ALIA ATKINSON WINS SILVER AT WORLD SHORT COURSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Alia Atkinson created history today becoming the first Jamaican swimmer ever to win a medal at a World Championship or Olympic event. On the second day of the World Short Course Championships in Istanbul, Turkey Alia Atkinson placed second in the 50 metre Breaststroke in a time of 29.67 behind the London Olympic 100 metre Breaststroke gold medalist Lithuanian, Ruta Meilutye who copped gold in a new Championship Record 29.44. Bronze went to the Australian Sarah Katsoulis in 29:94.

Atkinson's silver medal makes her the highest ever finish by a swimmer from the English speaking Caribbean in a World Championship or Olympic event, eclipsing the bronze medals won by George Bovell of Trinidad and Tobago in the 200 metres Individual Medley in 2004 in the Athens Olympics and Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace in the 50 metre Freestyle at the Dubai World Short Course Championships in 2010.

Alia will compete later today in the semi finals of the 100 metre Individual Medley.

Submitted by: Allan Marsh, - V.P. Swimming
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