

## ■ **ATHLETICS:** EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP

# JNBS renews support of young athletes

THE JAMAICA National Building Society (JNBS) yesterday continued 'opening doors in sports' when it announced its continuing support of the Eastern Athletics Championship.

Details for the two-day championships scheduled to start on Monday at Stadium East were disclosed at a press briefing held at Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel in Kingston on Tuesday. In their 18th year, JNBS support to the championships runs to the tune of more than \$700,000, with associate sponsor, Jamaica Public Service Company (JPSCo), investing an additional \$450,000.

The Eastern Championships, which will serve as qualifying for Boys and Girls Champs, has a history of showcasing top national athletes such as Juliet Cuthbert, Nicole Mitchell, Rose Allwood, Jackie Pusey, Lilieth Hodges and Lawrence Christie.

Marketing and Distribution Executive at JNBS, Emile Spence, remembered his company's first donation which took place in Port Antonio, Portland.

"The Eastern Champs at that stage was something of a parochial event involving about

seven or eight schools from an area which enjoyed Cinderella status on the athletics landscape," Spence said.

### **A VISION**

"But there was a vision and a dream ... a vision of harnessing and developing latent talent by providing the developmental framework ... and a dream that one day the young athletes from St. Mary, Portland and St. Thomas would stand tall and proud beside their counterparts from the other parishes, particularly Kingston, St. Andrew, Manchester, St. Elizabeth, Clarendon and St. Catherine.

More than 1,100 athletes from the 20-member schools have so far registered for 80 events which will be contested in Classes One, Two, Three and Four. Action is scheduled to start 8:30 on the opening day, however, the hurdles will run as time-final on Tuesday's second day.