



Members of the Class of 2008

Sterling R. L. Quant

Sterling Robert Lloyd best characterizes the notion of the Olympic Ideal as described by de Coubertin who noted that symmetry between pursuits of the mind and the body are what concentrates all moral values into a luminous beam that bring man closest to perfection. Indeed, this avid Bahamian scholar and accomplished athlete navigated oceans of uncharted water, fixing upon his broad shoulders, the heavy mantle of trailblazer in Bahamian sports.

Quant, was relatively new to the game of basketball during his early years at Eastern Senior School in the early 1960's. The advantage that he had though was his high intellectual aptitude and of course his height, standing at 6'6' when he was fourteen years old. He quickly comprehended the fundamentals of the game and soon acquired the skills that would place him on the path to greatness.. He may not have developed quickly enough to win a place on his Eastern Senior team but when he surfaced soon thereafter in the Junior League at the Priory Recreation Center, his greatness was confirmed as imminent.

Quant's first coach and mentor was Fred Papa Smith who tutored him while he was a student at Queen's College. His first years of organized basketball were played along side this fellow Hall of Famer. They began playing together on Smith's junior team, the Rockery in 1962 when some of their greatest battles were fought against the Our Lady's team. Their play together continued when the two junior arch rivals teamed to become St. Bernard's senior team in 1965. That new team was so awesome that in its first year at the senior level, it dethroned the perennial champions, Pinder's Barber Shop.

Quant matriculated to Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio in 1968 along with his St. Bernard's team mate Belzee Sharp Eye Smith and in their first year both contributed towards their team winning the national championships in basketball at the NAIAA level. The school was to win a second national championship during Quant's tenure. His hard work continued to pay him dividends for at the end of his senior year, he became the first Bahamian to be drafted to play professional basketball, he picked in 1972 by the Dallas Mavericks, then known as the Dallas Chaparrals of the Old ABA. Having declined the offer by Dallas, he returned home and reunited with St. Bernard's, then made up of just Our Lady's component as Fred Papa Smith elected to re-form his Priory-based team, re-named the Cougars. St. Bernard's became the Kentucky Colonels in 1968 and the two clubs have been at war since.

Quant's local and international achievements are as illustrious as they are numerous, inclusive of being named All American twice, scoring records in the Central American and Caribbean Games and named Basketball Player of the Decade in 1979.