

### **COLUMBIA DEFEAT JAMAICA 15 – 1 IN WORLD CHAMPS WATER POLO**

In may well have been Jamaica's best chance at winning a game in the 13<sup>th</sup> FINA Junior Men's Water Polo World Championships, slipped away as Columbia was able to force the pace and make use of their opportunities to score a convincing win 15 – 1. Despite the score line, Jamaica was competitive in a very physical game.

After their blowout games against Serbia and Croatia, the Jamaicans matched the Columbians in speed and size, but the Columbians clearly had the edge in experience.

Jamaica started the match poorly giving up 5 unnecessary goals in the first quarter, but their game improved steadily as they became more focused, regularly setting up their umbrella offence and consistently challenging on defense.

Jamaica played a good second quarter but lost Christopher Sloley when he was ejected from the game for violence after he retaliated to being punched in the face. Simple mistakes cost Jamaica dearly as the Columbians were able to score 3 goals ending the quarter down 8 – 0. This was the best quarter in the competition for Jamaica and a good confidence booster.

Twenty one seconds into the second half, Jamaica had their second player ejected from the game as Jamie Smith was handed his third exclusion foul by the South African Referee. Jamaica could not afford to lose one of their better players so early in the game and their lack of depth became evident and a few simple mistakes lead to three counterattack goals in the quarter. Garrick Robinson, who was much more positive and aggressive in this game, became Jamaica's third ejected player with 58 seconds to go in the period when he

committed his third exclusion foul. This left Coach Borbely with just one substitution player on the bench.

Despite being short on manpower, Jamaica remained competitive in the forth quarter. Lance Rochester scored Jamaica's only goal 1:37 into the quarter after fighting out of a man up situation. Goalie Daniel Arscott had a much improved game, making numerous saves, including a penalty shot. The game ended with Columbia's scoring their first win in the competition.

Jamaica will play their last game in the preliminary round against France at 15:45 (13:45 Jamaica time) tomorrow. Their only chance of advancing to the final round is to beat France by a significant margin, which seem hardly likely. Shold they lose, Jamaica will play the team that finishes sixth in Group A, which looks set to be South Africa, on Wednesday. The loser of that game will be assigned 21<sup>st</sup> place in the competition and will not play any more games while the winner will continue to play for one of the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> place positions.

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