



## **Bahamas U-15 Girls National Team Complete Tour of Orlando, Florida**

The Bahamas Girls U-15 National Team completed a whirlwind tour of Orlando Florida recently, playing 4 games in 7 days. The team returned to the Bahamas with a 1-1-2 (win-loss-draw) record in the 4 matches, and an experience that should help them as they continue to develop for next year's qualification tournament.

The girls were scheduled to participate in the Caribbean Football Union Girls Invitational Tournament scheduled for Trinidad and Tobago at the end of July, but owing to a lack of confirmed participants the tournament was cancelled. BFA officials flew into action to find a replacement for the team that had been training for 6 months in preparation, and was able to organize the event with the Cocoa Expo Sports Complex. The team travelled to Orlando on July 20 for a series of games organized by Cocoa Expo Director Athletics Matt Yorish. The team played four matches over four consecutive days, and saw their performance improve with each succeeding match. They opened with a match against club side Florida Rush U-15 Girls team, and needing some time to adjust to the different rules that states apply instead of FIFA rules, the girls lost the opener 1-0. They regrouped the next day to face club side Rockledge Girls U-19 team, and despite the disparity in age, earned a 2-2 draw. The Bahamian girls went ahead twice in the match, with both goals scored by Dena Ingraham. They were not able to hold on to the lead each time, and Rockledge fought back to earn the draw. The third game was against Merritt Island High School team, and again, the Bahamian girls showed their mettle to earn a 1-1 tie. Young Keisha McCartney scored the lone Bahamian goal on the day. The final match, their fourth in four days saw the Bahamian girls earn the victory that they so deserved on the tour, defeating Rockledge Girls U-15 team 1-0. Kennadi Carbin scored the lone Bahamian goal on the day, as the girls proved that the hard work put into their preparation paid off. Despite facing a new opponent every day, the girls were still able to compete at a high level.

The team returned home on Tuesday, July 27, 2010 to a well deserved break in their training, before they will be called back in September to commence the preparation for next year competition. The event proved to be a useful exercise and the relationship reinstated with the Cocoa Expo Sports Complex is one that BFA officials will seek to utilize more in the future with the preparation of national teams.

