

VIOGIN ACTION

Virgin Islands Olympic Committee Newsletter



Virgin Islands Olympic Committee

The Virgin Islands Olympic Committee and Sports Federations work year round at supporting our Virgin Islands athletes in the Central American and Caribbean Games, Pan American Games, Winter Olympics, Youth Olympics and the Summer Olympics. In order for our athletes to qualify for these events, they spend their time training and competing in their sport around the world. We are using this issue to show you just a few of the things our athletes have been working on and achieving in their sports.

Our athletes are crucial in developing, promoting and protecting the Olympic Movement. You can see more of their progress by subscribing to this newsletter email us (at vioa@virginislandsolympics.org), like us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/VirginIslandsOlympics>) or following us on Twitter (@TeamISV). We look forward to your support and feedback!

Sincerely,



The Winter Sports Athletes:

It reminds residents of the 1993 hit "Cool Runnings" when they think of the Virgin Islands being represented in Winter Sports. After all, how do you learn how to downhill ski or ice skate without snow and ice?

Our Winter Athletes have not just learned how to play in the cold, they've mastered it. In our next newsletter, we will have interviews from them with all of the details including what "Skeleton" and "Slalom" entail. Have a question for our athletes? Send them to us via Facebook, Twitter or email!



Kathryn Tannenbaum: Skeleton.



Jasmine Cambell: Slalom.



Veronica Gaspar: Slalom.

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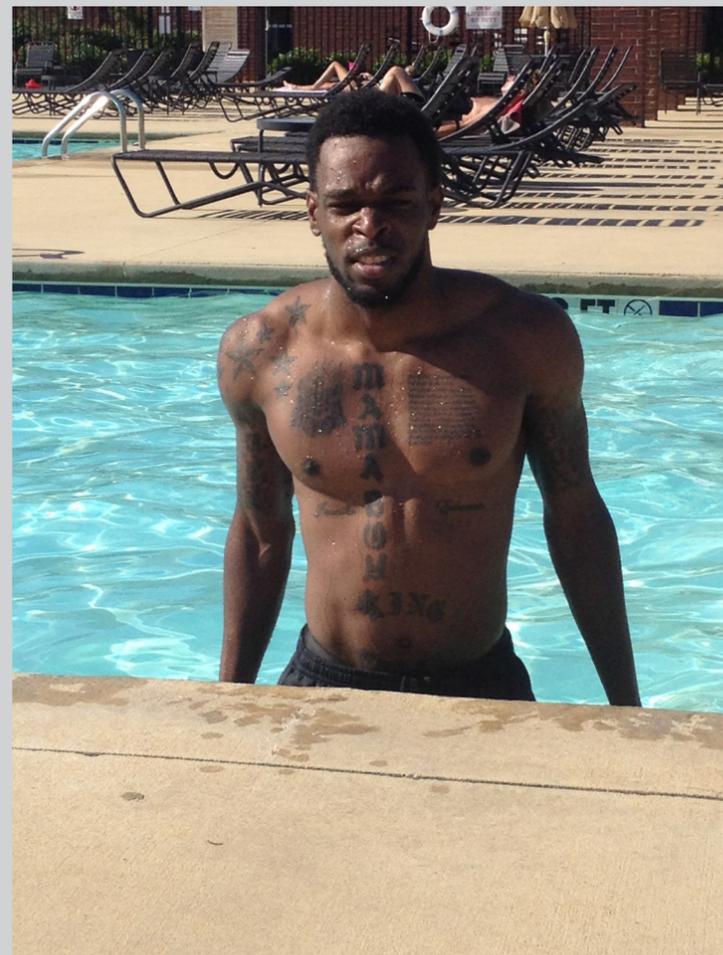
Athlete Introduction: Virgin Islands Sprinter Tabarie Henry



Athlete Tabarie Henry has been training hard this season after suffering an Achilles injury that was further injured during the Summer Games in London in 2012. He is currently training at the University of Alabama under coach Caine.

In May he completed his degree and is now fully focused on recovering from his injury in rehab. Due to his injury, he has had to bow out of competing in Moscow for the IAAF World Championship. In his own words, "I am at about 60% and don't feel that I am ready to match the performances of the past World Championships (4th 2009, 7th 2011 and 4th World Indoor)."

In the meantime, follow Tabarie's progress by liking his Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Tabarie-Henry>) and keeping up with the VIOC's newsletters.



Gold Medal at the Summer University Games for Virgin Islander Eddie Lovett

At the 27th Summer University Games in Kazan this past July, athletes competed for 40 medals. Track and field competitions took the majority of the metals, but there was also swimming, fencing, volleyball and more.

Our representative of the Virgin Islands Eddie Lovett brought the gold home in his 110 meter hurdle race by .03 seconds.

This is just his latest achievement. In the 2010 Florida Class 3A state meet he ran 13.46 in the 110 breaking the previous record of 13.59. In 2011 at the Pan American Junior Athletics Championships, he once again set new records with a time of 13.14 sec for the 110



meter hurdles. This was a significant improvement on the record set by Dayron Robles in 2005 of 13.45 sec.

In 2013 the University of Florida track & field teams hosted the Gator Invitational. There, Eddie broke the Florida record in the men's 55-meter hurdles. Florida head coach, Mike Holloway sang his praises, "Eddie Lovett, what can you say, he had a phenomenal performance, new school record. I think it makes him the number two guy in the country right now. Couldn't ask more from him today."

Eddie Lovett attends the University of Florida and is a sprinter for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Sailor Cy Thompson is training for the Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro

Olympian sailor Cy Thompson has resumed training in the Laser Class.

Cy Thompson, 25 years old, competed in the Laser Class in the London 2012 Olympic Games finishing 25th after just a year of training full time.

Encouraged by his performance in London, Cy is now looking to qualify for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de

His first events since the 2012 Olympics were the Laser North Americans in July and CORK in August, both sailed in Kingston, Ontario where he finished 5th and 7th respectively.

This past month, Cy spent two and a half weeks in Rio to train with other laser sailors. He will continue on with another 2-week session in October in Long Beach

California, in preparation for the Laser World Championship that will be held in Oman from November 14th to the 23rd.

You can follow Cy at www.cythompsonsailing.com and receive general updates on all of our athletes on the VIOC's Facebook page, Twitter page and website.



Virgin Islander Wins the Gold for Long Jump in the XIV Central American and Caribbean University Games

The U.S. Virgin Islands' Leon Hunt won the gold medal in long jump with a distance of 7.37 meters on Thursday at the XIV Central American and Caribbean University Games, which were held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from Wednesday through Friday.

Hunt was one of two U.S. Virgin Islanders at the competition - sprinter David Walters being the other.

Hunt beat silver medalist Michael Williams of Puerto Rico (6.90 meters) and Rolando Francisco of Panama, who took home the bronze with a jump of 6.82 meters.

Hunt has competed for the USVI in the last two World University Games - in Russia last July and in the 2011 games in China - and also competed in the 2011 Pan Am Games in Mexico.

The USVI's David Walters ran in the 100-meter heats and advanced to the final but did not earn a medal, finishing fourth after leading the race at the midway point. The winner was Palacio Rompe of Honduras in 10.50 seconds. Martis Obed of Bonaire won silver in 10.61 seconds, followed by Panama's Andres Rodriguez with the bronze in 10.61 seconds.

Costa Rica dominated the event, taking home 21 golds on their way to 48 total medals. Although Honduras finished with a games-high 57 medals, they only took home 14 golds to finish in second place.

If you would like to follow Leon Hunt's progress and statistics, check out his profile on All Athletics.COM: <http://www.all-athletics.com/node/175037>.



When was the last time real gold medals were given out?

Answer: 1912

57th Annual Caribbean Amateur Golf Championship



The 57th Annual Caribbean Amateur Golf Championship was hosted by Virgin Islands Golf Federation "TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS"!

The 57th Annual Caribbean Amateur Golf Championship was a success. This event featured players from The Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos, and O.E.C.S. The O.E.C.S. team was represented by players from Eastern Caribbean countries, including Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. Each country of the Caribbean Golf Association hosts this event every 10 years. A total of fourteen players can represent a country. This is the first time it was hosted on St. Thomas.

Starting with the opening ceremony the teams paraded down the aisles of Sugar Bay Resort ballroom, bearing their country's flag. Brief remarks were given by Tourism Assistant Commissioner (Monique Sibilly Hodge), Caribbean Golf Association President (Sidney Wolf) and VIGF President (Nevin Phillips). The championship was officially opened by the Honorable Lt. Governor (Gregory Francis), which was followed by a cocktail reception and then the CGA President Dinner.

The player's skill set was tested over four days at Mahogany Run Golf Course which resulted in the following winners.

Tournament Format & Winners:

Hoerman Cup – Teams of five male golfers in individual stroke play was awarded to Puerto Rico for a combined total score of 1162.

Francis & Steele-Perkins Cup – Two teams of golfers age 50 and above in four ball stroke play was awarded to U.S. Virgin Islands for a combined total score of 282.

Higgs & Higgs Trophy – Teams of two golfers age 60 and above in four ball stroke play was awarded to Puerto Rico for a combined total score of 278.

The George Teale Cup – Teams of three female golfers in individual stroke play was awarded to Trinidad & Tobago for a combined total score of 628.

The Ramon Baez Trophy - Two teams of golfers ages 35 and above in four ball stroke play was awarded to Dominican Republic for a combined total score of 271.

The Arthur Ziadie Trophy was awarded to Puerto Rico, the defending champion for best overall score.

Thomas Bach of Germany is the 9th President of the International Olympic Committee

Thomas Bach of Germany was elected today as the ninth President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) following two rounds of votes at the 125th IOC Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Bach was chosen over fellow presidential candidates Sergey Bubka (Ukraine), Richard Carrion (Puerto Rico), Ser Miang Ng (Singapore), Denis Oswald (Switzerland) and Ching-kuo Wu (Chinese Taipei).*

“Thank you very much to all of you”, said President Bach following his election. “First of all I would like to thank, from the bottom of my heart all my dear friends and colleagues who voted for me this morning. This is really an overwhelming sign of trust and confidence. But I would also like to thank my fellow candidates, who I greatly respect, and all those who did not vote for me this time. I will also work for and with you in the coming years and want to win your confidence too. I know about the great responsibility of an IOC President. This makes me humble. I want to lead the IOC according to my motto “unity in diversity.” I want to be a President for all of you. This means I will do my very best to balance well all the different interests of the stakeholders of the Olympic Movement. This is why I want to listen to you and to enter into an on-going dialogue with all of you. You should know that my door, my ears, and my heart are always open for you.”

Read President Bach’s biography and manifesto.

The new President replaces Jacques Rogge, whose 12-year tenure officially ends at the close of the 125th IOC Session today. The President is elected by the IOC members by secret ballot for a term of eight years, with the possibility to stand for re-election for a second, four-year term.



One of the many coastal locations built in Sochi, Russia for the upcoming Winter Olympics.

Sochi 2014 Countdown: 6 Months

With less than six months to go until the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games, excitement continues to build as the Russian resort prepares to welcome the world’s finest winter sports stars from February 7th next year.

Sochi, which was previously more widely known as one of Russia’s most popular summer holiday destinations, has been completely transformed ahead of next year’s Games, with new venues, roads and railways being built, alongside many other major infrastructure improvements. “The preparations are going well and everybody is working incredibly hard to make sure that we reach all of our targets,” explains Dmitry Chernyshenko, the President and CEO of the Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee. “We have received brilliant feedback at every stage.” That feedback has included significant praise from many of the athletes who will compete at the 2014 Winter Games, who were given their first experiences of the Olympic venues during the 2012-2013 winter season, which saw Sochi host major events in all 15 winter disciplines, with more than 3,000 athletes taking part.

The busy programme of events gave the Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee the chance to test key aspects of its operations ahead of the Games, including scoring, the fields of play and results systems. During the Games, events will be held in two distinct areas – the “mountain cluster”, which will host the Alpine and sliding events, and the “coastal cluster”, which will stage the ice-based events, as well as the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

Sochi Olympic Park, covering 8km², is the main focus of the coastal cluster and will be able to host around 75,000 visitors at any one time during the Games. It is home to all of the ice competition venues, including the Bolshoi Ice Dome and the Shayba Arena, which will both host ice hockey, the Ice Cube Curling Centre, the Adler Arena speed skating venue, and the Iceberg Skating Palace, which will stage figure skating and short track speed skating. This compact setup means that, for the first time in the history of the Winter Games, all ice venues will be within walking distance of each other, enabling fans to attend multiple events in the same day. The Park will also be home to the Fisht Olympic Stadium, which will host the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, as well the International Broadcast Centre, Main Press Centre and Main Olympic Village.

Approximately 40km inland, the mountain cluster features the Laura Cross-Country Ski & Biathlon Centre, Rosa Khutor Alpine Centre, RusSki Gorki Jumping Centre, Sanki Sliding Centre and Rosa Khutor Extreme Park, as well as the Mountain Olympic Village and the Endurance Olympic Village. Before Sochi’s array of new venues take center stage, however, the whole of Russia will be given a chance to experience the growing excitement of the Winter Games thanks to the Sochi 2014 Olympic Torch Relay, which is due to begin on October 7th in Moscow. Once the Flame enters the Fisht Olympic Stadium during the Opening Ceremony on February 7th, however, it will be Sochi’s turn to shine, as the eyes of the world descend on the Russian city for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games. For the Organizing Committee and the athletes competing, the final countdown is well and truly on.