

#MakingItHappen

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

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Welcome to the first issue of the Youth and Sports Buzz! Like the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports with its new vision, new mission and new direction, the Youth and Sports Buzz has been reloaded! We will be bringing up to date stories about our youth, our people in sports and the many sporting events enjoyed here in the Virgin Islands to your fingertips.

We also hope to keep you informed on the dynamic and exciting things that are happening at the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports as we continue to Make It Happen!

Enjoy!

Brenda Lettsome-Tye
Acting Director

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Men's Fast Pitch Champions 2016 - Pirates

PHOTO: Charlie Jackson



Women's Fast Pitch Champions 2016 - Hawks

PHOTO: Charlie Jackson

Juliette Penn Fast Pitch Softball League 2016

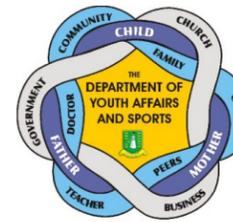
By Sharlene Hill—Sports Officer I

The BVI Fast Pitch Softball League 2016 was named in honour of Ms. Juliette Penn an ambassador of the sport. The league exhibited talented competition from both males and females. In this year's competition three (3) female teams and six (6) male teams registered. The league began on April 17th 2016 and finished on July 17th 2016. In the Female Division at the end of the regular season in the standings - That's Your Problem was the top seed with eight (8) wins and two (2) losses after each team meeting five (5) times. In the playoff round for the females the top seed got a bye and the 2nd

and 3rd place battled to see who will move on to the championship round. Second place Hawks defeated third place West End Warriors 3 games to 1 in the best of a 5 game series to advance to play That's Your Problem in the championship round. For the championship series Hawks defeated That's Your Problem 4 games to 1 in the best of 7 game series. The most outstanding pitcher for the league was Chevaunne Richardson of That's Your Problem and the League Most Valuable Player was Bria Smith of That's Your Problem.

For the male division of the four (4) teams registered at the end of regular season

Power Outage was the top seed. Power Outage record was 11 wins and 4 losses after 5 rounds of meeting each team. The playoff format was best of 5 game series. Pirates defeated Reds 3 games to zero and Power Outage defeated Mobsters 3 games to zero. The championship games were the best of 7 game series where Pirates defeated Power Outage 4 games to 2 to repeat as BVI Fast Pitch Softball Champions 2016. The Most Outstanding Pitcher for the league was Mr. Allen Smith of Pirates and the Most Valuable Player of the league was Mr. Jamal 'Lefty' Allen of Power Outage.



Sports & Youth Buzz

#MakingItHappen

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Newsletter

Kyron McMaster Earns BVI's First IAAF World Jr. Championships Medal



BVI's Kyron McMaster, left, with Jamaica's Jaheel Hyde and the USA's Taylor McLaughlin, after the 400m Hurdles
PHOTO: Dag Samuels

By Dean Greenaway-Sports Officer II

Overcoming adversity and running just his fifth race of the 2016 season since June after injury, Kyron McMaster won the territory's first medal in its 30-year history of IAAF World Jr. Championships competition, when he claimed 400m Hurdles bronze on Saturday July 23rd in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

McMaster placed third behind Jamaica's Jaheel Hyde who successfully defended his title in 49.03 seconds—becoming the first two times winner—and the USA's Taylor McLaughlin, who passed him just before the line for silver, in a personal best of 49.45 as he grabbed third place with a personal best and National Record, 49.56.

"Coming through the last three hurdles, I took a look at the field to see what position I was in and my intent was to stay in medal contention by any means and I prevailed with that," McMaster said. "I was in second until the last hurdle and couldn't feel my legs but at the same time, I had to keep mentally focused and run through it."

McMaster said he has been working hard since 2014 when he failed to get out of the preliminary rounds at the Youth Olympic Games.

"To come here in 2016 and make each of the rounds to the final and win a medal, is a big deal for me," he said.

Through early May, McMaster wasn't even thinking about World Juniors. As a student at Central Arizona and winning the Jr. Colleges Indoor 400m title in March, he turned his focus on competing in the Carifta Games but missed the meet and the outdoor season after Doctors told him not to run because of a lower back stress fracture.

"Not being able to compete outdoors, really affected me," he said. "When I came home, my coach (Dag Samuels) began working with me. We had a meeting and he said 'let's do this. Let's go World Juniors.' And I said 'coach, you know the situation.' At that moment, I couldn't run. Within a week, Coach worked on me, got me to the point where I

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BVI U16 Women Heading To Centrobasket After Winning CBC Bronze

By Dean Greenaway-Sports Officer II

After a thrilling 44-38 victory over Antigua and Barbuda to claim the Caribbean Basketball Confederation (CBC) Championships bronze medal, the BVI's U16 Women have qualified for the 2017 Centrobasket Tournament year after its Sr. Women CBC debuted.

Building on the experience from some of the young

players who got their feet wet last year in the senior edition of the championships, BVI U16 Women on Saturday avenged a 29-23 loss to Antigua and Barbuda in group play, with a 44-38 triumph in the bronze medal game of the CBC Championships in Georgetown, Guyana.

Shaliqua Fahie narrowly missed a double, double with

a game high 25 points and nine rebounds. She also had five steals.

"This victory over Antigua and Barbuda, I'm glad that we won and I'm very appreciative," coach Eric Matthias said. "For these girls, the work they put in and the ability to suck it up three nights in a row

Continued on page 2

Upcoming Events

- COLLEGE CLASSIC SERIES
SEPTEMBER 17- NOVEMBER
- INDUSTRIAL VOLLEY BALL LEAGUE - SEPTEMBER 20
- FEMALE MODIFY PITCH SOFTBALL - SEPTEMBER 26
- CARIBBEAN YOUTH DAY
SEPTEMBER 30
- DIGICEL/DYAS JUMP START ELITE CAMP - OCTOBER 7-9
- INSPIRATIONAL NIGHT FOR ATHLETES - OCTOBER
- YOUTH BUSINESS EXPO
OCTOBER 28
- 1ST SITTING OF 2ND SESSION VVI YOUTH PARLIAMENT - NOVEMBER

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Shaliqua Fahie was the BVI's leading scorer in every game of the 2016 CBC U16 Championships in Guyana

BVI U16 Women Heading To Centrobasket After Winning CBC Bronze (continued)

in three big games, for the program, I think they deserve more respect. I just want support from the whole country and I want more parents to bring girls out so that we can further develop this program."

The BVI whipped hosts Guyana, 54-18 in its opener, as Shaliqua Fahie paved the way with 24 points and pulled 21 boards. Then they handed Barbados their first loss, 49-39, with Fahie dropping in 18 points to go with 10 rebounds, seven steals and two blocks. Mahkayla Pickering added another 10 points.

Antigua and Barbuda bounced back from their three points 39-36 loss to Barbados by handing the BVI a 29-23 setback for their first win. The BVI however topped their grouping. Britnay Gore led Antigua and Barbuda with 11 points and pulled 13 off the glass, while Fahie led the BVI again with 12 points and 11 rebounds. The BVI fell to Suriname 49-41, in the medal rounds setting up the rematch with Antigua and Barbuda. Anita Tolud dropped a game high 24 points for Suriname while Fahie finished with 14 points and pulled 18 off the rack.

"Every game was different," Matthias noted. "I felt we were a step behind Antigua and Barbuda and it wasn't until late in the game we figured out how to stop their dominant center Britnay Gore—she was phenomenal. After the loss to Suriname, the girls decided by themselves—after we spoke to them—that they weren't going home without a medal and that's what they did. In the Suriname game, turnovers killed us. We had five back to back in the last minute. We didn't control the ball."

Kyron McMaster Earns BVI's First IAAF World Jr. Championships Medal (continued)

could be able to train, then to the point where I could compete and then qualify, so he played an important role and I thank him for that." Samuels said it was unfortunate that McMaster was unable to train properly or compete, even at a single outdoor meet, as he was plagued with excruciating pain between January and May.

"When he returned home, immediately we went to work. The first task was getting him healthy and while doing so, have him compete to achieve the qualifying standard for the World Jr. Championships," Samuels explained. "With that being accomplished it became a matter of TLC to his injury

but at the same time enforcing the daily work and that was a crafty task. We knew that he was capable of running 49 but we had to be patient and wait. After the first round, we knew two things—he would medal and secondly he would run 49 and he accomplished both. Kyron is a talented but hard worker, a coach's dream. His goals are very high and he pursues his endeavor daily and with zeal."

"People would say getting released from Central Arizona would have a negative impact, but getting released was probably the best thing because it showed me how to work, achieve my goal and don't take anything for

granted," he said, noting that recruiters have been after him after easily winning his preliminary heat in 51.77 seconds followed by a 50.49 semifinal. "Getting the bronze medal and running 49.56 just seals the deal that a lot of people are after me. Off the top of my head, Florida, Georgia, UTEP, Nebraska and South Carolina Georgia, UTEP, Nebraska and South Carolina have all shown interest so far." The BVI has now won medals in three of four IAAF World Athletics Series events. Tahesia Harrigan-Scott won 60m indoor bronze in 2008, the relay quartet of Taylor Hill, Nelda Huggins, Jonel Lacey and Tarika Moses, World Youth Championships

Scott was also an IAAF World Outdoor Championships 100m semifinalist in 2009.

McMasters' 49.56 seconds run breaks Antigua and Barbuda Rai Benjamin's Leeward Islands Record of 49.82 and is .06 off Grenada's Shane Charles' OECS record of 49.51 from 2006.

McMaster and Grenada's Anderson Peters are the only OECS athletes winning World Jr. Championships medals—the first pair of males in the region to ever do so at the championships—after Peters grabbed Javelin Throw bronze with a personal best and national record throw of 79.65m.

Henry NACAC U23 Championships Discus, Shot Put Bronze Medals

By Dean Greenaway—Sports Officer II



Eldred Henry won the Discus Throw bronze on Friday and the Shot Put bronze on Sunday in the NACAC U23 Championships in El Salvador

PHOTO: Dean Greenaway



Eldred Henry used his experience from missing the podium two years ago in Canada, to land Discus Throw and Shot Put bronze medals, during the IX NACAC U23 Championships that wrapped up Sunday July 17th in San Salvador, El Salvador.

Henry's medals capped off a stellar meet for the BVI as five of seven athletes advanced to finals.

On Friday, July 15th, Henry opened his series with a 52.85m throw then recorded a season's best 56.45m on his second attempt to secure the bronze, becoming the territory's first to win a medal in a field event. His medal was the first since sprinter Dion Crabbe won two medals in 2000.

"To be honest, I didn't do as well as I wanted to in the Discus," said Henry who was fourth two years ago in Kamloops, Canada. "I had a foul that would have put me in the lead, but, I was content with keeping in the ring. The difference between last time

and this time is more experience, more exposure. It always feels good to win a medal but, it wasn't the medal that I wanted. At the end of the day, I have a medal and I'm thankful for it."

On Sunday July 17th, he added bronze in the Shot Put with a throw of 19.11m after placing fifth in 2014 and matched Crabbe's two bronze medals haul 16 years ago.

"Physically I was ready, just had a little technical flaw with the finish, getting my left foot around more aggressively, so it didn't result in the pop I needed to get the extra distance," Henry explained. "After the 19.11, I was looking to go from there and kick it up a notch and probably surpass the 20m mark because I was feeling it, like it was there, but technically, I couldn't get the finish to result in a big throw."

Henry said he was better physically prepared that last time as he had a long season and the meet was at the end.

"This season, I had more time to plan out the meets I was going to and have a lot more left in the tank and still have more left for the Rio Olympics," he said.

Tynelle Gumbs finished fifth in the Hammer Throw with a best heave of 53.80m while twin sister Trevia's throw of 46.76m, was good for eight place.

"My first four throws, the turn was good but there was no speed," Tynelle noted. "On my fifth throw, my coach Omar (Jones) told me to go at it and be quick. I was literally grating my teeth and I hit 53 and that was my best throw."

Trevia said she had bad throws and started to over think. "I have to do a lot of mental preparation before my next big competition," she said. "It was a good experience competing against people who were older and better than us. This will give us good experience for the next time."

Trevia was placed seventh in

Henry NACAC U23 Championships Discus, Shot Put Bronze Medals (continued)

the Shot Put with a heave of 13.53m.

Taylor Hill advanced to the 100m finals after running 12.09 seconds and was seventh in the final in 12.04.

Khari Herbert was also seventh in the 400m after running a season's best 46.55 seconds. He advanced with a time of 46.84.

Shaquoy Stephens turned in a non advancing time of 10.95

seconds to finish sixth in the 100m prelims. He finished fifth in the 200m semis in 22.12 seconds but didn't advance. Jonel Lacey missed the last qualifying spot in the 400m after running 55.62 seconds.



PHOTO: Dean Greenaway

Old Recreation Grounds renamed E. Walwyn Brewley Grounds

By Sharlene Hill-Sports Officer I

On Friday 17th July 2016 the Old Recreation Softball field was renamed in honour of Mr. E. Walwyn Brewley or GM as he is affectionately called. He was an avid softball player, coach, manager, statistician, Vice President and President. Mr. Brewley (GM) started playing softball in 1950 with his secondary school and eventually moved on to teams such as Titley's Tigers, Marlins

and the Blue Wings. His ability to score earned him the task of the league's official scorer in 1971 to present. As president of the BVI Amateur Softball Association; Mr. Brewley led the BVI delegation to numerous regional and international softball congresses such as International Softball Federation (ISF), Central America and Caribbean Confederation (CONCACAS) and Pan American Confederation of Amateur Softball (CONPASA).

He was the longest serving president of amateur softball in the English speaking Caribbean. For his long term commitment and dedication to softball in our territory, International Softball Federation inducted him into the International Softball Federation's Hall of Fame on June 17th 2000.



PHOTO: Terrence Chinnery