

Alia Atkinson headlines CARIFTA trio in global swimming rankings

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Jamaican Olympian Alia Atkinson led a trio of female CARIFTA region swimmers who were world ranked for performances in Olympic-sized (50 metre pool) pools for 2014.

Joining Atkinson in the top 50 swimming performances were Bahamian Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace and Coralie Balmy of Martinique. All three ladies had three entries in the world top 50 performances.



Alia Atkinson spotted at the CONCACAF Under-20 Championship match between Jamaica and Guatemala on Sunday.

Three time Olympian Atkinson was the region's highest ranked swimmer, male or female, with her 30.17 clocking in the 50 metre breaststroke, which ranked her third globally. Atkinson clocked this time in the semi-finals of the event at the Commonwealth Games in Scotland on July 24. That time was a new national and Commonwealth Games record.

In the 100 metre breaststroke, Atkinson was 12th globally with her 1:06.86 performance at the Summer Sectionals in Orlando Florida in July. In placing 7th in the final of the Commonwealth Games in the 200 breaststroke, she set a new national record of 2:25.48 and ended the year 24th internationally.

The region's top female freestyle and butterfly sprinter, Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace was the second highest ranked swimmer from the CARIFA region, based on her 4th place swim in the 50 metre freestyle final at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland. The 24.37 seconds swim placed her 6th globally. It was also a new national record.

Vanderpool-Wallace is the only swimmer from the region, male or female, to have more than one entry in the top 10. She set a new national record of 25.53 in the 50 metre butterfly, when she won the silver medal in that event at the Commonwealth Games. That time placed her 5th globally. Her third entry of 54.37 in the 100 metre freestyle was again done at the Commonwealth Games. She placed 5th in the final and that ranked her 27th in the world

Balmy, who hails from Martinique, had her world rated performances in the 200, 400 and 800 metres freestyle events. Coralie was 45th in the 200 freestyle in 1:58.73, 21st in the 400 freestyle in 4:06.68 and 19th in the 800 freestyle in 8:29.18.

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