

1980 – 1993 The Bunghi Chin Don D Football Regime

While planning my exit from the COLD of North America in 1979, I was advised by Winston Chung (who I met in Baltimore) who was responsible for developing/guiding Santos FC of Kingston and St Andrew and schoolboy team Clarendon College to the 1977 Da Costa Cup Title, to make a link with the Santos club when I got home. On my return to local soil, I met coach Jackie Bell and turned out for the Santos FC, trained daily and played for a few months before being offered the coaching post. This would allow Bell to concentrate on management of the club and his sporting business at Antillean Sports.

Unable to secure funding for professional coaching services, Bell suggested 'where' football was weakest in Jamaica and if I really wanted to make a contribution to the development of THE GAME in Jamaica then I should investigate Portland and St. Mary's (north east generally), strongly recommending that I do something to assist the poorest region that was badly in need for some help. I duly obliged.

Football at Titchfield high school experienced its greatest successes under the leadership of Principal Lloyd O. Chin. Lloyd O Chin, who was unsophisticated, erudite, enigmatic and visionary. Chin recruited heavily for the best teachers available locally and abroad and would travel overseas to conduct personal interviews with prospective teachers for the school. The high standard set for the school was exemplified by the principal and maintained by his staff. Ultimately, it was the high quality teaching staff that kept the Titchfield flag flying high, particularly in matters academic.

Likewise Lloyd O. Chin sought the best sporting talent available for the school whether student or coach. In this regard, Titchfield's athletic program was coordinated by the very committed and athletic Bob (bob marley) McFarlane, the cricket program was in good hands with the experienced Tom 'Nyah' Wynter (deceased) and the football was about to be put in the portfolio of new sport master, physical education teacher and resident-coach, yours truly Don Davis.

Popularly called “Bungi Chin”, Mr, Chin was *visionary* to the extent that long before the dawning of the successful Road to France Campaign under the Horace Burrell-Rene Simoes regime, and before “TD” became the ‘buzz-word’, Bungi recognized the value of a Technical Director for his school and by extension ‘his parish’ and added such to my expanding portfolio...making me the first Technical Director in schoolboy football and by extension the Parish of Portland.

My recommendation from then Santos FC and national coach Jackie Bell (deceased) consolidated my position at the school.

My years of coaching at the community club and college level in the US and experiences garnered playing at the college and professional level along with my first degree in Psychology gained while studying at Herbert H. Lehman College in the City University of New York; my selection to the US National All American Soccer team after being captain for the Lehman Lancers Varsity team for three years; being one of four college players drafted into the NASL North American Soccer League by the world famous Pele –led New York COSMOS ; my USSFA Coaching license which facilitated my coaching at the Lincoln Phillips Soccer school in Baltimore, Maryland; returning to my Alma Mater for a two year coaching stint in the tough New York Metropolitan Inter Collegiate Soccer league; ALL would be brought to bear at Titchfield school and the parish of Portland.

Mr. Chin arranged to a final meeting on the last Friday in June to consolidate our arrangements for accommodations and to start training program on week end. I was brought into Port Antonio by former JFF president and attorney at law Heron Dale but to my shock and horror I was met by Chin’s devoted secretary Ruby Stamp who told me that Mr. Chin left for Canada in the morning and would not be back for two to three weeks. A short spell of panic set in only to be rescued by the senior DCup players who were under the care of Bungi Chin and lived at the principal’s cottage. These players took great care to ensure my comfort (food, entertainment, etc. until ‘the boss’ came back. These included the ‘skipper’ and outstanding defender Winston ‘Bruno’ Pottinger, Oral ‘Shaggy’ Hyre, Courtney ‘Hitler’ Hamlet, Gary ‘Rep’ Robertson and a young Kingsley ‘fowlie’ Chin who provided excellent support in training and discipline that made the three weeks pass with much distress. I settled in Mr. Chin’s bedroom until he returned to Port Antonio to sort out my personal situation. Of course I knew that I could take no more chances with Mr. Chin and that finding me a place would become a priority knowing that he also had to have a place to rest.

When Bungi returned from Canada he immediately set my situation aright and all systems were in place for the start of Titchfield's 1980 Da Costa Cup Campaign. This encounter moved my appreciation and understanding and qualified my relation with Bungi Chin from "boss" headmaster to humanitarian in pursuit of excellence. I would learn very early, at my expense about Mr. Chin's absolutely "brilliant ideas" that people often took for "promises" that led to their own disappointment, with many becoming greatly frustrated and cynical at what Mr. Chin did say but did or could not do.

First da Costa Cup season



Original 1980 Team

Standing L to r. Gary Robertson, Winston Pottinger(captain), Courtney Hamlet, Floyd Kirkland, Jerome Henry, Nathaniel Newman, Lloyd Brown, Coach DON D. Stooping L to r. Glen Gurrell, Andy Whittaker, Oral Hyre, Gary Sterling, Paul James, Carl Grant, Raymond Gordon

The 1980 campaign was quite eventful to say the least. Titchfield dominated the Zone D with a perfect 10 wins 0 draw and 0 losses. In my first experience at the Inter-zone stage Titchfield faced off with Munro College at Jamaica College grounds and for the first time in the history of the rural competition stunned the local football

fraternity with goals from Hyre, Chin and James for a workmanlike 3-1 victory over Munro College. In the second of 3 inter zone matches, Titchfield met the 1979 defending DaCosta Cup champions Dinthill Technical at Jamaica School of Agriculture (JSA) in St. Catherine. With anticipation rising, “unknown” Titchfield led by strong defensive line coordinated by Rep Bruno and ‘Battler’ with a strike force led by Shaggy Hyre, Pablo Che James, Christopher Coley, Winston Whittaker, et al faced the might of Dinthill Tech. On a breezy but sunny afternoon at the JSA Titchfield registered its presence on the national schoolboy football scene. At the end of the first half, the score was 0 - 0 with a goal being taken away from Titchfield because the referee ‘couldn’t believe what he had just seen... that a schoolboy could score such a ‘spectacular goal. The goal scored was from a cut back cross that was POWERFULLY HEADED into the GOAL by Shaggy Hyre from the edge of the penalty area or 16 meters from goal. There was no call for offside. The park was shocked into silence. To restart the game, the referee awarded a goal kick to the Dintill team.

This episode would expose to my naïve mind the “shenanigans” and “injustices” that permeates schoolboy football. The second half produced even greater drama as the game entered the final 10 minutes of play, Titchfield’s nimble and agile substitute striker Gary Fitti Sterling dribbled by the big and fearsome centre half and captain Deon ‘Messy’ Wilmott and faced the oncoming goal keeper only to have Wilmot ‘dive on his back’ to bring Sterling face down almost on the penalty spot. The referee following the play blew his whistle immediately while continuing his run into the penalty area pointing to the penalty spot. What transpired after this penalty call borders on a fairy-tale...

With the ball placed on the penalty spot, all players lined up outside the penalty area... and sure footed captain Bruno Pottinger lined up for the kick... there was a “shrill murmur” around the grounds and a sort of mass movement of bodies spectators around the field. Before the whistle could be blown for the taking of the penalty kick, in spectacular fashion... the referee begins to walk off the field. This move elicited an “immediate response from the crowd”, whose bodies began their trek onto and across to the referee.

In similar fashion, the linesman closest to the referee joined up while the linesman on my side of the field began his walk across the field. The few police officers present also disappeared instantly. In short, “dem mash up the game”. I guess no one was prepared to see Titchfield just march past the defending champions on their way to their first DCup Final. This was not to be as media reports

circulating after the game suggested that the match was interrupted by a 'crowd invasion'. Adding to the irony was the insinuation being bandied about that it was Titchfield 'supporters' who invaded the field... imagine your team playing away from home , get a chance to win.. to score in final minutes. ...and "your supporters" invade the field and "mash up di game". ..so that your team can lose?? But the Irony of all ironies is that this 'vicious lie" was being proported by persons who were labeled as 'respected residents' and political representatives of Port Antonio but were deeply envious and grudgeful of the "sudden" rise of football at Titchfield albeit without " their" ego-driven "inputs".

ISSA, the governing body for school sports, reacted to the media and those respectable "voices of Portie" that 'fight' against Inl , and refused to award the match to Titchfield, citing crowd invasion that stopped the penalty kick , and preserved Dinthill's crown . The "reported" presence of Titchfield supporters on the field according to ISSA put the game into a no-result category. ISSA further refused to make a final ruling of the match *before* Titchfield played its third and final match against Ruseas at Discovery Bay. It is not today(2000s) that Titchfield has been feeling the wrath of ISSA nor face the expense or trauma of the team being forced to travel up and down the country side.

The long journey to Discovery Bay took its toll on the team. After dominating Ruseas for long periods but unable to find the goal a mentally frustrated and physically tired Titchfield team surrendered to Ruseas losing 0-2. At the end of game, Titchfield's first loss of the season, ISSA in its collective wisdom decided that Titchfield's match with Dinthill Technical should be replayed in the National Stadium. This information was withheld and would have been more useful to the Titchfield team before going into the match versus Ruseas high. Such is the politrics of injustice. A dispirited Titchfield showed up at the stadium and played without great passion knowing that Dinthill now only required a draw to qualify for the Final. Dinthill, scoring against the run of play, eked out a narrow 1-0 victory. The 1980 Campaign ended with much promise for the second season which proved to be Titchfield's first ever UNDEFEATED and UNBEATEN season in the Da Costa Cup competition.....TO BE CONTINUED

ISSA ALL DACOSTA CUP TEAM 1987/88- FOUNDATION TO THE REGGAE BOYZ

The ALL – Da Costa CupTeam CAMP

The camp was set to kick off at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning at G C Foster College for sport. There would be two sessions daily with meals provided three times per day. On arrival at GC, I settled into the designated coaches' quarters and awaited the arrival of coach Wendell Downswell and manager Mike Ollivierre.

As the hour approached to start the first session there was neither Downswell nor Ollivierre in sight. I felt a bit of anxiety and wondered what I had really gotten involved into...after all, the All daCosta Team were the defending NOTHERN FORD Champions. I proceeded to get the camp started with the roughly twenty -odd players who had made themselves available with the physical and psychological preparations for a most significant match to be played one week from the day. Within the first hour of training I realized that this was the first time in my coaching in Jamaica that I encountered so many players who were technically and tactically quite able. The morning session was brisk and competitive. The lunch break revealed the high quality nutritional input by the College, and as the days progressed, it was the steady supplies of the kitchen that brought calm to the camp.. No one could "eat out the kitchen".

The evening session was more combative as my drills and small-sided games brought each player to the top of their game. I looked forward to seeing Downswell and Ollivierre in the morning giving them the benefit of the doubt as it related to travelling. I also looked forward to the next morning (Sunday) session as the technical level and motivation of players was infectious.

SUNDAY morning began with another healthy breakfast and a competitive training session. Still no sight of the St. Elizabeth technical coach Downswell or manager Mike Ollivierre. At the lunch break, I got wind that coach Downswell who was still in the player-mode, was at the Reno FC Sunday match and would appear on Monday morning. I assumed that Ollivierre would also appear. With time seemingly drifting closer to the first and only practice match scheduled against

Humble Lions FC of Clarendon on the Wednesday, I could not wait until the arrival of Downswell to introduce a system and style of play to the players.

The Sunday evening training session was keen and exciting as players battled to impose their talents in full field play leaving me quite pleased with the level of play demonstrated by both teams. I realized that this would be a very difficult team to select but assumed that it should be less difficult with the inputs of coach Downswell and manager Ollivierre. There was to be a rather dramatic turn of events come the Monday morning with the arrival of the 'western contingent' of players.

The texture of the training camp *changed dramatically* with the arrival of the bulk of the players from Da Costa Cup champions Ruseas led by the most feared defender in school boy football Marvin 'Hagler', the ultra-fit Steve 'Shorty' Malcolm, the perceptive Hector Wright (Herbert Morrison), goal keeper Warren Barrett (Cornwall), and a host of western players. The camp immediately became a "battle-field" – and by the end of the morning session...it was evident that many players who had "impressed" on Saturday and Sunday were put into retreat. The Russians, led by striker Michael Graham injected a "new level" of energy and aggression that lifted the All-D squad to a real 'national level'. I always considered the All D squad as representing 12 parishes versus the All Manning who represented 2 parishes. I always felt that I had the best collection of the 'broader nation'. The number of players had grown to 35, the level of aggression stepped up 100%, and Downswell and Ollivierre made their belated appearance. I was really glad to see some support in this venture as the media had already picked up the 'buzz' that surrounded the annual clash between the top school boy players.

I briefed Downswell on what I had done and introduced him to the 1-4-3-3 system of play with a 'direct attacking' style of play that the players had embraced and would "test" in two days time away against Clarendon First Division team Humble Lions F.C. The Russian's feared central defender Mark 'Hagler' Wilson reported to the camp with a "knee-problem" it was said he picked up in the inter zone round of play...and was unwilling to train on arrival. Hagler would pose a challenge to the 'disciplined order' in place since the first training session on Saturday morning and attempted to 'have his own way'.

Downswell and Ollivierre basically watched the morning session from the touch lines and were brought into the field to help organize the goal keepers with Clive Ninja Smith and Warren Barrett in contest. Hagler chose to 'walk around the field' and would have some brief 'chit-chats' with both Downswell and Ollivierre each

time he would pass them. I observed while coaching in the game with the A team vs. B team...fully aware that the only practice match was on the horizon...in 48 hours. At the end of the session, I asked Downswell what was Hagler's problem and was again reminded of his 'knee problem'. I informed Downswell that he should let Hagler know that if he did not train with the team I would find no place for him in the practice match in Clarendon vs. Humble Lions.

In the Monday evening session, Hagler reported to the field but refused to participate in the drills citing swelling in his knee. After dinner I called a meeting to integrate both Ollivierre and Downswell into the strategic planning and development of the squad, and to outline my plan of action to counter the challenge posed by this key "star" defender. The following morning Tuesday, Hagler reported to the field but again chose to engage in some sort of "individual jogging" around the field. I used the opportunity to jog alongside Hagler, ask about his 'knee problem' while letting him know that "no train, no play". Downswell and Ollivierre integrated themselves quickly into the scheme of things and embraced the system of play that would be tested. I spent some extra time preparing the attacking style of the team to play 'without' Wilson; organizing the center of the defense by bringing in Edwin Allen's first All D representative Y Brown.

FIRST TEST

On our journey to the venue in St. Catherine, I deliberately withheld naming of the starting team at the training base and was pretty sure that most players had their 'version' of who would make the squad and who would be 'sent home' in the morning. It was also the general feeling that the 'heart' of the All D defense would revolve around the 'uncompromising' Mark 'Hagler' Wilson...including Hagler himself.

On entering the venue, the bus found a cool spot to park and a small team talk ensued. At the end of the team talk I named the starting eleven for the match. I began with the strikers, then the midfielders, the goalkeeper, and the back four. I left the position of 'man-marker' for the last ...then announced the name of the player from Edwin Allen. There was a gasp in the bus as the 'feared one' had been left out. There was not much time for player commiserating as the players named were already dressed and were able to leave directly from the bus onto the playfield to begin their 'warm-ups' for the game.

I observed the grimace on Hagler's face and the smile on the faces of Downswell and Ollivierre who were apprized of my intentions and motivations. The

'western contingent' had no time to express any level of dissent at the omission of their comrade. Before Humble Lions could make their 'first roar' , the All D team playing at a very high tempo stunned the Lions and their supporters with a sweet build up that was finished in deadly fashion. The quick strike settled the All D team who would cruise to a morale boosting 1-0 victory over Clarendon's seasoned major league campaigner Humble Lions. The match allowed for several changes to facilitate viewing players who would make up the bench as well as identifying those who would go home.

I was later made to understand that the then chairman of ISSA, principal of Glenmuir Clement Radcliffe who was visible on the sidelines, had moved next to Downswell to ask for an explanation why the star attraction 'Hagler' was not in the line-up. Radcliff asked 'Dovey': "why no Hagler?". Downswell replies: "You have to ask Mr. D". Radcliff then moves down the line to ask Ollivierre,"Why Hagler not playing"? Ollivierre replies: "You have to ask Mr. D". Radcliff asks me "no such question" but observes the schoolboys in an "easy victory" over grown men. Interestingly, a planned in-studio discussion on Dn RJR's popular sport talk call in program "Sports Call" with All Manning coach Lebert Halliman and the All D coach DON DAVIS never materialized.

On returning to G C Foster, the unpleasant decision regarding which players would be sent home loomed heavily on my mind. Downswell and Ollivierre agreed to be a part of this process but both agreed and insisted that I should be the bearer of the message. At GC, the flow of food continued unabated with players skipping meals unable to put away the abundance that was available. Everybody retired in a somewhat apprehensive mood celeb rating our first victory while awaiting the judgment with the rising of the Thursday morning sun. At around 5:00 a.m. on Thursday morning, coach Downswell comes into my room, wakes me up, and tells me to look outside my window and tell him what do I see.. I grabbed my glasses and peered through what appeared to be darkness. I saw nothing! Then Downswell pointed to a figure moving through the mist and around the playfield at a fairly brisk pace, I could not make it out, but as it moved down the touchlines towards the dormitory buildings I saw a hooded figure ...I looked at Downswell...to say "a who dat"? And with a big smile on his face, he said, "Yes, is Hagler dat". POINT MADE!

From that moment , Downswell and Ollivierre would begin to call me 'Doc'. The decision to reduce the squad from 35 to 18 would become the prerogative of Doc Don D. The selection of 18 players from a pool of 35 chosen from 12 parishes was over whelming considering that all the players were technically proficient and

tactically able...with the talent so deep. I was actually of the opinion that the All D 'B' team could have over powered the All Manning team which made it all the more painful to send players home. From the three Titchfield players invited to the camp, only goal keeper Clive Ninja Smith survived.(Paul Gordon and Winston 'Somers' Williams were released on the Monday). The nucleus of the team was built around the Russian 'aggregation'. Personal ratings of goal keepers puts Smith of Titchfield ahead of Barrett of Cornwall College but 'politics of the west' makes Barrett goal keeping choice for Saturdays match..

TEAM CONCERT

With the reduction of the squad complete, manager Mike Ollivierre, also known in Soca music as Lord Have Mercy, suggested the use of a player concert / show to bring out the cultural talents within the players and to bring greater synergy and cooperation among all and sundry. It worked like a charm.

My contribution to the show was my reading of a poem titled "THE PUNANIE" ...from Black Poetry Volume 2...and it tear down the place!

The team rested on Friday morning. The Team then travels to the National Stadium in Kingston for final practice session on Friday evening. Opposing coach Leebert Halliman appeared on sidelines to observe team going through its final paces. I alert Downswell to Halliman's presence and he agrees to alter the training plan for the evening. The session is cut short as I was unwilling ton allow Halliman to even'get a glimpse' of the quality players that were available to me nor the tactics being rehearsed for the big showdown tne next day.(on Saturday)

The Real Test: NORTHERN FORD CUP

On a balmy Saturday evening January 9 1988, two magnificent goals by Rusea's Fabian Lawrence and Troy Campbell of Cornwall College enabled defending Champions All daCosta TEAM to score a come-from-behind 2-1 extra time win in the Northern Ford Cup play-off at the National Stadium.

The All daCosta were the first to settle with Herbert Morrison's Hector Wright , later named the Most Outstanding Player of the game, distributing well in midfield. The All Manning team with Errol Lewis, Roderick Lawrence and Devon Reid responded to the challenge with goalkeeper Marvin Chin holding the All da Costa team at bay. In the 22nd minute, the All Manning team scores first as Kingston College's Herbert Richards put the corporate aggregation in front. Centre half Eugene Williams passed to Richards on the right. Richards relayed to Reid who

crossed to the centre. Errol Lewis headed the cross to the far post and Richardson rushed in to kick into the roof of the net past an uncertain Warren Barrett in the All da Costa goal.

Amidst the noise and jubilation of the partisan crowd, a composed All daCosta team continue to maintain their rhythm and focus. A good three-man move between Wright, Campbell and Henry ended with a perfect cross from the right that found Lawrence at the edge of the six yard box.. The Ruseas forward picked his spot and headed powerfully goal wards out of reach of a flat-footed Chin putting both teams level at 1-1, just on the stroke of half time. At the resumption, the All Manning team made one change bringing on Leroy Harding for an injured defender Robert Small. This change seem to affect the rhythm of the Corporate area team. The All rural team took control with Wright engineering good through passes to Herbert Morrison's Tonto Henry who was off target on several occasions. Both teams made changes with ten minutes to go to full time. Christopher Dias replaced Reid for the All Manning team and dribbling ace Mark Carter of Vere Technical came on for Henry.

There was a moment when the All da Costa team went down to 10 men with a knee injury to striker Fabian Lawrence. I was allowed to enter the field to check on the condition of Lawrence. After a quick on field assessment, it was decided that a stretcher be brought on to attend to what looked like a disjointed knee. I asked both wing players to operate as twin central strikers while Lawrence was taken into the "McDonald tunnel". I could not immediately decide whether or not to make a substitution as Lawrence did say to me while being taken off on stretcher that he would soon be back. I returned to the bench full of trepidation while fellow Russian striker Michael 'Jim Dandy' warmed up. I noticed however that in the brief period (5-6 minutes) playing with 10 players, the All daCosta team took full control of match with dynamic combination passing and strong overlapping runs from left back Steve 'Shorty' Malcolm of Ruseas, combined with strong and effective defensive play led by the Russian defensive pair of Hagler and team captain Gibbs and a settled Barrett in goal. To a mighty roar from the large and boisterous crowd that were glued to the match, Fabian Lawrence sprinted out of the McDonald tunnel and awaited the signal of the referee to reenter the game. I recognized at that moment that with the dominance being displayed and an additional player to the front line would put the All D aggregation in ascendancy and signaled the demise of the All Manning team.

The deadlock was broken in the 101st minute after substitute, dribbling ace Mark Carter of Vere had the All Manning team in complete disarray with his wily dribbling...Troy Campbell fired through a wall of All Manning defenders for the winning goal. The Sunday Gleaner of January 10, 1988 sport headlines screamed: **All daCosta retain Northern Ford in extra time.** At the end of this epic match I was congratulated and interviewed by sport announcer Lance Whittaker in the McDonald tunnel and shared my views with him concerning "keeping the core of these two squads together to build a strong national uni". Unfortunately I was unable to enjoy the celebration party for the victory which took place when the players returned to GC Foster in St Catherine. With no personal transportation on hand, I was unable to make the trip with the team to GC Foster which left assistant coach Wendell Downswell as the spokesman for the success. The media credited Downswell as the "architect of the victory". The newspaper sports headlines read: Wendell Downswell coached All DaCosta Cup team..... and moved ISSA to reward him Downswell with a football coaching scholarship to Germany.

I was driven back to Harbour View by long time friend Louis Ruddock with the intention to return to Port Antonio, wife and children. It was indeed a very long week from family and school but a highly rewarding and successful engagement with the best group of players I have ever coached. Strangely enough, this is *the first team that I have ever coached and don't have a team picture to show.*

I rested in Harbour View and prepared to return to Port Antonio to resume my substantial job at Titchfield The success achieved from leading/coaching the All da Costa Cup team to successfully defend the Northern Ford Cup remains one of the highlights of many years of coaching at the secondary school level. My post-game analysis was published in the form of a letter to the sports editor in which I outlined why the All School's aggregation should be 'kept together'. It was the likes of Warren Barrett, Hector Wright, Steve 'shorty' Malcolm, Downswell, et al that formed the backbone of the successful 1998 Reggae Boyz Road to France World Cup Campaign.

My return to 'base', at Titchfield was, to say the least, "chilly". My wife was 'neurotically upset' that I was 'away' for one whole week. The community of Port Antonio was taken aback .That the RastaMan was the Head Coach of the victorious All Da Costa Cup team proved too much for the 'town-talkers' to digest...the results of my success poured scorn on the detractors and critics of the 'dread at the control'. On my return from the successful All D campaign, Mr. Chin suggested to me that I was 'big enough' ...that I (can leave now) didn't have to stay around here. I did not

take Bunghi's advice literally. In hind sight, it would appear that Chin was knowledgeable of the community plans that were underfoot to bring a change to the coaching leadership at the school. Shortly thereafter, the principal was instructed by the new school board chairman, president of Portland cricket association, former president of Portland football association and JLP councilor Hue Perry to "remove the dread" from the helm of football at Titchfield...with the word spread around the streets that "Mr. Davis have too much power". To my complete astonishment, Mr. Chin said, "Mr. Davis, give them, gid dem mash it up! "

I was stunned. Did I just hear Bunghi Chin say...give them the Titchfield team? Bunghi Chin, it appeared, seemed tired of having to 'fight to defend me' and surrendered to the 'forces' that detest the idea of achieving success with Don D at the helm. The Titchfield team would be turned over to a science teacher Dane Taylor with 'maximum support' from the Town.

THE 1982 D Cup FINAL MATCH pit first time Finalist Titchfield School vs. many times Champions Cornwall College

The Don Davis –coached Titchfield School would meet the Steve Bucknor-coached Cornwall College playing on home-ground and seeking their first lien on the Cup in 16 years. The entire Montego Bay was in a frenzy as the exploits of Titchfield striker Kingsley Chin rest heavily on the minds of the spectators and supporters of Cornwall College.

For the Da Costa Cup Final, the Titchfield team overnighted at Sea Wind Hotel in Montego Bay. The Hotel staff asked me why I bothered to bring the team to Montego Bay. It was a done deal. The club Disco Inferno was booked for the victory celebration by the Cornwall College team. Titchfield team was feted at the Golden Grotto Cave Night club on the eve of the big match and against my wishes, the players were told that they could enjoy the pool in the morning. There were now several ‘technical directors’ of the Titchfield team. Bunghi Chin however remained in his ‘hands-off’ mode. Resources suddenly started to pour in to a team that lacked proper equipment or nutritional support with the local politician HuePerri declaring that Titchfield should “take their own water”. At the Final the chairman of the school board appeared, who I had met for the first time when taken on the Port Antonio ‘social circuit’, and insisted that he give the team a final changing room “pep-talk”. I refused to have the players bombarded with ‘more talk’ from persons I had never ever seen at a match. The players asked that I facilitate the chair. I duly obliged.

With a full house at Jarrett Park and eyes and ears of the Nation tuned in to the D Cup FINAL, the game began with a heavily marked Kingsley Chin starting the game as a withdrawn striker. The Cornwall college players went looking for Chin who lined up behind our target-man Penny head Nelson. In the 10th minute and against the run of play, a ball was handled by a Cornwall attacker in the Titchfield goal area bringing all players to a stand-still. But on not hearing the referee’s whistle, the nearest Cornwall striker smashed the handled ball into the net. Before the referee could re-act, a tremendous roar of GOAALL!!! was bellowed out from the crowd and the referee dared not revoke the dubious goal. Cornwall players raced up and down the field while Titchfield players stood in shock and awe at the blatant

misjudgment of the referee. This exact cruel scenario would be replayed in the 2011 Final with Ruseas and Lennon.

It was later reported that Radio commentator Ed Barnes was verbally and physically abused for reporting the handled ball and openly disputed the goal. The Titchfield attacks were stymied by the linemen and their persistent 'offside' flags. 'Fowlie' Chin was dived on and fouled in his every possession of the ball with the referee on rare occasions reprimanding the Cornwall players for their fouling tactics. I recall Fowlie coming to the sidelines to ask: What should I do now coach?...In retrospect, I probably should have just said, "Just stay the left wing which would perhaps have given Penny-head a bit more room to work from the middle". Cornwall went on to win by that 'disputed goal' and denied Eastern Jamaica its first hold on the Da Costa Cup. There were much tears shed in the Titchfield dressing room after the match. The spectators knew and the players felt as though they were **'ROBBED'**.

With all the furor caused by Titchfield's historic match played at Jarrett Park, the decision to **permanently** fix the Final at Jarrett Park never went down well within my 'sense of justice'. The attitude of the governing body (ISSA) up to the time of this writing, to this systemic base of 'injustice' along with the interference from "vocal" sectors of Port Antonio compounded by the frustration of Mr. Chin's ideas which were often expressed and ultimately interpreted as 'promises' led to my absolute disgruntlement with the affairs at the school. I was asked by all and sundry "if I could get the team to the Final again?? NO ONE really seemed interested in how to win 'the whole damn thing'. It was as if there was some underlying 'fear' about what complete success at da Costa Cup would mean for the school and town respectively. That there were/are many who simply "parasite" off the school for personal ego-driven motives, without ever hoping for Titchfield's sports to enjoy national success but instead more concerned with any gains/loss of their economic, political and/or personal 'hold' on the school.

I decided that after three seasons at Titchfield school and having to fight against 'home town spectators', which was becoming over whelming, I decided to relieve myself of the distress and hand the team over to the administration. Leaving Jamaica at a relatively early age, I never really experienced or knew much about 'bad-mind' growing up in Brooklyn, USA...till I get to the small-town of Port Antonio. I wrote my letter of resignation and handed it to a somewhat surprised but somber Bunghi Chin. From all indications the letter was not recorded at the Ministry of

Education while Area boy and GC Foster graduate Leon Frazier was recruited as the 'town's coach' to bring the da Costa Cup to Titchfield.

1983-1984: Leon Frazier Years.

JUNE 1983

I returned to my community of HARBOUR VIEW with three years experience in the daCosta Cup competition and eyed the possibility of coaching at another school...perhaps in the Manning cup. My first three years back in Jamaica were well spent in Portland. The lush vegetation and clean fresh environment stimulated much creative thought that manifested under the Conscious Movement Publication banner of my first local self published volume of Black Poetry to compliment Black Philosophy and Poetry and Black Poetry Volume 1, which were published while living in USA.

This break from football was an opportunity to explore my writing and traveling to experience the other sides and places of Jamaica. Coach Leon Frazier inherited an experienced and rounded squad of players from the Final led by young veterans 'Bougie' Newman, Anthony Nelson, et al. There were enough quality replacements to sustain Titchfield's drive to the top of schoolboy foot ball. The 1983 team failed dismally to reach the heights set by the 1981 and 1982 teams. The following season 1984 turned out the first 'low point' of football at Titchfield when the team was humiliated and destroyed 6-0 by the "new boys" on the western 'bloc' , Ruseas Comprehensive high from Hanover. At the end of a disastrous '84 season, the players led a campaign, I think spearheaded by Nelson insisting to the Principal that Don D be brought back into the school to re-establish the respect, discipline and order that the school's success had come to know. By March 1985 negotiations were re-opened with principal Lloyd O Chin and the Bunghi Chin / Don D regime would continue its relentless march towards the Da Costa Cup. By April 1985 I was moving my furniture in a north easterly direction, this time returning to Titchfield with soon-to-be wife, singer Joy Whyte and her daughter Nazaria.