



Ministry of
Culture, Gender,
Entertainment
and Sport

BIG UP!

GIRL ON FIRE

Burning the nets,
Ignighting the team,
Sparking change

ENABLING SUCCESS

The firecracker behind
the team

YES WE DID

The Girlz delivered, again





LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

When I think of all that the Reggae Girlz have been through and all that they have achieved, the words of an old Jamaican chorus come to mind: *“Press along saints... the hotter the battle, the sweeter the victory.”*

It has been one of my favourite choruses because it reminds me that there are beautiful rewards when we stay committed, focused, work hard and overcome our great challenges.

My dear Reggae Girlz, you have faced many challenges and you have overcome with grace and dignity. There are many more rivers to cross but I am confident that you are up to the task and will represent our country well. I can never tire of telling you how much your presence on the world stage means to Jamaica and the pride we all feel when you see you donned in the national colours.

Your personal stories of success represent both lessons and inspiration for all Jamaicans. Through you we see that dreams do come true, and we see young Jamaican women, previously unknown, become role models for young people in our country and everywhere.

Your experience also reveals the extent of bias in sport against women. As Minister for both Sport and Gender Affairs, I am taking steps to set things right. In introducing our various sports competitions at the primary and kindergarten school level, I've given instructions that at least three girls must play on a team with the boys in situations where there are not enough girls to form a female team. By this action we want to institutionalise recognition and promotion of women in sport.

Additionally, my Ministry has introduced a new policy under which the Institute of Sports awards equal prize money for girls and boys teams in its Primary Schools football and netball competitions.

My government has also introduced new rules for local sports federations to access funding from the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, including the Sports Development Foundation. The rules require federations to give greater support to special olympians, paralympians, women and girls.

I pledge to do all I can to ensure that you get the respect, recognition and support you deserve.

I am happy that my government has been able to support the Jamaica Football Federation and the women's programme on yet another successful World Cup campaign. I am also grateful for the support you've received from every quarter, but I especially wish to mention and acknowledge the loyal support of Cedella Marley.

Reggae Girlz, it is such a big deal that you're back at the FIFA Women's World Cup and we'll stay up late and wake up early to cheer you on.

“Press along Reggae Girlz... the hotter the battle, the sweeter the victory.”

We're proud of you.

The Honourable Olivia Grange, OJ, CD, MP

Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport

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Wants the Reggae Girlz to get their credit

BIG UP!

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There's just something about the Reggae Girlz. They're quite a lively, determined, and courageous group who seem to always surmount the most difficult of challenges.

It scarcely feels like four years have passed since they qualified for their first FIFA Women's World Cup and here they are again, going to the World Cup again, beaten the odds again, inspiring a nation again.

What the Reggae Girlz have done by qualifying for back-to-back FIFA Women's World Cup finals, is a really big deal.

This publication by the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport highlights the women who proudly carry the nation's hopes in this World Cup, from the very prolific captain, Bunny Shaw, who's on a mission to change football in Jamaica (page 4), to the newbies who are now part of history (pages 8-17).

Then there's the one who makes things happen for the Girlz, their benefactor and motivator, Cedella Marley (page 7).

At the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, Jamaica will face France, Brazil and Panama in the opening round. Tough opponents for sure, but coach Lorne Donaldson has confidence in the Girlz (page 19) as the Prime Minister tells them, they can do it (page 21).

The Girlz all say it's an honour to represent Jamaica and that they'll give of their best.

Their best will be good enough.



WOMAN ON A MISSION



Khadija 'Bunny' Shaw struck a reserved and contemplative figure at a Reggae party hosted by the Sports Minister, Olivia Grange, to toast the Reggae Girlz — Jamaica's senior women's footballers who are into their second consecutive FIFA Women's World Cup Finals. Shaw, the team's captain, is one of the best players in the world and is a selfie magnate for the Minister's guests who have come to wish the Reggae Girlz well and offer support for their mission to the World Cup.

On this night, however, Shaw pulls her 5ft 11in frame back from the spotlight, preferring instead to cheer on her teammates who danced the night away to Jamaica's Reggae and Dancehall music. The message was clear: this is about team. "I credit my team, because if it wasn't for my team, it wouldn't be possible. I think even though I'm scoring the goal, if it wasn't for my team, I wouldn't get the ball to score the goal," said Shaw.



She is as prolific a goal-scorer as they come, scoring almost at will in high school competition in Jamaica, in American college soccer and with Bordeaux in France, before moving to Manchester City in England, where she has continued to find the net on a regular basis. This year she became the highest-scoring women's player across a single season in City's history with 31 goals from 30 games. At the international level, she is Jamaica's all-time leading scorer with 56 goals in 36 games since 2015. The 2022 CONCACAF Women's Player of Year — the first player from not only Jamaica, but the entire Caribbean to win the award — has the smarts, skills and strength to somehow always find the back of the net. Not to mention her scoring with amazing headers. This is why Khadija Shaw is among the players to watch at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

"I always try to give of my best efforts and do the best that I can on the pitch." That's her pledge as she leads the Reggae Girlz into their second World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, hoping to improve on their first appearance four years ago in France.

It was love from the beginning; and it all started in streets of Crescent in Spanish Town, St Catherine where she used to play football with her brothers. She lost count of the number times she busted her big toes playing barefoot in the streets. Her parents discouraged it. But this was love.

She even negotiated with her parents to keep playing the beautiful game. She told the BBC Sport, "One day I said, 'Let's strike a deal: I pass my exams, and you allow me to play'". She did and her parents kept their end of the bargain. Her father, a shoemaker, even made her cleats, and as she grew he adjusted the stitching on them to make them a little bigger. Shaw's large family — she's the last of 13 children — was on side with her brothers continuing to teach her the game as she became known outside the family for her skill and by the moniker

Bunny given her by brother Kentardo for her love of carrots.

Shaw attended St. Jago High School, which boasts an enviable list of outstanding Olympians as past students, including Melaine Walker, Michelle Freeman, Bertland Cameron, Kerron Stewart and Yohan Blake. She dominated football at St. Jago, scoring 128 goals with 72 assists in four years. While there, Vin Blaine, then head coach of the Reggae Girlz, saw her and wanted her to play for Jamaica. Shaw represented the national team at several youth levels and made her senior team debut by scoring twice in Jamaica's 6-0 demolition job on the Dominican Republic in August 2015.

Bunny received a scholarship from Navarro College, a small junior college in Texas but later transferred to Eastern Florida State College where she continued to improve her game. After she was named to the National Junior College Athletic Association All-American first team, she was recruited to the University of Tennessee where she won several awards, including the Southeastern Conference's Offensive Player of the Year in her senior year.

While away in Tennessee she faced one of the most painful periods in her life. Three of her brothers were killed in gun violence in Jamaica; a fourth died in a car crash. She also lost two nephews: one to gun violence while the other was electrocuted on a football pitch. She wanted to return home to be with her family, but her parents encouraged her to stay and play football. Her brothers would have wanted her to stay and play ball.

After college in America, she opted to play in Europe and signed with Bordeaux in France. Her star rose dramatically. By the end of her second year with Bordeaux, she was nominated for the best player of the season award. Then she signed a three-year deal with Manchester City in England which has been extended by two years following her record setting season this year.

Shaw is the embodiment of dreaming big and working hard to make it a reality. The little girl from Crescent in Spanish Town, played a sport taught to her by her brother; played the sport despite her parents' reservations and inability to buy new cleats; she continued to play the sport during periods of immense personal tragedy; and she plays now representing the hope and pride of a sporting nation as she leads Jamaica in women's football's biggest show.

Bunny Shaw plays with passion. She's extremely proud to represent Jamaica. "It's an honour," she said. "It's a dream come true."

And she has been vocal on matters that affect the Reggae Girlz because she wants only the best for her team. The Captain is grateful for every bit of support. "We appreciate all the love and support you guys have shown us throughout this campaign. Whenever we go out on the pitch we do nothing but give of our best. And going to the World Cup will be no different."

Khadija Shaw is now one of the most impactful and prolific football players in the world. She's up for the challenge of leading the Reggae Girlz in the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. "Wi likl but wi talawa and that's something we've always lived by and we'll stick by it".

She's also sticking with a mission she shared with her mom as a child. "I was like, 'Mom, who knows, maybe I could be the one to change female football in Jamaica'".

She has certainly made a difference.



GUARDIAN ANGEL

Sometimes you need a firecracker, someone who is righteously indignant to fight for you. For the Reggae Girlz, that's Cedella Marley.

"Cedella being somebody who's always in our corner helps us achieve all the things that we're able to achieve," said midfielder Havana Solaun who created history by scoring Jamaica's first (and so far only) goal at the World Cup in 2019. She has seen how Marley's backing changed everything for the Reggae Girlz.

Marley, the CEO of Tuff Gong International record label, four-time children's book author, fashion designer and entrepreneur has been the chief motivator and supporter of the Reggae Girlz for close to a decade. Her involvement with the team since 2014 has been critical in the revival of the Reggae Girlz and the national women's programme after the Jamaica Football Federation disbanded the team citing a lack of funds. This involvement started with a flyer brought home by her son, Skip. The flyer requested financial assistance for the Reggae Girlz.

Marley confesses that she didn't even know Jamaica had a women's football team. But she knew football. She grew up watching her father, the iconic Bob Marley, and her brothers play the game. She knew she wanted to help.

One of the first persons Marley met was the late Horace Burrell, the former President of the JFF. Burrell, a charismatic leader of the Federation encouraged her to help garner support for the team. Immediately, she discovered a major obstacle the squad faced was a bias against women playing football which resulted in financial support or development initiatives being delayed,

prevented or somehow obstructed. Marley told ESPN, "People were just saying no to them, and it was for no reason. It was just like, 'you're girls and you shouldn't be playing football' and I didn't understand that concept."

So Marley sprung into action and amassed a team that would recruit and develop players, and help chart a new course for the women's programme. She reached out to Hue Menzie, who worked as head coach and didn't receive a salary; the Alacran Foundation, a philanthropic group, to assist with fundraising; had auctions; established a GoFundMe page; and even had a fund raising party at Consul General Oliver Mair's home in Florida. The Bob Marley Foundation got on board and the Reggae Girlz Foundation was established.

She was everywhere with the team often travelling with them to their matches. As the qualifying matches for the 2019 World Cup began, the story of Cedella Marley and the Reggae Girlz started to be told. The daughter of the Reggae Legend was connected to a team whose name celebrated his music. It was a love story.

Marley didn't want the story to be about her but the women of the Jamaican senior national football team. She realised her presence took attention away from the squad so made her travels less frequent. She decided not to attend that crucial match against Panama to determine the last team from CONCACAF to advance to the 2019 World Cup. It was only during the penalty shootouts that she tuned in on television. When the Girlz defeated Panama, she said it was like an out-of-body experience.

Four years later, the Girlz did it again. They qualified for their second consecutive

World Cup with Marley, again, with them along the way.

She's seen first hand how the Girlz have grown. "I think from the last World Cup we gained the experience that is necessary to go into this one more confident than before. I can't help but feel a little responsible for the journey, and that's why I always try my hardest to make sure they're getting everything they need to succeed and the rest is up to them. As long as they're happy then I'm happy."

It's for this and other reasons that the women of the team hold her in such high regard. "She has [played] a vital role for us, she provides us with a lot of things; with a lot of resources. We're so grateful for that," said defender Deneisha Blackwood who is going to her second World Cup.

After the Girlz qualified for the 2023 tournament, the captain Khadija Shaw relayed her thoughts about Cedella Marley on her Instagram account. "When they were quick to scrap the women's programme, again you [Marley] said otherwise. Now look at us few years later going back-to-back World Cup. Despite the disrespect and the amount of backlash you have received, you always put us first and for that we are grateful. Thank you for giving us a chance and the opportunity."



Rebecca Spencer

Goalkeeper

After 22 years of playing football, the 2023 World Cup will be Rebecca Spencer's first participation in a global tournament. Spencer signed with Jamaica's senior women's team in 2021 and has been an integral part of the Girlz campaign. She has made brilliant saves and is smart at reading the game. The seasoned keeper earned her stripes going through the English squads when she participated in the Under-15, Under-19 and Under-20 levels before having various stints with clubs Arsenal, AC Soyaux, Birmingham City and now with Tottenham Hotspur. Spencer knows she's going to be challenged and is ready for the battle.



Sydney Schneider

Goalkeeper

It was during the 2018 CONCACAF Women's Championship that most Jamaicans really noticed the 5ft 11in keeper, but Coach Lorne Donaldson was pursuing her from 2015. Back then she turned down the chance to represent Jamaica with the typical self-doubt of a 15-year old. Eventually, she played for the Under-17 and Under-20 teams then was called up to the senior squad in 2018. That's when her gutsy and pivotal saves were clear for everyone to see and she helped the team qualify for their first World Cup and was chosen as the starting goalie for the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup. Now she's playing with her third club team, Sparta Prague.



Liya Brooks

Goalkeeper

She hasn't even started college, yet Liya Brooks is part of the Jamaica World Cup squad. For the past two years, Brooks represented Jamaica in the Under-17, and most recently in the CONCACAF Women's Under-20 Championships, where she was undefeated in three games. Now she steps on the big stage and has credited senior goalkeepers, Sydney Schneider and Rebecca Spencer, along with goalie coach, Alyssa Whitehead for inspiring her. Surely, her time on the pitch will in turn inspire others.



Allyson Swaby

Defender

Look to Allyson Swaby to be in the mix at every single turn for this FIFA Women's World Cup where she'll bring her strength and zealousness to every game. Since joining the senior women's team in 2018, Swaby has 28 caps for the squad and played every minute of the Girlz' appearance at the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup. Last year, the Jamaica Football Federation announced her as the 2021 Female Player of the Year. For club ball, she played with the Iceland's club Knattspyrnufélag Fjarðabyggðar, then went to Italy and played with AS Roma, which won their first Coppa Italia title in 2021. Now she's in France with Paris Saint-Germain.



Chantelle Swaby

Defender

The younger sister of Allyson Swaby played in every minute of the Reggae Girlz' 2019 World Cup appearance. And she played in midfield, a position she hadn't played until then. After the tournament, Swaby finished her career at Rutgers University with numerous honours. Among them was a three-time All-Big Ten selection and a three-time Academic All-Big Ten recipient. She was selected 29th overall by Sky Blue FC (a National Women's Soccer League) team in the college draft. Swaby currently plays in France for Flurey 91.



Konya "Country" Plummer

Defender

Konya Plummer is used to making history. In 2019, she was the youngest team captain at the World Cup in France. And in 2020, the former Titchfield High student became the first Jamaican born player to be drafted in the National Women's League Soccer when the Orlando Pride picked her 10th overall at the college draft. Now she returns to the Girlz after taking two years off to have her son.



Deneisha "Den-Den" Blackwood

Defender

Deneisha "Den-Den" Blackwood started playing football for Harbour View Football Club at 12-years old and was invited to play for the national team. Since then, the former Excelsior High student would finish her college career at the University of West Florida where she was named to the All-Gulf South Conference. At the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup Blackwood played every minute of the Girlz appearance in France. She's currently playing with her fifth club team, GPSO 92 in France.



Vyan Sampson

Defender

The centre-back has been playing for English clubs most of her life. The first team was Charlton Athletic and then Arsenal in 2011 at 14 years old. Sampson played for England on the Under-15 through Under-19 teams and continued with multiple clubs. Sampson said it was an easy decision to represent Jamaica. All the members of her household, except she and one other, were born in Jamaica. Regarding her decision to represent Jamaica, she told FIFA it was an "absolute no-brainer for me it's something that I have gone into with my heart and soul." Sampson currently plays for the Scottish FC, Heart of Midlothian.



Tiernny Wiltshire

Midfielder

Tiernny Wiltshire joined the Reggae Girlz after the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup playing in the forward position. However, she currently plays as a defender on the team. At the college level Wiltshire made 70 appearances for Rutgers University and scored four goals. She then played with the Maccabi Emek Hefer in Israel, Finland's Kuopio Palloseura and is back in America with the Houston Dash.



Peyton McNamara

Midfielder

Just five games into the season at Ohio State, McNamara had an ankle injury. She was out for the remaining season but was called to the senior Reggae Girlz team in June 2021. When she returned to the Buckeyes, for her junior year, she played in all 20 matches of which she started 18. Now she starts her next journey as she plays in her first FIFA Women's World Cup.



Drew Spence

Midfielder

If there's one player on this team that knows how to win titles, it's Spence. The Tottenham to Spurs midfielder recently signed with the team, after spending 14 years at Chelsea -- making her their longest serving player. While there, Chelsea won 11 titles, among them five Women's Super League and three FA Cup titles. Although she had two appearances with England, Spence, switched her international allegiance to Jamaica 2015. She'll be a key ingredient to the Girlz' success.



Trudi Carter

Midfielder

Solid will and determination led this former Trench Town High student to the biggest stage of women's football where she played for three European teams. The forward for Spain's Levante Las Planas has represented Jamaica from the youth level in 2009 to the senior level since 2018 and believes her participation in the sport would be an inspiration to girls in her community.



Solai Washington

Midfielder

Not many high school students can say they spent their summer playing in the FIFA Women's World Cup. But that'll be Solai Washington's report. The recently turned 18-year-old forward has committed to attending Duke but she first has to finish her final year at Chamlee High School. While at the World Cup, she'll miss the company of her big sister, Reggae Girl, Giselle whom she said inspired her and taught her a lot about the football.



Atlanta Primus

Midfielder

Atlanta Primus has been around football all her life. After all, her father is Linvoy Primus, retired professional footballer. The Reggae Girl went to school in the States at Cal State Fullerton where she was the 2019 Big West women's soccer field player of the year. Now her professional career has taken her to her third club, London City Lionesses where she has over 50 appearances for the team.



Havana Solaun

Midfielder

We will never forget. It was Havana Solaun's dazzling goal in the third match of the 2019 World Cup that made all fans of the Reggae Girlz cheer with admiration and pride. As the only goal scorer for the Reggae Girlz at the World Cup, Solaun's name is forever in the history books. Afterwards, the midfielder spent two years with the North Carolina Courage and recently signed with the Houston Dash.



Kalyssa “Kiki” Van Zanten

Midfielder

The luck of the Irish is definitely with Kalyssa Van Zanten. Whenever she takes the pitch you get the feeling something good is going to happen and it usually does. As it did when her shot rebounded to Khadija Shaw for her to score in a 4-0 win over Bermuda, or when Van Zanten scored the only goal for the Reggae Girlz in extra time against Costa Rica securing their third place finish and moving them forward to an Olympic playoff spot.



Jody Brown

Midfielder

She represented Jamaica in the Under-15, Under-17 and Under-20 national team. In 2018 at the tender age of 15, she was called up to the senior women's team. After helping the Reggae Girlz qualify for the 2019 World Cup, she was named the Best Young Player of the 2018 CONCACAF Women's Championship. The youngest member of the 2019 World Cup squad, Brown returns to the tournament with experience and amazing speed. She has had an outstanding career at Florida State with many accolades.



Kayla McKenna

Midfielder

Although named to the 2019 World Cup squad, McKenna never got a chance to participate in the tournament because of a knee injury. So she went to France and supported her teammates. Now a forward with the Scottish Women's Premier League Club, Rangers, McKenna will get another chance to show her talents on the pitch. And cheering loudly for her will be her grandfather, retired politician, Pearnel Charles.







Tiffany Cameron

Midfielder

This veteran striker's résumé is full of honours. Among them are the two Golden Boots she won when she competed for Canada in 2008 at the Under-17 FIFA Women's World Cup and in 2015 for Israel's Ramat HaSharon. For the 2021-22 season the Hungarian Football Federation named her the Player of the Year when she played for Ferencvarosi Torna. And oh, she was also the all-time scorer, with 40 goals, when she played for Ohio State. In 2019, Cameron switched allegiance to Jamaica and when not on the pitch can be seen performing as a rapper.



Cheyne Matthews

Forward

It's hard to believe but Cheyna Matthews is a mother of three boys. The last one is ten months old. With rigorous training the Chicago Red Stars forward showed she's ready. In a friendly against Sheffield United this past April, Matthews scored a goal to give the Reggae Girlz a 2-0 win over the English side. Now this Super Mom will take that momentum to the world stage.



Kameron Simmonds

Forward

It's always helpful when you have good genes. As both Simmonds' father and grandfather played football for Jamaica. Her father also played for St. George's College and professionally. So Simmonds had that intrinsic understanding of the game and credits them with being very supportive in her journey. And even before playing for the Under-17 and Under-20 national teams, Simmonds visited Jamaica every year as her grandparents live here. The University of Tennessee student was called up to the Women's National Team in September 2022 and scored her first international goal against the Czech Republic at the 2023 Cup of Nations.



Paige Bailey-Gayle

Forward

Paige Bailey-Gayle competed for England from 17 to 19 years old. Then in 2021, the Crystal Palace forward switched allegiance to compete for Jamaica. Her family was happy when she represented England but she told herfootball.com they were “ecstatic” when she donned the Jamaican colours. She cites Drew Spence and Khadija Shaw as being inspirational to her. She hopes to learn from them and in turn hopes to teach them things.



Sashana “Pete” Campbell

Reserve

Sashana Campbell started playing football with boys at Devon All Age School. But it wasn't until she attended Spalding High that she started playing football with girls. Campbell later attended Darton College then played as a winger and striker at University of West Florida, where she was named to the 2012 NCAA Championships All-Tournament Team. She told ShareYard.com she knew the Reggae Girlz qualifying for the 2019 World Cup was a “great feeling for the country.” Professionally, Campbell played with Iceland club, Grindavik, the Israel club, Maccabi Kishronot Hader, and is currently with the Polish club, Medyl Konin.



DON'T BET AGAINST THE GIRLZ

They had a plan all worked out. Hue Menzies and Lorne Donaldson would take on the job to coach the Reggae Girlz towards the goal of qualifying for the World Cup by 2023. It didn't go to plan — it went better.

The Girlz defied the odds in 2019 to become the first nation from the Caribbean to qualify for the FIFA World Cup. “That was one of the greater feelings for me in football,” said Donaldson who was the assistant coach back then. Today, he's the man in charge — appointed to the position just one month before the Girlz silenced the doubters once more by qualifying for their second consecutive FIFA World Cup.

At the 2019 tournament, the Girlz finished last in their group that included Italy, Brazil and Australia. For this 2023 tournament in Australia and New Zealand, the Girlz are drawn in Group F alongside world number eight Brazil, the runners-up in 2007 who have qualified for every FIFA Women's World Cup since the tournament began; France, the 2011 semi-finalists and fifth ranked team in the world; and the debutants, Panama. Those are tough opponents, but Donaldson reminds us that these are the Reggae Girlz who delight in proving the doubters wrong.

“You feel like you go in there and you beat the odds... This time [in the qualification campaign] they say we're in the group of death and we will never qualify. They said it before.”

The Girlz promise to give it their all

as they face these tough opponents. The Jamaican team is a mix of debutants and more experienced players from the 2019 campaign, including the captain, Bunny Shaw.

“She's just a phenomenal player both on and off the ball,” said defender Deneisha Blackwood. “She brings an energy from the top that just feeds on to the team.”

Shaw can play off either foot, create openings, find the right players as she had nine assists during the 2022/23 campaign and is a deadly shot maker. She will be integral in helping the Girlz advance to the knock out round. “As a footballer she's tremendous. She's hungry for goal. She has a clear understanding of the game. And she's building herself as a person, she's trying to build herself as a leader,” said coach Donaldson.

Shaw will also have solid support from Jody Brown, Allyson Swaby, Havana Solaun and first time World Cup finalist Drew Spence, who won the English Women's Super League title five times with Chelsea.

As for the opponents, Brazil will be gunning for a great swansong to Marta, their all-time leading scorer in the World Cup who is retiring after five tournaments. Brazil also has Chistiane, who scored three goals against Jamaica at the 2019 tournament.

France and their new coach, Herve Renard — who guided Zambia to win the Africa Cup of Nations in 2012 — will lack the services of vital players such as Delphine Cascarino, due to injuries. But

France still has Eugenie Le Sommer, the country's all-time leading scorer and veteran Wendie Renard.

Panama qualified for the tournament by intercontinental wins over Papua New Guinea and Paraguay, making them the last team to secure a place for the World Cup. The Jamaica versus Panama game will be the first time in the World Cup that two CONCACAF nations (men or women) will meet. They will be looking to plant a seed to the rising number of female players back home.

The Reggae Girlz won't accept defeat and will certainly seek to advance out of the group stage. They return as a squad with confidence and boldness. The first time jitters are gone. The Girlz are now used to playing against some of the best players in front of thousands of people because of their club experiences. They intend to show the world the strength and versatility of their game.

If they advance to the knock out stage, coach Donaldson said he “might do a cartwheel [and] take my shirt off and run around.” For now he continues to be incredibly proud of the work he has done with the Reggae Girlz.

“I feel like I was given a chance. And this is what I feel proud about — to empower some ladies. To prove [to] everybody again, that they're wrong. And maybe for the first time, the public in Jamaica will look at our females, especially football players, and give them the credit. That's my biggest hope.”

GROUP F

JAMAICA | FRANCE | BRAZIL | PANAMA

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SUNDAY, JULY 23, 5:00 AM



JAMAICA

VS

FRANCE



SATURDAY, JULY 29, 7:30 AM



JAMAICA

VS

PANAMA



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 5:00 AM



JAMAICA

VS

BRAZIL



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PM TELLS GIRLZ: YOU CAN DO IT

The Reggae Girlz were pleased to receive an unexpected guest at the Minister's Reggae party. The Prime Minister, Andrew Holness, was attending his son's graduation but didn't want the evening to end without giving his personal support to the Reggae Girlz. The team invited the Prime Minister to dance with them before asking him to say a few words. The Prime Minister told the Girlz to believe in themselves.

"First of all. Let me say, how very proud I am of the Reggae Girlz. You have brought so much pride and recognition to Jamaica.

"... your claims have been heard and I believe they are valid...And I, from this platform, commit to have some of those issues addressed...

"I want you to know you have my full

support. I will be with you in spirit and giving you all the support as possible. I wish you all the best in your endeavours.

"I believe you have all skills and talent, and more so you have the drive to do it. And I think it is not beyond the Jamaica football team, our Reggae Girlz, to actually win the World Cup.

"So I want you to go with that spirit in mind; that indomitable spirit.

"Wi likl but wi talawa. We are the nation, as small as we are, we stand proudly on the world stage and we overcome our challenges...

"So ladies continue to do us proud and thank you."

"I think it is not beyond the Jamaica football team, our Reggae Girlz, to actually win the World Cup."

MATCH OFFICIAL



Another Jamaican woman to make back-to-back appearance at the FIFA Women's World Cup will be Assistant Referee, Stephanie-Dale Yee Sing. The 34 year-old will be the only Jamaican match official, out of 55 Assistant Referees, for the global tournament.

Last January, Yee Sing and referees Odette Hamilton, Princess Brown and Jasette Kerr were shortlisted to officiate the event.

However, only Yee Sing was chosen.

Yee Sing said, "I am overjoyed. We work hard every day with the hope of representing our country at these major tournaments. Rubbing shoulders with the best and running with elite players have always been my dream since I began."

In a CONCACAF video, the part-time instructor at the Heart Trust NSTA and baker said she was taught the game and coached by her father.

Yee Sing and Brown were referees at the FIFA 2019 World Cup in France where they officiated a semi-final match.

In 2018, Yee Sing and Brown became the first Jamaican and Caribbean officials – male or female – to officiate in a World Cup final at the Under-17 tournament in Uruguay.

In congratulating Yee Sing, the president of the JFF, Michael Ricketts, said "Stefanie-Dale should serve as an inspiration to all the officials in Jamaica. She along with some of the other female officials have been training and operating at world-class levels for a while. It's great to see her getting the rewards she so richly deserves. We hope that she will serve as a catalyst and inspiration to other ladies and gentlemen officials to work hard as the sky is the limit."

COACHING TEAM

Lorne Donaldson
Xavier Gilbert
Ak Lakhani
Laurie Thomas
Alyssa Whitehead
Sanford Garabin
Will Hitzelber
Dr. Gillian Lawrence
Saundria Coding
Devin Lawson
Everette Rowe
Omar Folkes
Tyrese Palmer

Head Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Goalkeeper Coach
Data and Video Analyst
High Performance Coach
Team Doctor
Physiotherapist
Masseur
Masseur
Equipment
Equipment





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