

SERBIA OUTCLASSES JAMAICA AT WATER POLO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Jamaica's inexperience proved to be too much of a hurdle as they were outclassed by a very strong Serbia-Montenegro team, going down 38 to 1 at the FINA Junior Men's Water Polo World Championships in Argentina. Jamie Smith scored Jamaica's only goal from a penalty after Lance Rochester was pulled back on a breakaway with 5:39 to go in the third quarter.

The Serb players were not only much larger than the Jamaicans, but they were faster too and with their vast experience advantage, were able to convert most of Jamaica's turnovers into goals. The Jamaicans were clearly tentative at the start of the game, but slowly became more comfortable, despite the fact that they were being manhandled by the Serbs.

The Jamaican objective was to restrict the Serbs to 28 goals and this seemed possible with the score 7-0 at the end of the first quarter. In the second quarter, Serbia made good use of the Jamaican turnovers as they attempted to push deeper in to the Serbian half, converting most into fast breaks with at least one man advantage. Serbia increased their scoring rate in each of the last three quarters, netting nine in the second, ten in the third and twelve in the fourth.

Although there were relatively few fouls in the game, Marlon McIntyre and Lance Rochester were both ejected from the game after committing three exclusion fouls each. The Jamaicans walked away with their heads held high as they played with heart throughout the game and from all accounts, learned a lot about world class Water Polo.

In the only other Group D game played today, France proved too much for Columbia winning 11-2.

With Iran's late pullout, Jamaica will have a rest day tomorrow, and will next play Croatia on Saturday.

End – For feedback from Coach Lotti call team Manager Christine Chambers 54 1 55 327 344 (cel) or 54 223 451 2125 (hotel)