

## **2008 CARIFTA WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIP OFF WITH A BANG!!!**

**The 2008 CARIFTA Water Polo Championship commenced TODAY (21 March 2008) at the National Stadium Pool with the Opening Ceremony and four (4) Games.**

**The Games were declared opened by the Hon. Olivia ‘Babsy’ Grange, Minister of Information, Culture, Youth and Sport. In her address to the players from Bahamas, Netherlands Antilles, Trinidad & Tobago and Jamaica, the Minister traced the history of the sport of Water Polo back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century where it began in England and Scotland as Water Rugby. The game at that time was a demonstration of strength and swimming skill. She noted that Men’s Water Polo was among the first team sports.**

**She stated that part of her mission was to see the sport grow and propel so that we would be competitive at the highest international levels – World Championships, PANAM Games and the Olympics, along with the other sports.**

**She noted that the CARIFTA Championships should provide the springboard for the growth of the sport and the respective Associations must be lauded for their efforts to involve their countries in this Meet.**

**She congratulated the President of the Amateur Swimming Association of Jamaica (ASAJ) and his team for their efforts in hosting the Championships. The Minister took note of the fact that former Water Polo star Sean Paul Henriques, jumped out of the pool and onto the Dancehall stage where he’s creating bigger waves.**

**She extended the a very warm welcome to the visiting teams of Bahamas, Netherlands Antilles and Trinidad & Tobago and implored all teams to play in a competitive spirit of fair play, decency and friendliness.**

**Results of the matches played today were as follows:**

<b>Male 15 &amp; Under</b>	<b>Trinidad &amp; Tobago 26</b>	<b>Jamaica</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Female 18 &amp; Under</b>	<b>Trinidad &amp; Tobago 15</b>	<b>Netherland Antilles</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Male 18 &amp; Under</b>	<b>Netherland Antilles 16</b>	<b>Jamaica</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Male 18 &amp; Under</b>	<b>Trinidad &amp; Tobago 29</b>	<b>Bahamas</b>	<b>0</b>

**Faith Palmer  
March 21, 2008**