

The Virgin Islands Track & Field Federation...*SINCE 1963* P.O.BOX 22094, CHRISTIANSTED, ST. CROIX, VI |<u>isv@iaaf.org</u> |340-643-2557

VITFF BULLETIN: April 14, 2017 Sec good fit for V.I. track and field stars...



Flora Hyacinth...The first woman to jump 45' in the triple jump...photo by Wallace Williams

With a population of only around 100,000, the Virgin islands has had a relative successful history of track and field. Founded in 1963, as one of the founding members of the Virgin Islands Olympic Committee, the VITFF has seen many of its young stars leave the territory where there were no modern facilities and limited opportunity for international competition and travel to USA high schools and colleges to blossom. They have worn the jerseys of prep schools, tech schools, NJCA junior colleges, NAIA small colleges and NCAA Division I, II, III universities and also running clubs, track and field clubs and the USA Military. In deed they have also excelled in achieving All-America status and national



championship titles, regional titles for their respective institutions, organizations and as in the case of Flora Hyacinth who on May 17, 1987 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, became the first woman in the world history to triple jump 45 feet!

Of all the colleges/universities that V.I. National Track and Field Team Members have made their presence known, a close look is made of the SEC (Southeastern Conference of the NCAA) which appears to have over the years been a perfect fit for these athletes.

SEC Alums and student/athletes

Valma Bass Louisiana State Univ....sprints Billy Bohlke Louisiana State Univ....middle distance Fred Dorsey Univ. of Kentucky...sprints, lj Adrian Durant Univ. of South Carolina...sprints Allison Peter Univ. of Texas...sprints Eduardo Garcia Univ. of Florida...middle distance, distance Tabarie Henry Texas A&M...sprints Flora Hyacinth Alabama...lj, tj, sprints, hurdles Lawrence Lockhart Louisiana State Univ. ...middle distance Eddie Lovett Univ. of Florida...hurdles Brion Moressette Univ. of Mississippi...pv Edison Walters Univ. of Alabama...middle distance

Clarification:

1] For Olympic sports and IAAF, VITFF sanctioned sports, the team is addressed as "The Virgin Islands" with the assigned code (ISV) for the Virgin Islands USA

2] The British Virgin Islands (BVI) is addressed as "The British Virgin Islands"

3] For sports these are two separate countries as recognized by national, regional, international and Olympic sports governing bodies. Other than geographic, the countries have no relationship to each other as relates to sports. The Virgin Islands Track and Field Federation (<u>http://virginislandspace.org/vitff.html</u>) isv@mf.iaaf.org governs the sport of track and field in the Virgin Islands USA and The British Virgin Islands Athletics Association (<u>http://bvi.milesplit.com/</u>) (<u>bvi@mf.iaaf.org</u> governs the sport in the British Virgin Islands.

4] this year given the lack of available local competition do to closure of tracks, athletes travel to venues outside the territory to compete and have their performances evaluated. Funding available, VITFF assists the clubs with getting potential qualifiers to these competitions.

