

PRESS RELEASE

FINA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009 – Rome. Italy

Brad Hamilton was the first Jamaican to dive into action at the 13th FINA Swimming World Championships being held in Rome and in the 50 M Butterfly sprint event he smashed the Jamaica's National Record of 25.90 swimming 25.68. Swimming in lane 0 (zero), Hamilton clearly had the fastest start, a reaction time of .64 but Romans Miloslavskis (LAT) swimming in lane five closed the gap quickly and eased away to touch first in 24.05. Hamilton's 25.68 was enough for a comfortable joint second with Suriname's Marceliano Richaards in the heat and 102nd overall. He was 2.78 seconds behind the Championship Record leading time of 22.90 set by Ronald Schoeman (South Africa) and Rafael Munoz (Spain). Their time erased .06 seconds off the Championship Record set by Schoeman four years ago in Montreal.

Two other Championship records fell in the preliminary heats as Sweden's Sarah Sjostrom swim a very fast 56.76 in the Women's 100 M Butterfly to erase Lisbeth Trickett's (AUS) record of 57.15 while in the Women's 200 M individual Medley, American Ariana Kukors surprised the World Record holder Stephanie Rice to claim the fastest time and a Championship Record time of 2:08.53. The previous Championship Record of 2:10.13 was held by fellow American Katie Hoff.

Kendese Nangle and Jonathan Wong will swim tomorrow in the 100 M Backstroke and 200 M Freestyle respectively.

Ten lanes are being used for the preliminary heats but only eight will be used in the semi finals and finals.

Report Submitted by John Eyre