

## SPORTS

**BBA IN FULL CONTROL****'Freedom Farms' the lone obstacle to baseball unity**

There is an adjusted order to national baseball and the vast majority of those within the fraternity have gone in the same direction.

I was informed on Wednesday by a noted baseball source, who, did not wish to be identified, that organizations from every corner of the country have agreed to move under the umbrella of the Bahamas Baseball Association (BBA), with the one exception.

Reference is to Freedom Farms Baseball. Arguably, Freedom Farms is the most vitalized baseball program in the country, with the largest outreach. Yet, the Freedom Farms Organization, headed by Greg Burrows Sr., former Founding President of the Bahamas Baseball Federation, has not budged.

As a result, Freedom Farms remains the lone obstacle to full baseball unity in the country.

Some months ago, Burrows Sr. informed me that "no one" had sent an invitation through him, inviting Freedom Farms to become a member of the BBA. So, presently, Freedom Farms sits on the outside of the main stream consolidated baseball group, still pushing forward with its very own program.

It is a very strong program, admittedly.

Nevertheless, it seems inevitable that at some point, perhaps sooner than later,

Freedom Farms will join the BBA fold. No matter, how valiant, and productive, the efforts of Burrows Sr. and Freedom Farms turn out to be while going it alone, there will always be definite international limitations.

In 2017, for the first time, the national tournament was held under the jurisdiction of the BBA. Several weeks before the event took place in Freeport, Grand Bahama, the Bahamas Baseball Federation was dissolved in order to give the BBA an open avenue to operate as the parent body for the sport.

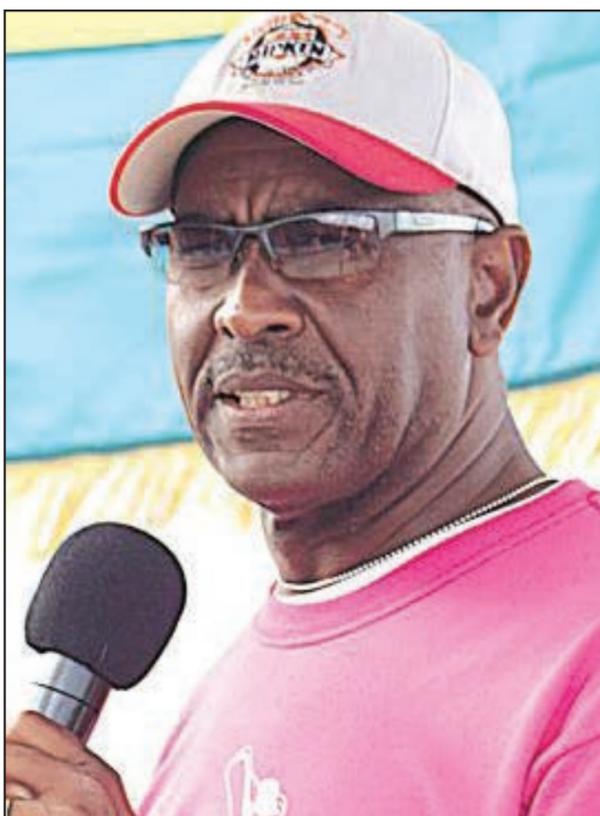
It was in fact, Teddy Sweeting, the president of the federation who made the public announcement that the BBF had phased out in favor of the BBA.

What will Freedom Farms do?

With the entire Grand Bahama baseball community now functioning under the banner of the BBA; as is the Junior baseball League of Nassau; the Inagua, Abaco, and Eleuthera baseball representatives, Freedom Farms is in a pickle.

There is a reality that the Freedom Farms family must face. The BBA is firmly entrenched as the parent body for baseball, and accepted as such, nationally and internationally.

Even when the BBF members were united, the BBA still held international sway. Now, its au-



**GREG BURROWS SR.**

thority is unquestioned. Like the situation or not, that's how it is. Quite frankly, the BBA could make the road ahead for Freedom Farms very tough, unless

it officially becomes a member.

It is my understanding though that there is a general agreement that Freedom Farms will be given a grace period, a comfortable

length of time, to come to grips with reality. Strong friends and colleagues of Burrows in the former BBF are hoping that they will be together again.

I hope so as well.

Burrows Sr. has been significant to the revival of local baseball. He is a hard worker and a progressive thinker. The BBA certainly would be much better with Burrows Sr. within the

ranks.

Let me emphasize here though, the BBA today, is an extremely strong force. With or without Freedom Farms, the organization will move forward with its new nucleus.

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## SPORTS SCOPE

BY FRED STURUP



"There is a reality that the Freedom Farms family must face. The BBA is firmly entrenched as the parent body for baseball, and accepted as such, nationally and internationally."



**KICKING OFF THE SUMMER** - The Grand Bahama Powerboat Race Summerfest, hosted by Prodigy Group Entertainment (PGE), kicks off May 25 - June 3. During that week the first annual Grand Bahama Powerboat Race will be one of the hottest attractions on the island of Grand Bahama, June 1 at Taino Beach. Pictured left to right at the event's press conference last week Wednesday, April 25, are Clarron Bartlett of OBS Marine, PGE member Wenito Bootle, PGE Public Relations Officer Bianca Strachan, Assistant Manager of Niche Markets, Ministry of Tourism Jay Philippe and Damien Thomas of MVP Entertainment. (PHOTO: SHAYNE STUBBS)

**Power Boat Race set to kick off the summer**

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Summer is almost here and Prodigy Group Entertainment (PGE) has an event in store for all Grand Bahamians to be a part of.

Grand Bahama's first annual Powerboat Race Summerfest is set for Friday, June 1 at Taino Beach beginning at 12:00 p.m. The event is expected to feature four classes of powerboats and jet skis.

The Powerboat Race Summerfest will also feature a number of events beginning from

May 25 - June 3, including a concert feature international soca sensation Destra Garcia and local "energy king" Stillet, also on Friday, June 1.

Boaters from the southern shores of Florida are expected to be here to put on a show for the crowd, along with boaters from around the country such as Grand Bahama, Nassau, Bimini and Abaco.

PGE met with members of the media last week Wednesday, April 25 at the host site to introduce the upcoming Labour Day holiday held event, where PGE Public Relations Officer Bianca Strachan ensured the public they don't want to miss it.

"We want Grand Bahama to come out and support it. This isn't just an event for Prodigy Group," she expressed. "This is an event for the community at large. It's a family friendly event. We want you to bring out the kids, we want the adults to come out and experience a race on a race course that has never happened on the island of Grand Bahama before."

"We have boaters coming from the southern shores of Florida who are going to put on a wonderful show for you guys. We also want to encourage our local boaters: persons who are on the national scene. Whether it's Nassau, Bimini, Abaco; if

you want take part in our race just go to our website [GBpowerboatrace.com](http://GBpowerboatrace.com)."

PGE member Wenito Bootle promised that the races will be competitive and boaters have already called in to say they want in on the action.

"We have people calling from Abaco, Grand Cay, Nassau; they want to take part in. We have boaters coming in from the United States, you won't be disappointed."

"The food will be great, the entertainment will be great. We're just going to have a lot of fun. There is a cash prize!"

The Ministry of Tourism is fully behind this event with

the prospect of having foreign boaters take part in the race. Assistant Manager of Niche Markets, Jay Philippe said, attracting visitors to our shores is our mandate. And it's attracting visitors from South Florida's market, which is our main market, it's going to be very essential for us. Also, in particular with Abaco, Nassau and Bimini visitors traveling to Grand Bahama it gives life to Grand Bahama in that it injects new money into our economy.

"The Ministry of Tourism fully endorses the first annual Powerboat Race. We look forward to it being an event that's going to be successful

and attract people to our shores. We're encouraging the community of Grand Bahama to come out."

Clarron Bartlett, who represented sponsor OBS Marine, assured boaters that there's fun for all enthusiasts with a number of other activities and competitions leading up and surrounding the powerboat race.

"It's not just a powerboat race. It's also a fishing tournament and poker run. So you don't have to have the fastest boat to participate. We're having a Mercury event for the whole week so there's always going to be something going on. So just come out and enjoy yourself."