

Members of the Class of 2003

Leonard "Boston Blackie" Miller



Leonard "Boston Blackie" Miller succeeded in remarkable fashion to illuminate his life with imagination, and thereby creating for himself an existence full of colour, mystery and adventure. He has been as constant as the sun, as reliable as Duracell in powering the fantasy of an adoring national and international audience. Over the past six decades he travelled all the continents of the world, representing The Bahamas with distinction as athlete, coach or team functionary. At home he has also made his mark as a developer of champions.

Miller was gifted with the talent to achieve excellence in any sport but his first and second choices were cycling and boxing, and not necessarily in that order. His legendary exploits in boxing overshadowed his achievements in cycling simply because of the popularity of the latter. His fights at the Zanzibar and the Nassau Stadium attracted capacity crowds as he fought his way to the Heavyweight Championship of The Bahamas, a status he intermittently enjoyed over a ten year period during the 1960s. He also undertook battles against top American fighters and the bolo punch he made famous caught many of them by surprise.

Miller's cycling career erupted with great fanfare in 1956 when he raced to a dead heat with defending champion, Leviticus "Romeo" Farrington. He continued his trek to stardom by racing to top place finishes over the next decade. He continued his domination in the 1960s and 1970s, representing The Bahamas at the West Indies Goodwill Championships in 1965 when he nearly equaled the performance of fellow competitor Roger Gibbon, a British Commonwealth Champion. He also competed at the World Cycling Championships in 1970 in London, England. In 1974 he returned to the World Championships in Kingston, Jamaica. There he was aided by teammates Nathaniel Munroe and Derek Bethel.

Miller's more sustaining contribution to national sports development is represented in the world champion athletes and teams he had a hand in producing while coaching at the Government High and C.C.Sweeting schools. There he has played a central role in the domination those schools have displayed in interschool sports. He was also an instrumental figure on many Olympic teams, as coach and medical trainer.

For all his remarkable accomplishments, it might certainly be said that Boston Blackie has led a career laded with colour, mystery and adventure, bringing joy and pleasure to those fortunate enough to witness his presence.