

B/N McKenley, Herb

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# SPORTS

# Go to it Herb!

There must be only a few people, if any, who did not feel satisfied at Monday night's election of the immortal Herb McKenley to the post of president of the Jamaica Amateur Athletic Association.

For the man himself, it is indeed a great honour, the completion of the cycle.

Coming out of rural Jamaica, Herb achieved Olympic success to the extent that he is rated by many as the island's greatest ever athlete and one of the greatest 400 runners the world has seen. On top of that he has had the distinction of being coach to the Western Hemisphere team and carries with him a recognition in international circles that is second to none.

To many, he has had his shortcomings. But none can argue his self-discipline and dedication, without which he could never have attained such great heights.

Now, he is in a new ball game and it is the wish of all in the sports fraternity that the new challenge will bring out more of his greatness that a new dimension in leadership will come from him.

The challenges are many, but this column asks the new president to address himself to the upliftment of discipline in those who represent the nation, in those who aspire to do so, remembering that the examples of national representatives will rub off on those around.

The past year has been a successful one in terms of medals won. But that is only a part of the duty of the athlete who represents his country. He is an ambassador of the people as well and the reports of the

behaviour of many of our athletes, both at home and abroad, and even in the air, has been downright disgraceful.

This of course is not peculiar to track and field as we have seen similar poor behaviour from our footballers among others.

### NEXT ELECTION

The cause for the general indiscipline among our sportsmen are numerous, but one must be the failure of our administrators to act, to put



## The SPORTS EDITOR

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cheap self popularity behind them, to forget the next election and do what must be done to stamp out the gross indiscipline even if it means omitting the guilty from participation regardless of the wrath of the few which may be incurred.

Every man who takes up national office in whatever walk of life must be prepared to stand up for the good of the nation regardless of the consequences, or get out.

It is a common thing in this country today to hear leaders, all kinds of leaders, holler about the masses, about the rights of the people, about serving and yet in their day to day dealings this noble patriotic feeling is often missing as they feather their

own nests, always thinking and behaving in a manner which will not affect them, their status quo, or those close to them.

The discipline in this country will go unchecked until those who are put in a position to administer, to lead, perform their duty.

Just look around and you will see what I am talking about.

At senior football matches there are numerous cases of coaches and managers whose behaviour after a referee has ruled against their team is

stand. In the end, the people were called hooligans and the gate thrown open in disgust.

Can the people really take all the blame because the administration was short-sighted, or inefficient, in not realising that a Clarendon College-Vere football match would draw a large crowd and did not make the necessary arrangements?

There are so many gates to get into the Grandstand yet only one was open at the fence and another for direct entry into the stand. Surely, from the amount of money collected at schoolboy football matches of that nature, the necessary staffing should have been acquired not to mention security, something which we have to live with for now.

The task of cleaning up the indiscipline around is not an easy one all things taken into account. But a start can be made by those in positions of control, of administration.

Herb McKenley, with his wealth of experience both as a competitor and coach, can join the small band of other leaders such as Leila Robinson, Alan Rae and Mike Fennell who have been doing their best to see that our representatives are also good ambassadors and setting the right example for others to follow. This is another opportunity for him to contribute to the good name of our nation.

And he seems set on the course, judging from his words when I offered him my congratulations outside the National Stadium last Tuesday. "I am going to show them a kind of sports administration never seen before in this country".

Good Luck Herb.