



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport



42ND ANNUAL
SPORTS
AWARDS



SATURDAY 9TH MARCH 2024 AT 6:30PM



Hamilton Princess and Beach Club
Harbourview Ballroom

PREMIER'S REMARKS



2023 has been another remarkable year where Bermudian athletes have showcased their talent, resilience, and dedication on the global stage. They proudly represented our island across numerous continents and international events.

The performance by Bermuda's athletes at the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin was historic. Our team returned with a commendable haul of 11 medals, surpassing their previous achievements in Abu Dhabi in 2019. They showed us the true meaning of courage and determination.

They exemplified the values of sportsmanship, camaraderie, and fair play and have been and will continue to be remarkable ambassadors for our island. Their achievements have brought honour and pride to Bermuda and inspired people throughout our island.

The Central American and Caribbean Games (CAC Games) in San Salvador and the Pan American Games in Chile further highlighted the caliber of Bermudian athletes. Team Bermuda earned an incredible six medals across swimming, athletics, and cycling. The exceptional performances of Emma Harvey, Madelyn Moore, Dage Minors, Caitlin Conyers, and Conor White underscored our athletes' capacity to excel and compete with the best in the region.

In December, we collectively cheered with joy and national pride when Leilanni Nesbeth captained her Florida State University team to a second NCAA National Championship and an undefeated season. This capped an outstanding university career that saw her win two national titles, four Atlantic Coast Conference championships, and one national runner-up trophy. Just a month later, we watched as Leilanni was drafted in the first round of the National Women's Soccer League draft, proving there are no limits to what Bermudian athletes can achieve.

The Government of Bermuda is proud of what these athletes have achieved and what our athletes continue to strive for each day. That is why we implemented our National Sports Policy in 2022, which is a five-year promise to raise the value of sport in Bermuda with five clear goals: to increase participation, achieve sporting excellence regionally, improve access to sports facilities, increase the value of sport, establish a framework for talent development.

PREMIER'S REMARKS Continued

Through the Department of Sport and Recreation, the Government provided support and funding for our Special Olympians to assist with the costs of their participation. Through the Elite Athlete Sponsorship Awards, the Government awarded \$81,000 to 11 individuals to continue their pursuit of international excellence. Through the Sports Investment Programme, we provided \$1.5 million to National Sports Governing Bodies and an additional \$18,000 to our medal winners from the CAC and Pan-Am Games. These initiatives are a tangible sign of the Government's dedication to honouring exceptional performances and fostering a culture of excellence in sports.

We will continue to support Bermuda's athletes and the sports community because we understand its importance to our community and its value in helping to develop and nurture our people. In the 2024/25 budget, we have pledged to increase funding for athletes through grants and increased access to the National Sports Centre, and we will continue to execute our plans within the National Sports Policy because we know that 'Sport Matters'.

As we look back on a year of incredible success for our athletes, we must also recognize the hard work and dedication of National Sports Government Bodies, coaches, support staff, volunteers, and family members who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that our athletes have the resources they need to compete at their very best. We are grateful for all that you do, as we know that our athletes and our teams could not do it without you.

And tonight, as we bring you the 42nd Annual Sports Awards, I thank the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Senator Owen Darrell and the Department of Sport and Recreation for putting on this great event and the work they do for our athletes daily.

Congratulations to all nominees and recipients whom we celebrate tonight. You continue to make us proud, and I look forward to what you will achieve in the year to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Burt', is centered on the page.

The Hon. E. David Burt, JP, MP
Premier of Bermuda



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Music by: **TMQ**
TINO MARTINEZ QUINTET

Hosted by The Premier of Bermuda
The Hon. E. David Burt, JP MP

Opening Remarks by the
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Senator the Hon. Owen K. Darrell, JP

ORDER OF PRESENTATIONS

Minister's National Sports Awards

Junior Achievement Awards

Senior Achievement Awards

Special Achievement Awards

Citation Awards

Special Recognition Awards

Team of the Year

Athletes of the Year Awards

CLOSING REMARKS

CONCLUSION OF AWARDS

Music provided by

TMQ
TINO MARTINEZ QUINTET

Congratulations
TO ALL RECIPIENTS



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