

# TOP CORNER

Jamaica Water Polo's Official Magazine  
OCT 2013 - SEP 2016 • Issue No. 2

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**YOUTH PAN AM**  
CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

HIGH SCHOOL  
**LEAGUE** 2014

**LOTTY & SIR G**  
**TOP CORNER** SALUTE



WATER POLO CAMP  
**GENAI KERR**



# CONTENTS



## FEATURES

- 10 High School League
- 12 Genai Water Polo Camp
- 20 Ashleigh Johnson
- 24 Youth Pan Am
- 31 Top Corner Salute



## EXTRA TIME

- 03 Game Plan
- 04 From the Press Box
- 16 Time-Out
- 32 Farin' Feature
- 38 Snap Shots
- 46 Buzzer Beater

## Game Plan

### The Mission Continues



Lance Rochester  
VP - Water Polo  
ASAJ

It's been a very active 18 months within which we've seen tremendous growth locally. We participated in numerous competitions overseas, hosted a FINA Clinic and hosted the highest profile aquatics event since the 1960's- The Pan American Youth Water Polo Championships.

We now have more players and coaches than ever before. We've also made important progress in terms of our organizational development. While our competition results are not yet what we desire, we are confident that we are on the right track in terms of implementing the required structural reforms.

The mission continues. Your support remains essential.

# TC

Top Corner

OCT- APR 2015 • No. 2

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📘 Jamaica Water Polo - International



Halloween Invitational 2013

The Caribbean All-Stars traveled to Orlando, Florida for the Halloween Invitational on October 27 - 29, 2013. The male senior team faced off against top teams from around the US, Caribbean and South America. Jamaica was represented by Lance Rochester, Marlon McIntyre, Alrick Brown, Justin Taylor, Jamal Chambers, Nicholas Jones and Darron-Ray Donaldson. The Team placed 9th out of 16 teams. Top Corner is looking forward to our All-Jamaica Seniors representing us on the international circuit.



Pickney Polo Graduation

On Saturday December 7, 2013, during the Awards Presentation Ceremony for the High School League, Pickney Polo held its first Graduation Ceremony for six players who had successfully completed the programme. Robyn Bryan, Jean-Paul Campbell, Zachary Fisher, Darren-Neil Gordon, Brandon Matthews and Haliyma Mehari-Brown all received Certificates of Achievement and were invited to be a part of the 13 & Under Development Squad.



WP Awards

December 23, 2013 saw the first staging of Jamaica Water Polo's Awards. The event was held at the home of Carey and Lisa Gordon. The categories and their winners were:

- Most Outstanding Male David Bryan
- Most Improved Male Ricardo Burke
- Most Improved Female Arianna Martin
- Most Dedicated Female Rachel Minto-Walker
- Most Dedicated Male Joel Parnell



High Schools' Past & Present Beach Polo Tournament 2014

The new year began with the biannual Past & Present Beach Polo Tournament which took place on January 4, 2014. Holy Childhood overthrew last year's victors Wolmer's Girls while in the male category Campion College dominated both Wolmerian teams.

|                 | Female          | Male                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Holy Childhood  | Campion College      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Campion College | Wolmer's Boys (Past) |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Wolmer's Girls  | Wolmer's Boys (Pres) |

12<sup>th</sup> South Florida International

From February 14 - 16, 2014, Jamaica was represented by three teams in the 12th Annual South Florida International Youth Water Polo Tournament. These teams included 19 & under male, 19 & under female and 16 & under male. Though unable to secure any medals, the tournament provided valuable exposure for our local players.



Seafood Sensation

A huge thank you to Aunt Lisa who coordinated a scrumptious Seafood Fundraiser for us. Aunt Lisa held nothing back. There were several different styles of fish, lobster, conch, festival, bammy...You name it, she had it!



Pastry PARTY!!!

On Saturday May 3, Pickney Polo celebrated its 1st Anniversary with the Pickney Polo Pastry Party. After a fun-filled training session, our "Picknies" were treated to cake, cookies, cupcakes and brownies. Icing and sprinkles abounded as the kids all "enhanced" their desserts with decorations of their own.



High Schools' Beach Water Polo Competition 2014

May 17<sup>th</sup> marked the first major high school competition for the year with six schools competing in 3 categories: 15 & under male, 19 & under female and 19 & under male. Immaculate Conception dominated in the female category while the defending champs, Wolmer's Boys took home gold in both male categories. New comers Hillel Academy made an impressive showing knocking Campion College out of 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 15 & under male category.

| RESULTS         |                       | 15 & Under Male                 |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
|                 |                       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Wolmer's Boys   |
|                 |                       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hillel Academy  |
|                 |                       | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Campion College |
|                 | 19 & Under Female     |                                 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Immaculate Conception |                                 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | St. Andrew's          | 19 & Under Male                 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Campion College       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Wolmer's Boys   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Wolmer's Girls        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ardenne         |
|                 |                       | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Campion College |



Sunshine State Games

Our 14 and under male team captured a monumental bronze medal in the 2014 Sunshine State Games Water Polo Championships. The event was held in Coral Springs, Florida from June 26 - 29. Our juniors fought hard to claim 3rd place over a weekend that pitted them against strong opponents from around the United States. In several cases during the preliminary games, the team trailed their opponents but remained undaunted as they fought back to snatch the necessary wins to bring them to medal contention.



Genai Camp

In summer, the ASAJ hosted a FINA Clinic and Camp from August 14 - 20, 2014 with US Olympian Genai Kerr. The clinic was geared towards both athletes and coaches. Coach Genai shared his wealth of knowledge and experience with us all and we were happy to have had him. We are sure all the players are already looking forward to his next visit....or maybe our trip to California!





007 Open Water Swim

There weren't any goals or balls involved but Jamaica Water Polo represented nonetheless! Hats off to our Water Polo players who all entered the 3000m swim on October 5, especially our lone female representative, Jeovana. They all had a blast doing something different. Looking forward to a much larger turnout for the next Open Water Swim. Who knows.....maybe next time we will bring the goals and balls with us. (wink)



High Schools' Water Polo League Competition 2014

The month of November saw a total of eight schools competing for gold in 5 categories: 13 & under male, 16 & under female, 16 & under male, 19 & under female and 19 & under male. Immaculate Conception successfully defended their title in both female categories while Campion College claimed victory in all three male categories. More details can be found in the Battle of the Schools feature on page 8.



High Schools' Past & Present Beach Polo Tournament 2015

The year 2015 began with the biannual Past & Present Beach Polo Tournament. The event took place on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Wolmer's Girls took home gold while the reigning Past & Present Champs, Campion College, remained undefeated. The alumni competition saw the return of Ardenne and Immaculate Conception who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively.

| Female                                | Male                            |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Wolmer's Girls        | 1 <sup>st</sup> Campion College |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Campion College       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ardenne         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Immaculate Conception | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wolmer's Boys A |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Holy Childhood        | 4 <sup>th</sup> Wolmer's Boys B |



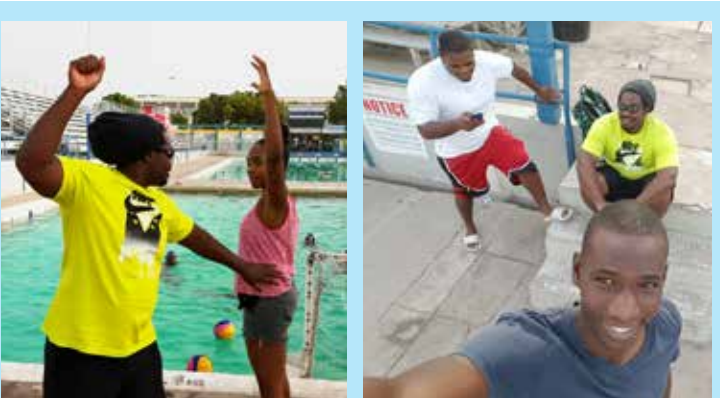
13<sup>th</sup> South Florida International

Three teams represented Jamaica in the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual South Florida International Water Polo Tournament. The 3-day tournament took place at the Coral Springs Aquatic Complex from February 13 - 15. Jamaica faced off against teams from USA, Canada, Puerto Rico, Bahamas, Trinidad & Tobago, Colombia, Georgia and Hungary in three categories: 19 & under male, 16 & under male and 14 & under coed. It was another excellent experience for our players. The 14 & under team walked away with bronze medals while the 19 & under and 16 & under teams placed 11th and 14th respectively.



Trinidad Invitational

The female program is on a mission! Two teams travelled to Trinidad & Tobago to compete in Trinidad's Invitational which was held from March 27 - 29. There the girls played Trinidad & Tobago in two both the 15 & under and 20 & under age categories.



Kemo Camp

Former National Coach, Kemo Mattocks during his visit from California hosted a water polo camp from June 16 - 19, 2015. He imparted his knowledge and expertise on the National teams as they geared up for the upcoming CCCAN competition.



CCCAN 2015

From June 26 to July 1, one of our largest contingents travelled to Salinas, Puerto Rico for the year's staging of CCCAN. Four countries participated in the competition - the hosts, Puerto Rico; Costa Rica, Trinidad & Tobago and Jamaica. Our teams competed in all four categories: 15 & under male and female and 18 & under male and female. Four teams. Four bronze medals! Additionally, the 18 & under male and female teams successfully qualified for the 2016 Junior Pan American Games in Canada.



Youth PanAm 2015

Jamaica hosted the UANA Pan Am Youth Water Polo Championships from August 26 - September 3 at the National Aquatics Complex. The event saw 10 countries from the region compete for only four spots in next year's Youth World Championships. For more details see the Youth Pan Am feature on page 22.





High Schools' Beach Water Polo Competition 2015

October 10<sup>th</sup> saw five schools face off in 4 categories: 13 & under male, 16 & under male, 19 & under female and 19 & under male. Immaculate Conception successfully defended their title while Champion College snatched victory away from Wolmer's Boys in both 13 & under male and 19 & under male categories. Hillel Academy was able to repeat last year's performance had finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 16 & under mle category.

RESULTS

|                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <u>13 &amp; Under Male</u>       | <u>19 &amp; Under Male</u>            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Champion College | 1 <sup>st</sup> Champion College      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wolmer's Boys    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wolmer's Boys         |
| <u>16 &amp; Under Male</u>       | <u>19 &amp; Under Female</u>          |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Wolmer's Boys    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Immaculate Conception |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hillel Academy   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Champion College      |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Champion College | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wolmer's Girls        |



Halloween Invitational 2015

Jamaica was represented on the Caribbean All-Stars team which participated in the 2015 YCF Halloween Invitational which took place between October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The event was held at the YMCA Aquatic Center in Orlando, Florida. Our representatives included Marlon McIntyre, Jonathan Hernould, Darron-Ray Donaldson, Nicholas Jones and Ricardo Burke. The team place 4<sup>th</sup>.



007 Open Water Swim & Beach Polo

November 1, 2015 was truly a historic occasion as the ASAJ realized one of its long-term goals.....Beach Polo actually played at a beach and not in the pool. Beach Polo is a major spectacle around the world and the ASAJ, with the support of SwimJamaica and corporate Jamaica, plans to use this concept to spread the sport around the island.

Special thanks to Jonathan Hernould, the event's chief engineer and the rest of his team.

Besides the Beach Polo action, we had several of our players enter the 1.5K and 3K Open Water Swim. Congratulations to them!



High Schools' Water Polo League Competition 2015

The 2015 league competition took place over two months - November and December. Eight schools entered to compete in 5 categories: 13 & under male, 16 & under female, 16 & under male, 19 & under female and 19 & under male. The competition welcomed newcomers Jamaica College and saw the return of newbies, St. George's College.

Immaculate Conception failed to dominate in both female categories coming up short in the 16 & under category. Champion College was unable to hold on to all three male categories this year, having to settle for bronze in the 16 & under male category.

RESULTS

|                                       |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>13 &amp; Under Male</u>            |                                  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Champion College      |                                  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wolmer's Boys         |                                  |
| <u>16 &amp; Under Female</u>          | <u>16 &amp; Under Male</u>       |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Champion College      | 1 <sup>st</sup> Wolmer's Boys    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Immaculate Conception | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hillel Academy   |
|                                       | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Champion College |
|                                       | 4 <sup>th</sup> St. George's     |
| <u>19 &amp; Under Female</u>          | <u>19 &amp; Under Male</u>       |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Immaculate Conception | 1 <sup>st</sup> Champion College |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Champion College      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wolmer's Boys    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> St. Andrew's          | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jamaica College  |
|                                       | 4 <sup>th</sup> Ardenne          |
|                                       | 5 <sup>th</sup> St. George's     |

High Schools' Past & Present Beach Polo Tournament 2016

January 9<sup>th</sup> marked the first water polo event for the new year. In the 2016 biannual Past & Present Beach Polo Tournament friendships and endurance were tested as the alma mater blood ran deep in the players. Although Champion College walked away with both gold medals the male and female finals were very close. The 1<sup>st</sup> place game in the female category had to go into overtime and then penalty shootout before a winner could be named.

|                                       |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>Female</u>                         | <u>Male</u>                      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Champion College      | 1 <sup>st</sup> Champion College |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Holy Childhood        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ardenne          |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Immaculate Conception | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wolmer's Boys    |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Wolmer's Girls        |                                  |



14<sup>th</sup> South Florida International

A total of four teams represented Jamaica in the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual South Florida International Water Polo Tournament. The 3-day tournament was held at the Coral Springs Aquatic Complex from February 12 - 14 in Ft. Lauderdale. Jamaica competed in all four categories: 19 & under male, 19 & under female, 16 & under male and 14 & under coed. The 19 & under teams both placed 10<sup>th</sup> while both the 16 & under male and 14 & under coed teams palced 6<sup>th</sup>.







# BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS

This season's High School League saw an epic clash between rivals Wolmer's Boys and Champion College.

*By Jheanell Johnson*

## In the Cross Hairs

The month of November was filled with loads of High School Water Polo action. A total of eight schools participated in the season's High School League with St. George's College returning to water polo after a ten year absence. St. George's College used to be the top school in the league back in the early 2000's. The competition also added a new age category - 13 & under male.

Rivals Wolmer's Boys and Champion College faced off in all three male categories with Champion College edging them out in the finals. Immaculate Conception was put to the test by St. Andrew's in the 16 & Under category and by Champion College in the 19 & Under category but were victorious in the end.

### RESULTS

#### 13 & Under Male

- 1<sup>st</sup> Champion College
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wolmer's Boys

#### 16 & Under Female

- 1<sup>st</sup> Immaculate Conception
- 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Andrew's
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wolmer's Girls

#### 16 & Under Male

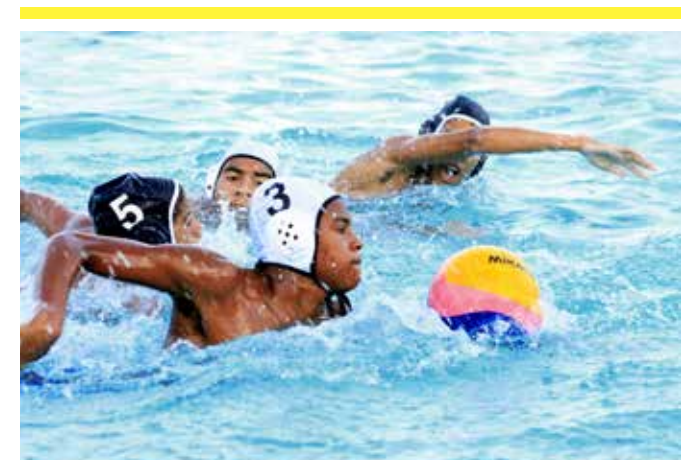
- 1<sup>st</sup> Champion College
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wolmer's Boys
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Hillel Academy

#### 19 & Under Female

- 1<sup>st</sup> Immaculate Conception
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Champion College
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wolmer's Girls
- 4<sup>th</sup> St. Andrew's

#### 19 & Under Male

- 1<sup>st</sup> Champion College
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wolmer's Boys
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ardenne
- 4<sup>th</sup> St. George's







# FINA WATER POLO CLINIC & CAMP

With Olympian Genai Kerr

US Olympian Genai Kerr visited Jamaica in August to conduct a FINA Clinic for athletes and coaches. Coach Genai and his Jamaican father, Roy Kerr, are no strangers to our water polo program and have visited three times before for similar clinics. The water polo camp was held at the National Aquatic Centre from August 14 - 20, 2014 with morning and afternoon sessions being held each day.

The camp was well supported and saw upwards of sixty athletes coming out to each session. The play-

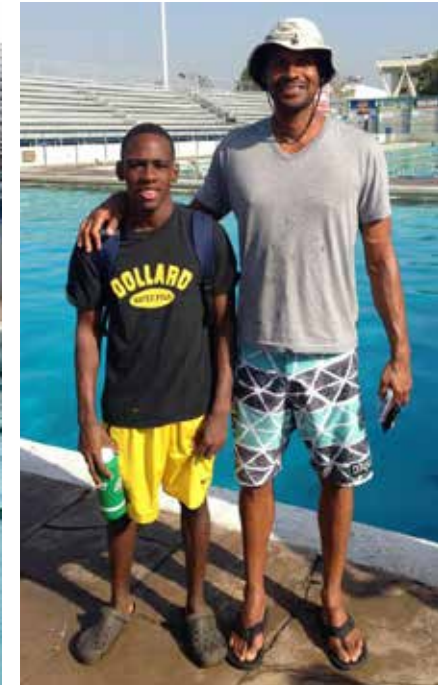
“Genai gave the athletes a new outlook on water polo”



ers were excited to meet and learn from Coach Genai. The camp successfully catered to all levels of water polo. Starting with the beginners, Genai went through the water polo fundamentals which he reinforced with some drills that he employs in his Nike 5meter Water Polo Camps and Clinics. Both the juniors and seniors learnt a lot of new skills and some advanced techniques that can be utilized in in-game situations.

The goalkeepers, of course, got specialized drills and tips that Genai had used during his career as goal-keeper for USA's Olympic Water Polo Team. During the rap sessions, Genai would share his experience as a player with the athletes giving them a new outlook on the world of water polo. The players left the camp invigorated and motivated. They had a better idea of the intensity that international teams train at and the workouts that they must endure to reach that level.

The camp was informative for the coaches and parents as well. Genai went through coaching styles, training structure, training goals and new ideas to make training more fun and exciting for the athletes. There was also a special session held with the water polo parents. ■







## WEDDING BELLS FOR LADENKY + LADORA



Congratulations to Coach Marlon and LaDena who tied the knot on December 17, 2014; and Coaches Lance and Lora who tied the knot on June 14, 2015. We wish both couples all the very best for the future! 🎉



## BLAST from the PAST



The legacy that is Jamaica Water Polo. Some of us have been around since the days of Coach Laszlo Borbely a.k.a. 'Coach Lotty'. Do these faces look familiar to you? 



CCCAN '05



Classic Sir G!



The Holychildhood Trio



School League '05



Youth PanAm Mexico



CARIFTA '05

## BLAST from the PAST



CARIFTA '06



Wolmer's '06



Bernie's Mom



Dolphin Cove '06



CARIFTA '06



Argentina '05



# ASHLEIGH JOHNSON

Jamaican-American set to become first black woman to play water polo for US Olympic team

Donna Johnson just wanted her five children to be safe around the pool at her Miami home. That was it, really, the first step in Ashleigh Johnson's path from prodigy to USA water polo.

Swim lessons turned into meets when their instructor told Donna Johnson her children were so good she had nothing left to teach them. When Ashleigh and her siblings continued to show athletic potential as they got older, Donna Johnson, a single mother and nurse from Jamaica, delivered a simple message to them. "For everything that they do, it's not about pressure, it's about maximizing your potential," she said.

Now her oldest daughter is about to make history this summer. Ashleigh, a goalkeeper blessed with jaw-dropping athleticism, is a lock for Rio de Janeiro, putting her on track to become the first black woman to play water polo for the US Olympic team.

While this is just the fifth games for the women's tournament, Johnson's ascension to elite goalkeeper is a welcome development for a sport looking for more diversity and growth outside of water polo-crazy Southern California.

Each of Johnson's teammates is from the Golden State, and the same three Pac-12 schools - UCLA, Southern California and Stanford - dominate the roster. Seventy-five percent of USA Water Polo's roughly 42,000 members live in California. After starring at Ransom Everglades High School in Florida, Johnson opted for Princeton instead of USC.



"I think Ashleigh Johnson's the future of our sport in the US," USA Water Polo CEO Christopher Ramsey said. "She's an out-of-California athlete who grew up in Florida. She went to Princeton, high academic achiever from a different background than a lot of traditional water polo families are from."

Just a short while ago, Johnson, 21, wasn't interested in that future, at least with the national team. The thought of moving away from her tight-knit family and joining a new team in California wasn't appealing to her, but several conversations with coach Adam Krikorian helped change her mind.

"I didn't really know that the Olympics was a possibility for me," Johnson said. "I thought it was just like coming and training like I had been doing for years, but just living out here, and he made me realize that the Olympics was a great opportunity and a possibility for me."

Krikorian first heard of Johnson about 10 years ago when he was the head coach at UCLA. Nicolle Payne, one of his assistants with the Bruins and a former national team goalkeeper, was working a camp in Miami when she sent an email to Krikorian about America's next great goalkeeper.

"She said, 'Adam, keep this name in your mind,' and she told me her name - Ashleigh Johnson," Krikorian said. "She is the most amazing goalie I have ever seen."

It's easy to see what got Payne's attention.

The 6-foot-1 Johnson has long arms, perfect for firing outlet passes for US counterattacks and guarding the top parts of the goal, and she cuts through the water with impressive ease. Sick of swimming in high school, she was offered an out by her mother and coach if she won the 50-meter freestyle at states as a sophomore. So she won and walked away.

She collected 54 saves while helping the United States qualify for the Olympics at a tournament in the Netherlands in March, including 10 stops in an 11-6 victory over Italy in the final, capping an 8-0 performance for the Americans. But that gifted sprinter is still inside her. At a recent practice, assistant coach Chris Oeding gave the team a chance to cut short the swimming portion of training if the players could assemble a sub-1:40 200-yard freestyle relay team. Krikorian and assistant coach Dan Klatt offered a nodding Johnson as a candidate, but four different players were chosen.

They made the time, but Johnson stole the show by swimming the second leg alongside the relay, leaving Krikorian and Klatt shaking their heads as she churned through the pool like a motorboat.

"She's a freak," Princeton coach Luis Nicolao said. "She's just athletic. I often joke she could probably

Ashleigh Johnson's the future of our sport in the US. She's an out-of-California athlete who grew up in Florida. She went to Princeton, high academic achiever from a different background than a lot of traditional water polo families are from.

start for our basketball team, track team, swim team, she just has that natural ability to succeed at anything she does."

Johnson and her sister, Chelsea, play for Nicolao with the Tigers. They have two older brothers, Blake and William, and one younger brother, Julius.

Their parents - both born and raised in Jamaica - got divorced when Ashleigh was little, and Donna Johnson raised the kids mostly on her own. It's a challenging juggling act not lost on her children.

"I mean she's such a hard-working, loving and determined woman," Ashleigh said, "and she's taught me that hard work ethic and just to try my best at everything and love what I do."

Chelsea Johnson, who joked that she followed her sister to Princeton because she didn't want to play against her, said she sees similarities between Ashleigh and their mother.

"I think the biggest thing from her, she and Ashleigh, is that she's always smiling, no matter what," she said. "Like her and Ashleigh, no matter what they're doing, no matter how hard the thing is, they're always smiling and trying to make everyone around them feel better about whatever's happening."

- AP



# Q&A

WITH ASLEIGH JOHNSON

- 1** WHAT IS YOUR PREGAME RITUAL?  
Listening to my favorite music
- 2** IF YOU COULDN'T PLAY WATER POLO, WHAT SPORT WOULD YOU PLAY?  
Beach Volleyball
- 3** HOW DO YOU UNWIND AFTER A COMPETITION?  
After a competition, I like to sleep as much as I can!
- 4** WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOWS?  
My favorite TV shows right now are The Office, The Bernie Mac Show and The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt.
- 5** WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE MUSICIAN?  
I really like Erykah Badu and Alt J right now.
- 6** WHEN YOU HAVE TIME OFF, WHAT WOULD CONSTITUTE A PERFECT DAY FOR YOU?  
A perfect day for me would probably consist of eating good food and paddle boarding with my friends.



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## FUN FACTS

- Named Top Goalkeeper at the 2013 FINA Junior World Championships and the 2014 FINA World Cup.
- Named 2014 Female Water Polo Player of the Year by Swimming World Magazine.
- Named Goalkeeper of the Tournament at the 2015 World Championships.
- Only Team USA women's water polo player not from California.
- Grew up on a farm with a horse called Lonely.

SOURCES: NBCOLYMPICS.COM, USAWATERPOLO.ORG, TEAMUSA.ORG

# LIFE IS ADVENTURE

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Pan Am Youth  
**WATER POLO**  
Championships  
JAMAICA 2015







Colombian goalkeeper, Juan Hidalgo readies for the lob shot by Peru player, Sebastian Dancourt in the semi-final match to determine who would go on to play for 5th place.

## 2015 Youth Pan Am Water Polo Championships

The 2015 Youth Pan American Water Polo Championships were held at the National Aquatics Centre in Kingston, Jamaica from August 25th - September 3rd. It was the biggest aquatic event Jamaica had hosted since the 1966 British Empire and Commonwealth Games. The Youth Pan American Water Polo Championships was a qualifying event with the top four teams securing a spot in the 2016 Junior World Water Polo Championships in Budva, Montenegro (men's tournament) and Auckland, New Zealand (women's tournament).

A total of ten countries from the Pan American region participated in the games for those four coveted spots. The competition brought teams from as far

north as Canada to as far south as Argentina and Peru. The tournament involved eight long days of fierce competition and saw on average seven games of both male and female competition per day.

The day of the finals saw Mexico capturing 3rd place in the female category from Brazil after the results of their game led to a nerve-racking penalty shoot out. First place was contested by rivals USA and Canada with the USA defeating Canada 9 - 7.



Bronze medal game between Brazil and Mexico.

“the event successfully exposed Jamaica and its players to a style and level of play they hadn't experienced before”



Head Coach Marlon McIntyre talks strategy with his team after calling a timeout in the 9th place game against Trinidad and Tobago.



In the male category, Canada clipped Puerto Rico 14 - 10 to finish 3rd while in the gold medal game, a late goal by Luis Ricardo Silva in the last minute of the final quarter gave Brazil the victory over the USA. The match ended 11 - 10.

The Jamaica National Team finished a disappointing 10th in the competition after losing to Trinidad and Tobago in the 9th place finals. Although unable to secure any victories, National Team Head Coach, Marlon McIntyre maintained that despite their performance, the players had learnt a great deal and gained invaluable experience from the championship. "It is something that we will build on as we move forward," he added.

Vice-President of the Amateur Swimming Association of Jamaica (ASAJ), Lance Rochester in assessing the

overall competition remarked that it was a tremendous success. He added that "the event successfully exposed Jamaica and its players to a style and level of play they hadn't experienced before."



Bronze medal game between Canada and Puerto Rico.



## FINAL STANDINGS : MALE

- 1st Brazil
- 2nd United States
- 3rd Canada
- 4th Puerto Rico
- 5th Colombia
- 6th Argentina
- 7th Mexico
- 8th Peru
- 9th Trinidad and Tobago
- 10th Jamaica

## FINAL STANDINGS : FEMALE

- 1st United States
- 2nd Canada
- 3rd Mexico
- 4th Brazil
- 5th Puerto Rico
- 6th Trinidad and Tobago



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# THE PLACE TO STAY



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Half Time

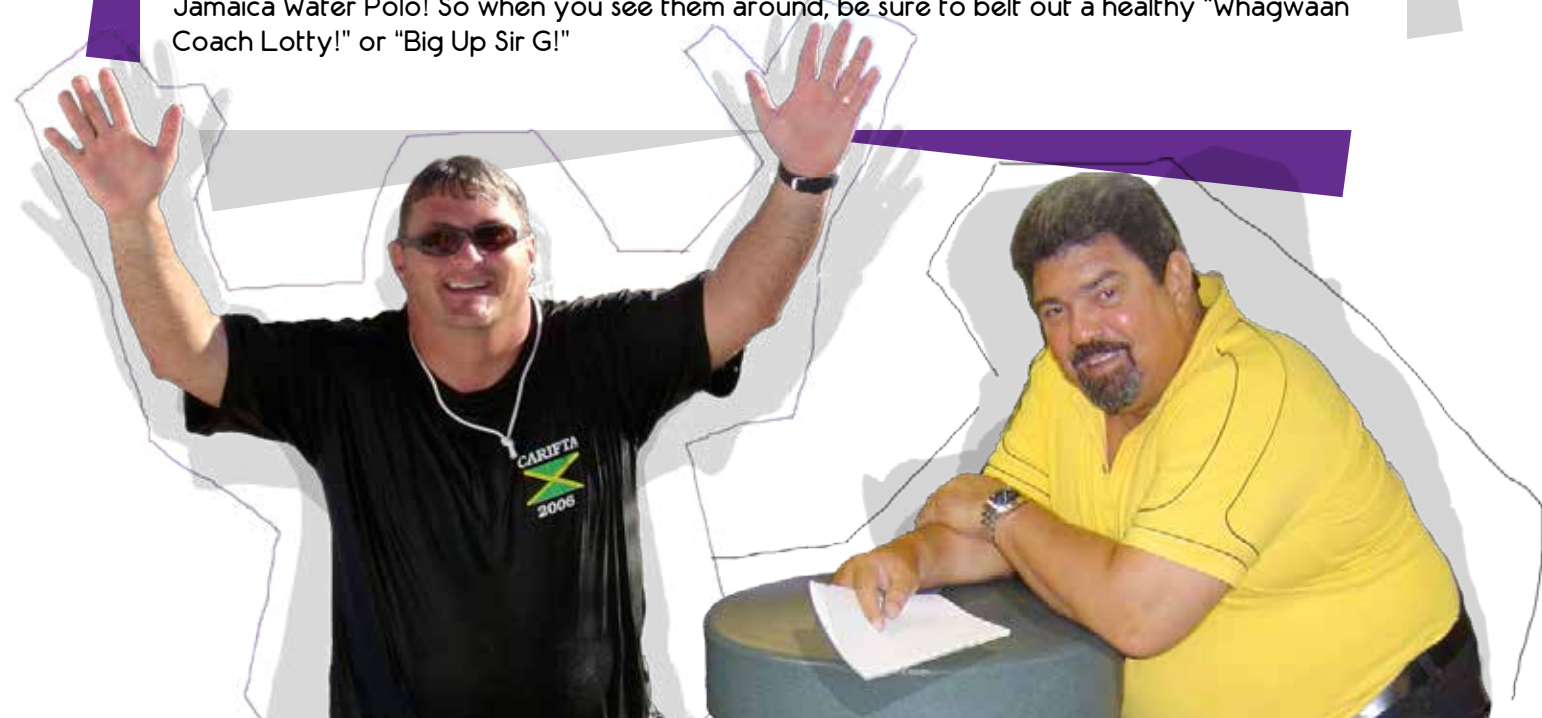
## LOTTY & SIR G A TOP CORNER SALUTE



If you've played Water Polo anywhere this side of the world, you must have seen him....or heard him! But what you may not have known is that Laszlo Borbely, affectionately known as Coach Lotty, was Jamaica's Technical Director and National Coach for many years. His first stint was between 1992 and 1996 followed by the period 2003 to 2007. Though no longer coaching Jamaica, he is still a powerhouse in the region and has helped to bring Hungarian style Water Polo to the Caribbean. After all, he's Jamaican with the passport and accent to prove it!

Garth Henriques is a legend in Jamaica's aquatics family. Not only is he a former National Water Polo player and National Swimmer but so too was his father. You may also have heard about his sons, Sean-Paul and Jason who were also National Water Polo players. Coach Garth, affectionately known as 'Sir G' served as the ASAJ's Vice-President with responsibility for Water Polo from 2005 to 2009. Together with Coach Lotty, they helped to put Water Polo back on Jamaica's sporting map.

Top Corner would like to express our sincerest gratitude for your many years of service to Jamaica Water Polo! So when you see them around, be sure to belt out a healthy "Whagwaan Coach Lotty!" or "Big Up Sir G!"









# FARIN' FEATURE

## Jonathan Hernould

“Playing your senior season is always bitter sweet. Its the last time you have to do hell week, but its the last time you bond with your team through the pain. Its the last time you have to morning training, but its the last time you get to hang out with you teammates everyday and have fun. My senior season was full of these bitter-sweet moments. I was finally a part of the starting 6, but I wouldn't ever be again. We beat our rivals in our final home game, but I would never have the chance to play them again. We made it to the east coast championships but I would never play college waterpolo again. I loved all four years of waterpolo it made me a stronger, more confident person, I would never trade the experiences in had being on that team for anything in the world.”



## Jada Brown

“I am a rising senior at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut. I have been playing water polo at Hotchkiss for the past two years, and since my junior year, I have been the captain of the Girls' Water Polo Team. Our season is in the spring, separate from the boys' season in the fall, and we train for two hours each day from Monday to Saturday. I have grown considerably, not only as a field player, but also as hole-D. One of the best things about water polo at Hotchkiss is the camaraderie built by living, eating and rigorously training together every day. As a team, we exceeded expectations and had one of the best seasons in Hotchkiss history because we were disciplined and we all worked hard to achieve the set goals. As captain, I matured as a leader and team player, and will continue to do so next season. I am tremendously excited about the great things the team will accomplish, and how I can continue to make a valuable contribution.”



## Leekem Brown

“In the season 2014 to 2015 the Cornell Water Polo team set out to claim it's 3rd New York State Championship in a row. The regular season went well as we played two regular season tournaments where we finished undefeated with a record of 8-0, playing institutions such as Columbia University, Hamilton College and NYU to name a few. This gave us the first seed for the New York division championships where we also finished undefeated and were crowned New York State Champions for the 3rd time in a row! For my own personal accomplishments I was recognized as a scholar-athlete for the year 2014. We were given a birth to the National Collegiate Club Championship in KEARNS, Utah where we tied for 13th in the nation. During my years at Cornell we traveled to Oregon, California and Utah to play at the national tournaments against other top teams in the other divisions and it is something that I will cherish for a lifetime. This opportunity has allowed me to grow as a water polo player, teammate and a person. I am looking forward to continue playing water polo and for the Cornell team to improve and carry on this proud legacy.”



## Matthew Williams

“Fall 2014 marked what was most likely the last competitive season of my 11-year water polo career. It has been a long journey, which started out playing for Campion College, Jamaica, and lastly The George Washington University for 4 years. I owe a big thank you to all the coaches, especially Wendy Bell, Kemo Mattocks, Lance Rochester, and Marlon McIntyre who taught me all of the fundamentals of the sport and prepared me to compete at the division 1 level. This last season was very rewarding as GW broke into the national rankings for the second consecutive year, and just the second time in the program's history, being ranked at #17 for 3 weeks. My time at GW has ended on a high note and I am excited to see where the program goes in the future. I will be moving home during the summer of 2015 and am looking forward to getting involved from a coaching perspective. Jamaica is very rich in talent and I would love to see more water polo players continuing their career to the university level. My goal will be to take the experiences and knowledge gained playing abroad and pass them on to the next generation.”





## Deeshai Escoffery

“After returning to Florida last August, I decided to change my game position from holeman/holeman defender to goal-keeper. Over time I quickly developed and improved as a goal keeper. I was given the chance to play at the Turkey Bowl Thanksgiving Tournament in late November, where even though we came fourth, I excelled and showed true skill. In 2016, I have missed certain tournaments due to my age, but I am looking forward to much more improvement, playing at the open level and enjoying the game of water polo that I love so much.”



## Kywann Jagaroo

“Well when I first arrived to my first practice for my new club, the feeling was weird. First of all, the pool was indoors and I was so used to being outside in Jamaica, but after awhile I got used to it. The biggest thing for me and the transition, was getting used to being the only dark-skinned person on the team. For the first couple of weeks all the parents would look at me, even when we travelled I was still the center of attention. I would say I got used to that pretty quickly though. USA Water Polo in comparison to Jamaica Water Polo I would say that it is very dull, meaning that there is no vibe between the players especially East Coast Water Polo. Coming to practice in Jamaica there was always a good vibe because there will be people cracking jokes before training and the little patois slangs in there too. It's like as soon as practice is over everyone goes in a different direction. I think that the coaching is very good. Majority of the coaches on the East Coast are European so they don't joke around. I think that being coached by a Hungarian has really helped to develop my discipline as a player, so I am very grateful for that. Some may say USA Water Polo is better but to me there is nothing better than coming home to the stadium and laughing having fun and training at the stadium. There is nothing like it.”



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## Coach Moments

## In Game Moments



## Some Polo Moments





# More Polo Moments



LIVE on FAME 95 FM - June 2015



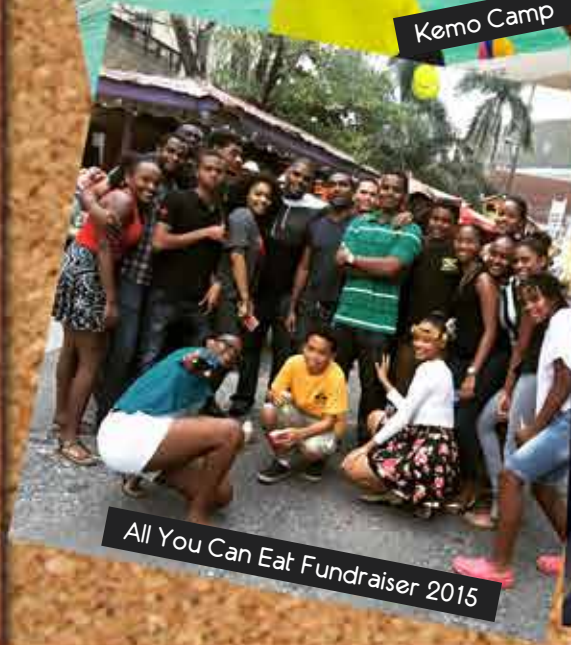
Pickney Polo 2014



Kemo Camp



Fort Clarence Beach 2015



All You Can Eat Fundraiser 2015



Smile Jamaica May 2015



CCCAN 2015



## Even More Moments



Coach Wendy with Future Polo Star, Nigel



JC's Participates for the 1st Time in School League



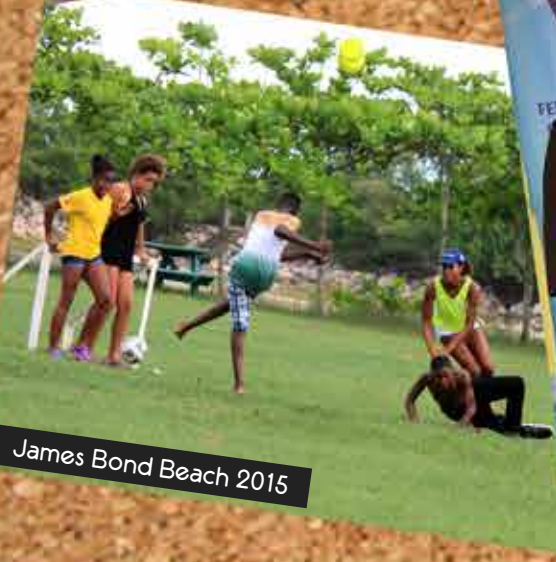
Leadership Development Program - Sep 2016



Club League Champions - Group 1



Just Hangin' Out @ South FI Int'l - Feb 2015



James Bond Beach 2015



CCCAN Technical Committee



007 Open Water Swimmers 2015

College Counselling with Nicola McLaren-Campbell









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