



NATBANK/SPRITE SKABA League 2005 Newsletter INSIDE BASKETBALL

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SKABA LEAGUE 2005

NATBANK/SPRITE SKABA LEAGUE OPENS

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The SKABA NATBANK/ Sprite Basketball League began this past Sunday in front of a massive crowd.

The League started with an Opening Ceremony which saw a march past that boosted many of the teams that are going to take part in this years tournament.

Remarks were given by SKABA president Wendell Pemberton as well as the President of the N.O.C , Alphonso Bridgewater. The league was officially opened by Minister of Sports the Hon. Richard Skerrit. Skerrit along with NOC President Bridgewater, St.Kitts Bottling Company representative Anthony Sutton and National Queen Johan Kelly presented awards to outstanding teams and players for the 2004

season.

The first game featured some of the best female basketballers on the island and it proved to be very enjoyable for the huge crowd. Game 2 saw the underdog East team defeating the West 48-45 in the Junior All-star match. Lead by Leon Henry the East team edged out the West who were touted as the favorites to win the All Star clash.

The final game saw the SKABA All-Stars versus the Virgin Gorda Mystics Team from the BVI. Lead by Levi Fyfeild with 19 points and Carlos Monzac with 18 points, the Kittitians overpowered the BVI team demolishing them 101 to 65. Gary Hillhouse lead the Mystics with 16 points. This was the second game for the

Mystics in their weekend tour of St.Kitts. On Saturday night they played "A" Division Champions Ghetto Roots and came out on top 87-82 in overtime . Mystics was again led by Gary Hillhouse while Ghetto Roots was led by Boli Francis.

Photo:

Hon. Ricky Skerrit presents trophy to Marvin Davis of League champs Hitters



SKABA ALL STARS

Local artistes light up Basketball City

The 2005 NATBANK/SPRITE SKABA league got off to an arousing start on Sunday. With an emphasis on entertainment the new SKABA management organized a memorable opening day.

The WAHS Cheerleaders were no doubt a huge highlight of the evening. Dressed in their multi-colored tops with white skirts and pom-poms they performed a dance routine that will be talked about for years to come. The energy which they put into their performance, had

the crowd on their feet from start to finish.

Not to be outdone were the second performers of the evening, the Soundcore Entertainment Group featuring the Soundcore Dancers, Bamboo B, Marquis and Ashkenaz de fyah man. They simply lit up basketball city with their set that included an energetic dance number in addition to a great performance by Bamboo B and an even more spectacular appearance by Ashkenaz who along with Bamboo had the crowd on their feet.

"I thought I was at the Music Festival for a second," said one spectator at Basketball City.

According to officials of the Basketball Association there will be entertainment every Sunday during the season.



Tuff Knots not so tough

The Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas sponsored St.Pauls Tuff knots were knocked off their pedestal by what many have described as an inspirational performance by Rams Harmonites Hitters. The Tuff Knots entered the Junior Division playoffs undefeated steamrolling there way through the regular season beating teams by as much as 30 points. There performance during the regular season was one like the SKABA junior league has not seen in some years. Lead by Nasharn Maynard the St.Pauls Tuff Knots seemed unbeatable however their invincibility was only for a time. Multi-Time Champions and perennial junior league championship contenders Rams Hitters showed how experience both on and off the court can make a HUGE difference in a game. Especially a game that really counts.

Hitters entered this season as one of the favorites to win the Junior Division Title but losses to Trotters and St.Pauls placed some skepticism as to their championship hopes. The two losses seemed to have inspired the Dorset based team as they came into the playoffs as the 4th seed and having to play the undefeated #1 seed St.Pauls Tuff Knots.

The atmosphere at Basketball City was tense with many of the old guard of Hitters showing up to support their junior counterparts. The game got off to a relatively slow start and the first half ended with the Rams sponsored former junior champs ahead 29 - 27. The second half saw a truly brilliant performance by the Hitters as they raced to a 10 point lead finally defeating the once indomitable St.Pauls Tuff Knots 67-57. Leading the way for Hitters were Kevin Davis with 25 points and 7 rebounds with teammate Junior Swanston giving good support with 14 points and 3 rebounds. Junior league leading scorer and rebounder Nasharn Maynard had his usual monster type game with an amazing 32 points and 17 rebounds while Jouvert Leader was the only other St.Pauls player in double figures with 13 points and 6 rebounds.

Photo: Coach Hanley talks to his plyers before game



Fig Tree and St.Pauls "A" off to impressive start

The first day of SKABA League games saw St.Pauls taking on Trotters in an "A" Division encounter. The Tuff Knots has seemingly taken their

dominating ways from the Junior Division to the "A" as they totally demolished Trotters "A" 73-45. Kaiyon Benjamin lead St.Pauls with 16 points while teammate Nasharn Maynard had 14 points and 16 rebounds. Junior division second leading scorer Gerard Vanterpool lead the Trotters A division team with 13 points and 5 assists.

The team to watch in the premier division Fig Tree got off to a good start as they played

Molineaux Uprisers. Eston Williams lead all scorers with 22 points for Fig Tree as the rural west team lead their counterparts from the rural east Molyneaux from start to finish of the lop-sided encounter. Leading Molineaux was Camron Matthew with 16 points and 5 rebounds. Final score saw Fig Tree Dirt Reveler defeating Molineaux Uprisers 85-46.

"Give it your best shot"

Junior Division Leading Scorers

SKABA Junior Division leading scorers

1. Nasharn Maynard(St.Pauls).....30.5 ppg
2. Gerard Vanterpool(Trotters).....27.0 ppg
3. Leon Henry(Cayon).....24.0 ppg
4. Karris Douglas(St.Pauls).....23.0 ppg
5. Hamil Bassue (Trotters).....21.0 ppg



Photo: Trotters guard and Junior Division 2nd leading scorer Gerard Vanterpool accepts award



Photo: Hamil Bassue passes to teammate

Ram's makes it nine

The RAM's Group has again sponsored the 16 times basketball champions, Hitters, for the Ninth year consecutively.

In a simple but significant ceremony viewed by Shawn Weston of the Ram's Group of Companies, Jermaine Gumbs, treasurer of the defending champions, accepted a sponsorship check from Kiran Chandiramani of RAM's at the companies head office situated at the RAM's complex, Bird Rock. Gumbs uttered his gratitude to RAM's on behalf of the team and club. The treasurer went on to state that the sponsorship will go a long way in ensuring the team's 17th Premier Division championship and the junior team's first in 4 years.

Ms. Chandiramani expressed her pleasure to the Hitters club for allowing and affording her company the opportunity to demonstrate it's civic duty in continuing it's sponsorship for the 9th straight year.

James Hanley, President of the Hitters organization remarked that the team has reflected in their performances the high standard that their esteemed sponsors the Ram's Group has maintained within the business community and the community on a whole.

The basketball subdivision of the Harmonites community group was formed in 1980 and they have participated in every national junior and senior tournament since that time



Jermaine Gumbs receives cheque from Ms.Chandiramani of the Ram's group while viewed by James Hanley

Newcomers fall to perennial contenders in Junior Knockout tourney

Sunday 6th March saw the start of the 2005 St.Kitts Amateur Basketball Association (SKABA) Junior tournament with a very exciting and entertaining, 20 minutes a game, Junior Division Knockout championship. A huge crowd turned out to Basketball City to see eight teams namely defending junior champs S.L. Horsford's Ghetto Roots, Ram's Energiser Hitters, Trotters, Exodus, Western Union Cayon, Bird Rock, Blue Devils and newcomers the Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas sponsored St.Pauls Tuff Knots vie for the SKABA Junior Knockout Championship.

The First round of the tournament saw Hitters defeating Blue Devils 26-20, Bird Rock going down to Trotters 35-21 and Cayon got the upper hand on Exodus defeating them 23-16. The semi-finals featured Hitters, Trotters, St.Pauls and Cayon with Hitters defeating Trotters 31-26 in an all Basseterre showdown and St.Pauls proved to much for Cayon to handle, easily defeating the Western Union sponsored team 24-10 in a Rural area clash.

This paved the way for a highly anticipated final between newcomers St.Pauls and multi times champs, Hitters. Pundits had predicted the finals match up as St.Pauls looked very good in the preparations leading up to the Junior tournament and Hitters are always among the top 2 teams in the Junior Division. Led by Kevin Davis Hitters managed to stave off a stiff challenge from the St.Pauls team. Despite the outstanding play of tournament points leader Nasharn Maynard and Karis Douglas, the St.Pauls team fell short 23-19. Kevin Davis lead the Hitters team with 8 points and 4 rebounds while Nasharn Maynard had 8 points and 3 rebounds for St.Pauls. Karis Douglas and William Benjamin also had excellent games for St.Pauls and Hitters respectively.

Kevin Davis was adjudged Knockout Tournament MVP averaging 9.5 points per game while Nasharn Maynard and Karis Douglas had very impressive performances during the one day tournament.

Scores

Round 1

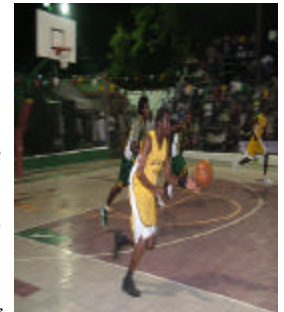
Hitters 26- Blue Devils 20
 *Trotters 35- Bird Rock 21
 *St.Pauls 31 -Ghetto Roots 24
 *Cayon 23- Exodus 16

Semi-Finals

Hitters 31 -Trotters 26 *
 St.Pauls 24-Cayon 10

Finals

Hitters 23- St.Pauls
 19



Junior stand-out Leon Henry dribbles upcourt while Delvin Marshall and

HORSFORD'S RE-AFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT

S.L. Horsford & Co. Ltd continues to show it's commitment to social and youth development through sports. During an informal handing over ceremony the Horsford's Group of Companies presented a check to the Ghetto Roots Basketball Club, an organization Horsford's has sponsored over the past 5 years.

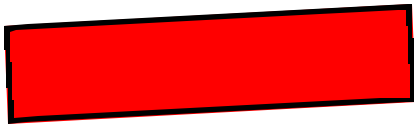
The Horsford's Group was represented by Assistant Marketing Manager Mr. Wallis Wilkin while Mr. Glenroy Blanchette, Club Manager represented the Ghetto Roots.

The Ghetto Roots and Horsford's have enjoyed a cordial and mutually beneficial relationship over the past years. During this period Ghetto Roots has won the Junior Division championship on 3 occasions while their senior team clenched last season's "A" division title.

The Ghetto Roots Club this year features four teams which will participate in Premier and Junior Division as well as Female and "A" division games



Wallis Wilkin (right) of the Horsfords group presents check to Mr. Glenroy Blanchette of



Opening Night Snapshots



Safety and Security Top Priority

The election of a brand new SKABA executive saw not only a change in management but also a shift in focus of the organization. Traditionally the focus of the Association has been the development of teams and players. However the new executive is of the view that the development of the teams and their players will not reach it's full potential unless an effort is made to enhance and ensure the comfort and safety of the fans who play a critical role in the overall development of the sport. This is why the new management of SKABA has placed such an emphasis on fan security, safety and comfort.

This new focus is quite evident at the SKABA games, which are currently in progress. The Police presence at games has been prominent and this has acted as a deterrent to the bad elements that tend to contaminate the Basketball City.

"The Police and Defense force presence at Basketball City will be significant for this years 2005 basketball league, said a SKABA official. "We intend to make the Basketball City a fan and family friendly, drug and weapon free zone," the Police force must be commended for the job done so far during the Junior Division match-ups and we have been assured that for the Senior Male and Female league the security measures now being implemented will be further enhanced and enforced with the presence and support of members from the Defense force," the SKABA official continued.

Fans have expressed their pleasure with the presence of and security measures taken by the Police force in collaboration with the St.Kitts Amateur Basketball Association.

Junior Division Regular Season Standings

| Team | Games Played | Won | Lost | Forfeit | Total Points | 2005 Regular Season Ranking |
|---------------------|--------------|-----|------|---------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>St.Pauls</i> | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 1 |
| <i>Trotters</i> | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 19 | 2 |
| <i>Exodus</i> | 7 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 3 |
| <i>Hitters</i> | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 4 |
| <i>Blue Devils</i> | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 13 | 5 |
| <i>Bird Rock</i> | 6 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 6 |
| <i>Ghetto Roots</i> | 6 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 7 |
| <i>Cayon</i> | 5 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 8 |