

THE ASAJ'S NAMES JAMAICA'S NEW NATIONAL SWIM SQUAD

FROM: THE AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

The Amateur Swimming Association of Jamaica has announced the selection of thirty nine (39) swimmers to its National Swimming Squad and thirty (30) to its Development Squad. These swimmers have made the qualifying times for the respective squads, and represents the largest number of swimmers since the inception of the National Squad Program. Eighteen (18) local and overseas swimmers, led by Alia Atkinson, Natasha Moodie, Brad Hamilton and Jevon Atkinson are on the Senior Squad while the other twenty one (21) made the Junior Squad standards.

The Senior Squad will welcome eight new members in Victoria Ho, Kendese Nangle, Brian Forte, Richard Graham, Rohan Johnson, Dameon Nicholas, Dominic Walter and Ramon Walton. The new members to the Junior Squad are Brian Graham, Shaun James, Dominic Powell and Andre Chen Young all of whom were previously on the Development Squad.

The primary goal of Jamaica's top swimmers will be qualifying for the 2008 Olympic Games, however, the majority of the Age Group Swimmers in the Senior and Junior Squads will be training to secure a spot on Jamaica's team for the 2008 CARIFTA Swimming Championships scheduled for the end of March in Aruba, and the Caribbean Island Swimming Championships which will be hosted by Jamaica July 16-23, 2008. Although the ASAJ is hoping to select a full team for both Championships, only two swimmers can be entered in each event. Jamaica will also be hoping to participate for the first time in the World Youth Championships to be held in Mexico from July 8-11, 2008.

Alia Atkinson, Natasha Moodie, Jevon Atkinson and Brad Hamilton are the swimmers closest to qualifying for the Olympic Games and it is expected that these swimmers will use the Caribbean Island Swimming Championships as a warm up meet, leading Jamaica's charge for its highest medal count.

The goal of the ASAJ's Development Squad is to prepare swimmers who have shown good potential for selection to a National Team, particularly the 10 year olds who will move into the 11-12 age group next year.

The National Squad, which has a full calendar of events scheduled for the 2007-2008 swimming season will, under the direction of National Coach Jackie Walter, begin their training programme this week. The names of the Assistant Coaches will be announced later in the week.

The next National Squad Selection will be held in February 2008.