

## **2011 SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

A total of eleven (11) schools participated in this year's Secondary Schools Football Championships which was organized and sponsored by the Sports Division. This meant that only one Secondary School did not enter a team and that was the Nehemiah Comprehensive School (NCS). The tournament was played in two phases: 22 matches before the Independence break and 29 matches after the break.

As in previous years, the championship was played in three categories: U-15, U-17 and U-20. Nine (9) schools participated both in the U-15 and U-17 categories and were initially divided into two (2) Zones. After playing a round robin in each zone, the 2 top teams qualified for the semi finals. In the U-20 category, six (6) schools registered and they played a full round robin to determine the champion.

The championships commenced on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2011 - opening with one (1) match of the Under 20 category played in Dublanc. During the months of October and November, 51 games were played at six different venues: Pottersville, Newtown, Grand Bay, Portsmouth, Castle Bruce and Dublanc. Due to the good cooperation of the coaches and the favorable weather, the Championships ran very smoothly this year and we were only forced to postpone a few games. This enabled us to conclude the tournament prior to the start of exams (early December) as planned.

### **Under 15 Championship**

Generally the quality of the games in our youngest category showed clear improvement compared to previous years. The focus of the Sports Division on grass roots development in the Primary Schools and the increased work of football academies in various communities clearly upgraded the technical level of the players. But much can still be done to raise the standard tactically.

Nine schools registered a team in this category. After playing a round robin in the 2 Zones (A & B), the winners of the zones played the runners up of the other zone in the Semi Finals as follows, whereby the zone winners had home advantage:

1. **DGS** vs. PSS                      2 : 1
2. GSS vs. **SMA**                      3 : 3 after regulation time → SMA won after penalty kicks 3:1.

The Final between the Dominica Grammar School and the St. Mary's Academy was played at the Windsor Park Stadium on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November at 3:00 PM.

Both teams had played the round robin in the same zone and their games in early November ended in a 2 all draw. So the final promised to be competitive and truly the game turned out to be very good and exciting with seven goals scored.

SMA took a 2 nil lead early in the first half, but DGS came back scoring 2 goals to end the first half in a draw.

In the second half of the tough contested match, DGS then was able to convert their chances better and outscored SMA by winning 5 goals to 2.

Congratulations go to the **Dominica Grammar School Team**, who ended second in 2010 and came back strong in 2011 to win the U-15 Championship.



The very talented **Delroy Parker** of the Goodwill Secondary School (**GSS**) was selected by the coaches as Most Valuable Player (**MVP**) of the **U-15** tournament.

## **Under 17 Championship**

In 2010 only 5 schools had entered teams in this age group. This year, 9 teams participated and they were divided into 2 Zones (C & D). The tournament format was organized the same way as in the U-15 category.

Surprisingly, the 2010 U-17 Champions PSS did not qualify for the semi finals this year – but it was their ill discipline that gave the edge to ITSS, taking away their place in the last four.

The four teams that qualified for the Semi Finals played as follows:

**GSS** vs. ITSS 3 : 0 and CBSS vs. **DGS** 1 : 3.

The Final between the Goodwill Secondary School and the Dominica Grammar School was played at the Windsor Park Stadium on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November at 5:00 PM following the U-15 final.



GSS took the lead mid way in the first half and it turned out to be the only goal after 40 minutes of play. DGS came back strong with good scoring opportunities, but GSS was able to defend the DGS attacks successfully and scored the decisive second goal on a counter attack 10 minutes before the final whistle:

**GSS vs. DGS 2 : 0.**

**Goodwill Secondary School** showed fighting spirit and was tactically the better team – they deserved the U-17 Championship Trophy.



As **Under-17 Most Valuable Player** the coaches selected the Goal Keeper of the Dominica Community High School – **Shane Lewis**.

## **Under 20 Championship**

Six schools entered teams in this category which was played in one Zone on a round robin basis to determine the 2011 Champion.

After the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 5 rounds the standings showed that the two teams which were clearly leading the table were PSS and DSC. The other four teams were very balanced and this resulted in competitive and tight games with various draws. After 4 rounds, DSC was ahead of PSS by one point. To make it more exciting, we decided to set the game between the 2 teams as the final match of the tournament in the Windsor Park Stadium.

But it never came that far, as PSS pulled out their team for their final two games. The school officially wrote the Sports Division that they could not fill a team due to disciplinary measures taken involving players that were suspended because of misconduct.

It is sad that the championship had to end this way, but DSC was definitely the best U-20 team this year. The Sports Division congratulates the **Dominica State College** for retaining the U-20 Trophy in 2011 after being crowned in 2007, 2008 and 2009, but losing in the Semis in 2010.

As **Under-20 Most Valuable Player** the coaches selected **Anderson Lawrence** of the Goodwill Secondary School.

Round Robin	DSC	GSS	ITSS	DGS	PSS	PCSS	Wins	Losses	Draws	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Total Points	Final Position
DSC		3:0	8:0	2:2	3:0ff	8:0	4	0	1	25	2	23	13	1
GSS	0:3		4:4	0:4	0:3	4:2	1	3	1	8	16	-8	4	5
ITSS	0:8	4:4		2:2	0:3	3:1	1	1	2	9	18	-9	5	4
DGS	2:2	4:0	2:2		1:3	2:2	1	1	3	11	9	2	6	3
PSS	0:3ff	3:0	3:0	3:1		0:3ff	3	2	0	9	7	2	9	2
PCSS	0:8	2:4	1:3	2:2	3:0ff		1	3	1	8	17	-9	4	6

### **Recommendations:**

- ▶ It was a good decision to begin the Championships in early October and this should be continued in subsequent years.
- ▶ As one measure for more fairness and camaraderie on the field, team members shaking hands before and after the game should be introduced.

We thank all officials, coaches and others who helped in seeing this championship completed successfully, besides the disturbing one incident. We are also grateful to the Government of Dominica for providing the high transportation costs for the schools.

Submitted by

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