

ROUND TWO REPORT

SMASHING VICTORIES BY JAMAICA!

Jamaica rebounded from their losses in the first round yesterday to register impressive victories in round two of the 42nd World Chess Olympiad being held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

MERCILESS JAMAICAN WOMEN!

In the Women's section Jamaica put aside yesterday's disappointment against Bulgaria and thumped fellow West Indians Barbados **4-0** after victories by **WIM Deborah Richards-Porter**, **CM Rachel Miller**, **WCM Ariel Barrett** and **WCM Melisha Smith** over WCM Katrina Blackman, Donna Murray, Sandiford Segan and WCM Lydia Nurse on boards 1 to 4, respectively.



Jamaica's women about to blank their Barbados opponents 4-0 in second round action.

Jamaica will face Mongolia (*ranked **15** – a whopping 60 places ahead of Jamaica*) in the 3rd round tomorrow in **match 25**, WCM Annesha Smith to be rested for her second straight game. The West Indians will have the black pieces on boards 1 and 3 and White on boards 2 and 4, respectively.

JAMAICAN MEN WIN CONVINCINGLY!!

Jamaica's Open team notched its first win with a convincing 3 ½ - ½ display against an outclassed Oman, the men from the Middle East not having a chance.



Jamaica ® before the start of their match against Oman. Photo Courtesy of Eteri Kublashvili.

Command performances by FM Warren Elliott (*board 1*), FM Damion Davy (*board 2*) and CM Brandon Wilson (*board 4*) against FM Salim Al Amri Salim Mohammed, CM Ali Shamas Salim Issa and Hamid Musallem Hardan, respectively, brought home the full point.

Wilson gladly accepted an unsound bishop sacrifice on f7 very early in the contest, his captain/coach (**IM Jomo Pitterson**) telling the writer that he will either win or lose quickly. Neither of us saw any chance for the man from Muscat and the result vindicated our opinion! The solid FM Malaku Lorne drew a well-fought game on board 3 against FM Salim Al Maashani Amer Said.

In the 3rd round tomorrow in **match 41**, Jamaica will face a tough Austria team that has the outstanding **Grandmaster Markus Ragger** (*just a few points shy of 2700 rating!*) and **Grandmaster David Shengelia** (*closing in on a 2600 rating*) on boards one and two, respectively.

The Austrians are ranked **40** a massive 75 places ahead of Jamaica and with much higher rated International Masters on boards 3 and 4, respectively, it will be another David and Goliath match-up.

Again Jamaica's reserve, CM Brandon Wilson, will be deployed on board 4 as NM Shreyas Smith will "*stay on the bench*" for the second consecutive round. The West Indians will have the black pieces on boards 1 and 3 and White on boards 2 and 4, respectively.

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.