

SPORTS

Stage set in GB to honor former Commonwealth boxing champs



A highlight item on the Grand Bahama Office of the Prime Minister's 45th Independence Celebrations Calendar of Events is the Thursday, July 12th Commonwealth Boxing Salute, now scheduled at the Mary Star of the Sea Hall, following a venue change.

On Wednesday past, the Commonwealth Boxing Council lauded the organizers of the event and the Bahamas Boxing Commission for its endorsement. CBC Chairman, Philip Smith Q.C. said "honoring the Bahamians who are included on the Commonwealth Roll of Champions" is quite significant.

"Allow me to place in record my admiration and appreciation of the Grand Bahama Sports Promotion Association that has been assisted by the Grand Bahama Port Authority, and endorsed by the Bahamas Boxing Commission, for mounting this celebration of our Commonwealth Champions from your islands.

"The Bahamas make up a tiny part of our global Commonwealth of Nations, with only a small population but clearly, when it comes to our championships in boxing, you punch above your weight. You will be rightly honoring your

fellow countrymen, Gomeo Brennan, Steve Larrimore, Ray Minus Jr. and Jermain Mackey, who we are proud to be able to include in our Roll of Champions, which commences from the late 19th century to this day. The Roll of Champions includes some of the greatest names in our sport. "So many former and current World Champions have first won the prestigious Commonwealth Title which has shown itself to be the gateway to World Honours" said CBC Chairman Smith.

The CBC has been a bulwark of support for Bahamian boxing through the years in providing a hands-on approach to the national program. While The Bahamas has interacted with other world boxing organizations in the past, it has only been a long-time member of the CBC. Two Bahamians, the late Wilfred Coakley and this columnist have served as president of the CBC.

Brennan is the Commonwealth Boxing pioneer for The Bahamas and in 1963 he captured the (then called British Empire) Commonwealth Middleweight Championship. A quarter of a century later, Minus Jr., in the bantamweight division, and light welterweight

Larrimore further established the Commonwealth sports connection for their country.

In 2008, Mackey joined the group, as the Commonwealth Super Middleweight Champion.

Brennan and his wife Aloma will be traveling to Freeport for the event from their home in Miami Florida. Minus Jr., Larrimore and Mackey are based in New Providence. They all have confirmed their presence.

The Commonwealth Boxing Salute event will include awards presentations, dinner and an amateur boxing show. The YMCA in Freeport and the Pan American Caribbean Boxing Organization (PACBO) club in New Providence are providing the boxing bouts. Nathan Davis coordinates the YMCA boxers and Kato Ferguson is the trainer for the PACBO Club.

The amateur segment of the program has been endorsed by the Bahamas Boxing Federation and new elected President Vincent Strachan is expected to be in attendance.

Activities are set to begin at 7 p.m. next Thursday.

• To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturup at sturup1504@mail.com or on WhatsApp at 727-6363.



PHILIP SMITH QC



Sports Scope

by Fred Sturup

Bahamas Fitness Festival Bodybuilding Show wows

(From Page 17)

Sturup was the fifth-place finisher and Giselle Laing finished in sixth.

O'Brian Parker was the sole participant in the Male Junior Fitness Category and took home the first-place prize.

In the Bikini Division Emerald Lundy took the top place in the Novice Bikini category. Akaela

Nesbitt was the Open Bikini category winner. Sharon Bethel was named the winner of the Masters Bikini Category, with Daphne Fox taking second place.

In the Men's Physique Category, the Novice competition was described as, "a look into the future." Jordache Darling was the best of the four competitors in the category. Titus Lockhart was declared the second-place finisher, while Addison Bethel and Samuel Knowles finished third and fourth, respectively.

The Men's Open Physique Category was a friendly competition among the group known as the "Fitness Connection Boys."

In the end, Tad Hield was announced as the top male in that category. His counterparts, Sharadd Taylor and Kyle King came in at second and third, respectively.

ly. The Men's Classic Physique Category was yet another competition among the aforementioned group. However, once the pose off between Matthew Dean

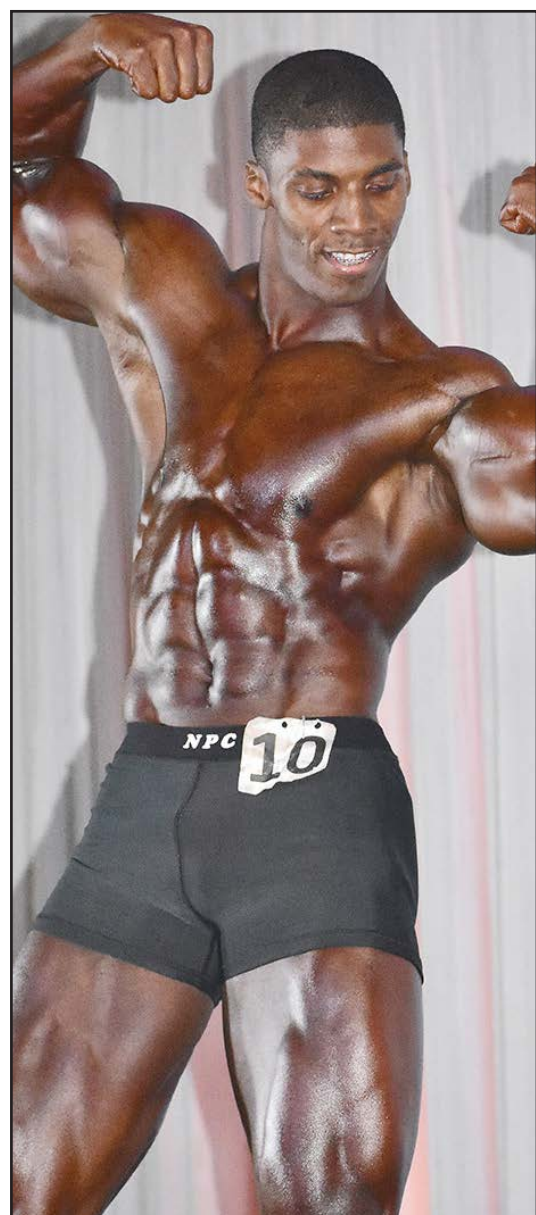
and Demeko Nesbitt was completed, Dean was declared the victor with Nesbitt left to take the second-place medal.

The Bodybuilding and Fitness Festival also highlighted a few

client transformations - everyday persons that took that leap of faith to improve their eating habits and fitness lifestyles. *This daily* will feature those seven persons at a later date.



AKAELA SHINES - Akaela Nesbitt posed her way into first place of the Women's Open Bikini category and was named the overall Women's Bikini champion at this year's Bahamas Fitness Festival Bodybuilding Show this past Saturday, June 30 at the St. George's Gymnasium.



MATTHEW WINS - Matthew Dean was declared the winner of the Men's Classic Physique Category at this year's Bahamas Fitness Festival Bodybuilding Show this past Saturday, June 30 at the St. George's Gymnasium. (PHOTOS: SHAYNE STUBBS)

GRAND COMMONWEALTH BOXING SALUTE!

INDEPENDENCE WEEK JULY 12

ST. GEORGES' GYMNASIUM, FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA

THE GRAND BAHAMA SPORTS PROMOTION ASSOCIATION
in conjunction with
THE GRAND BAHAMA PORT AUTHORITY
and under the auspices of
THE BAHAMAS BOXING COMMISSION

Salutes

4 BAHAMIAN COMMONWEALTH BOXING CHAMPIONS

GOMEO BRENNAN RAY MINUS JR. STEVE LARRIMORE JERMAIN MACKEY

AWARDS PRESENTATION AND DINNER BOXING SHOW
JULY 12 BEGINNING AT 7 p.m.

OFFICIATING SEMINAR
JULY 11 SESSION BEGINNING AT 10 a.m.

HOST HOTEL CASTAWAYS - EAST MALL

For travel packages to support the champions and those interested in the officials seminar contact Calvin Greene (1-816-4867 email: planprogress@gmail.com)