

# Alia Atkinson breaks new ground with Butterfly record

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Alia Atkinson's performance in the sprint butterfly at the 2015 Arena Pro Series in California on Saturday saw new ground being broken for Jamaican swimming.

Before this meet started, no Jamaican woman had breached the 28 second mark for the 50 metre butterfly. The closest had been the 28.06 set by Alia Atkinson at the Caribbean Island Swimming championships on July 18, 2008 on her way to the gold medal in the 18 and over age group. At the end of the day, the record had been destroyed. In the heats of the 50 metre butterfly, Atkinson became the first local woman to swim the event under 28 seconds when she clocked a new national standard of 27.22 and under the World Championships B standard of 27.47

The South Florida Aquatics swimmer had much more in the tank for the championship final. This as she destroyed her old mark to register 26.65 for 5<sup>th</sup> place and become the first Jamaican woman to swim the event in under 27 seconds. On her way to the record, she barely missed the automatic qualification mark for the Kazan world Championships of 26.54.

The three time Olympian Atkinson bettered her morning heat time of 2:31.94 to register 2:31.47 (split 1:12.79). Her season best remains the 2:30 .55 (split 1:13.49) she clocked at the Arena Pro Swim Series at Charlotte during the preliminaries.

Her Jamaican team mate Timothy Wynter clocked 25.49 to place 4<sup>th</sup> in the D final of the men's 50 metre butterfly. He remains the joint top ranked 50 metre butterfly swimmer with Justin Plaschka for Jamaica with his 25.42 done during the preliminaries.

Trinidad and Tobago's Dylan Carter improved upon his preliminary time and season best of 24.09 to clock 24.01 to place 5<sup>th</sup> in the championship final of the men's 50 metre butterfly.

The battle to see who would be the fastest CARIFTA region swimmer in the 50 metre freestyle went to Suriname's national record holder Renzo Tjon A Joe (Auburn Aquatics). The 2014 CAC Games silver medalist clocked 22.76 to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> behind American Record Holder Cullen Jones 22.73 and Russian winner Alex Sukhorukov 22.72.

Carter finished 9<sup>th</sup> in 23.21

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