

SPORTS

Kyffin Simpson leads Formula Regional Americas

BARBADOS' Kyffin Simpson continues to create shockwaves in the motorsports arena.

Simpson had a marathon of a week in racing competing in the Indy Pro 2000 Championship Presented by Cooper Tires at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, as well as Formula Regional Americas Championship Powered by Honda.

As he website reported, Simpson had the unique opportunity to compete in both disciplines back-to-back, totalling over eight hours at the wheel including all practice, qualifying and race sessions beginning at the historic Indianapolis Motor Speedway where Indy Pro 2000 formed part of the 'Road to Indy's IndyCar support roster at the GMR Indy Grand Prix.

He competed in Rounds 5, 6 and 7 where he finished fourth in Round 5 and then after avoiding some incidents ahead in Round 6 he finished third.

In the final Round he was sixth before moving onto the Formula Regional Americas Championship.

With 7 of 18 rounds completed in Indy Pro 2000, Simpson is now 9th in the overall standings with 88 points, gaining 5 spots over his previous position.

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At the Formula Regional Americas he contested Rounds 4, 5 and 6 which was at the Road America circuit near Elkhart Lake Wisconsin.

He narrowly missed out of pole on Sunday by 0.056s but in the afternoon's first he stalled the #21 Ligier at 'lights out', demoting him to last place and several seconds off the car ahead. He managed to charge through the field to fifth overall, securing pole position for race two in the process.

There was no such mistake at the start of Race 2 for the 16-year-old who led from start to finish and claimed his fourth victory of the season.

For Round 6 the final race of his five-day marathon, Simpson was second on the grid for the start of the race.

The race leader was placed under pressure from Simpson for most of the race which paid off on the final lap when he spun and handed Simpson the victory making it five wins in six races.

Simpson won all three races at the opening three rounds at the Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta in March.

After a crazy weekend at the wheel of two very

different machines, Kyffin said:

"It was an amazing weekend, one that I was not sure I was ready for the challenge of, but I went into it the same way I would any other weekend and did my best. It was a huge learning curve having to learn two new tracks in one weekend, each in a different car. I'm very happy with my best Indy Pro results, as well as two wins in Formula Regional. After this weekend my main takeaway is that as long as I keep my head down and focus on doing my best, I will come out on top."

Simpson has extended his lead in the Formula Regional Americas standings as he now stands on 137 points, 72 points clear of second-placed 2019 F4 US champion Joshua Car.

This weekend promises to be another first for the Bajan driver as he is slated to contest the Indy Pro 2000 Championship Presented by Cooper Tires Round 8 on the first oval of the season May 27th-28th at Lucas Oil Raceway located in Clermont, Indiana.

Formula Regional Americas will continue at Brainerd International Raceway Minnesota on July 16th-18th.



Kyffin Simpson celebrates yet another victory in this Gavin Baker photo.

UWI Cave Hill Campus launches Sports Coaching BSc

By Corey Greaves

THE University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus has launched the undergraduate degree in Sports Coaching, which will be offered in the new academic year 2021-2022.

The BSc Sports coaching has been refined and added to the Sports Faculty, which currently offers BSc and MSc in Sports Sciences.

Speaking at the launch yesterday, Dr Rudolph Alleyne, Head of the UWI Academy of Sport, Cave Hill campus, said that for anyone who loves sports, young energetic minds or mature students, this programme will help develop you as a coach as well as help one gain more knowledge.

The programme is administered over three years with a practicum in year 2 and then two practicums in the final year.

He said that some of the subjects to be covered in the Coaching programme are Functional Anatomy, Physiology, Sports Nutrition, Biomechanics, Fundamentals of coaching, coaching and planning and Sports as a profession among other things.

Cave Hill campus joins Mona Campus, which launched its Sports Coaching programme two years ago.

"We changed a couple of courses at Cave Hill as we thought those courses were better suited to our

population at Cave Hill and so it took a bit longer."

It will not be all theory either as Alleyne mentioned the practicums will give the students the opportunity to be attached to some elite coaches across Barbados in various disciplines, which will also help sharpen their skills and knowledge.

UWI Cave Hill Campus has had a MOU with the University of New Brunswick over the last seven years and part of the Sports Science course along with the newly introduced Sports Coaching will be delivered by some of the professors and lecturers from the Canadian University.

Alleyne also announced that the MSc in Sports Science has an increase in applicants this year as it is up to 30.

There are prerequisites to the programme which, Alleyne said, if done full time will take three years, but there is room for the mature student who would have done coaching at various levels and some consideration would be given to that.

During the programme Alleyne said that the UWI has partnered with the Barbados Football Association, World Athletics and Cricket to offer coaching certification in those disciplines along the way and they hope to be able to offer a Masters in Coaching in a few years.

"Part of the program we are joining forces with World Athletics to offer Level 1 certification, the

BFA offering D license in football and Cricket to level one coaching certificate.

"One of the things Sports as a Profession will be looking at is entrepreneurship. How you can now place yourself in the job market."

Alleyne said that it is different from Sports Sciences, which currently includes all aspects of the array of sports.

"Sports coaching is specific to coaching and delivery of services of coaching."

In terms of delivery, he said that the content is already laid out but discussion about how sports has changed in the last two years will be part of the class.

"Some webinar as to how COVID has impacted sports will be part of the class. We don't stick slavishly to the content but whatever is topical becomes part of the class."

Alleyne also mentioned that they are in the process of developing a High Performance course "...and we see it as a fore runner for a national training centre for our national athletes."

He said they are looking to partnering with the Barbados Olympic Association (BOA), the Ministry of Sports and the National Associations and Federations to develop the UWI as the place to be to train those athletes.

"We anticipate that once rolled out that in four to five years we will be medalling across the region."

Josh Burke still looking to win and qualify for the Olympics despite challenges

By Corey Greaves

AS Barbados surfer Josh Burke gets set to mount his attack at qualification for the Tokyo Olympic Games, he has been struck a heavy blow with one of his boards totally destroyed on arrival in El Salvador for the 2021 ISA World Surfing Games.

Burke travelled with five boards to the event and said that one of his boards was totally destroyed. That board was his 'Step Up' board, which is used when the waves get bigger.

His four other boards are good, and he has been

out on the water and said they feel good, but his board bag was also destroyed which, he discovered along with his board when he went to collect his luggage at the airport on arrival.

According to Burke, the bag had a 2ft tear and two 8-inch holes in it.

At the Elite level boards are custom made for the wave riders and Burke said they were 'brand new' boards and has estimated the damages to be in the region of US\$1 200.

They are five men's spots available and seven women's spots for the

Olympics, which will be decided at the 2021 ISA World Surfing Games, which begins on May 29th and there are over 300 athletes from over 50 countries vying for one of those places.

Burke said he is the fittest he has ever been and has set his sights on winning the Division despite the setbacks.

The other Barbados members who are competing over the weekend are Bruce Mackie, Che Allan, Chelsea Tuach, Chelsea Roett and Gabriella Gittens.

Margot Tuach is the manager of the team.