

VIOC IN ACTION

Virgin Islands Olympic Committee Newsletter

Wishing all our readers a blessed, healthy, and prosperous 2015.



The Virgin Islands Olympic Committee has accomplished much over the past two years and foremost is the circulation of the VIOC Newsletter “VIOC In Action”. Through this means we have been able to inform our community and followers in the electronic media of the works of the Olympic Committee and the accomplishments of our athletes. The creation of the Virgin Islands Olympic Academy and the work it has accomplished through its commissions has placed the VIOC in a position of responsibility for the development of our community in engaging in “Sport for Life”. Thanks to Director, Ansen Sligar (VIOC VP), and all the volunteers who give of their time for our cause. Our beach clean-ups and Olympic Day run activities conducted by the Environment and Sport For All Commission are events we will build on and involve our community in.

“Team ISV” made all Virgin Islanders proud of their performance at the Central American and Caribbean Games in Veracruz, Mexico by bringing home 1 gold medal, 2 silver medals, and 3 bronze medals. Congratulations to them and the entire delegation who represented us. This year, our athletes will be preparing for the Pan American Games in Toronto, Canada July 10 -26. We have athletes in Track, Sailing and Taekwondo that have already qualified and we expect athletes in Boxing, Golf, Swimming and Shooting to qualify for the Pan Am Games. The VIOC is committed to assist these athletes to represent us well again in this international event. Thanks to all who have made this possible.

Angel Morales - President, Virgin Islands Olympic Committee

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Team ISV gets the gold and more.
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Team ISV in Veracruz, Mexico for the CAC



The Virgin Islands Olympic Committee is still riding high on the performances of all athletes that participated in the 2014 Central American and Caribbean Games in Veracruz, Mexico in November.

More than sixty athletes, coaches, parents and other supporters cheered Team ISV to a record six medals and an overall finish of 14th out of 36 participating countries and territories.

Team ISV 2014 topped all other Virgin Islands performances in more than 50 years participating in the CAC Games. “We could not be more proud of our athletes,” VIOC Secretary General Lyn Reid said. “They set a medal total record for Team ISV. You can’t ask for more than that!” Topping the performance charts for Team ISV was the Gold Medal-winning J-24 team of Taylor Canfield, Phillip Shannon, Addison Caproni and Max Joshua.

Just short of the top, with Silver Medals, we have: Cy Thompson sailing in the Laser class; and Halim Muhammad in the Men’s Long Jump competition.

All three Bronze Medal performances were in Track and Field with Allison Peter in the Women’s 200m race; Leslie Murray in the Men’s 400m Hurdles; and Laverne Jones-Ferrette in the Women’s 100m race.

The events in Veracruz gave Jones-Ferrette and all other

track and field athletes an early and abnormal start to their season, unlike their counterparts of whom some were in mid-season form.

“Despite not being totally satisfied with their preparation time, I think our track and field athletes did very well,” John Abramson said. “When it mattered, they dug deep and let everyone know they were not going to be disregarded.” Abramson served as ‘Chef de Mission’ for Veracruz and oversaw the entire Virgin Islands team and delegation affairs.

The games were spread out among many venues within five cities in Veracruz including the capital of Xalapa. The VIOC Vice President and Assistant Chef de Mission Ansen Sligar managed the team. Xalapa hosted all of the track and field, shooting and archery events.

“Though the unseasonal cold and wet conditions and having to perform at 1,400 elevation, our athletes came through with flying colors”, Sligar said. “I was inspired by their performances and cannot wait to see them in 2015.”

Athletes from Team V.I. participated in 10 sports including Sailing, Swimming, Beach Volleyball, Track and Field, Taekwondo, Archery, Shooting, Bowling, Golf and Boxing.

By Athneil “Bobby” Thomas

Correction: October 2014 Issue #6 - IOC Injury Prevention Conference identified Jerry Smith as a chiropractor rather than a PT, DPT, ATC.

John Abramson, Jr. Chef de Mission CAC



I would like to begin by thanking the Executive Committee for allowing me to be the Chef de Mission, during the Veracruz 2014 CAC Games. Special thanks to Ms. Brigitte Berry, for all her hard work and assistance before, during and after the implementation of the CAC Games. Thanks to Ansen, Bobby and Jerry for their help during the Games. I would also like to thank the federations that made up the Veracruz delegation for their understanding, patience and flexibility while in Veracruz.

Overall the Virgin Islands CAC Veracruz 2014 delegation did very well. The group had a very significant performance. We were able to bring home six (6) medals in various sports. In addition we placed 12th out of 36 countries. When you have a small country like the Virgin Islands competing with larger countries like Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela and Puerto Rico it makes you feel very proud when your athletes medal.

The best part of the CAC games was the true Olympic Spirit, building peace and a better world, mutual understanding, the friendships, the solidarity and the fair play. Those in attendance could appreciate what the athletes experience and endure when preparing.

During the experience the Virgin Islands delegation made a number of lifelong friendships. Thanks to my NOC assistants, Ara, Edwardo and Stephanie. You guys did an outstanding job with the VI delegation.

V.I. Tennis on the Rise at Junior Davis Cup

There was some historic success this past week for Virgin Islands tennis in El Salvador at the highly competitive prequalifying rounds of the Junior Davis Cup. The three young V.I. tennis players made a strong showing, winning the consolation division against Bahamas in the finals (2-1), placing 9th out of 16 overall. Tomas Del Olmo, 15, of St. John, anchored the team, winning five of his six singles matches. Alec Kuipers, 13, and Russell Armstrong, 14, of St. Croix also had some singles wins and some key doubles wins that advanced the team to their final position. "The VI Tennis Association congratulates the team for an outstanding performance -- this is the highest we've ever placed in this event," said Bill McComb, president of the association.

"The boys worked hard and were true competitors this week," said Capt. Kevin Motta, who is known to the kids he coaches as "The Motta-vator." "The boys really enjoyed meeting kids from all over Central America and the Caribbean -- they especially enjoyed meeting the boys from Cuba, super humble, nice kids."

There were 16 teams from the Caribbean and Central America in the tournament. The final standings of the tournament in order were as follows: Aruba, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Cuba, El Salvador, Curacao, U.S. Virgin Islands, Bahamas, Jamaica, Panama, Bermuda, Barbados, Honduras and Nicaragua. Aruba will now advance to compete in the final qualifying round in Boca Raton, Fla., for North and Central America before advancing to the final Junior Davis Cup to be held in September in Madrid, Spain, where only 16 teams from all over the world will compete.



The teams were all hosted by the event and were all housed and provided meals at the 'all inclusive' sports complex, the "Complejo Deportivo Ciudad Merliot La Libertad" in San Salvador. Running parallel to the Junior Davis Cup was the Junior Fed Cup for the girls divisions. Alec Kuipers and Russell Armstrong will also compete in the 14 and under age category at the ITF World Tennis Championships in the Dominican Republic in March.

What does "Team ISV" stand for?

Answer: ILES VIERGES - French for Virgin Islands

Pan American Games - Toronto, Canada 2015

This July, the Virgin Islands will be represented in the 3rd largest international multi-sports Games in the world: The Pan American Games in Toronto. The only multi-sport Games that are larger are the Summer Olympics and the Asian Games.

The Pan Am Games have been held every four years since the first ones in 1951 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Athletes from the 41 PASO (Pan American Sports Organization) member nations represent the countries of North America, South America, Central America and the Caribbean.

Team ISV first participated in these games in 1967 when they were held in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

They are expecting close to 7,000 athletes to their city to participate in about 400 different events. Our athletes are currently training hard to make sure they are qualified and ready to participate in these events. As the date gets closer, the VIOC will provide updates for which sports those will be.

Historically, we have done well at the Pan Am Games. In 1967, at our first games, we came home with a Bronze. Since then we have gone on to earn a total of 10 medals at the games; 4 silver and 6 bronze.

If you are interested in getting involved, please go to their website and complete their volunteer application (<http://www.toronto2015.org/volunteer>).

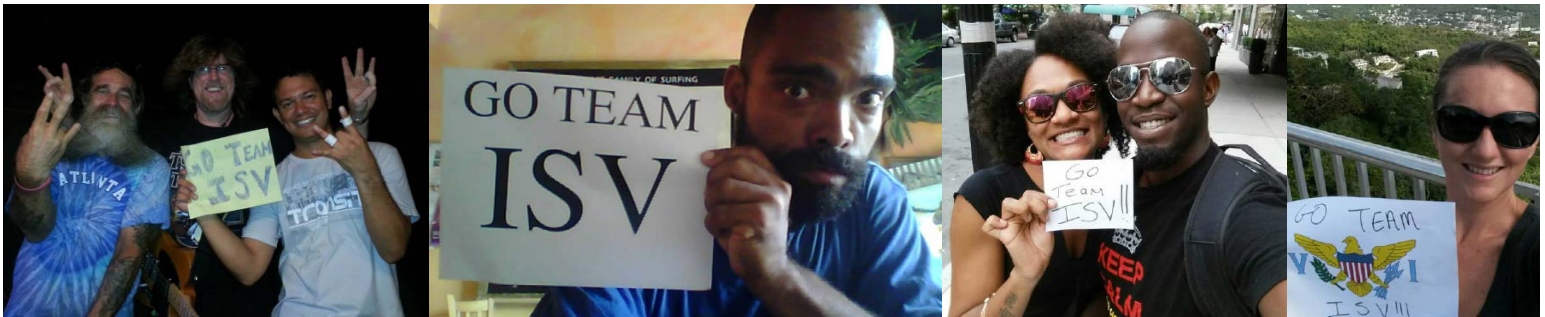
Taylor Canfield Named "Sailor of the Year"



Impressive performances at the Congressional Cup, Etchell Worlds and CAC Games are just a few of the reasons why Taylor Canfield has been awarded the title of '2014 Virgin Islands Sailor of the Year' by the Virgin Islands Sailing Association (VISA).

We are so proud of Taylor's unprecedented accomplishments this year in the world of sailing," explains VISA president, Phillip Shannon. Canfield, who is honored to be selected, says, "There are currently so many remarkable sailors from our small island who are putting up great results around the world. I am proud to represent the USVI just like all the others and wish my fellow Virgin Islands sailors luck as we

begin what is hopefully another great year for the Virgin Islands."



Upcoming Events

Olympic Day - Move, Learn and Discover - June 2015

Pan American Games, Toronto, Canada - July 2015

Youth Winter Olympic Games, Lillehammer, Norway - 2016

Summer Olympic Games, Rio, Brazil -2016