



Newsletter for members and friends of Banzaï

Editorial

Nº 125 - June 2026

The regional championship organized by the LVBRO in collaboration with the FHVB was ended on June 7 th. Banzaï participated with its two teams. Unfortunately, the semi-finals marked the end of the journey for both teams. We can be disappointed by the final result for both teams, but also satisfied because, despite the many difficulties, our young players remained motivated until the end, giving their best and fighting for a good result in every match. Keeping these teams active has been very difficult given the club's precarious financial situation.

We are pleased to have participated with a young men's team issued from our volleyball school, which has made remarkable progress over the past two seasons, sometimes achieving surprising results. However, they were unable to compete with better-equipped teams with long-standing experience. We are also pleased with our female players who, despite a small squad and injuries, remained motivated in their quest for victory. Unfortunately, victory sometimes eluded them against more skilled opponents. The management committee must take on the challenge of providing better support to our teams next season and find the necessary resources to achieve this. The search for sponsors is urgent, and we hope to succeed. In any case, we congratulate our male and female players for their performances. We wish them to stay motivated and to return next season, stronger than ever.

Rev. Jan, treasurer



Sports activities

The future of Banzaï

On Thursday, March 5, we attended a friendly match at Union School (Juvénat – Pétion-Ville). A match that pitted the school's female team against a Banzaï team made up of a group of young players from our volleyball school, a group coached by Israel Florestal. Our girls won this very close match: Banzaï vs Union School: 2-1 (13-25/27-25/16-14). We had the return match on Thursday, March 19 at the same place, this time won by the Union School team: Union School vs Banzaï 2-0 (25-20/26-24).



On Saturday, March 28, our this young team had the opportunity to play another friendly match, this time at home, at the Ayiti Cheri gymnasium. There, our girls faced a young promising team from Tomassin. A beautiful show in front of many fans ended with an unquestionable victory for our girls. Banzaï vs Power Star: 3 – 0 (25-20/25-20/25-21).



The 2026 summer camp

We won't have a traditional summer camp this year. It will be replaced by training sessions for Banzaï hopefuls and the kids who were at volleyball school, three afternoons a week, during July and august, under the guidance of Roland Exavier, James Cherestal, and Israel Florestal.

Sports marathon organized by the Haitian Olympic Committee (COH)

The national Flag Day, on May 18, which fell on a Monday this year, was an opportunity for the Haitian Olympic Committee (COH) to organize a sports marathon, a futsal championship for school teams. For this, they rented the Ayiti Cheri gymnasium on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17. The sports hall was specially decorated for the occasion. Two unforgettable sports days were experienced. A perfect organization where a large audience was able to enjoy the competitions between boys' and girls' teams, with an appreciated performance by three different dance groups showcasing often very acrobatic choreography. On Sunday afternoon, there was the awarding of medals, with short speeches from the president of the COH, the police chief of Delmas, and the



main sponsor (AIC), who had effectively ensured publicity for his company. Some praise was given to Father Jan and the Scheut missionaries for the existence of this unique sports hall, and they expressed the request for support to complete the work. Many people had been invited. It was noted that none of the various invited ministers showed up, even though additional VIP seats had been prepared for them. The Minister of Youth and Sports, too, was conspicuously absent. Once again, a proof that the Haitian government simply does not pay attention to youth.



The fact that this event was able to take place in our gym is not negligible and opens doors to greater recognition among people who could, in one way or another, help accelerate the final completion of the construction.



Banzaï's thirtieth anniversary

On Tuesday, May 19, Banzaï celebrated 30 years of existence. Since the anniversary fell on a Tuesday, the



steering committee decided to organize the party on Saturday, May 23. We made it a day of relaxation with a very varied program. We started with several volleyball sets played by the youth from our volleyball school. We were able to attend a video presentation that showcased Banzaï's rich journey over its 30 years of existence. Four young girls, members of the club, delighted the audience with a few dance performances. After that, everyone present received a delicious meal. At the beginning of the evening, we had a volleyball match played between two teams made up of young Banzaï players reinforced with players from a friendly club. Finally, a bottle of champagne was opened and a piece of cake was. A beautiful party, well spent to the satisfaction of all the participants. Happy birthday, Banzaï.



The regular championship of the LVBRO

On Sunday, February 22, the Banzaï women's team participated in the marathon organized by the LVBRO/FHVB at the Ayiti Cheri gymnasium, as part of the regular season championship. All the matches were played on two courts inside the gymnasium. Our girls played 4 matches with two wins and two losses. Banzaï vs Magic: 0-2 (21-25/13-25) Banzaï vs Tigresses: 0-2 (13-25/18-25), Banzaï vs Rinaldi: 2-0 (25-11/25-7) and then Banzaï vs Fusion: 2-0 (25-16/25-16). The team secured third place in the standings of this marathon. The team was significantly handicapped by a lack of players due to the absence of two of our best players for health and injury reasons.

On Sunday, March 1, it was the turn of our men's team for their marathon. There were six teams. Each team had 4 to play, for a total of 15 matches for the day, of which indeed 13 were played. Banzaï lost all four of its matches: Banzaï vs SLG: 0-2 (20-25 / 17-25), Banzaï vs Tigers: 0-2 (9-25 / 15-25), Banzaï vs Rinaldi: 0-2 (22-25 / 15-25), and then Banzaï vs Fusion: 1-2 (24-25 / 25-24 / 10-15). They played their last match of the marathon on



Friday, March 6. Banzaï vs Magic: 0-2 (14-25 / 19-25). On Sunday, March 8, the Banzaï women's team played their second return match against the Magic club team, a match lost in 3 sets. On March 22, Banzaï played two matches: Our men's team faced the Saint Louis de Gonzague team: SLG vs Banzaï: 3 – 1 (23-25/25-15/25-19/25-13) and our women's team took the upper hand against Rinaldi: Banzaï vs Rinaldi: 3 – 0 (25-12/25-14/25-15).

The championship continued on Sunday, March 29 with several matches. The men's team encountered the Fusion team along the way. The match ended with a victory for Banzaï: Banzaï vs Fusion 3 – 1 (20-25/25-17/26-24/25-20). Then, Banzaï's men's team played its last match in the return series on Wednesday, May 3, against the Rinaldi team, a match narrowly won by Banzaï: Banzaï vs Rinaldi: 3-2 (15-25/25-20/22-25/25-12/15-13). Thus qualified for the quarter-finals, Banzaï faced Rinaldi again, a match won by Banzaï: Rinaldi vs Banzaï: 0-3 (17-25/23-25/19-25).

On Sunday, May 8, our two teams played their first semi-finals. The Banzaï girls against the Tigresses. They won the first set and were leading in the second set (21–15), at which point they collapsed, handing an undisputed victory to the Tigresses. Tigresses – Banzaï: 3-1 (22-25/25-21/25-14/25-16). The Banzaï men's team faced the Tigers. Tigers vs Banzaï: 3-0 (25-19/25-21/25-9). On Tuesday, May 19, the club's thirtieth anniversary, our women's team played their second and final semi-final, lost to the Tigresses. Tigresses vs Banzaï: 3-1 (25-13/17-25/25-18/25-16). This thus ends the regular championship for them. On Thursday, May 21, our men's team played the second semi-final, lost in front of a superior Tigers team. Banzaï vs Tigers: 0-3 (13-25/21-25/15-25). The championship thus ends for them as well.

The finals were contested between the teams of the Magic club and ASTT, in both the women's and men's categories. The Tigresses managed the feat of beating Magic twice and are crowned champions. On the men's side, it was Magic who prevailed over the Tigers twice as well. The championship trophy is theirs. The last finals were played on Thursday, June 4, at the Ayiti Cheri gymnasium, where the audience present was able to witness two breathtaking matches. Great show. Thus ended the regular LVBRO championship, a very successful championship.



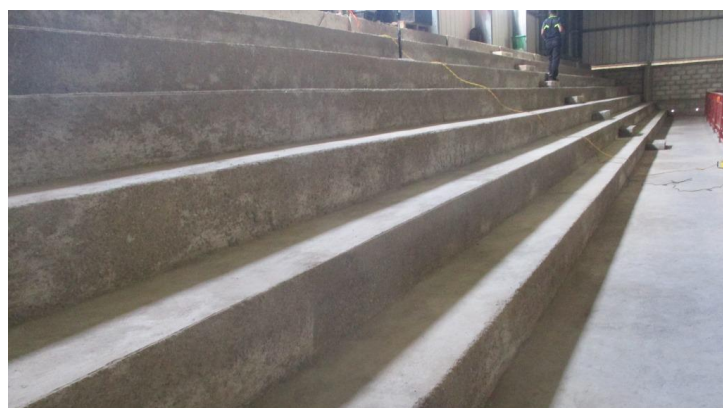
The construction of the sports hall « Ayiti Cheri »

We are moving forward very slowly

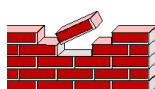
Thanks to aid received from the Ministry of Economy and Finance, we were able to make good progress with the construction of the gymnasium. The aid granted was intended for the installation of a railing with panels for advertising all around the playing field and the completion of the passage corridors. This work has really been done. With that, the interior of the gymnasium has taken on a new look. We are aware that we still have some work left to allow us to lay the linoleum, which has been sitting in a warehouse for more than two years already.



Having received a contribution from the Ayiti Cheri group, the daily management of the center decided to actually use this money to continue the interior development of the room, that is to say, the plastering of the small walls that delimit the playground and the stands. We actually started the work on Monday, May 11.



At the same time, we are happy to learn that former club members living abroad (United States, Canada, and Belgium), who are more than 50 in number and active in a WhatsApp group, are committed to raising \$7,000.00 that we need for the purchase of volleyball equipment from Jaypro in the USA, through monthly contributions. At the time of the publication of this bulletin, we already have \$2,195.00. Many thanks to all those who remain faithful to the monthly meeting for a donation ranging from \$10 to \$120.



The management of the Théophile Verbist center

The construction of a sports center and the "Ayiti Cheri" gymnasium is a project that began in 2012 by Father Jan. Since October 2022, the management of this project has been handed over to the Scheut missionaries, a religious congregation that includes Father Jan among its members. There is a commission responsible for managing the Théophile Verbist center, made up of 5 priests, colleagues of Father Jan. The Théophile Verbist center is a project for the benefit of young people. This is already evident. But we must also recognize how the managers are struggling to complete the construction of the sports hall, so that it becomes a gymnasium worthy of the name and profitable. To reach where we are now, we were able to count on the help of many benefactors abroad while we received only minimal support in Haiti. It is mainly the Belgian NGO, called Ayiti Cheri, which provided us with remarkable assistance.

In order for us to move forward with the completion of the gymnasium, we want to rely more on the contribution of those who use the space for their activities. That is why we want to establish stricter admission conditions for the center. This way, we have managed to set your fixed rates.

Banzaï has the center as the club's headquarters, allowing him, in agreement with the CICM center directors, to organize the club's regular activities, such as training sessions, matches, meetings, volleyball school, summer camp, etc.

**We share with our readers a text produced by a fan of the club on the occasion of Flag Day
(Poem in Creole)**

Drapo m

*Mon drapo, mon joli peti drapo, pou li yo te toujou wete chapo
Yon gwo kout chapo, pou tout ansyen nou yo, pou nou yo t ap bat bravo.
Paske m se yon pèp ki gen nivo, malgre kout boulet kanno
Anba yon flannm dolèy cho, drapo n te toujou monte byen wo.
Nan listwa n yo te toujou gadè n kòm Ewo
Nan listwa n yo te toujou gadè n kon tòwo
Nou se desandan afrikano. Kote n pase pou met la glwa nan kè yo
Nou sòti nan Dawomen yo. Nou se rasin Beninwa yo.
Nou toujou kwè nan moun ki di n ape de yo, malgre tout ipokrizi yo
Malgre tout trayizon yo. N ap di yo, nou fyè paske n se Aisyano
Katrin Flon yon fanm bèl koulè, li te koud drapo n ak de koulè
Akaye pa t janm yon bèl flè san z odè. Se sa k fè, nan listwa yo te ba li respè
Pa yon respè pèpè, Pa yon respè pou fè moun wè
Men yon respè pou n toujou gadè tèt nou anlè, San n pa machè tèt atè.*



*Drapo n se listwa nou
Drapo n se eritaj nou
Drapo n se san nou
Drapo se nanm nou*

*Dickemson Dorélien
14/5/2026*