

= Barbados at the 2008 Summer Olympics =

Barbados sent a delegation to compete at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing , China . The island nation made its tenth appearance as an independent nation upon its arrival in Beijing . Eight athletes across three sports and ten events represented Barbados , marking the smallest delegation in its history up to the Beijing Games . Its runners and swimmers advanced past the first rounds in their events in four of their nine events , although none advanced to their events ' final rounds or medaled . The nation 's flagbearer during the Beijing Games was swimmer Bradley Ally .

= = Background = =

Barbados is the easternmost of the islands located within the Caribbean Sea . Home to 280 @,@ 000 residents , Barbados was first settled by the British in the 1620s . The nation remained a British colony until it declared total independence from the United Kingdom in 1966 . The very first appearance of a uniquely Barbadian delegation at the Olympic games came two years after it declared independence from the United Kingdom . At its debut , nine male athletes arrived to participated at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City . Previously , Barbados (as a British colony) constituted a major part of the West Indies Federation along with Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago , which sent a delegation to participate at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome .

Between its 1968 debut and its appearance at the Beijing Olympics , Barbadian delegations appeared at every Summer Olympics except for the 1980 Summer Olympics , which took place in Moscow in the Soviet Union . With the exceptions of the 1968 and the 2008 Barbadian teams , every appearance by Barbados at the Olympics (as of Beijing) included at least ten athletes ; its smallest delegation arrived in 2008 , carrying only eight competitors . All the delegations except the one that arrived in 1968 have included female athletes . Prior to and including the 2008 Beijing Olympics , there had been one medalist from Barbados . Obadele Thompson won a bronze medal at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney , Australia , as part of Barbados ' most successful showing at any Olympic games as of 2008 .

In Beijing , eight athletes participated across three sports (swimming , track and field , and sailing) in ten distinct events . Gregory Douglas , the nation 's only sailor in Beijing , was the youngest participant from Barbados at 18 years old ; runner Jade Bailey , the only female athlete in the delegation , was the oldest , at 25 years old . There were no medalists from Barbados at Beijing . Swimmer Bradley Ally bore the flag of Barbados at the ceremonies .

= = Athletics = =

In track and field events , there were two ways to qualify for later rounds . The first way , " qualifying by right " , involves ranking high enough in one 's heat . Athletes could also " qualify by result " ; if they did not rank high enough in their heats but were high enough in the event 's overall standings , they could also advance .

= = = Men 's competition = = =

Andrew Hinds participated for the Barbadian team at the Beijing Olympics , participating in the men 's 100 meters dash . Born in 1984 , he is the son of former Olympian Hadley Hinds , and has been affiliated in training with the MVP Track and Field Club in Kingston , Jamaica . Hinds participated in the Beijing Olympics at age 24 , and had not previously participated in any Olympic games prior to that . During the qualification round of the event , which took place on August 14 , Hinds participated in the third heat . He completed the race in 10 @.@ 35 seconds , placing fifth out of the heat 's eight athletes . Indonesia 's Suryo Agung Wibowo ranked behind him in sixth place (10 @.@ 46 seconds) , while Ghana 's Aziz Zakari ranked ahead of him in fourth place (10 @.@ 34 seconds) . Trinidad and Tobago 's Richard Thompson (10 @.@ 24 seconds) and France 's Martial Mbandjock (10 @.@ 26 seconds) led the Barbadian sprinter 's heat. of the 80 athletes participating in the event ,

Hinds tied Colombia 's Daniel Grueso and the Netherlands Antilles ' Churandy Martina for 27th place . He advanced to the quarterfinal round .

During the quarterfinal round , which took place on August 15 , Hinds was placed in the second heat . Eight athletes participated in the heat , and Hinds placed fifth with a time of 10 @.@ 25 seconds . Brazil 's Jose Carlos Moreira ranked directly behind him (10 @.@ 32 seconds) , while Nigeria 's Olusoji Fasuba ranked directly ahead of him (10 @.@ 21 seconds) . Hinds ' heat was led by Richard Thompson again (9 @.@ 99 seconds) and the United States ' Tyson Gay (10 @.@ 09 seconds) . Of the 40 athletes who advanced to quarterfinals in the event , Hinds tied Russia 's Andrey Epishin for 24th place . He did not advance to later rounds .

Ryan Brathwaite is a hurdler who competed for Barbados at the Beijing Olympics . Born in 1988 in the Barbadian capital city of Bridgetown , Brathwaite attended Barton County Community College in rural central Kansas , competing in the school 's athletic programs . He competed in Beijing at age 20 in a single track event , the men 's 110 meters hurdles . Brathwaite had not previously competed at any Olympic games . During the qualification round of his event , which took place on August 17 , Brathwaite participated in the third heat against seven other athletes . He finished the race in 13 @.@ 38 seconds , placing second in the event ahead of the Czech Republic 's Petr Svoboda (13 @.@ 43 seconds) and behind Colombia 's Paulo Villar (13 @.@ 37 seconds) . 43 athletes competed in the qualification round of the event , and 40 finished their races ; of those , Brathwaite ranked third . He advanced to the quarterfinal round .

Brathwaite participated in the third heat of the quarterfinal round in the men 's 110 meters hurdles , which took place on August 19 . His heat included eight athletes , although one was disqualified and did not rank . With a time of 13 @.@ 44 seconds , Brathwaite ranked second in the event behind Jamaica 's Maurice Wignall (13 @.@ 36 seconds) and ahead of Villar , who led Brathwaite 's qualification heat (13 @.@ 46 seconds) . The quarterfinal round included 32 advancing athletes , and 30 of those competitors finished their races . Of those , Brathwaite ranked tenth . He again advanced , this time to the semifinal round .

Semifinals in the hurdling event took place on August 20 . Brathwaite competed in the eight @-@ person second heat . Running the race in 13 @.@ 59 seconds , Brathwaite finished in seventh place , defeating France 's Samuel Coco @-@ Villoin (13 @.@ 65 seconds) but falling behind Dutch sprinter Marcel van der Westen (13 @.@ 45 seconds) . The heat was led by the United States ' David Oliver (13 @.@ 31 seconds) and Poland 's Artur Noga (13 @.@ 34 seconds) . Of the 16 semifinalists , Brathwaite ranked 12th . He did not advance to the final round .

= = = Women 's competition = = =

Jade Latoya Bailey participated at the Beijing Olympics in track and field events on Barbados ' behalf . Born in 1983 , Bailey was 25 at the time she entered the Beijing Olympics . She had not previously competed in any Olympic games or events . One of the events in which she participated was the women 's 100 meters dash . During the qualification round of the event , which occurred on August 15 , Bailey was placed in the ninth heat against eight other athletes . She ranked second in the heat after finishing the race in 11 @.@ 46 seconds , displacing Jamaica 's Sherone Simpson (11 @.@ 48 seconds) and falling behind Russia 's Evgeniya Polyakova (11 @.@ 24 seconds) . Of the 85 athletes who competed in and finished this round of the event , Bailey tied Tahesia Harrigan of the British Virgin Islands for 25th place . She advanced to the quarterfinal round .

The quarterfinal round of the women 's 100 meters took place on August 16 . Bailey competed in the first heat , which included eight athletes . Of those , Bailey placed last in the heat after finishing the race in 11 @.@ 67 seconds . Nigeria 's Franca Idoko ranked ahead of her (11 @.@ 66 seconds) , while Cameroon 's Myriam Leonie Mani ranked ahead of Idoko (11 @.@ 65 seconds) . The heat was led by Jamaica 's Shelly @-@ Ann Fraser (11 @.@ 06 seconds) and Polyakova , who led Bailey 's previous heat (11 @.@ 13 seconds) . 40 athletes advanced to the quarterfinal round . Of those , the Barbadian sprinter tied Brazil 's Lucimar Moura for 37th place . She did not advance to semifinals .

Jade Bailey also competed in the women 's 200 meters race . During the qualification round of the

event , which took place on August 18 , Bailey was placed in the fourth heat , which included eight athletes . She finished in seventh place after finishing with a time of 23 @.@ 62 seconds , defeating Myanmar 's Lai Lai Win (24 @.@ 37 seconds) but falling behind Uzbekistan 's Guzel Khubbieva (23 @.@ 44 seconds) . Bailey 's heat was led by Bahraini sprinter Roqaya Al Ghasara (22 @.@ 81 seconds) and Great Britain 's Emily Freeman (22 @.@ 95 seconds) . 48 people competed in the qualification round , and 46 of those athletes finished the races . Bailey tied Slovenia 's Sabina Veit for 34th place overall . She did not advance to later rounds .

Key

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