

## 2<sup>nd</sup> CITY HOCKEY STARS IN U.S. TOURNEY

A uniquely cosmopolitan hockey team from Freeport competed in the John F. Kennedy Memorial Field Hockey Tournament in Washington, D.C. between October 10 and 13.

The team was from the Freeport Rugby Club and included Bahamians, Canadians, Americans and Jamaicans.

One of the objectives of the tournament was to stimulate international fellowship. The Bahamas competed against teams from the United States, the Netherlands Antilles, India, Jamaica, Britain and a team of Dutch citizens living in Washington.

The cosmopolitan make-up of the Bahamian team was a reflection of the international character of Freeport, the Bahamas' second city. Several of the team members were employees of the chemical and oil refining industries which

were attracted to the island by Freeport's investment incentives.

The team was more than a showpiece for international harmony, however, since it included the Bahamas National 6-a-side champions and a number of English county players.

Led by captain Mark Higgins, the team made a good account of itself in Washington. It has held fixtures against teams from Bermuda, England, the US, the Caribbean and the occasional British naval ship. The Freeport pitch is regarded as the finest in the Caribbean area and players have recently been coached by the British National Indoor Hockey coach. The club did not field a women's team for the tournament.

The Freeport Rugby Club was formed in 1967. Rugby is a British game, similar to American football but without the padding.

The club used to play against visiting Royal Navy ships. When the ships began to offer hockey teams as well, the club developed its own hockey wing to compete and also expanded into soccer.

The Freeport Rugby Club has 130 members. Its hockey occasionally has teams visiting from as far afield as Britain. Last year two English teams, Epsom and Broxbourne, played in Freeport. Broxbourne is fifth in the British Field Hockey League. American university men's and women's teams are frequent visitors and occasionally the Royal Navy still sails by with a good team.



**FIFTEEN MEMBERS** of the Freeport Rugby and Hockey Club traveled to Washington, D.C. to compete in the John F. Kennedy Memorial Field Hockey Tournament between October 10 and 13. The team competed against sides from Curacao, the USA, Jamaica, India, and Britain, among others.