

# Police, Exiles stunned in **UWI** 7s rugby

The **UWI** Rugby 7s tournament threw up a surprise for Exiles and Police Women's RFC, both of whom have been dominating local rugby this year. Instead, both clubs were dethroned and had to settle for second places.

The weather was spectacular, and the ground even more so. For another weekend, the ladies' tournament was played in a round-robin format while there were three groups of three clubs for the men.

Among the women, both Royalians and Police went through its first three matches unbeaten. Royalians opened with a 28-0 victory over **UWI** Tobago, then went on to beat Caribs by the same score line, before hammering Harvard ladies 32-7. Police women also took a similar path. They opened with victory over Harvard by 33-0, then beat Caribs 28-0. They saw off **UWI** Tobago by the same score. With both Police and Royalians locked on the same number of wins, it set up an enticing final match between both teams.

It turned out to be a convinc-

ing victory for Royalians, which won 19-0, and also ended Police's unbeaten run this year. Police finished second while Harvard secured third. The defeat scratched the polish on what has been a phenomenal year for the law enforcement ladies. However, it must be added that the team was without several of its key players, with a number of ladies on national duty, having been selected for the Rugby Americas North (RAN) tournament this weekend in Mexico.

Police coach Verne Ross, told Guardian Media Sports he will now target success in the Harvard 7s tournament this weekend. "We have a lot of depth in the team. We have a lot of experience and people who have worked hard all season so the fact that three of our players are on national duty, it weakens us but not significantly," he said.

Exiles was undoubtedly favourites among the men. They won both their games in Group A. In Group B, Harvard drew its first game 12-12 with Rainbow but bounced back to beat the

Defence Force 22-5. Caribs had an impressive start to the tournament with two solid wins in the process topping Group C. In the playoffs, the first, second and third positions were derived from the first places in each group.

In the third-place playoff, Harvard edged out Caribs 12-10 to set up a final showdown with Exiles. That's when the drama started. Harvard stunned their opponents to win 29-12 and cause an upset to take the **UWI** 7s title.

It's a bump in the road for a team that has been motoring through the rugby season. Its captain Leon Pantor, who has been selected on the men's team for RAN, told us how the tournament aided in his preparations. He said, "These tournaments help with composure on the field, how to be able to deal with high pressure and high-intensity, so this is why I went all out as if this is the RAN 7s I'm playing."

Most teams will be without some key players this weekend as the Harvard tournament clashes with that of RAN in Mexico.