

29th May, 2017

Benjamin shines at NAAA Sunshine Meet

MUCURAPO, Port of Spain: (Mon May 29) Kion Benjamin (Memphis Pioneers) emerged as a double champion at the inaugural NAAA Sunshine Meet at the Hasely Crawford Stadium on May 19. Benjamin sped to victories in the boys under 18 100m (11.12) and 200m (22.41). In the 100m, he won the second of three heats. Heat one winner Arista Small (Concorde) 11.13 and runner-up Kaydeon Thompson (Abilene Wildcats) 11.15 were the next quickest. In the half lap sprint Benjamin took the first heat ahead of the Abilene Wildcats pair of Dominic Cole (22.55) and Kelvin Mc Donald (22.63). who ended with the second and third best times in the field.

This year's Carifta Boys under 18 100m gold medallist Adell Colthrust (Abilene Wildcats) stepped up to the under 20 division and beat the field in the 100m, taking the third and final heat in 10.65 seconds whipping the 200m winner Dillon Bernard (Concorde) 10.68 into second place. Bernard won the 200m earlier in the meet in 21.69 seconds. Colthrust's club-mate Courtney Bascombe won the men's 100m in the same time. Akilah Lewis (Concorde) sped to gold in the girls under 18 100m. The 2016/2017 Carifta girls under 18 4x100m medallist ran away with heat two clocking the quickest time overall of 11.82. She was well ahead of the next fastest, J'Da Browne (Memphis Pioneers), 12.65 and Caitlin Ragoonanan (Memphis Pioneers) 12.68.



Serville-1st W 400m

Rae-Anne Serville (Memphis Pioneers) landed gold in the women's 400m at the Sunshine Meet held at the Hasely Crawford Stadium on Friday, May 19. Renee Stoddard (Abilene Wildcats), right was second and Jerisa James (Memphis Pioneers), left, finished in third place. (Photo by: CLYNTON MANN).

Fifteen year old Rae-Ann Serville (Memphips Pioneers) outran her older rivals in the women's 400m taking gold in 55.78 seconds. The 2017 double Carifta relay medallist finished well clear of former Speed Factory now Abilene Wildcats sprinter Renee Stoddard (57.02) and Thyla-Marie Scott (Memphis Pioneers) 57.18. Former CAC Junior gold medallist and record holder Marcus Duncan (Rebirth) claimed the men's 200m in 21.15 with this year's Carifta boy's under 20 200m/4x100m silver medallist Jerod Elcock (Abilene Wildcats) who clocked a new personal best of 21.22. Darren Alfred (UTT) took the men's 400m in 47.30 ahead of Theon Lewis (Petrotrin PAP) and Tacuma Sterling (Alpha). Lewis, the 2012 CAC Junior B U18 4x400m champion, crossed the line in 48.30 while Sterling stopped the clocked in 48.43.



Double winner K Benjamin

Kion Benjamin (Memphis Pioneers) was the lone double winner at the Sunshine Meet held at the Hasely Crawford Stadium on Friday, May 19. Benjamin won the boys under 18 100m and 200m. (Photo by: CLYNTON MANN)

Former CAC Junior champion Cherisse Murray (Rebirth) took the women's shot put in a new personal best effort of 15.11. Hezekeil Romeo (Rebirth) and Andwuelle Wright (Unattached) were also winners in the field. The former Carifta and CAC Junior champions took the mens' shot put and long jump events respectively. Romeo landed gold in the shot put with a throw of 17.31 to beat out another former Carifta gold medallist Shevorne Worrell (UTT) 17.01 and the discus champ Kesean Phillips (UWI), 15.91. Wright leapt to the top spot in the long jump with a distance of 7.01 leaving Jelani Hamblett (Stallions) 6.35 and Andre Sandiford (Cougars) 6.29 with the minor medals. Andwuelle Korede led a UTT sweep of the men's javelin. The 2009 Carifta B U17 silver medallist took gold with a mark of 51.23 ahead of school-mates Hycel Forbes (51.14) and Precious George (51.03).



James-M Discus

Nkosi James (UWI) in action in the men's discus at the Sunshine Meet held at the Hasely Crawford Stadium on Friday, May 19. James finished fourth (Photo by: CLYNTON MANN).

Memphis Pioneers Athletic Club topped the medals table with thirteen medals (six gold, two silver and five bronze) ahead of Abilene Wildcats 14 (4, 7, 3), UTT 11(4, 4, 3) and Concorde 7(4, 2, 1). Winners came from 15 of the competing clubs with 23 clubs produced medalists.

The inaugural Sunshine Meet was staged by the NAAATT following the cancellation of the annual Hampton Games, the Relays and Field Events Development Meet and the Hurdles and Events Festival.

The next meet on the local track and field calendar is the NGC/NAAA National Juvenile Championships at the Hasely Crawford Stadium, Mucurapo on June 3 and 4.