

ATKINSON STILL HOT IN DUBAI



Alia Atkinson (www.swimswam.com)

Jamaican and Caribbean Queen of the breaststroke Alia Atkinson continued her domination of the sprint breaststroke on Day 2 of the FINA/MASTBANK Swimming World Cup in Dubai United Arab Emirates. She gave her rivals an indication from the morning preliminaries that she was in excellent form when she clocked **29.15**. In the final eventual Silver Medallist American Breeja Larson tried to stay with Atkinson for the first 25 metres. That however was to be where any form of a challenge to Alia ended as she uncorked a blazing second 25 metres to stop the clock in **29.12** seconds. Atkinson continues to get closer to that World Record of **28.80** held by American Jessica Hardy. As Atkinson continues to improve on the tour her margin of victory also improves over her rivals .Doha's victory in this event was by **.0.75** seconds and today's margin was by **0.86** seconds. Larson copped the Silver in **29.98** seconds while Austria's Lisa Zaiser took the Bronze in **31.31**.

Atkinson took on another tough triple as she finalled in both the 100 Individual medley and 50 metre butterfly. In the medley she was to face the might of Hungarian Iron Lady Katinka Hosszu .In the heats Hosszu set yet another World Record when she swam **56.86**.In the finals Hosszu had an early advantage over the first two laps of butterfly when the Hungarian split **26.74** to the Jamaican's **27.65**. That is when Alia went to work and her superior breaststroke sprint skills

came into play and she moved from third to first coming off the wall turning even with Hosszu. It was anyone's Gold medal on the freestyle leg until the last 5 metres where Hosszu pipped Alia **57.75** to **58.26**. American Caitlin Leverenz took the Bronze in **59.86**. The time done by Alia is a new Jamaican and Personal Best. This betters her old mark of **58.28** done November 10, 2013 in Tokyo Japan.

She would also set another Jamaican and Personal Best in the heats of the 50 metre butterfly when stopped the clock in **26.32** bettering her old standard of **26.85** set at the Canada cup in November 2012. She would place fourth in the final in a time of **26.63** won by Dutch woman Inge Dekker in **24.59** who just missed the World Record of **24.38**.



George Bovell 111 (www.guardian.co.tt)

The Fastest man in the Pool from the Caribbean George Bovell 111 got on the podium again yet again qualifying in 8th spot with a preliminary swim of **21.95**. But as he has shown for his career he steps up when it is needed. And step up he did again as he took the Silver in a season best **21.31** behind American Josh Schneider **21.11**. Finland's Ari-Pekka Liukkonen took Bronze in **21.39**

Contributed by

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