

Alia Atkinson settles for Bronze in California



On the second night of action at the 2015 Arena Pro Swim Series in California, Jamaica's Alia Atkinson was the highest placed swimmer from the CARIFTA region.

In a highly anticipated showdown in the women's 100 metre breaststroke final, Atkinson faced reigning silver and bronze medallist from the 2013 Barcelona World championships, Russian Yulia Efimova and former World Record Holder, American Jessica Hardy. Based on the morning heats, Hardy and Atkinson would have to lead at the turn to negate the Russian's finishing speed.

When the race got under way, it was a battle to the first wall but the Russian made a surge at 40 metres and split 31.43. Hardy and Atkinson turned at 32.04 and 32.13 respectively. The lead however was too much to overcome and Efimova took the gold in 1:06.13. Hardy took the silver in 1:07.51 with Atkinson the bronze in 1:08.21. All medallists used the final to fine tune race strategy as they know the real battle will be held in Kazan in August.

Timothy Wynter, Atkinson's teammate at South Florida Aquatics, threatened his Jamaica senior national record when he placed 4th in the C final of the 50 metre backstroke. The USC Trojan bound swimmer clocked a season best 26.89 to threaten his record of 26.71 set at the World Junior championships in Dubai in 2013. It was also just off the World Championships B qualifying standard of 26.41. His previous season best was 27.06 set at Arena Pro Swim Series meet in Charlotte in May.

Barbadian swimmer Chris Curtis, representing the University of Calgary was 5th in the D final of the 50 metre backstroke in 27.44. He had clocked 27.33 in the morning heats.

Trinidad and Tobago's World Junior championships and Youth Olympics medallist Dylan Carter was 4th in the C final of the 100 metre butterfly. He came close to a season best time when he posted 54.33 (split 25.31). He however was under the World Championships B standard of 54.36.

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