

= Bahamas at the 2008 Summer Olympics =

The Bahamas sent a delegation of athletes to compete in the 2008 Summer Olympics , which were held in Beijing , People 's Republic of China from 8 to 24 August 2008 . Its Beijing appearance marked its fourteenth time at the Olympics since its début at the 1952 Summer Olympics in Helsinki . The delegation included 25 athletes across four sports (track and field , boxing , swimming and tennis) and nineteen distinct events . Its athletes advanced to semifinals in eight events and finals in five events , medaling in two of them (a silver in men 's 4x400 meters relay by Andretti Bain , Michael Mathieu , Andrae Williams , Chris Brown , Avard Moncur and Ramon Miller , and a bronze in men 's triple jump by Leevan Sands) . The Bahamian delegation was one of the largest sent between its début and 2008 . The country 's flag bearer was Debbie Ferguson @-@ McKenzie .

= = Background = =

Before Beijing , the Bahamas had participated in the Summer Olympics thirteen times . This included every single Summer Olympics starting from the 1952 Summer Olympics in Helsinki , Finland , but excluding the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow , the Soviet Union . The Bahamas had , as of 2008 , never had an appearance in any Winter Olympics . The Bahamian delegation in Beijing included twenty @-@ five athletes , one of its largest delegations in its history up to that point . Prior to Beijing , Bahamian athletes had won four gold medals , one silver and four bronze ; a total of nine medals . Bahama 's delegation in Beijing added one silver and one bronze medal to the tally , increasing the total number of Bahamian medals to eleven . The flag bearer at ceremonies was Debbie Ferguson @-@ McKenzie . The Bahamian delegation was 41st in line during the flagbearing ceremonies .

Bahamian Olympic coach Keith Parker , prior to the start of the Olympic track events , said that Derrick Atkins held a strong chance of medaling in his events , having considered Atkin 's unexpected medaling at the 2007 World Championships , tying Jamaica 's Asafa Powell and the United States ' Tyson Gay for second place . Similar expectations were held for Chris Brown . Henry Rolle , the track coach at Auburn University , traveled to Beijing to train former athletes at Tianjin University . Several Bahamians were included in this group .

= = Medalists = =

= = Athletics = =

= = = Men 's competition = = =

Eleven male athletes competed in track and field events on behalf of the Bahamas . Of those athletes , three participated in the 4 × 400 meters relay only (Williams , Moncur , Miller) ; five participated only in events other than the 4 × 400 meters relay (Atkins , Rolle , L. Sands , S. Sands , and Thomas) , and three participated in both an individual event and the 4 × 400 meters relay . Of the individual events , Bahamian athletes were involved in six distinct events (100 meters , 40 meters , 200 meters , triple jump , 110 meters hurdles , and high jump) . The two Bahamian medals won at Beijing were won by men in track and field events (4 × 400 meters relay and triple jump) .

= = = Men 's high jump = = =

Donald Thomas was the sole Bahamian athlete participating in the men 's high jump event of the Beijing Olympics . During the event 's qualification round on 17 August , Thomas was placed in the first heat versus competitors that included the Czech Republic 's Jaroslav Baba and Great Britain 's Germaine Mason . Thomas ' best height cleared during this preliminary round was 2 @.@ 20 meters

, the same height as Israeli Nikita Palli ; Pole Michal Bieniek ; Syrian Majed Aldin Gazal ; and American Dusty Jonas . However , Thomas tied Palli for twelfth place and scored ahead of Bieniek , Gazal and Jonas because Palli and Thomas had no misses at the high jump bar ; the other three athletes did . Overall , Thomas tied Ukrainian Dmytro Dem 'yanyuk and also Palli for twenty @-@ first place out of the forty competing athletes . Thomas did not advance to the final round .

===== Men 's 200 meters =====

Jamaal Rolle (or Jamial Rolle) competed on behalf of the Bahamas in the men 's 200 meters . Rolle was placed in the seventh heat of eight heats during the 17 August qualification round . Facing competitors that included the Dutch Antillean Churandy Martina , Azerbaijani Ramil Guliyev , and Nigerian Obinna Metu , Rolle ranked fifth out of eight athletes in his heat after completing his event in 20 @.@ 93 seconds . Rolle scored ahead of sixth @-@ place finalist Shingo Suetsugu of Japan , and behind fourth @-@ place finalist Sandro Viana of Brazil , falling 0 @.@ 09 seconds behind the latter . Overall , Rolle ranked thirty @-@ fourth out of the sixty @-@ six athletes who participated in the first round . He did not progress to further rounds .

===== Men 's 110 meters hurdles =====

Auburn University graduate Shamar Sands reached the quarterfinals in the 110 meter hurdles . During the qualification round on 17 August , Sands was placed in the second heat , facing competitors that included America 's David Oliver and Spain 's Jackson Quiñónez . Sands ranked third out of seven athletes , completing his event in 13 @.@ 45 seconds . He placed 0 @.@ 04 seconds behind second @-@ place heat finalist Quiñónez , and 0 @.@ 15 seconds behind heat leader Oliver . Overall , Sands ranked eighth out of the forty @-@ three athletes who participated in the qualification round . Sands progressed to quarterfinals , where he was again placed in the second heat . Completing the event with a time of 13 @.@ 55 seconds , Sands ranked seventh in the heat of eight athletes behind South Korea 's Lee Jeong @-@ Jun and ahead of Georgia 's David Ilariani . Sands fell behind heat leader Dayron Robles of Cuba by 0 @.@ 36 seconds and did not progress further .

===== Men 's 100 meters =====

Jamaican @-@ born runner Derrick Atkins was the only Bahamian to participate in the men 's 100 meters race at the Beijing Olympics . Atkins was placed in the eighth heat during the 14 August qualification round , facing athletes that included Russia 's Andrey Epishin and Norway 's Jaysuma Saidy Ndure . Atkins ranked first in his heat of eight athletes with a time of 10 @.@ 28 seconds , defeating second @-@ place heat finalist Epishin by 0 @.@ 06 seconds . Of the 80 athletes who participated in the qualification round of the event , Atkins tied Cuban Jenris Vizcaino for eighteenth place . He advanced to quarterfinals on 15 August . At quarterfinals , Atkins participated in the fifth heat against athletes that included Walter Dix of the United States and Asafa Powell of Jamaica . Atkins finished in third place in his heat with a time of 10 @.@ 14 seconds , falling behind Walter Dix , who ranked second with a time of 10 @.@ 08 seconds ; and placing ahead of Antigua and Barbuda 's Daniel Bailey , who ranked fourth with a time of 10 @.@ 23 seconds . Of the fourth quarterfinalists , Atkins tied Ndure for fourteenth place , and advanced to the 16 August semifinals . Atkins competed in the first heat against , among other athletes , Dix and Usain Bolt . With a time of 10 @.@ 13 seconds , Atkins finished in sixth place in his heat , behind Saint Kitts and Nevis ' Kim Collins (who earned a time of 10 @.@ 05 seconds) and ahead of Great Britain 's Tyrone Edgar (who earned a time of 10 @.@ 18 seconds) . Overall , Atkins ranked twelfth out of sixteen athletes in semifinals , and did not advance to the final round .

===== Men 's triple jump =====

Auburn University graduate and two @-@ time Olympian Leevan Sands , the cousin of Shamar Sands , was the sole Bahamian participant in the men 's triple jump event . During the qualification round on 17 August , Sands was placed in the second heat against competitors that included Li Yanxi of China , Onochie Achike of Great Britain , and Hector Fuentes of Cuba . Sands ranked second in his heat of twenty athletes , jumping a distance of 17 @.@ 25 meters . Li , the heat leader , beat Sands by 0 @.@ 05 meters , while Achike del behind Sands by 0 @.@ 07 meters . Overall , Sands ranked fifth out of the thirty @-@ nine participating athletes . He progressed to the final round on 21 August . During that round , Sands jumped a distance of 17 @.@ 59 meters , medaling bronze behind silver medalist Phillips Idowu of Great Britain (who jumped 17 @.@ 62 meters) and gold medalist Nelson Évora of Portugal (who jumped 17 @.@ 67 meters) .

= = = = Men 's 400 meters = = = =

Oral Roberts University athlete Andretti " Dretti " Bain , two @-@ time medalist and three @-@ time Olympian Chris Brown , and Adidas @-@ sponsored athlete Michael Mathieu participated in the men 's 400 meters dash . Brown was placed in the second heat , and finished first with a time of 44 @.@ 79 seconds , ahead of second @-@ place finalist Australian Joel Milburn . Bain was placed in the third heat , and placed third out of eight athletes after gaining a time of 45 @.@ 96 seconds , placing behind Nigeria 's Godday James (who finished with 45 @.@ 49 seconds) and ahead of Fiji 's Niko Verekaita (who finished with 46 @.@ 32 seconds) . Mathieu participated in the sixth heat and ranked third out of eight athletes , earning a time of 45 @.@ 17 seconds . He placed ahead of Jamaica 's Michael Blackwood (who earned 45 @.@ 56 seconds) and behind Trinidad and Tobago 's Renny Quow (who earned 45 @.@ 13 seconds) . Out of all fifty @-@ six athletes participating in the event , Chris Brown ranked first ; Michael Mathieu tied Australia 's Sean Wroe for tenth ; and Bain ranked thirty @-@ first . All three advanced to semifinals , which took place on 19 August . During the course of semifinals , Brown was placed in the first heat ; Bain was placed in the second ; and Mathieu was placed in the third . Chris Brown finished the event in 44 @.@ 59 seconds , ranking second in the heat behind American Jeremy Wariner and ahead of Belgian Kevin Borlee . Bain completed the event in 45 @.@ 42 seconds , placing seventh in his heat , ahead of Briton Andrew Steele and Nigerian Godday James . Mathieu completed the race in 45 @.@ 56 seconds , placing sixth in his heat out of eight competitors . Mathieu ranked ahead of seventh @-@ place finisher Wroe and behind Congolese competitor Senga Gary Kikaya . Out of the 24 competitors who advanced to semifinals , Brown finished third ; Bain finished nineteenth ; and Mathieu finished twentieth . Only Brown advanced to the final round on 21 August . Brown finished the event in 44 @.@ 84 seconds , placing forth behind the three American medalists (Lashawn Merritt , Jeremy Wariner and David Neville) .

= = = = Men 's 4 × 400 meters relay = = = =

The men 's 4 × 400 meters relay included a Bahamian team that , in total , included six Bahamian athletes . Of those athletes , Avarad Moncur and Ramon Miller participated only in the qualification round alongside Michael Mathieu and Andrae Williams . In the qualification round , which took place on 22 August , the Bahamian team participated on the second heat against the British , Jamaican , Trinidadian , Japanese , Greek and Dominican teams . Overall , the Bahamian team ranked second in the heat with a time of 2 : 59 @.@ 88 behind the British team (which earned a time of 2 : 59 @.@ 33) and ahead of the Jamaican team (which earned a time of 3 : 00 @.@ 09) . Out of all sixteen teams participating in the event , the Bahamian team ranked second . The Bahamas ' relay proceeded to the final round on 23 August . During the final round , the Bahamian relay replaced Avarad Moncur and Ramon Miller with Chris Brown and Andretti Bain . Chris Brown started the relay , followed by Mathieu ; Bain ; and Williams . With a time of 2 : 58 @.@ 03 , the relay medaled silver behind the American relay (which earned 2 : 55 @.@ 39 and set an Olympic record) and ahead of the Russian relay (which earned 2 : 58 @.@ 06) .

===== Summary =====

Key

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