

Government to Open 2026 With National Service of Thanksgiving and Prayer



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2025 Top Sports Stories



Editorial: A Note of Thanks, and the Road Ahead

As 2025 draws to a close, the Pointe Xpress extends sincere thanks to our readers in Antigua and Barbuda, across the diaspora, and throughout the wider audience who continue to make space for this publication in their daily lives.

Your engagement, trust, and support have been deeply appreciated. Whether at home or abroad, you have allowed us to inform, educate, and entertain, and to remain a consistent voice in an increasingly crowded and fast-paced media landscape.

The Board of Pointville Communications and the staff of the Pointe Xpress are pleased to have served you for another year, and we take that responsibility seriously.

As we look ahead, we do so with clarity of purpose.

At our core is a firm commitment to delivering accurate, timely, and impactful news that matters to the community. In times of rapid change, credible journalism is not optional. It is essential. We will continue to uphold that standard with care, independence, and balance.

We also recognise the need for deeper, more focused coverage. In the year ahead, readers can expect continued attention to local governance, social and economic issues, culture, the environment, and the lived experiences of people across Antigua and Barbuda. Where necessary, we will go beyond the headline and invest in context, explanation,

and accountability. That national lens will be complemented by regional and international stories that place Antigua and Barbuda within the wider Caribbean and global conversation, ensuring our readers remain informed not only about home but also about the forces shaping it from beyond our shores.

At the same time, we are committed to digital growth and innovation. Media consumption continues to evolve, and so must we. Our focus will include improving online access, strengthening newsletters and social media engagement, and thoughtfully exploring new tools and technologies that enhance storytelling while preserving journalistic integrity.

Finally, Pointe Xpress remains a conversation, not a monologue. We invite readers to stay connected, share feedback, submit opinions, and engage with the issues shaping our nation. Your voices, questions, and perspectives enrich this platform and strengthen the public space we share.

The times ahead will be challenging, yet full of opportunity. We look forward to continued growth together, guided by purpose, community, and a shared belief in the value of informed public discourse.

To our readers across the diaspora, Pointe Xpress remains your bridge home — carrying the stories, debates, and rhythms of Antigua and Barbuda wherever you are in the world.

Government to Open 2026 With National Service of Thanksgiving and Prayer



The Government of Antigua and Barbuda will formally usher in 2026 with the Annual National Service of Thanksgiving and Prayers, continuing a long-standing tradition of reflection

and national unity at the start of the year.

The service will be held on Sunday, January 4, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., at the St. John's Pentecostal House of Resto-

ration Ministries on Lauchland Benjamin Drive.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, members of Cabinet, and government officials are expected to attend, alongside church leaders and members of the public. The service is being hosted in conjunction with Bishop Stephen Andrews and the congregation of the St. John's Pentecostal House of Restoration Ministries.

The Annual National Service of Thanksgiving and Prayers has become a fixture on Antigua and Barbuda's civic calendar, traditionally marking the symbolic transition from one year to the next through collective reflection, faith, and national purpose.

The annual observance provides an opportunity for national thanksgiving and prayer as the country looks ahead to the challenges and possibilities of the new year.



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Government Begins Final Tranche of Retroactive Pay for Public Sector Workers



Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Gaston Browne

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Gaston Browne says the government has begun disbursing the final tranche of retroactive wages owed to public-sector employees under the 2018–2023 wage agreement, marking the end of that negotiating cycle.

According to the Prime Minister, the Treasury Department is processing the third retroactive payout, and payments to serving employees are expected to be completed within 48 hours. Workers who have since left the public service, including retirees, are expected to receive their remaining balances by the end of the week.

Browne said the disbursements cover the full range of government employment categories, including established and non-established staff, as well as weekly- and monthly-paid workers. He added that with the previous negotiating period now concluded, the administration intends to keep com-

pensation current, avoiding a build-up of arrears.

Further details on eligibility were outlined in a Monday circular issued by Deputy Financial Secretary Carolyn Charles-Tonge, who confirmed that Cabinet approved the additional payout at its December 15, 2025, meeting. The payment is equivalent to one month's gross basic salary and applies to eligible non-established public sector employees who were in government service on or before December 31, 2024, and who remain employed.


The installment follows earlier retroactive payments made in December 2022 and December 2024, under terms agreed with the relevant bargaining agents. Employees whose remaining balance after the first two payments is less than one month's salary will receive the outstanding amount in full.


Workers who retired or resigned on or before December 31, 2025, will also be paid up to one or two months' salary, based on current wage rates, to settle any remaining balance.

Excluded from the payout are parliamentarians and ministers, judges, participants in the Work Experience Programme, and contract officers whose agreements did not include negotiated salary increases.

Officials say the payout aligns with the government's broader effort to settle outstanding wage liabilities, maintain fiscal stability, and regularize public-sector compensation.

The Ministry of Finance said no additional documentation is required from employees. Payments have already begun, with active employees expected to be settled within 48 hours and other cases completed by January 31, 2026. Further information on any remaining retroactive balances will be communicated at a later date.





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**10TH JAN
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NIGHT ONE



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ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

Former LIAT 1974 Workers in Antigua to Receive Second Compassionate Payment



Former employees of LIAT 1974 Ltd based in Antigua and Barbuda are to receive a second tranche of compassionate payments from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, funded through the government's bond issue.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Gaston Browne said the government will make an additional EC\$2 million payment to former LIAT 1974 workers, following an earlier disbursement.

The Prime Minister reiterated that the payment is not a legal obligation but a compassionate intervention in response to the hardship employees displaced by the airline's liquidation face.

"This is a gratuitous payment. There is no legal basis to do so," Browne said, noting that the administration's decision reflects its pro-labour philosophy and its desire to respond equitably to workers affected by the collapse of LIAT 1974 Ltd.

Browne acknowledged that some former workers and trade unions may remain dissatisfied, particularly given the absence of full severance payments after LIAT's closure. However, he said the government remains committed to continued engagement and dialogue, and to taking reasonable steps to ameliorate the circumstances of Antiguan and Barbudans left without severance, within the limits of the public purse.

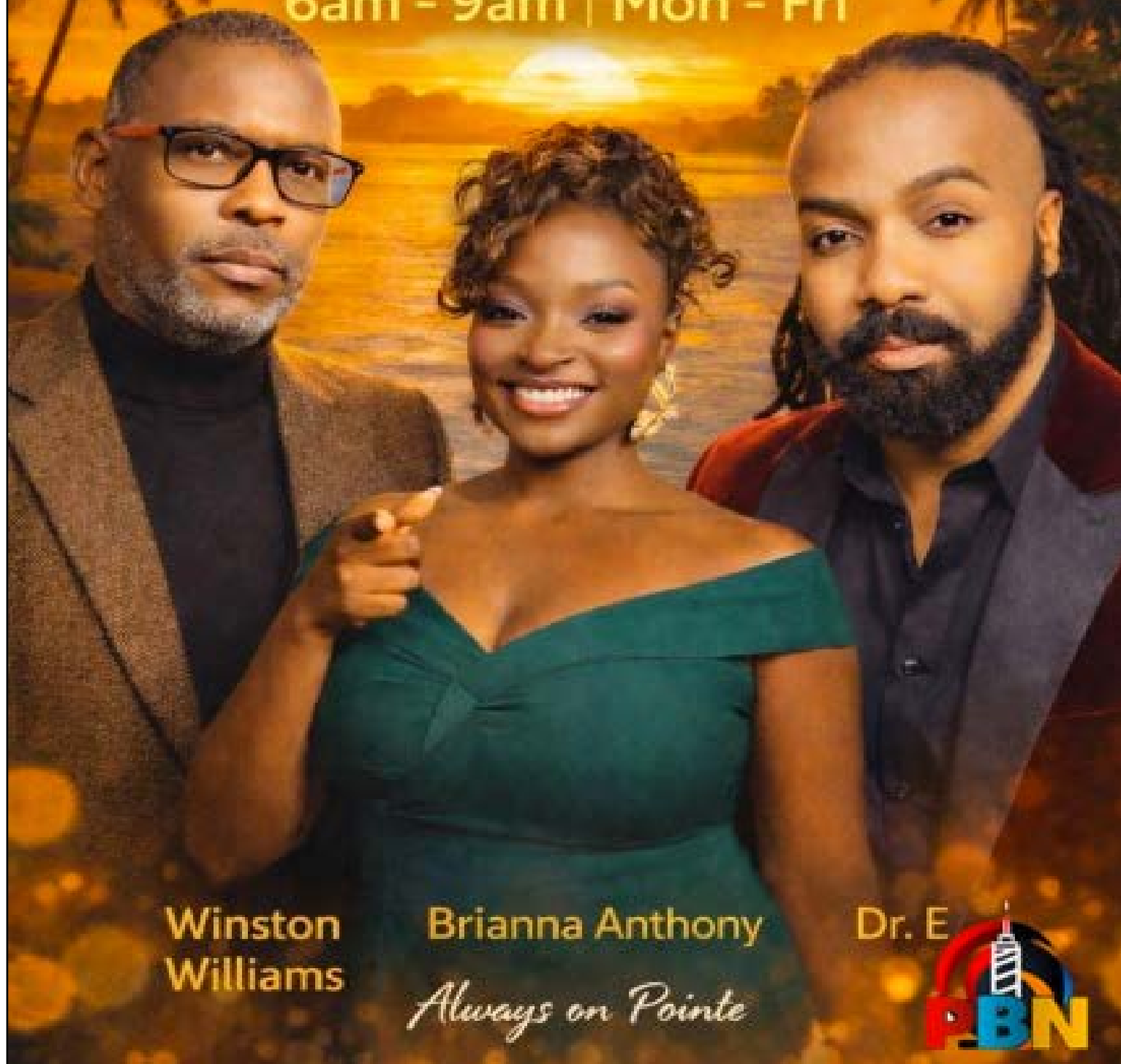
Former LIAT 1974 employees will be required to confirm their details with the appointed administrator for the now-defunct carrier to receive payment.

LIAT 1974 Ltd ceased operations in 2020 and was formally liquidated in 2024, leaving hundreds of employees across the region without severance. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has since maintained that, while it was not legally responsible for severance obligations, it has sought to provide limited financial relief on compassionate grounds and has kept channels open with affected workers.

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ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL **ANTIGUA CARNIVAL**

72 specialized vehicles arrive in Jamaica to help JPS electricity restoration



The Jamaica Public Service Company (JPS) says 72 specialised vehicles, including bucket trucks, diggers, pole trailers, and pick-ups, have arrived in Jamaica to boost electricity restoration after Hurricane Melissa.

The vehicles were offloaded at Freeport, Montego Bay, on Sunday and will be used by a team from Holland Power Services crews

“The newly deployed assets will be assigned primarily to Westmoreland and other areas of western Jamaica, where damage to the electricity network was most severe and where rebuilding and restoration activities remain most intense,” the company said in a statement on Monday.

Detommie Fuller, JPS manager for Business Continuity Resiliency and Contract Management, said the additional fleet will ensure linemen, working alongside Jamaican, Caribbean, and international crews, are fully equipped to restore power

to the remaining 12 per cent of cus-

tomers still without electricity.

JPS has approximately 700,000 customers.

The new arrival brings to roughly 160 the total number of specialised vehicles deployed since the hurricane struck the island on October 28, the company said.

Holland Power Services, one of three firms contracted by JPS for hurricane recovery, joins Tempest and Greystone in the restoration efforts.

The Government loaned JPS US\$150 million (J\$24 billion) to help speed up restoration. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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Sugar Mas 54: Music, Pan and Pageantry in Full Swing



Excess Jouvert Troupe



Harmonics Steel Orchestra

As Sugar Mas 54 moves through its core period, St. Kitts & Nevis' Carnival season unfolds in deliberate layers, with music commanding the road, pan asserting precision, folk traditions holding the cultural line, and pageantry anchoring ceremony and youth.

Preliminary reports from on-the-ground observers indicate hundreds of Antiguans and Barbudans are among the regional visitors currently feting in Basseterre, adding to the strong Eastern Caribbean presence that has defined the season so far.

Sugar Mas surged into full gear at J'ouvert on December 26, when paint, powder, oil, and rhythm reclaimed the streets before sunrise. More than a symbolic opening, J'ouvert proved decisive.

Road March was officially decided at J'ouvert,

with Nu Vybes Band International claiming the title with Home Coming, after a tightly contested tie with Kollision Band and TMI, resolved through tie-break procedures. The outcome reaffirmed a familiar Carnival truth across the region: Road March belongs to the people, not the clipboard.

Earlier, on December 21, the Groovy and Power Soca Monarch competitions showcased the range of the Sugar Mas sound. King Tobap topped the Groovy category, while King Brandon claimed Power Soca honours, confirming that St. Kitts' soca identity remains both versatile and road-ready.

On December 29, steelpan claimed centre stage with Panorama, reinforcing pan's role as cultural benchmark rather than sideshow. The Bank of Nevis EBJ Harmonics Steel Orchestra extended their



Festivals Greetings

From the Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission!

As we celebrate the spirit of Christmas and welcome a bright New Year, we extend heartfelt gratitude for your continued support. We look forward to creating even more moments of joy, creativity, and national pride together.

Cheers to new beginnings, strengthened partnerships, and an inspiring 2026 ahead.

Antigua Carnival @antiguafestivalsofficial



dominance, capturing a sixth consecutive Panorama title with a commanding performance. Nevis Development Steel Orchestra followed closely, underscoring Nevis' continued influence on the federation's pan tradition.

Panorama at Sugar Mas remains a moment of discipline and craft, where arrangement, execution, and collective memory matter more than volume.

Beyond the headline competitions, Sugar Mas 54 reaffirmed its cultural foundations at the National Bank Group Folk Galore Competition, held on December 18 and hosted by the Department of Cultural Heritage. Featuring Masquerade, Bull, and Mixed Folk categories, the event celebrated the living folklore of St. Kitts & Nevis. Traditional masqueraders, distinguished by elaborate peacock-feathered crowns, mirrored costumes, rhythmic footwork, and ceremonial choreography, delivered performances rooted in history rather than in trend.

Folk Galore remains a vital pillar of the Sugar Mas calendar, signaling that Carnival here is not only about movement and music but also about memory, transmission, and national identity.

Pageantry has provided Sugar Mas 54 with its ceremonial framework. Tresjeur Dedier was crowned Miss St. Kitts & Nevis 2025 after a closely contested night that blended elegance, confidence, and cultural expression.

At the regional level, Maya Marcellin was the first British Virgin Islands delegate to win the Miss Caribbean Talented Teen crown, with Antigua & Barbuda's Tekyra Richards among the nine contestants, underscoring Sugar Mas' regional reach.

The Junior Carnival Parade on December 27 further underscored youth as a central investment, not an afterthought.

Attention turns to the Calypso Monarch competition on December 30, where social commentary and lyrical tradition take centre stage, followed by the Grand Carnival Parade on New Year's Day, expected to deliver the visual climax of the season.

At this point in Sugar Mas 54, music has claimed the road, pan has asserted discipline, folk traditions have held their ground, and pageantry has reinforced



folk Galore

continuity. For many Antiguan and Barbudans on the ground in Basseterre, the message is clear: this is a Carnival that understands both celebration and structure as it moves confidently toward the new year.



Buck & Sons Landscaping Services advance to MPL final

Buck and Sons Landscaping Services advanced to the final after the last round of matches in the preliminary rounds in the Mandy Premier League (MPL), Cool and Smooth, Poolside Villa Glendon and Arlene Air BNB, and Sherma Jackson Business Softball Cricket League.

Buck and Sons Landscaping Services gained an automatic berth into the final by finishing at the top of their preliminary standings with 90 points, winning nine and losing one of their quota of 10 matches.

Buck and Sons Landscaping Services beat Long Island Lightning by six wickets at Rising Sun in their last preliminary round outing in the 10-overs-aside competition.

Long Island Lightning was restricted to 55 for three off their allotted 10 overs. Kerique Mentore hit an unbeaten 19, and Kim George scored 17.

Male player of the match Charanlall Ramjohn picked up a wicket without conceding a run in his two overs, and female player of the game Kimberly Anthony captured one for 19.

In reply, Buck and Sons coasted to victory by scoring 56 for four in 4.2 overs. Kadeem Henry struck 21, Charanlall Ramjohn made 12, and Denley Thomas scored 10 not out. Kerique Mentore bagged three for 21, and Kelvin Loraine claimed one for 10.

The Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF) clinched an automatic spot in the semi-finals by finishing second in the prelimi-



Charanlall Ramjohn, right, and Kimberly Anthony of Buck and Sons Landscaping Services

nary standings with 75 points.

The ABDF wrapped up their preliminary round campaign in the six-team competition by claiming their seventh win in 10 matches with a 21-run victory over the Long Island Lightning.

The ABDF managed to post 119 for four off their 10 overs. Male player of the game Mervin Higgins hammered 37, Shaquan Reifer hit 29, and Vaughn Charles scored 21.

Kelvin Loraine took two for 13, Mandy "Remover" Weatherhead picked up one for 10, and Kerique Mentore claimed one for 24.

The Long Island Lightning were then restricted to 98 for six in their 10 overs. K'Omah Telemacque cracked 45, and Kim George scored 21.

Female player of the game Mouri-cia Willette snapped up two wick-

ets for five runs, Vaughn Charles bagged two for 14, Malique Gerald had one for 15, and Mervin Higgins picked up one for 24.

Construction Solutions clinched fourth place in the preliminary standings with 35 points after recording their third win in 10 matches by pulling off a 96-run victory against PEL Workers in their last outing.

Construction Solutions scored 161 for three off their 10 overs. Male player of the match Charles James slammed 61, Clarence Francis smashed an unbeaten 33, and Veston Lewis hit 32. Carl Simon captured two for 12, and Brian Bailey claimed one for 30.

In reply, PEL Workers could only muster 65 for six off their allotted 10 overs. Brian Bailey struck 26, and Karl Simon made 12.

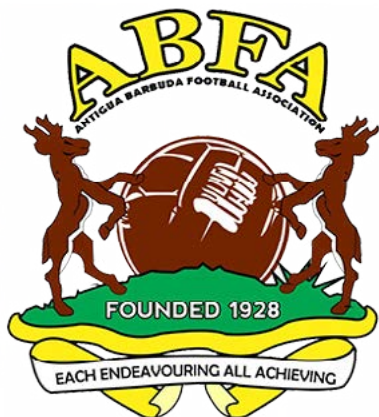
Adrian Abbott grabbed two wickets for one run, female player of the game Menova picked up one wicket for seven runs, Kenny Benjamin had one for 10, and Charles James took one for 16.

The four teams that finished outside the top two at the end of the preliminary rounds will battle in a playoff for the other semi-final spot on Sunday.

Defending champion TG Welding will meet Long Island Lightning, and Construction Solutions will take on PEL Workers.

The winners of the two playoff matches will clash in an eliminator to determine the other semi-finalist.

Scorpions extend unbeaten run in First Division League



The Freemans Village Scorpions continued their unbeaten run during the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

The Scorpions notched up their sixth win in seven matches by snatching a 1-0 victory against the Greenbay Hoppers at the Freemans Village playing field on Monday.

Following a goalless first half, Roy Gregory broke the deadlock when he scored the only goal of the match with a strike in the 75th minute to snatch

victory for the Scorpions.

The result allows the Freemans Village Scorpions to join Golden Grove FC, which has played eight matches, at the top of the standings with 19 points each.

The Greenbay Hoppers remain on 15 points after succumbing to their second loss in seven matches.

Zahdeir Forde scored twice to propel the Willikies FC to their second win in eight matches with a 4-0 drubbing of the Swetes Vipers FC at the ABFA Technical Center.

Forde converted a penalty kick in the 47th minute and got his second goal of the match with a strike in the 58th minute.

Novelle Francis' fifth-minute conversion gave Willikies a one-nil lead at halftime, and Randy Thomas sealed the win by scoring his team's final goal in the 89th minute.

Willikies FC moved on to seven points, while the Swetes Vipers remain on 10 points after crashing to

their third defeat in nine matches.

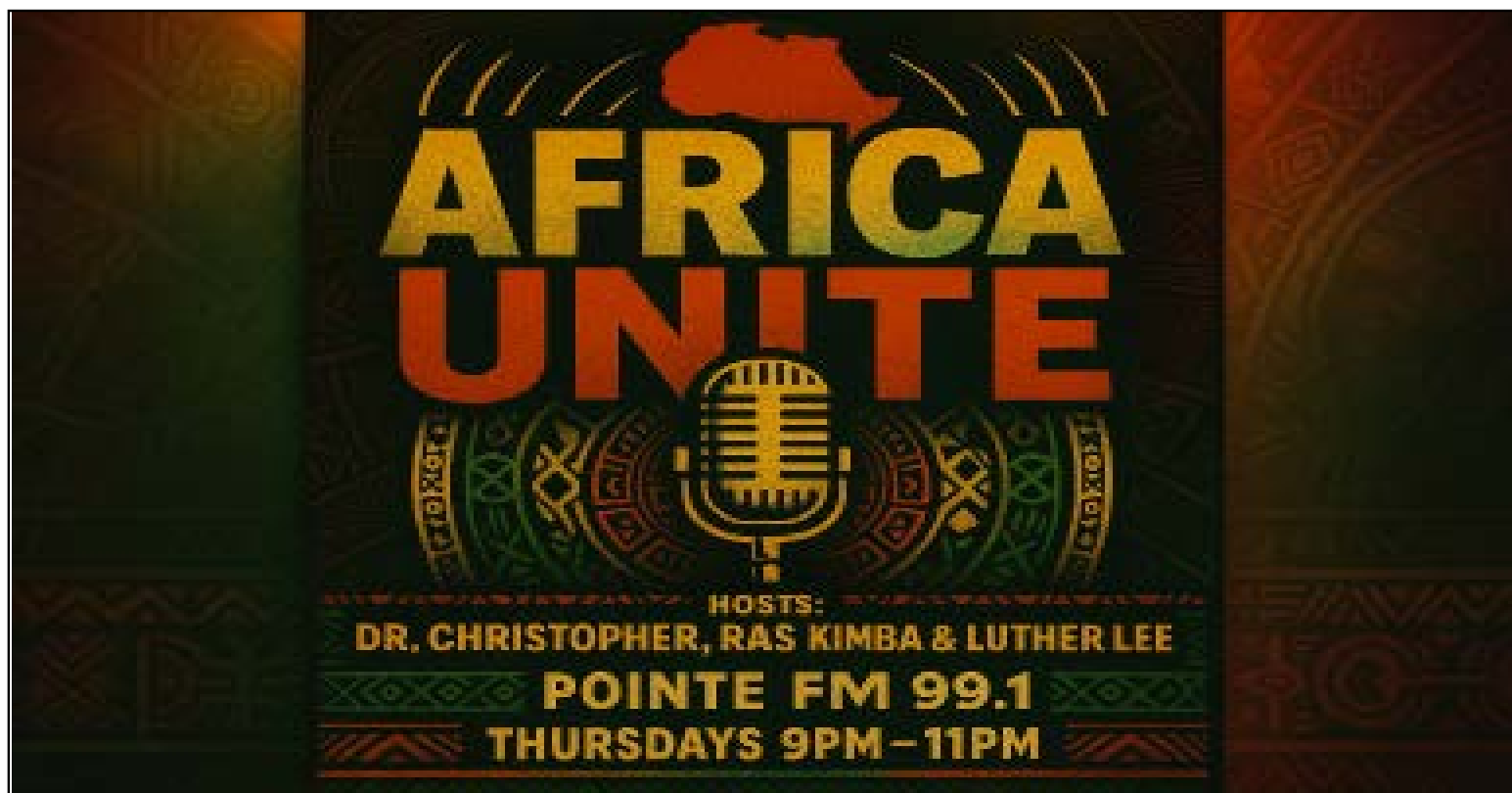
However, there was no winner in the encounter between Five Islands FC and SAP FC, as both teams battled to a 1-1 draw in their meeting at the ABFA Technical Center.

Demario Roberts scored an equalizer in the 80th minute to salvage the draw for Five Islands FC after Emerson Henry converted a penalty kick in the 33rd minute to give SAP a one-nil lead at halftime.

Three players received red cards and were expelled in the hotly contested affair. Five Islands finished the match with nine men after the expulsion of two substitutes, Brandon Emanuel in the 60th minute and Dequan Pryce in the 81st minute.

Kayan London of SAF FC was also expelled by the referee in the 60th minute. SAP FC moved on to nine points after salvaging their third draw in six matches.

Five Islands FC advanced to 16 points after securing their fourth draw in 10 matches.





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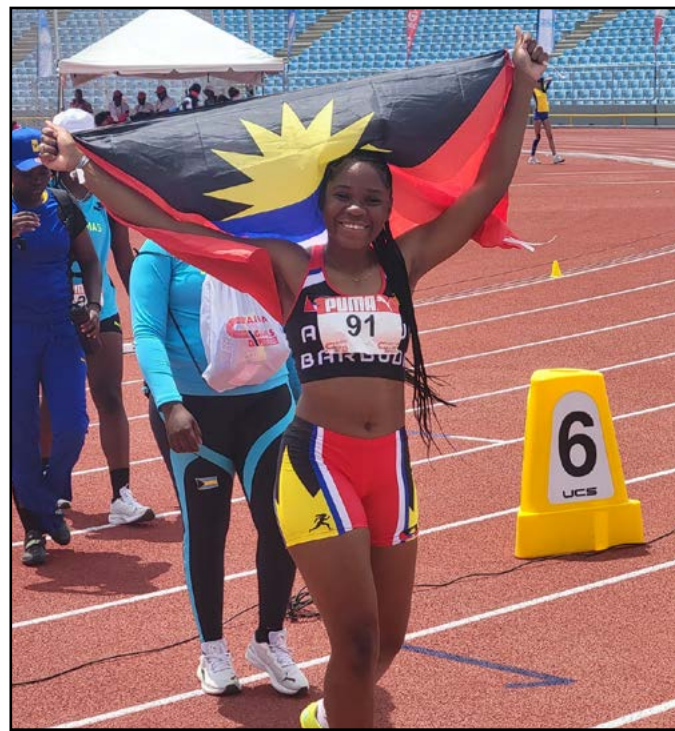


ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

Charles and Fenton win gold as A&B finish 5th at CARIFTA Games



Tyra Fenton celebrate with her gold medal after winning the Under-17 Girls 400-meter final at the 52nd CARIFTA Track and Field Games at the Hasely Crawford Stadium in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, on Saturday, April 19, 2025.



Ranique Richards celebrates with the Antigua and Barbuda flag after winning bronze in the Under-17 Girls shot put at the 52nd CARIFTA Track and Field Games at the Hasely Crawford Stadium in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, on Saturday, April 19, 2025.

Antigua and Barbuda secured a respectable fifth-place finish at the 52nd CARIFTA Track and Field (athletics) Games, which took place at the Hasely Crawford Stadium in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, from April 19 to 21.

Zonique Charles and Tyra Fenton produced gold medal performances as Antigua and Barbuda finished the three-day meet with five medals.

Zonique Charles won gold on the final day of the three-day meet with victory in the Under-17 Girls javelin with a personal best of 46.29 meters in the final.

The 400-meter action also brought joy to Antigua and Barbuda, as Tyra Fenton of St. Anthony's Secondary School and Roots Athletics Club delivered the country's first track medal of the games in the girls' Under-17 final.

Running with fluidity and control, she clocked a new personal best of 53.93 seconds, improving on last year's third-place (bronze) finish to claim the top spot.

Sprinter Geolyna Dowdye of Princess Margaret School and Power Speed and Endurance (PSE) Track Club also improved on her bronze-medal finish at last year's games to capture silver in 11.43 seconds in the Under-20 Girls 200-meter final.

Antigua and Barbuda's Ranique Richards picked up the bronze in the female Under-17 shot put. Richards threw a distance of 12.57 meters to become the first medalist for Antigua and Barbuda at the 2025 CARIFTA Games.

The 52nd edition of the Carifta Games in 2025 was won by Jamaica for the 39th consecutive time with a total of 78 medals, comprising 30 spectacular golds, 27 silver medals and 31 bronze medals in an outstanding performance.

The Bahamas came in second place with 16 gold, 13 silver and 8 bronze medals, Trinidad and Tobago came in third with 9 gold, 6 silver and 10 bronze medals, and Grenada secured fourth place with 13 medals.

Success for Antiguan swimmers at CARIFTA Aquatics Championships



Alessandro Bazzoni



Ellie Shaw

Antigua and Barbuda won seven medals on the final night to finish with an overall total of 13 medals at the 38th CARIFTA Aquatics Championships, which concluded at the National Aquatic Centre in Couva, Trinidad and Tobago, from April 19 to 22.

The standout performer for the Antigua and Barbuda swimmers was Alessandro Bazzoni, who dominated the boys 11-12 age group, winning five medals.

Bazzoni clocked a personal best to win two of his medals on the final night. He won the gold in the 200-meter butterfly and claimed silver in the 200-meter individual medley final.

Earlier in the three-day regional

meet, Bazzoni also won gold in the 400-meter individual medley, silver in the 200-meter freestyle, and a bronze in the 100-meter butterfly final.

Ellie Shaw won her second of two medals when she captured gold in the 50-meter breaststroke in the girls 15-17 age-group category. Shaw also captured a silver medal in the 200-meter breaststroke final.

Madison MacMillan won a silver medal, Ethan Stubbs-Green picked up a silver and a bronze, and Anya DeGannes also claimed a silver and a bronze medal.

Aunjelique Liddie won the other medal for Antigua and Barbuda on the final night, producing a personal

best and setting a new national record in winning bronze in the final of the 100-meter freestyle final in the girls 15-17 category.

This year's CARIFTA Aquatics Championships saw the Bahamas take the overall team trophy, amassing a total of 979 points. Behind them were Jamaica who captured the runners-up spot with 795.50 points, followed by the host nation of Trinidad & Tobago with 735 points.

The Bahamas' victory represented their 7th consecutive trophy and their 9th in the past 10th editions. The Bahamas ended the competition with 74 medals in all, including 27 gold, 23 silver, and 24 bronze.



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Grenada dethrones Antigua to regain OECS Swim Championship title



The Antigua and Barbuda team that represented the twin-island state at the 33rd OECS Swimming Championships in St. Vincent and the Grenadines from November 7 to 9.

Grenada dethroned Antigua and Barbuda as champions of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Swimming Championships during the 33rd edition of the three-day event in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Grenadians regained the OECS Swimming Championship from three-peat title holder Antigua and Barbuda during the competition at the Shrewsbury Aquatic Centre in St. Vincent from November 7 to 9.

This win is significant, as it is Grenada's first title since 2019, after which there was a two-year break in competition during the COVID period.

Grenada took home 84 medals while amassing a total of 1263.50 points over second-place St. Lucia with 1,239 points. Host St. Vincent and the Grenadines clinched third place.

Antigua and Barbuda, which won the competitions in 2022, 2023, and 2024, finished in fourth place with a total of 1,117 points.

They were followed by St. Kitts & Nevis with 160 points, Dominica with 72 points, and Anguilla, which finished in the cellar with eight points.



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Antigua wins 2025 ECVA Men's Final Four title

Antigua and Barbuda swept St. Lucia 3-0 in the final to win the inaugural 2025 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Men's Final Four Championship at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex in St. John's on Sunday, September 21.

Antigua and Barbuda gained revenge for a 3-0 loss to the St. Lucians in the last encounter in the preliminary stage with their commanding 25-23, 25-19, and 25-15 victory in the championship decider and qualified for the 2026 NORCECA Pan American Cup.

Dominica captured the bronze medals in the ECVA's Men's Final Four tournament, defeating Grenada 3-0 in straight sets (25-19, 28-26, and 26-24) in the playoff for third place.

It is the third consecutive title for Antigua and Barbuda, who won the ECVA's men's championship in 2023

and 2024 and qualified for their debut appearance at the 12-team 18th Senior Men's Pan American Cup, which was held in Mexico from August 26 to 31.

Despite their last-place finish at this year's Pan American Cup, head coach Carl Williams said Antigua and Barbuda benefited from their participation at the NORCECA event in Mexico by providing the Antiguan players with adequate preparation to win the ECVA's Men's Final Four Championship.

Antigua and Barbuda lost all five games to finish last in the 12-team 18th Senior Men's Pan American Volleyball Cup in Mexico.

Guatemala concluded the tournament with a 3-0 (25-10, 25-16, 25-17) victory over Antigua and Barbuda to finish in 11th place in the competition with a 1-5 record.

Meanwhile, Venezuela was crowned

undefeated champion of the 18th Senior Men's Pan American Volleyball Cup after defeating Mexico 3-1 (25-23, 25-20, 20-25, 25-19) in the gold medal match that closed the event.

This title marks Venezuela's first-ever gold medal in the history of the Pan American Cup, adding to the bronze medal they earned in 2015.

Host nation Mexico claimed the silver medal, the second in its history, bringing their overall tally to four medals: one gold, one silver, and two bronze.

Venezuela finished undefeated with six victories, 15 sets won and only three lost. Mexico closed the tournament with a record of four wins and two losses, placing second.

Canada swept Colombia 3-0 (27-25, 25-22, 25-14) to claim the bronze medal at the Pan American Cup.



President of the ABAVA Wilbur Harrigan holds the trophy with players of the Antigua and Barbuda team in celebration of their achievement of winning the inaugural 2025 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's Men's Final Four Championship at the YMCA Sports Complex in St. John's on Sunday, September 21, 2025.

Host Antigua retains World Domino Championships



Some players of the Antigua and Barbuda national team during the 20th World Domino Championships at the John E. St. Luce Conference Center. (Photo courtesy of the ABNDA)

Antigua and Barbuda created history by winning the World Council of Domino Federations (WCDF) tournament for the fourth consecutive time.

Hosts Antigua and Barbuda achieve the feat by being crowned joint champions with St. Kitts and Nevis at the 20th World Domino Championships at the John E. St. Luce Conference Center on August 16.

Barbados and St. Lucia defaulted their final match to St. Kitts and Nevis, which allowed the Kittitians and reigning defending champions Antigua and Barbuda to finish at the top of the eight-team competition with 13 points each.

After capturing the world domino championship in 2016, 2018, and 2023, Antigua and Barbuda added the 2025 title to their collection, becoming the first WCDF member territory to win four consecutive crowns.

Barbados clinched their place with a total of five points during the August 10 to 18 world tournament, which concluded with an award and presentation ceremony on Monday.

The other participating countries in this year's event are Dominica, Guyana, the United States of America (USA), and Anguilla.

The participants were engaged in competitive disciplines, comprising Team Four Hand, Female Three Hand, Male Three Hand, Mixed Pairs, Female Pairs, Male Pairs, Queen of Domino, and King of Domino.



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Leewards achieve historic Women's Super50 Cup victory

The Leeward Islands recorded their first and only win in the 2025 CG United Women's Super50 Cup, which was won by Trinidad and Tobago after pulling off a seven-wicket win against Barbados in the final at Warner Park in St. Kitts on March 7.

The Leeward Islands head coach Percy Daniel was beaming with pride and emotion as he reflected on his team's historic triumph in the CG United Women's Super50 Cup, which took place in St. Kitts from 24 February 24 to March 7.

Daniel's side registered their first-ever victory in the 50-over format of the tournament when they edged defending champions Jamaica by a single wicket in a dramatic run chase at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Monday, March 3.

Jamaica posted a formidable total of 253 for nine, but Leeward Islands responded in emphatic fashion to get to 257 for nine and claim a stunning victory.

It was a performance defined by grit, teamwork, and individual brilliance, with several players stepping up in crucial moments to etch their names into the history books.

Meanwhile, the Leeward Islands missed out on winning their first Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-19 Women's title for the second successive year in Trinidad and Tobago.

After being denied the title in 2024 in a 23-run defeat

via the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method in the final against Guyana at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy, the Leeward Islands young women suffered a seven-wicket loss via the DLS method against Barbados in the final at the Diego Martin Sporting Complex in Trinidad on July 19.

Barbados were crowned champions of the West Indies Rising Stars Under-19 Women's Championship after defeating Leeward Islands for the second time in three days.

The Leeward Islands had advanced to the final despite losing their last preliminary round match against Barbados by seven wickets at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground in St. Augustine on July 17.

In the final at Diego Martin, the Leeward Islands were dismissed for 93 in 23.3 overs.

In reply, Barbados reached their revised target comfortably, closing on 72 for three in 12.2 overs.

Trinidad and Tobago's under-19 women's cricketers held their nerve to secure a dramatic one-wicket victory over Jamaica under-19 women in the third-place playoff at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground.

The Trinidadians were set a modest target of 118 but were made to work hard for the win, with Jamaica's bowlers striking regularly to keep the game alive until the final over. In the end, the Trinis got home at 118 for nine, winning off the final ball to finish their campaign on a high.



Players of the Leeward Islands women's team celebrate



The Barbados Royals players and staff collect the winners' trophy at the end of the Women's Massy Caribbean Premier League Final match against Guyana Amazon Warriors at Providence Stadium in Georgetown, Guyana, on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. The Royals won by three wickets. (CPL/Getty Images)

Champions Royals complete 3-peat feat in women's CPL

The Barbados Royals went unbeaten in the Massy Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL) to win their third consecutive title after beating the Guyana Amazon Warriors by three wickets with two balls to spare in a nail-biting final at Providence Stadium in Guyana on September 17.

Asked to bat first, the Warriors reached a score of 136 for three with opener Amy Hunter scoring 29 from 36 balls. The rest of the top order supported but could not muster enough boundaries to put

on a truly challenging total.

Dane Van Niekerk (27) and captain Shermaine Campbelle (28) joined forces to put together an unbeaten 56-run partnership for the fourth wicket after Stafanie Taylor was forced to retire hurt just when the Warriors were looking to accelerate the scoring.

In reply, the Royals lost two wickets in the power-play, including the inform Chamari Athapaththu for 25. However, Kycia Knight and Courtney Webb each scored 31 to set up the push for

a third consecutive title despite a late fightback from the hosts.

Athapaththu scored the most runs in the tournament, and along with seven wickets, was named Player of the Series.

Ashmini Munisar and Laura Harris of the Warriors each bagged eight wickets to share the prize for the most wickets.

With the win, the Royals have now extended their dominance over the Warriors to 9-0.

Knight Riders beat Warriors in the final to win 2025 CPL title



The Trinbago Knight Riders celebrate after winning the 2025 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League title at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on Sunday, September 21, 2025. (CPL/Getty Images)

The Trinbago Knight Riders held their nerve to beat the Guyana Amazon Warriors by three wickets in a tense finale to win the 2025 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) title at a jam-packed Providence Stadium in Guyana on September 21.

The Warriors were restricted to 130 for eight off their 20 overs, and the Knight Riders secured their victory by scoring 133 for seven with 12 balls to spare.

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons' campaign in this year's CPL came to an end in a nine-wicket loss to former champions, the Trinbago Knight Riders (TKR), in the eliminator match at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on September 16.

The Falcons, who made 166 for eight off their 20 overs, had a brilliant second-wicket partnership of 108 between Andries Gous and Amir Jangoo, but a late flurry of wickets saw the Knight Riders keep them to a gettable total.

The stars for the Trinidadian franchise were captain Nicholas Pooran and Alex Hales, who both made fifties as the Knight Riders won with relative ease, scoring 168 for one in 17.3 overs.

Pooran struck an unbeaten 90 off 53 balls, including eight sixes and three fours, and Hales cracked 54 not out off 40 balls, including three sixes and three fours, as both batters shared an unbroken second-wicket partnership of 143 runs.

The loss means the Falcons headed home having made the knockout stages for the first time in their two-year history after becoming the CPL's newest franchise in 2024.

Antiguan all-rounder Karima Gore and Trinidadian fast bowler Jayden Seales topped the bowling and batting aggregates for the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons during their 2025 campaign.

Barbados Pride wins Super50 title in dominant fashion



The Barbados Pride were crowned the CG United Super50 Cup champions after defeating the T&T Red Force by nine wickets at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad, on Saturday, November 29, 2025.

Skipper Kyle Mayers and Leniko Boucher both blasted half-centuries as Barbados Pride romped to a dominant nine-wicket victory over Trinidad and Tobago Red Force in a lopsided CG United Super50 Cup final at Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad, on November 29.

The Pride's easy win was setup by left-arm bowlers Joshua Bishop and Dominic Drakes, with both snaring four wickets to lead the demolition of the home side's batting, with them being eventually bowled out for a paltry 168 in 42.3 overs.

Mayers then hit an unbeaten 89 off 79 balls, inclusive of seven sixes and six fours, while Boucher hit a run-a-ball 50 with nine fours and one six in a savage attack on T&T's bowlers, as the visitors wasted little time in speeding to victory at 169 for one in only 29.3 overs.

Meanwhile, the Leeward Islands Tropical Wave clinched the runners-up spot behind back-to-back champions Barbados in the two-day competition of the 2025 Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Boys' Under-17 regional tournament in Trini-

dad and Tobago on August 21.

The Leeward Islands ended the two-day competition with a commanding eight-wicket victory against Guyana on the final day of their third-round match at Inshan Ali Park in Preysal.

Barbados retained the two-day title with a comprehensive 10-wicket win against the Windward Islands in their third-round match at the Queen's Park Oval.

Trinidad and Tobago finished in third place with a 10-wicket win against Jamaica in their third-round match at the NCC in Couva.



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

T&T Legions beat LI Thunder to win first T20 Breakout League



Champions Trinidad & Tobago Legions celebrate after winning the inaugural 2025 West Indies Breakout T20 League. The Legions won the title after beating the Leeward Islands Thunder in the final at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago, on Saturday, May 10.

The Trinidad & Tobago Legions are champions of the inaugural season of the West Indies Breakout League after defeating the Leeward Islands Thunder by 17 runs at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba on May 10.

The Legions, after being put in to bat by the Thunder, posted 181 for five from their 20 overs. Opener Kamil Pooran led the way with 73 off 44 balls, including seven fours and four sixes.

Captain Joshua Da Silva, who entered proceedings at 83 for four halfway through the 11th over, made a crucial 40 not out off 31 balls, including four fours and a six.

Joshua James also provided some excellent lower middle order hitting with 26 not out off 16 balls, including one four and two sixes.

Captain Karima Gore claimed two for 22 and Micah McKenzie picked up two for 29.

Then, despite a rapid 36-ball 63 at the top of the order from Kofi James, the Thunder were restricted to 164 for nine in their 20 overs. Elroy Francis chipped in with 23 off 24 balls.

The Leeward Islands Thunder booked their spot in the final of regional T20 competition with a dominant eight-wicket win over the Windward Islands Infernos in their playoff game.

Anguilla beat Antigua to win LICB T20 Festival



Anguilla celebrate with their trophies after winning the inaugural senior Leeward Islands Cricket Board's (LICB) T20 Festival at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Sunday, June 8, 2025.

Anguilla capped an impressive unbeaten performance by romping to a 21-run victory over host Antigua and Barbuda in the final to win the inaugural senior Leeward Islands Cricket Board's (LICB) T20 Festival at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on June 8.

Set 196 to win, Antigua and Barbuda were dismissed for 174 in 19.4 overs by the Anguillans, who entered the final as the only unbeaten side in the tournament.

It was also the second win in the six-team round-robin tournament for the Anguillans of the host nation after snatching an 11-run victory against Antigua and Barbuda when both finalists met in the preliminary round-robin stage.

The Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the tournament Jahmar Hamilton, fellow opener Chesney Hughes, and skipper Dimitri Adams all hit half-centuries as Anguilla made an impressive 195 for three off their allotted 20 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

The diminutive Hamilton struck 69 off 57 balls, including eight fours and three sixes. Hughes hammered 59 off 28 balls, with eight fours and three sixes, and Adams smashed 55 off 30 balls, including three sixes and three fours.

Off-spinner Kofi James captured two for 50, and Antiguan skipper and fellow off-spinner Rahkeem "Jimbo" Cornwall picked up one for 28.

Chasing 196 for victory, Antigua & Barbuda made a promising start. Opening batter Tyrone Williams Jr. led the charge for the Antiguanians with a knock of 71 off 52 balls.

Nevis snatched a nine-run victory against the Combined Islands (Montserrat and St. Maarten) to clinch the playoff for third place.

Nevis posted 144 for nine off their allotted 20 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

In reply, the Combined Islands were unable to overcome a poor start to their run chase and were eventually restricted to 138 for eight off their 20 overs.

Antigua captures Leeward Islands Masters title

Antigua and Barbuda captured the Leeward Islands Masters T20 Championship in St. Maarten on June 8.

The Antiguan secured their title with a crushing 71-run victory over Nevis in the final at the Caribe Lumber Ball Park in Phillipsburg.

Tournament Most Valuable Player Kerry Mentore slammed an unbeaten century to propel Antigua Masters to an imposing 225 for one off their allotted 20 overs after winning the toss and deciding to bat.

Mentore hammered 134 not out off 65 balls, including 15 fours and seven sixes. Mentore shared in a 207-run opening stand with Rolston Tris Phillip, who cracked 86 off 52 balls, including six sixes and five fours.

In reply, Nevis Masters were restricted to 154 for four off their 20 overs. Stuart Williams hit 37 off 30 balls, fellow opener Collin Walwyn struck 30 off 33 balls, and Junior Mills made 27 off 18 balls. There

was a contribution of 29 extras, including 13 byes.

Both teams advanced to the final after topping their respective groups in the seven-team preliminary stage in which each team played two matches.

Nevis Master prevailed in Zone B that also included St. Croix and St. Thomas masters. Antigua Masters won Zone A, which also comprised defending champions St. Kitts, Anguilla, and host St. Maarten.

In addition to capturing the tournament's MVP award, Kerry Mentore of Antigua Masters also claimed the prize for the most runs with an aggregate of 190 runs in three innings.

Chaka Hodge of Anguilla claimed the Most Wickets Award with a total of four scalps in two matches, while Bonnel Andrew of St. Thomas won the Best Wicketkeeper Award.

Nevis will host next year's annual Leeward Islands Masters Cricket Tournament.



Antigua Masters celebrate after winning the 2025 Leeward Islands Masters Cricket Tournament at the Caribe Lumber Ball Park in Phillipsburg, St. Maarten, on Sunday, June 8.

WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER 2025

2025 Top Sports Stories

Like many years past, 2025 proved to be another memorable year in the wonderful world of sports for many people in Antigua and Barbuda, across our Caribbean region, and the entire globe for varying reason.

This is because sports always impact people's emotions one way or the other, and the various sporting events in 2025

certainly created more than enough joy, sadness, happiness, passion, and excitement for players and fans alike.

As this year draws to a close, it gives us the opportunity to highlight some of those memorable events that transpired in sports in Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean region during 2025.

United wins second Premier Division League title



Special Security Services and Bitar Pizza All Saints United celebrate after winning the 2024-25 ABFA's Premier Division title at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday, March 30, 2025.

Defending champions Special Security Services and Bitar Pizza All Saints United won back-to-back titles in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division on Sunday, March 9.

United retained the Premier League crown by snatching a 2-1 victory against Attacking Saints in the last game of

a triple-header after the other title contenders Sandals and APUA Inet Jennings Grenades suffered a surprising 1-0 loss to Green City FC in the day's opening encounter at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters.

The First Division was captured by Ottos Rangers, while the Cedar Grove Blue Jays won the Second Division title.