

PRESS RELEASE

FINA WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS – ROME, ITALY

Brad Hamilton had another good performance as he smashed Jamaica's National 100 M Butterfly, swimming in the 13th FINA World Championships being held in Rome, Italy. Swimming in lane 0, Hamilton had his usual fast start with a reaction time of .65 seconds and led from the start. His only real challenge in the heat came from James Walsh of the Philippines who edged to the lead at the five metre mark. James touched first timing 56.38 while Hamilton timed a personal best and new National Record time of 56.56 seconds. The previous record of 57.07 was set by Hamilton himself at the Pan Am Games in 2007.

Hamilton had an exciting morning as just two events before, he had swum a personal best 23.87 in the Men's 50 M Freestyle, an event he almost missed as he struggled to don his new high tech swim suit. The new suits take 20 to 40 minutes to put on, but longer when the body is wet. With the temperature in Rome at 34 deg C (94 deg F), Hamilton was sweating and it took him 10 additional minutes to don his suit. By the time he got to the Call Room, his heat had already left the room. Thankfully he was able to join the swimmers as they were about to walk on deck. Hamilton had not gone below the 24 seconds wall in four years.

Jonathan Wong, Jamaica's second entry in the 50 M Freestyle also swam a personal best time of 24.40, a significant improvement on his previous time of 25.15. The Caribbean's top Freestyle sprinter, George Bovell (TRI) swam a Championship Record and Personal Best time of 21.64. His record did not last long as in the next heat Brazil's Cesar Cielo Filho, Gold Medalist in the 100 M Free, swam 21.37 to take the record away and establish the lead time going into tonight semi finals. Bovell has the fourth fastest time going into the semi's. There were 210 entries in the event and Hamilton and Wong finished 94th and 112th respectively.

Jamaica's fourth swim of the day had Kendese Nangle competing in the Women's 50 M Butterfly. Nangle swam a respectable 30.18, off her PB time of 29.57. Nangle was disappointed with her overall performance at the Championships, noting that although her times were close to her PB's, she had hoped to do better. She is looking forward to a new training regime starting in September as she will begin attending Peddie Prep School. Peddie has one of the best prep school swimming programs in the USA.

Jamaica's last swim in the 13th FINA World Championships will be Natasha Moodie who will swim the 50 M Freestyle tomorrow.

Submitted by John Eyre