



The Virgin Islands Track and Field Federation announced today that V.I. CAC National Track and Field Team member Laverne Jones-Ferrette won the Bronze Medal in the 100m at the CAC Games in Vera Cruz, Mexico. Posting the second fastest reaction time in the race she clocked 11.54 behind Andrea Purica of Venezuela who won gold in 11.29 and Nedam Vargus of Venezuela silver in 11.43. She expressed her satisfaction with the performance stating that the unusual meet in November is out of season and forced her to focus on winning a medal for her country instead of posting a faster time. She advanced to the finals by finishing third in her heat on Monday with a time of 11.63.

Her medal is the first for the V.I. in this CAC Games. She won a silver medal in the 2006 CAC Games which historically brings the total V.I. CAC Games track and field medals to nine.

Wanetta Kirby had a busy day at the CAC Games on Tuesday as she competed in two events that were separated only by minutes. She finished 8th the long jump with a leap of 5.84 which is well off her personal record 6.20. Chantel Malone of the British

Virgin Islands won the event with 6.46 Irisdaymi Herrera of Cuba was second with 6.36. With only minutes separating the events, she finished fourth in her heat of the 100m hurdles with a time of 14.12 to become the first female to compete in that event at CAC Games for the Virgin Islands. Kirby is also the V.I. national record holder in the Heptathlon (seven event discipline).

Ninfa Barnard had a tough challenge in the 800m with the mile high altitude to place 6th in the 800m with a time of 2:16. She is the first female to compete for the Virgin Islands in that event at CAC Games. She is the V.I. national record holder with a 2:08

To compete latter at CAC are: Leslie Murray 400m hurdles, Eddie Lovett 110m hurdles, Muhammad Halim Triple Jump, Hasheem Halim Triple Jump, Leon Hunt Long Jump, Eduardo Garcia 10,000m and Allison Peter 200m

VITFF officials expressed their thoughts on the performances of the athletes in Vera Cruz...

“We are pleasantly surprised actually that we are able to put together such a large track and field team for this CAC Games. We were less than optimistic when we were made to know that the Games would be held in November when the track and field season is long over. When the word went out to the athletes they responded by altering their training schedules and their personal lives to get together and make the V.I. team...each of them are making huge sacrifices...we are very proud of all of them. We are so happy for Laverne for leading the way for this team...she’s very special...” Wallace Williams, Gen. Sec. VITFF

“This is one, if not the largest CAC Games V.I. National Track and Field CAC Games Team we have ever put together...it could be the most talented also. We must understand that the time when athletes competed for their country as amateurs is over. They are now professionals. They made huge individual and personal sacrifices to represent the V.I. We want to thank the Virgin Islands Legislature and the Governor for enacting an appropriation in support of these athletes and the V.I. track and field program and the Virgin Islands Olympic Committee for its continued support to the VITFF to help these athletes train and travel to the major games...the future of track and field in the V.I. coupled with the largest team ever sent to CAC, the large turnout of children at V.I. cross-country meets, track and field meets and road races is extremely bright...it’s hard work for these athletes and coaches as well.” Ronald Russell, President VITFF

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