

ATKINSON AND EVANS SET NATIONAL MARKS, ARIANNA TOP ORLANDO FIELD



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Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace

Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace of the Bahamas again proved why she is the best female sprinter from the region since the reign of Leah Martindale when she took the 50 metre freestyle in Orlando last night. Arianna won in a quick 25.55 to turn back the challenge of preliminaries top speed American Keri Kendall 25.68 . The 23 year old Bahamian is now a professional swimmer with the SwimMac Carolina outfit that has heralded American coach David Marsh at the helm. Marsh has been instrumental in the careers of top international sprinters such as 2008 50 metre freestyle champion from Brazil Cesar Cielo and Caribbean sprint king Trinidad and Tobago's George Bovell. Her training partners now include US 2012 Olympic 50 metre freestyle silver medallist Cullen Jones and many time Olympic gold medallist American Ryan Lochte.



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Joanna Evans

Her young countrywoman Swift Swimming's Joanna Evans has enjoyed a rich vein of form over the last couple of seasons and it continued last night in the women's 400 metre freestyle. Refusing to be daunted by a field that included her accomplished competitors such as eventual winner US 2012 Olympian Chloe Sutton 4:10.11 and World Cup Iron woman Hungarian Katinka Hosszu 4:10.50, Evans swam her own race splitting at the midpoint 2:09.30 and coming with a strong back end of 2:11.49 for a total time of 4:20.69. She again broke the Bahamian national record lowering the standard of 4:20.79.



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Alia Atkinson

Jamaica's Alia Atkinson and Laura Sogar of Bluefish battled hard for 3 of the 4 laps for top honours in the women's 200 metre breaststroke but it would be to no avail. This as Micah Lawrence of SwimMac Carolina uncorked 36.75 on the last 50 metres to win in 2:25.97. Atkinson was out dueled to the wall by

Sogar 2:28.32 to 2:28.34. But it was Atkinson who reaped the greatest rewards as she broke her national record of 2:28.77 set at the London 2012 Olympics.

Ariel Weech of the Bahamas had a good swim in the B finals of the women's 50 freestyle when she lowered her prelims time of 26.80 and move up to 11th overall when she placed third in 26.35.

Suriname's Rezon Tjon-A Joe found the pace to be a bit too hot in a 50 metre freestyle field that included winner Brazilians Bruno Fratus 22.00 , fourth place finisher at the 2012 London Olympics in this event, 2008 Olympic Champion Cesar Cielo 22.15 and Jimmy Feigen, US 400 metre freestyle relay silver medallist in London 22.48. Rezon was the lone swimmer outside 22 seconds when he clocked 23.27 to retain his 8th place ranking from the heats.

Bermudan Olympian Roy-Allan Burch finished 4th in the B Final to be 12th overall. He improved upon his morning swim time of 23.39 to register 23.20 on the clock.

Elvis Burrows of the Bahamas topped the C Final with his swim of 23.40 up from 23.65 in the morning.

Zuhayr Pigot of Suriname was third in 23.64 a tenth faster than his morning race. Trinidad and Tobago's Joshua Romany finished 6th in 24.06 slower than his earlier effort of 23.79

Aruba's Daniella Vandenberg improved her time to clock 4:28.37 in the D final of the women's 400 metre freestyle. This was done off the strength of an opening 200 metres of 2:12.83.

Trinidad and Tobago's Jabari Baptiste even split his D Final of the men's 100 metre backstroke 30.19, 30.90 for a total time of 1:01.09 for 5th place. This however did not improve on his heats swim of 1:00.53.

Alia ended the night's racing with a silver medal in the 800 metre freestyle relay. She swam the second leg of the South Florida Aquatics that clocked 8:30.02 to finish behind winners York YMCA 8:21.24

Joshua Romany split 1:58.05 on the second leg to aid Azura Aquatics 800 freestyle men's team to 7:51.98 and 5th overall.

Sidrell Williams representing St Andrews Swimming split 2:06.72 on his third leg to help them to 11th in 8:12.42

The medalists in the event were Germany Gold in 7:42.19, Silver Mexico 7:42.84 and Colombia Bronze 7:47.24.

Contributed by

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