

SPORTS



PAYING TRIBUTE – The Bishop Michael Eldon Warriors Junior and Senior Girls' Volleyball teams are rocking pink to represent those that have fought and are fighting Breast Cancer, during Breast Cancer Awareness month. The team's uniform includes a pink number, as shown below, and pink knee-high socks that read "Love, Hope, Cure." They will wear the uniforms for the remainder of the volleyball season. (PHOTOS: SHAYNE STUBBS)

BMES Lady Warriors unveils breast cancer awareness uniforms

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The month of October is widely recognized as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the Bishop Michael Eldon Lady Warriors Volleyball Squad is all in on spreading the message of awareness.

This past Tuesday, October 2, the junior and senior girls' volleyball teams unveiled their new Breast Cancer Awareness uniforms, they will sport for the remainder of the volleyball season.

The Freeport News got a firsthand look at the teams' new threads, which includes the Warriors' trademark navy blue shirt and pants, with the players' numbers colored pink instead of yellow. The players will also sport pink knee high socks that read "Love, Hope, Cure."

The Rozena Nesbitt/Oriel Knowles High School Volleyball season is always a memorable one for the Warriors, as stated by head coach Cherishe Hollingsworth.

The late Nesbitt was a former student and athlete at BMES when it was formerly known as Freeport Anglican High School. Nesbitt lost her battle to Breast Cancer 10 years ago.

Along with other activities, Hollingsworth shared just how special October is for the institution. "When volleyball comes around and also the month of October, along with our walk-a-thon, it's always a special season for us at BMES," she expressed. "Rozena Nesbitt was a former Warrior, she graduated, she came back, taught Physical Education and was later induct-



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~ Coach Cherishe Hollingsworth

ed into the Grand Bahama Volleyball Hall of Fame. We always remember her in this time."

With the importance of getting tested early and often as one can, Nesbitt said, one of the discussions had during the month she found out that some of her players had family members that are battling or have battled the disease. The uniforms are the teams' way of paying homage to those that have had their brush with Breast Cancer.

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have overcome in life, and some have overcome and gone home to glory. But we just wanted to pay special tribute and this our way of joining the fight and raising awareness.

"We know the athletic arenas attract the fans. So, when people see a pink number or see the pink socks, they would want to know what's that about? That's not a school color. Then they would know that this school is just bigger than a school and that we're community minded, and we stand with everyone facing the disease."

Certainly, an initiative like

what BMES has done can trickle down to other schools during this time. When asked if she thinks it's one the Grand Bahama Secondary School Athletic Association could adopt, Hollingsworth believes it could in time.

"I think so. I think that within the association, as well we have a lot of families that are affected by all sorts of diseases – by diabetes, by kidney failure and also by cancer. I'm sure that the association would agree that an initiative like this is definitely one that you could easily support."

As far as the season goes, Hollingsworth is pleased with the girls' progression. The junior girls currently rank second behind the Sunland Stingers, while the senior girls still hold the top spot in that division, despite their most recent loss which came this past Tuesday.

Hollingsworth made it clear it's all about making sure the girls stay grounded with a lot more games left to play in the season.

"I'm trying to keep the girls focused. We have to take it one game at a time because a record doesn't even matter at this

stage. But we feel good. We've been working hard. One of the messages that I've been echoing in the community is when you have a championship expectation you have to invest championship time. So, the girls have changed their work ethic a little bit and following my lead this year. I'm just hoping I can keep them settled and at the end of the day may the best team win.

"We just need one win after the next and try to take our time and do it in tribute to our lady Warrior Rozena and everyone out there that's fighting cancer," she concluded.

Advancing national sports brand a challenge for new government

• First Published September 11, 2017

The following is a re-run of a Sports Scope article due to technical difficulties which arose from the passing of Hurricane Irma.

Although he did not see a fully structured National Sports Academy established under his watch, former Prime Minister Perry Christie's sports legacy is a glowing one.

It is a fact that he was the catalyst for the national stadium gift from the People's Republic of China. His government inked the relationship with the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) that saw the first three IAAF World Relays take place in The Bahamas. The International Federation

of Association Football (FIFA) Beach Soccer World Cup came under his endorsement. Also, the Perry Christie government made the formal arrangements and earmarked funds for the Commonwealth Youth Games that occurred in this country, July 18–23.

Thus, in sports, he has left some big shoes for his successor, Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, to fill. It will not be easy maintaining the high sports level attained during Christie's tenure. It stands to reason then, that advancing The Bahamas' sports brand will indeed be a huge challenge for the new government.

This is a new Bahamas, with a population that is dominated by impatient voters. They want to see results, or at least the poten-

tial for positive strides, quickly. It is a very demanding job, that of being prime minister of The Bahamas these days. Other than sports, there are many other aspects of Bahamian life that Prime Minister Dr. Minnis is expected to make better.

The sporting family expects and is anticipating great things.

There are good reasons. Great things happened in sports these past five years. Christie, because of so many shortcomings as leader, damaged his political credibility and established a sad closure to his career. He set the bar high in sports, though. Much more could have been done, should have been done. Nevertheless, the former prime minister (PM) must be given credit for the absolute fact that The Bahamas became a might-

er sports nation under him.

Now, it is up to the new PM to take the baton and produce a top quality leg. He and his government have started off well in sports. Firstly, with the exception of former sports minister, Desmond Bannister, Dr. Minnis could not have made a better choice, in my view, for that role.

New Sports Minister Michael Pintard has declared that, as governance is ongoing, The Bahamas' sports brand will continue with the products already on the table. He obviously has great intentions. Minister Pintard brought back the National Primary Schools Track and Field Championships.

The presence of Pintard as the government's point person for sports has encouraged talks of The Bahamas Games being

revived. It is such initiatives that can enable Prime Minister Dr. Minnis to begin crafting his very own sports legacy. There has not been an edition of The Bahamas Games since 2001. If, somehow, Dr. Minnis is able to juggle the country's finances and give directions for The Bahamas Games to once more be a part of the national sports calendar, either next year or 2019, or even 2020, that would be a feather in his political cap.

In the meantime, he is confronted with an uphill task, left by Christie in sports and elsewhere.

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Sports Scope
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