

## SPORTS

# Pat Strachan significantly positioned to help with amateur boxing program

## DIPLOMACY IS IMPORTANT

Cephas Bowe was the first light heavyweight champion in the history of amateur boxing in The Bahamas.

He was followed by Pat Strachan, who went on to have a creditable professional career; become appointed Bahamas Boxing Commission (BBF) Chairman; and expand his outreach for the sport in being the founding president of the Retired Boxers Association.

Last weekend, he was, as secretary, voted in as a part of the successful slate of presidential candidate Vincent Strachan when the Bahamas Boxing Federation held its election of officers. Pat Strachan will bring stability to the executive group. He, was once reputed to have a short fuse, has developed an appealing diplomatic approach and will be an excellent balance to his distant cousin Vincent, who commands the leadership position of amateur boxing in the country. Diplomacy is important.

Indeed, BBF President Vincent Strachan would be well-minded to pull back from time to time, in favor of the more even-handed Pat Strachan. The president will be greatly challenged to create an atmosphere of respect under his watch, because of past conflicts and the doubts many have, regarding his ability to bring all within the amateur boxing fraternity together in harmony.

Pat Strachan can hold his hand and with the other executives, help the president to bring about a new and inspiring culture in amateur boxing. Firstly, the new executives should seek to have a meeting with the Bahamas Olympic Committee (BOC) for

## SPORTS SCOPE

BY FRED STURRUP



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guidance towards a smooth transition, going forward with projects and development plans.

Secondly, it is necessary for the new group to make an appointment to meet with the new Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture. I think at the outset, there must be some apprehension on the part of Minister of Sports Lanisha Rolle, given the hard-hitting remarks made by Vincent Strachan on the occasion of the funeral of the late

Elisha Obed.

He was obviously combative. Minister Rolle and Director of Sports Tim Munnings were present, and no doubt were aware of President Strachan's disposition. Secretary Pat Strachan is appropriate, at this time, to mediate a parley with Minister Rolle and her sports associates. There is no doubt that the International Boxing Federation (Amateur) would look more favorably upon the president and

his executives if it is seen that they enjoy good relationships with the BOC and the Ministry of Sports.

It would be totally out of order for President Strachan to operate as though he is flying high as a result of being successful in the demand re-voting session. I suggest humility and meaningful deliberation with Secretary Strachan and the others, in an above-board effort to propel the amateur boxing program in The Bahamas back to the top position in the Caribbean Region, and perhaps beyond.

I wish to congratulate President Strachan, Secretary Strachan, Vice President Sherwin Johnson and their colleagues. The task ahead to make amateur boxing in the country really relevant once again, is a tough one. This is no time for haughtiness. It is a pivotal time for the amateur boxing program in the country.

The program is 50 years old. It achieved many meaningful milestones, inclusive of exchange programs with Canada, Bermuda, notable participation on the Florida Golden Gloves circuit, international medals and regional championships.

There is much more to be achieved.

For sure, a whole lot else can be accomplished.

It's all up to the present administration. Pat Strachan can be a big help.

Best wishes to all of the executives!

• To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturup at [sturrup1504@gmail.com](mailto:sturrup1504@gmail.com) or on WhatsApp at 727-6363.



PAT STRACHAN

## Kluber earns 18th win, fans 10 as Indians beat Royals 3-1

STEVE HERRICK  
AP Sports Writer

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Corey Kluber became the first 18-game winner in the majors this season, striking out 10 and pitching the Cleveland Indians past the Kansas City Royals 3-1 Wednesday.

The Indians moved closer to the third straight AL Central title and reduced their magic number for clinching the division to nine.

Kluber (18-7) allowed one run and two hits in 6 2/3 innings. The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner was pulled after throwing 105 pitches.

Cleveland used three relievers to complete the two-hitter. Brad Hand struck out the side in the ninth for his eighth save since being acquired by San Diego and 32nd this season.

Brad Keller (7-6) allowed three runs — one earned — in seven-plus innings and lost for the first time since Aug. 7.

The game began in sweltering conditions with the temperature at 91 degrees for the first pitch.

Edwin Encarnacion's RBI grounder broke a 1-1 tie in the fifth. Greg Allen's RBI single in the second gave Cleveland a 1-0 lead, and Kansas City tied it in the fourth on rookie Ryan O'Hearn's triple.

Kluber retired the first 10 batters before Alex Gordon lined a double on a 3-2 pitch. Hunter Dozier struck out, but O'Hearn's line drive was over Allen's head in center field.

Michael Brantley's one-out single started the go-ahead rally. Shortstop Alcides Escobar couldn't handle Yandy Diaz's chopper and Brantley took third when the ball rolled into the outfield on the error. Encarnacion's grounder put Cleveland ahead.

Jason Kipnis had a sacrifice fly and two hits.

Royals' right fielder Brett Phillips was out of the lineup after running full-speed into the wall chasing Jose Ramirez's fly ball Tuesday. He was removed from the game an inning later. Phillips was diagnosed with a bruised right shoulder.

**DONALDSON PLAN**

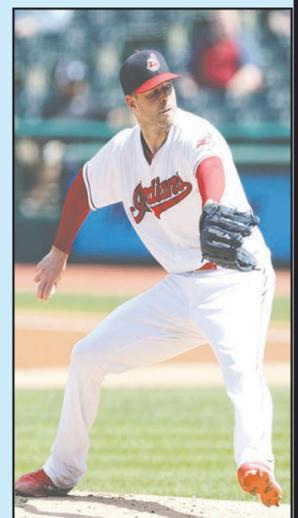
Josh Donaldson was scheduled to play for Double-A Akron against Altoona in the first game of the best-of-five

Eastern League play-offs on Wednesday. He's on the disabled list with a strained left calf, which has prevented him from playing in a major league game since May 28.

Donaldson, acquired from Toronto on Friday, is eligible to be activated Sept. 11. It's unclear how many minor league games he'll play before joining the Indians.

**TRAINER'S ROOM**

Royals: LHP Danny Duffy (sore shoulder) will not pitch



Cleveland Indians' starting pitcher Corey Kluber delivers in the first inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals, Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2018, in Cleveland. (AP PHOTO/TONY DEJAK)

again this season after leaving his Tuesday start in the first inning. Duffy was on the disabled list from Aug. 13-23 with a similar injury and recently received an anti-inflammatory shot. “The doctors said he can't have another shot for a while, so it makes sense just to shut him down,” manager Ned Yost said.

Indians: LHP Andrew Miller (sore shoulder) is expected to throw a bullpen session on Thursday in Toronto. He's been on the disabled list since Aug. 29.

**UP NEXT**

Royals: RHP Heath Fillmyer (2-1, 4.01 ERA) opens a three-game series Friday in Minnesota.

Indians: RHP Shane Bieber (8-3, 4.66 ERA) starts Thursday at Toronto.

## Response to 'New Minister of Sports Proving Herself' Sports Scope column

Good morning Fred, I trust you are well.

Thank you for your commentary in yesterday's paper with regard to the new minister and her role in settling the National Sports Authority. Let me also thank you for allowing feedback which I think is very mature and professional of you.

Let me preface my comments by declaring two things. Firstly, my comments are not representative of politics one way or the other. Secondly, I have been in and around sports for more than 30 years and understand the importance of sports to our developing democracy.

That being said, you are on point as to the great opportunity Minister Rolle has to prove herself in her new roll. You are also right that the NSA is a mess and it appears that all they have done in the past year is lose credibility and face with the wider community within and outside the sporting world.

Truthfully, the new minister has inherited a real mess that was not at all necessary.

Whether we like it or not, the previous administration, had sports working somewhat well and offered a huge launch point for the new administration to further develop a plan for the national development of sports throughout the country.

Sadly, the recent former minister, Pintard fumbled the ball and to make it worse appeared to have no real plan for sports in the first place. Instead, he (is said to have) made enemies of the sporting community rather than building relationships, and ultimately found himself isolated and unable to function (appropriately).

Also, you cannot disregard the role of the director of sports, as he should be the minister's key advisor. Yet, he has failed miserably

in his role and we are ashamed of that because we had higher hopes for him and his function.

Then, look at the role of the “president” of the BOC who by the Act has a seat on the board. Yet, (I understand) the duly elected president is actually not sitting on the board, instead, the past president is sitting on the board in his place, collecting tax payer stipend. He is not legally permitted to do so. Yet here we are.

The recent cabinet shuffle did not offer much hope as this administration has yet to demonstrate, articulate or appear to have any plans for the development of sports, facilities or athletes anywhere in our domain. So beyond the status quo, the new minister has very little chance of success.

As commissioner of professional boxing in the Bahamas you have had a front row seat to this movie.

To the point of the NSA, I beg to differ with you, as many good things have come out of the NSA over the years, despite the challenges. Nonetheless, the NSA we see today is far from representative of what the NSA has been or can be.

The NSA today has no management team, a self appointed general manager, (one of your good friends) who has been nothing short of a total embarrassment to himself and the country. He is (I think), being disrespectful to the process, shown great disregard for the chairman, the board and the employees over the months that he has been at the NSA. Yet here we are.

The previous minister, while firmly in office, was well aware of the issues that the board faced, from a non resident chairman, which no one can under-

stand, to the total dysfunction of the board.

Instead of articulating his plan, he ignored the truth and left. Instead of embracing the opportunity left by the previous administration, he (seemingly) allowed personal pride and arrogance to set in and now we all suffer for it.

Instead of studying the potential impact of the relays, he (one must conclude) participated in cancelling them without the benefit of studying it. Then, came an even more intense blunder, by not properly communicating the decision to the global market. Since then, all that we have worked hard to build as a country has now fallen away and we now look like idiots.

This is by no means my vote to keep the relays. It's about how we reach and communicate our conclusions. They do have ramifications.

Many have rightfully concluded that he was in over his head in the first instance and saw only himself in the mirror so, here we are.

Perhaps you should take a look at the facilities and see how much they have deteriorated in the last year. In fact, they are about to lose their entire investment in their fields, all three million hard earned tax payer's dollars. Yet the appointed general manager seems to see none of this. And to be fair, you have been far more harsh on others. Yet you let him have a pass and go directly to the minister. Did we miss something here? If Lester Cox wishes to be given credit, he should also be open to taking the critical comments as well. After all, if you want to be a globalist, you must act like one.

One could easily question the validity of the NSA board as it

seems to be totally defanged and powerless. Yet we know everything rises and falls on leadership and without a functioning chair, they are lost for a long time.

The notion of a foreign management company for the NSA is truly not with merit. In fact, that idea was, (I understand) from the minister himself and was being pushed aggressively by him and the appointed general manager.

So yes, I agree that we have lots of untapped talent here in The Bahamas and need no foreign partner to run the NSA, but even if we were to consider this option, it would never be successful with this board in place. Perhaps the new minister would find the courage to make the necessary changes needed to move the ball forward.

Yes, the NSA needs to be fixed, but the chances of that happening are little to none, as the country is far too acquainted with the status quo to see any real change.

What we should be doing is asking:

Where is the audit for the 2017 Relays? \$10m tax payer's dollars spent with no report more than a year later?

Where is the audit for the 2017 CYG games? \$10m tax payer's dollars spent and still no report either?

Where is the audit on the failed 2017 CARIFTA games? Perhaps in your journalistic fairness you can put these questions to the former minister as these were his to report on.

Thanks again for letting us share a dialogue which included several opposing opinions, please let me know when you are in town again, we can connect,

Until then  
SJ (Simone Johnson)