

Prairie

AFRICAN

Issue #6 November, 2021

- understanding our roots, promoting our culture

Canada had a strong showing at this year's summer Olympics - 7 gold, 6 silver, and 11 bronze. Does this rival Canada's all-time best performance at the Olympics?



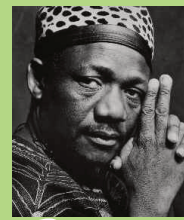
Sports
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Jamie Moses continues on his history-making run in the Legislative Assembly as he becomes the first black man to make a law in Manitoba. How relevant is it?



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Pan-Africanist and freedom-fighter, Chief Sonny Okosun, was a musician of repute around the world. Why was South Africa's apartheid regime so troubled by his music?



Music
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"A healthy workforce is needed to improve Canada's productivity." Dr. Ogo Chukwujama, speaking on the Mental Health Promotion Toolkit for black Canadians.



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Triumphant Team Canada

Team Canada performed creditably well at the just concluded 32nd (Summer) Olympiad in Tokyo, Japan. The Canadian team won a total of 24 medals at the games, her second best showing in a Summer games since Canada started participating in 1900 (Canadian Olympic Committee). The team recorded many firsts during the games, like their first ever gold medal in soccer - coming via the Canadian women's national soccer team, and another gold medal in the decathlon by Damian Warner. Canada also won a silver medal in the 5000m, the first time a Canadian (Somali-born Mohammed Ahmed) would triumph in the long-distance event at the Olympics; and yet another bronze medal in the 50km walk. However,

the bulk of Canada's medal haul would come from athletics and swimming - which brought in six medals each. Other sports that also had a showing on the medals table include rowing, weightlifting, judo, cycling, canoeing, diving, and softball. Canada's 24 medals, just 20 shy of the country's all-time medals haul bagged more than 35 years ago, at the 1984 Los Angeles games, also include Andre De Grasse' 200m men's gold, 100m men's bronze, as well as 4x100m men's bronze medals all in athletics; and is only 3 shy of the Los Angeles team in terms of gold medals won. Canada's team to that games came home with 10 gold medals; the only other times that

They Did Us All Proud In Tokyo

Canada has won more gold medals at the Olympics were during the Winter Olympics like in Vancouver in 2010 - Canada won 14 gold medals that year; 11 in Pyeongchang; and 10 in Sochi. Canada has attended every Olympic games since 1900 when the country first participated except for 1980 when the Canadian team was forced to

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Barbados Has A Literacy Rate Of 99 percent.

Beautiful Barbados is an island country in the Caribbean, and the most easterly of all the islands. The word easterly is emphasized here because it is believed, by historians, that present day Barbados is home to the largest population of Igbo who were caught-up in the wake of the slave trade practices of Europeans between the 15th and 19th centuries. Its capital city, Bridgetown, a metaphor for their desire to reconnect with their homeland, is home to numerous festivals, among them, the Crop Over Festival which has its roots in slavery, marking the end of annual harvest in the island. The Crop Over Festival usually led to Kadooment Day - the grand finale of the festival that features a grand parade of masquerades dressed in resplendent costumes "adorned with jewels, accents, and bright feathers" - reminds one of Iriji festival in Igbo land, eastern Nigeria - (Holidayscalendar.net). Kadooment Day has been observed for over 200 years. Though other Caribbean countries have their own carnivals similar to Kadooment day, they are often a mixture of the "European pre-lent carnivals" with African influences, but Kadooment day is unmistakably cultural as it contains none of the religious elements from other carnivals like the Mardi Gras, for example (Officeholidays.com). I spoke with Gregory Gaskin, an active community volunteer, and the president of the Barbadian Association of Winnipeg about some of the cultural practices as well as efforts his organization is making to bring Barbados to the people if he cannot bring the people to *bim* (colloquial for home in the island). The word obviously derived from the Igbo *bém* or *bé mụ* meaning "my home" (The National Cultural Foundation of Barbados). Please enjoy my interview with Greg reproduced here below.

Hello Gregory, and welcome to Prairie African. Can you please introduce yourself properly for the benefit of our readers?

Yes, thank you Richard. My name is Gregory Gaskin, the president of the Barbadian Association of Winnipeg (BAW). I immigrated to Canada in 1977 and attended Red River College where I obtained a diploma in Architectural Drafting in 1978. I was employed at M.M. Dillon Consulting working on a number of municipal infrastructure projects until 1980 when I moved to the Engineering Department for the City of

Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. I later joined the Government of Canada, Department of Agriculture, in Winnipeg. Interestingly, I had worked as an engineering technician with David Lashley & Partners in Barbados and hoped to continue in the same field when I arrived in Canada.

Thank you for that brief introduction Greg. So, how did you become president of the Barbadian Association of Winnipeg (BAW)?

I joined the Association when I moved back to Winnipeg from Moose Jaw, and I became the treasurer in 2007; and in 2009, I was elected president. I have been president since then.

You mean you have been president of the Barbadian Association of Winnipeg for about 12 years now? That is such a long time to be president of an association, don't you think?

Yes, I have been president for that long. It seems like anytime I take over something it's like I'm consistently elected to remain in the role until I resign or retire. I was also president of the National Council of Barbadian Associations in Canada (NCBAC) for five years. The youths who were not born in Barbados are encouraged to join the association, especially to participate in our Scholarship Awards Program. We find that it's mostly the older population, people who were born in Barbados and immigrated to Canada that are most active in the association. And there are many immigrants coming from Barbados to Manitoba. We have tried to accomplish a lot of things even though the diaspora seems to be getting older.

What's your educational background? I know Barbadians are very educated people, right?

Yes we are. I attended Buxton Boys Primary School and St Leonard's Boys School, for my high school education, both in Barbados. Also, as I said before, I attended Red River College, in Winnipeg, where I obtained a diploma in Architectural Drafting in 1978.

Oh, those were all boys' schools you just mentioned.

That's right. They usually separated the sexes then because the educational system was based on the English school system. It was pretty high standard and strict. If you decided to stay away from school, they would come for you. There was a truant officer attached to the schools. They would come and pick you

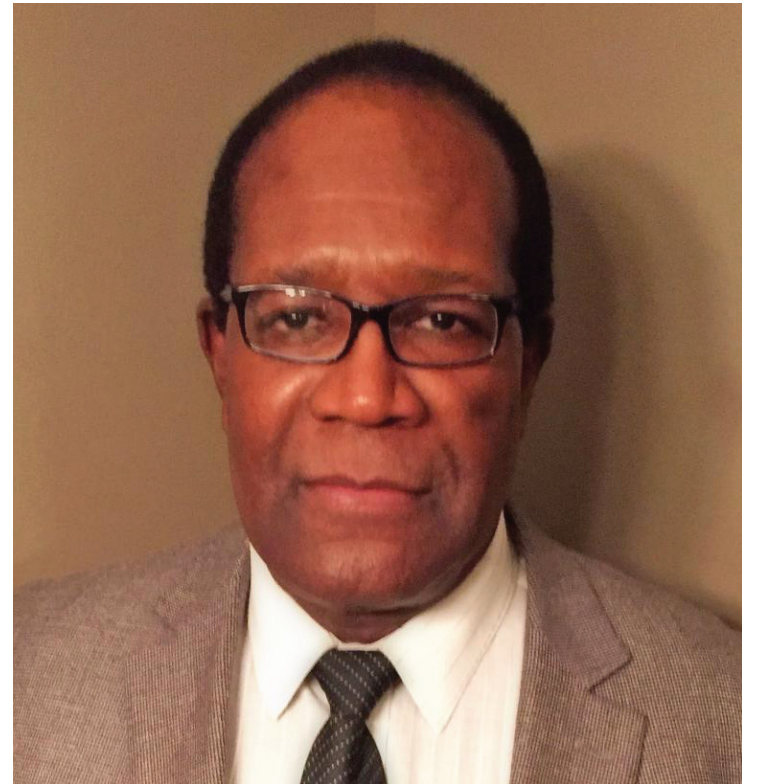
up. It's good for the kids to learn how to read and write. I think this must have contributed to the standard of education. The majority of us are educated. Barbados has a literacy rate of 99 percent.

I know the girls are very beautiful. They must've been a distraction I'm guessing.

Schools became co-ed later but that was after my time there. Rihanna went to Combermere School which used to be a boys' only school during my time. You know Rihanna right, the popular singer?

Yes I do.

She's from Barbados.



Nice! Can you tell us more about your association?

Yes. We're into helping our members, especially the seniors' group, with educational programmes like how to use the computer, safety in the home, financial planning etc. Sometimes, we get someone from the fire department or the police department to come talk to them about safety. Also, we try to get the youths interested in the association by encouraging them to volunteer with the organization. [story on prairieafrican.com](http://storyonprairieafrican.com)

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Richard Elendu is an advocate for racial equality and social change in the community.

Congratulations to the Canadian team at the recently concluded Tokyo Olympic games – among them many of our brothers and sisters - who did us proud by showcasing their skills; some winning medals also. They have now joined a long list of black people who, through generations, have shown that they are talented just like anybody on the planet.

First, I must apologize to all our readers for taking this long to come up with another issue of our newspaper, Prairie African. I have no excuses to make; yes, I had to work to get money like many of you, also had to take the children to school and back, plus trying to concentrate on my degree programme, but hey, “you do not put your hands on the plough and look back.” So, I apologize for dropping the ball on that one. I know nobody will sing our praise if we don’t. Nobody will tell our story today if we don’t. And nobody will do the hard work if I don’t. I am still committed to the cause.

There is the need for little black girls and boys to see people that look like them on the pages of newspapers (including the front page); imagine what this does to their psyche, seeing successful black people that they can relate to. Many of our kids are in prison today because they never knew that black people could be anything else but prisoners (don’t be shocked). Vinessa Antoine, on being congratulated for being the first black lead in a Canadian television

Our Mission

series, leading it now into its second season, said, “Growing up, I didn’t see a lot of me reflected on TV; I didn’t see the world I lived in. It’s about time. Hopefully this is the beginning of a bigger change.” So, when I said I have no excuses, I hope you see now why we shouldn’t make one - you and me. We cannot accomplish a “bigger change” like Dr. Martin Luther King and the rest accomplished, by making excuses.

Recently, I had to make a presentation on “How I Found My Voice,” and I thought to reproduce, at least, some parts of my speech here. Please ponder on these words. “About 9 years ago, when I first arrived here, in Canada, I found Canada to be a beautiful, organized, and peaceful country. Also, I was amazed at the striking differences between my new environment and the one I had left behind. And because of that, I’d say that I hit the ground running, having come in with a telecommunications background. I worked, virtually, in all the major telecommunications companies in Manitoba, but permit me to not mention any names. As time went by, it seemed I had shed the usual euphoria that accompanied new immigrants to Canada, as I began to notice what was going on. First, I noticed that I was being ignored whenever I spoke. Then, I noticed that my suggestions at meetings were often quickly dismissed. More interesting, was the fact that my

recommendations, which had been disdainfully turned down, during meetings, appeared to have been adopted behind my back and with no credit coming my way. This was a new challenge for me as I had never been in such a situation before. Consequently, I reached out to other black people to find out if they were having the same experiences like me. Then, like a sledgehammer it hit, very hard! It didn’t matter whether they were security guards, or lawyers in a reputable chamber. It didn’t matter whether they worked for big corporations, or whether they worked for the government. It didn’t matter whether they did a 9-5 or whether they worked for themselves, black people across board were facing a systemic issue. It was ingrained in society. So, armed with this sudden awareness, I found my voice – a channel to edify black people. I found Prairie African – a black-centred newspaper, where we promote black culture by showcasing achievements of black people – be they in politics, in the medical field, in engineering, in sports, and music. That was how I found my voice and since then, I have not looked back. You too can find your voice.”

Finding my voice led me to some specific actions within the law to arrive at my new reality. Remember, a people are the sum total of their actions. Black people are so loosely connected that other races can see. We all need to up our game. We need to forgive, help, and build each other going forward. Thank you.

In case you missed it



Dr. Deborah Olukoj is an example of a virtuous woman. She has been instrumental in helping many community members immigrate to Canada for studies and

living. A recipient of the prime minister’s award for Community Leadership, this counsellor and pastor earned a doctorate from Providence Theological Seminary in 2006 and was ordained by the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada (EMCC). Deborah’s blessed with two sons.



Winnipeg-born Desiree Scott is an impressive Canadian and member of the Canadian women soccer team that brought home the gold medal at the

just concluded Tokyo Olympics in Japan. A two-time recipient of the Canada West All-Star honours, Scott has also been named Canada West Rookie of the Year, in 2005. The ‘destroyer,’ as she’s fondly called, currently plies her trade in Kansas for the Kansas City Football Club. She’s only 34.



Antoinette Zloty is the Project Lead, Mental Health Promotion Project, and also produces a TV show on Shaw Spotlight. A recipient of the

Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award in 2013, Zloty has served over 35 years in government and non-governmental organizations. She founded the Barbados Association of Winnipeg as a young undergraduate in 1977, and holds a BA and MA in Social Works from UofM.



Dr. Ogo Chukwujama is a psychiatrist and the medical director of Selkirk Mental Health Centre, the biggest mental health facility in the province. He also

doubles as a professor of Medicine at the University of Manitoba. A graduate of the University of Nigeria, and the Royal College of Surgeons, in Dublin, Ireland, the amiable Dr. Chukwujama still finds the time to connect with the black community by engaging in community projects.



Toronto-born Vinessa Antoine is a Canadian actress best known for pushing the boundaries that box black people in. She’s, probably, the first black woman, in Canada, to play

a lead role in a Canadian TV series - in case you’re wondering, Vinessa is the attorney (Marcie Diggs) in the CBC drama Diggstown. A nominee for Best Actress in a Drama Series, Vinessa has also starred in Being Erica; General Hospital; and Haven and Heartland. She’s 38.



Looking for a black Canadian who’s done so much to uplift her people? Look no further, Beatrice Watson has done it all - peer counsellor, mediator, publisher,

and writer. This gem has served on many boards and councils, among them, Fort Garry Women’s Resource Centre, Manitoba Anti-Poverty Organization, and the Legal Education Action Fund. She also served on the board of the Manitoba Ethnocultural Advisory and Advocacy Council.



Devon Clunis made history, in 2012, as the first black police chief in Canada. Born in the suburbs of Jamaica, Clunis faced racism when he first arrived

here, but bowed out of the service as the highest paid employee in the city of Winnipeg. The reward for hardwork, they say, is more hardwork. Clunis, a recipient of the Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Interreligious Understanding has since been appointed Ontario’s inspector general.



Barbadian-born Gregory Gaskin is a foremost Geomatics Technician in Canada. He served as Digital Information Analyst, designing reservoirs for Manitoba Farmers,

and rural water pipelines for the Manitoba Water Services Board. In 2009, Greg received the Golden Harvest Award, the highest given by the Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Greg is a community volunteer, and the President of the Barbados Association of Winnipeg,



Enigmatic Sunday Akin Olukoj is a man of many parts - writer, researcher, and professor. Also ordained by the Evangelical Missionary Church

of Canada (EMCC), Dr. Olukoj is reputed to have birthed, through a community support agreement with the Manitoba government, the successful immigration and settlement of hundreds of skilled workers in the province. He holds an MA in International Law and Diplomacy,

A Healthy Workforce Is Needed To Improve Canada's Productivity.

It is a well-known fact that a people's health equals their productivity. One would think that Canada which now has a population of about 38 million people (2021 estimated figures) would strive to get the best out of her workforce. A great majority of that number arrived through immigration, from all around the world, to contribute to a strong workforce and by extension, a stronger Canadian economy. Among this population are a unique people - black Canadians - who now number close to 1.4 million people, many of them descendants of the first wave of black settlers (loyalists who had been promised lands having fought on the side of the Crown during the American revolution). It is in light of the above that I sat with Dr. Ogo Chukwujama to discuss the health of this awesome people, particularly, their mental health, and how it affects Canada's economy. Please see excerpts of my interview with Dr Chukwujama. Thank you and a have comfortable reading folks.

Can you please introduce yourself to our readers?

My name is Dr. Ogo Chukwujama. I am a psychiatrist and the medical director of Selkirk Mental Health Centre, a psychiatric unit here in Selkirk, Manitoba, and incidentally, the biggest mental health facility in the province. I also hold the position of lecturer with the Max Rady College of Medicine at the University of Manitoba.

Thank you for that brief introduction Dr. Chukwujama. Now, how did you get into that position? Did you just wake up one morning and became the medical director of the biggest psychiatric unit in the province?

No, not at all. I had studied at the University of Nigeria, and my Internship year was at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital. In 2006, I moved to Ireland to do a Postgraduate Diploma in Tropical Medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons, in Dublin, Ireland. After obtaining this, I switched interest to Psychiatry and started my residency training there. I worked as a psychiatrist for a couple of years, in

Ireland, before moving to Canada in 2018. Upon my arrival here, I started working as a Consultant Psychiatrist providing care to patients in the Acute and Psychosocial rehabilitation programmes. I also served as the chairman of the medical advisory committee, a job I really liked, until last year when I was appointed the medical director.

So, what made you move to Canada, and more interesting, Manitoba?

There was a big need for doctors here in Canada, and we (my wife, who is also a doctor, and I) were already contemplating moving away from Ireland. So, I think it was a case of good timing. Also, I met a friend at the Lundbeck conference in Denmark who was from Winkler, Manitoba, and he told me about Winnipeg, and we also have classmates and friends here.

It must've been easy for you to settle here. How do you find Manitoba?

I really love Manitoba. It was love at first sight for us when we first arrived. We fell in love with Manitoba - the people and the weather. I think Winnipeg is fantastic. I find the people really welcoming. I thought it was very respectful to start every meeting with honoring the traditional owners of the land. It is totally different from me being an expatriate staff in Ireland. I live in East St. Paul. Integration into the Canadian society was easy for us, Canada being an immigrant society. My kids attend school in Winnipeg, my friends live in the city. It's very nice here. I enjoy the winter too.

Oh nice! That's really good to hear. I know other people who love the people of Manitoba but hate the Winter here.

That's true too but not for me. I think the Summer's too hot though.

So, what exactly do you do as the medical director of the Selkirk Mental Health Centre?

I'm a clinician first, and I also have administrative roles attached to the job. The medical director of a facility has responsibility for the provision and direction of psychiatric services for the facility, the interpretation of the Manitoba Mental Health act, and providing advocacy and guidance for my



- Dr. Chukwujama

staff, which would include the Physicians, allied clinical staff and nursing staff. So, I do not do all of the administrative work. I work with a CEO who does all other administrative work. I also work as an attending psychiatrist in the Acute and Psychosocial rehabilitation programme as I had mentioned earlier. We have different programmes like the acute psychiatric programme, the Geriatric programme with 75 beds and the Psychosocial Rehabilitation programme, also with 75 beds as well. Then we have the Acquired

Brain Injury (ABI) programme where we try to rehabilitate those with cognitive impairment due to brain injury. We also have a forensic programme for patients caught up within the justice system as well.

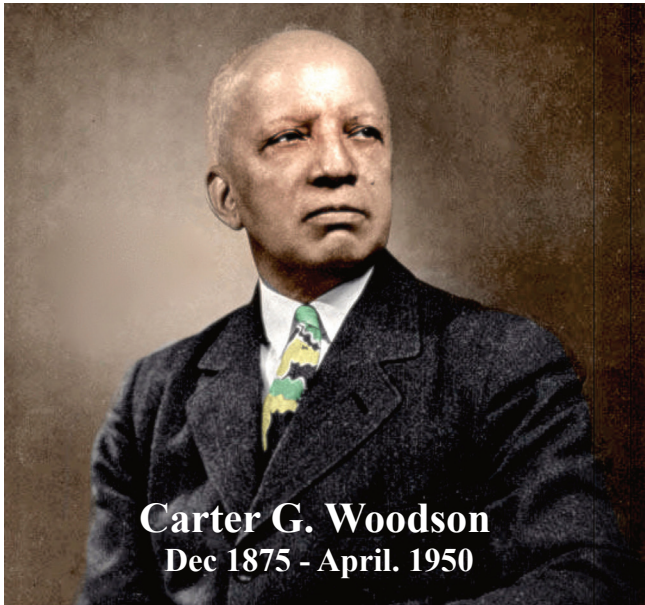
How do you find the position?

I find it very challenging but also refreshing. It's been a bit of a learning curve for me, especially with the advent of Covid-19. I keep trying to implement some of my earlier recommendations when I served as the chairman of the medical advisory



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Brotherman, Know Thyself



Carter G. Woodson
Dec 1875 - April, 1950

It is no surprise that the second African-American to receive a doctorate degree from Harvard, after the eminent scholar, W.E.B. Du Bois, would be the man to bring about Black History Month. Carter G. Woodson, author, writer, and historian considered the “Father of Black History,” dedicated his life to the study of African American history. Noted for his book, *The Mis-education of the Negro* (1933), Woodson worked tirelessly to establish Black History Month. Born to Eliza and James Woodson, and the fourth of seven children, Woodson was unable to attend high school until he turned 20, because he had to work as a sharecropper, during the day, and a miner, at night, to help sustain his family. When he eventually attended school, Woodson’s talent was so immense that he completed a four-year programme in

only two years. He took a break from school, after attending Berea College, to work for some time, during which he worked in the Philippines as an education superintendent for the US government. A graduate of University of Chicago where he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees before proceeding to Harvard, where he also earned a doctorate in 1912, Woodson was an avid reader and researcher. Not satisfied that black people were not taught about the achievements of their ancestors, Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), in 1915, to help educate black children in America. He followed up a year later by launching a publication, the *Journal of Negro History*, which is still in circulation today, under a different name, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Woodson also founded the Associated Publishers Press in 1921. Woodson did all he could to bring black history to the African American, since conventional education at the time omitted or outrightly suppressed the teaching of any black history. It was his view that if black people knew the achievements of their forebears, they would hold their heads up high irrespective of what they’ve been through. Woodson would dedicate himself to research and methodology, creating a whole new system to properly educate African Americans in America. He gathered a large collection of materials through his study, believing that only Black people can tell their history correctly, as mainstream historians at the time refused to do so. He declared that white people had no business badmouthing blacks as having contributed nothing to the advancement of mankind, rather concluding that racial prejudice “is merely the logical result of tradition, (and) the inevitable outcome of thorough instruction to the

effect that the Negro has never contributed anything to the progress of mankind.” With the help of his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, he organized the first Negro History and Literature Week, in February 1926, after it was created in 1924. Woodson chose the month of February because it contained the birthdays of two prominent Americans who were already being celebrated - Abraham Lincoln (February 12th) and Frederick Douglass (February 14th). The author of more than 20 books, including, *A Century of Negro Migration* (1918), *The History of the Negro Church* (1921), *The Negro in Our History* (1922) and his most celebrated, *The Mis-Education of the Negro* (1933), Woodson would declare, “I have made every sacrifice for this movement. I have spent all my time doing this one thing and trying to do it efficiently.” Still not satisfied that a week is enough to celebrate black heritage and history, Woodson started to agitate to extend the celebrations to a full month. And though he did not witness it until his death, in 1950, members of his Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) together with other Black Power movements extended it to a full month in 1970, and since 1976, on the 50th anniversary of the first Negro History Week, every US President, beginning with President Jimmy Carter, has designated February as Black History Month. Woodson also served as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, at Howard, and has many honours and tributes to his name, among them, the Spingarn Medal, and a US Postal Service stamp issued in his honour in 1984. The beautiful number, 50, is recurrent in Woodson’s chronology. First, in 1915, while taking part in a national celebration of the 50th anniversary of emancipation, Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). Again, at the 50th anniversary of the first Negro History Week, Black History

Mental Health

committee. It’s more of a balancing act. You have to adhere to the organization’s budget, the ethics of the profession, the minister’s office, and the wishlist of the government, all in relation to your wishes and what you want to do. Operationally, during covid for example, we had to make a lot of adjustments (this didn’t come with a playbook) – we changed certain practices to reduce the risk of infection to staff and patients. The big emphasis at the time was on PPE – personal protective equipment like barrier gowns, masks, and goggles. We also had to look at the design of the hospital - the air exchanges in the buildings - single room living instead of congregated living spaces vs dormitory style living and our plans to prevent infections or outbreaks. So, it was a lot of adjustments to our new reality. Now, we have masks everywhere but it wasn’t the case back then. It took a lot of effort to get these to frontline staff. There was a lot of learning and follow up to do for doctors. With all these changes comes a budget deficit. It was a really challenging time I must say. So far we haven’t had an outbreak of Covid-19 in our facility. We are very proud of the work we’ve done and hopefully we’ll have no cases in the near future. I would also like to use this opportunity to encourage the public to please go and get the vaccine, it works and it’s a life saver. More recently I pushed for and got us affiliated with the University of Manitoba. So, we now have our staff having university appointments. That brings us closer to the city; a long-term goal will be having our staff engage

in research at the university.

Beautiful. Now, can you tell us more about the Mental Health Promotion Toolkit for Black Canadians?

Yes, the Mental Health Promotion Toolkit for black Canadians is a sort of workbook to help black Canadians effectively access help, navigate resources, and counter the effects of racism on their psyche. The toolkit is the brainchild of a lot of research. Mental health is not something that we dwell on as black people. Because of our acculturation, what we do not understand we tend to avoid. We ascribe mental health to religion or some misdeeds in a past life, for instance. We don’t like to talk about mental health because we do not know what to do about it. And if we do not bring up the discussion, how do we get help? So, as a result, we do not engage mental health professionals for help when we need them. Black Canadians are underserved by mental health services for many reasons (some intrinsic and extrinsic), ranging from culture, religion, and stigma, to mention a few. An intrinsic (caused by us) example is the belief that associating or even intermarrying with people with mental health challenges will diminish our stock, a kind of eugenics, if you like. Again, we know that mental illness exist in all races. I’ll give you an instance, Schizophrenia (1% of every population suffers from Schizophrenia, whether they’re white or black). Someone suffering from psychosis will need to access mental health services but because we do not

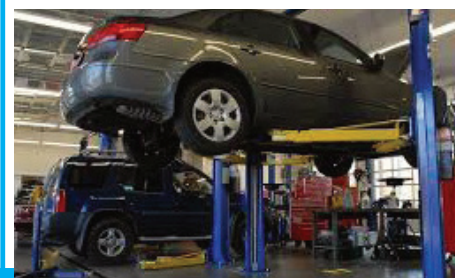
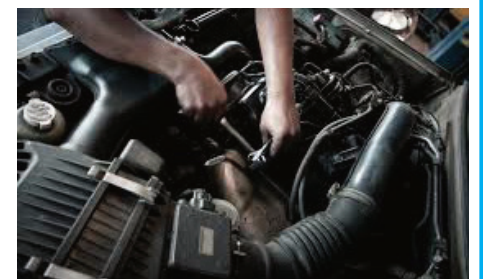
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What's Your Favourite Pastime During The Pandemic?

We all know that life is so serious that we cannot come out of it alive. At least, we have all accepted that fate, every one of us. That is why we live life (to the fullest if we can) by going on vacation or a boat cruise or attending a party or even bird watching or clicking away at cameras (paparazziing). That was why when the Coronavirus pandemic came upon us, it looked more like a death sentence on life and the activities we have chosen to live life. The pandemic meant a halt, albeit temporarily, to all devised activities as the virus grew in strength and stature. But after the initial pandemonium, a lot of us figured out how to handle this pandemic, thanks to the resilience of the human spirit. So, in this expose, we take a look at some of the coping mechanisms, if you like, that people adopted to beat the virus hands down. In other words, what people did to forget the fact that they were once held prisoner in their own homes. You will be baffled to find out how a lot of lives improved even under the harrowing conditions imposed by the pandemic. Some people became better cooks or musicians, and yet some pursued a higher degree or qualification of some sort. For others, they took to crafts, some writing or reading or both, others, like myself, took to the old pastime of gardening. So, hopefully, you can adopt one of these favourite pastimes, if, perhaps, you're still struggling to cope with boredom, and, if not, hence the question, what's your favourite pastime during the pandemic?

Music? At first, it looked like none of us was going to come out of it unscathed, but a few people, especially the young ones, were among the first to advance coping mechanisms and improved their lives tremendously. That music is the food of the soul is now a cliché, but it appears many who immersed themselves in music, the whole time, never had cause to worry much as their health grew in leaps and bounds. Some talented people were able to turn a part of their home into a working music studio by researching and then acquiring some of the basics for setting up a music studio. If you have a room to yourself (not necessarily a spare room), and most people do, you could setup a mini studio like my buddy did by converting your room through some not-so-expensive

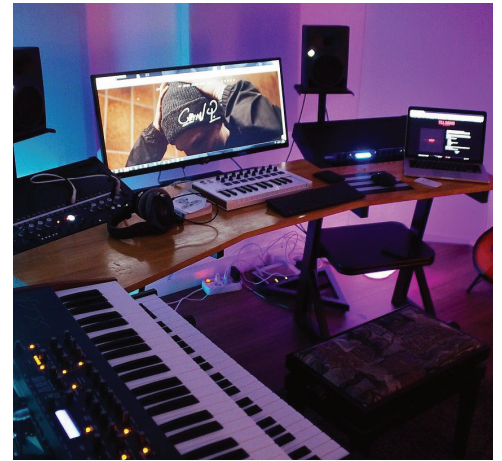
gadgets from online shops; and you could even do this in stages. There are numerous websites to put you through if you need help.

Craft Works? For me, and I believe for many people, staying at home wasn't really the problem, but what to do while spending long hours at home was the real challenge. Don't forget this quickly became the new normal for many forcing them to be more in sync with their inner self. Well, at least, this wasn't a challenge for those with visuo-spatial ability. Those who knew how to create craft works or other more intelligent art also improved themselves during this pandemic. I remember early on; I had chanced upon two sisters who made beautiful sunbursts and couldn't help but admire their great skills. And since I needed some kind of art to brighten my days, like many people, I



spent nice money acquiring some of these beautiful pandemic-derived art. I now have them hung in strategic places in the house and they make me happy whenever I see them. I have also met others who are good with crochet work, all manner of knitting, and real-life painting too. This is a very wide area, and you can never be wrong with it. If you don't like your painting, for example, all you need do is simply paint another one. How hard can that be?

Cooking? Also, cooking - whether baking, steaming, or stir-frying - was another coping mechanism many people employed to handle the stress and boredom of the pandemic. People love to order food from outside but since the pandemic took a toll on local restaurants, many were redirected to look within. Remember, we are all wired differently. So, just as you may like to exercise, I may choose to try my hands at a new dish, and many didn't even need to eat the food they experimented on, at



least, not a few times. Again, I have always stated that one of the greatest gifts a person can give, to themselves, is what they put into their stomach. Since the pandemic made many improve on their hygiene, I see no problem in taking this a little further, into the kitchen. Also, I know a few people who actually started catering services, and one or two of those were able to actually translate that into a real-time food takeout business. Sounds like a case of being in tune with one's inner D, right?

Studying? Similarly, pursuing some form of academic achievement during the pandemic became a favourite pastime (if

you call it that) of a select few. Yes, because students were forced off campuses for fear of infecting their professors, schools had to introduce online classes. This paid off, big time, for both the schools and some hardworking, serious-minded adults who had been struggling to find the time to go back to school and get that qualification they so desired. Many registered for online classes to improve their chances in life even as on-the-job proficiency training also increased in many organizations. Online learning, especially at the tertiary level, may have been one of the major beneficiaries of the pandemic as it allowed many adults to register and bag that qualification that in-person learning did not make possible.

Gardening? Likewise, for many people, gardening became a coping mechanism - a way to get out of the boredom. For me, it quickly became my go-to, of course coupled with a few others I have already

listed here. Gardening is so rewarding that I don't even find the time to remember we are in a pandemic. There are many fruits and vegetables that can be planted around the house, if one had some unencumbered space, and by that, I mean, if one had not covered the area with grass or paved stones. Grass may be easier to convert than a space with slabs or paved stones. So, what can one plant in there? You could plant all kinds of vegetables, particularly the ones that you would like to eat with your family or give to friends. Most of them are available in the stores as seeds and take between 3 - 6 months to produce. You definitely want

to begin early though, say between early Spring and Summer. At the back of our house, we had a sizable space to play with, being a newly developed neighbourhood, so, we planted peppers (different types like Scotch Bonnet, Bell peppers, Ghost peppers, Carolina reapers, Poblano, and Jalapenos), tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, okra, watermelon, curry, and corn; and started to reap them just two months in. The tomatoes did so well that almost every day is harvest day. We still have a lot of tomatoes yet unharvested. They could be used for salads and sandwiches for the kids' lunches. Many people like myself just love to eat them like that too - organic and fresh.

Exercising? The world is now gradually returning to normal, but think back to when it all began, gyms and other places of recreation were among the first to be shutdown. So, only a few people had the courage to go for walks or runs within the

Emancipation Day - August 1

The “artificial barrier” that separates black Canadians from the rest of Canada now seems to have been shattered by the passing of a bill into law. The Manitoba Legislative Assembly has finally passed the Emancipation Day bill into law. This was done on October 14th, 2021, just before the assembly went on a break, and after the bill passed second reading the previous week, making Jamie Moses, the member representing St. Vital, the first black man to officially pass a bill into law in Manitoba.

Prairie African tried to find out what made it easier for this bill to be passed into law given that Mr. Moses, who was unsuccessful with the passing of his last bill, is not a member of the party that holds the majority in the assembly.

According to the man at the centre of it all, Jamie Moses, the assembly was able to “work collaboratively to communicate the importance of this bill” to Manitobans, and he said their understanding of the importance of the Emancipation bill made it inevitable to be passed on the same day the assembly was going for a recess. He added that “the Emancipation Day bill is now a law that recognizes August 1st as Emancipation Day in Manitoba.”

Jamie, who serves as the Official Opposition Critic for Economic Development and Training in the Manitoba assembly, also said that “Going forward, Manitobans will

now be enlightened on the history and influence of slavery in Manitoba.”

We understand that the Emancipation Day bill which was modelled after a similar federal motion to recognize same date as Emancipation Day across all of Canada was viewed as a good place to start in the process of equilibrating the races; Jamie had called it “a step in the right direction.”

The member representing St. Vital speaking on the position of black Canadians who made a major progress following the 2019 Manitoba elections also said he believes the bill will help consolidate the gains black Canadians have made since the turn of this history breaking decade. “I think we made some progress in 2019 and need to consolidate on that for the future,” he said.

You will recall that an earlier attempt by Jamie to get a different bill (Bill 212) passed in the assembly met with a brick wall. That bill, according to Mr. Moses, was supposed to provide mandatory training for provincial employees in the area of systemic racism and human rights. The St. Vital MLA had wanted to arm provincial employees with enough knowledge, by getting them to learn and be educated on a regular basis, to acquire the prerequisite tools to fight racism. Jamie was hopeful that the knowledge they derive therefrom will hopefully bring about a change in our society and put provincial employees in the driver’s seat as leaders in terms of building a new

culture of anti-racism in our society.

The River East Collegiate graduate who said he’s still working hard advocating for a local vaccine site, in St vital, to make vaccination more accessible and convenient to residents of the area hopes that the passing of the emancipation bill will open more doors to black Canadians in Manitoba.

It is important to emphasize that there are five stages necessary for a bill to be assented into law at the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. They include introducing the bill to parliament; a call for second reading; a vote; presentation



Manitoba Gets First Female Premier.

Barely two months after tendering his resignation, it appears Brian Pallister may have worked behind the scenes to give Manitoba her first female premier. It seems Heather Stephenson, a former Manitoba health minister, was favoured by the establishment to clinch the party leadership on October 30 2021, and by so doing became the first female to attain the position of premier in the province of Manitoba. She takes the reins of power from Kelvin Goertzen who occupied the position in an acting capacity from September 1 2021. A difference of about 400 votes separated the contestants who were both female - former police officer, Shelly Glover coming up short in the political tussle for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party whose leaders regarded her as an anti-establishment candidate. Heather Stephenson becomes the 24th premier of Manitoba since the creation of the province back in 1870. Stephenson becomes progressive premier number 9. The progressives have held the position of premier more times than any other party in Manitoba, followed by the non-partisans who have held the office a total of six times (between 1870 and 1888) largely because the system of government

during Manitoba’s nascent years was non-partisan. The NDP and Liberals have each occupied the office a total of four times. One of her first official duties may be to call for a bye-election for Fort Whyte, to fill the vacancy created by the former premier. The choice of a female premier appears to be a well-thoughtout progressives plan as Manitoba approaches another election in 2023. The progressives seem to be leaving no stone unturned in their efforts to redeem their party from the unfavourable ratings they have endured, especially towards the end of the former premier’s reign. You will recall that the former premier got into some hot water with his “they came here to build” speech in the wake of the discoveries of unmarked graves at the site of former residential schools. Many a Manitoban may vote for a female candidate rather than a party. It is unclear what the opposition has in store to checkmate this smart move by the ruling Manitoba progressives. Can you spot the difference in the list below: François Legault, Doug Ford, John Horgan, Jason Kenney, Andrew Furey, Scott Moe, Tim Houston, Dennis King, Blaine Higgs, and Heather Stephenson. If you said Heather Stephenson, you’re right and may well be on your way to winning jeopardy.

Olympics

withdraw from the Moscow games due to the cold war. The Olympic games is usually held every four years, since 1896, and has always fallen on even-numbered years making this year’s games another first in modern history. The just concluded 2020 Summer Olympic games in Tokyo was carried over to the Summer of 2021 due to the ravaging effects of the Covid-19 virus at the time. However, Canada was instrumental in having the 2020 games postponed. You will recall that all major sports shut down one after the other anyway, cancelling whole seasons in the wake of the pandemic, leading many to call for an outright cancellation of the games. It might be interesting to note that the modern Olympic games has been cancelled only on three occasions - Berlin, in 1916; Tokyo, in 1940; and London, in 1944 due to world war 1 and 2.



“My New Life”

I got the Time I got the freedom I got the money
So when I talk it ain’t funny
Yeah I’m up sometimes then I’m down
But it ain’t no thing from right now
Some might ask hey how do I do it
And I say ain’t nothing to it
First I put myself in a place
Where I see nothing but my face
Then I ask God for direction
And He gives it to me for dissection
Of the subject into its parts
Then I heat it up with the facts
Come back 2 days later and it’s flat

Welcome to the Land of the Living
This is a place where you never ever give in
No matter how many times you may fall
You shake it off and give thanks for it all
There’s no beginning and there is no end
Just a life-cycle that comes again and again
I’m getting into the habit of getting things done
I’m getting things done and I’m having some fun
How do I know that I will go on and on
Is it cause after the dark comes the dawn
Or after the rain out comes the Sun
Or after the snow comes the Summer Season
So it is with sorrow and joy
Bitter roots sweet fruits destroy
The hour of strife connects us to a new life

The above poem was sent in by Nasser Ugoji. If you’re smitten by Nasser’s poetry and want to get in touch, please email the editor. Africa is the source and origin of poetry. How has your poetry evolved? Showcase your creativity by sending your poems to the editor at: richardelendu@prairieafrican.com.



Prairie African’s Freddy Muganza, Steinbach circulation executive, poses for a photo with the program director of Eastman Immigration Services, Gwen Reimer, in Steinbach.

The Nielson Global Trust reported that 65% of print readers typically take some form of action after viewing a newspaper ad.

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King Sonny Okosun - The Ozzidi King

Pan-Africanist and freedom-fighter, Chief Sonny Okosun was a musician of repute around the world. Okosun started out as a highlife musician, honing his skills under the legendary Sir Victor Uwaifo, after fleeing from his hometown in the mid-west of Nigeria (which was gradually becoming a theatre of war as a result of the Nigerian civil war) to Lagos, and toured with him to Japan and Europe. Okosun had earlier toured England when he represented Nigeria at the Commonwealth Arts Festival, in London, in 1965, mingling with the Rolling Stones; and later played as a rhythm guitarist for the Postmen band the following year. Okosun also played with the famous Fela Anikulapo Kuti, in the latter's Koola Lobitos band, and worked with Professor John Okwerri, a member of the Mbari movement started by Ulli Beier, alongside J. P. Clark and Wole Soyinka. In 1972, Sonny Okosun started his own band which later metamorphosed to Ozzidi (a fusion of jazz, Afro-beat, and reggae, interspersed with some local rhythm) band which he led almost until he exited the ephemeral space. He played the saxophone, flute, percussion, and the electric guitar. Popular for his 1977 hit album, *Fire in Soweto*,

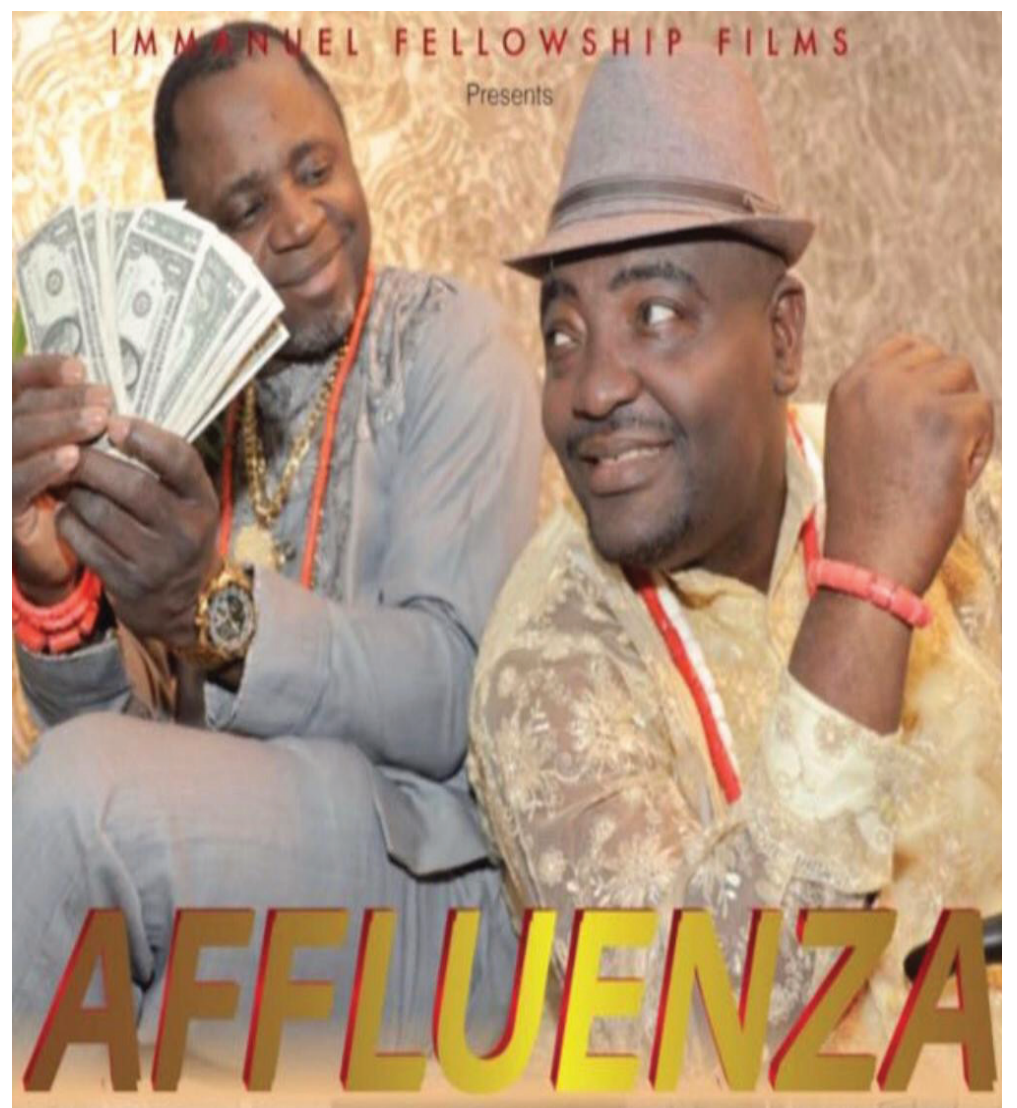
which was certified gold and brought him international acclaim, Okosun featured on the anti-apartheid album *Sun City*, and the 1986 film *Something Wild* which featured his song on the soundtrack. Other popular hits include *Papa's Land* (1977), *Fire in Soweto* (1978), *Holy Wars* (1978), *3rd World* (1981), *Mother And Child* (1982), *Which Way Nigeria?* (1983), *Liberation* (1984), *Revolution II* (1985), *Africa Now Or Never* (1986), *African Soldier* (1991), and *Power to the People*. Some of Okosun's early musical influences include the likes of Elvis Presley and the Beatles. An energetic performer who made it real whenever he was on stage or in the studio, Sonny Okosun was a thorn in the sides of the South African Apartheid regime. A well-known rumour that circulated during his days on top was that the Apartheid government feared that an invading force was coming from the west but never knew it was just the sounds of one man - the Ozzidi warrior, and this fear contributed to their hastily handing over power to Nelson Mandela.

Drama Has Since Taken Flight

Ever since the drama ministry took root at Immanuel Fellowship, it had only been a question of when and never if the neighbourhood ministry would eventually rise up to the occasion and claim its rightful place in the Canadian film industry. BIRTHED over a decade ago, by the loving and admirable couple, Revd. Dr. Deborah, and Revd. Dr. Sunday Olukoju, who both double as presiding ministers in the fellowship, Immanuel Fellowship Films appears to have found its bearings within the Canadian Christian community and beyond. Borne out of the need to save souls, Immanuel Fellowship Films first cut their creative teeth early in 2011, when they partnered with their mentors, the famed Mount Zion Film ministry, to produce their first movie, *Forces Against My Soul*. The fellowship has since produced a number of other titles some of them big hits necessitating translations into Arabic and other languages. The ministry has also partnered with other not-for-profit organizations in Canada and abroad in a bid to grow their film ministry. Some of the interesting movies they've produced include, *Forces Against My Soul* (2011), *The Finest Wine* (2013), and *The Mobile Prison* (2015), which was produced in conjunction with the Canadian outfit, Heaven Inspired Movies, here in Winnipeg, and became a big hit in South Sudan where it provided

succour to grieving faithfuls while at the same time serving the purposes of reconciliation within the new nation. The ministry followed this up with *Consuming Fire* in 2017. *Affluenza*, their latest movie, produced in 2021, is the first movie the fellowship would be producing solely on their own. In a chat with the president of the film ministry, Mr. Ebenezer Adesola Fatimehin, who works as a chartered accountant whenever he's not volunteering his time to the ministry, they have come a long way since the days of their humble beginnings. Mr. Fatimehin explains that the ministry which came into existence in 2011 has been consistent in its vision and mission as directed by the presiding leadership of the fellowship who provide an enabling environment for members of the ministry to actively participate in the overall vision of the fellowship which is to win souls. Many a preacher have now come to the realization of the need to garner a sizeable chunk of the viewing public if they're to effectively pass their message across, especially to a 21st century movie-going audience. And like Aristotle argued, in his now deified treatise, the *Poetics*, imitation is natural to man. In other words, he argued that showing has always been more effective than telling, and that is what Immanuel Fellowship seems to be doing right through their film ministry.

- At Immanuel Fellowship
- Now Produce Own Movies



Usman vs Covington 2

Reigning UFC welterweight champion of the world, Kamaru Usman, is set to defend his title yet again at UFC 268 on November 6th 2021. This time the event will be hosted at “the Mecca” of fight entertainment, Madison Square Garden, New York. No doubt, the event is bound to be grand given the reputation of not just the fighters but, also, the venue which has hosted the likes of Sugar Ray Robinson vs Jake LaMotta, Joe Louis vs Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali vs Joe Frazier 1 & 2, Evander Holyfield vs Lennox Lewis; and was the venue that produced the first ever UFC double champ, when Connor McGregor defeated Eddie Alvarez to add the lightweight belt to his featherweight crown. UFC 268 will be the second time Kamaru Usman and Colby Covington will be meeting in the octagon, and it promises to be great given that there’s so much bad blood between the two. Kamaru Usman made his first title defence against Colby Covington back in December 2019 at UFC 245. And it is on record that their first encounter was decided, by technical knockout, in favour of the current champion even though Covington continues to dispute that stoppage with just 50 seconds of their encounter left. On the allegations that his jaw was broken by Usman, in the 3rd round, lending credence to the stoppage, Colby felt he still had it in him to continue and was on the way to dethroning the champ, especially as one judge had Covington winning 39–37, and another 38–38, with the benefit of hindsight. Colby has since been calling for a rematch and another opportunity to prove himself. Though Usman had gone ahead to defend his title three times after their first match up, Chaos thinks the welterweight champ has been avoiding a rematch, even if he has been more active in the octagon since their first encounter. Though Colby has only fought once since that time, defeating former champion, Tyron Woodley, by stoppage. The rivalry between these two reminds one of the Usman/Masvidal rivalry and it seems we might end up with the same conclusion at UFC 268. You will recall that Usman was forced to accept a rematch with Masvidal (who holds the fastest knockout in UFC history, at five seconds) after their first fight went the distance with Masvidal claiming he only took the fight on six days’ notice. The UFC had quickly drafted Jorge Masvidal to fill in for Gilbert Burns after that fight fell through due to Burns testing positive for Covid-19. Burns however got his day in the octagon and was also finished by the champ via a 3rd round TKO. But as is customary with fighters at the top, Masvidal was able to arm-twist the champ into giving him a second title shot. The rest, like they say, is now history - the Nigerian Nightmare put on a coaching clinic in their rematch and handed Gamebred a textbook right-overhand knockout to close that chapter. Most people think this rematch will most likely go the same way given that Usman has now officially been recognized as the No. 1 pound for pound king in the franchise, a position only Jon Jones and Khabib Nurmagomedov had occupied in recent times. Usman who is on an 18-fight winning streak

is favourite to retain his welterweight crown and put to rest his rivalry with Colby Covington who has continued to remind the champ that he has no place in America and will be forced into exile after their rematch. It will be recalled that Usman won the title in a one-sided showdown against former champion, Tyron Woodley, and has since successfully defended the belt against the likes of Jorge Masvidal and Gilbert Burns with Covington being his first title defence. The welterweight king has also defeated the likes of Leon Edwards, Rafael dos Anjos, Demian Maia, Sergio Moraes, and Sean Strickland, with his only loss coming back in 2013 to Jose Caceres via a rear-naked choke.

Meanwhile, other interesting fights on the card include, #2 ranked lightweight and championship contender, Justin Gaethje squaring off against newcomer to the promotion and title contender in Michael Chandler; former lightweight champion, Frankie Edgar vs Marlon Vera; promising prospect, Edmen Shahbazyan vs. Nassourdine Imavov; Al Iaquinta (who went five rounds with former lightweight champion, Khabib) vs. Bobby Green; Shane Burgos vs. Billy Quarantillo; Alex Pereira vs. Andreas Michailidis; Melsik Baghdasaryan vs. TJ Laramie; and Gian Villante vs. Chris Barnett, to mention a few. The women’s strawweight division will also see action when current champion, ThugRose Namajunas, faces former champion, Zhang Weili in a rematch and title defence.

In another development, the UFC is having a hard time convincing current heavyweight champion, Cameroon’s Francis Ngannou, to sign a contract extension. It will be recalled that the fight prodigy is unhappy



with the way he’s treated at the promotion, being the baddest man on the planet, and has also voiced his concerns about how little professional fighters are paid compared to YouTube stars who fight for fun. Ngannou, who many see as the future of the organization appears to be in limbo even with the much-touted unification fight against his former sparring partner. The heavyweight champ had called for a fight with the legendary Jon Jones, the most decorated fighter in UFC history, but was shocked to be offered a fight against Derek Lewis, first, and now, Ciryl Gane, the UFC’s fast rising star in the heavyweight division. The man at the apex of the

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PREMIER LEAGUE

LaLiga

SERIE A

BUNDESLIGA

LIGUE 1

UEFA Champions League

Friday Nov 5 (3:00pm)
Southampton vs Aston Villa

Saturday Nov 6 (7:30am)
Manchester Utd vs Manchester City

Saturday Nov 6 (10:00am)
Chelsea vs Burnley

Saturday Nov 6 (10:00am)
Crystal Palace vs Wolves

Saturday Nov 6 (10:00am)
Brentford vs Norwich

Saturday Nov 6 (12:30pm)
Brighton vs Newcastle

Saturday Nov 20 (6:30am)
Leicester vs Chelsea

Saturday Nov 20 (9:00am)
Aston Villa vs Brighton

Saturday Nov 20 (9:00am)
Burnley vs Crystal Palace

Saturday Nov 20 (9:00am)
Newcastle vs Brentford

Saturday Nov 20 (9:00am)
Norwich vs Southampton

Saturday Nov 20 (9:00am)
Watford vs Manchester Utd

Saturday Nov 20 (9:00am)
Wolves vs West Ham

Sunday Nov 7 (8:00am)
Arsenal vs Watford

Sunday Nov 7 (8:00am)
Everton vs Tottenham

Sunday Nov 7 (8:00am)
Leeds vs Leicester

Sunday Nov 7 (10:30am)
West Ham vs Liverpool

Sunday Nov 21 (8:00am)
Manchester City vs Everton

Sunday Nov 21 (10:30am)
Tottenham vs Leeds

Saturday Nov 27 (6:30am)
Arsenal vs Newcastle

Saturday Nov 27 (9:00am)
Crystal Palace vs Aston Villa

Saturday Nov 27 (9:00am)
Liverpool vs Southampton

Saturday Nov 27 (9:00am)
Norwich vs Wolves

Saturday Nov 27 (11:30am)
Brighton vs Leeds

Saturday Nov 28 (8:00am)
Brentford vs Everton

Saturday Nov 28 (8:00am)
Burnley vs Tottenham

Xcues' Star Matches

**Man Utd vs Man City
Sat Nov 6 (8:00am)**

**Liverpool vs Arsenal
Sat Nov 20 (11:30am)**

**Man City vs West Ham
Sun Nov 28 (8:00am)**

**Chelsea vs Man Utd
Sun Nov 28 (10:30am)**

**Everton vs Liverpool
Wed Dec 1 (2:15pm)**

**Man Utd vs Arsenal
Thur Dec 2 (2:15pm)**

Nov 23 2021

Dynamo vs Bayern 11:45am

Villareal vs Man Utd 11:45am

Barca vs Benfica 2:00pm

Young Boys vs Atalanta 2:00pm

Losc vs Salzburg 2:00pm

Sevilla vs Wolfsburg 2:00pm

Malmö vs Zenith 2:00pm

Chelsea vs Juventus 2:00pm

Nov 24 2021

Besiktas vs Ajax 11:45pm

Inter vs Shakhtar 11:45pm

Brugge vs Leipzig 2:00pm

Man City vs PSG 2:00pm

Atletico vs Ac Milan 2:00pm

Liverpool vs Porto 2:00pm

Sporting vs Dortmund 2:00pm

Sheriff vs R. Maldrid 2:00pm

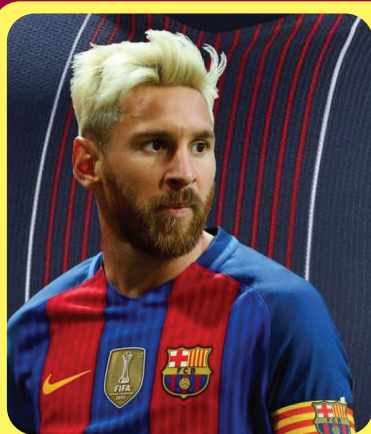
Come let us watch together over coffee and some Italian food.
We will keep a cup for you.

Premiership									
P	Club	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1.	Chelsea	10	8	1	1	26	3	23	25
2.	Liverpool	10	6	4	0	29	8	21	22
3.	Man City	10	6	2	2	20	6	14	20
4.	West Ham	10	6	2	2	20	11	9	20
5.	Man U	10	5	2	3	19	15	4	17
6.	Arsenal	10	5	2	3	12	13	-1	17
7.	Wolves	10	5	1	4	11	10	1	16
8.	Brighton	10	4	4	2	11	11	0	16
9.	Tottenham	9	5	0	5	9	16	-7	15
10.	Everton	10	4	2	4	16	16	0	14
11.	Leicester	9	4	2	4	15	17	-2	14
12.	Brentford	10	3	3	4	12	12	0	12
13.	C. Palace	10	2	6	2	13	14	-1	12
14.	S/thampton	10	2	5	3	9	12	-3	11
15.	Aston Villa	10	3	1	6	14	19	-5	10
16.	Watford	10	3	1	6	12	18	-6	10
17.	Leeds	10	2	4	4	10	17	-7	10
18.	Burnley	10	1	4	5	10	16	-6	7
19.	Newcastle	10	0	4	6	11	23	-12	4
20.	Norwich	10	0	2	8	3	25	-22	2

La Liga									
P	Club	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1.	Sociedad	12	7	4	1	17	10	7	25
2.	R.Madrid	11	7	3	1	26	12	14	24
3.	Sevilla	11	7	3	1	19	7	12	24
4.	A. Madrid	11	6	4	1	18	10	8	22
5.	R. Betis	12	6	3	3	19	15	4	21
6.	Vallencano	11	6	2	4	18	12	6	20
7.	Osasuna	12	5	4	3	14	15	-1	19
8.	A. Bilbao	11	4	6	1	11	7	4	18
9.	Barcelona	11	4	4	3	16	12	4	16
10.	Valencia	12	4	4	4	18	17	-1	16
11.	Espanyol	12	3	5	4	12	13	-1	14
12.	Mallorca	12	3	5	4	11	17	-6	14
13.	Villarreal	11	2	6	3	13	12	1	12
14.	Granada	11	2	5	4	11	14	-3	11
15.	Celta Vigo	12	3	2	7	10	14	-4	11
16.	Elche	11	2	4	6	9	15	-6	10
17.	Alaves	11	3	1	7	6	14	-8	10
18.	Cadiz	12	1	6	5	11	19	-8	9
19.	Levante	12	0	6	6	11	23	-12	6
20.	Getafe	12	1	3	8	6	18	-12	6

Serie A									
P	Club	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1.	Napoli	11	10	1	0	23	3	15	31
2.	AC Milan	11	10	1	0	25	10	15	31
3.	Inter	11	7	3	1	28	12	16	24
4.	Roma	11	6	1	4	19	12	7	19
5.	Atalanta	11	5	4	2	20	14	6	19
6.	Lazio	11	5	3	3	22	19	3	18
7.	Fiorentina	11	6	0	5	16	13	3	18
8.	H. Verona	11	4	3	4	24	20	4	15
9.	Juventus	11	4	3	4	15	15	0	15
10.	Bologna	11	4	3	4	17	22	-5	15
11.	Empoli	11	5	0	6	16	21	-5	15
12.	Torino	11	4	2	5	15	11	4	14
13.	Sassuolo	11	4	2	5	15	15	0	14
14.	Udinese	11	2	5	4	12	16	-4	11
15.	Sampdoria	11	2	3	6	14	23	-9	9
16.	Venezia	11	2	3	6	8	17	-9	9
17.	Genoa	11	1	5	5	15	22	-7	8
18.	Spezia	11	2	2	7	12	26	-14	8
19.	Salernitana	11	2	1	8	10	23	-13	7
20.	Cagliari	10	1	3	7	12	24	-10	6

Ligue 1									
P	Club	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1.	PSG	12	10	1	1	26	11	15	31
2.	Nice	12	7	3	2	23	9	14	23
3.	Marseille	12	6	4	2	20	12	8	22
4.	Lens	12	6	3	3	21	14	7	21
5.	Rennes	12	5	4	3	18	11	7	19
6.	Lyon	12	5	4	3	20	17	3	19
7.	Strasbourg	12	5	2	5	22	16	6	17
8.	Angers	12	4	5	3	18	15	3	17
9.	Nantes	12	5	2	5	16	14	2	17
10.	Monaco	12	5	2	5	17	16	1	17
11.	Montpellier	12	4	4	4	20	19	1	16
12.	Lille	12	4	3	5	15	18	-3	15
13.	Lorient	12	3	6	3	12	18	-6	15
14.	Troyes	12	3	4	5	13	17	4	13
15.	Clermont	12	3	4	5	14	23	-9	13
16.	Bordeaux	12	2	6	4	16	24	-8	12
17.	Reims	12	2	5	5	14	17	-3	11
18.	Brest	12	1	6	5	14	20	-6	9
19.	Metz	12	1	4	7	13	27	-14	7
20.	S. Etienne	12	0	6	6	12	26	-14	6



Paris Saint Germain's Lionel Messi, Dortmund's Erling Halaand, Chelsea's Romelu Lukaku, Kylian Mbappe of PSG, and Chelsea's Ngolo Kante.

Notable Transfers This Season. - Did Clubs Get The Players They Wanted?

Some players move to a new club or a new league and become instant hits, and their impact can be measured within a very short time. Early last season, European soccer did not do a lot of business because of the pandemic. Clubs had to actually cut down on salaries, many with players' consent. So, lavishing out

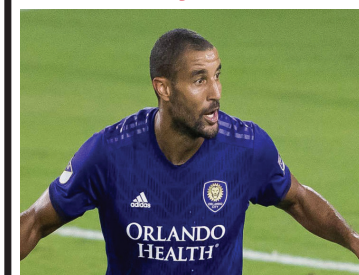
huge amounts of cash to buy new players would have been seen as immoral, especially after convincing the ones you have to take a pay cut. But by the end of the season, it appeared things began to improve. Not that we have gotten to where we want to be now, but it is a lot better than where we were this time last year. The previous season saw very few successful transfers in the area of outright buys save for direct swap deals, but the beginning of 2021 appears to have been different. A successful transfer market is a sign that things are gradually returning back to normal, at least, in the world of soccer. Some notable transfer businesses may have taken place especially with the big clubs, some of whom spent lavish sums to land their target. But just how successful were they in the market this season? Everybody now knows Lionel Messi's transfer out of the Nou Camp happened at last, and Ronaldo and Romelu

Lukaku, two players that lit Serie A last season, also moved away from Italy to England. But who were the gainers and losers in this year's transfer market? Did the clubs get the players they were hoping for when the 2021/22 season kicked off? Barcelona and Juventus, for example, obviously lost big time as can be seen in their current form while the likes of Chelsea, Manchester United, Inter, Paris Saint Germain, Bayern, Atletico, and Liverpool appeared to have gained - not necessarily by spending a lot in the market but also by keeping their squads intact and adding a couple good players to sharpen the outlook of the team. A club like PSG may be considered to have done smart business, not just by snapping up Messi from Barca, on a free transfer, at the very last minute, but with all the speculation surrounding their own superstars they were able to keep them and add the necessary players they needed for a balanced team. For example, PSG's signing of the Moroccan, Achraf Hakimi, an attacking right back from Inter, was a really smart move. The former Barcelona man is no doubt the hottest right back in the top five European leagues today. That position has been lacking since the exit of Dani Alves from the club, and bringing in Hakimi has strengthened the team, creating balance and giving PSG more options going forward. Don't forget they also signed Donnarumma and Wijnaldum on free transfers - smart business. In the English premier league, one can also see the impact of Leicester's Patson Daka, for example. A player they bought recently from RB Salzburg for \$26.5m. The Zambian national has been touted as the new Jamie Vardy and is living up to the hype. His speed and quick thinking, even from the middle of the pitch, means Leicester should have no sleepless nights if Vardy decides to retire. They also added Ademola Lookman (loan) and Boubakary Soumare from Lille - the club is thinking of securing the future. Also, the impact of Ronaldo and Lukaku who moved to Manchester United and Chelsea respectively, has been beautiful for fans to see. That Juventus is suffering from a goal-drought and currently languishing in mid-table in Serie A is evident of Ronaldo's prowess as a player, irrespective of whatever Juve's old rear guards think. Cristiano is a player whose impact can be felt immediately. Also, his impact can be measured by two indices - his presence and his absence. When Ronaldo left Real Madrid, their seasonal goal count reduced. For a player who has the ability to score around 50 goals a season (may be fewer because he's slowing down now), his presence or absence from any team would be glaring for all to see. Apart from his goals,

Cristiano also has a charisma that makes other players want to measure up, especially if he's allowed to have his way in the dressing room. United also added Raphael Varane and Jadon Sancho during the transfer window. While Liverpool allowed a couple squad players like Wijnaldum to leave on a free, Manchester City appeared to have paid the highest transfer fee this season bringing in Jack Grealish from Aston Villa for around a whopping \$100m. Also, Romelu Lukaku moved back to Chelsea a more matured player and became the missing link in coach Tuchel's wonder team. If Chelsea can find a way to keep Lukaku fit for a better part of the season, then other premier league teams can kiss the trophy goodbye. In Spain, while Atletico became stronger by re-signing their former talisman, Antoine Griezmann, on loan from Barcelona, another talisman of old was headed in the opposite direction. It seems both Barcelona and Real Madrid became weaker, especially the former who continue to face coaching challenges. You must have a driver first if you hope to lead a group of passengers to a desired destination. Aside from losing Messi, Barcelona was unable to attract top quality players like their contemporaries. In fact, Messi's exit led to the exodus of some high-profile talents in the team. Some others may also exit in January.



Canadian Player Profile



Tesho Akindele

Age: 29
Club: Orlando City
Number: 13
Position: Attacker
Height: 1.85m (6ft 1)
Birthplace: Calgary, AB
Youth Clubs
Colorado Mines Orediggers
Senior Career
Real Colorado Foxes 2013
FC Dallas 2014/18
Orlando City 2019-P
National Team
Canada U17 2009
Canada Men 2015-P



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