

## FROM THE NACAC PRESIDENT'S DESK NOVEMBER 2016

**SOME MEMBERS COULD NOT ESCAPE MATTHEW** – A lot have happened since my last communication with you in July but, one of the most significant event was the development of the hurricane Mathews that started hitting the Caribbean Sea from Colombia in South America then the Eastern Caribbean and kept moving Northwest through the South Caribbean dumping a lot of rain and low winds in Puerto Rico, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic and hitting the southwest part of Haiti with hurricane force winds and heavy rain where the damages were classified of a catastrophic level. Cuba's northeastern coast was hit hard but, due to the emergency system that our larger Caribbean island has in place, they avoided any deaths and major damages. After Cuba, Mathew hit The Bahamas where the damages were heavy and



the archipelago is still recovering from the destruction. However, the damages in Haiti were very high with more than 1,000 deaths and the destruction of their major agricultural region of the island. I was able to stay in contact with our dear friend and NACAC treasurer Alain Jean Pierre everyday via Whatapps and fortunately his family survived the hurricane. As you all know, our solidarity with Haiti is a priority in the region and right away, plenty of relief

aid have been provided by countries from all over the hemisphere, to help our brothers and sisters in Haiti to recover and at least to get the basic products that they need to survive.

The relief aids in a case like this is not enough since, there are too many families without home, without food and without medicals supplies. Therefore, we encourage our friends and members of our Athletics Family, to help in your particular countries with the relief efforts that started right away and still are going on right now. The Haiti Athletics Federation was hosting two international events in 2017, the Friendship Dual versus Dominican Republic and the 1<sup>st</sup> NACAC Age Group Championships. Of course, with the conditions and challenges that Haiti is facing due to the passing of Mathews, both events have been moved to other sites. The Friendship Dual to the Dominican Republic to be held May 15, 2017 and the 1<sup>st</sup> NACAC Age Group Championships to Trinidad and Tobago on July 14-15, 2017.

**AS EXPECTED THE NACAC AREA SHINED IN RIO** – With a historical overall Athletics competition by the IAAF as a whole, the NACAC AA led the show in the medal count with 55 medals, one more than in the 2012 Olympics in London. But more dramatically was the fact that our most developed member, USA, won 32 medals by far the largest amount of any

country competing in Rio. Also we would like to highlight the outstanding show by the athletes from Jamaica, Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas, Mexico, and Grenada. Overall, our Area had an outstanding Olympic Games with a great number of our athletes, reaching the finals, the semifinals and many establishing national records. But one fact that we are very proud of and that shows the development in our Area mainly in the number of athletes representing our Member Federations were almost the same for men and women. That is definitely the result of the dedication that our leaders, coaches and directors who have been making sure that we have gender equality in all our aspects of Athletics. One key factor behind this great accomplishment is our school sports programs where governments, Olympic Committees and National Federations, require that there must be equal opportunities for all genders in our sport programs. I would like to congratulate all our stakeholders, athletes, coaches, directors, officials, governments, parents, teachers and sponsors for their support and time, efforts, and resources given to our Athletics program that right now is the best in the world.



**OLYMPICS GAMES**  
 RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL  
 AUGUST 12 - 21, 2016



**NACAC MEDALS TABLE - FINAL REPORT**

*(by Carlos Clemente - NACAC Statistics)*

		G	S	B	TOTAL
United States		13	10	9	32
Jamaica		6	3	2	11
Canada		1	1	4	6
Bahamas		1	0	1	2
Grenada		0	1	0	1
Mexico		0	1	0	1
Cuba		0	0	1	1
Trinidad and Tobago		0	0	1	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>55</b>

**2017 WILL MARK THE NEW ERA OF THE NACAC AA** – With a new logo that was unveiled in July 2016, a newly designed webpage launched in September and an attractive 2017 Competition Calendar, the NACAC AA hopes to impact the area in many ways. First of all, we will continue to offer great opportunities in what we understand is our most important aspect of our development, the school and youth athletics programs.

Second, in order to give the opportunity to have our top athletes competing against world-class level athletes in the Area, we have increased the Area Permit Meetings or one-day



meetings, from 9 to 20 in 2017. All our world class athletes and coaches have manifested to us that they want to compete in front of their people in the months of April, May, June and early July but, we must put together an attractive international circuit in good facilities, under top conditions and good presentation.

Now, that the 2017 Calendar is ready plus some of our championships for 2018 and 2019 are set, we are embarking in an aggressive marketing project in order to attract top sponsors and television companies to become our partners in a multi year marketing agreement. For more information about the Calendar please visit the NACAC webpage, [www.athleticsnacac.org](http://www.athleticsnacac.org) The first APM of the NACAC International One Day Meetings Circuit is the Grenada Invitational on April 8 2017.

#### **NACAC LONG DISTANCES EVENTS OUTSIDE THE STADIUM EMBRACING THE COMMUNITY –**

As in all over the world the events outside the stadium keep increasing in the NACAC area and to comply with one of the objectives of the IAAF which is to increase the involvement of the thousands if not million of people that are participating in long distances road races and cross



country races within our world, area and regional championships and competitions. The NACAC area has a number of famous and well-established road races in our different regions and sub regions but, in order to make our championships and competitions more attractive to the people and the communities, we are putting together a series of events as attractive as possible.

One objective is to include within the community participating in whatever

road race are held in Games, Area and Regional Championships. In order to give more incentives to our long distances athletes and to develop high performance competitors, we have put together a series of 10K road races which we hope in 2017 are part of a circuit where the participants earn prize money and points to declare the champion(s) of the series.

So far this year we had three races as part of the recognized events of NACAC in the series and those are, the NACAC 10K Road Race Cup which is held within the World Best 10K Road Race that is held in San Juan, Puerto Rico the last Sunday in February, the WB 10K is an IAAF Gold Label Race. The other two are the NACAC 10K de Petit Bourg Guadeloupe Road Race and the NACAC 10K Chatoyer International Road Race held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This last one is known to be the most challenging road race in the world. The plan is to add one or two more 10K races in 2017 to complete the series.

Also, next year we are starting the NACAC Half Marathon Championships and the NACAC Mountain Run Championships. The next project is to start a Cross Country Series as we already are including a popular race for the whole community in the Pan Am Cross Country Cup and in the NACAC Cross Country Championships. Stand by for more information and I would like to encourage all our members to support this effort in order to develop our long distances athletes.



**46<sup>th</sup> FLOW CARIFTA GAMES – CURACAO 2017** – I am very happy to report that the organization of the 2017 46<sup>th</sup> Flow Carifta Games is right on schedule and in some areas way ahead. I have made two visits to Curacao already, the first one on September 15 to have meetings with the sports authorities and the LOC and to sign the MOU between NACAC and the LOC and the Local Athletics Federation. We toured the facilities and the hotels to be used as athletes' village and with some reconditioning of the stadium and the field events facilities; everything meets the standards to host the 46<sup>th</sup> Flow Carifta Games. My second visit was last week to attend the press conference sponsored by Flow Sports for the launching of the promotion of the 2017 Flow Carifta Games. I must state that the LOC is composed of exceptional individuals and they are working closely with both the federation and the government. One very important news that, I would like to share with the NACAC Family is that Flow was bought by Liberty Telecommunications. Liberty is the largest company in the business in the world. Therefore, we expect Flow to carry the 2017 Carifta Games all over the world as Liberty the parent company, covers the market worldwide. Next in the agenda was the site visit of the IAAF-NACAC assigned Organizational Delegate, Garth Gayle from Jamaica and the Technical Delegate, Conrad Francis from Grenada, who traveled to Curacao November 17.



**NACAC RDC 5<sup>TH</sup> WOMEN SEMINAR TO BE HOST BY CUBA** – NACAC is very proud to lead the world in women participation in Athletics at all levels and for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row the NACAC Women Commission is sponsoring a seminar organized by the IAAF San Juan RDC with auspices of NACAC AA, USATF, Mondo USA, UCS, Copa Airlines and the Cuban Athletics Federation. The Seminar will run from November 19 (arrivals) until November 23 (departures). The actual Seminar will be held at the Paradisus Hotel and Resort in Varadero.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME INTO THE NACAC FAMILY** – A number of Member Federations had an Election Congress therefore, on behalf of the NACAC Executive Council and the NACAC Athletics Family, we would like to congratulate and welcome the new elected councils from those federations that already had their elections. Please, make sure that you send a report of the election congress and the names of the elected council to the IAAF and to the NACAC offices.

**NACAC 2016 ATHLETES OF THE YEAR** – The NACAC Area is full of some of the best athletes in the history of our sport and it is not easy to select the best athlete(s) of the year. For the last three years the NACAC Media Commission had the responsibility to do that selection and last Friday the Commission made public the selection of the 2016 NACAC athletes of the year. In the Senior category the male athlete of the year was none other than Usain Bolt and in the women side the selection was Elaine Thompson, also from Jamaica who, as Usain Bolt won three medals, two gold and one silver in Rio, in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay. In the junior category the NACAC Athletes of the Year were Noah Lyles and Sydney McLaughlin both from USA. Lyles led the world rankings in both the 100m and the 200m and won the 100m in the IAAF U20 (Juniors) World Championships. McLaughlin broke the USA 400m hurdles national record twice and qualified for the Olympic Games, reaching the semi-finals in Rio. Congratulations to Usain, Elaine, Noah and Sydney for their outstanding year and for making our Area proud and leading Team NACAC to be best in the world.



**TIME FOR CHANGE** – Finally on December 3, 2016 in other words in two weeks the whole IAAF Family will meet in Monaco to approve a Reform of the IAAF Constitution that has been



restructured by a group of experts and that will set an example of good governance for other international federations. The Reform Task Group has worked very hard and long to come up with an instrument that will put the house in order. I would like to encourage our delegates to the Special Congress to support the approval of this important reform and moreover to stand behind our President, Seb Coe's efforts to bring our governance to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond. Please read the letter attached sent to me by one of our legal counsels, Mr. Fernando Olivero. Mr. Olivero is the legal counsel of the Puerto Rico NOC and is an expert in sport and doping legal matters. He has written two books on the subject.



**NACAC AA DELEGATES WILL MEET IN MONACO** – I would like to extend to all the NACAC AA delegates to the Special Congress an invitation for an informal meeting that we will have in Monaco December 2, 2016 at 3:00 pm. The meeting objective is to receive clarification by the members of the Reform Task Group on any concerns and question(s) that you may have.

**BEST WISHES TO ALL...**

**VÍCTOR LÓPEZ**