

#MakingItHappen

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

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Above: BVI 16-18 National Basketball Team

Below: Most Valuable Player -
Stephon Caul

PHOTOS: Kennedy Bass



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BVI 16-18 Basketball Team wins Tournament in St. Croix

The BVI All-Star 16–18 Boys team participated in the Allen Burke Foundation Basketball Tournament on September 16th to 18th 2016 in St. Croix. Eight (8) teams competed in this division in zones. BVI played their first game against Nuff Respect from St. Thomas and defeated them.

BVI top scorer for that game was DeVante Brewley with 12 points and Gianni Maduro had 10 points. In the second game BVI defeated Positive Guidance of St. Croix. In this game Stephon Caul top scored for the team with 16 points, Gianni Maduro scored 7 points and Hakeem Penn and DeVante Brewley both scored 6 points. These two games advanced team BVI to play North Carolina Elite Bas-

ketball club in the championship round. At half time the game score was 28-28. At the end of regulation BVI defeated NC Elite by a score of 65-60. Stephon Caul scored 30 points and 20 of them came in the second half.

Caul was also named the tournament's MVP (Most Valuable Player). Hakeem Penn scored 14 points in the game and Jachoy Walwyn scored 10 points. Walwyn was the tournament's most assist award recipient.



Above: BVI 16-18 National Basketball Team

Below: Most Assist Winner -
Jachoy Walwyn



Sports & Youth Buzz

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Newsletter

Thomas is First BVI Player on Great Britain Baseball Team



BVI's Nateshon "Shadow" Thomas pitching for Great Britain team.

By Dean Greenaway-Sports Officer II

Nateshon "Shadow" Thomas made history as the first BVI player on a Great Britain Baseball team, when he played in the 2016 European Championships in the Netherlands, not in one but three positions.

Thomas started the first four games between of the Sept 9-18 championships playing at Short Stop, then on Sept 13, he took the mound as the starting pitcher and held Russia scoreless through five innings of Great Britain's 11-5 loss, after they blew a 4-0 lead.

For the last two years, Thomas, 28, has been playing with the Bad Hamburg Hornets in Germany and wasn't even aware that Great Britain had a baseball team until Carl Wordell of the Tuberlin Hawks approached him after hearing he was British.

"I told him 'yeah' and we conversed for a while then he gave the coach for the UK national team information and I then reached out to the coach, just to get in contact and to let him know who I am," Thomas explained. "After that, we pretty much stayed in touch all last year coming into this year. Then he had some guys

come to Germany, look at and evaluated me and after that, he decided I was good enough to be in the team and he put me on the roster, so here I am."

Playing in Europe Thomas said has opened his eyes to different opportunities playing baseball. "I wished I'd known from a younger age—but now, being a part of this team could help open doors for younger kids in the BVI to come in," said Thomas. "Now, they can know about it and better prepare themselves to be a part of it and help the team excel."

Thomas was satisfied with his European Championships debut performance in which he played Short Stop, Third Base and pitched. "From the first couple games coming down to the last three, I felt like I made the adjustments needed," he reflected on his offensive production. "I felt good playing and opened some eyes. I was also introduced to a team in the Netherlands."

Great Britain's Head Coach Liam Carroll, praised Thomas' performances in the European Championships.

"Nateshon continued to impress our staff as the tournament went on, particularly in his pitching performance versus Russia and how offensive he was for us in our last two games," Carroll said in an exclusive correspondence evaluating the 28-year-old player. "On the pitching side, he pitched well enough to win in a game that went south for us after he was removed from the game. Offensively, the dynamic skill-set we talked about earlier in the

week really came to life, and everyone was dazzled with his speed when he hit an inside the park home run in our last game."

Carroll said they are looking forward to reviewing his debut in the coming weeks. "I'm hopeful that Nateshon will want to remain a part of our program," said Carroll after Great Britain's two victories that secured their spot in the European Championships in two years. "The exciting this is that I think with some adjustments we'll see even more from him in the future, and given how coachable he is and that he clicked with our program so quickly, he's going to be one to watch for the next Euros in 2018."

Following a meeting with coaches then saying goodbye to teammates, Thomas returned to Hamburg, Germany.

His bags weren't quite yet unpacked when he received an email that he had been added to Great Britain's roster for the preliminaries of the World Baseball Classic and he'd be flying to New York to play with the team in Brooklyn's Cyclones Stadium.

"It just feels amazing—words can't explain how good I'm feeling," Thomas said. "This is something I worked for ever since I found out that Great Britain even had a baseball team national team and that they were going to play in this type of baseball tournament. So, really, words just can't explain the feeling. I'm totally excited, totally overwhelmed that they would even think of me in a situation like this, so it's a really good feeling, really great."

Upcoming Events

- COLLEGE CLASSIC SERIES
SEPTEMBER 17- NOVEMBER
- DYAS VOICE DEBUT ON
ZBVI - OCTOBER 26
- 1ST SITTING OF 2ND
SESSION VI YOUTH
PARLIAMENT - NOVEMBER
- BDO PRIMARY &
SECONDARY SCHOOL
FOOTBALL LEAGUE -
OCTOBER 12 - FEBRUARY
2017
- CLASH OF IRON PART 2 -
DECEMBER 17

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Seven Players Advance to October 7-9, Digicel NBA Elite Camp



PHOTO: Dean Greenaway

By Dean Greenaway
Sports Officer II

Three of seven players from among 47 who heard their names called as the ones advancing to the Digicel NBA Elite Camp, which will be held in the territory at the Multi-purpose Sports Complex, October 7-9, expressed surprise and excitement, in making the final cut.

The Digicel NBA Jumpstart Clinic, which ran from September 2-4, in conjunction with the Dept. of Youth Affairs and Sports, attracted players

from both Tortola and Virgin Gorda.

After all the drills, tests, pointers and games were completed over the three days, Omar Walker, Nixon Hamilton, Diorys Joseph, Demoi Bradley and Kachife Bradshaw were the top boys making the cut while Shaliqah Fahie and Mahkayla Pickering became the first girls to advance. The program started last year.

“Another successful Digicel NBA Jumpstart clinic because I felt first of all, the kids gave great effort, they were working hard,” noted Troy Justice, the NBA Sr. Director, basketball operations international. “Secondly, I think they learned some new things. I saw them get better

and there were some kids that really applied what we thought and got a lot better from day one to day three. It was really encouraging to see two or three of them, like the light bulb went off—that was encouraging to see as a coach.”

Justice said the players selected are great. “I think these five boys and two girls from the BVI are going to compete very, very, well against the players from other countries,” he said. “The BVI kids, they work hard, they’re hard nosed and they’re tough, they’re competitors and that was good to see.”

Fahie said she was surprised because it’s not something she expected. “I didn’t have confidence in myself so I was surprised but now I’m excited,”

she said. “This means a lot. I’ve got some game and I can do some good things.” It was an element of surprise for Hamilton as well. “I know it was a tough competition and there were people who had more skills than me,” he said. “But, I feel good that I’m selected.”

The coaches also came in for praise from Justice. “They were really good to work with,” he stated. “They were engaged, they were teaching, they thought some great things, so, there’s a great group of coaches here that can mentor these kids throughout the year. Hopefully, it will encourage them to do more and more here to grow the game of basketball in the BVI and we’re looking to be back on October 7-9.”

A Summer of Music

Children from all around the territory came together at the Music Centre in Huntums Ghut to learn Violin, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Cello and Drums, during the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports Summer Program, which ran from July 4-29.

Music director Carol Valero, worked with them daily from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., in music theory, performance, singing and music history. During the mornings the children received lessons on drums with Brent Hoyte, the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports Ambassador. They worked on the bass guitar with Thea Cooke and on keyboard with Nathaniel Isaac Jr.

The Department of Youth Affairs Music programs is an after school program that runs all year long and the children perform a spring concert and Christmas concert as an orchestra yearly.



PHOTOS: Dean Greenaway

A Summer of Science

The Junior Scientists Programme (JSP) is an initiative of the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports (DYAS). It was launched by DYAS in 2005, and facilitated by Jepheth Gordon, science teacher by profession. The general aim of the programme is to help the youth of the Territory to explore a world of possibilities utilizing science based activities.

The Specific objectives of the Junior Scientists Programme (2016) include and again not limited to involving secondary school students in model making activities so as to tap into their creative side and provide an outlet for self-expression.

As a science teacher, at the secondary level, Mr. Gordon was able to observe that many students were not able to produce even fair quality work by way of models for their science projects. He was of the opinion that students of junior secondary level should be able to

produce scaled static models and those of the upper secondary should be able to produce working scaled models. In an attempt to achieve the same, the activities were chosen to give the opportunity to work on both types of models.

During the month of July, students were guided into some basic techniques to working with scales to create realistic looking models. During the start of the programme, the participants were given free range to work with styrofoam material to create a model of their choice. The program continued with guided work to produce models that were more realistic.

Mr Gordon stated that perhaps the most major challenge was the situation where the students were in most cases unable/refused to work without continuous direct supervision/help.

The students were organised into working groups and the final products include: a working wind turbine electricity generator; a semi-working modified geothermal energy generation plant; a static aeroplane model; two scale model houses and an entire project where all components above come together fairly seamlessly to form a small community complete with lighting, outdoor furnishing and public infrastructure (electricity and roads) set in a backdrop of rolling hills.



PHOTOS: Dean Greenaway

