

Bahamas Swimming Federation sent a small team of 5 swimmers (Bria Deveaux, Taryn Smith, Evante Gibson, Matthew Lowe and T'Auren Moss) to compete in the 3rd Fina World Junior Swimming Championships earlier this month.

The Team, including Coach Michael Stewart and Team Manager Sheena Deveaux, left Nassau and Freeport on Friday August 12th for Lima, Peru arriving late that evening, in good spirits and ready to continue their training in preparation for the competition.

Tuesday August 16th the first day of saw Matthew Lowe as the first swimmer for Team Bahamas. Swimming the 400M freestyle. He finished 7th in his heat with a time of 4:25.31 which placed him 39th overall. Evante Gibson swam in the boys 100M breast; unfortunately he was DQ'd for a butterfly kick during his swim.

The opening ceremony commenced at 5pm in the evening. Evante was chosen by his teammates to be the flag bearer.

Day 2 saw all swimmers taking part in the meet. First up was Matthew Lowe in the 200IM finishing 5th in his heat with a personal best time of 2:21.59; this placed him 38th overall. Taryn Smith and Bria Deveaux swam in the Girls 100M Freestyle. Taryn's time of 1:00.56 placed her 42nd overall while Bria's time of 1:00.99 placed her 44th overall. Evante Gibson and T'Auren Moss were next in the boys 100M butterfly. Evante swam a time of 1:00.12 placing 45th overall and T'Auren's time of 58.83 finishing 41st overall.

Day 3, Taryn Smith and Bria Deveaux saw action first in the 50M butterfly. Taryn was 35th overall with a time of 30.04 and Bria was 33rd overall with a time of 29.71. T'Auren Moss swam a personal best time of 25.29 in the 50M Free which placed him 51st overall. Matthew Lowe's time of 9:27.74 in the 800M free placed him 34th overall.

Day 4, Evante Gibson and T'Auren Moss swimming the 50M butterfly, Evante's time of 26.73 placed him 38th overall and T'Auren's time of 26.21 placed him 30th overall.

Day 5, The 100M freestyle saw T'Auren Moss swim a time of 54.58; bettering his entry time of 54.64 placing him 48th overall. Both Taryn and Bria competed in the Girls 100M butterfly Taryn's time 1:07.11 and Bria's time of 1:07.56 placed them 33rd and 35th overall.

Boys 400IM - Matthew Lowe swam a time of 5:05.67 and 34th overall.

Girls 50M Freestyle – Taryn Smith swam a time of 28.07, placing 41st overall.

Bria Deveaux swam a time of 27.94 placing 39th overall.

Boys 50M Breast - Evante Gibson swam a time of 31.85 placing 40th overall.

On the final day Matthew competed in the 200M butterfly finishing with a time of 2:17.78 which placed him 33rd overall. Taryn Smith also swam the 200M finishing with a time of 2:13.18 placing 35th overall.

The team will leave Lima tonight, shortly after midnight. T'Auren and Taryn return to the Bahamas to continue in high school, both of them entering grade 11.

Bria will be returning to Tennessee where she will be starting her final year of high school at Baylor School. Evante will be heading to Charlotte, North Carolina where he will be competing as a freshman on the Queens University swim team. Matthew will be going directly to Towson, Maryland where he will also be competing as a freshman, for the Towson University swim team. Their experience in Lima will hopefully be an incentive for these young swimmers to rise to the challenge and to train towards the goal of representing the Bahamas at future International competitions