

## ROUND NINE REPORT

### MISSED CHANCES BY JAMAICA'S TEAMS!

In today's 9th round of the 42<sup>nd</sup> World Chess Olympiad in Baku, Azerbaijan, Jamaica's two teams missed glorious chances to defeat their opponents and stake a claim for top honours in their respective rating categories. The Women are in category "C" in the Women's section and the men in category "D" in the Open section.

In **match 54** in the Open section **Nepal** defeated Jamaica **2 ½ - 1 ½**. On board 1 **FM Warren Elliott** continued his solid showing, drawing with White in 47 moves after his Nepalese opponent, **CM Keshav Shrestha**, pulled the Budapest Gambit from the hat.



*Jamaica against Nepal in round 9 action. Photograph courtesy of Lana Afandiyeva.*

**FM Damion Davy** (board 2) played a fantastic Sicilian Defence, his opponent **Sajin Maharjan** unable to cope with the Jamaican's enterprising exchange sacrifice on move 23. As compensation Davy reaped a bunch of pawns, one of which eventually promoted bringing

victory in 56 moves. This was actually the first game to end.

Although Jamaica led the tie  $1\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$ , the match was turned on its head when **FM Malaku Lorne** (with White on board 3) and **CM Brandon Wilson** (Black on board 4) lost to **Kshitiz Bhandari** and **FM Bilam Lal Shrestha**, respectively.

In tomorrow's **10<sup>th</sup>** (penultimate) round in **match 63**, Jamaica will match wits against **Tunisia** ranked 7 places below the West Indians who will have the black pieces on boards 1 and 3 and White on boards 2 and 4, respectively.

### **TIME WAITS FOR NO MAN – OR WOMAN!**

In the Women's Section Jamaica faced Wales and gave the Europeans a fighting match, the Welsh eventually prevailing  $2\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$ . On board 1 **WFM Deborah Richards-Porter** started with the English Opening against **WFM Olivia Smith** and both players castled on opposite flanks. A pawn down, the Jamaican dropped a piece and had to resign on move 57.



*Jamaica's women's team in an earlier round.*

With the black pieces on board 2, **CM Rachel Miller** faced **Imogen A.L. Camp** and chose a double fianchetto defensive set-up. Most of the material had been liquidated at move 31 when the peace treaty was signed.

Tragedy struck Jamaica on board 3 where **WCM Ariel Barrett** also commenced the battle with the English opening against **Shayanna Sivarajasingam**. With a huge positional advantage and strong chances for a victory, the Jamaican forgot her clock and lost on time on move 26!! Time truly waits for no man – or woman for that matter!

**WCM Melisha Smith** employed the Sicilian Defence powerfully on board 4 against **Venetia Sivarajasingam** and won convincingly in 47 moves to register the only victory for Jamaica in the match.

In the **10<sup>th</sup>** round Jamaica will face **South Korea** (*ranked 97*) in **match 48**. The Jamaicans will have the black pieces on boards 1 and 3 and White 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.*