

SPORTS

Touring HOYTES

camp now the new focus of basketball mentor McPhee



EXUMA CAMP — Coach Gladstone McPhee with HOYTES Exuma camper.

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The man who was once synonymous with the Grand Bahama Sports Complex is settling into a new role that focuses more prominently on his personal basketball brand.

Noted National Sports Hall of Fame inductee and basketball guru Coach Gladstone "Moon" McPhee now intends to take his HOYTES development program throughout the country with a series of camps, wherever there is an interest.

Recently, McPhee returned from Exuma, where he staged a successful and well-attended camp in George Town, Exuma and it fueled his appetite to pass on his knowledge to more of the young boys and girls of the Family Islands.

"I just like working with the young kids. There is such satisfaction in getting them to understand the basics and to see them advance into more sophisticated skill sets on the court. Youngsters are appreciative and it is satisfying for me, to work with them. It always has been.

"Exuma was just great. It was a good venture and I am crafting the template for taking the camp throughout the country, going forward," said McPhee.

The option therefore is open to the Ministry of Education, through its schools in the Family Islands, Local Government, sporting clubs and Christian communities. The

HOYTES Development Program is based in Grand Bahama and includes the ongoing camp at the Gladstone "Moon" McPhee Park, and two tournaments annually.

McPhee's résumé is unmatched in The Bahamas, in the category of basketball mentoring. Out of the hundreds of boys and girls who have passed through his camps

and gone on to be successful adults are Yollette McPhee-McCuin, Jonquel Jones and Buddy Hield.

The former is his daughter. He groomed her and now she is a milestone achiever on the most renowned collegiate circuit in the world. Coach Yo, as McPhee-McCuin is fondly called, moved this year from Jacksonville University where she led her team to three successful years at the magical win number of 20 and a National Collegiate Athletic Association's berth, to the University of Mississippi.

She is in Mississippi under a five-year contract.

Jones or course is the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) standout for the Connecticut Sun who dominated play in successive years in South Korea and China. She also has WNBA all-star status and is the all-time season rebound record holder.

Hield plays now for the Sacramento Kings, after being drafted and playing most of his first year for the New Orleans Pelicans. He is considered one of the top young prospects in the National Basketball Association (NBA). Such, sums up the coaching pedigree of McPhee.

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Sports Scope

by Fred Sturup



JENRRY MEJIA

Back from lifetime ban, Mejia gets minors deal with Red Sox

BOSTON (AP) — Relief pitcher Jenrry Mejia, allowed back into baseball after a lifetime ban caused by three positive drug tests, has agreed to a minor league contract with the Boston Red Sox.

If added to the 40-man roster, the 29-year-old Dominican right-hander would receive a one-year contract at a rate of \$625,000 while in the major leagues and \$90,400 while in the minors.

Mejia was suspended for life on Feb. 12, 2016, after his third positive test for a banned steroid. The drug agreement allowed him to apply a year later for reinstatement that would be effective a minimum of two years after the ban started, with the decision at the commissioner's discretion. Commissioner Rob Manfred gave him conditional reinstatement last July 6 and said Mejia could return to the big leagues in 2019.

Amid another slow free agent market, Mejia's deal was immediately panned by fans and at least one big leaguer.

"How's my off-season going? This guy had a lifetime ban and still signed before me!!!" tweeted free agent reliever Peter Moylan.

Boston closer Craig Kimbrel became a free agent and the Red Sox are reorganizing their

bullpen. Mejia will report to Boston's minor league spring training camp. He's been out of the majors since July 2015.

The New York Mets released Mejia on Nov. 20 rather than allow him to become eligible for salary arbitration. Mejia has four years, 140 days of major league service, and the Mets could have tried to cut his salary to \$1,383,200 had he remained on the roster.

Mejia was the Mets' closer in 2014 and was suspended for 80 games on April 11, 2015, following a positive test for Stanozolol, a drug popular among bodybuilders. At the time, he maintained, "I can honestly say I have no idea how a banned substance ended up in my system."

Mejia returned on July 12, appeared in seven games for New York, then was banned for 162 games on July 28 after a positive test for Stanozolol and Boldenone. The third suspension was for a positive test for Boldenone, an anabolic steroid generally used by veterinarians on horses.

Mejia is 9-14 with a 3.68 ERA in 18 starts and 95 relief appearances. In addition to random drug tests, he is subject annually to six additional urine tests and three additional blood tests.

Chasing Brady: Donald, Suh to lead Rams' Super Bowl pursuit

(From Page 23)

A.D. and Suh," Fowler said. "They make it easy for everybody else on the defense. They cause so many problems."

Donald, Suh and Brockers are a formidable defensive line, and their teamwork has improved each month. Although Donald doesn't have a sack in the Rams' two post-season games, he draws double-teams that free up Suh, who has 1½ sacks and four quarterback hits in an outstanding post-season.

Even if Donald and Suh win their individual matchups on the line, Brady's quick decisions and swift release make him awfully difficult for anyone to touch. He was sacked just 21 times in the regular season.

Although the Chiefs tied for the NFL lead with 52 sacks in the regular season, they hit Brady just once and never sacked him in the AFC title game. A week earlier, the Chargers' dynamic pass-rushing duo of Melvin Ingram and Joey Bosa never got to him.

Even if the Rams can't sack Brady, they must attempt to get him moving before his receivers' routes develop. That's an area in which Donald specializes: Although he faces more double-teams than just about any defensive player, he consistently penetrates the opponents' backfield regardless.

"There's nothing he can't do in

regards to disrupting a game," Rams' coach Sean McVay said.

When Brady doesn't face quick pressure, he is typically able to lacerate opposing defenses with short passes. Just ask the Chargers and Chiefs.

"That's crazy," Brockers said when told about Brady's sack-free post-season. "He's the G.O.A.T., but he's just another quarterback. He's going to try to avoid the pressure. It's our job as D-linemen to get to him, so we're putting the pressure on ourselves to try to influence him and try to get him off his spot."

The Rams believe they have the players for the job, and they also might have the scheme.

Defensive coordinator Wade Phillips' 3-4 defense stopped Brady in the 2015 AFC title game. Phillips' Broncos — including Talib — hit Brady 17 times and made him miserable while going 27 of 56 in the Patriots' 20-18 loss.

Fowler has studied video of that game for years now. He would love to play the role of Von Miller, who got 2½ sacks and an interception.

Phillips isn't getting into any specifics of the Rams' plan against Brady, camouflaging his sharp mind behind his usual geniality.

"Unfortunately for me, I get older, but Tom Brady doesn't," the 71-year-old Phillips said. "You don't stop great offenses. You just try to slow them down."

Rams' Robey-Coleman says he got threats from Saints' fans

(From Page 23)

Patriots.

"It was surprising," Robey-Coleman said of the reaction. "I didn't think it would get that bad. It was overreaction for a little bit, but that's how it is nowadays. Social media blows everything out of proportion. That's the type of world we're living in now. More people are looking at it now, more eyes looking at it, so more opinions and more comments, so that's just the nature of the beast."

When asked to compare the criticism he has gotten from the fan bases of the Saints and Patriots, Robey-Coleman laughed and quickly answered.

"I think it's New Orleans," he said. "They've got a big vendetta against me."

So, does Robey-Coleman think he can ever go visit there anytime soon?

"Nah," he said with a big smile. "I think that's dead."