



BFA National Academy 2009 Closes Another Successful Programme

July 29th 2009

The popular and prestigious Bahamas Football Association National Academy concluded a successful three week programme this past Friday, July 24, 2009 at the BFA National Centre for Football Development in New Providence. 121 selected young Bahamian soccer players participated in the Academy which included 7 different age groups and representatives of three different islands.

Again with a major focus on the development of the individual player, the National Academy convened specially selected players for participation at U-9, U-11, U-13 and U-16 for boys and U-11, U-13 and U-16 for girls. The camp lasted for three weeks with sessions conducted Monday to Friday commencing at 9:15 am and concluding at 3:00 pm daily. The National Academy convened a cadre of coaches trained to improve the players' skill and decision making. Intensive sessions on technique and personality were conducted to bring out the very best in each participant. Sessions on the team building and Laws of the Game were also done on a regular basis to help the players overall development, with this year also seeing attention being given to the mental aptitude of the players.

The Academy ended, as it always does, with comments from the Academy Director and Coaches, as well as from BFA personnel. Academy Director Daria Adderley thanked all of the participants for their efforts and encouraged them to continue to work hard as they return to their respective clubs and school programmes. She then invited the group coaches to present the certificates to all of the participants. Each coach also presented special awards to "Best Performer" and "Most Improved" in each of the age divisions, with the following persons receiving the awards:

U-9

Best Performer: Phieron Wilson (Dynamos FC, Garvin Tynes Primary)
Most Improved: Travis Hunt (Bears FC, Queens College)

U-11 Boys

Best Performer: Marcellus Wilkinson (United FC, St. Cecilia School)
Most Improved: Troy Hunt (Bears FC, Queens College)

U-11 Girls

Best Performer: Taj Dorsett (Cavalier FC, St. Francis and Joseph)
Most Improved: Sierra Donaldson (Cavalier FC, Queens College).

U-13 Boys

Best Performer: Ian Winder (Cavalier FC, Queens College)
Most Improved: D'andre Lightbourne

U-13 Girls

Best Performer: Lindsay Seymour (United FC, St. Anne's School)
Most Improved: Faythe Miller (Cavalier FC, Queens College)

U-16 Boys

Best Performer: Duane Beneby (Bears FC, Prince William High School)
Most Improved: Raymourn Sturup (Baha Juniors FC, St. Andrews School)

U-16 Girls

Best Performer: Shelby Carbin (Cavalier FC, Queens College)
Most Improved: Giovanna Ferguson (Bears FC, Temple Christian)

BFA General Secretary Lionel Haven congratulated all of the participants on their selection and participation and also extended congratulations to the coaches for their hard work. He admonished the children to continue to work hard, and further to take the lessons learned with them back to their respective club and school teams. Haven further advised the group that the BFA were concluding arrangements to bring in a Development Officer whose task will be to focus on youth development. His task will be to review the current youth development programmes including the Regional and National Academies, and make adjustments to these to improve them. As a result, he advised all of the participants to expect changes in the programme that will make it harder, but will result in them becoming better players as a result, and thus, to continue to work hard so that they will be the beneficiaries of these changes.