

ATKINSON FINISHES 6TH IN 50 M BREAST AT FINA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

ALIA ATKINSON MADE HISTORY TODAY WHEN SHE BECAME THE FIRST JAMAICAN WOMAN TO COMPETE IN A FINAL AT A FINA WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS. SWIMMING IN THE 50 M BREASTSTROKE FINAL IN DUBAI, ATKINSON HAD THE SECOND FASTEST REACTION TIME OF .66 SEC AND TOOK THE LEAD WHICH SHE MAINTAINED TO THE 25 M TURN. AT THE END, ATKINSON COULD NOT IMPROVE ON HER SEMI-FINAL PERSONAL BEST TIME AND FINISHED THE RACE IN 30.22, .03 SECONDS SLOWER THAN HER SEMI FINAL SWIM, TO FINISH SIXTH.

WITH 15 METRES TO GO, IT WAS STILL ANYONE'S RACE WITH ALL EIGHT SWIMMERS IN A LINE ACROSS THE POOL. 10 METERS FROM THE FINISH, REBECCA SONI (USA) BEGAN TO EDGE AHEAD TO TOUCH FIRST IN 29.83, AUSTRALIA'S LEISTON PICKETT WAS JUST .01 BEHIND (29.84) TO TAKE SECOND WHILE CHINA'S JIN ZHAO TOOK THIRD IN 29.90. IN THE END, ONLY .51 SECONDS SEPARATED ALL EIGHT SWIMMERS.

ATKINSON WAS THE SECOND SWIMMER FROM A CARIFTA COUNTRY TO MAKE A FINALS AT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS AFTER CAYMAN ISLANDS SHAUNE FRASER'S 8TH PLACE FINISH IN THE 200 METRE FREESTYLE (1:43.91) ON DAY 1.

([RESULTS AND START LISTS](#)).

<http://www.swimjamaica.com/mainpage.htm> and
<http://www.dubaismwimming2010.ae/>

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