

# SPORTS



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## Kenyan Knights' track and field coach elected second vice president of NCB

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The Bahamas Association of Athletics Coaches (BAAC) held its Annual General meeting back in March, during The Bahamas Association of Athletics Associations (BAAA) High School Track and Field Nationals.

While father of Olympic gold medalist Shaunae Miller, Shaun Miller, was elected president, Grand Bahama's Jason Larrimore was named second vice president, unopposed, to the National Coaching Board.

Fast Track's Ravanno Ferguson was in the running for the first vice president position, but was edged by Rudolph Ferguson.

Since that time the Kenyan Knights' coach was named to the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the World Relays.

Larrimore disclosed that he was asked to take on other responsibilities, including being a coach for The Bahamas World Relays' Team. *The Freeport News* caught up with Larrimore on Day One of the IAAF/BTC World Relays held in the capital



**JASON LARRIMORE**

last weekend, April 22 - 23, where he spoke about what it has been like since he received the position.

"I was approached about being a coach for the World Relays Team and I'm also the coach of the Grand Bahama All-Star

Team for the Junior Program. So they had me real tied up for the World Relays," Larrimore shared.

Despite the experience being a tedious one, Larrimore said, it was something that he took on with little to no complaints.

"The experience is a lot of work. From I've been here on Thursday (April 20), I've been getting back to my hotel at like 3 o'clock in the morning. So it's just work, work, work and then get up at 6:00 a.m. to get ready by 7:00 a.m. to be on the road, just to accommodate who needs help with the BAAA and the IAAF."

Larrimore is one the youngest coaches in the country and as a former athlete, had shown a work ethic that gave the association the confidence that he could handle any task asked of him.

"That's just me. I really want to see whatever we do here in The Bahamas excel."

Working with different personalities is a common hurdle, when you take on a new position. Nonetheless, for Larrimore it sounded like something he has weathered fine, so far.

"It's hard because not everyone

is alike and trying to accommodate individuals - it isn't easy. That's been the hardest part for the World Relays. But in terms of any other job they asked me to do it's been fine."

Larrimore also expressed his confidence in the BAAAs and thinks the current administration has done a "good job" since they took office.

"The BAAAs - I think they've been, so far, so good based on the past IAAF World Relays in 2015. I've seen a lot of progress in terms of accreditation. Everything runs a lot smoother now. I have to give it to Mrs. (Rosamunde) Carey - she's doing an awesome job as the president of the BAAAs being the first female president. I have to give her, props."

Asked how it felt to be the only person from Grand Bahama elected to the BAAC board, Larrimore felt confident that Ferguson would join him. While he quickly acknowledged the pressure that would come with the responsibility Larrimore vocalized he is more than open to the challenge.

"I guess the votes didn't go the way we wanted them to go.

Being the only Grand Bahamian on the team puts a lot of pressure on me because Grand Bahamians feel like I need to make things happen for Grand Bahama. I also feel the same way and that's why I try to reach out to Grand Bahama to see what all we need to get done and what we need to do."

The second vice president was selected to coach on two teams - the national team for the World Relays and to head coach the team for the World Youth Championships. Larrimore declined both offers for specific reasons.

"I turned down both because I'm more focused on Family Island development and getting those athletes where they need to be.

"To me, I feel there's no team without Grand Bahama. That's just my output there."

Larrimore was entrusted as coach of the Kenyan Knights following the passing of late head coach, Frederick Bastian. The Club continues to train presently. Since Bastian, Larrimore held a memorial Track and Field tournament in his honor, while continuing to mentor up-and-coming athletes.

## IAAF World Relays forum affords student/athletes prime exposure



**D' AJONAE JAYAWARDANA**

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Relays, as a part of the Bahamian landscape, is ultra significant.

It's a sports tourism product of the highest order.

It is with good reason that Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Dr. Daniel Johnson has been so passionate about negotiating on behalf of the Government of The Bahamas with the IAAF, for the first four installments of the organization's latest feature event, to be staged on Bahamian soil.

The IAAF presence in The Bahamas is huge for many reasons. In particular, today, I wish to emphasize the wonderful opportunity high school athletes across the nation have gotten in 2014, 2015 and this past weekend, to showcase their talents for cameras that take their efforts to every corner of the world.

Indeed, the IAAF World Relays presents a grand opportunity that the peers of our young student/athletes, around the world, do not get. Perhaps, because they are in the moment, the high school athletes don't all realize the full value of being center stage with the world watching.

Although not given the high profile of the elite participants representing many countries

### Sports Scope



BY FRED STURRUP

around the world, being a part of the mix has been invaluable for the Bahamian high school runners who were the collective prelude act to the big stars.

The exposure will prove quite beneficial for a lot of them.

Collegiate and club coaches in the United States, especially, would be wanting to connect with the talented athletes who stood out above others. For example, one had to just watch with admiration at the way Bishop Michael Eldon's D'Ajonaee Jayawardana looked so commanding and experienced beyond her years, as she anchored her team to victory in the ladies' 4 X 400 meters relay.

Yes, more coaches will be calling, now, to recruit Jayawardana.

Such will be the case for a number of the other young athletes who also shone brightly during World Relays weekend at the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium. A good cross-section of the Commonwealth of

The Bahamas was represented by respective student/athletes. Teams from Grand Bahama, New Providence, Abaco, Exuma, Eleuthera, Andros, Mayaguana, Inagua, Crooked Island, Acklins and Long Cay participated.

In my view, connecting high school athletes with the best in the world, in the same event, is quite visionary. Whoever was the actual brain thrust behind the gracious gesture is deserving of credit. The decision was quite an innovative one and speaks volume of the IAAF product.

Certainly the high school segment adds to the appeal of the World Relays. The Government of The Bahamas, no mater which party ends up in charge following the upcoming May 10 general elections, must do all that is possible to make this country the designated "official" home of the IAAF World Relays.

• To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturrup at [sturrup1504@gmail.com](mailto:sturrup1504@gmail.com) or WhatApp me at 727-6363.

### FIFA confirms video replays for 2018 World Cup in Russia

**SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)** — FIFA has confirmed that video replays will be used at the World Cup for the first time in 2018.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino had already stated that he wanted the technology to be used in Russia, and now he has ended any doubt.

Speaking in Santiago, Infantino said "at the 2018 World Cup we will have video referees, because so far the results are very positive."

The International Football Association Board, the game's lawmaking body, is in its second year of trials with various versions of video assistant referees (VAR).

Infantino says "we are going to help the referee to not make any mistake, or commit less mistakes, and we are going to give a bit more of justice to football."



FIFA President Gianni Infantino delivers a speech during the 67th ordinary and extraordinary South American Football Confederation, CONMEBOL, congress in Santiago, Chile, Wednesday, April 26, 2017. (AP PHOTO/ESTEBAN FELIX)