



Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation **NEWSLETTER**

THE COMPETITIVE EDGE ~ FEBRUARY 2023

Bermuda Equestrian Federation



Cody Rego and Ironman

CODY REGO “JUMPS” TO TOP SPOTS IN THE WEF EQUITATION STANDINGS AS WELL AS IN THE 2023 WIHS RANKING LISTS IN EQUITATION EAST DIVISION.

Competing in Winter Equestrian Festival in Florida, Bermuda’s Cody Rego has not only jumped to the top of the leaderboard in the WEF EQUITATION STANDINGS but, as of 15th February, has also moved to the top spot in the 2023 WIHS RANKING LIST – for the Equitation East Division (out

of 90 competitors). To date, Cody has accumulated a total of 1814 points with his closest rival holding at 1421.

The WIHS FINALS will be held at the Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) from 23rd – 29th October 2023. Qualification for the prestigious WIHS

FINALS is based upon two leagues: the East Coast League and the West Coast League. The top 30 rider from the East Coast League and the top 10 riders from the West Coast League are invited to compete in the WIHS Equitation FINALS.



Fourteen Bermuda Candidates Successfully Qualify as National and CEA Regional Show Jumping Judges and Stewards



Participants who attended the CEA Training

Elected as the President of the Caribbean Equestrian Association in 2022, Bermuda's own Heidi Shelley Mello has already successfully achieved her major goal to improve the education of National and Regional Equestrian CEA Officials.

Bermuda Equestrian President, McKeisha Smith, welcomed and commended the Caribbean Equestrian Association, and President Heidi Shelley Mello, for providing this educational initiative to membered countries. "For the continued development of equestrian disciplines in Bermuda, Smith reiterated that it was imperative that our officials continue to develop and receive training towards recognized national and regional certification as well as to improve and maintain Bermuda's equestrian standards as governed by the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI)."

The CEA Official Educational Tour was officially launched in November 2022 and

seeks to expand the education of regional equestrian officers. The comprehensive and well-developed program comprises theoretical and practical elements as well as a written exam. Successful participants become CEA Certified Candidate Stewards and/or Candidate Judges in the related equestrian discipline. The certifications are recognized on National and CEA Regional levels.

Since November, the CEA Educational Tour for Certified Candidate Judge & Stewards, in the discipline of show jumping, has been successfully conducted in Jamaica, Barbados, Bahamas and Bermuda. Most recently, in January 2023, Bermuda had 14 participants attend the rigorous four-day CEA Certified Steward (Show Jumping) and CEA Certified Candidate Judge (Show Jumping) Educational Series. FEI Level 3 Steward, Heidi Shelley Mello is delighted to share that all of Bermuda's 14 participants



Heidi Shelley Mello - CEA President

successfully completed and passed the exam. In less than one year the program has produced 45 newly qualified CEA officials in the discipline of show jumping.

Accompanying CEA President Heidi Shelley Mello in creating and presenting the comprehensive CDEA Educational Series was esteemed Jumper Judge Colleen Hoffman of Canada. Ms. Hoffman is also an FEI Judge and Official as well as President of the Ground Jury at Spruce Meadows, the largest jumping venue in North America. Most recently it was announced that Judge Hoffman has been appointed President of the Ground Jury for the upcoming 2023 CAC Games and a Member of the Jury for the 2023 Pan Am Games.

Bermuda Cricket Board

The Senior Men's National Team hosted a kid's 'meet and greet' Criiio Cricket Sessions on Saturday February 4th, 2023.

The Senior Men's National Team players who were selected for the ICC Americas T20 World Cup 2024 – First Round Qualifiers, participated in a media day, facilitated by DION Creative Agency.

The photo below shows the team donning their new Kappa -national team Playing Kit.

On February 15th, 2023, The Senior Men's National Team, traveled to Tampa, Florida (USA) and competed in the 2023 President Cup MCL T20 Tournament. The team departed for Buenos Aires, Argentina on February 19th. (ICC Americas T20 World Cup 2024 – First Round Qualifiers)

2023 ATHENE
Driven to do more!

Pee Wee 'Have-A-Go' Cricket

Bermuda College Gym

FREE!

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Saturday
MARCH
4th
11th
18th
& 25th
Ages 5 - 7
Girls - 1:00 pm
Boys - 2:15 pm

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criiio
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BELOW: Bermuda Men's cricket team
INSET: Men's National cricket team



Bermuda National Athletics Association

The next 2 months are set to be some of the most exciting for track and field athletes!

2023 Speed Capital Invitational (Davie, Florida)

During this quarter, the Bermuda National Athletic Association will be heading to Davie Florida for the 2023 Speed Capital Invitational. Some of Bermuda's top youth athletes (13 total) will be participating in the meet on February 25th.

With over 60 teams, the highly competitive event will provide great exposure and international competition experience for athletes and an additional opportunity to qualify for the Carifta Games.



RIGHT:
Miles Outerbridge

Please join us in congratulating the below athletes and wishing them all the best in the upcoming meet:

Saniya Place (400m, 200m, and 100m)

Lashee Jones (400m, 200m, and 100m)

Pria Wilson (400m, 200m, and 100m)

Fenella Wightman (3000m, 1500m and 800m)

Jaeda Grant (3000m, 1500m and 800m)

Azari Jones (3000m, 1500m and 800m)

l'Aura Golding (100m, 100m and 200m)

Maya Bean (400m, 200m and 100m)

Miles Outerbridge (400m, 200m and 100m)

Jauza James (110m, Javelin, Long Jump and 1500m)

Amaris Munya (400m, 800m, 1500m)



ABOVE: J'Naz Richards and Pria Wilson
(two front runners left to right)

2023 Carifta (Nassau, Bahamas)

The well-known and anticipated Carifta Games will be held in the Bahamas this year. With 27 participating countries and over 150 separate competitions. The 3-day event is notably one of the most important events for athletes in preparation for the outdoor season. Carifta has been heralded by World Athletics as one of the Premier Junior meets in the world.

The list of athletes that have participated in the Carifta Games throughout history is more than impressive. Many of the biggest names within athletics today were at one point Carifta competitors. There's no doubt that the same experience will be had for Bermuda's athletes.

Over the upcoming weeks, the BNAA will be assisting local athletes in their preparation and final selection shall be made by March 6th.

To date our Carifta qualifiers include:

Jaeda Grant:

800m and 1500m events (Female U17)

Ellise Dickinson:

400m (Female U17)

Cameron Adkins:

1500m and 300m (Male U17)

Jake Brislane:

5000m (Male U20)

We're sure to see several more qualifiers in the upcoming weeks as athletes take part in both local and overseas meets which will continue to produce personal best and Carifta qualifying performances.

Athlete Spotlight

The Bermuda National Athletics Association would like to make special mention of the following athlete's and their outstanding performances:

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT ON

Dage T. Minors

Bermuda National Athletics Association salutes Dage T. Minors. He is the first Bermudian to run a sub-4 minute mile. On Friday, January 29th, at the Boston University Terrier Classic, Minors broke his national mile record of 4:02.10 to set a new national record of 3:59.35. Dage is the embodiment of discipline, perseverance, and determination. We ask that you join us in saluting Dage Minor's achievements. We all are looking forward to his continued success over this season.



Photo credit - Bernews

And Jah-Nhai Perinchief

Jah-Nahi's reputation as an elite triple jumper continues to grow, strengthened by his stunning performance at the Tyson Invitational athletics meet in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Perinchief jumped to an indoor season's best of 16.74 meters.



Gymnastics Federation of Bermuda

Gymnastics Coach Becky Wentling Returns to Bermuda

With 35 years Gymnastics coaching experience, Becky Wentling has returned to the Bermuda Gymnastics Association club after a number of years away.

Most recently Becky was coaching in Florida — but when the opportunity to return to BGA came up, she couldn't say no.

"I love Bermuda. The friendliness of the people. The island is beautiful. And I love the traditional culture."

Becky has a wide range of expertise including head coaching roles, helping to build the YMCA competitive program in Pennsylvania, working with autistic children, coaching both male and female gymnasts.

She is excited to help rebuild the Bermuda competitive and recreational programs following the pandemic. In fact, BGA has already twice taken athletes to Florida in 2023 for competition, with excellent results. It was their first meet overseas in over 2 years.

Becky has high hopes for Bermuda's top male gymnast, Ben Mello, who could compete at the highest competitive age group level by 2024.



Becky Wentling BGA Gymnastics coach

Bermuda Sanshou Association

Bermuda Sanshou Association President Earns Black Belt in Kickboxing

Garon Wilkinson, the Bermuda Sanshou Association president, has become the island's first World Kickboxing and Karate Association [WKA] graded black belt.

Wilkinson earned the distinction at the WKA World Championships in Prestatyn, Wales, held last November where he coached Bermudian Kickboxers Kallan Todd, Che Durham and Krista Dyer to medals.

The WKA is one of the oldest and largest amateur and professional sanctioning bodies for kickboxing and karate.

Wilkinson also has black belts in Northern Shaolin Kungfu and Gyaku Shin Kai Karate and is an advanced student in Capoeira, a Brazilian art form.

He won a gold medal and two silver medals at the Pan American Kungfu Championships in San Jose, California, in 2019.

"I've never been tested in pure kickboxing before," Wilkinson commented.

"I was pleased with the way I fared. There were about three hours of pad work and some conditioning work. I've sparred with our athletes and trained consistently, so I'm in good shape."

Wilkinson, who lived and trained in Japan for six years, said his lifelong passion for martial arts remains as strong as ever.

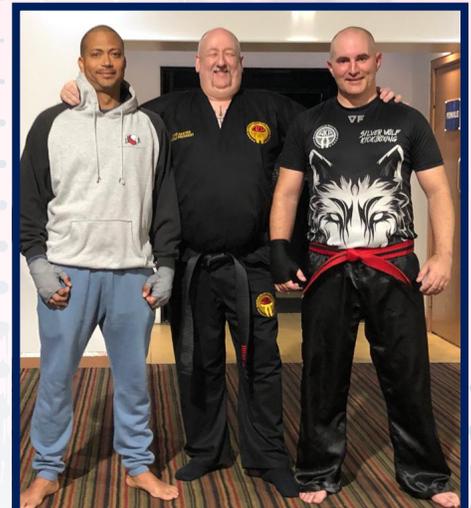
"I'm still a student in the sport and pride myself on learning, he added.

"Whenever I travel, I pack my training gear and visit different schools and dojos. It's a global community and very welcoming.

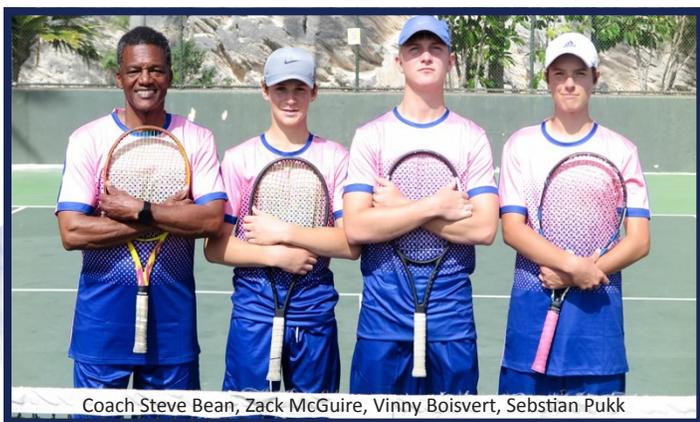
"It's always good to solidify your learnings and teachings under a set curriculum. My knowledge of the sport has grown as an athlete and coach."

TOP: Garon Wilkinson WKA President
Dave Sawyer 1st Dan Recipient Adrian Pickup

BOTTOM: Fabian Burnett (examiner)
Adrian Pickup Dave Sawyer
Garon Wilkinson Lasslo Huve (examiner)



Bermuda Lawn Tennis Association



The Bermuda Lawn Tennis Association (BLTA) is proud to announce the three-member team that will represent Bermuda in the Junior Davis Cup pre-qualifying tournament for the Caribbean and Central American region. The Junior Davis Cup is an international team competition for boys in the 16 and under category. It is an important steppingstone for young tennis players, as it gives them the opportunity to compete on an international stage and gain valuable experience. The tournament is set to take place in Guatemala from February 27 to March 4, and we are confident that our team will make Bermuda proud.

The team is led by Coach Steve Bean, a former Davis Cup player, who has been training the team rigorously for the tournament. The team consists of Vinny Boisvert as captain, Zach McGuire, former Bermuda No. 1 under-14 player, and Sebastian Pukk, who

will be representing Bermuda for the first time. The team is well-prepared, and Mr. Bean knows that the competition will be fierce but believes the boys are strong enough to compete against the best players and has built a strong sense of camaraderie to thrive together.

The BLTA is committed to supporting the development of young tennis players, and this tournament is an excellent opportunity for Bermuda's young talent to showcase their skills on a global stage. "We are steadfast on the association's goal of continuing to develop talented youngsters and sending them to tournaments abroad," said Ricky Mallory, Director of Development. Mr. Mallory expressed optimism for the boys' performances in the tournament and aimed to establish a foundation for future success, with aspirations of forming a team to participate in and excel in future Junior Davis Cup tournaments.

"We are thrilled to announce the selection of our Junior Davis Cup team, our first since 2017," said Michael Wolfe, President of the BLTA. "These talented young players have been working incredibly hard, and we have no doubt that they will represent Bermuda with great distinction in Guatemala."

The BLTA would like to thank the players, coaches, and parents for their dedication and support. We wish the teams the best of luck in the upcoming tournament, and we are confident that they will do Bermuda proud.

The BLTA is seeking sponsorship to support the team in this tournament and future events. We invite interested parties to contact us for sponsorship opportunities at info@btla.bm.

National Archery Association of Bermuda

Bermuda was ready to take on Vegas during the 2023 Las Vegas Shoot which brought together nearly 4000 archers around the world. This is the largest indoor competition in the world and our archers exceed expectations for their first time shooting in this event.

Robin Selley – Youth female recurve division finished 5th out of 63 with a score of 563/600.

Jaydon Roberts – Young adult male recurve division finished 6th out of 52 archers with a score of 572/600.

N'Dera Smith – Young adult female recurve division finished 65th out of 83 archers with a score of 457/600.

Camerin Pickering – Adult male recurve division finished 14th in the Flights Top category out of 32 archers.

Bernard Wade II – Adult male recurve division finished 14th in the Flights Third category out of 32 archers.

Alleyne Weeks – Adult male recurve division finished 1st in the Flights Eleventh category out of 31 archers.



Our calendar of events this year involve two local competitions in April and September of 2023 along with international competitions which include Hyundai World Cup, Central American & Caribbean Games, Youth Championships, NatWest Island Games and the team are working towards a second opportunity to qualify for the 2023 Pan American Games.



2023 UPCOMING EVENTS



Bermuda Cricket Board

During the month of March, The Bermuda Cricket Board will be hosting the 2023 Athene Pee Wee 'Have-A-Go' Cricket Program at the Bermuda College. This event will be hosted on **March 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th**, Ages 5-7. The girls will have a go @1:00pm and the boys will have a go @2:15pm.

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Bermuda College Gym

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