

UWI Games 2017 - A complete review!

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The UWI Games 2017 revealed the true kaleidoscope of cultures and peoples that the Open Campus serves in the territories throughout the Caribbean. This rich and diverse student base came together for ten days to represent the university which is responsible for charting their path for academic prowess in regions not otherwise served by other university powerhouses. Each student came with the determination to give only of their best at The UWI Games 2017.

It is a known limitation that due to the Open Campus distributed nature, many factors will always work against the campus sports programme; however for the students who competed in The UWI Games 2017, this was a mere formality and not a reality. The athletes representing the Open Campus stepped up to the challenge and delivered a performance which was matched by no other contingent at The UWI Games. This performance manifested itself in the form of pride and team spirit as each Open Campus athlete took to the field to compete and it was followed by heart and passion as each athlete gave only of their best to champion their campus. This synergy emanating from within the team allowed the students to build exponentially on their application to the Games and develop their team chemistry in record breaking time. Just as The UWI Open Campus stood beside its students to provide them with distance education, so too did the students stand by their Open Campus to deliver a performance worthy of nothing short of praise. To this end, we saw steady development in every single team that represented the Open Campus. The development from game one, then game two and finally game three showed that given enough time, the Open Campus can pack a punch and deliver phenomenal results.

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony saw the Parade of Teams travel from The UWI Caricom building, across the main drive of the Cave Hill Campus and into the Roy Marshall Teaching Complex. The photos below relives some of these moments:





After the procession of teams, the official kick off was given by The UWI Cave Hill organising team. The photos below gives a glimpse into some of the activities surrounding the electrifying atmosphere of the ceremony:



Left to right: The UWI Cave Hill Registrar Mr. Kenneth Walters, Campus Bursar of The UWI Cave Hill Campus, Ms. Lisa Alleyne, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The UWI Open Campus, Dr. Luz Longworth, Deputy Principal of The UWI Open Campus Professor Julie Meeks-Gardner, Barbados Minister of Sports the Hon. Steven Lashley M.P. and National Hero and Knight of Barbados, Sir. Garfield Sobers among the attendees at The UWI Games 2017 Opening Ceremony



Not to be left out were the Open Campus supporters, who flew from all across the Caribbean to support their team at The UWI Games 2017!



During the Opening Ceremony, the Open Campus set the tone for the other campuses to follow. The environment was rich with banter and the Open Campus pioneered and championed this Opening Ceremony well beyond the other Campuses reach!



After a few words of encouragement and a strict directive to “keep it up!” from their Principal Dr. Luz Longworth, the Open Campus contingent got in gear and mesmerized the crowd with their synchronized chants and bright orange “Hot as fire!”





The atmosphere was anticipative, the Open Campus was bold and the ceremony was a blast!



Then came the meet and greet to kick off the socialization component of The UWI Games:



Let the Games begin!

After the meet and greet, the teams started to get in gear for the grueling task ahead. First off the mark was the Open Campus vs Cave Hill Football team.

Football

The Open Campus football team saw steady improvement in their games against the opposing campuses. The Open Campus got its foot wet in the first game against The Cave Hill Campus and conceded two early goals in the first half. Upon going into the second half, the Open Campus ballers made an irreversible series of mistakes that conceded an additional four goals and sidelined them out of the game.

The Open Campus then regared and each team member refocused to enter into a stronger game two against the Mona Campus. The game against Mona was reminiscent of an aggressive assault or two freight-trains colliding at full speed. This saw the Open Campus fighting fiercely with a 1-0 score to Mona at the close of half time. Mona then revolted in the second half with a burst of aggression from their right striker that overwhelmed the Open Campus defense and sidelined the Goal Keeper in a crushing head on collision. This left the Open Campus goal bars unguarded as they had no reserve goal keeper. Mona then capitalized on this advantage and buried five easy goals against an unguarded goal bar.

The Open Campus team refused to give in and their cohesiveness and spirit saw them overcoming the injuries and challenges to put on a world class third game performance against the St. Augustine Campus. Game three saw a more cohesive team play game by the Open Campus. After several fantastic saves by the Open Campus backline and goal keeper Cristian Houllier and numerous missed shots against the St. Augustine bars, the Open Campus was placed on the backfoot when a crack opened in their defensive line. St. Augustine took the initiative to counter after an offensive and got a shot past the Open Campus goal keeper to secure a 1 – 0 lead. Again, the Open Campus tried to find the nets of St. Augustine, but were unsuccessful, even after numerous set plays. The final straw came late in the second half when St. Augustine secured a free kick at about 25 yards and placed a strategic shot into the right corner of the bars. The diving arms of Cristian Houllier was no match for the placement of the free kick and this sent St. Augustine to a 2 – 0 lead. The score remained fixed at this point as both offensives by each team were diffused by the defensive lines and their goal keepers respectively.



Front row (left to right): Josiah Jessop, Jason Moore, Keron Best, Brandon Phillip, Cristian Houllier, Kwasi Henry, Rafeek Francis, David Brown and Aaron Gordon. **Back row (left to right):** Kwasi Henry, Keon Cunningham, Sawju Curtis, Jourdain Lowe, Malchijah Harding, Ashis Mahabir, Jevon Cox, Trent Cockburn, Emmanuel Aidelomon and Coach Mr. Roger Watts



Cricket

The gentlemen of the Open Campus turned up to represent the pride of their orange banner. Led by their captain Viandre Edwards, this team represented the first ever Cricket team fielded by the Open Campus and they delivered. The four recipients of the EC Cricket camp held prior to The UWI Games in St. Kitts saw Jaymeon Jones, Viandre Edwards, Wayad Hippolyte and Jamaal James spearhead The UWI Open Campus Cricket team against the seasoned push of the other campuses. These four players championed the Open Campus and led their team valiantly. In the annuals of the games, it will be forever known that the orange warriors from across the Caribbean made a mark at The UWI Games 2017 and laid the foundation of what is to become the great awakening of the Caribbean superpower known as the Open Campus!



Front row (left to right): Jason King, Jaymeon Jones, Keron Best, Niron Mahase, Brian Benjamin. **Back row (left to right):** Physiotherapist Tariq Gordon, Kade Augustine, Wayad Hippolyte, Viandre Edwards, Trevor Queeley, Jason King and Keshae Bovell

Netball

The ladies in orange were a competitive and heartened team. Similar to their counterparts however, this team too suffered with a rough first game against a well-seasoned and disciplined Mona team. Game two against the Cave Hill Campus feared no better as the Cave Hill Blackbird talons were well sharpened and took no prisoners.

The ladies went back to the drawing board and came out like a Caribbean hurricane! Game three against St. Augustine Campus saw a very competitive and close game right up to the 4th quarter. The girls engaged their orange wings and fought their most valiant fought ever laid down at any UWI Games. This sight was truly one to behold and the resolve of the ladies must be commended highly. Here the ladies strike a pose before getting down to business.



Centre front: Yakima Polius. **Second row left to right:** Adanis Jeffers, Abigail Fedee, Renae Samuel and Lien Norville. **Back row left to right:** Natasha Jervier (Games Committee Chairperson), Coach Mr. Jermaine Anglin, Shantar Bruce, Talishia Byfield, Narissa Augustine, Tonya Tonierre, Deidre Ann Fennell and Marisha John



Basketball

From the onset, the orange ballers were an explosive piece of dynamite. Those fortunate enough to have witnessed the spectacle and unparalleled skill displayed by this team at the games will always hold those memories fondly. The challenge ... no substitutes. The result of this meant that the Open Campus ballers would open the games with a lead or toe to toe highly competitive first and second quarters. Unfortunately, endurance caught up to them and the ballers lost all of their games in the third and fourth quarters each time. The skill shown by the ballers were spectacular, especially the high flying dunks by Dillon Johnson, coupled by the ankle snapping dribbling from Theron Francis and quick feet of Vaughn Joseph. All the while, the seasoned skill of Yehudi John showed the youngsters from the other teams how Basketball is played. Without a doubt, the Ballers represented the Open Campus well above and beyond and laid the expectations of what you can expect from any future basketball team from the Open Campus.



Left to right: Coach Mr. Delroy Banks, Winston Antole, Ricky Haynes, Vaughn Joseph, Yehudi John, Dave Alexis, Dillon Johnson, Kade Augustine and Physiotherapist Mr. Aaron Pollard.

Table Tennis

The Table tennis male and female teams made a good showing at The UWI Games. In an environment where all teams were extremely competitive, the table tennis team stepped up to the plate to deliver a performance that did the Open Campus proud. Congratulations to both male and female teams for their valiant efforts at the tables.



Left to Right: The powerhouse pair of David Brown and Orvis Tyson get ready to serve up an Ace against the Mona duo



Volleyball

The Volleyball ladies showed steady development in their games. Game one saw the ladies face off against the Cave Hill Campus. This rough awakening against a formidable team jostled the feathers of the ladies and got them into gear quickly. The lack of team training prior to the games also showed up here as numerous miscommunications and off sets cumulatively crippled the team.

Game two saw a more cohesive unit with communication lines improved, but somehow the chemistry was not there. The Mona team saw this break and quickly dispatched the formulating team in straight set victories.

Game three saw a rebirth of the Open Campus team against the St. Augustine Campus. With both team having their pride on the line as both team were fruitless up to this point; both St. Augustine and The Open Campus fought valiantly in their most harmonic and competitive games of the tournament. The Open Campus launched out of the blocks to secure a first set lead and dictate the pace for the St. Augustine Campus. St. Augustine replied but kept trailing. The Open Campus eventually showed their hand however, as the team still was not a single unit and their lead quickly evaporated against the St. Augustine onslaught. This saw The St. Augustine Campus push ahead of the Open Campus to secure a third place podium finish. According to the words of coach Handley “Those girls needed one more game...just one more game!” It goes without a doubt that had this team been together prior to The UWI Games, the results, especially against St. Augustine – would have been significantly different.



Front row (left to right): Tempestt Bullard, Staciann Lake and Nicole Blackman. **Back row (left to right):** Trevor Queely (Supporter), Betty-Ann Augustin, Karann Turnquest, Lyssette Hawthorne-Wilson, Nerissa Augustine and Coach Mr. Michael Handley



Lawn Tennis

The Lawn Tennis team competed under the seasoned eye of their coach Mr. Jared Spencer. The development seen from the players at practice transitioned well for them into the games. They competed valiantly and placed their best foot forward to represent the Open Campus. No photos were captured during the Lawn Tennis matches, however Kris-Anthony Cruikshank was singled out as a diamond in the rough for his performance.

Track and Field

Without a doubt, the spirit and endurance of the Track and Field team is one which was viewed with profound admiration and inspiration. The commitment by each athlete to the Games saw the Open Campus competing in almost every single track and field event. Although it was an overall effort, the Open Campus saw valiant and medal placing performances by Kieanne Blackman with a 40 meter average throw with the discus, Jean-Paul Drakes and his outstanding medal finishing performance in the 800 and 5000 meter, Laceyann Muir with her 21 meter Javelin raw power throw, Esther Ward and Hilvana Cash with their fourth and fifth place long jump in excess of 4 meters and Zana Ramsey with her shotput throw in excess of 9.62m (just shy of a podium finish by 1.38m) – just to name a few. Most of all, the smiles on the faces of the athletes were one to appreciate and know that it is through them, that The UWI Open Campus is able to stand on their shoulders and proudly say...these are our students. We proudly stand by them and they proudly stand by us!

Final results, **The UWI Open Campus amassed a total of 104 points**, which was 84 points shy of third place finishers St. Augustine.



The Track athletes with Athletics Coach Mr. Kumar Hinds. **From left to right:** Yakima Polius, Jermaine Anglin (Supporter), Renae Samuel, Abigail Fedee, Berlinda Francis, Jean-Paul Drakes, Esther Ward, Faith Campbell, Laceyann Muir, Hilvana Cash and Gabrielle Callendar



The Discus Specialists. **From left to right:** Physiotherapist Mr. Tariq Gordon, Discus Specialist Kieanne Blackman, Zana Ramsey and Physiotherapist Mr. Aaron Pollard.



From left to right: Mr. Tariq Gordon, Javelin specialist Faith Campbell and Laceyann Muir with Physiotherapist Mr. Aaron Pollard.

Medical Team: Physiotherapist and Doctor

The entire Open Campus contingent owes a great deal of gratitude to the medical team. The members of this team ensured that throughout the duration of the Games, all Open Campus athletes were well conditioned pre and post games and performed miracles on athlete's injuries to keep them in the Games. In many instances, this support had them on call 24/7 to which they responded in both a professional and committed manner.



From left to right: Physiotherapist Mr. Aaron Pollard, Ms. Dennora George, Mr. Tariq Gordon and Doctor, Dr. Rhea Corbin.



Birthday Girls

Amidst all the excitement of The UWI Games, the Open Campus contingent had two Birthday girls within its ranks. This saw the team coming together to celebrate and share in these birthday celebrations. Birthday girls Yakima Polius (green dress) and Ester Ward (orange and black dress image to right) were treated to an Open Campus quality celebratory party!



Closing Ceremony

The curtain finally fell on The UWI Games, much to the heartbreak of The UWI Open Campus contingent. For some, this meant that they were yet again going to be divided by the expanse of water between their islands – but for others – this was an opportunity to re-engage and follow with absolute certainty their sporting passions. What each athlete took away from the Games are the experiences of a fierce competition and the taste of their own resolve. Judging by the tone set by the Open Campus teams at these games, it goes without saying...the next Games are going to see a huge upset...and you can take those words to the bank.



Left to right: Principal of The UWI Open Campus Dr. Luz Longworth presenting Esther Ward and Team Open Campus with a token of appreciation.



Left to right: Ms. Hilvana Cash presenting Mr. Kumar Hinds with a token of appreciation for his role as Head of Contingent and Track and Field Coach for The UWI Open Campus.



Left to right: Mr. Delmar Taylor presenting Ms. Ruthlyn Matthias with a token of appreciation for her unwavering support and hard work as the Team Manager throughout the Games.



Left to right: Peter Marc-Ricketts presenting Mr. Charlton Ali with a token of appreciation for his hard work with the Cricket Team throughout the Games. Mr. Ali also engaged the position of Assistant Manager with high regard and commitment. Looking on in the background is Deputy Principal of The UWI Open Campus Professor Julie Meeks-Gardner and Principal of The UWI Open Campus Dr. Luz Longworth.



Left to right: Mr. Delmar Taylor presenting Ms. Olwen Edwards-Pile with a token of appreciation for her hard work with the contingent throughout the Games.

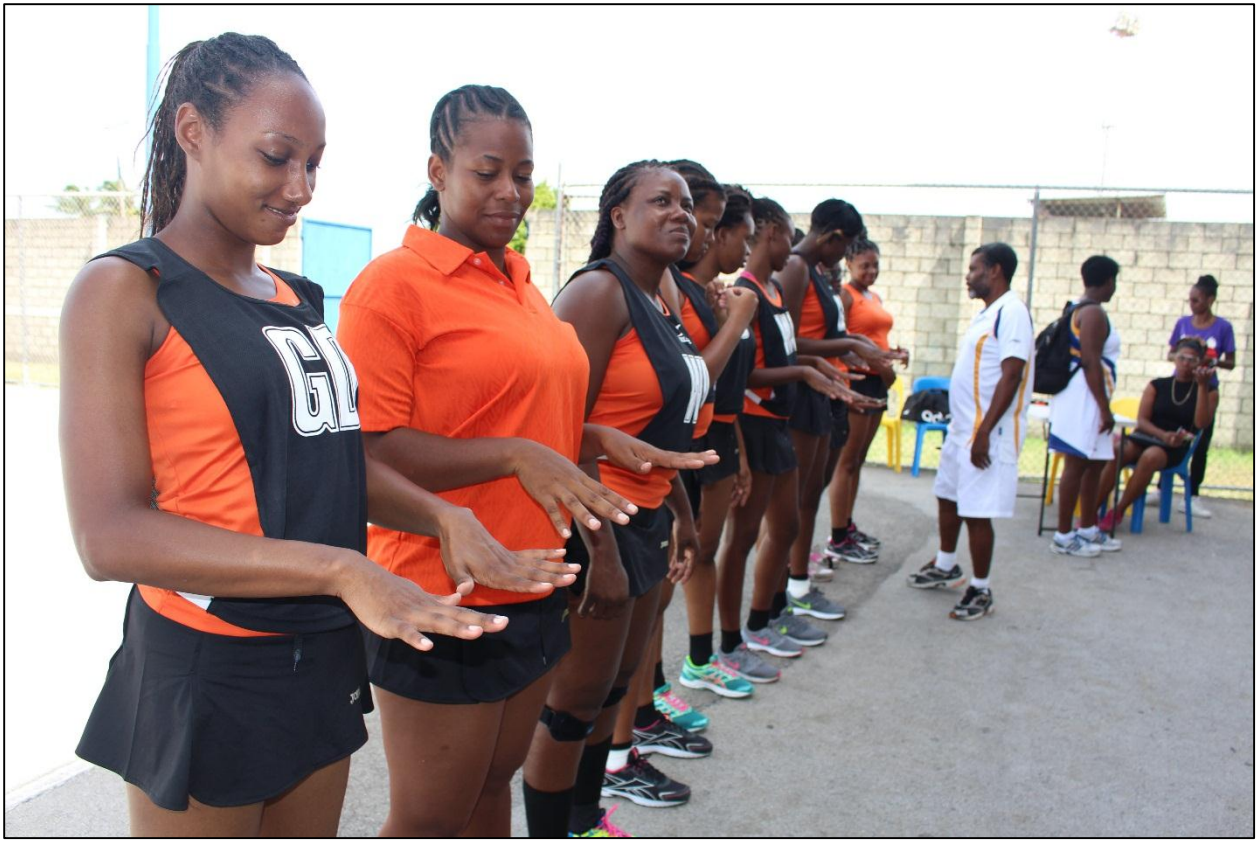


Left to Right: Laceyann Muir presenting Football Coach Mr. Roger Watts with a signed token of appreciation from the entire male and female football teams.

The UWI Open Campus Randoms

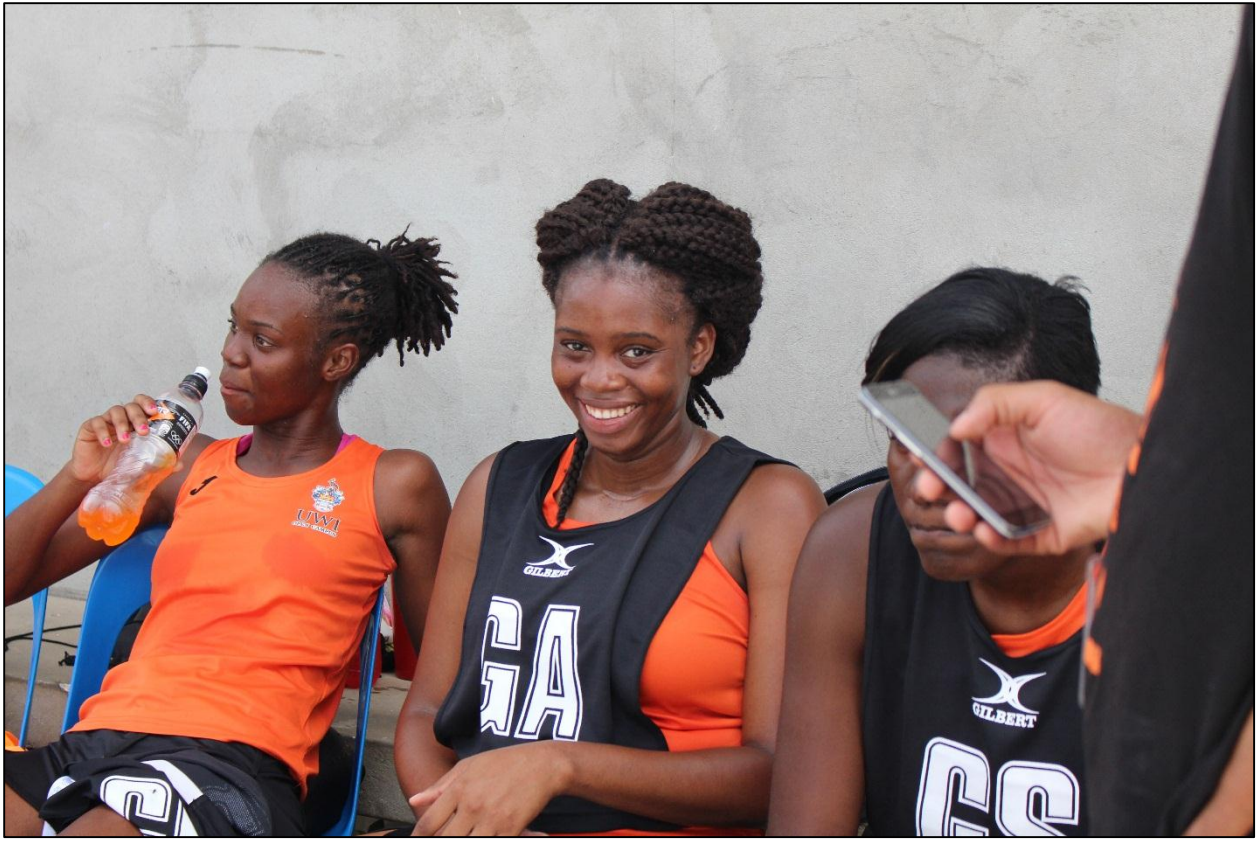
Before we go, we have to leave you with a flavor of Caribbean smiles found abundantly throughout the Games...











Out of many, we are ONE.

TEAM
Open Campus