

PRESS RELEASE

AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

JEVON ATKINSON SMASHES NATIONAL 50 M FREE RECORD AND QUALIFIES FOR THE OLYMPICS

June 30, 2008

Jamaica's Jevon Atkinson yesterday qualified for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games in dramatic fashion swimming a very fast 23.07 in the 50 M Freestyle, smashing the Jamaican National record of 23.29 held by Sion Brinn since the World Student Games in 1997.

Atkinson's record time was done in a time trial swum during the Bahamas National Swimming Championships in Nassau. Atkinson first swam an incredible 22.70 in the final of the 50 M Freestyle, but was judged to have false started. Atkinson swam 23.20 for the top time in the preliminary heats. Throughout the meet, Atkinson swim in five (5) time trials and surpassed the 23.13 "B" Standard qualifying time with his 23.07.

Atkinson just missed another Olympic Qualifying time when he swam 51.12 in the 100 M Freestyle, just .17 seconds off the "B" Time Standard.

In the same competition, Alia Atkinson (no relation to Jevon) also had a number of attempts to swim a qualifying time in the 100 M Breaststroke. Needing 1:11.43 to qualify, her best time was 1:11.97 to win the event.

Needing 57.17 in the 100 M Freestyle to qualify for Beijing, Natasha Moodie swam 1:00.65 well outside of the "B" Standard. In the 50 M Butterfly Moodie swam 33.80 to place 8th.