

SPORT MAGAZINE



EXCLUSIVE

JEHUE GORDON FLASH GORDON DOES IT AGAIN


SPORT
The Sport Company of
Trinidad and Tobago

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Editor's Letter

Welcome back to SPORTT Magazine. In what is just our second issue, we continue our drive to provide insight into the operations of the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago as well the National Sporting Organizations, community organizations, and elite athletes with which we partner to develop sport in T&T.

This time around, we chat with Brian Manning, president of the National Basketball Federation of Trinidad and Tobago, gaining some insight into his enduring dedication to basketball. We then hit the track with Jehue Gordon, an up and coming superstar who is well on his way to becoming one of the world's best athletes. We also examine how sport can team up with social marketing to elicit social change, taking the work of national coach Jainaal Shabazz as a prime example. Finally, we take a look at the Sport Company's campaign to continue developing sport in the nation through its work in facility upgrades and its support of budding athletes and crucial community organizations and programs.

The Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago is passionate about sport's capacity for contributing to the nation's development. This magazine, as always, is dedicated to the administrators, coaches, sponsors, and athletes who make sport development a life long pursuit. We welcome your feedback and look forward to working with you towards our goal of positioning T&T as the global centre of sport excellence.

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MORE THAN JUST A GAME

As president of the National Basketball Federation of Trinidad and Tobago (NBFTT), Brian Manning has made an enduring commitment to basketball. As the youngest ever president of the NBFTT, he takes his responsibility to the sport quite seriously. Describing the first year of his presidency as “absolutely fantastic,” he declares that he is passionate about creating more opportunities for local players and that he and the directors have been working overtime to “establish basketball as one of the premier sports in Trinidad and Tobago”. Of course, his dedication to the development of the sport stems from his enduring love for it. He started playing at age twelve and, after twenty years, it is still his main form of recreation. He currently plays forward for the Petro Jazz. It is this connection that fuels his drive. “Basketball has done so much for me,” he says, I feel an obligation to give back to the sport”.

Manning and the NBFTT are giving back by pioneering changes that seem sure to raise the profile of basketball in Trinidad and Tobago. This initiative begins with an expansion of the technical aspects of the game, which will help “create a critical mass of top players, coaches, and officials at every level and position basketball as a popular recreational sport”. The coming year will also see the implementation of a youth program that the NBFTT has spent the past year organizing. This program, which is currently the organization’s main focus, is aimed at teaching the fundamentals of basketball at the youth level and helping them to develop a passion for the sport. The NBFTT is also striving to increase participation in women’s basketball. Efforts along these lines include increased prize money at the national championships as well as the



youth program, which will help to get girls involved at an early age, hopefully fostering a life-long connection to basketball.

The Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT) has long partnered with the NBFTT in support of its initiatives. Manning describes the relationship between the two organizations as an “extremely good one”. Due to the fact that both SPORTT and the NBFTT share a belief in the importance of the nation’s involvement in athletic activity, there has always been “a lot of back and forth conversations about sport.” Though the organizations may not always agree on implementation, the shared goal of increasing participation in sport ensures that they listen to one another and eventually arrive at a consensus. Most recently, the two organizations have partnered on a SPORTT initiative, the T&T Youth Sport Camps. Manning describes the program as “fantastic initiative” which the NBFTT sees “getting bigger and bigger”.

As for the current caliber of basketball in Trinidad and Tobago, Manning sees “lots of talent and ability”. He is enthusiastic about the inclusion of our national team in the 2010 Centrobasket Men’s Championships; as well he should be, given that T&T’s men’s national team last qualified for this tournament nearly twenty years ago. The women’s national team has also qualified, giving us all even more reason to cheer. Manning sees our chances as “extremely good,” predicting that the “men’s and women’s teams will both make it to the next round.” He has no doubts in the potential of our national players. Noting that the national team includes both local and international players, he maintains that it is the responsibility of the NBFTT “to create professional opportunities for our national players who already have the talent to make it.” SPORTT intends to continue its collaboration with the NBFTT to ensure that our gifted national players, both present and future, have the opportunities they deserve.

“As for the current caliber of basketball in Trinidad and Tobago, Manning sees lots of talent and ability.”

FLASH GORDON DOES IT AGAIN



When Ato Boldon, a four-time Olympic medal winner and respected NBC commentator, struggles to keep calm at an athletics competition, there can be no doubt that something special is going on. When the competition happens to be the 2009 World Championships in Berlin, it might even be something historic.

On that fateful day, Jehue Gordon ran a time of 48.26 in the men's 400m hurdles final, finishing fourth in a field of older and more experienced competitors. An impressive achievement for such a young athlete; not to mention a valid reason for a seasoned athlete to become excited about the youth's potential. Even more impressive is the fact that this run made Jehue the youngest ever competitor, the second fastest junior in history, and broke the pre-

vious national record of 48.66. Virtually unknown before this performance, Jehue subsequently shot to prominence as one of the most promising young athletes in the nation. Boldon declared his accomplishment to be "the best performance by a T&T athlete, and the best performance ever by a T&T junior athlete". Considering that Jehue had managed, at just 17, to not only qualify for the World Championships but then proceed beat his previous personal best and to set both national and competition records simultaneously, it is an understandable assertion. As is Boldon's pronouncement that "If Jehue never does another thing in his life, he is assured that what he did here is one of the best performances by a T&T athlete in history". Of course, at 17, Jehue was nowhere near ready to retire and



this extraordinary feat was far from his final athletic exploit.

Jehue had begun proving his potential prior to that historic competition. He set a national record in the men's under-20 110m hurdles at the 2009 Carifta trials and then broke the

Carifta record for the men's under-20 400m with a time of 50.01. He was also the only T&T athlete to earn two medals at the 2009 Pan American Junior Athletics Championships, placing second in both the 400m hurdles and the 4x400m relay. As a result of these accomplishments, the National Amateur Athletic Association named him the 2009 "Junior Male Athlete of the Year" and the First Citizen Sports Foundation named him the 2009 "Youth of the Year". Though he feels immensely grateful and privileged to be recognized by both prestigious organisations, he feels especially flattered that the First Citizen Sports Foundation, which recognizes athletes from all sports, chose to honour him.

Jehue continued his remarkable career into the New Year. At the 2010 Southern Games, he beat out much larger contenders to capture two gold medals, one in the 800m and another in the 400m. Most recently, he kept his word to his fans in T&T when he defended his titles in the boys under-20 110m and 400m hurdles and brought home two more gold medals from the 2010 Carifta Games. He broke his own records once again, finishing the races at 13.41 and 49.76 respectively. This stellar performance earned him the Austin Sealy Award for being the most outstanding athlete at the 39th Carifta Games.

Given such remarkable performances at such a young age, it is hard believe that Jehue was focused on a different race just two years ago. He began running in primary school, competing in the 400m and 800m. "I was really in love with the 800m", he says, to the extent that he was national school champion at the under-13 level. It was coach Albert King who introduced him to the hurdles in 2008 at the age of 16. It was his rigor-

ous schedule and intense training that prepared him for Berlin, and he credits his coaches and parents with providing the support he needed to excel. This support, coupled with his own powerful drive to succeed, seems destined to take him to the top. In imagining his future in athletics, he sees himself earning at least two Olympic gold medals, becoming the world champion, and being the world record holder. His hope for the sporting arena is to see all disciplines being developed so that the Caribbean can be one of the biggest competitors on the world stage. Lofty goals, but well within reach for an athlete as dedicated as Jehue is.

Perhaps most impressive of all is how humble he has remained through all of his successes. When asked about his feelings at being compared to legendary athletes such as Hasely Crawford, Darrel Brown, Dwight Yorke, Brian Lara, and Ato Boldon, by Boldon himself, Jehue is modest. "I was a bit shocked," he says, "but I don't take it on too much. I'm trying to stay as humble as possible and keep doing what I do." His humility does not prevent him from acting as a role model for those who look up to him, however. He braved the ordeal of public speaking in order to appear at The Guardian's



Thinking Sport Symposium to lecture on the importance of pursuing one's goals. His advice for those seeking to follow in his footsteps is for them to remember, "Nothing comes easy; you have to work hard for what you want and believe in yourself. Once you continue working hard and striving," he counsels, "you can achieve."

Coming from someone who has achieved so much in so little time, that's solid advice. □

ADDRESSING SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH SPORT AND SOCIAL MARKETING

While gang warfare continues to claim the lives of our youth in vulnerable communities, hope has not yet been lost. Through football and some dabbling in social marketing, Jamaal Shabazz, a man whose name is synonymous with Trinidad and Caribbean football, has been fighting tirelessly to bring social change in the Morvant/Laventille area. For a long time, borderline wars and gang killings have accounted for the majority of murders in the area and, though many of the area's youth seem to be caught up in a web of misguided and destructive activity, Shabazz believes that its communities can still be saved.

Though his contribution has gone far beyond teaching technique on the football field, his figure as a community leader has been underscored by the fact that he was a



former National Coach of both the Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago National football teams. Today, he is the Head Coach of the Trinidad and Tobago National Under-20 Women's Team and the Head Coach and Technical Director of Caledonia AIA. Shabazz understands the value of sport in individual and community development. He also recognizes its use as a positive tool to fight crime and combat anti-social and destructive behaviour. Since the 1970s, he has publicly been trying to bring about social change in Trinidad, largely through football.

Shabazz also understands Morvant/Laventille; an area unable to shed its reputation for having some of the highest crime rates in the country with drugs, gangs and related murders being the main problem faced by the community. His social initiative was to establish a youth football academy to bring warring communities together in an effort to curb the borderline violence. If only for a few months, it began to stifle and prevent violent activity. One of his strategies was to use his working knowledge

of the Morvant/Laventille region to convince parents to let their children participate in the programme. With borderline barriers eventually broken, young boys aged 9-16 kicked ball with persons from different communities two and three days a week at the St George's/New Barataria, Malick and Morvant Recreation Grounds.



To market the programme, Shabazz secured the Caledonia AIA football club, a club whose members hail from the area itself, as an incentive for youth to come out and participate. Through Digicel, John Barnes, Jamaican-born former English football manager and former player made a guest appearance to facilitate a one day workshop. Shabazz also secured the likes of Russell Latapy and Dennis Theobald who further provided the programme with that celebrity endorsement and subsequent magnetic pull. Apart from stirring interest, these Soca Warriors, and former Caledonia AIA players, as well as Sean Francis—'a community leader' engaged in basic level social intervention through informal talks on drugs, violence, social inclusion and empowerment. Funding by Neal and Massy Automotive Limited and the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT) provided some of the much needed financial assistance for the programme, propelling it forward. The positive results of the programme were unfortunately cut short following the death of Sean Francis and the death of two other persons in the community, as parents became hesitant about sending their children out. Since then, and with an extremely busy schedule, the programme has been at a standstill. However, Shabazz is currently working with SPORTT to revive the programme in the area and possibly similar communities.

When asked by SPORTT Magazine how much he knew about social marketing, Shabazz ironically responded by saying "nothing really". Nevertheless his objective with this social initiative matched the fundamental objective of social marketing—securing behavioural change for the benefit of the individual and the community at large.

Whilst Morvant/ Laventille has had its share of social intervention from an array of organizations from the micro to macro level, this programme in particular struck a chord with residents, particularly the younger ones who are hungry to rid themselves of the negative stereotypes associated with the area. Understanding the needs of the area and knowing that the 'one-size-fits-all' approach to behaviour change' is one that is sure to have limited results, Shabazz was able to develop an effective programme.

Jamal Shabazz's social intervention initiative seeks to support and sustain community crime prevention and encourage personal and community development. Programs like this are therefore ideal avenues for government and non-governmental investment and support. The field of social marketing contains innovative tactics which can of-



fer considerable assistance to sport-oriented social programmes and produce effective results. Despite the setbacks, with hope still alive among many of its citizens, it is possible that a culture of peace, communication and empowerment can prevail in crime ridden communities.

SPORTT CONTRIBUTES TO STERN JOHN FOOTBALL SKILLS AWARD PROGRAM

The Stern John Football Skills Award Program aims to provide football training at the fundamental and intermediate level to over 140 primary schools in the eight educational districts throughout Trinidad and Tobago. This program reaches approximately 2,500 primary school students between the ages of 8 and 12, developing social skills while teaching football techniques. The participants encounter positive mentors and experiences through their participation in sport.

SPORTT has committed itself to this worthy cause, becoming the main sponsor of this three-month program. The company's contribution of \$214,000 will aid the program's goal of changing lives through involvement in sport by taking care of the operational costs.

Two former participants, Jenelle Warick and Brandon Creed, were present during the ceremonial handover of the cheque, which was presented by Fitzroy Daniel, Sport Service Officer, to Mary Sui Butt, chief coordinator of the program. Jenelle, who currently plays on the



national Under-15 team and has recently been called to train with the Under-17 team, and Brandon, who plays for the Under-14s of Tobago United Professional football club, both credit this program with making them better footballers and citizens. Coming from two positive young people who are clearly on the path to success, that is high praise indeed.



SKHY HEADS OFF TO DALLAS

SKHY Football Club's Under-14 team will soon be heading to Dallas, Texas, USA to compete in the Dallas Cup Tournament for the third time. The Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT) has provided funding to the club in order to help with the expenses of their participation in the USA's oldest international youth football tournament. On Wednesday, 24th March 2010, manager Garth Ward received a check in the amount of \$50,000.00 from Margaret Birch-Sampson, SPORTT's Chief Operations Officer. Mr. Ward credited these trips to the Dallas Cup Tournament with motivating the boys to focus and achieve their goals. "Every time we've come



back," he declared, "some of the boys have changed their outlook on their game and on their lives". Here's

hoping this venture will prove equally inspiring.

SPORTT SALUTES...

SPORTT welcomes the Honourable Anil Roberts, Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs. Minister Roberts, who is also the MP for D'Abadie/O'Meara, was elected to the House of Representatives on Monday, 24th May 2010 and appointed to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs on Friday, 28th May 2010. Minister Roberts is also well-known as a former national swim coach who helped guide national swimmer George Bovell III to a bronze medal in 2004 Olympics. Most recently, Minister Roberts has been the producer and presenter of SPALK, a vibrant and edgy sport talk show on Gayelle the Channel, and a radio personality on Power 102.1 FM. Minister Roberts



is renowned for his lifelong passion for sport and sport development, and the Sport Company is gratified to have such an individual at the

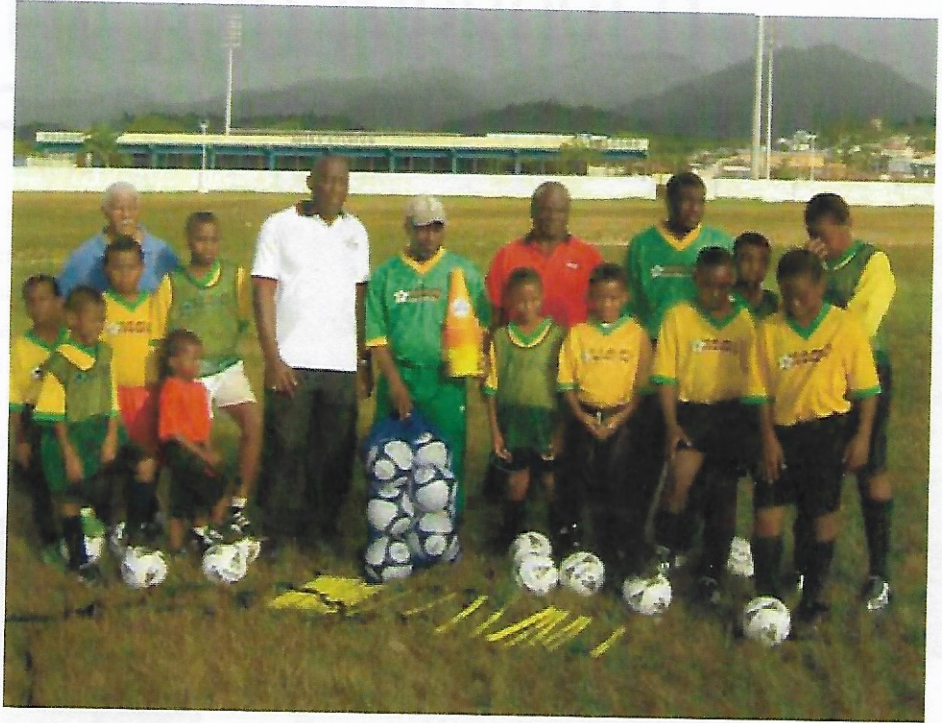
helm of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs. With such a leader, we look forward to the bright future of sport in Trinidad and Tobago.



MEMPHIS FC GETS AN ASSIST FROM SPORTT

In the shadow of the Arima Velodrome, one of the oldest football clubs in the area teaches young men and women the fundamentals of one of our national sports. The Memphis Football Club aims to encourage and develop youngsters with an interest in football. To that end, it runs a development programme in which training sessions are held every Saturday in an effort to engage the area's youth while teaching them important techniques and skills. Coaches Errol Power, Ricky Power, Fenrick "Slappy" Charles, and Earl Joseph work diligently to create future national players and their success is evident by their track record. This club, which has been in existence for fourteen years, has produced several national players, including Gorian Highley, Dorian Daniel, Devon Daniel, Kitwana Abosi, Halo Abosi, and Carlyle Mitchell. The legacy is a familial one as well; Seon Power, son of Coach Errol Power, has played on the Under-13, Under-17, Under-19, and Senior national teams.

In support of this admirable undertaking, the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago has provided the Memphis Football Club with new equipment. On Saturday 30th



January 2010, they were the proud recipients of new cones, balls, bibs, and a speed ladder, which were handed over by Mr. Charles Branche, Sports Service Manager, and Mr. Fitzroy Daniel, Sport Specialist. Excited by the sight of their new gear, the children were eager to begin the necessary drills and practice that will help them to perfect their techniques and excel at the sport of football. With the guidance and training provided by the knowledgeable

coaches of the Memphis Football Club, it would seem that they have an excellent chance of doing so.

This year-round programme is free to the public and open to children ages 5 to 15 years of age. Those interested in enrolling their children in this programme may contact Coach Errol Power at 304-6074 or 667-1065 for more information.

W N I S

WHAT'S NEW IN SPORT

THE NEW AND IMPROVED SHAW PARK SPORTING COMPLEX

On Sunday 28th February 2010, the Tobago House of Assembly and the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT) officially commissioned the newly refurbished and expanded tennis facilities at the Shaw Park Sporting Complex in Tobago. The ceremony, held in order to introduce the public to the enhanced facility, featured addresses by representatives of the facility's various stakeholders.



Sheldon Weekes, the Lead Engineer on this project took the stage to explain the substantial undertaking, which involved upgrading the existing four courts to an ITF Court Pace Rating of Category 4 (medium-fast), constructing four new Category 4 courts, and erecting a new pavilion, which includes four sets of player changing rooms, one technical room, one medical room, and a pro shop. The new courts, which conform to ITF standards, are outfitted with tennis-specific sport lighting at an average level of 900 lux, the required lighting standard for televised games. In addition, as per ITF standards, all outdoor courts run along a north-south axis in order to avoid glare. The new surfaces, which were applied to both the existing and new courts, consist of 5mm rubber underlay with an acrylic surface, all of which were supplied by Rebound Surfaces. SPORTT also provided a wide range of equipment, from umpire chairs and player benches down



to wet rollers and garbage bins.

These significant improvements have brought Shaw Park's tennis facilities up to an international standard, creating not only the largest tennis facility in the nation, but also the only tennis facility in Trinidad and Tobago that is suitable for hosting international competition. The unveiling of the new facilities included engaging performances and exhibition matches on the new surfaces, thrilling the crowd while accentuating the impressive new facilities.



SPORTT'S EVENTS

SPORTT AND NSOs TEAM UP FOR SUCCESS

The Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT) is continuing its drive to support the nation's sporting organizations. On Tuesday, 9th March, the MSYA held a press conference in which several National Sporting Organizations (NSOs) were presented with ministry funding. These NSOs included the Amateur Boxing Association of T&T (ABATT), T&T Netball Association (TTNA); National Basketball Federation of T&T (NBFTT), T&T Professional Football League (TTPFL); T&T Golf Association (TTGA); Amateur Swimming Association of T&T (ASATT); T&T Volleyball Federation (TTVF); T&T Tennis Association (TTAA); T&T Hockey Board (TTHB), T&T Cycling Federation (TTCF), T&T Cricket Board (TTCB), and the National Association of Athletics and Administrations (NAAA). Funding was also provided to All Sport Promotion and four football clubs belonging to the TTPFL. The funds provided totaled over six million dollars and are meant to aid the organizations in their mission to promote and develop sport in Trinidad and Tobago.

Speakers at the event expressed appreciation for the work that these organizations have done and the progress that our athletes have made as a result of their efforts. Praising the organizations for their various achieve-



ments, they conveyed anticipation for a promising 2010. Mr. Gregory Collymore, president of ASATT, in turn praised SPORTT and the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs for its approach to sport development. Proclaiming this ministry to be the most proactive ministry in sport, he praised its efforts, which have helped to raise sport to the level that it should be in Trinidad and Tobago.

With SPORTT and the National Sporting Organizations working together towards their common goal of sport development, it is clear that Trinidad and Tobago will continue to be a force to be reckoned with in the sporting arena in the future.

REWARDS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

In conjunction with the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs and the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board, SPORTT hosted an award presentation ceremony for the participants of the 2010 West Indies Under-15 Tournament. The participating teams, namely Barbados, Jamaica, Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, and champions Trinidad and Tobago, gathered at the Hasely Crawford Gold 76 VIP Room at the Hasely Crawford Stadium to commemorate a job well done. The boys were praised by the speakers, who were impressed by their performances and expressed confidence in the future of West Indies cricket.

Awards were then presented; the Trinidad and Tobago team was honoured for their win, while Guyana picked up the "Most Disciplined Team" award. Guyana also boasted the best wicketkeeper, Prince Roberts. T&T took home "Most Wickets" and "Most Runs", with Vikash Mohan and Brian Christmas garnering those awards respectively. The



"Most Valuable Player" on each team was also recognized.

Following the presentation, the teams and their coaches were treated to delicious meals and delectable desserts as they celebrated their most recent achievements in what all speakers agreed was a well-organised tournament.

TEAM SPORTT RALLIES AT THE TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Friday 12th March 2010 marked the finals of the hotly contested SPORTT Table Tennis Tournament. At 4:30pm, various SPORTT employees found their way to the Secretariat room, eager to witness the athletic prowess of their colleagues.

The final four participants vying for the top prize were Hector Morgan, our new Cost and Budget Coordinator, Barry Jonas, Project Engineer, Wesley Bridgemohansingh, Project Administrator, and Sheldon Weekes, Senior Project Engineer. Hector and Barry were scheduled to face off in game one, while Wesley and Sheldon would do compete in game two. Unfortunately due to his absence, Barry forfeited the competition, and Darryl Stewart, Procurement Specialist, took his place.

The competitors battled intensely, cheered on by members of the Corporate Communications Department, whose hand-made signs offered comic-relief while underscoring the audience's feelings. When the dust cleared and the points were tallied Mr. Hector Morgan stood victorious, taking home the first place trophy and bragging rights. Sheldon Weekes came second while Darryl



Stewart, the wild card, came third. Despite his valiant efforts Wesley Bridgemohansingh came in fourth, receiving a participation medal and some good-natured teasing for his efforts.

So ended this thrilling competition which tested the skills of the Sport Company's table tennis athletes and offered grand entertainment for their colleagues. We're already looking forward to next year.

THINKING SPORT AT THE GUARDIAN'S SYMPOSIUM

The 11th edition of the Trinidad Guardian's annual Thinking Sport series kicked off on Monday, March 29, 2010 at the Cascadia Hotel. Titled "Our Heroes, Their Stories", this four-day symposium was aimed at continuing the Guardian's efforts to inspire social development through engaging the nation's youth in sport. It also provided an opportunity for secondary school athletes from across the nation to receive important guidance and inspiration from some of their favorite sporting heroes and other icons. Daren Ganga, Giselle La Ronde West, Don La Foucade, Brian Lewis, Anil Roberts, Jehue Gordon, Ria Ramnarine, Austin Jack Warner, and Chocolate and Kurt Allen all came out to share their experiences and themselves with the attendees. Their lectures covered such topics as leadership, positivity, and resilience. The participants were even treated to a perfor-

mance by Red Bull Freestyle Streetstyle Champion, Keron Forde, who amazed the audience with his skill and agility.

Naturally, interest in this programme was quite high this year and, unfortunately, hundreds had to be turned away due to lack of accommodation. Mr. Valentino Singh, programme coordinator, vowed to create the opportunity for even more youth to benefit from this inspirational experience in the coming years. As it was, the children had a wonderful time. Bonding with each other and with Mr. Singh, whom they referred to as their surrogate father, they learned valuable life lessons that will surely prove influential in their lives.

SPORTT supports Mr. Singh's admirable initiative and we congratulate him on his continuing efforts to uplift the youth of society through sport.



ARIEL WALLACE: COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE IN HOCKEY

The Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT) would like to congratulate Ariel Wallace, a young man who is already on the road to achieving great things in the sport world. Beginning at age seven, Ariel was introduced to hockey by his older sister, who let him tag along to the Paradise Hockey Club's practice sessions. Before long, he was playing and assisting with the Technical Table. He also discovered an interest in football and became deeply involved in both sports.

By the age of 14 Ariel had passed the Trinidad and Tobago Football Referee's Association's recruitment exam and become Tobago's youngest football referee. Two years later, in 2008, the Trinidad and Tobago Hockey Board (TTHB), nominated him to officiate as a Judge at the Junior Men's Pan American Hockey Championship. Not only was this his first international hockey tournament but, at 16, he had become the youngest judge at an international hockey tournament. That year, the Tobago House of Assembly presented him with The Chief Secretary's Special Award at their Assembly Day Celebrations. In 2009, he was one of only three Trinbagonians to be awarded the FIH Youth Leadership Certificate for the development of hockey. Ariel officiated at his first international tournament outside of Trinidad and Tobago this year, when he acted as Judge at the 2010 Pan American Youth Championship which took place from February 6th -13th in Hermosillo, Mexico. SPORTT was there to see him off when he embarked on this milestone.

A truly remarkable young man, Ariel has also officiated

in local competitions, such as the National Big Four, the Easter Youth Tournament, the Secondary Schools Hockey League, Pine Hill's School Christmas Tournament, and season games in both Trinidad and Tobago. He is even a member of the National Youth Hockey Committee of the TTHB.



Driven by his love for the sport, Ariel credits his relationship with God, his parents, and his friends with providing the necessary support for him to make this dedicated commitment to the development of hockey. He also balances these impressive achievements with academics, pursuing his Advanced Level Secondary School Certificate in Psychology, Sociology, and Management of Business.

SPORTT is proud to have such an incredible young man to represent our nation on an international level. We wish him all the best and will continue to support him in his efforts to develop the sport that he loves.

Biographical information compiled and provided by Paula Drakes, Assistant Treasurer for the TTHB.

look who stopped by:



Valentino Singh, Sports Editor and Chairman of the Trinidad Guardian, stopped by to receive funding for the Guardian's Thinking Sport series titled "Our Heroes, Their Stories". This four-day symposium, running from March 29th - April 1st, admirably seeks to inspire social development by engaging the nation's youth in sport. SPORTT supports this commendable endeavor and looks forward to working with Mr. Singh and the Guardian in the future.

SPORTT SUPPORTS ANOTHER FUTURE SUPERSTAR

Just recently, a young man received some crucial help on his way to fulfilling his dream. On Friday, 5th March 2010, The Sport Company (SPORTT) provided Nathaniel Rogers, a seventeen-year-old student of Belmont Secondary School, with equipment to aid him in his quest to join the North Zone Under-17 cricket team. Nathaniel beamed as David Soverall, a SPORTT Procurement Specialist, presented him with brand-new equipment, including a bat, helmet, cleats, gloves, pads, and a gym bag. Happily accepting his new gear, he thanked Mr. Soverall and SPORTT for supporting him on his endeavour.

When asked, Nathaniel named Sachin Tendulkar as his favourite player, simply because he plays "like a machine." Of course, not to be forgotten are Brian Lara, Gautam Gambir, and Ricky Pontin, who round out his list of favourites. He also particularly admires young cricketing sensation Adrian Barath, whose lightning-fast rise through the ranks of local cricket provides both a blueprint and an inspiration for youths like Nathaniel. He praises Barath for being courageous, saying that he's "a young opener who's not afraid of



anything". Like Barath, Nathaniel plans to balance cricket and academics while striving to make it onto the national team, and maybe even onto the West Indies team someday.

SPORTT recognizes that potential, and sees a bright future ahead for him. Taking the time to try a few practice swings with his new bat, he displayed the technique that is sure to lead him to success. We'll definitely be keeping an eye on him.

SPORTT HELPS A LOCAL BIKER GET "DIALED IN"

The Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT) is providing support to an up-and-coming mountain biker. On Wednesday 21 April, Brent Edmund, the first T&T cyclist to be accepted as an amateur athlete into the MafiaRacing.com team, received a cheque in the amount of \$6,795.00 from SPORTT. Presented by Justin Latapy, Sport Service Officer, these funds will enable him to prepare himself for his upcoming adventures in the world of mountain biking, a sport that is still relatively unknown locally. As a competitor in this rugged and adventurous sport for almost 15 years, Brent hopes to change that. His aim is to work hard and represent Trinidad and Tobago on the international scene by qualifying for competitions such as the Pan Am and Commonwealth Games and the 2012 Olympics. He is grateful for SPORTT's assistance, expressing surprise at the

Company's willingness to help. He describes his current relationship with SPORTT as "nothing but good", and declares that SPORTT "is about more than the medals", referring

to the encouragement and moral support that he has gotten from personnel such as Sport Service Manager Charles Branche. As always, SPORTT is happy to provide assistance to dedicated rising stars like Brent and we look forward to following his future triumphs.



ON THE SPORT TEAM

EVERY MEMBER OF TEAM SPORTT HAS AN IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY. IN EACH ISSUE, WE WILL GIVE YOU A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR TEAM AND THE INDIVIDUALS THAT PLAY AN INTEGRAL PART IN HELPING US REACH OUR GOALS.

THIS TIME WE INTRODUCE A MEMBER OF OUR SPORT PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT (SPDU).



Player: Devonne Quow

Team SPORTT Position:

Trainee Sport Service Officer

Sport(s): Athletics, Basketball, Netball, Cricket

Currently training as a Sport Service Officer, Devonne gets day-to-day hands-on experience in liaising with the National Sports Organisations (NSOs) with which SPORTT partners in order to develop sport on a national level. She is personally responsible for assisting the Trinidad and Tobago Sailing Association (TTSA) with their development. She also helps the TTSA to secure funding for their various programs and activities.

Aside from the work she does for SPORTT, Devonne is an accomplished athlete who has competed in many sporting disciplines over the years. She played cricket for Morvant Lavantille Secondary School, helping her team to win the North Zone Championships. She played forward for Malick Senior Comprehensive's basketball team and they competed in the Secondary School League and won in the Girl's National School Basketball League. Her involvement in netball began in Morvant Anglican Primary School and continued up through Morvant Lavantille

Secondary School, where the netball team was reigning National School Champions from 2004-2009.

Devonne's sport of choice, however, is athletics. Encouraged by an impressed teacher, she joined her first club at age 7. With the Morvant Jets she started out doing all track and field events, although she had settled into the 200m and 400m by age 11. She went on to join the under-11 national team and graduated primary school as the most outstanding female athlete. From there she moved on to the Memphis Pioneers club and within four months of joining she had made the women's "A" relay team. With that club, she participated in such competitions as the Hampton International Games, the Southern Games, the Falcon Games, and many more. Eventually forced to leave the Memphis Pioneers by an unfortunate injury, she moved on to the Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality Institute (TTHI), where she earned an associate degree in Sport Tourism Management. It was during her final year at TTHI that she secured an internship with SPORTT, an opportunity which turned into the position she occupies today.

Devonne is currently training with the UWI track team and plans to resume running in the upcoming season while she continues working on sport development with Team SPORTT. Considering the level of her commitment to sport, it's fair to say that she is in the right place.



CARIFTA TEAMS

The Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago would like to congratulate all of the youths who competed in the Carifta Games on a job well done. Breaking records and winning medals, they've inspired their fellow Trinbagonians and filled us with a sense of pride.

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