

Bracketts pull off victory

DHL works magic to reach NPSA Finals

By **SHELDON LONGLEY**
 NG Sports Reporter

The DHL Bracketts found the recipe to beat the Degeo Bommers, and for them, it couldn't have happened at a better time.

After losing to the Bommers six straight times this year, including the first two games of their New Providence Softball Association best-of-five playoff series, the Bracketts responded with their backs against the wall and they did it in the most impressive fashion. They won the final

Saturday night. "The worst thing they could let us do was get that first win. That gave us momentum right there and we just kept the ball rolling. It feels excellent because we put the Bommers to sleep," said Bracketts third baseman Jeannine Wallace, who will be playing in her first NPSA Championship series.

Winning pitcher Stubbs hurled a five-hit shutout Saturday night at the park for her third straight win over the Bommers. Marvell Miller suffered her second consecutive loss. High school sensation Krystal Delancey chased Miller out of the game with a grand slam home-run in the top of the seventh inning. That was the final nail in the coffin for the Bommers.

"It seems like the Bracketts were just hungrier than we were. They simply out-hit us tonight and they were also capitalizing on our mistakes," said Bommers coach Max Leary. "Ernestine was putting the ball right down the heart of the plate but we just didn't execute. I think that we were a bit too relaxed after the first two games of the series. They were capitalizing on our errors and we weren't taking advantage of theirs. That's just the way the game goes sometimes," added Leary, who assured that they will be back bigger and better next year.

Bracketts first baseman Delancey earned Player of the Game honours but she got a lot of help from her teammates.

Ernestine 'Big Horse' Stubbs chewed up her opponents

three games of the series, climaxed with a 10-0 whitewash Saturday night at the Churchill Tener Knowles National Softball Stadium, to return to the NPSA Championship for the first time in five years.

In what could be her swan song year in the association, Ernestine 'Big Horse' Stubbs chewed up her opponents from the mound, and her teammates rode her all the way home. She fired a one-hit shutout in Game Three, persevered through a 10-7 comeback in Game Four, and completely stifled the Bommers bats for the complete game win and backdoor sweep



■ **Not in time:** DHL Bracketts second baseman Jeannine Wallace beats the throw and tag from Degeo Bommers third baseman Jenny Dotson during game five of their playoff series.
 Photo: LETISHA HENDERSON

■ See Bracketts on C2

Smiths grabs another, this time for 4 yards

By **SHELDON LONGLEY**
 NG Sports Reporter

Alex Smith, one of only two players with Bahamian roots in the National Football League, had his third straight game with at least one catch Sunday at Lambeau Field.

Smith pulled in one catch for four yards and now has six catches for 40 yards and two touchdowns for the season. He is still tied for the league lead in receiving touchdowns, and is gradually becoming a regular weapon of starting quarterback Brian Griese.

Smith and the Buccaneers defeated the Green Bay Packers 17-16 Sunday, for their first win in Green Bay since 1989, to improve to an unblemished 3-0 in the standings. That's a mark they didn't even enjoy when they won the Super Bowl three years ago. Meanwhile the slumping Packers remain winless at 0-3 this year.

The 6'4" 258-pound rookie tight end in Tampa Bay is

enjoying a great first season in the NFL. Splitting time at one of the NFL premier positions with six-year veteran Anthony Becht, Smith, 23, is surely getting his share of playing time and is making the most of it. Seeing extended action on the field, he is used primarily for blocking, pass protection and for helping to open holes for fellow rookie Carnell 'Cadillac' Williams.

Three of his Smith's six career catches have gone for first downs and two have been touchdowns. Sunday, he found himself open for a four-yard reception for his only catch of the game. On first down and 10 from the Tampa Bay 44-yard line with 5:42 remaining in the third quarter, Smith pulled in his only reception of the day near midfield before being tackled by Packers linebacker Nick Barnett. That drive was stalled two plays later when Griese's pass to Bucs leading receiver Joey Galloway on third down and five fell short. Griese finished 17-for-26 for

139 yards and two touchdowns, and Galloway had five receptions for 53 yards and two touchdowns.

Smith only managed his one catch for four yards on the only time he was thrown to in the game. Fellow rookie Carnell Williams became the first player in NFL history to rush for 100 yards in each of his first three career games when he scampered for 158 yards on 37 carries. Forty-four of those yards came on the Bucs' final clock-killing drive, which was set up by the second of Will Allen's two fourth-quarter interceptions.

The Bucs led 17-13 at the half before a fourth quarter Packers field goal cut the lead to one point. However, Bucs' free safety Will Allen coupled with the tough running of Williams preserved the victory for the Buccaneers. The Bucs will host the Detroit Lions at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa Bay next Sunday.

■ See Smith on C2

Star Mart outshines Kalik Gold

By **STAFF WRITER**
 Nassau Guardian

In what appeared to be a reversal of the battle of David vs. Goliath, the much bigger Texaco Star Mart Stars simply picked apart the younger players of Kalik Gold.

The Stars pummeled Kalik Gold 25-16, 27-25, 25-17 in straight sets at the D.W Davis gym on Sunday.

"The win feels good taking into account the long layoff that we had," said Star Mart player Maurice 'Cheeks' Smith. We won it in three sets, but I think we could have won it in a cleaner fashion. We made too many mistakes," he added.

Kalik Gold struck first blood and jumped out to a 3-0 lead. However, Star Mart quickly enforced their dominance on the game and took a 6-2 advantage. Kalik Gold did manage to fight back and tie the game at nine,

■ See Star on C2

Bahamas Optimist Champs a success

By **STAFF WRITER**
 Nassau Guardian

Sailing enthusiasts and supporters flocked the shores of Montagu Bay this past Saturday for Optimist sailing.

However, this was no routine sailing exhibition. It was the first ever Bahamas National Optimist Championship as the nation's youth exhibited great sailing.

"This is a continuation of the summer programme that we had running all summer, so today we are holding the championships to determine the best of the best out of the juniors," said President of the Bahamas Optimist Association and regatta chairman Francisco de Cardenas. According to de Cardenas, 80 per cent of Olympic athletes have trained and learned how to sail in Optimist dinghies, and that is why the boat was chosen for the youth contest.

Despite the spirit of competition, the majority of the youths that participated were just

happy to have the chance to sail.

"It was pretty good, I have been sailing for two or three years," said Christopher Sands. "I like it because it is fun, the competition is good too but it's mostly fun," he added.

Competitors like Ben Myers, who has been sailing for six long years, still cite the fun involved as the one thing that links him to the sport the most. "It feels really good, it's just a lot of fun, and I have been doing it for a while," says Myers.

On the other hand, some participants such as Ricardo Brown, CH Reeves student, took a more technical approach to the race, even as youngsters.

"I like having to know when to tack, and ride and things like that. I have only been sailing for six weeks now, but I know I want to do it for a long time," said Brown.

According to de Cardenas, the Optimist sailing association caters to a wide cross section of youth.