

# Alia Atkinson wins silver at Pan Am Games

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**Jamaica's Alia Atkinson won silver in the 100 metre breaststroke at the Pan American Games in Toronto on Friday.**

After the sounding of the gun, it was clear that the battle for the Gold would be between Atkinson and her Grand Prix series rival, American Katie Meili. At the halfway, the advantage over the field by the duo was clear as they recorded the only sub 30 split.

Atkinson had the slight edge, 30.81, to Katie's 30.91. As they stroked to the final wall, Meili gained a slight advantage and took the victory in 1:06.26. Atkinson won the silver in a new personal best and national record of 1:06.59.

That time lowers Atkinson's national record of 1:06.79, set when she placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the 2012 Olympics in the event and equaled earlier this year.

Overall, it was a very successful day for the CARIFTA region. Bahamas' Arianna Vanderpool Wallace won gold in the women's 50 freestyle finals while George Bovell III of Trinidad claimed bronze in the men's equivalent.

Others from the region had excellent performances on the night. Among them, Surinamese sprinter Renzo Tjon A Joe who clocked yet another national record of 22.30 by finishing 7<sup>th</sup> in 22.30 in the 50 metre freestyle final.

Joanna Evans of the Bahamas, in her first ever Pan AM Games, finished a creditable 6<sup>th</sup> in 4:14.51 in the 400 metre freestyle championship finals

In the B finals of the 50 metre freestyle, Trinidad and Tobago's Dylan Carter led a number of CARIFTA region swimmers to the wall when he won in 22.39. The Cayman Islands Brett Fraser was 5<sup>th</sup> in 22.93. St Lucia's Jordan Augier clocked another national record of 23.08, just off the KAZAN World Championships B standard of 23.03.

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