

The Premier Issue

# TOP CORNER

Jamaica's Official Water Polo Magazine

APR - SEP 2013 • No. 1



\***PICKNEY POLO  
MAKES A  
SPLASH**

\***THIRD PLACE  
FINISH FOR  
THE BOYS  
IN COSTA RICA**

**2013 CARIFTA GAMES  
NEW 15 & UNDER  
CHAMPIONS**

# CONTENTS



## FEATURES

- 07** Pickney Polo Time
- 14** 2013 CARIFTA Games:  
New 15 & Under  
Champions
- 18** Third Place Finish for  
the Boys in Costa Rica
- 19** To All Polo Parents



## EXTRA TIME

- 03** Game Plan
- 04** From the Press Box
- 06** Just to Recap
- 10** Time-Out
- 20** Snap Shots
- 26** Play by Play
- 27** Last Shot

# Building from the Ground Up



Lance Rochester  
VP - Water Polo  
ASAJ

t's finally done! The first issue of our magazine. If you are wondering why we decided to produce a magazine, here's why. Communication is extremely important. It's essential that all our stakeholders: parents, friends, schools, media and sponsors hear all about the sport's various activities and are informed about all our upcoming events. There has been plenty going on over the last two years, most of which didn't get sufficient exposure. This quarterly magazine is here to change all of that. We want you to know what we did and how well we did it! We also want you to know all the things we plan to do so that we can have the support which we know you are eager to give. We also want to hear your thoughts. We want to know where you think we need to improve and welcome your assistance in growing and strengthening our program.

The last two years have been about structural reform. The Technical Committee realized very early that things needed to change in a significant way if we were to break the cyclical pattern of development which has afflicted the sport over the last 50 years. We needed to create a structure which was built on a solid foundation. Our focus has been on coaches' and officials' development, player recruitment, high school water polo, developing an introductory program for kids, increasing our stock of equipment, among many other critical areas. We have a long way to go but if a CARIFTA Gold Medal and CCCAN Bronze Medal is anything to go by, we must be doing something right! As we press forward with urgency, we remain committed to the holistic development of all the players who come in contact with the program. Increasing the sport's exposure is high on our agenda for the upcoming quarter. We want Jamaica to know how amazing the sport is and how much it stands to offer the country and the lives of the young men and women with whom the sport makes contact. We hope you agree and we look forward to your continued support.



APR - SEP 2013 • No. 1

**EDITOR**  
Jheanell Johnson

**ASST. EDITOR**  
Lora D'Oyen

**WRITERS**  
Lance Rochester  
Jheanell Johnson

**GRAPHIC ARTS DESIGNER**  
Jheanell Johnson

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Lance Rochester  
Jheanell Johnson

Top Corner is Jamaica's premier magazine for all things water polo. **Copyright © 2013 Top Corner Water Polo Magazine.** All rights reserved.

The magazine contains original content and images from our writers, photographers and contributors. It also contains articles and images which were obtained from publicly available sources. These works are all subject to the copyright protection of the respective writers and photographers and should therefore not be dealt with in any manner that will breach their copyright protection.

### Jamaica Places 11th in the 11th Annual South Florida International Tournament

The 11th Annual South Florida International Tournament took place from February 15 - 16, 2013 at the Coral Springs Aquatic Complex in Coral Springs, FL. It was a three-day competition that saw 8 countries, 23 clubs, 56 teams play 140 games. The club teams hailed from Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Hungary, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago and the USA.



Sixteen teams, including Jamaica participated in the 16 & Under Boys category. Teams were randomly placed into four groups. Jamaica found themselves in Group D alongside Encantada verde (Puerto Rico), Quebec (Canada) and YPRO (New York, USA).

At the end of the round-robin, the Jamaicans were at the bottom of their group. They met the Mantas (Bahamas) in the finals for 11th place. The boys beat the Mantas 14 - 7 to finish 11th out of 16 teams. ■

-Contributed



### JAMAICA TAKES GOLD

Jamaica's U-15 boys captured gold in the 2013 CARIFFA Water Polo Championship by ending the four year reign of Trinidad & Tobago. Although Trinidad & Tobago entered the finals undefeated, it was the final goal by David Bryan in the last period of overtime that clinched victory from the now former champs. ■



### The Caribbean All-Stars

Six local senior male players (Alrick Brown, John-Claude Wright, Justin Taylor, Lance Rochester, Marlon McIntyre and Omar Alexander Bullock) joined five other players from across the Caribbean to form the Caribbean All-Stars team. The team went on to compete with seven other teams in the Bright House Networks Water Polo Tournament in St. Petersburg, FL on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

Teams were split into two groups with the top two teams from each group advancing to the finals. The Caribbean All-Stars beat both the Dynamo Orlando and South Florida teams to clinch their place in the final round of competition.

The Caribbean All-Stars lost to the other two top teams (Miami Beach International and YCF Orlando) to end their campaign in 4<sup>th</sup> place. ■



-Contributed

## Minister Neita-Headley Congratulates Water Polo Team

The Minister without Portfolio with responsibility for Sport, Hon. Natalie Neita-Headley has congratulated the national Under 17 Water Polo Team on its performance in the recently concluded Central American and Caribbean Amateur Swimming Confederation (CCCAN) Games, held in Costa Rica.

The Jamaican Water Polo Team captured the bronze medal after beating Panama 19-1.

"This is a brilliant performance," Minister Neita-Headley said, adding that it "demonstrates the capacity of our sportsmen and sportswomen and our potential to become a formidable force in water polo."

The entire nation is delighted at your victory and I express the delight and appreciation of the nation at your performances and achievements, Minister Neita-Headley said.

Minister Neita-Headley hailed the 13 man water polo team for demonstrating "admirable discipline, talent and focus" during the Games and for creating "another proud moment in our nation's sporting history."

The CCCAN Games were held July 1 to 5.

-Communications Unit - OPM



## Girls Represent Jamaica in Scot's Water Polo Tournament

Between July 26 and 28, Jamaica was represented at the Scot's Water Polo Invitational Water Polo Tournament in Boca Raton, Florida. The team consisted of Kristen Jones, Briana Thompson, Analiese Minott, Rachel Minto-Walker, Alysa Bridgewater, Danielle Rookwood, Kaela Williams, Sabrina Dacosta and Ashley Butler.

-Lance Rochester



### Water Polo Development

---

A few more schools were able to restart their water polo programs, namely Ardenne High School, Hillel Academy, Immaculate Conception High School and St. Andrews High School for Girls.

Plans for the 13 & under development water polo squad are off to a good start. We were able to have two 13 & under teams participate in the Club League.

Pickney Polo is also off to a great start with the official launch seeing a grand total of 18 participants. The numbers have slowly increased in the weeks following.

### Local & Overseas Competitions

---

The year started off with our bi-annual Past & Present Water Polo Competition.

The High School Beach Polo competition on April 20<sup>th</sup> saw some tough competition between the defending champs Wolmer's Boys School and Campion College in both the 15 & under and 19 & under categories.

Campion managed to snatch victory away from the Wolmers in the under 15 category but couldn't take victory away from the defending 19 & under Champs.

The 19 & under Wolmer's Girls were almost edged out by the Immaculate Conception High Girls who had just made a return to the high school competition.

The 16 & under boys team placed 11<sup>th</sup> out of 16 teams in the Annual South Florida International Tournament in February. They beat the Bahamian Mantas 14 - 7 in the clash for 11th place.

Our under 15 boys broke the five year reign of Trinidad and Tobago in the 2013 CARIFTA Water Polo Championship held in April. It was a close, nail-biting final that had to go into extra time. The game ended 12 - 11.

The Caribbean All-Stars, which had six of our senior players and five other Caribbean players, placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Bright House Networks Water Polo Tournament in May.

In July the 17 & under boys had to settle with bronze at this years CCCAN games in San Jose, Costa Rica. Trinidad & Tobago walked away with the gold while Puerto Rico took home silver.

Also in July, the 19 & under girls were able to garner some experience and forge new friendships at the Scot's Water Polo Invitational held in Boca Raton, Florida.

### Events & Socials

---

With the victory of our CARIFTA boys team came the Victory Pool Party held on April 13<sup>th</sup>. It was good night with great food and good vibes.

Our quarterly fitness test assesses the fitness level of each player in two areas: endurance and speed. The endurance test involves distance running while the speed test involves timed distance sprints for freestyle and breast stroke.

There was good overall improvement in the fitness of all the players.

### Moving Forward

---

Coming up in January is the bi-annual High Schools' Past & Present Competition and the High School Beach Polo Tournament.

Look out for our very first Pickney Polo Tournament in February. Also in February, the boys and girls will be participating in the South Florida International Competition.

# KIDDIE TIME IN THE POOL



Pickney Polo launch proved to be a huge success with both the kids and their parents. Kids were anxious to attend to the next training session.

*By Lance Rochester*



Coach Justin Taylor explains the shooting exercise to the older group of kids.

**O**n April 20, the ASAJ launched its 10 & under Introductory Water Polo programme. Fifteen eager youngsters turned up that day, anxious to show us what they've got. After a couple of swimsets and ball exercises, we split the group in two to form a junior group and an advanced group. From there, the kids had fun doing the passing and shooting exercises. The kids even rushed to take turns as the goalkeeper.

It was a spectacular sight to see the kids learning and enjoying themselves. By the end of the session no one wanted to get out of the pool; they all wanted to stay and play some more. We ended the session the same way we started it; with our High-Five Line, which the kids all love.





The infamous **high-five line** which starts and ends every Pickney Polo session.

The Introductory Water Polo programme, affectionately titled 'Pickney Polo' aimed to expose kids to the sport in a fun, safe and structured environment. Importantly, Pickney Polo will serve as a feeder program for Jamaica's 13 & under Development Squad which prepares players for National representation.



Pickney Polo sessions are held on Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

To join Pickney Polo, athletes need to be able to swim 25m unaided and tread water for one minute.

Help us to build Pickney Polo by bringing your friends and family. Pickney Polo is guaranteed fun! ■



All smiles from the coaches on the first day of Pickney Polo. This enthused group of individuals made sure the kids had fun.

WEDDING BELLS FOR  
COACH WENDY!



Congratulations to Coach Wendy and her beau Jonathan who tied the knot on September 14. She's now Coach Wendy Watt! We wish both of them all the very best for the future!

## BLAST from the PAST

>>>

The legacy that is Jamaica Water Polo. Some of us have been around since the days of Coach Laszlo Borbely a.k.a. 'Coach Lotty'. Do these faces look familiar to you? |



BLAST from the PAST



## RESURGENCE



A few schools rose from the ashes and made a tremendous comeback this past year. Some have been off the water polo scene since 2008. We officially welcome back St. Andrew Girls, Immaculate and Ardenne High School to our bi-annual high school water polo competition.



St. Andrew Girls



Immaculate



Ardenne

013  
Jamaica

# 15 & UNDER CAR

G  
CGM Gallagher  
GROUP  
Brokers to the Caribbean

DJAM LI

MAICA'S ENER

Capri-Sun  
Naturally fun!



# CARIFTA CHAMPIONS



# NEW CHAMPS, NEW REIGN

T & T Undefeated No More

Jamaica won gold in the under 15 boys water polo contest in the Carifta Swimming and Water Polo championships at the National Aquatic Centre in Kingston. Jamaica defeated Trinidad 12 to 11 in a hard fought match which saw both teams exchange the lead in the early stages. Trinidad led 4 -2 at one stage before Jamaica caught up and passed them. Once Jamaica took the lead they never allowed Trinidad to go out in front.

At the end of fulltime the scores were level at 10, 10 and so the match went to extra time. Jamaica took the lead in extra time, but Trinidad wouldn't go down without a fight and quickly responded leveling the scores again at 11 all.

It was at 11:05pm that Jamaica finally defeated Trinidad and Tobago 12 to 11 in the second period of extra time. ■

-RJR News



Coaches Marlon McIntyre and Justin Taylor say a few encouraging words in the team huddle.



Coach Marlon McIntyre gives the team two thumbs up for a successful attack that put them ahead of Trinidad and Tobago.

## Team Jamaica

Russell Gordon  
Joel Parnell  
Giovanni Bell  
David Bryan  
Dominic Gordon  
Tahj Thompson  
Akil McDonald  
Justin Miller  
Cajae Chung  
Javaughn Henry  
Xavier Phillips

**Head Coach**  
Marlon McIntyre

**Assistant Coach**  
Justin Taylor



Goal keeper, Russell Gordon attempts to shut out the Trinidad and Tobago shooter.



## 3RD PLACE IN COSTA RICA



**B**etween July 1 and 7, 2013, Jamaica's 17 & under male Water Polo National Team competed at CCCAN in San Jose, Costa Rica. The Team travelled to the event seeking to qualify for the Junior Pan American Games which would be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in August 2013 where the top 4 teams would qualify. The Team placed 3rd out of 4 Teams in the category by defeating Panama in the Bronze Medal game. Trinidad & Tobago defeated Puerto Rico in the Gold Medal game. CCCAN also offered competition in the male and female open categories as the entrants sought to qualify for the Pan American Games. This category featured the top Teams in the region, including Cuba, Venezuela and Puerto Rico. ■



# to all our water polo parents



We would like to say a big Thank You to all our parents and friends who have supported the sport over the past couple years. We wouldn't be where we are without your time and dedication. From the early morning training sessions to finishing late in the evenings, we thank you for your patience and understanding. We appreciate all the sacrifices which you have made and hope to have your continued support in the future!



# Some Polo



# MOMENTS



COACH  
Moments



## Snap Shots



IN GAME  
Moments

# Water Polo is ...



... FUN

... LIFE

# ...Team Work



# ...FAMILY

## Play by Play

### JANUARY

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**4**

Past & Present Comp.

Start Time: 3:00 pm

**6 - 11**

CARIFTA Trials Week

**10**

South Florida Intl.  
Team Annoucement

**18**

Tornadoes Distance  
Dev. Meet

**30**

CARIFTA Squad  
Announcement

**31**

Karl Dalhouse Memorial

### FEBRUARY

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

**1 - 2**

Karl Dalhouse Memorial  
Swim Meet

**27 - 28**

Walter Rogers Age  
Group Swim Champs

**14 - 16**

South Florida Intl.

**TBD**

Club League

### MARCH

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**1 - 2**

Walter Rogers Age  
Group Swim Champs

**14 - 15**

Mayberry Prep School  
Swim Meet

**7**

CARITA Team  
Announcement

**TBD**

Club League

**14 - 15**

Florida Masters &  
Splashball Tourney

# LAST shot



Goal keeper, Kaela Williams, makes an epic save during the CARIFTA 2013 games.



jawaterpolo@gmail.com