

PRESS RELEASE – AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA
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JAMAICAN WATER POLO TEAM FACES TOUGHEST CHALLENGE AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Jamaica's Male Junior Water Polo Team will today play their opening match at the 13th FINA Junior Men's Water Polo World Championships when they face Serbia-Montenegro at 15:45 local time (13:45 Jamaican Time), in Mar del Plata Argentina.

Without a doubt, this will be a David and Goliath match with Serbia, the current world champions (at the senior level), fielding players most of whom are tall, weighing over 220 pounds each with more than 10 years experience playing water polo, and Jamaica, whose players have between seven months and two years experience, none of whom weigh over 190 pounds.

Despite the obvious difference in size and experience level, the Jamaican team is in high spirits and is looking forward to the match. Captain, Lance Rochester, will start the game playing the hole position, Jamie Smith, John-Claude Wright and Marlon McIntyre will be the primary attacking force for Jamaica while Daniel Arscott will start in goal. The rest of the starting seven will be named just before game time.

Swimming Association President John Eyre, who is with the team in Argentina, noted that while "the odds may appear to be against Jamaica, what is not seen is the heart of our players, and that whatever the final score line, they will play with heart and passion. That's all I can ask". He added that "this first match at the World Championships marks a new age in Jamaican Water Polo" and "as President, I intend to make the most of it. Qualifying for the World Championships has already changed, for the better, the way our players train and play the game. The experience gained in Argentina can only have a positive impact"

In other news, FINA announced yesterday that Iran had been forced to withdraw from the competition at the last minute because of visa problems. As Jamaica and Iran were both in Group D, Jamaica will now have a rest day on Friday October 7. Iran's absence could also have a significant impact on the game schedule for the team that finishes at the bottom of the Group after the preliminary round of matches. That team will play the last place team in Group A on October 12th, the loser assigned 21st place and will not play any more matches in the competition.

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NB: THE JAMAICAN TEAM MANAGER, CHRISTINE CHAMBERS, MAY BE CONTACTED BY CALLING THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS IN ARGENTINA:

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