Jamaica Gleaner Online



Campbell-Brown(R)

André Lowe, Senior Staff Reporter

Jamaican sprint queen Veronica Campbell-Brown is not holding any regret, having not been named among the finalists for the 2011 International Association of Athletics Federations (<u>IAAF</u>) World Athlete of the Year.

Instead, the Jamaican accepts that there were more deserving women, while reflecting on the past season.

Campbell-Brown, who this year for the first time in her career won a 200m gold medal at the IAAF World Champion-ships in Athletics after topping an excellent field in Daegu, South Korea, also capped off a very solid year with <u>silver medals</u> in the 100m and 4x100m relays at the Championships, as well as a personal best over the 100m - 10.76 in the Czech Republic in May.

However, Campbell-Brown, who was named in the shortlist of the top-10 female performers in the world this year, did not make it among the three fina-lists, meaning that Jamaica's wait for another female World Athlete of the Year will stretch a little longer.

Merlene Ottey was the last and only Jamaican female to win the prize, after doing so in 1990.

"Winning is always the objective. However, one cannot harbour regret at not winning," said Campbell-Brown. "In fairness, in 2011 there were other ladies who I think had a better season than I did, so they are more deserving. However, I am appreciative of the nomination from the IAAF."

Recognised

The finalists for this year's top prize are New Zealand's <u>shot put</u> star Valerie Adams, who won in Daegu and has remained undefeated in 16 events while posting the longest throw in 11 years, 21.24m; 5,000m and 10,000m World Champion and World Cross Country champion Vivian Cheruiyot (Kenya); and Australian

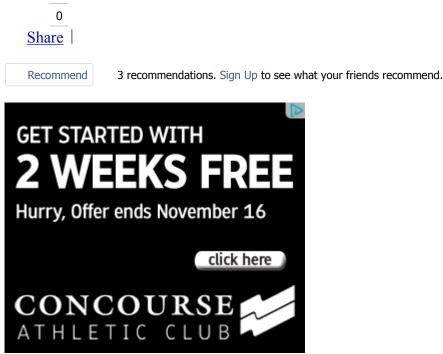
100m hurdler Sally Pearson, who also won in Daegu. She also posted the fastest time over the event in 19 years in Daegu - 12.28 seconds.

"It's awesome to be recognised, but there are many ladies in our sport who continue to perform at a spectacular level, so to have been listed in the final 10 is just awesome," Campbell-Brown added.

Of her countrywomen, Campbell-Brown noted: "Our sport is loaded with talented athletes. Throughout the season we all gave of our best and I am happy that the ladies continue to perform at an optimum."

The two-time Olympic and World Championships individual goal medallist highlighted her 200m Daegu triumph and her 100m personal best as the past season's bright points, but is a little disappointed that she was not able to win the 100m in Daegu.

"I was thankful for good health and, of course, my results," said Campbell-Brown. "I would have liked to get the double in Daegu, however, it was not to be but overall I was pleased."



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You are always a class act and a great role model. Keep setting the highstandards, while maintaining both feet on the ground!

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