

## ALIA IS THE TOP SEED HEADING INTO FINALS



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**Alia Atkinson**

Olympian Alia Atkinson opened her long course metres season by cruising into the finals of the women's 100 metre breaststroke final at the Orlando Grand Prix this morning. The 25 year old Jamaican secured lane 4 and pole position in this evening's final with a **1.09.11** clocking. Known for her explosive start she was yet again fastest to the 50 metre wall in **32.20**. None of her 48 other competitors were even within half a second of her on that opening leg. Atkinson ended her short course yards season for 2013 in fine form when she won the US AT&T Winter Nationals 100 breaststroke in a meet record and almost the fastest time done ever when she clocked **57.62**. Now swimming in the longer 50 metre pool she will be aiming to lower her own meet record of **1:08.51** set last year. Atkinson is the reigning CAC champion from Mayagüez, Puerto Rico and record holder in the this event with her time of **1:10.25** set July 2010. At the Commonwealth Games in in Delhi 2010 she bowed out at the semi-final round in **1:11.28** but is expected to challenge for the gold this time around in Glasgow which run from July 28 to August 3. Atkinson also qualified for two swims in the finals when she placed 14<sup>th</sup> overall in the 100 metre butterfly .she touched the wall in in **1:02.52** to make it to the B Finals. Atkinson is the senior national record

holder for Jamaica in this event with a time of **1:01.17** set at the 2011 PAM AM in Guadalajara Mexico.



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#### **Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace**

The top Caribbean swimmer in the butterfly was Arianna Vanderpool –Wallace. The 23 year old Bahamian swimming for SwimMac Carolina touched in 6<sup>th</sup> overall in **1:01.86** to make it to the championship final later today. Arianna is the reigning CAC Games Champion and record holder with her standard of **59.74** set in 2010. Tyla Martin from Trinidad and Tobago completed the Caribbean interest in this event. She finished 48<sup>th</sup> overall in a time of **1:05.57**. Martin who represents is the reigning 15-17 CARIFTA champion with her time of **1:03.32** set in Kingston last year

Earlier in the 200 metre freestyle Martin finished 92<sup>nd</sup> overall in a time of **2:11.92**. Aruba's 17year old swimmer Daniella Vandenberg representing Azura Aquatics was 67<sup>th</sup> overall in **2:09.74**



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### **Joshua Romany**

In the men's events Trinidad and Tobago's Joshua Romany booked himself a place in the C final of the 200 metre freestyle with his **1:55.14** clocking which has him 19<sup>th</sup> overall .The 18 year old that is representing Azura Aquatics was 33<sup>rd</sup> at the World Junior championships in Dubai UAE with a time of **1:55.19**. Missing qualification for a second swim in this event was Romany's countryman and club mate Jabari Baptiste who posted **2:00.38** for 90<sup>th</sup> overall. Zuhayr Pigot of Suriname representing Metro Aquatics was 119<sup>th</sup> in **2:02.99** .Jamaica's Mathew Lyn also representing Azura Aquatics was 129<sup>th</sup> in **2:05.91**



[www.floridaswimnetwork.com](http://www.floridaswimnetwork.com)

### **Jordy Groters**

In the 100 breaststroke Pine Crest Swimming 's Aruban athlete Jordy Groters made it to the C final with a time of **1:06.96** for 23<sup>rd</sup> spot . The 17 year old Aruban is the reigning 15-17 CARIFTA champion and record holder with his record breaking swim of **1:05.19** at CARIFTA 2013 in Kingston. Joining him in the finals is 2012 Surinamese Olympian Diguan Pigot. Pigot 19 of Metro aquatics like his brother Zuhayr is 21<sup>st</sup> overall with his preliminary swim of **1:06.81**. Missing a an afternoon swim was his Countryman and club mate Wayne Denswil who clocked **1:12.02** for 53<sup>rd</sup>.



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## **Zuhayr Pigot**

There would be another Pigot in an evening final as Zuhayr clocked **55.27** for 6<sup>th</sup> to make it to the championship final. Joining him in butterfly action in the afternoon is 2008 Bahamian Olympian Evis Burrows who clocked **57.41** for 29<sup>th</sup> place overall and a C Final slot. Also gaining a C final berth was Romany who clocked **57.54**. Romany's countryman 19 yearold Emiro Goosen representing Gator Swim club was 95th overall in **1:02.02**

Jamaican Sidrell Williams had a strong back half to win heat 8 of the 100 metre butterfly and post **58.37** for 42<sup>nd</sup>. He posted split time of **27.19** and **31.19**. Williams had posted **58.78** to finish 43<sup>rd</sup> at the World Junior swimming championships last year.

Aruba's Jordy Groters closed the door on the morning session for the West Indian by qualifying for the D final with his swim of **4:46.03** for 31<sup>st</sup> overall. Groters is the reigning 15-17 CARIFTA champion with his 2013 Kingston swim of **4:47.65**

## **Contributed by**

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