

Kevin Lawrence Basketball Extravaganza...

Ravens promise to win and entertain



You're still with us: The Ravens Basketball Club photo from November 2009, which included small forward Kevin Lawrence (#9 far left) before he passed away last year

Fans should be in for a treat at the Kevin Lawrence Memorial Basketball Extravaganza tonight at the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall as captain of the Ravens Basketball Club, Darcel Harris, promised a thrilling and entertaining performance from his team.

The former national captain told Guyana Times Sport yesterday said that his team will be looking to win their game while placing special effort into entertaining the crowd. Ravens will oppose the Georgetown All Stars in the featured game of the evening, the night before the first anniversary of the tragic passing of former Ravens and national player Kevin Lawrence.

The night's proceedings are scheduled to begin at 19:00hrs with Ravens junior team playing the Youth Basketball Guyana (YBG) Elite team. While Harris did not say much about the curtain-raiser, he was very confident about his senior team's chances.

Lawrence, during his time with the Ravens Basketball Club, was the team's motivator and the most vocal player on the court, always charging up

his team-mates towards victory. Lawrence played a significant role in helping Ravens regain their spot as the number one team in the country, as well as giving them the upper hand in the always entertaining match-up against Pacesetters. His final two games were 20-point performances and he had charged his teammates to stay unbeaten in 2010.

R e m e m b e r i n g Lawrence's passion for seeing his team on top, Harris said that his teammates understands the task ahead of them against the compilation of the capital city's top players selected by the Georgetown Amateur Basketball Association (GABA).

The players that are expected to take the court for Ravens' First Division side are Dwayne 'Brown Sugar' Roberts, Ryan Gullen, Rudy James, Ryan Stephney, Yusif Edghill, Seriah Clarke, Carey Griffith, Stephon Henry, Rodwell Fortune, Dellon Davidson, Kurt Sunich, who returned to Ravens after playing a few seasons for Bounty Colts, and newly acquired player Travis 'cook-up' Foster.

Harris is confident that that rotation will be

able to cohesively combine their skills to defeat the all stars, while satisfying the patrons of their event.

"Well it's our promotions so we realise that it is important to put on a show for our fans," Harris said.

Playing in the first game for the Ravens are forward Jermaine Slater, Keno George, Davidson and guards Marlon 'Ten' Haynes, Jason Harper, Jason Cummings and Antwain Benjamin.

The YBG Elite will be led by former junior national captain Akeem Kanhai and some of the country's junior players. Also listed on the YBG Elite roster are Ravens player Dominic 'The Logo Kid' Vincente, Marlon Pollydore, Cowen Gittens, Nikkolo Smith, Geoffrey Pollydore, Linden Fraser, Prince Giddings and Yannick Dundas.

The GABA All Stars are Royston Siland (Pacesetters), Richard Braithwaite (Sonics), Kurt Elias (Pacesetters), Darren Thomas (Macabees), Stephon Gillis (Pacesetters), Nico Fraser (Colts), Akeem Kanhai, Hodayah Stewart (Macabees), Pelham Doris (Nets), Mortimer Williams (Nets) and Travis Burnett (Pacesetters).

Kiddy Cricket Mascot winners rewarded

- Young Runako Williams wins from field of 145



Marketing Manager of Scotia Bank, Jennifer Cipriani (left), presents the Nintendo DS to Runako Williams, while second and third place winners, Kayshav Tewari and Kande Skeete pose with their prizes (Photo: Avenash Ramzan)

By AVENASH RAMZAN

Eight-year-old Runako Williams of South Ruimveldt Park Primary School won his himself a Nintendo DS as he emerged champion from a field of 145 entries for the Scotiabank Kiddy Cricket Mascot competition.

The pint-sized youngster was presented with his prize yesterday by the Bank's Marketing Manager Jennifer Cipriani at the Robb Street branch, while second and third place winners were also on hand to receive their accolades.

Williams, who is a Grade Three student, called his winning mascot "Six", noting that in cricket, six brings out the most excitement from the fans. "Six is fun!" he said in his description of the drawing.

The runner-up spot went to 11-year-old Kayshav Tewari of Valmiki Vidyalaya Primary at Lusignan, East Coast Demerara. His mascot "Maddox the Macaw" earned

him the second place prize of an MP3 Player.

Third position was taken by another eight-year-old, Kande Scott, also of South Ruimveldt Park Primary. She won a Scotiabank bag with her depiction of a cricket ball and bat with legs.

Hundreds of entries were received from 17 schools, and according to West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) Kiddy Cricket Project Officer, KJ Singh, the drawing exceeded their expectations in the artistic and creative departments.

"The competition also had a written component, which was most inspiring as it demonstrated that kids are very much aware and knowledgeable of cricket. Overall, this initiative has definitely achieved its goal of helping us to find a new mascot and also energizing the kids for the upcoming 2011 programme."

Guyana's top three entries will be submitted for the regional competition, where the top prize is a laptop computer.

Some schools took the

competition seriously and coordinated their submissions. Marian Academy had the most entries at 45, followed by Annandale Secondary (25), Valmiki Vidyalaya Primary and Mon Repos Primary (17 each), St. Anthony's Primary of Bartica (11), South Ruimveldt Park Primary (8), and Graham's Hall Primary (6). Other entries came from as far as Ithaca Primary, East Bank Berbice, and Meten-Meer-Zorg.

Scotiabank and the WICB officially announced the search for a new Kiddy Cricket Mascot last January, inviting children ages 7-12 in 14 Caribbean territories to enter designs for the new mascot.

The winning design will replace 'Clarence the Crab', the existing mascot which has been the animated face of the competition since its inception in 1998.

He has been appearing on and off the field of play during the Kiddy Cricket displays. He was also a main feature on the programme's classroom teaching manual "Clarence Goes to School", which instructs children in the Education Ministry's approved curriculum using cricket imagery.

The local competition ended on February 18, and primarily targeted 250 local Kiddy Cricket schools in Berbice, Demerara, and Essequibo. However, students outside of these schools were also invited to enter. Entries were judged on originality, reflection of the Caribbean, use of sponsor's colours, and use of cricket imagery.

The local judging panel comprised the Technical Development Officer from the Guyana Cricket Board, one Scotiabank staff and two costume designers. WICB and Scotiabank regional teams will sit on the judging panel for the regional competition.

BCB to launch Junior Elite Training Programme tomorrow

The Berbice Cricket Board (BCB) will tomorrow launch the Junior Elite Training Programme for 2011, with 35 Under-15 cricketers drawn from across the ancient county participating.

The programme will be launched at the Albion Community Centre, with the thirty five players being selected by the Junior Selection Committee headed by Leslie Solomon. Selection was based on performance, personal discipline, attitude and commitment.

Chairman of the Berbice Cricket Board's Special Events Committee, Hilbert Foster, stated that with the rainy season affected all cricket. The board has organised the programme to keep the players active and fully pre-

pared for the upcoming Inter-county Under-15 tournament, with the aim of successfully defending the title which Berbice won last year. Foster noted that, last year, a similar programme for the senior players was a huge success and the Berbice Cricket Board was looking for a repeat performance from the juniors.

The BCB Coaching Coordinator, Julian Moore, and Coach Winston Smith, will be in charge of the programme, which will continue each weekend (Saturdays and Sundays) until the Inter-county championships. Players, as part of their commitment to Berbice Cricket, will be expected to stand the cost of transportation.

The following players are requested to report to the

Albion Community Centre tomorrow at 12.30 hours in training uniform and with cricket gear: Shimron Hetmyer, Arif Chan, Viendra Gooniah, Gary Millington, Nicholas Cameron, Keirre Henry, Shemroy Mc Kenzie, Derek Narine, David Lachaya, Leon Andrews, Randolph Davis, Hakeem Hinds, Nick Ramsaroop, Marlon Shepherd, Michael Naimatali, Brandon Persaud, Martin Singh, Rishi Persaud, Askay Homraj, Daniel Lewis, Sharaz Ramcharran, Kumar Madray, Parmanand Ramdhan, Suresh Dhanai, Thomas Mc Donald, Grisean Grant, Manoj Looknauth, Nial Smith, Vidanand Sugrim, Gavin Moriah, Tameshwar Kumar, Naren Ramoo, Latchman Bishram, Clifton Lindie and Junior Jaundoo.