

FORMER WORLD CHAMP TO HELP DEVELOP BOXING IN THE BAHAMAS

FROM PAGE ONE

to go over and achieve so much and come back home to help boxing rise again in this country can be a great blessing," he said, "I would like to thank him because boxing right now in the country is at a very low point and I don't think anything can stop the great knowledge and achievement he has had in the sport from having an impact on local boxing."

Belts

A certified Hall of Famer, Bowe is known as the only Undisputed Heavyweight World Champion to have earned belts from all four main sanctioning bodies - WBC, WBA, IBF, and WBO. The controversial heavyweight faced some of the best fighters of his era, including Andrzej Golota, Evander "The Real Deal" Holyfield, Jorge Luis Gonzalez, Herbie "Dancing Destroyer" Hide, and Michael "Dynamite" Dokes. After more than 40 career fights, Bowe is one of five former heavyweight champions who never suffered a stoppage defeat.

RANDY GREGORY AND HIS SECOND CHANCE

I'VE seen substance abuse derail many a superstar athlete, even savagely cutting some down in their prime.

So when I see an athlete rebound from their addictions, and return to the playing field, focused and prepared to make the most of a second chance, I can only support their efforts.

Now, when it's a Dallas Cowboy involved, it makes it even easier for me. Such is the case with Cowboys DE Randy Gregory, ultra talented athlete, haunted by an addiction to alcohol and drugs.

Gregory missed last season, and most of the 2016 season, due to NFL suspensions for failed drug tests.

After a twenty month hiatus, Gregory finally returned to practice last week after being reinstated by the NFL.

It was shocking how good he looked in practice, it looked as if he never left. Gregory didn't get to sack Andy Dalton or the other Bengals' quarterbacks in last Saturday's preseason game, but he did just about everything else that could have been asked of him on such short notice.

As Kevin Boilard of 247Sports noted, the Bengals went three-and-out on their first two possessions of the game.

Both drives ended with incompletions on third down.

Both of those incompletions were caused by pressure generated by Gregory.

THE PRESS BOX

BY INIGO 'NAUGHTY' ZENICAZELAYA



Against both the run and pass, Gregory made a point to never give up on a play.

He joined scrums. He chased receivers.

He did everything in his power to impact the game until he heard a whistle.

You can't teach or coach effort, and the time he spent away from the game seems to have done Gregory some good.

However stellar on field performances, does not equate to staying sober off of it.

Matured

But it shows that he has matured, is focused with his head is in the right place.

Gregory is making the most of his comeback opportunity, and based on the way that the rest of the defence looks so far, it appears that his attitude is infectious.

Gregory opened up to the media in post game interviews, telling the Dallas Star - Telegram:

"It feels real good, I don't know how to explain it.

"I haven't played in an

actual game in close to two years. Practice is one thing, but to actually get on the field with the guys felt good."

Cowboys Head Coach Jason Garret, offered these remarks regarding Gregory's performance in the game against the Bengals last Saturday night:

"He looked quick and explosive.

"He looked like himself. He is a really natural pass rusher with a lot of skills.

"Hopefully this will be a stepping stone for more action in the future."

Despite not being ready to be a Week 1 starter, because he is just getting back to work on the practice field now, Gregory and the Cowboys still may have the NFL's best defensive front.

And now what they have is a chance to be truly special on defence, allowing Randy Gregory to continue to show how special he is, in more ways than one.

I will root extra hard for Gregory this season, for his continued success on and off the field, whether it's his fight against mammoth offensive linemen or staying sober.



DALLAS Cowboys DE Randy Gregory. (AP)

MIAMI DOLPHINS DONATE YOUTH FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT

By RENALDO DORSETT
Tribune Sports Reporter
rdorsett@tribunemedia.net

THE relationship between the Bahamas and the National Football League's Miami Dolphins continues to produce dividends for the country's youth development in American football.

Longtime Miami Dolphins player and executive Nat Moore presented local football leagues with the first of four donations of youth football equipment yesterday at the Thomas A Robinson Stadium.

The Dolphins donated 48 footballs and 20 agility ladders to be dispersed among various programmes in the New Providence and the family islands. Both New Providence and Grand Bahama will receive 15 footballs and seven ladders apiece, Abaco will receive 12 footballs and four ladders while Exuma will receive six footballs and two ladders.

"Many years ago the Bahamas befriended me and the Miami Dolphins.

"We started a partnership dating back over 40 years, but one of the commitments I made my last time here was that I was going to do everything I can to help grow football for the youth in the Bahamas and to make it as safe as possible," Moore said, "This is the first installment of a four-year plan to try and get as much equipment so that the kids



THE MIAMI Dolphins hosted a press conference yesterday at the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium to make a donation of 48 footballs and 20 ladders to The Bahamas. Pictured from (L-R) are: Jayson Clarke, Bahamas Flag Football League President; Jeff Rodgers, Sports Tourism; Eldese Clarke, Sports Tourism; Nat Moore, Senior Vice President of Special Projects & Alumni Relations at Miami Dolphins Ltd.; Jeff Lloyd, Minister of Education; Tim Munnings, Director of Sports and Antonio Maycock, President of the Commonwealth American Football League. Photo: Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff

have first-rate equipment to learn and train with.

"The ladders are the number one tool for training young people in quickness and agility with their feet, whether it's football or teaching them the basics."

Moore, the Dolphins' senior vice president of special projects

and alumni relations continues his philanthropic efforts, which has now extended to the Bahamas, with a focus on youth football development.

"It's about what the game teaches you - perseverance, teamwork, integrity, trust, discipline, life lessons necessary for success - that's

what it is all about. Football taught me that at an early age. Football paid my way to college and it gave me an opportunity to earn a living with the Miami Dolphins. Today I'm still earning a living with the Dolphins, not because of my football accolades, but because football gave me a chance to go to school and train my brain and gave me knowledge," Moore said, "We want to create that opportunity for some of these young student-athletes in the Bahamas."

Director of Sports Tim Munnings said the Dolphins organisation continues its commitment of community outreach to its loyal fanbase in the Bahamas.

"They have done great work with the youth, teaching them principles of American football. We are pleased that they saw fit to recognise the need to assist youth development through this sporting equipment which will be delivered throughout the capital and various family islands," he said, "Their facilities need assistance and this will go a great way towards those student-athletes being able to learn the sport."

Commonwealth American Football League President, Antonio Maycock, said the goal behind the equipment drive is to reinvigorate the sport locally and create further educational opportunities.

"We hope to share the opportunities that football can present, one

of which is to pursue a career and another was to gain an education," he said, "I share Mr. Moore's story as I too was able to acquire an education through the sport of football so I know the benefits it creates, he said, "Thank you so much for the equipment that will allow young people to develop those skills so they too will have their opportunity to improve and earn opportunities of their own when they present themselves."

For the past few years the "Dan Marino and Friends Bahamas Weekend" has celebrated the partnership between the Dolphins and the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism in a community outreach effort.

The itinerary included a welcome reception on opening night, followed by golf and evening events on day two.

Day three included a youth football clinic at the stadium with approximately 200 local football enthusiasts, ranging from ages 6-18, in attendance.

The final events were a flag football tournament and exhibition between the visiting Dolphins Legends and the Bahamas All-Stars, comprised of former Commonwealth American Football League and Bahamas Flag Football players.

At halftime of the finale, the Dolphins group presented a \$15,000 cheque to REACH Bahamas, a group aimed at raising autism awareness throughout the country.

CLASS OF '78 GET THE BIG RED MACHINE INTO GEAR

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

IT maybe a little too early to start talking about high school sports, but for the St Augustine's College Big Red Machine, this is the best time to get some financial support for their dominating athletic programme.

On Saturday, vice principal Benedict Dorsett and Board Member Geno Nairn received a donation from the class of 1978, headed by Algernon Cargill, Bahamas Swimming Federation president, to assist with the development of their famed sports ground, particularly the reconstruction of two softball fields.

"The board, headed by Paul McWeeney, has asked Michael Adderley and I to spearhead a fund raising to refurbish the sporting facilities here at SAC," Nairn said. "We have a number of athletes training here and we want to avoid any serious injuries from using the track.

"We want to get the track resurfaced so that our

athletes continue their dominance as they have done in the BAISS (Bahamas Association of Independent Secondary Schools) for the past 26 years."

Nairn said they have targeted a goal of \$500,000 to build two new softball fields at the southern end of the school's ground, refurbish the track and create a soccer pitch inside of the track.

Donate

"We need all SAC alumnus and anyone who wants to donate," said Nairn, a former basketball player at SAC during the early 70s. "Nothing is too small to give back.

"SAC has been giving for a number of years and now we feel its time for SAC to receive from its graduates as well as its present students and friends of SAC to help us to make this dream a reality for our current and future students."

In the next two weeks, Nairn said they hope to get the softball fields constructed so that the Big Red Machine

can perform on them when the BAISS softball season gets underway.

While the fields are now a priority, Nairn said they are still pressing forward with the construction of the multi-purpose gymnasium that has been on the drawing board for decades.

He said the board is looking at making that a reality by 2020, but he said their goal is to complete the renovations to the sporting facilities by the end of this year.

Mynez Cargill-Sherman, who is on the Alumni Association's committee to renovate the sporting grounds, said she's thrilled and motivated by the gesture of the Class of 1978.

"Right now, I really want to make a plea for all SACers and the friends of SAC to come forth and help us to make this project a reality," urged Mynez-Sherman, who graduated in the class of 1982.

"For years, we've heard the talk that SAC is going to do this and SAC is going to do that. But this year, we are definitely going to make



FROM left to right at the cheque presentation are Thyra Johnson, Brenda Albury, Mynez Cargill-Sherman, Gino Nairn, Algernon Cargill, Norma Hall-Miller, Benedict Dorsett, Brenda Johnson and Ingrid Tynes-Kerr.

it happen. When you look at the facilities our athletes have to train on, they are not as good as they should be."

Coaching

Mynez-Sherman, who assists in coaching the girls' softball teams, said the creation of the new softball fields and the refurbishment of the track will benefit the athletes tremendously.

Jason Edwards, the head of the Athletic Department, said he's ecstatic about the news.

"I think it's something, something that we have been waiting on for a while," said

Edwards, a SAC alumni, who represented the Big Red Machine in a number of sporting disciplines, including track and field as a Carifta triple jumper.

"As all SACers do, we're going to come together and push to make this happen and make sure that the legacy continues to develop at SAC. Besides the actual facilities, I also want to see future leaders in the sports world in this country and this is a good place to be home grown."

As for the upcoming season, Edwards said their staff in the Athletic Department and all of those coaches, alumnus, parents and friends, who assist their teams, will be working towards another

successful year.

"We have some good things on the horizon," mentioned Edwards, a 1998 graduate. "I think we will do what we're supposed to do."

Novio Sports, a multi-purpose sports based group specialising in games and event coverage, is producing an intro-active website called sacbahamas.com that will enable the public to navigate the site and view the entire programme and to make payments by credit cards.

Valdez Williams, one of the principals in charge of Novio Sports, said they intend to ensure that the SAC website stands put just as the Big Red Machine has made its presence felt in sports.