

## **ALIA ATKINSON QUALIFYS FOR 50 M BREASTSTROKE SEMI-FINAL AT WORLDS**

IN JAMAICA'S FIRST SWIM OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> FINA SWIMMING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN DUBAI, UAE, ALIA ATKINSON THIS MORNING SWAM A BLISTERING 30.44 IN THE 50 M BREASTSTROKE AND CHARGED INTO TONIGHT'S SEMI-FINAL SEEDED 6<sup>TH</sup>, JUST .30 SEC BEHIND RUSSIA'S YULIA ETIMOVA WHO HAD THE FASTEST TIME IN THE HEATS (30.10). SWIMMING IN LANE 2 OF HEAT 5, ATKINSON HAD A GREAT REACTION TIME OF .71, WAS CLEARLY AHEAD OF THE PACK AT THE TURN, TO DRIVE HOME TO FINISH WELL AHEAD OF JULYANA KURY (BRAZIL) 30.94 AND TJASA VOZEL OF SLOVAKIA (31.96). REBECCA SONI (30.11) OF THE UNITED STATES HAD THE SECOND FASTEST TIME MOVING TO THE SEMIS, A FRACTION BEHIND ETIMOVA.

TONIGHT'S SEMI-FINALS ARE EXPECTED TO BE VERY FAST WITH ONLY THE EIGHT FASTEST SWIMMERS ADVANCING TO TOMORROW'S FINAL. OF INTEREST TONIGHT ARE HOW MANY WORLD RECORDS WILL BE ESTABLISHED AS THIS IS THE FIRST FINA SHORT COURSE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SINCE THE NEW SWIMSUIT RULES WERE INTRODUCED BY FINA EARLY IN 2010. MANY FEEL THAT THE "FAST" SWIM SUITS CONTRIBUTED TO THE NUMEROUS WORLD RECORDS ESTABLISHED IN THE LAST TWO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.

ATKINSON'S 30.44 PROPELS HER TO 10<sup>TH</sup> IN THE FINA SHORT COURSE WORLD RANKINGS. YULIA ETIMOVA'S (RUS) TIME OF 30.10 IS TIED WITH JENNIE JONANSSON (SWE) FOR THE FASTEST TIME IN 2010.

TONIGHT'S FINALS SESSION WILL START AT 7:30 LOCAL TIME (11:30 AM JAMAICA TIME). THE FINALS WILL BE PRECEDED BY THE OPENING CEREMONY AT WHICH ALIA ATKINSON WILL BE JAMAICA'S FLAG BEARER.

<http://www.swimjamaica.com/mainpage.htm>

<http://www.dubaiswimming2010.ae/>

AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

ASAJ OFFICE: 920-6230 OR 920-6229

DECEMBER 15, 2010