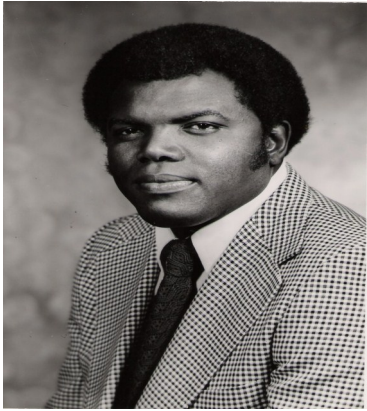


Members of the Class of 1989



Thomas Augustus Robinson

Thomas Robinson is generally regarded as a man who was born ahead of his time. What he has contributed to the development of The Bahamas through his track and field accomplishments must be measured against standards almost impossible to define.

With no one to pattern himself after, and with an almost evangelically zealous coach behind him in the person of the late Henry Crawford, Tommy used a humble beginning to launch a brilliant international career, defeating the fastest men in the world, and earning for himself and his country the recognition and world class status which we have only now begun to appreciate.

Tommy frequently competed against the best in the world, thousand of miles from home and without a single Bahamian nearby to encourage him. One such memorable occasion was in Cardiff, Wales in 1958, when he shocked the track and field world by setting a new Commonwealth Games record in the 220 yards; in the process defeating Harry Jerome, the top rated sprinter in the world. He narrowly missed a similar accomplishment in the 100 yards, but claimed the Silver Medal for The Bahamas.

Paramount among the many other monumental accomplishment of Tommy was his world record in the 300 meters which he set indoors, in Winnipeg, Canada in 1964.

Tommy Robinson's legacy to The Bahamas is the fertile ground which he ploughed and in which is rooted the current successes of present-day Bahamian international track and field champions, many of whom were themselves coached by this outstanding sports ambassador at one time or another.

For these and other accomplishments, the Government of The Bahamas has named the national track and field stadium in honour of this national hero.