

# Report

## NBD Primary Schools Football Championship 2010

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In its thrust to foster the development of football in the Primary Schools, the Sports Division runs an annual Primary Schools Football Championship. What started in 2003 as a one-day Festival (with 8 schools) grew to a Championship that lasted 4 days with 36 participating schools in 2009.

This year (2010), a record number of forty five (45) Primary Schools (approximately 450 boys) registered to participate in the Sports Division's organized Primary Schools Football Championship. The increase in participation clearly showed the positive impact of a better structured Physical Education and Sports program within the Primary Schools. The increase in the amount of equipment distributed to the schools, additional Youth Sports Officers deployed to the schools, along with the training of these officers and the In-House school teachers played important roles in getting this result.

However, the increase in the number of participating schools made the program even more expensive since it called for additional game days, increased transportation costs, more officials and more specific equipment. It became clear that additional sponsorship was needed to run a proper tournament and Sports Division's efforts were rewarded; For the first time, the National Bank of Dominica (NBD) came on board and agreed to sponsor the 2010 championship to the tune of eleven thousand, five hundred dollars (\$11,500.00) – the largest amount any company has given to towards Sports Division's competitions.

### TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The first qualifying phase of the tournament was played on a round robin basis in eight (8) Zones of 5 to 6 teams at different districts all over the Island during the month of February.

The first three (3) placed teams in each Zone then qualified for the second round, which included twenty four teams and was played at four (4) different venues in early March.

Out of the second round, eight (8) teams qualified to play the final round at the Benjamin's Park in Portsmouth on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March. This round included the quarter- and semi- finals and then culminated in a grand Final.

### THE TOURNAMENT

The official Opening took place at the Benjamin's Park on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> February at 10:30 am.

Ms. Fiona Vidal, District Sports Officer for the North, welcomed the invited Guests and the participating Schools of the North and North East Districts.



After addresses by the Sports Coordinator, Mr. Trevor Shillingford and the other invited guests, Ms. Amanda Scotland, representative of NBD, handed the sponsorship cheque to the Sports Coordinator and the 2010 tournament was officially opened.



After the ceremony, the teams of the two attending districts played their **Qualifying Round** on two separate fields.

The NBD Primary Schools Championship 2010 had kicked off very successfully in Portsmouth and by the end of February, all 33 teams in the remaining 6 districts zones had their first round completed, with 24 teams in total qualifying for the next round.



The **Second Round** was played at 4 different venues during two days (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> March). At each venue six teams played against each other and the top two teams qualified for the Final Round.

On March 10<sup>th</sup> at Benjamin's Park in Portsmouth, the following eight schools qualified for the **Final Round**:

Woodford Hill, St. Mary's Primary, Goodwill Primary, Roseau Primary, Calibishie, Massacre, Jones Beaupierre and the Convent Preparatory School.



Preceding the games, a short closing ceremony was held with addresses from



Mr. Trevor Shillingford - the Sports Coordinator, Mrs. Suzanne Joseph-Piper – representative of the National Bank of Dominica, Hon. Ian Douglas – Parliamentary Representative of the Portsmouth Constituency and the Hon. Justina Charles – Minister for Culture, Youth and Sports.



The Final Round commenced with the surprising defeat of the defending Champion, Convent Prep in the Quarter-finals. The former Champions were knocked out by a well playing Calibishie in a very interesting and tense game that ended 1 -1 after regulation and over time. The game had to be decided by penalty kicks, which Calibishie won by 6 - 5.



The results of the other 3 Quarter-finals were as follows:

- *Woodford Hill vs. SMP: 1 – 2*
- *Goodwill vs. Roseau Primary: 2 – 1*
- *Massacre vs. Jones Beaupierre: 2 – 0*



In two toughly contested Semi-final matches, the SMP defeated Goodwill 3 - 2 and Massacre won narrowly against Calibishie with 2 – 1.



The Semi-finals losers then played the match to determine 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places and Calibishie defeated Goodwill with 2 – 1 goals.



The day culminated with the Final between SMP and Massacre. In a very intense match, both teams missed several good chances to score and to decide the game early, but it ended scoreless after regulation time.

The 2 x 5 minutes overtime did not bring a decision either and it was the **St. Mary's Primary School (SMP)** who emerged the



**2010 Champion Team** winning by penalty kicks: 4 - 3.



The Sports Division expresses its gratefulness for the generous contribution of the National Bank of Dominica and is looking forward to a fruitful and long relationship with the bank in the development of Sports in the Primary Schools.

Thanks also go out to the players, coaches, officials, supporters and well wishers and all others who in one way or another, contributed towards the success of this Championship.

Submitted by  
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