

= Suriname at the 2008 Summer Olympics =

Suriname sent a delegation of four people to compete at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing , China : two athletes (Jurgen Themen and Kirsten Nieuwendam and two swimmers (Gordon Touw Ngie Tjouw and Chinyere Pigot) who participated in four distinct events . The appearance of Suriname at Beijing marked its tenth Olympic appearance , which included every Olympic games since the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City and excluded the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow . Its four athletes did not advance past the first round in each of their events . The Surinamese flag bearer in Beijing was not an athlete , but Anthony Nesty , the only medalist in Surinamese history (as of the Beijing Olympics) and the nation 's Olympic swimming coach .

= = Background = =

Up to and including its participation in the Beijing Games , Surinamese athletes participated in ten Olympic games , all of which were summer Games . The first case of a Surinamese athlete 's participation was at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City , when it sent a single male athlete . Since then , Suriname 's athletes have participated in every Olympic games except the 1980 Summer Olympics in the Soviet Union . As of Beijing , the country had not sent more than seven athletes to any one Games . Prior to and including 2008 , one Surinamese athlete had won the two medals ever claimed by Surinamese athletes ? Anthony Nesty , who won a gold medal in 1988 , and a bronze medal in 1992 , both in swimming events . No medals were won in Beijing .

Although Nesty did not participate in any event at the Beijing Olympics , he was Suriname 's flag bearer at the ceremonies . He also served as the head coach for the Surinamese Olympic swim team , having served previously as associate head coach for the University of Florida swim team and , during the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens , the assistant coach for the Surinamese team .

= = Athletics = =

Then 22 @-@ year old Jurgen Themen appeared at the Olympics for the first time when he participated in the 100 meters dash in Beijing . He was the sole male Surinamese participant in track and field during the 2008 Olympics . Themen participated in the first heat during the August 14 qualification round , completing the event in 10 @.@ 61 seconds and ranking seventh of eight athletes . The leaders of Themen 's heat included Usain Bolt of Jamaica (10 @.@ 20 seconds) and Daniel Bailey of Antigua and Barbuda (10 @.@ 24 seconds) . Themen himself scored directly ahead of Vanuatu 's Moses Kamut (10 @.@ 81 seconds) and directly behind Italy 's Fabio Cerutti (10 @.@ 49 seconds) . All heats combined , Themen ranked 54 out of the 80 athletes who participated in the qualification round . He did not progress to quarterfinals .

Then 16 @-@ year @-@ old student of Florida 's St. Thomas Aquinas High School Kirsten Nieuwendam participated in the Beijing Olympics on behalf of Suriname as its only female track and field athlete that year . Nieuwendam had not previously participated in any Olympic games . Nieuwendam participated in the first heat of the qualification round , which took place on August 18 . She completed her event in 24 @.@ 46 seconds , placing seventh out of the eight athletes in her heat , finishing behind Liberia 's Kia Davis (24 @.@ 31 seconds) . Vida Anim of Ghana , the eighth competitor in the heat , never started her event . The leaders of Nieuwendam 's heat were Allyson Felix of the United States (23 @.@ 02 seconds) and Susanthika Jayasinghe of Sri Lanka (23 @.@ 04 seconds) . Out of the 48 athletes who competed in the qualification round , Nieuwendam ranked 44th . She did not progress to further rounds .

Key

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