

ROUND EIGHT REPORT

JAMAICA DEFEATS NORTHWEST AFRICANS!

Many years ago as a High School student I had occasion to learn/study the capitals of the world. One which held my fascination and which I have not forgot to this day was Mauritania's chief city "**Nouakchott**" (pronounced Nuwākshūt).

Mauritania, located in the Maghreb region of Northwest Africa, has a fascinating history its name being rooted in the ancient Berber kingdom of "**Mauretania**" which existed from "**Before Christ**" (BC). It is bordered by Algeria (Northeast), Mali (East/Southeast), Morocco (North) and Senegal (Southwest).

In today's 8th round of the 42nd World Chess Olympiad in Baku, Azerbaijan, Jamaica's men were too good for **Mauritania**, the Northwestern Africans falling **3 -1**.



Jamaica's team which defeated **Mauritania 3-1** in round 8. L-R: NM Shreyas Smith (board 3), CM Brandon Wilson (board 4), FM Malaku Lorne (board 2), non-playing Captain IM Jomo Pitterson and FM Warren Elliott (board 1). Photo courtesy of David Llada.

On board 1 **FM Warren Elliott** returned from his hiatus the previous round and, armed with the white pieces, chose to commence proceedings by pushing his queen's pawn two squares. His opponent, **AIM Mohamed Sidi Tajedine**, uncorked the King's Indian Defence and Elliott responded with the Sämisch variation. In the ensuing jousting the Jamaican was in total control throughout and forced resignation in 41 moves with mate just 1 move away.

Interestingly, Friedrich "**Fritz**" Sämisch, the German Grandmaster after whom the opening is named, has the dubious distinction of being Aron Nimzowitsch's "victim" in the "**Immortal Zugzwang Game**" that unfolded at Copenhagen, Denmark in 1923.

GET THEE BEHIND ME DEMONS!!!!

With FM Damion Davy rested, on board 2 **FM Malaku Lorne** got rid of the "demons", easily defeating **CM Salem Mohamed Yah**i whose Queen pawn start did not yield the desired result. He blundered an exchange early and lost in 44 moves. This was the Jamaican rastaman's first win in seven games and his sigh of relief was lengthy. He is hoping to start a winning streak to end the tournament on a high.

CM Brandon Wilson was confronted, on board 4, by **CM Brahim Moulaye Hemam**'s English opening. The Jamaican outplayed his opponent, won the exchange and proceeded to display accuracy and patience to convert his advantage, the end coming in 51 moves. This put Jamaica 3-0 up.

The last game to end was on board 3 where **NM Shreyas Smith** wielded the white pieces and essayed the Ruy Lopez. His opponent, **CM Daouda Ethmane Sabar** chose the double-edged Jaenisch-Schliemann variation in response and a sharp game ensued in which the African got the better of the blows exchanged in the middle-game. This secured for him a long-term advantage which he gently nursed to get a consolation victory for his country.

With this triumph, Jamaica's men/Open team remained in contention for top honours in their category. In tomorrow's **9th** round in **match 54** Jamaica will match wits against **Nepal** ranked 12 places below the

West Indians who will have the white pieces on boards 1 and 3 and Black on boards 2 and 4, respectively.

MANDELA'S SPIRIT DRIVES HIS TEAM TO VICTORY!

In the Women's Section Jamaica faced South Africa but Nelson Mandela's representatives were in a different gear on the day, turning back the Jamaicans **3-1**. On boards 2, 3 and 4 **CM Rachel Miller**, **WCM Ariel Barrett** and **WCM Annesha Smith** lost to **WIM Jesse Nikki February**, **WCM Michelle M Fisher** and **WFM Lauren Van Niekerk**, respectively.



Jamaica's women in earlier (round 3) action. Photograph courtesy of Paul Truong.

WIM **Deborah Richards-Porter** salvaged some pride for Jamaica with a strong performance on board 1. She chose the Slav Defence against **WIM Anzel Laubscher** and a tough fight ensued but the Jamaican refused to blink, playing well in all phases of the game to bring home the spoils.

In the **9th** round Jamaica will face **Wales** (ranked 84) in **match 45**.

The Jamaicans will have the white pieces on boards 1 and 3 and Black on boards 2 and 4, respectively.

RULES OF PLAY

Each player has 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, an additional 30 minutes thereafter, plus 30 seconds per move from move 1. A point is awarded for a win; a half point for a draw and zero for a loss on each board. When the points are tabulated the team with more will be declared the winner and awarded match points. No player is allowed to offer a draw until after 30 moves have been completed.

Jamaica's participation was made possible chiefly by sponsorship from the Government of Jamaica (*via the Sports Development Foundation*), the Jamaica Chess Federation and the Kasparov Chess Foundation.

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All photographs courtesy of the Jamaica Chess Federation unless indicated otherwise.