

Press Release

CCCAN Gold and Silverfor Jamaica's Synchro Team

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Jamaica's three member National Synchronized Swimming Team reaped success in Barbados at the recently concluded CCCAN Age Group Championship with a four medal haul of one gold and three silver medals. The two day event took place from June 29 to 30 and saw some 25 athletes from five Caribbean countries competing in the 12 and under, 13-15 and 16-18 age groups.

Jamaica's gold medal was won in the 12 and under duet category withNyouka Baugh and Felice Coombs topping the event. Coombs also won silver in the solo routinesevent. In the 16-18 age group, Jamielya Shaw won silver in both the figures competition and in the solo routines. Other countries competing were Aruba, Curacao, Barbados and Dominican Republic. The 12 and under age group was the most competitive with 20 athletes entered overall.

Dr Christine Gabbadon, Chair of the Synchronized Swimming Technical Committee (SYTC) of the Amateur Swimming Association of Jamaica (ASAJ) participated as a technical official (synchro judge) at the competition. She noted that the Jamaican routines were well received and positive comments were made about the choreography and energy displayed.

With support, there is potential for expansion of this sport to include more swimmers representing Jamaica at the National level. A synchro team which includes the 3 swimmers returning from CCCAN is currently being prepared for the UANA Panamerican Age Group Championships in Canada in mid-August. The National Program continues to seek well needed financial support in time for the Meet in August.

The sport of synchronized swimming requires rigorous training to develop strength, flexibility and advanced water skills. The team was prepared by National Coach Jun Tochino, a former Japan Junior Olympics synchro representative and Coach Olga Novokshchenova, a double Olympic gold medalistrepresenting Russia who lives in Portland where all three athletes reside.

Jamaica's synchro team returned on Thursday July 2 accompanied by National Coach Jun Tochino and Team Manager and Chaperone Jacqueline Neil.

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