



## *Member of the Class of 2011 Wilfred Hillard "Sudgy" Culmer*

*"The future belongs to those who believe of their dreams." Eleanor Roosevelt*

**Wilfred Hillard Culmer II, was born in Nassau, Bahamas 11 November, 1957.** He commenced early education at William Sayles Primary School and eventually matriculated to C.C. Sweeting Senior High School where he soon established himself as a unique and versatile athlete; playing volleyball, softball, basketball and participated as a member of that institution's track & field team.

In the ensuing years, Wilfred's love of sports eventually resulted in him travelling throughout the Caribbean, Bermuda, the United States and Canada as a member of the Men's National Volleyball Team and a member of the 1976 Bahamas Carifta Team.

**Though heralded both locally and internationally** as an immensely talented all-round track & field athlete, it was evident that Willard's true passion and love was for the sport of softball. Destined for greatness, it was not long before Willard's tenacity and skills were prominently acknowledged and after only two years of playing, Bahamas Baseball Association president, Jim Wood, convinced Sudgy (as he was affectionately called) to make the switch from softball to baseball. This move resulted in a scholarship to Chipola Junior College in Marianna, Florida. It was there that the Major League Baseball Association discovered this Bahamian power hitter which resulted in Sudgy joining the Pioneer league as a member of the Helena Phillies in the Spring of 1978.

**It was always Sudgy's ambition to play Major League Baseball.** "During his tenure at Chipola Junior College he recorded incredible performances, resulting in a offer from the Philadelphia Phillies Baseball Farm System. Subsequent to his decision, Wilfred Hillard "Sudgy" Culmer inaugurated his career in the Professional Baseball League.

**As providence would inevitably orchestrate,** Sudgy went on to realize his dream of playing Major League Baseball. He was traded by the Philadelphia Phillies Farm System along with Jerry Red and Roy Smith to the Cleveland Indians on September 12, 1982, thus immortalizing his accomplishments in Bahamian sports history. However, after five years with the Phillies, Sudgy's dream was cut short due to a finger injury, which resulted in his return to the Minor League. Unable to practice or play for the rest of the season, he returned home, never to return to professional baseball.