



Barbados Amateur  
Basketball Association

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Barbados Amateur Basketball Association (BABA) will be participating in 17<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Basketball Confederation (CBC) Senior Championships, in Cuba. The team will depart Barbados this Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, on BWIA 415. The flight leaves in the evening, and after a brief lay-over in Trinidad, the team will make its way to Havana, on BWIA 439. On arrival in Havana, the team will take a coach to their final destination, Santiago, where they are expected arrive early Thursday afternoon.

Both the men and women's competition has been divided into two zones as follows:

Men A

US Virgin Islands  
Antigua & Barbuda  
**Barbados**  
Turks & Caicos

Men B

Bahamas  
Jamaica  
Cuba

Women A

Puerto Rico  
Bahamas  
Cuba  
Trinidad & Tobago

Women B

US Virgin Islands  
**Barbados**  
Jamaica  
St Vincent & The Grenadines

The men will see action first, taking on Antigua & Barbuda on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> June at 3:00 pm. The women will start their competition on the following day, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 12:00 pm, against Jamaica.



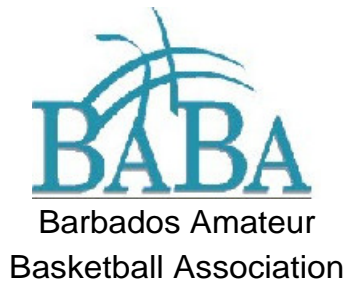
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The Head Coach of our women's team is Frederick Bynoe and he will be assisted by Mark Harding, who will also perform the duties of Manager and by the Chairman of Selectors, William Harper. Maureen Garner will perform the role of Assistant Manager/Chaperon. The Trainer is Mr Derek Herbert.

The women's team is made up of Wanda Maynard-Morris (captain), Jonelle Oderson, Ria Phillips, Maria Cumberbatch, Natasha Bridgeman, Jamila Griffith, Shakira Shorey, Jennifer Joseph-Hackett, Irecka Louis and Ruth Holder.

Please note that our women's team is only comprised of ten players and this is a result of the small number of persons that made themselves available for trials. You would also note that there are two notable omissions from the team in Astrid Best, who has taken ill recently and is presently hospitalised and Toni Atherley, who has elected not to compete. This is a disappointment, especially when one considers that Toni has been a player that we have invested in since 1997, when she was 13 years old. We wish both of them all the best.

The Head Coach of our men's team is Nigel Lloyd and he will be assisted by Dwight Rouse and Adrian Craigwell, the latter who will perform the dual role as Trainer. The Manager is Carrison Henry.



The men's team is made up of Victor Payne (captain), Michael Nurse, David Gill, Zahir Motara, Terrence Roach, Roderick Ramsey, Mark Foster, Pearson Griffith, Dean Browne, Darwin Downes, Andre Boadu and Kelvin Patterson.

There are also some notable omissions from our men's team in Peter Alleyne, Sydney Rowe and Andrew Alleyne. Peter withdrew citing work commitments and Sydney and Andrew have retired from national competition. This situation has put us under severe pressure and as a result we went on a serious recruiting drive, which has led to the acquisition of Michael Nurse, Dean Browne and Roderick Ramsey. We were also able to make contact with a number of other Barbadian players who have expressed an interest in representing Barbados in the future. The most notable of these is Tyrone Grant, a 27 year old 6'10" forward that played for St John's in the NCAA Division One competition. The future looks bright for our senior men's programme and it is hoped that similar advancements can be made in our women's programme.

Our teams return around 8:00 am on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> June and if either team places in the top three they will qualify for their respective 2004 Centrobasket Tournaments. The Centrobasket Tournament is a qualifier for either the World Championships or the



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Olympics. The men's competition is 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> July, in the Dominican Republic and the women's competition is 21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> July, in Guatemala.

For the first time ever a junior boy's team will be attending the Under 21 Centrobasket Championships, in Caguas, Puerto Rico, 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> July. The Head Coach is Terry Inniss and he will be assisted by Cosmo Edwards and Derek Aimey. The Manager is Michael Holder and the Trainer is Denzil Jackman. The training squad is comprised of eighteen players.

Two of these players Zenas Phillips and Ramon Simmons will be leaving the Island on 27<sup>th</sup> June to take part in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual "Basketball Without Borders – Americas Camp", organised by the NBA and FIBA. This Camp is being held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from June 28<sup>th</sup> - July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2004. They will be accompanied by the BABA's second Vice President, Anton Lovell and will join players from Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Puerto Rico, St Kitts, Dominican Republic, U. S. Virgin Islands, Belize, Antigua and St Vincent, who are also scheduled to attend this prestigious camp.

The NBA players scheduled to participate include Leandro Barbosa of the Phoenix Suns, Eduardo Najera of the Dallas Mavericks, Dikembe Mutombo of the New York Knicks and Nene of the Denver Nuggets, as well as a number of NBA Coaches.

In addition to the usual Basketball Clinics which would cover ball skills and shooting drills, players will be divided into teams and will participate in games, with an All-Star Game and dunk contest. In addition, there will also be daily seminars on Life Skills;



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Teamwork and Leadership; Responsibility, Respect and Character Building and an HIV/AIDS Education Programme

Shortly we will be announcing the details of our summer programme, where we will be having junior camps and tournaments to help our young boys and girls improve their game. In the last quarter of the year, a training squad will be put in place for the 2005 Junior CBC Championships.

Thank you all for coming and let me close by thanking the media for their continued support of basketball.