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CARIFTA AQUATIC CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

CAYMAN SWIMMERS HOLD THEIR BREATH FOR JAMAICA

George Town, Grand Cayman:

The Cayman Islands National Swim Team will be heading to Jamaica early on 29th March, with the largest overall team in history of 36 swimmers. For the first time, Cayman will be competing in Synchronized Swimming, along with competitive age group swimming in a 50 meter pool and in Open Water swimming categories. The team consists of 14 male and 22 female athletes, with 11 competing at CARIFTA for the first time.

Cayman's swimmers, coaches and team managers are holding their breath to see if they can match or even surpass last year's record achievement of 50 medals, weighing in at 3rd overall. Now that Lauren Hew has aged up and losing Allison Jackson to the Commonwealth Swim Team, a lot is counting on the 11 CARIFTA rookies and with high hopes for the entire team that their training will keep them on the podium.



MLA Wight with on-island members of the 2018 Cayman National Team heading to CARIFTA. (Names listed below)



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CIASA President, Michael Lockwood gave his support the team, "It is great to see a full complement of swimmers going to Jamaica. This in a strategic and important competition and is a great opportunity for swimmers to see the product of their hard work since last summer. This will be the first national level competition for synchronised swimmers and we are excited for them to compete in the Caribbean alongside their peers."

The Caribbean Free Trade Association (**CARIFTA**) Aquatics Championships is an annual, age-group aquatics championships for the Caribbean. It has been held since 1985, and is similar in form and origin to track & field athletics event (the CARIFTA Games). The event is held under the auspices of CANOC, the Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees. The 33rd edition of the aquatics championships will be held from March 15, 2018 to April 4 2018 at the National Aquatic Center Kingston, and James Bond Beach, Oraccabessa, St Mary, Jamaica.

Over 550 athletes, from 24 Caribbean countries, are expected to converge on the "Land of Wood and Water" to vie for Caribbean bragging rights in swimming, artistic (synchronized) swimming, water polo and open water swimming. There will be nine days of hard fought competition among the region's elite age-group aspirants and many outstanding performances are expected.

CIASA Director Steve Broadbelt added, "We are immensely proud of what our swimmers have been able to achieve at CARIFTA. Imagine what our athletes would do if they had a 50 meter pool in Cayman to train in. CIASA looks forward to a time in the not too distant future when we can host CARIFTA in our own 50 meter pool'.

Cayman is investing in developing competitive swimmers through local swim clubs, local swim meets and international team and club meets. Parents with children interested in competitive swimming should contact one of Cayman's swim clubs for more information. Swimming age categories start at 6 & Under in local swim meets.

The Cayman Islands Aquatic Sports Association (CIASA) is a volunteer, not for profit association dedicated to furthering the interests of all aquatic sports in the Cayman Islands. CIASA is the recognised Governing Body of aquatic sports in the Cayman Islands and is a member of FINA, UANA, CCCAN and the CIOC. For more information on CIASA please visit www.ciasa.ky.



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2018 CARIFTA Team Members

Boys

11-12

Jake Alberga*
Stefano Bonati

13-14

Jake Bailey
Finn Bishop
Cory Frederick-Westerborg
Ben Somerville**

15-17

John Bodden
Jordan Crooks
Alex Dakers
Liam Henry
Zachary Moore
Matthew Somerville**
Eddie Weber

Synchronised Swimmers*

Amber Barnes*
Jade Barnes*
Abbie Carnahan*
Helena Frawley*
Nicolas Isabel*
Madison Van Duynhoven*

* First Time CARIFTA Qualifier

Girls

11-12

Allyson Belfonte
Brittany Chin*
Jillian Crooks*
Tabitha Hawkins*
Abbey Walton*

13-14

Sophie Ackerley
Avery Lambert
Sabine Ellison
Raya Embury-Brown
Kyra Rabess
Stephanie Royston

15-17

Sam Bailey
Sarah Jackson
Emily Link
Ella Plunkett
Ria Plunkett
Elana Sinclair*

Staff

Coach Caleb Miller
Coach David Pursley
Coach Alissa Moberg
Team Manager – Chilian Wong-Ellison
Assistant Team Manager – Fulvio Bonati
Chaperone – Laura Ribbins
Physio – Rose Smith

** Returning swimmers are athletes with CARIFTA Team experience who did not attend the 2017 CARIFTA Swimming Championships

(end)



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CAYMAN ISLANDS AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

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AFFILIATED MEMBER OF FINA-UANA-CCCAN-CARIFTA-CIGA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS OLYMPIC COMMITTEE