

A Tribute to Clevonte Lodge-Bean
A Bermuda Pacer Forever, A Legend in the Making

It is with a heavy heart, that the club writes this tribute for Clevonte Lodge-Bean. As a club, we can recall when this young athlete began his athletic dreams with the Bermuda Pacers Track Club. It was his Physical Education teacher, Mrs. Mariam Smith of Prospect Primary school that contacted our head coach, Cal Simons and shared with him the athletic abilities of this young runner. Coach Cal Simons who was always looking for talent, reached out to his mother Miss. Delphina Lodge, a former student of his at West End, and asked about her son joining the Bermuda Pacers Track Club.

It wasn't long after this meeting, that coach Cal Simons knew that the club had found a special athlete and that one day he would be destined for greatness. In 2009, Clevonte experienced his first trip to the Russell E. Blunt Eastcoast Invitational Track Meet in the United States. This truly was an eye-opening experience for Clevonte. By the age of eleven, Clevonte, knew that he wanted to compete internationally for his club and his country. As he moved up the coaching ranks within the club, from coach Cal Simons to coach Janine Scott, we knew that the best coach for him would be coach Norbert Simons.

As a middle school student at Whitney Institute, coach Norbert Simons began to see what a gifted young athlete Clevonte was. As a 200 and 400 metre runner himself, Norbert knew exactly what Clevonte would need to fulfill his full potential. By the time Clevonte was thirteen years old and under the guidance of Mr. Simons, the track and field fraternity would see this outstanding sprinter in action. The two developed an unbreakable bond. It was like a father and son relationship. They would sit for hours and discuss training techniques and running strategies for different races.

During our trips to the REB/ECI track meets in the United States, Clevonte's name become synonymous for speed. The other teams and runners knew that this young athlete was in a class by himself. During the 2018 REB/ECI Championships in the United States, Clevonte recorded one of the top ten fastest time of 48.85 in the history of the event. His athletic abilities were often witnessed at the Bermuda School Sports Championships, the Pacers' Schools Relay Classic, and the National Track and Field Championships. We can recall when he qualified for his first Carifta Games in 2017. He was so proud of his achievements. Coach Norbert Simons and the club was extremely proud of his achievements because he had worked so hard to reach the standards.

From age 14 to 18 Clevonte, had represented his club, and his country in many international events, like the REB/ECI Championships, the BAYTAF Classic, the Louis Lynch Championship Barbados Relays, the Carifta Games, the Junior Olympic and the USTFA National Championships.

For 10 years, BPTC has had the honor of seeing Clevonte's talent take him to great heights in the sport of track and field, while serving as an inspiration to his peers and younger athletes. In 2018, he was awarded the Bermuda Pacers Track Club's Male Athlete of the Year'. He was also the recipient of a junior achievement award and acknowledged by the Government for his outstanding performances.

This young man established himself as one of the top junior sprinters in Bermuda and the United States. He was described by a representative of the Durham Striders Track Club as someone special to watch and he will be deeply missed. The club coaches nicknamed him the great Lodge. It's so sad to think, that we would not see this talented, young athlete compete in 2021. We would not see him compete for his college or country ever again.

The Bermuda Pacers Track Club family will greatly miss his sportsmanship, his high spirit, enthusiasm, and his great leadership qualities. His influence will never be forgotten, and his name will be legendary in the club and Bermuda's track and field community.

We would like to extend our deepest condolence to his mother and father and his entire family.