

SPORTS



Primary School track meet

Athletics expected to pace upcoming "Youth Games"

Without a doubt it is the discipline of athletics through which The Bahamas carries most of its weight as the mightiest little sports nation in the world. One can make the argument that, for whatever reasons, the powers that be have catered more to track and field than any other sport.

Be that as it may, nevertheless, it is through athletics that the country stands its best chance, presently, for achieving medals at the major international competitions.

Accordingly, during the Sixth Commonwealth Youth Games, scheduled in New Providence July 17-24, it is expected that athletics would set the pace for The Bahamas. There is a set of standards that athletes from The Bahamas and the almost 70 other nations set to compete, would have had to attain during the qualifying period of April 1, 2016—April 9, 2017. In that light, today I highlight those standards our young track and

field athletes (male and female respectively) who have made the team, would have mastered:

61.8 seconds; high jump—1.90 meters, 1.65 meters; long jump—6.30 meters, 5.35 meters;

performances from our participants in aquatics (swimming), boxing, tennis, judo, beach volleyball, beach soccer, rugby sevens and cycling. A nation though, is depending heavily on our athletes in athletics. I see these youth games as the perfect window for Bahamians, in particular the politicians and Corporate Bahamas executives, to look through and conclude that much more emphasis is needed on propelling all sports with the same amount of enthusiasm and financial support.

In this space on Saturday past, all Bahamians were challenged to attend the various venues of competitions to spur on the country's standard bearers. It is proposed here also, that those within our political directorate make it a point to visit all of the competition areas in order to be able to observe our youthful Bahamian athletes across the board and then subsequently convene sessions to address parity for all.

Indeed, this is an ideal moment in time for the national sporting picture to be assessed. These

Sports Scope
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100 meters—11.2 seconds, 12.3 seconds; 200 meters—22.60 seconds, 25.4 seconds; 400 meters—51.2 seconds, 58.5 seconds; 800 meters—1:57.0 seconds, 2:15.5 seconds; 1500 meters—4:06.0 seconds; 4:39.3 seconds; 3000 meters—8:51.0 seconds, 10:07.0 seconds; sprint hurdles (110 meters for males and 100 meters for females)—14.5 seconds, 14.4 seconds; 400 meters hurdles—55.9 seconds,

javelin—52.95 meters (700g), 38.20 (500g); discus 41.00 meters (1.5 k), 35.80 meters (1kg); shot-put—13.60 meters (5k), 11.60 meters (3k).

The country, at the moment, is not deep in distance runners, so there won't likely be many real opportunities in the 1500 and 3000 meters. We are poised however to do well in running, the jumps and weight events.

We are hopeful for exceptional



same male and female youth who will be performing in Bahamian colors are potentially the elite standouts of the future.

How many of them are assisted to the point of quality world status, depends on the help they all get, those in all of the disciplines.

In other words, there has to be deep appreciation for the oppor-

tunity to enhance our sports hosting reputation, but the 2017 Commonwealth Youth Games should be used just as much, as a measuring stick for the Bahamas Sports Brand.

(To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturupp at sturupp1504@gmail.com or on WhatsApp at 727.6363).

HOYTES/MYSC Basketball Camp tips off today at Jack Hayward Gym

The HOYTES Basketball Camp, which is hosted in conjunction with the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture has been organized and is ready for this year's influx of campers.

The camp will run July 3-28 and take place at the Jack Hayward Gymnasium. Camp Director Gladstone "Moon" McPhee noted that the normal use of two gyms was put on pause due to air conditioning issues at the St. George's Gym.

Last year's camp attracted nearly 350 students, which is a number McPhee predicted would increase this year.

"We'll be paying an interest to the five and six year old, boys and girls," the camp director revealed. "And this year the five and six year olds will definitely come under me. I know that they need the fundamentals. So the coaches that will work with me we will definitely go through all the fundamentals and give them playing time in the afternoon."

The parents will also have a chance to watch their five and six year olds play in those pick up games.

"Their parents can also come out and watch them because that's the joy of it; to see where your child started and where they're going to be in a couple of years from here."

The various age divisions will be broken up into teams and the campers will play multiple exhibition games over the course of the month.

"It's something that we tried a few years ago and it worked out well. At the end we hope to have



MOON MCPHEE

the Minister (the honorable Michael Pintard) make the presentation of awards.

"The great thing about it is we have kids coming from the whole Northern Region and also New Providence. They come down for the summer and they play and we want to make sure it's fun again and very competitive," said McPhee.

McPhee pointed out that once players are placed on a team they must remain there for the duration of the camp. He explained in most instances it would help to foster players into developing leadership skills and chemistry building.

"Some campers come in late and they may be good. So you find a losing team for them to go on to make the teams better. But you don't want them to be jumping from team to team. Take your beating, take your wins and just play."

The camp runs daily from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



JONQUEL JONES

Jones had breakout performance in Connecticut Sun win over Fever

Grand Bahamian and Holmes Rock native Jonquel Jones had herself a career game in scoring on Saturday in the Women's National Basketball Association. The 6' 6" center/forward lifted the Connecticut Sun to a 91-85 win over the Indiana Fever.

Jones totaled a career-high 29 points while going nearly perfect from the field (11-for-13, including shooting 2-for-2 from the three-point arc). The league's leading rebounder also pulled down 15 rebounds in the winning effort. Jones was on fire early and registered 15 points and 12 rebounds in the first half.

The win improved the Sun to an 8-7

record. The performance certainly should help her All-Star Game candidacy. Jones is now 15th in scoring with 16.1 points per game, with her rebounding improving to 12.1 per night.

The Sun's road trip continues with their next stop being San Antonio to take on the Stars this Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.

Jasmine Thomas added 22 points. Thomas hit a 3-pointer with 47.3 seconds left to put the Sun up 88-85 and the Fever missed three shots on their next possession. Indiana had to foul twice before Jones went to the free throw line with 11.4 seconds to go. She made the second free to make it a

two possession game. The Fever then turned the ball over and Thomas iced the game with two more free throws with 4.1 seconds left.

Jones, the league-leading rebounder at 12.1, had 15 points and 12 rebounds as Connecticut (8-7) built a 13-point lead before settling for a 47-40 halftime lead.

Indiana (7-8), which made the first basket of the game, took its second lead on a pair of Erlana Larkins free throws that made it 81-80 with 2:48 to play.

Shenise Johnson had 22 points for the Fever and Candice Dupree had 14 with 11 rebounds.