



EDITORIAL

Learning from sports

The second Caribbean Premier League came to a successful conclusion last weekend. The utter delight of the Barbados Tridents when it was announced that they had been declared winners of this year's tournament will be remembered for a long time. It seemed like the high-fives, handshakes, back slapping and other celebrations were not going to stop.

It will also be difficult for us to forget the look of utter dejection and disappointment on the faces of the players, officials and supporters of the Amazon Warriors. However they still maintained the discipline and of the game, acknowledged defeat and congratulated the winners.

The strict discipline which is required of men of integrity enables the game, although vigorously contested, to proceed smoothly and to bring joy and happiness to the thousands of cheering spectators at each match and to the millions who watched the games on television.

Events like the CPL have many lessons for us in a country and a world torn with internecine strife, greed, disunity and self seeking.

The highly trained cricketers, coaches and managers of all nationalities, supporting each other with all their skills and stamina which have been quite astonishing at times, from breath taking catches, magnificent sixes and mesmerising bowling, going all out to make their team win.

However they only do so according to the rules otherwise they suffer for it. The success of their team depends on the respect they have for each other and respect for members of the opposing side regardless of country of origin, race, colour, language or religion.

Without this respect loyalty will suffer, team unity will be lost and the games may well end up as brawls.

We in Guyana can learn much from the CPL and other sports. If we are to work together as a team to achieve our national goals we need to respect each other though we are of different nationalities, races and religions. Far too many of us act in our own self interest regardless of the effect our actions have on our country.

Before the start of the recent football world cup in Brazil the Pope Francis sent the participants a message which could be applied to almost any sport.

Let the sport be a showcase for teamwork and solidarity, not an exhibition of racism and greed, he said, adding that the game teaches three lessons that can promote peace and solidarity around the world: the need to train and work hard to reach goals, the importance of fair play and teamwork, and the need to respect and honor opponents.

"To win, we must overcome individualism, selfishness, all forms of racism, intolerance and manipulation of people," he said.

"Certainly, (sport) awakens many values and attitudes that are not only important on the field, but also in life."

Let us take these lessons to heart. ❖

Guyanese must join hands

Dear Editor,

Having lived, travelled extensively and worked at various occupations in four different countries, and in four of the most explosive and turbulent generations in the history of mankind, I have developed the firm conviction that the fate of every human being is inextricably bound up with every other of our fellowmen on this earth.

This means that none of us on this earth, no matter of what race, country, religion, and political persuasion, will enjoy true freedom, peaceful existence, and even physical fulfillment unless all others are free, living peacefully and with all basic physical needs satisfied. This is just as true for members of a family, community and state.

When we apply this to our own situation of Guyana, it follows that whenever we think and act selfishly, whether as members of a family, racial group, community or political party, we are moving further and further away from real progress and peaceful coexistence of all our citizens, no matter how much we seem to gain for ourselves. In short, none of us Guyanese will ever be able to enjoy life as it should be lived unless we think and act unselfishly and join hands together to advance the cause of all of us.

I pray that all in this great country of ours will appreciate this and really start making the effort to secure a better life for all of us.

Roy Paul

Another stellar CXC performance at Marian Academy

Dear Editor,

It is the season of CXC results again. Our children and institutions keep doing us proud. Here at The Marian Academy, there is no letup from prior years, and some of this satisfying story is best portrayed by the numbers, along with a couple of the youngsters behind those numbers.

Forty-five students wrote a total of 409 subjects. Of these 30 students gained 100% passes and a literal handful (five) came away with less than 80% passes in overall subjects taken. Pride of place goes to the 44 students who took Mathematics, all of whom passed.

There were a stunning 19 distinctions, and 6 Grade 1s. Forty-four students wrote for the coveted English A, with results of 26 Grade 1s, of which 11 were distinctions. While all of the 16 students who took Physical Education gained Grade 1s, of which 14 were distinctions.

There were 23 subjects attempted, with 100% passes (Grades 1-3) in 15 of those subjects. The overall pass rate for the students (and school) was 94.38%, which speaks for itself and positions the school right there among the elite performers. Now for some names associated with those inspiring numbers. ([please turn to page 10](#))

Forestry Sector Above-board

Dear Editor,

I was pleased with your editorial under the caption "Guarding our Forest Resources" which I thought was basically objective in keeping with a Church's newspaper. You did not rush off to print what is baseless and erroneous information about the Bai Shan Lin forest operations and Guyana's forest sector.

Mr Editor permit me to state the following:

1. Guyana's state forest estate is efficiently and sustainably managed by the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) and our deforestation rate is less than 1%
2. All logging activities both local and foreign are efficiently monitored by the monitoring unit of the Forestry Commission.
3. The Bai Shan Lin logging company through State Forests Exploratory Permits (SFEPs) has ownership of only

344,894 hectares of forest. Bai Shan Lin does not own 960,000 ha of forests.

4. Bai Shan Lin has joint venture arrangements with Community Forest Organisations of Region 10 to carry out logging activities which are strictly monitored by the GFC. This is in keeping with the Forestry Act of 2009.

5. Harvesting of forest produce (logs) must be within the annual allowable cut where no over harvesting is permitted. This is strictly monitored by the GFC.

6. All log exports must be in accordance with the National Log Export Policy of 2009. This is strictly monitored by the GFC. Bai Shan Lin is authorised to export forest produce which includes logs from Guyana having a valid export licence including its joint venture partners which include Kwebanna Wood Products Inc, Haimorakabra Logging Company, Puruni Wood Products and Wood Associated Industries Company.

([please turn to page 10](#))