

April 8, 2007

By Dominic Lee

The Carifta Swim Championships once more showcased a series of stellar performances on the second evening of competition. The spectators in the National Stadium were witness to a superb spectacle from the region's finest age group swimmers who collectively dismantled eleven meet records. The **French Antilles** maintained the number one slot amassing **488.50 points** with the **Bahamas** close behind (**457**) and **Trinidad and Tobago**(**434.50**) remaining in third.

**Meg Fisher-Wells** of the Cayman Islands had a breakthrough night where she took individual titles in two events. Fisher-Wells first struck gold in the Girls 15-17 100 Back (**1:09.84**) and then returned to win the 400 I.M in convincing fashion(**5:14.31**), breaking the previous mark held by Caymanian Olympian Heather Roffey.

The two Bahamian bullets **McKayla Lightbourn** and **Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace** collectively racked up six more medals(5 gold, one silver). Lightbourn achieved an amazing feat by erasing Olympic finalist, Janelle Atkinson's ten year 13-14 200 Free standard with a **2:09.74** swim. On the other hand, Wallace made her name a familiar fixture in the record books after attacking her race to prevail **29.07** in the Girls 15-17 50 Fly lowering the standard held by Alia Atkinson.

Not to be outdone, **Kimberlee John Williams**(Trinidad and Tobago) also made her country proud by winning two gold medals, first in the Girls 11-12 200 free then by taking the crown in the 50 Fly in a new Carifta record (**30.50**). The home crowd was awoken from its slumber by **Kendese Nangle** who won her second gold medal of the meet in the Girls 11-12 100 Back with yet another meet record(**1:11.17**). Her team mate **Victoria Ho** fought valiantly to earn a bronze medal finish in the Girls 13-14 400 I.M. Other gold medal winners from the evening were turned in by **Cherelle Thompson**(Trinidad and Tobago) in the Girls 13-14 50 Fly(**30.74**) and **Bria Deveaux**(Bahamas) in the Girls 11-12 400 I.M(**5:38.70**).

On the male side, the night belonged to **Branden Whitehurst** (US Virgin Islands). Whitehurst, who trains at the Bolles School, won the first two medals for his country in gold medal fashion. He captured the Boys 15-17 400 I.M (**4:44.89**) and the 200 Free in a commendable time of **1:55.22** where he led from the start and never looked back. Aruban **Mickey Van Der Vaart**(1:56.86) and Caymanian **Brett Fraser**(1:58.62) rounded out the

field. Fraser then went on to win the Boys 15-17 100 Back in **59.89** to shave almost three seconds off of his previous personal best. **Vereance Burrows**(Bahamas) soared to victory in the Boys 15-17 50 Fly posting a **25.39**, just narrowly missing his morning standard of **25.16**.

**Valy Pelagie** (French Antilles) and **Evante Gibson**(Bahamas) made some noise in the younger division as they set meet record marks in the Boys 11-12 200 Free(**2:09.33**) and 50 Fly(**28.44**) respectively. The tandem of **Cadell Lyons** and **Christian Homer**, both representing Trinidad and Tobago, executed a one-two punch in the Boys 13-14 50 Fly. Lyon's lightning quick time of **25.66** was his first meet record. Other gold medalists included **Lorys Bourelly**(French Antilles) in the Boys 13-14 200 Free (2:01.47), **Glenn Gemerts**(Suriname) in the 11-12 100 Back(1:08.28) and **Laurent Geran**(French Antilles) in the 11-12 400 I.M(5:12.71).

Relay action followed a familiar trend to that of the previous night. The Jamaican contingent of **Brittany Kenny**, **Kendese Nangle**, **Raynae Hall** and **Alexia Royal-Eatmon** collected its second relay gold in the Girls 11-12 400 Medley Relay(**4:58.67**). The **French Antilles** and the **Bahamas** delivered meet record performances in the Boys 11-12 400 Medley Relay (**4:41.49**) and the Girls 13-14 400 Medley Relay (**4:44.84**) respectively. It was Déjà vu for the Bahamian quartet(**Ariel Weech**, **Alicia Lightburne**, **Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace** and **Teisha Lightburne**) who this time shattered the 15-17 Girls standard by a whopping nine seconds to claim the final record of the night.

Action continues tomorrow at 9 a.m.