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LATEST NEWS: Comment facility down for technical reasons. Will return soon

SPORT

VC GIVES BACK TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS

... Says ready to shine indoors this season

BY PAUL A REID Observer Writer
Sunday, November 15, 2009

TROY, Trelawny - Veronica Campbell Brown, Jamaica's most successful female sprinter, is looking forward to next season, especially the IAAF World Indoor Championships to be held in Doha, Qatar, where she hopes to compete for the first time and to have "lots of fun".

Campbell Brown, who resumed training two weeks ago after moving from Clerwater, Florida, to Marietta, Georgia, where she started training under new coach Anthony Carpenter, told the Sunday Observer she has not run indoors in a while and given that there are no major outdoor meets next year, the time was right to return indoors.

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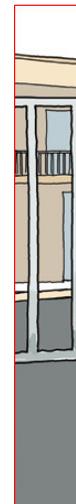
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Othneil White, a Grade Six student of Troy All-Age, accepts a gift of two bats that were among sport gear presented by former student Veronica Campbell Brown during a surprise visit to the Trelawny school on Friday morning. (Photo: Paul Reid)

"I haven't run indoors in a long time and since it will be a lighter year, meaning there will not be any major outdoor championships, my management and I have decided it would be good to have some fun indoors."

By "fun", Campbell Brown was quick to point out that she "did not mean the meet was a joke, but there will not be any major pressures like at the Olympics and World Championships", adding that "every time I go out there to represent Jamaica I will always do my best".

Campbell Brown, who last ran indoors in 2006, said she was "pleased with how my training has been going so far".

The two-time Olympic 200m champion was in the island for the launch of her book, *A Better You*, and took time out to travel to two primary schools - agent Claude Bryan's former school, Bryce Primary in Manchester, and her former primary school, Troy in northern Trelawny - to present sporting gear to both institutions.

She also gave motivational speeches to the children at the schools and told the *Sunday Observer*, "I consider myself to be a very blessed person and with that, it is always good to help when you can and starting at home, at my primary school."

According to Campbell Brown, "The younger kids are the future; the ones who will be lawyers and doctors and athletes of the future, and this is a passion of mine - to give back.

"My management team and I are trying to reach out to as many schools as we can each year to give back something."

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Despite her 2009 season that was affected by injuries, Campbell Brown said she was pleased she got a chance to compete at the IAAF World Championships in Berlin, Germany.

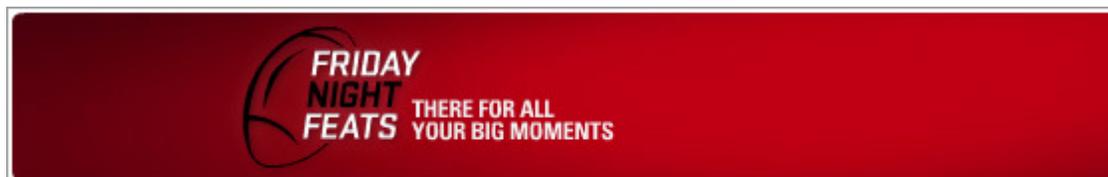
"I have to be pleased with the way things turned out," she said about the past season. "In the beginning I was injured and training got sidetracked, but I was able to recover sufficiently to participate in the World Championships," she said.

The former Vere Technical star said she had had fears her season would be cut short early in the year.

"I have to say I was satisfied as it was a blessing that I was able to run after developing the toe injury, and based on what the doctors were saying, I thought my season was over, but with faith I was able to push through and was able to heal to a point where I was able to run," she explained.

Her injured left toe, she said, was coming on and she was healing well. In addition to the Indoor Championships next season, Campbell Brown said the new IAAF Diamond League was interesting.

"I'm definitely interested in taking part in as many meets (in the series) as I can, but we're yet to sit down and work out exactly which meets I will run in. My job is to get my training in and get in as best a shape as I can to be ready for the season," she added.



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