

Hard work pays off for CARIFTA chess medallists

HARD WORK was the driving force behind the success of Barbados' two medallists in the official categories at the 8th CARIFTA Chess Championships in Curacao.

Ten-year-old Hannah Wilson, who won gold in the Under-12 Female section and Yeshua Hill, silver medallist in the Under-16 Open section, both attributed their performances to their preparations leading up to and during the event.

"It feels great. When I came I knew I would win it but it required hard work. I had to balance studies and my parents helped me," said Wilson, a student of Charles F. Broome Primary who won out against

older girls to top the Under-12 division with six out of a maximum seven points.

Wilson, who also won gold in the Under-10 Female sub-category, thanked her coaches Orlando Husbands and Corie Elcock, and is now targeting success if given the opportunity to play in the Central American and Caribbean Youth Chess Championships.

Hill significantly improved on his 21st placing in the Under-16 Open category the previous year when he ended with four points, to claim silver with five-and-a-half points.

"It feels really great because all of the hard work has paid off, especially having to do an hour of training every day and two

hours on the weekends. After doing all the hard work, it feels relieving," he said.

"It was very hard for me at first. The late nights were very tiring but I had to push through."

The Harrison College student, a younger brother of national CARIFTA Games track and field representative Ahijah won his last three games during which he constantly left the playing hall because of a cold.

"Juggling the cold and the tournament was difficult. I did not want to disturb my opponents by blowing my nose in front of them so I had to leave the room and come back in. It was kind of difficult because it was time that I was losing," he

said.

Hill also acknowledged the support of his parents, Karen and Mark and the assistance from his coaches, Terry Farley and Orlando Husbands.

Farley, Barbados' head coach at the CARIFTA Championships for the fourth successive year, lauded the efforts of both Wilson and Hill while paying tribute to the entire 21-member team for the Championships that were contested from April 18 to 22.

"Going into the competition, I

had no doubt that Hannah would have done well. She would have done well last year and looking at the players she was coming up against, she would have played some of them before. I was confident that she was going to win that medal," he said.

"I expected Yeshua to do relatively okay. He did very well in the last three rounds. He really surprised me. I'm happy for him. He's been working hard with his coach and I'm pleased that he has done very well."



Hannah Wilson celebrating her gold medals with her brother Louis, who was also a member of the Barbados team and her parents, Albert and Jenita. (BCF/Corie Elcock Pictures)



Yeshua Hill accepting the second place prize in the Under-16 Open category.

Crystal Cove Club thankful for five years

ALTHOUGH the skies opened and showers came down for most of yesterday, it was not enough to put a damper on the members of the Crystal Cove Sports and Social Club. With between 100 and 150 persons expected to descend on the Bagatelle playing ground, the club brought a month of celebrations to an end with a family fun day.

The club, which is in its fifth year kicked things off last month with a church service and have also included a road tennis tournament and a back to school themed karaoke event. Speaking to the media, Club Treasurer, Cyanda Phillips said that the 60-65 members were expected to come out with the families to enjoy the days proceedings and that the club played a major role in helping staff to enjoy it as they used the sports of road tennis, football, netball and cricket to recreate as well as take in social

outings. "It is important. It has brought some camaraderie and brought us closer together. And outside of work, we need to get out and have fun as well," she said.

In addition to playing sports, the club also plays its part in helping out our local communities. With talks already ongoing with an aim to adopt a school to make donations to and help out with the upkeep of facilities, Phillips also revealed that the club was in the habit of doing community outreach projects and did their best to do it each year. "We did one called a 'Barrel of Love' where we asked our members to donate amenities and canned goods. We also asked them to give us the name someone in their communities in need and they did that and we went out and donated baskets to them," she said. (MP)



Crystal Cove Sports and Social Club Treasurer Cyanda Phillips (left) and club member Harietta Joseph (centre) playing a game of dominoes with some of the children during yesterday's family fun day.