

BAHAMAS HAS TEAM AT THE US OPEN

There were 11 Bahamians swimming at the recent US Open at Purdue University, Indiana. The highlight of the 3 day competition was the two new Bahamian National Records in the senior girls set by Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace in the 100 free-58.44 and 200 free -2:07.04. Arianna helped Bolles School to a 3rd and 4th place relay finish at the meet.

The other swimmers at the meet representing the Bahamas were Jeremy Knowles, Alana Dillette, Nikia Deveaux, Teisha Lightbourne, Alicia Lightbourne, McKayla Lightbourne, Jenna Chaplin, Jade Thompson, Ariel Weech, and Anthaya Rolle.

This was a fast and large meet with over 1,000 swimmers including several World record holders and Olympic Champions. Because of the size of the meet the heats were run as an A and B flight with the A flight being the top 6 entered heats which were run first and the B flight being the remaining heats which were run after the A flight making for shorter waits at the pool for most swimmers.

Jeremy Knowles made the C final in the 200 IM, the B final in the 100 fly, and the A final in the 200 fly where he finished 6th in a 2:01.60. The event was won by Michael Phelps in 1:55.7 who is the current world record holder in the event. The Bahamas had two relays represented at the meet with Alana Dillette, Alicia Lightbourne, Jenna Chaplin, and Nikia Deveaux swimming in the 4 x 100 medley where they finished 2nd in their heat, and Nikia, Alicia, Teisha, and Alana swimming the 4 x 100 free which finished 4th in their heat.

Andy and Nancy Knowles went as coaches and managers along with the much needed and appreciated assistance of Andre and Theda Weech and Tony Rolle who helped with the driving, supervision, and organization.

It was an important meet for our swimmers as they gain confidence while learning to compete with the best and to prepare them for next summers Pan Am Games.