

REGIONAL STARS DESCEND ON DOHA

Jamaica's swimming superstar Alia Atkinson was among a host of regional stars in Doha Qatar for Day one action at the FINA swimming World Cup

Atkinson cruised into the final of the 100 metre breaststroke with a preliminaries time of 1:07.70 to be ranked 4th going into the final where she will renew rivalry with Iuliia Efimova of Russia.

She also swam the 200 metre individual medley where she smashed her Personal Best of 2:11.71 set at the Canada Cup in Nov 2012 to post 2:09.39 and be seeded second. She will seek to upset once World Record holder Katinka Hosszu of Hungary. Hosszu was beaten by Atkinson in Dubai in the 100 metre individual medley. The Hungarian holds the World records in the 100, 200 and 400 Individual medleys. Katinka posted 2:09.31 to top the qualifying.

Atkinson in a continuing effort to improve her backstroke in the medley races swam 29.70 for 16th place.

At the end of the Dubai leg Atkinson was third overall in the World Cup standings. The Point rankings for the top three were

1. **Katinka Hosszu** (HUN)– 468 pt
2. **Mireia Belmonte** (ESP)– 169 pt
3. **Alia Atkinson** (JAM)– 135 pt
4. **Ranomi Kromowidjojo** (NED) – 110 pt
5. **Daryna Zevina** (UKR)– 108 p

In an interview given to www.swimswam.com Atkinson said about her win over Hosszu “felt good, I knew after this morning I had to work on my underwater. It's good to beat Katinka too”. “She's showing us what swimmers can do and I'm now considering adding some more events to my programme.”

The fastest man of all time from the Caribbean Trinidad and Tobago's George Bovell 111 was in action in the 100 metre individual medley .He topped the qualifiers with his swim of 54.20

Coralie Balmy (Martinique/France) will seek yet again to win the 200 metre freestyle after posting the fifth fastest time in the heats of 1:57.10.

Panama's Edgar Crespo just missed qualifying in the 50 metre breaststroke. He posted 27.83 for 9th place missing qualification by .02 of a second.

Enzo Vial Colett (French Antilles /France) was 9th in the 400 metre freestyle in 3:51.58. He missed qualification for today's finals by exactly one second. At CARIFTA 2007 he won the 1500 metre freestyle in the 13-14 boys division. At the 2013 Barcelona world swimming Championships he finished 29th competing for France

Lorys Bourelly (Martinique /France) was 14th in the 100 freestyle and 400 freestyle in 49.38 and 3:54.97 respectively. At CARIFTA 2007 he won the 13-14 boys 200 metre freestyle. In 2013 he was a part of the French team that finished 4th in the 800 metre freestyle relay at the World Championships in Barcelona.

Medhey Metella (French Guyana/France) was 16th in the 100 freestyle posting 49.57 and 11th in the 50 metre butterfly in 24.12. Medhey Metella is the brother of Malia Metella who dominated sprint freestyle at the regional level. Malia went on to win the 50 metre freestyle silver at the 2004 Athens Olympics. Medhey is a top regional swimmer himself winning the 200 metre freestyle in the boy's 15-17 division at CARIFTA 2008. In 2012 he got a bronze medal in the 100 metre butterfly at the European short swimming Championships.

Joris Bouchat (Guadeloupe/France) was 24th in the 100 metre freestyle in 51.31 and 15th in the 400 metre freestyle in 3:55.53. Bouchat holds the CARIFTA 15-17 records in the 1500 and 40 metre freestyle events.

Ganesh Pedurand (French Antilles/France) was third in the slower heats of the 400 metre Individual medley in 4:22.03. At CARIFTA 2007 he teamed up with Metella, and Bourelly and Vince Regent to set a new record in the boy's 400 metre freestyle relay

Contributed by

Anthony Morrison-Vincent