



Member of the Class of 2011

Austin Allen Aladyce Knowles

“He who helps a child, builds a nation”

A visionary and community-minded individual, Austin Knowles began laying the foundations for both his career as an astute businessman and for his legacy in the sport of softball in the 1960's.

In 1962, at the age of 26, Austin was elected Manager of the “Palmetto Point Hornets Softball Team. Four years later the team's name was changed to “The Austin Knowles Constructioneers”, this established him as the first person to sponsor a team on the island of Eleuthera.

Through his vision and guidance, the game of softball in The Bahamas achieved both national and international recognition. In 1970 he was officially elected and served as President of the Eleuthera Softball Association for ten years. In 1972, as a founding member of The Bahamas Softball Association, Austin Knowles, served as its Vice President for the Federation and In 1975, as a founding member, the Palmetto Point Sporting Club was established.

In 1977, he became President of The Bahamas Softball Federation. During his Presidency he accompanied a men's the National Softball Team to Mexico. In 1978, he took a Ladies National Softball team to El Salvador, the team placed fifth in that Tournament. In 1977, he again accompanied the men's National Softball team to Puerto Rico for the CAC Tournament, The Bahamas won that tournament, thus placing the Bahamas third in the world of softball.

When questioned regarding the highlights of his career in softball. Austin references the time when he was somewhat concerned that both the ESA Softball Championship and a BSF Championship would elude his achievements. However, that all changed, when in the 1980's, after deciding to dedicate more time to the Constructioneers, Austin resigned as President of the BSF and ESA. This decision by Knowles seemed to have instigated an act of Providence, as in 1980, the Constructioneers defeated the Harbour Hustlers for the ESA Championship, and in 1981, Knowles later won the coveted BSF championship when the Constructioneers defeated the Budweiser Eagles.

In 1982 after the Constructioneers lost the ESA Championship to the Rock Sound Heroes, Knowles, in 1984, took a year's sabbatical as a sponsor. Later that year, he rebuilt and renamed his team The A. K. Company softball team. His team has won the ESA Championships every year since 1984.

In 1991, the A. K. Company softball team won the BSF championship, and in 1993, they won the ESA pennant. However, they did not compete for the championship. Austin's team returned to win three consecutive ESA championships in 1994, 1995 and 1996. In 1996 A.K Company also won the BSF championship, and made national history with an astounding record of 36-0. The BSF championship trophy was brought back to Eleuthera in 1995 and 1996.

In 2000 the Bahamas Softball Federation began its annual Austin “Kingsnake” Knowles High School Softball Tournament with Central Eleuthera winning four (4) championships (**boys and girls**), and in 2007 Austin Knowles was inducted into the International Softball Hall of Fame.

Mr. Austin “Kingsnake” Knowles has been actively involved in sports for thirty-six (36) years. In his illustrious career, he has experienced both the agony of defeat and the ecstasy of victory, but overall he has many pleasant memories to enjoy – this is the humble philosophy of a man known to both young and old as “Kingsnake”. Mr. Austin A. Knowles has dedicated a lifetime to the promotion and development of softball in his community, island and country.