

VIOGIN ACTION

Virgin Islands Olympic Committee Newsletter

Sophia Aubin on IOA Session

The 13th International Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies took place May 2-9, 2015 in Ancient Olympia, Greece. Sophia Aubin represented the VIOA. The main subject was Olympic values; with a special focus on the value of excellence as an educational tool. Aubin said of the session; "The networking at this years session was great. I learned a lot from other NOA members about programs in their countries. Some of these programs seem like good options for the USVI. It was a productive session and I look forward to applying what I learned."



VI Winter Athlete in World's

After a full season of international competition, Katie Tannenbaum finished 25th at the World Championships in Winterberg, Germany. She qualified for the FIBT World Cup circuit next season, the highest international competition circuit in the sport of skeleton. The VI has not had an athlete on the FIBT World Cup since 2010, and Katie is enthusiastic to have earned that spot back, "Even though I compete in a winter sport and we are a Caribbean NOC, I think it is important that we are represented alongside everyone else in the world. In fact, I think the fans really enjoy seeing us there. It's an international event, it's the



World Cup, and so they want to see the diversity of the entire world there. The spectators love to root for the small nations." Katie is now back in St. Thomas and already hard at work on her off-season training. Katie is now sitting 41st overall in world rankings.

News: June is Olympic Month



Olympic Day is now Olympic Month. pg. 4

News: Our Pan Am Athletes



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News: Olympic Day



Olympic Day Activities in the VI pg. 4

Virgin Islands Athletes at The 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto,



Swimmer Jamaris Washshah is off to a great start in Toronto, Canada at the 2015 Pan American Games.

Since the 1967 Games in Winnipeg, Canada, the Virgin Islands have been sending their best athletes to the Pan American Games.

Not breaking tradition in 2015 the Virgin Islands sent 18 athletes from eight different sports to the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Canada this past July.

Meet the Athletes

Golfer **Amira Alexander** was born in St. Croix and was the only golfer for Team ISV in Toronto. With a score of 72, she came in 5th out of 31 athletes.

Fencer **Teddy Weller**, 25, ranked 82nd in the world is Rio 2016 hopeful. Teddy was defeated in the first round by Canada in the Men's Individual Sabre.

Boxer **Clayton Laurent**, a super-heavy weight, training under Julian Jackson, represented the Virgin Islands in the ring. Arguably, he had the most controversial event of the games. When the judges determined his Brazilian opponent as the winner, the crowd booed their decision. Always the gentleman, Laurent held the ropes for his opponent as he exited the ring following this announcement. Clayton will continue to train for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

Out of St. Croix, Team ISV had **Jamaris Washshah** and **Matthew Mays** swimming. Together, they set a total of four Virgin Islands national records. Mays set a V.I. national record in the 100-meter backstroke at

59.15 seconds in first round. In the "B" final he took it down to 59.14 seconds. Washshah also set a record of her own, winning her first heat in 27.87 seconds of the 50-meter freestyle, topping 3 swimmers.

For several years now, Team ISV has had married couple **Ned Gerald** and **Karen Nogueira** representing the Virgin Islands in Shooting. Ned finished 22nd in the 50m prone rifle while Karen finished 23rd in the 10m pistol and 21st in the 25m pistol events.

Taekwondo athletes **Danese Joseph** and **Douglas Townsend** represented Team ISV on the taekwondo mat. Both athletes looked at the Pan American Games as an opportunity to compete against the best in the region. Townsend competed in the +80 kilogram weight class and Joseph competed in the +65 kilogram weight class. Both athletes failed to advance to the second round after drawing tough competitors in the first round.

Team ISV sailors were represented in 3 boat classes with four sailors on Lake Ontario. **Peter Stanton** in the Sunfish division, **Cy Thompson** in the Laser class and teammates **Mayumi Roller** and **Kayla McComb** in the Women's 49er FX division. Olympic qualified Cy Thompson finished 5th with 66 race points. Team Roller/McComb finished 4th with 63 race points. Sunfish racer Peter Stanton finished 8th with 70 race points.

Track and Field had five athletes representing the Virgin Islands in Toronto. Hurdle jumpers **Eddie Lovett** and **Leslie Murray**, Long Jumper **Leon Hunt**, 200M and 400M runner **Allison Peter** and 100 M runner **Laverne Jones**. Jones advanced to the semi



Golfer Amira Alexander tees off.

Pam American Games Continued

finals running 11.33 seconds in the 100m. Peter ran her season's best time of 23.89 seconds in the 200m race. Hunt jumped 7.31 feet in the Long Jump. Murray sustained an injury during the 400m race in the 3rd corner while leading the pack. 110m Hurdler Lovett ran 13.65 seconds finishing 5th in his heat. He bravely went onto the track that morning after receiving the news of his younger sister passing away.

"The fact that he could even step on that line, and have them announce him, and have the camera on him, and to go out and perform at all... if he would've run 15 seconds, I would've thought it was amazing that he was able to put himself together to be able to do that. For him to go run 13.65, I don't think there's anything that anyone else could've expected from anybody." - Coach Adrian Durant

President Morales also expressed his admiration for Lovette's strength,

"His racing showed his pride in the Virgin Islands and his commitment to finish what he set out to do. That showed great courage on his part."

Lovett qualified for the 2016 RIO Olympics in Barbados earlier this year.



Medical Jerry Smith, Leon Hunt and Chef de Mission John Abramson at the 2015 Pan American Village.

Virgin Islands pride and enthusiasm was shown by the VI delegation of athletes, coaches, team leaders and VIOC members at the Closing Ceremony. Boxer Laurent was chosen as the flag bearer for the Closing Ceremony that concluded with fireworks, performances by Serena Ryder, Kanye and Pitbull.

Many of these athletes returned home to continue training and competing in efforts to qualify for the 2016 RIO Olympics. Keep updated with VI Olympic news on our Facebook: Facebook/VirginIslandsOlympics and Twitter: @TeamISV



When and where will be the next Pan American Games be held?

Answer: Lima, Peru 2019

Team ISV with Sailor Cy Thompson as flag bearer walk in the Opening Ceremony of the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Canada.



St. Croix Cycling Race

The VI Cycling Federation held the Olympic Rings Road Race on June 7 which upheld the values of Olympism - excellence, friendship and respect. High humidity and strong winds made for a tough course on St. Croix's east end for the 24 local cyclists.

VIOC President Morales, who shared some words of encouragement and cheered on the racers. The Elite group was challenged with three laps of the 13-mile east end loop, but also added in the climb to Point Udall on the first 2 laps. Stephen Swanton came through the first lap nearly 4 min ahead of Glenn Massiah and David Parris. Swanton increased that distance with each lap and finished the 47 miles in 2:40:40, just over 13 minutes ahead of 2nd place finisher, Massiah. Parris came in 3rd.



Olympic Day Run

During the month of June, St. Thomas and St. Croix featured Olympic Day races to commemorate the initiation of the modern Olympics which were opened on June 23rd, 1894. On St. Croix, runners, joggers and walkers met at the St. Croix Education Complex High School track where they competed in single miles at their own pace. On St. Thomas, participants completed a two mile course on Veterans Drive, Waterfront.

For more information contact Wallace Williams on St. Croix wallacewilliams@msn.com and Roy Watlington on St. Thomas rawatlington@earthlink.net.



Beach Clean Up and Beach Wrestling Demo

On June 7th, the Virgin Islands Olympic Committee and volunteers cleaned up Brewer's Beach. Athletes, Board Members, Federations and community members worked together to remove over 10 large bags of garbage from the beach. After a water break, many volunteers took part in a beach Wrestling clinic by the VI Wrestling Federation. The wrestlers introduced the relatively new sport of beach wrestling. They learned about the rules, techniques and allowed participants to engage in practical beach wrestling applications.

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Upcoming Events

Rio Summer Olympic Games: Rio, Brazil. July 2016