

ATKINSON NARROWLY MISSES WORLD RECORD



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Jamaica's Alia Atkinson put on a master class in sprinting on Day 2 action at the FINA World Cup 2013 in Singapore. She cruised into the finals of the 50 metre breaststroke with a quick 29.29 to be the number one seed. The reigning world champion Luliia Efimova of Russia who had beaten the Jamaican at the last two World Cup Meets in Dubai and Doha was seeded second with a swim of 30.07.

In the 50 metre Breaststroke final Atkinson was a woman on a mission. With her fastest reaction time in a final so far at .60 of a second she was out like a missile. Her rocket start gave her a commanding lead over the Russian. Atkinson was a half a body length ahead of Efimova winning in 28.94 and just 0.14 outside American Jessica Hardy's world mark, a **PERSONAL BEST and the 2nd FASTEST TIME in 2013**. Efimova who never challenged the Jamaican speedster got the silver in 29.25 and Germany's Dorothea Brandt was third in 30.39. As a result of this outstanding performance Alia emerged as the # 1 female performer for the Singapore leg of the World Cup series.

Later in the evening Alia again hit top form in the final of the 100 metre individual medley. The medley is swum in the order of butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and

freestyle. Atkinson was seventh at 50 metres, more than a second behind the race leaders World Record holder Hungarian, Katinka Hosszu and Australian, Alicia Coutts. After that Hosszu and Coutts had to use every inch of their early advantage to withstand the Atkinson assault. Alia set the pool on fire with her last 50 metres with a split of 30.29. In the end it was Hosszu 58.29 Gold, Coutts Silver in 58.32 and the fast finishing Atkinson Bronze in 58.42 .Atkinson's time is a new **PERSONAL BEST** and the **FASTEST EVER BY A JAMAICAN WOMAN.**

Alia had this to say after her Singapore performance:

"This is the first time I'm competing in every single meet in the series. I always hope to improve my timing from the first to the third leg in each cluster, so I'm very happy with the timings I've clocked in this first leg and hope to continue improving at Tokyo and then Beijing. I'm a big fan of the Asian cluster and I'll definitely want to be back, especially in Singapore and Japan - the atmosphere makes it a great place to be," said Atkinson.

Alia has moved up to 2nd place in the overall World Cup rankings behind the Hungarian Hosszu. She will next compete in Tokyo, Japan on November 9 – 10 and in the final FINA World Cup 2013 Series Meet in Beijing, China from November 13-14, 2013.

The FINA World Cup is a series of eight International Short Course (25m pool) Swim Meets held from August 7 to November 14, 2013. The FINA World Cup 2013 series has already been held in Eindhoven, Berlin, Moscow, Dubai, Doha and now Singapore.

Television coverage of Alia's Performances in Singapore - 50 &100 m Breaststroke and 100 m Individual Medley can be viewed at:

<http://livemanager.eurovision.edgesuite.net/fina/site/index.html>