

## = Aruba at the 2004 Summer Olympics =

Aruba sent a delegation to compete at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens , Greece from 13 to 29 August 2004 . The delegation 's participation in the Athens Olympics marked Aruba 's fifth appearance at the Summer Olympics since the Dutch colony 's debut at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul , South Korea . Four athletes ( three men and one woman ) competed across three sports ( Pierre de Windt in track and field , Davy Bisslik and Roshendra Vrolijk in swimming , and Isnardo Faro weightlifting ) . None of the track or swimming athletes advanced past the first round in their events , and as of Athens , no Arubans had medaled in any events . Roshendra Vrolijk bore Aruba 's flag at the ceremonies .

## = = Background = =

Aruba is a small island colony of 100 @, @ 000 people that is part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands , and has been under Dutch control since the 1630s . The island lies in the southern Caribbean Sea just to north of Venezuela , and is near to the Dutch colonies of Curaçao and Bonaire . The colony originally was part of an autonomous union with those two islands in what was known as the Netherlands Antilles , but Aruba seceded from that union in 1986 . The Netherlands continues to regulate all its foreign affairs . While the first Dutch Antilean delegation to the Olympics was sent during the 1952 Summer Olympics in Helsinki , Finland , the first uniquely Aruban delegation participated two years after the island 's secession from the Netherlands Antilles at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul , South Korea . Between then and the 2004 Athens Olympics , Aruba had sent a delegation to all five Summer Olympic games . The most substantial Aruban delegation was in 1988 , when it included eight athletes . This delegation included more women and encompassed more sports than any Aruban delegation since then ( including the Athens Olympics ) .

At the Athens Olympics , four athletes ( three men and one woman ) participated across three sports in four distinct events . Swimmer Roshendra Vrolijk was Aruba 's flag bearer at the ceremonies .

## = = Athletics = =

Aruban athletes have so far achieved qualifying standards in the following athletics events ( up to a maximum of 3 athletes in each event at the ' A ' Standard , and 1 at the ' B ' Standard ) .

Pierre " Peppie " de Windt participated on Aruba 's behalf as its only athlete in a track and field event . Born in the Solito neighborhood of Aruba 's capital city , Oranjestad , de Windt was 21 at the time he ran at the Olympics in Athens . The Aruban athlete had not previously participated in any Olympic games . The event 's first round took place during the 21st of August. de Windt took part in the fourth heat against eight other athletes , although Greece 's Hristoforos Hoidis did not start . In his heat , de Windt placed sixth with a time of 11 @. @ 02 seconds . Paraguay 's Diego Ferreira ranked fifth ahead of de Windt , setting a national record in the process ( 10 @. @ 50 seconds ) , while Laotian athlete Chamleunesouk Ao Oudomphonh ranked directly behind de Windt ( 11 @. @ 30 seconds ) . The leaders of de Windt 's heat included first place finalist Shawn Crawford of the United States ( 10 @. @ 02 seconds ) and Barbados ' Obadele Thompson , who placed second and set his season best ( 10 @. @ 08 seconds ) . The Aruban sprinter did not advance to later rounds .

### Key

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