empire Pool in Wembley for the vacant Commonwealth (British Empire) Middleweight Title. A year early, he had endeared himself to the Wembley boxing crowd by engaging in a spirited draw with Leahy.

That match set the stage for the title venture in which Brennan was successful in making Bahamian sports history.

Gorman Donald (Gomeo) Brennan is 79 years old now and lives in Miami, Florida. He will

be travelling to Freeport to join Ray Minus Jr. (Commonwealth Bantamweight Champ), Steve Larrimore (Commonwealth Light Welter Champion) and Jermain Mackey (Commonwealth Super Middleweight Champion) for the grand salute in Grand Bahama.

Sporting enthusiasts, family members and friends of the former world elite boxers are expected to be in attendance to observe Brennan, Minus Jr. Larrimore and Mackey in the spotlight once again. The GB

Office of the Prime Minister has included the boxing salute activities on the island's Independence Celebrations schedule.

The GB YMCA will provide the boxers for the show, under the guidance of Nathan Davis. Bahamas Boxing Federation Vincent Strachan has given the event his stamp of approval.

“It is important that we have events such as the salute to the Commonwealth Champions to revitalize the sport and inspire young Bahamians to get involved. I fully support this

event and commend those who are the organizers,” said Strachan.

An officials' seminar will be a special dimension to the Commonwealth Boxing Salute program. Jamaican International boxing official Leroy Brown will be preparing participants for certification. Presently, Matthew Rolle is poised to complete the conditions for referee certification.

When Brown conducted an officials' seminar in New Providence previously, Rolle was the top attendee. It is expected that Rolle will be among those aspiring to qualify for certification status as a referee, judge or timekeeper.

Seminar classes will take place on July 11 and July 13. Assisting Brown during the seminar will be Bahamian Alvin Sargent.

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**PRIMARY SCHOOL OUTSTANDING ATHLETES** - The most outstanding athletes from the 2018 All-Island Primary School Track and Field Championships were recognized this past Thursday, May 31 at the Royal Bahamas Police Force Headquarters. At front pictured left to right are the most outstanding athletes from their respective age divisions: Shadai Miller (Girls 13 and Under), Shanna Higgs (Girls 7 and Under), Shanaiah Rolle (Girls 11 and Under), Kentae Virgil (Girls 9 and Under), Tyrone Conliffe (Boys 11 and Under), Thamonte Curry (Boys 13 and Under) and Shaniah Miller (Girls 11 and Under). Not pictured Travis Adderley (Boys 7 and Under) and Aaron Taylor (Boys 9 and Under). Also pictured at back left to right are Georgina Saunders (RBPF Human Resources) Chief Superintendent Wendell Smith, Chief Superintendent Loretta Mackey, Assistant Commissioner of Police Samuel Butler, Gia Walker (President of the Principals/Vice Principals Association) and Ministry of Education District Officer Mary Russell. (PHOTO: SHAYNE STUBBS)

# ACP Butler receives outstanding athletes in courtesy call

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It was another spectacular year for primary and secondary student-athletes on the island of Grand Bahama.

Over the past few years it has become a customary tradition for the Grand Bahama Primary and Secondary School Athletic Associations (GBPSAA and GBSSAA) to pay a courtesy visit to local law enforcement to showcase the outstanding accomplishments of said athletes.

Both the GBPSAA and GBSSAA continued that now yearly tradition this past Thursday afternoon, May 31 when they paid a courtesy visit to the Royal Bahamas Police Force Headquarters. There, the most outstanding athletes from this year's All-Island Track and Field championships received their trophies.

Also the national basketball champions, the Tabernacle Falcons and national soccer champions, Lucaya International Buccaneers were recognized in front of Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Samuel Butler and

his colleagues. The eight-members of the 2018 CARIFTA Swim team and members of the 2018 CARIFTA track and field teams were, too, recognized for their accomplishments during those high-profile competitions. Holland Martin was also celebrated for being the top Junior College Male Athlete for indoor field events.

ACP Butler deemed it an honor and privilege to be introduced to the athletes. Butler acknowledged that he knew the country is no stranger to producing quality athletes and has done so since the 60s. He named differ-

ent athletes from different eras such as former Prime Minister of The Bahamas, Perry Christie to Chris Brown, Debbie Ferguson and Pauline Davis, to the current generation of athletes such as Shaunae Miller-Uibo, Steven Gardiner and even Chavano “Buddy” Hield.

The ACP, however, was more than delighted to celebrate the top athletes of tomorrow and encouraged each athlete to continue on the paths the athletes are making for themselves.

“Today we’ve come to celebrate our younger athletes,” Butler expressed, “You are certainly

making us extremely proud.”

Butler furthered that sports has done well to open the doors of opportunity for so many athletes and reminded the younger athletes to recognize the possibilities they have ahead of them.

“All those who participated, and even yourself who are following in the trail blazed, will understand the power of what participating in sports will do. For so many of our Bahamians it's opened the doors of opportunity for a University education and to serve proudly as Bahamian leaders. So you're really following in excellent footsteps.”

He highlighted former track athlete and Olympian Iram Lewis who eventually became current Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Works and Member of Parliament for Central Grand Bahama.

ACP later admonished the parents and coaches to continue believing in their children and athletes.

“We understand your hard work and even realize your dream within the dream. And if you aren't dreaming with your children or dreaming with your students maybe their dreams (Continued on Page 11)