

SPORTS PAGE-HOLMWOOD 7 AND COUNTING

Holmwood Technical, paced by a scintillating performance from new sensation Dianna Johnson, who won three gold medals, all in record times, cruised to their seventh straight girls' title as the ISSA/GraceKennedy Girls National Championships ended at the National Stadium last night. The Class Four athlete won the 100m and 200m and ran a leg on the relay team which became the first Class Four team to clock sub-48 seconds at Champs.

Jura Levy of Vere Technical (centre) wins the Girls Class One 200 metres on the final day of Champs at the National Stadium yesterday. (Photo: Bryan Cummings)



The Maurice Wilson-coached team cruised to an overwhelming win, beating former champions Vere Technical by well over 150 points - 400.5 to 194.50. Edwin Allen (203) and Manchester High (154.5) earlier shook off adversities to finish in the top four, while St Jago were fifth with 127 and Wolmer's Girls (121) finished sixth and were the top Corporate Area school. "The team rose to the occasion. Saturday is Holmwood's day at Champs," Wilson told the Sunday Observer last night. He dismissed suggestions that they might have won it from Thursday's big day, saying "we're not in the habit of giving up, we've been down by points not so long ago but we came back." There were five double winners, with four of them from Holmwood, including the exciting Johnson who added the Class Four 200m record to the 100m mark set on Friday. Johnson contributed to a third record when she led the 4x100m team to victory in a spanking 47.64 seconds, to smash the old mark of 48.02 established in 2005 by Manchester. Three records were broken yesterday and one equalled as Holmwood won three of the four sprint relays - Classes One, Two and Four - while Vere won in Class Three. The Christiana girls also took the 4x400m Open in a record 3:34.35 ahead of a depleted Manchester, with Edwin Allen third. Holmwood started the rout from the first two finals as Chris-Ann Gordon and Petra Fanty landed the 400m Class Three and Two, respectively. Gordon just missed the meet record of 52.52 seconds, clocking 52.68 to hold off Sherika Jackson of Vere (53.13), with St Jago's Kadejah Haje third in 56.25. Fanty's Class Two time was slower than the first two in Class Three, but her 54.24secs was good enough for nine points and the gold ahead of Wolmer's' Danielle Downie, 54.34, ahead of Herbert Morrison's Antonique Campbell and Shavine Hodges. There was an upset in the Class One final where Wolmer's Jodi-Ann Muir edged World Junior Championships semi-finalist Latoya McDermott on the line in 53.45, while Edwin Allen High's Amoy Blake was third in 54.58. Holmwood's Johnson stole the limelight as she completed the Class Four double by setting a second record, 24.62 seconds, erasing the 24.70 set by Dianne Dietrich in 1999. Walters copped Class Two in 24.09 seconds ahead of a fast finishing Antonique Campbell of Herbert Morrison (24.32 seconds) and Shericka Moulton of Holmwood, 24.40 seconds. Jackson ran a fast 23.99 seconds to win Class Three ahead of Chanice Bonner of Queens (24.57 seconds) and Kimone Smith of Holmwood Technical 24.77 seconds. Class Three 100m champion Osheen Erskine of Holmwood captured a double, taking the Class Three 80m hurdles in 11.36 seconds, just .03 off the record set in 1996 by Kareecia Thompson, as her teammate Janieve Russell was second in 11.46 seconds just holding off St Jago's Chrisdale McCarty who was third in 11.49 seconds.