

# SPORTS



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## Elaine Thompson's high hopes for World Relays

**By Local Organizing Committee  
IAAF World Relays Bahamas 2017**

As far as female sprinting is concerned, she wears the crown and Jamaican speedster Elaine Thompson is looking to take her reign to The Bahamas at this year's IAAF/BTC World Relays Bahamas 2017 in Nassau, The Bahamas.

Gold in the 100m and 200m at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games were the crown jewels in a dominant 2016 for Thompson, who is eager to experience her first taste of The Bahamas and the high-octane international relay carnival, which is set to ignite the Thomas

A. Robinson Stadium in Nassau on April 22 and 23.

Thompson is certainly not new to the relay scene, having played crucial roles in medal-winning Jamaican relay teams at major championships over the past couple years.

The 24-year-old ran a blistering curve at the 2015 World Championships in Beijing, China as the Jamaicans won their second consecutive gold medal in the event at the World Championships before logging a powerful backstretch in the team's silver medal run at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil a year later.

Thompson, who said she is looking forward to being named to the Island's team to the

IAAF/BTC World Relays Bahamas 2017, knows that a lot will be expected of her if the Jamaicans are to successfully defend the 4x100m title they won in Nassau two years ago.

Of course, she could also opt to compete in the 4x200m relays, which in itself may present the promise of greater satisfaction for her, considering the country has never won the event at these championships after third and second placed finishes at the two instalments to date.

"Yes I am really looking forward to the World Relays. I have never been to the World Relays before and I am looking forward to it this year because I know that when Team Jamaica steps out in the relays we are always

looking to give a great performance and I am hoping to be on the team this year," Thompson said, underlining her intentions to compete for the first time in The Bahamas.

"I am a big fan of the relays in general and the World Relays seem like a really exciting meet

and I am really looking forward to being in The Bahamas," Thompson added. "It's a long season but the preparation has been going well for the World Championships this year and my main focus is to stay focused and injury-free."

In addition to winning two gold

medals at the Olympic Games last year, she also ended with the fastest times in the 100m (10.70) and 200m (21.78) for the season and will be hoping that the Caribbean relay carnival will provide a perfect launching pad for another dominating season on the track.



ELAINE THOMPSON

## Soccer youngsters travel to Nassau to play in 10 team Spring Break Tournament

Freeport Rugby Football Club is expected to bring down the curtain on another successful Youth Soccer Season this weekend, when the Under 10s Boys soccer team travels to Nassau to participate in a Spring Break Youth Soccer Tournament.

The group of boys from the Freeport Rugby Football Club's Academy Program, who all also play in the Club's Grassroots Program each Saturday, have been practicing every Wednesday (and indeed three times a week in recent times) in readiness for the trip.

This determination and focus has allowed the boys to further hone their soccer skills and better play together as a team, as well as better understand some of the more detailed intricacies of the game such as defending and taking corners and throw-ins. This is the first opportunity for all the boys to travel together as a team and represent the island of Grand Bahama.

Players selected are Adam

Whittaker, Alain Austin, Ash Hardy, Andrew Lane, Barrett Francolla, Frank Saldana, Gabriel Suarez, Logan Graham and Manuel Ruiz. As well as the party of nine players and three coaches, the group will include an entourage of another dozen family members as the young team prepare to travel in numbers (and great voice).

While in Nassau the boys will be playing various teams from local clubs, including Dynamos, Baha Juniors, Pirates, Cavalier and United in a series of small-sided games. For interested spectators, all games will be at the Blue Hills Sports Centre in Nassau with games commencing on Saturday, April 22 at around 10:00 a.m.

Local coach, Frank Saldana, noted that the trip is an ideal opportunity for the boys to both test their skills and make new friends, with the anticipation that the friendships (and rivalries) will grow over the years as all the players continue to play the

game they love.

Program Director, Mark Hardy, added that the games are the commencement of a long-standing relationship between the Freeport Rugby Football Club and the Clubs in Nassau. Games between the respective programs have been ongoing for years; however, they have dropped away in recent years primarily due to the cost of taking teams away.

Hardy, therefore, took the opportunity to thank both the parents for their financial support and the teams in Nassau for the opportunity for games, especially Coach Carl Lynch, who has organized the event.

Coach Jacy Whittaker added that the aim is for the program to take Under 12s and Under 15s next year, as well as the Under 10s. In addition, it is anticipated that the club will host their own tournament in 2018 and can offer the same hospitality to the Nassau boys as they expect to receive this weekend.



HEADED TO THE CAPITAL - Under 10s Boys' soccer team travelling to Nassau this weekend for competition.

## Promoter Hickey adjusts plan for Champ Williams

American promoter, Thomas Hickey, has had to alter his plan for Bahamian Heavyweight Champion Sherman "Tank" Williams.

Unable, although not being totally at fault, to satisfy the deadlines of the Commonwealth Boxing Council (CBC) and The Bahamas Boxing Commission (BBC), Hickey has had to digest the title opportunity being pulled back. The CBC has opted to open up the bidding for the vacant title again and another option has become a priority.

Hickey informed me on Tuesday that he will utilize his association with the World Boxing Council (WBC) to seek permission to stage a regional title fight for the Bahamian. Hickey is set on promoting a series of bouts that would be Williams' farewell from the profession competitively.

"I have appreciated the interactions of those I have been associated with in the efforts to bring the Commonwealth heavyweight title to The Bahamas. However, there were some things in the works that did not favor us. But, I am still committed to doing big shows in The Bahamas. I will speak to the WBC and see what is available. Sherman is a quality fighter and would be accepted," said Hickey.

Indeed, Williams is a multiple regional champion, having won titles in North America and Asia. At 44, he is still regarded as one of the best at managing movements in the ring. On the back end of a lengthy career that began in 1997, Williams has a record of 39 wins against 15 defeats and two draws.

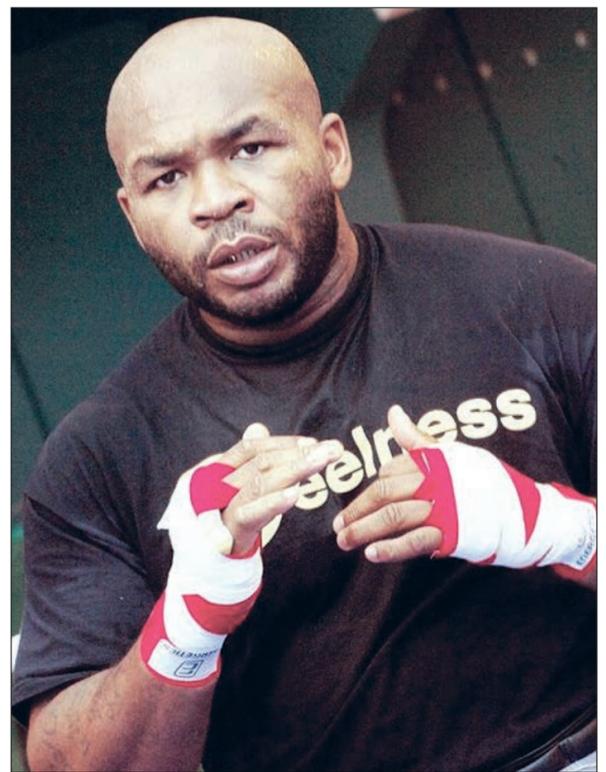
He has gotten better like old wine and indeed is still reputable. He is a CBC contender and would be acceptable for a regional title match, sanctioned by any of the major boxing bodies.

Hickey, though regretful that he was unable to deliver the Commonwealth title match at this time, is determined to show-

### Sports Scope



By Fred Sturup



SHERMAN 'TANK' WILLIAMS

case Williams here in The Bahamas. Hickey said he is looking towards the middle of May. "I'll work now on ensuring that our efforts are not in vain. I will continue working, but the opponent will be different and I am, tentatively, looking at May," disclosed Hickey.

Meanwhile, Jamaican Lenroy Thomas, who was to clash with Williams on April 29, is rumored to be looking at another opponent in hopes of securing the blessing of the CBC. The sanction fee that Hickey had already advanced to the CBC will

now be returned. Down the road, there might yet be another opportunity for Williams to join the list of Bahamian Commonwealth champions. Now, though, it's moving on time.

Hickey informed that he would be providing new details regarding a Williams' bout in the country of his birth in short order.

• To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturup at [sturup1504@gmail.com](mailto:sturup1504@gmail.com) or on WhatsApp at 727-6363.

The **46<sup>th</sup>** Carifta **GAMES**

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