GOLDEN GIRL



ALIA ATKINSON

(PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARON ATKINSON)

When international swimming star Alia Atkinson landed in Doha Qatar, she was greeted by her image headlining the Doha edition of the 2014/2015 edition. So great is the respect that the young Jamaican commands globally that she was seen fitting to be designated a major drawing card for the meet.

She lived up to her top billing and the faith of the meet organizers and her sponsors SPEEDO as she took her second gold medal of the meet in the 50 metre breaststroke. In the early morning preliminaries she stroked her way to the top seeding in the final with a time of **29.21** the only sub 30 second clocking.

In the final she got off to her trademark supersonic start with a reaction time of 0.62 seconds. As expected by the time she turned at the first and only wall at the 25metre mark the battle was to be between Alia and the clock. She romped home to a **29.12** second win. Three quarters of a body

length and more than half a second behind was American swimmer Breeja Larson who took silver in **29.87**. Iceland's Hrafnhildur Luthersdottir in **30.67** took the bronze.

When Alia opened her short course season in Eindhoven, Netherlands last year she had times of **29.42** and **1:03.90** and progressively got faster. So Alia now leaves Doha unbeaten from the four times that she raced. She heads to Dubai to compete at that stop from August 31 to September 1, the site of her personal and a Jamaican best clocking of **1:02.91** over the 100 metres breaststroke.

Fellow regional swimming standout Trinidad and Tobago's George Bovell III also mined precious metal on Day 2 of the Doha edition of the **FINA/MASTBANK Swimming World Cup 2014.** He clinched the last available place for the final when he clocked **21.81** seconds for the 50 metre freestyle. In the final he provided the "outside smoke" as he swam his own race out in lane 8 to grab the silver in a two way tie with Poland's sprint sensation Konrad Czerniak in a time of **21.43**. American football player turned swimmer the United States' Josh Schneider took the gold in **21.07**

Contributed by

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