

Tight security for NAPSAC

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TIGHT SECURITY is in effect for the National Primary Schools' Athletics Championship (NAPSAC).

Organisers of the junior track and field meet are not taking chances at the **National Stadium**, introducing scanners along with a stop and search system to ensure patrons are safe.

When athletes and parents turned up yesterday for the **NAPSAC** quarter-finals, there were long lines at the main entrance gate as spectators waited to be checked.

It's the first time the scanners and stop and search security measures have been implemented for the event at the Waterford, St Michael facility.

Largest number

Chairman of **NAPSAC**, Mona Alleyne, told **MIDWEEK SPORT** an increase in spectatorship prompted officials to tighten security for the venue.

"For the quarter-finals the numbers are

greater at this time because you know we had the five zones meets and the persons going forward would make up for the quarter-finals. Now we are here, this is the largest number of athletes that we will have on the ground.

"We expected also to have a lot more parents and more schools supporting. We looked at the security aspect of it and we decided that it is best that we include the scanners," Alleyne said.

Alleyne, the assistant director of sport at the National Sports Council (NSC), said they were not taking chances with patrons' safety.

Funny nights

"These days are funny nights, and we want to ensure that patrons are comfortable. So we introduced the scanners at the gate. So far, it has been working out quite smoothly with the patrons and schools. We want to secure people at our event so that if there has to be anything, it is at a minimum."

Twenty security guards from A&C security firm have been deployed and operations officer Pierson Scantlebury said violent



acts have contributed to the precautions being taken.

"As you know because of the increase in crime, these things would have to be put in place. Persons coming to an establishment like this would like to know they can be free to enjoy the occasion.

"We have certain measures put in place. We have right now a walk through scanner that can detect if persons are carrying any weapons. People bring things into the **Stadium** with their bags. The bags will be searched because we want safety for everyone. Our main interest to ensure the facility is safe but right now everything is on par," Scantlebury explained.

The beefed up security was lauded by several parents included Kenroy Crichlow.

"I do not feel anyway about the security. I think it is a very good move. I do not have a problem with it because there are a lot of ignorant parents out there. I believe the scanner is a better vibration. It is about protecting the youth of today," he said.

Another parent, Alison Holland, was in agreement with the measures.

Runs smoothly

"The meet runs smoothly but I think it is needed because you find that you are coming to events and when you go out things are happening.

"Obviously, you have your children here so you want to make sure they are safe. I really did not have a problem with it. There was no hold up, everything was smooth," Holland added.

POLICE PRESENCE: Two police officers keeping watch outside the National Stadium yesterday.

(Picture by Kenmore Bynoe.)

Rain ends Windies Women campaign

SYDNEY – Persistent rain forced the abandonment of West Indies' final match of the **Women's Twenty20 World Cup** against South Africa in Australia yesterday.

The inclement weather at **Sydney Showground Stadium** washed out the first game after Thailand had set Pakistan 151 to win, and then prevented the start of the feature game with West Indies seeking a win to compensate for their disappointment of missing out on the semi-finals.

West Indies finished third in **Group B** with three points and a single win – a seven-wicket verdict over minnows Thailand in their opening game of the tournament in Perth.

The Caribbean side, the 2016 champions, then suffered a shock eight-wicket loss to Pakistan in Canberra before going down by 46 runs to England last Sunday here, to be eliminated from semi-final contention.

South Africa, meanwhile, topped Group B with seven points after finishing unbeaten and will be accompanied to the semi-finals by England who ended second on six points. India and Australia advanced from Group A. (CMC)

Sir Everton in hospital

WEST INDIES batting legend Sir Everton Weekes is back in hospital.

Sir Everton, an all-time batting great with a phenomenal average of 58, was taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on Monday night.

Barbados Cricket Association (BCA) president Conde Riley told **MIDWEEK SPORT** yesterday that Sir Everton was resting comfortably.

In November, as a result of the BCA's quick action, Sir Everton was able to gain admission to the QEHL after it was reported that he was not admitted by another health institution.

Last week, Sir Everton, the only man to score five successive Test hundreds, celebrated his 95th birthday and was treated to a special lunch by the BCA.

In 48 Tests between 1948 and 1958, Sir Everton was one of the most exciting batsmen in the game before he retired at the age of 33.

His 197 at **Kensington Oval** in the first match of the home series against Pakistan in 1958 was his only hundred on the ground he had known since he was a boy, having grown up in nearby Pickwick Gap, Westbury Road. (MK)

SPORT DIARY

FOOTBALL

Final of the Barbados Secondary Schools Under-16 Knockout Competition at the Usain Bolt Sports Complex. Christ Church Foundation vs Queen's College – 3:30 p.m. The Deputy Beer/Supligen/FC Barbados Masters Football League continues.

At Bridgefield

Christ Church Masters vs

Wales – 6 p.m. Deight Griffith Old Scholars vs Sunrise – 7:15 p.m.

At Deacons

Haynesville vs Caribbean United – 6 p.m. Eden Stars vs St Thomas United – 7:15 p.m.

At Friendship Haggatt Hall vs St Philip Masters – 6 p.m. LIME Masters vs Lodge Road – 7:15 p.m.