

Vanderpool-Wallace wins bronze at Pan Am Games



Bahamas and the CARIFTA region celebrated their first medal of the swimming competition at the Pan Am Games in Toronto last night as Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace won bronze in the women's 100 metre freestyle.

The world-ranked swimmer had the lead over the first 50 metres as she split 25.46. Despite a valiant effort over the last 15 metres she could not withstand the charge of eventual gold medallist Chantal Van Landgehem, 53.83, and Natalie Coughlin, 54.00. Vanderpool-Wallace won bronze in 54.15

In the men's championship final, Trinidad and Tobago's Dylan Carter again lowered his personal best time in the 100 metre freestyle. This time he lowered it to 49.10 (split 23.25). He was yet again under the world championships A standard of 49.39. That is the best performance by a swimmer from the twin-island republic since George Bovell III finished 7th in in 2007 in 50.16. Suriname's Renzo Tjon A Joe finished 8th in 49.60. (Split 23.14) .

Jamaica's female 400 freestyle relay posted the fastest time since the island posted their senior national record of 3:53.58 at the 2003 Games. The team of Breanna Roman, Alia Atkinson, Danielle Boothe and Trudiann Patrick posted splits of 58.03,55.77,1:00.22 and 1:01.99 to finish 8th in a time of 3:56.01.

In action in the B finals, Chinyere Pigot of Suriname posted 57.25 (27.32) for 5th in the 100 metre freestyle, bettering her 2011 performance when she finished 5th in 59.03. Ariel Weech of the Bahamas was 7th in 57.79. (Split 26.96). She had the lead at the 50 metre mark but could not hold on for the win. In 2011, she had won the B final in 57.58.

In the B final of the men's 100 metre freestyle, the Cayman Islands' Brett Fraser won in 49.56 (split 23.34). In 2011, he was 5th in 49.56 and his brother won bronze in 48.63. St Lucia's Jordan Augier was 4th in 50.83 (split 24.11), just .01 off his national record. Timothy Wynter of Jamaica was 6th in a personal best time of 52.23 (split 24.42) . He is the 3rd fastest Jamaican this year, behind Sidrell Williams, 51.55, and Justin Plaschka, 52.09.

In the B finals of the 200 metre butterfly, Lara Butler bettered her heats time to finish 7th in 2:21.52. Jamaica's Trudian Patrick finished 8th in 2:23.63. She also bettered her heat time

The USVI's Mathew Mays finished 8th in the mens B final in 2:09.74

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Preliminary Swim

The first day of the 2015 PAN AM games in Toronto Canada saw three CARIFTA region swimmers advancing to finals.

Leading the way was Bahamian Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace in the women's 100 metre freestyle. She clocked a season best 54.00 to be under the old Pan Am Games record of 54.46. That time also places her 14th in the world. Arianna, who recently won the 2015 Icon Award for Sports in the Bahamas, was second fastest in the heats as many time Olympic Gold medallist Natalie Coughlin of the US set the record at 53.85.

Rising sprint stars Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname swimmers Dylan Carter and Renzo Tjon A Joe continued to make an impact in senior international waters by qualifying 6th and 7th. Carter clocked a personal best 49.29 (split 23.47) to also be under the World Championships A standard time of 49.39. Renzo clocked a new national record of 49.47 (split 23.42) breaking his national record of 50.10 set in April. Just missing the final was Cayman Islands Brett Fraser who stopped the clock at 49.58 in 2011 he finished 5th in 49.07.

In the only relay action of the morning, Jamaica's 400 freestyle relay team of Breanna Roman, Alia Atkinson, Trudiann Patrick and Danielle Boothe clocked 3:59.09 for 8th place. They will be looking to challenge the national record of 3:53.58 set by the team of Olympians Alia and Janelle Atkinson, Angela Chuck and Commonwealth Games representative Tamara Swaby when that team placed 5th in at the 2003 Pan Am Games.

Other CARIFTA region swimmers finishing in the top 20 were:

Women's 100 metre freestyle

Alia Atkinson (Jamaica)	11th 56.29
Chinyere Pigot (Suriname)	15th 57.29
Allyson Ponson (Aruba)	19th 57.89

Men 100 metre freestyle

Jordan Augier (St Lucia)	13th 50.82 National Record
Jordy Groters (Aruba)	15th 51.71
Timothy Wynter (Jamaica)	18th 52.59
Noah Mascoll-Gomes (Antigua)	19th 52.90 National Record
Alex Sobers. Barbados	20th 52.92

Women 200 metre butterfly

Lara Butler (Cayman Islands)	15th. 2:22.81
Trudian Patrick (Jamaica)	16th 2:24.26
Daniella Van Den Berg (Aruba)	17th 2:26.04

Men 200 metre butterfly

Mathew Mays (USVI)	16th 2:07.90
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