

ATKINSON SECOND IN THE WORLD



Alia Atkinson

Jamaica's Alia Atkinson made her intentions for Glasgow 2014 clear when she dominated the women's 100 metre breaststroke at the ARENA Grand Prix in Orlando yesterday. Atkinson scorched the first 50 metres in 31.02 seconds. That first length ended the race as a contest. The field was left for dead as Atkinson's advantage was over 1.50 seconds in a sprint event. So quick was Atkinson's pace, she almost broke her national record for the 50 metre breaststroke of 30.91 set at the ARENA Grand Prix in Arizona in April 2013. The only question now was by how much the 25 year old would lower her meet record of 1:08.51. Atkinson also produced the fastest last 50 metres of all of the finals with a split of 36.13. She stopped the clock in 1:07.15 shattering her old meet standard. That time came within hundredths of seconds of lowering her national standard of 1:06.79 which she set when she placed fourth at the London 2012 Olympics. That time gives Atkinson the second fastest time in the world so far, behind American Jessica Hardy's 1:07.05

Amateur Swimming Association Vice President of Swimming 1984 Olympian Mr. Allan-Roy Marsh in a reaction to Atkinson's swim said he was "extremely pleased with Atkinson's time at

this point in the season. She is still obviously in hard training and should be able to drop at least two seconds to be in the 1:05 range to challenge for the gold medal in Glasgow.”



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Atkinson who was recently named a Grace Kennedy Money Services Brand Ambassador has already begun to repay that investment with this fantastic result.

Contributed by

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