

Carl Minns (1952-1995)

Member of the National Hall of Fame

Class of 2010



Carl Minns consistently demonstrated the calmness of certitude as to his life mission, correctly approximated perhaps, with that of a rapidly moving meteorite ordained to shine at its brightest amidst the deepest darkness of self-doubt and uncertainty, both of which are acknowledged as the lines of separation between the podium of victory and the quagmire of defeat. In this regard he easily conformed to the truism of Von Schiller that the man who has done the best for his times, has already become a man for all times.

This physically gifted athlete was evolved with leadership, and such a skill be successfully employed with a forceful quiet, earnings for himself the right to be legitimately grouped with the greatest volleyball and basketball players locally produced. Justification for such an assertion are the achievements he registered as a high school athlete at Jordan Prince William and as a member of the Wardrobe Stars Volleyball Club in the 1960's and 1970's as a national team member in volleyball and basketball; and as an outstanding student-athlete at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

As a student at Jordan Prince William, Minns was blessed with prodigious leaping ability and exquisite coordination, which he manufactured into tools of destruction in basketball and volleyball. He led Jordan Prince William to respectable results in basketball against better coached opposition Coached by Cadwell Thompson. In volleyball however, he led his team to a string of undefeated seasons, going undefeated in volleyball from 1968 to 1972. Assisting in such a remarkable string of achievements was that Minns became the first to spike from the back court, a feat so intimidating to other school teams because for them it was indefensible. He was far ahead of his time in this regard.

It was largely under Minns influence that Jordan Prince William assembled the greatest inter-school volleyball team in this country's history for the school camp also included Charles "Cow Wheeler" Thompson; Leslie Russia" Cartwright; Leroy Fawkes; Mark "T-Fat" Clarke; David "Skull" Bullard; Derek Isaacs; Terrance King and Walstone Francis. Such a team would easily have outplayed the Men's National Team to which many of them were eventually selected.

Minns and his teammates followed their coach to form the Wardrobe Stars Volleyball Club, which entered the competition in the Volleyball Federation in 1972. "It's main rivalry in the beginning was the SACA team which had won the championship title from the leagues inception in 1963. Minns and his stars ended such a dynasty in their first year in the league and retained that championship title for the next five years when the nucleus of the team left to entered college in the United States.

Minns represented The Bahamas at the Pan American Games in 1975 and the Central American and Caribbean Games in 1978. He attended Gonzaga University, becoming the first Bahamian to obtain basketball scholarship from that school. His successes there paved the way for a number of other Bahamians to attend that institution with such a rich basketball heritage.

Undoubtedly then Carl Minns created a legacy in sports that has enabled him to be classified as one who has done the best he could in his time, entitling him to be recognized as a man for all times.