



The Road To The 2007 Championship

By Ian Forbes

Chairman Jamaica College Sports Development Committee
Manager Jamaica College Manning Cup Team

When Haraldo Mitchell scored that diving header to beat K.C 1-0 in the Manning Cup Final in 1974 and later going on to beat S.T.E.T.H.S 4-0 to lift the Olivier Shield crown the symbol of schoolboy football supremacy, one could never have imagined that it would have taken 33 years for other senior schoolboy football titles to again adorn the trophy cabinet at 189 Old Hope Road.

Along the way there were numerous near misses, lots of drama, tragedy, tears, cheers, and finally joy. During the 33 year hiatus we have seen 5 principals Ruel Taylor, Tim Akpeti(acting), Lloyd Bryan, Stuart Reeves and another Ruel of the Reid Specie who has given tremendous support to the programme. It is interesting to note that the principal in 1974 was also Ruel. There have been 10 coaches- The late Dennis Ziadie and Foggy Burrowes, Sports master Mr. Robinson, Norman Pennycooke, Teddy Alexander, Jimmy Sinclair, Bradley Stewart, Everton Tomlinson, Glen Laing, and finally Alfred Henry.

There was heartbreak in 1975 when after printing T-Shirts marked Manning Cup Champions we were edged 1-0 by K.C in the Final. I think a lot of the envy with respect to J.C started 1974 when our 1974 team changed their Jerseys at half time to a more comfortable Gucci looking designer wear type.

Fast forward to 1984 when after playing to a draw against ST. George's College we lost in the final after going one nil up. The sequence of bizarre events culminated when splash and I will not add the prefix at attached to the splash threw the ball to the St. George's striker Murray, froze, held his head and shortly thereafter retrieved the ball from the back of the net. The score line read S.T.G.C 2- JC- 1. I had the dubious task of transporting him home under police escort. Apart from the disgruntled spectators, Old Boys, well wishers there were serious threats from the punters who had wagered heavily on a J.C victory. While escorting him through the throng, between sobs he said "sir dem say a me sell it out. You think so sir?". My voice somehow said no because how could I not console him in his time of need. However, it IS Christmas and I must tell the truth; I really felt like knocking him out with a left hook. He has not been seen since.

Come 1986 we thought we were into the finals after beating Wolmers 3-1, Excelsior 4-1 and drawing 1-1 with K.C. With K.C needing to beat Wolmers by 5 clear goals to get into the finals with Charlie Smith we felt it was all for K.C who had not scored 5 goals for the entire season. In a 20 minute display of apathy we watched as the plot unfolded. The result K.C-5, Wolmers-0, J.C out of Manning Cup Final. The final goal scored by the Wolmers defender on his own goalie was a beauty which any striker would have been proud of.

In 1989 we lost the Walker Cup Final 1-0 to Tivoli and again in 1993 to ST. Georges College. This game was disrupted by one our most ardent supporters former groundsman at J.C, the late Beresford Brown who by then was employed to INSPORT and whose boss Clayton Solomon was the referee. He felt that the penalty awarded to STGC by Solomon was unfair. The game was held up for approximately 10 minutes as I coaxed him to leave the field. He somehow convinced Mr. Solomon to have him remain on Staff where he continued to work until his untimely passing on



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September 25, 2004. While hustling across Old Hope Road to watch his beloved J.C team play Jose Marti on this fateful day he was "Brown Man" as he was affectionately called was hit from his bicycle and succumbed to his injuries the following day. Another staunch supporter the late Charles Dawson affectionately called "POPS" also figured prominently at a match versus XLCR round about 1998. After trailing XLCR 1-0 he let the Referee Charlie Barrett know in no uncertain manner that he was not handling the game properly. The referee promptly took the ball up and blew off the game. The news report later read 80 odd year old man threatens Referee causing game to be abandoned. He was subsequently banned by ISSA FOR 25 YEARS.

1997 we started with a bang. This was to be our year. However ISSA had other ideas and abandoned the competition.

After starting off slowly in 1999, the boys upped the tempo and made it into the finals going down 3- 2 to Tivoli in sudden death extra time after coming back from 2 goals down to tie the game in regulation time. More heartbreak.

Come 2005 the return of Alfred "Freddie" who served as an assistant coach to Bradley Stewart during the 80's and was a member of the academic staff. Freddie who had two nephews Martin and Michael Campbell who captained J.C Manning Cup Teams migrated to the USA in the late 1980's and returned to teach and Coach at J.C in 2005. He came with a three year plan. In 2005 missed out reaching the Semi-Finals by one point. Needing only a draw against STATHS to advance we lost the game and were knocked out.

In 2006 expectations were high. After building the momentum we made it to the Walker Cup Final and lost 1- 0 to Eltham and never recovered for the Manning Cup assault. Heart break again.

In the year of our Lord 2007 the prophet Alfred "Freddie" Henry predicted that J.C would win the Manning Cup as his work was not "Phinnished" no pun intended. On August 19, this looked very shaky as we were trounced 7-0 at the 4th renewal of the Keane Croskill Competition. It came to pass that Coach Henry did not have many friends after this as many of the doubting Thomases deserted him. He however stuck to the task with his quiet demeanour and high level of professionalism he moulded and motivated his charges to take them into an emotionally charged Walker Cup Final which they lost to Calabar, the only game they lost for the season. Could they pick themselves up after this and win the MANNING CUP ?

The rest as they say is history. With the full support of Principal Ruel Reid, Mrs. Collette Pryce, Mr. Rohan Wong, AND Mrs. Annie Blake-Williams and the Staff, He fired them up and they continued on their ruthless path and stormed into the MANNING Cup Final defeating Bridgeport 2-1 to lift the Crown after 33 years. In all competitions this season they played a total of 19 games winning 14 drawing 4 losing 1, scoring 67 goals and conceding 10 in the process. The drought is over The Manning Cup and Olivier Shield are back in their rightful place at 189 Old Hope Road. Coach Henry we salute you and the young men. You have represented yourselves, your families and your school with distinction. We are proud of you all. Last and by no means least Coach Henry we have a New Jersey to present to you. That is the closest you will get to the US state. We are not ready to let you go.



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Congratulations to all

Manning Cup/Olivier Shield Champions 2007

List of names
Jevois Hamilton
Renardo Stewart
Marc Robinson
Oliver Walker (Goal Keeper / Captain)
Ravone Ramsey
Marlon Johnson
Tamoy Shirley
Kemar Douglas
Adrian Christian
George Smart
Nico Wright
Dale McAnuff
Kamal Bedward
Oshane Brown
De Andre Brown
Robert Palmer (MVP)
Ramone Palmer
Anthony Grant (Leading Goal Scorer 16 goals)
Akeem Bennett
Kenrick Reeves
Elvis Watson
Paul Henry
Joseph Dyke
Ashani Walker

Regular starters appear in **bold**.

Awards

Award	Player
Most Valuable Player	Robert Palmer
Leading Goal Scorer	Anthony Grant
Most Disciplined	George Smart
Most Improved	Tamoy Shirley
Most Promising	Ashani Walker
Academic Achievement	Elvis Watson
Citizenship Award	Marc Robinson



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Coaching and Management Staff	
Team Function	Person
Head Coach	Alfred Henry
Goal Keeping Coach	Kevon Garrison
Assistant Coach	Delroy Brown
Assistant Coach	Wayne Palmer
Assistant Manager	Patrick Virtue
Fitness Instructor	John Mair
Manager	Ian Forbes

Fervet Opus In Campis