



Barbados Amateur
Basketball Association

PRESS RELEASE

Barbados' men and women's teams left the island on Wednesday, 9th June to participate in the Caribbean Basketball Confederation (CBC) Senior Championships, in Cuba. On arrival in Havana, the teams made the lengthy travel to their final destination in Santiago by coach, as opposed to traveling by air.

Had the team traveled to Santiago by air, it would have cost the Barbados Amateur Basketball Association (BABA) a total of \$16,128 (airfare \$14,700 and hotel accommodation for one night \$1,428). The trip by coach cost \$3,880, which was a savings of \$12,248. The entire cost of the tour to the Association was in excess of \$70,000, which was over budget and all efforts had to be made to cut costs.

The cost incurred by Antigua and Barbuda, or any other country with only one team, would have been substantially less. The BABA has sent two teams to Cuba and is committed to sending an under 21 boy's team to Puerto Rico in July, a cost which was not previously budgeted for.

In addition, BWIA has offered financial support to basketball, on an annual basis, through sponsorship for the last four years. Whenever possible, our Association seeks to do business with those that support us and many efforts were made with BWIA to fly the teams directly to Santiago. However, due to the additional costs, landing and handling fees that BWIA would have had to undertake, flying directly was impossible.

The teams were fully briefed of the decision to travel to Santiago by coach and at all times their personal welfare and comfort was an important consideration. We ensured



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that the team traveled on an air-conditioned bus and that in addition to the rest-stops, meals would be available on board for the duration of the trip.

The teams arrived in Santiago well in advance of their games, and had sufficient time to rest and prepare for competition. The norm for past tournaments has been to arrive twenty-four hours in advance of the competition and this time the men's team arrived forty-six hours before their first game and the women arrived sixty-seven hours ahead of their first game.

In the men's first game, they defeated Antigua and Barbuda 86-49. Captain, Victor Payne led Barbados with 16 points, Dean Browne had 14, Michael Nurse 13 and David Gill 10. By all reports, Barbados played a good team game.

The BABA is fully appreciative of the financial support given to us by our clubs, fans, sponsors, the Barbados Olympic Association (BOA) and the National Sports Council (NSC) and as such will continue to run the Association in a business-like manner, prudently managing our funds. In 2002, even though funds would have been provided by the BOA, the BABA made the hard, but necessary decision, not to send a women's team to the Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Championships, in El Salvador, as our best players were unavailable due to the timing of the tournament. Decisions such as this and the one made presently will continue to be made, as we continue to run our affairs in a professional manner.

We encourage, all persons to support our players and follow the updates that will be posted on our website, www.baba.org.bb.