

= Netherlands Antilles at the 2008 Summer Olympics =

A delegation from the Netherlands Antilles competed at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing , China . It was the fifteenth and final appearance of the Netherlands Antilles at the Olympic Games , as the territory was to be dissolved before the 2012 Summer Olympic games in London , during which the IOC decided that Dutch Antillean athletes would participate independently under the Olympic flag .

The Netherlands Antilles ' delegation was composed of three athletes participating in three different sports : Rodion Davelaar in swimming , Philip Elhage in shooting , and Churandy Martina in track and field . Neither Davelaar or Elhage continued past the qualification rounds , but Martina reached the finals for the 100m and 200m dashes . Martina scored fourth place in the 100m dash and second place in the 200m dash (the latter behind Usain Bolt) , but was disqualified after a controversial American @-@ led protest .

= = Background = =

The appearance of the Netherlands Antilles at the Beijing Olympics marked its thirteenth and final appearance . The Netherlands Antilles had consistently appeared at the Summer Olympics since the 1952 Summer Olympics in Helsinki , Finland , excluding two Olympic games that had been boycotted due to Soviet incursions in other countries . Churandy Martina was the flagbearer for the Netherlands Antilles at the closing and opening ceremonies for the 2008 Olympics .

Issues regarding debt and revenue @-@ sharing within the Netherlands Antilles eventually led to the dissolution of the territory and its division as constituent islands Curaçao and Sint Maarten claimed a status of autonomy similar to that of Aruba , while the islands Bonaire , Saba , and Sint Eustatius were absorbed directly into the Netherlands . Thus , the 2008 Summer Olympics served as the final Olympics games in which the Netherlands Antilles participated as a territory . The future of the Dutch Antillean athletes to participate in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London were cast into doubt as a result . As residents of the Netherlands Antilles hold Dutch passports , IAAF General Secretary Pierre Weiss remarked all former Dutch Antillean athletes should immediately become eligible to represent the Netherlands in the Netherlands Antilles ' stead . Ultimately , however , the IOC decided in its 123rd session upon three items : that former Dutch Antillean athletes would compete independently under the Olympic flag ; that recognition for the Netherlands Antilles ' Olympic Committee was to be withdrawn ; and that a temporary administrative structure would serve in the Dutch Antillean NOC 's place until after the 2012 London games , directly supervised and supported by the IOC .

= = Athletics = =

Churandy Martina was the only Dutch Antillean to participate in track and field in the 2008 Beijing Olympics . He participated in two events : The 100m dash and the 200m dash .

= = = 100 m dash = = =

On 14 August , Martina completed round one of qualifications for the 100m dash at 10 @.@ 35 seconds . This placed Martina at first in his heat (Heat 10) . He ranked twenty @-@ seventh in the round , tying with Walter Dix from the United States and Andrew Hinds from Barbados . In round two on 14 August , Martina ran the 100m dash in 9 @.@ 99 seconds , tying for second with Richard Thompson of Trinidad and Tobago , and falling behind Usain Bolt of Jamaica by 0 @.@ 07 seconds . Martina advanced because of his score , and was first in his heat on 15 August , running 9 @.@ 99 seconds . Churandy Martina advanced to semifinals and ran the 100m dash in 9 @.@ 94 seconds , scoring third in his heat (behind Thompson and Jamaica 's Asafa Powell) and fourth overall (also behind Bolt) . He also ranked fourth in the finals , falling 0 @.@ 02 seconds short of bronze medalist Walter Dix 's time . Consequently , he did not medal in the event .

= = = 200 m dash = = =

Martina ranked third in his heat in the 17 August qualifications for the 200m dash , finishing the event in 20 @. @ 78 seconds and falling behind Azerbaijan 's Ramil Guliyev and Nigeria 's Obinna Metu . Overall , Martina ranked in twenty @-@ fourth place , but advanced . During round two of qualifications on 17 August , Martina ran the 200m dash in 20 @. @ 42 seconds , second place in the heat before Antigua and Barbuda 's Brendan Christian . In round two , Martina ranked tenth place , tying with the United States ' Shawn Crawford . Martina ran the 200m in 20 @. @ 11 seconds during semifinals , ranking first in his heat and second overall behind Usain Bolt . He then advanced to the finals round .

Martina 's participation in the 200m finals round was controversial . Martina came in second place to Usain Bolt , completing the event in 19 @. @ 82 seconds over Usain Bolt 's world @-@ record breaking performance of 19 @. @ 30 seconds . However , when American would @-@ be bronze medalist Wallace Spearmon was disqualified for running outside of his lane , the American coaches reviewed video records of the race and found that Martina had done the same . The United States filed a protest against the Netherlands Antilles . The Dutch Antillean Olympic committee argued that the challenge was invalid , having been filed after the 30 @-@ minute post @-@ race deadline , but Martina was disqualified from receiving the silver medal anyway . Shawn Crawford of the United States , who originally finished the race in fourth place , was given the silver medal , and Walter Dix was given the bronze medal in place of Spearmon .

Shortly after the 2008 Olympics , Crawford competed against Martina again in a meet in Zurich , Switzerland . At a hotel during the course of the meet , Crawford left the silver medal for Martina , believing that Martina deserved the medal more than he .

Key

Note ? Ranks given for track events are within the athlete 's heat only