

Commonwealth Games 2018

In March/April of this year, three Barbadian squash players attended the XXI Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. The team consisted of Shawn Simpson, Meagan Best and Amanda Haywood, with Karen Meakins travelling as Manager/Coach. This was only the second time that a Barbados Squash Team has attended the Commonwealth Games since squash was first included in 1998. The tournament was an invaluable experience for the players and gave them the opportunity to play with some of the world's best players.

The squash tournament consisted of 2 main events; Singles and Doubles. The singles tournament started on April 5th and results are below:

Round of 64:

Amanda Haywood v Caroline Laing (CAY) 11-9, 11-5, 9-11, 5-11, 11-7 (3-2)
Shawn Simpson v Sunil Seth (GUY) 8-11, 8-11, 11-8, 4-11 (1-3)

Round of 32:

Meagan Best v Alison Waters (ENG) 5-11, 1-11, 8-11 (0-3)
Amanda Haywood v Laura Massaro (ENG) 6-11, 5-11, 5-11 (0-3)

Plate Round of 16:

Meagan Best v Charlotte Knaggs (TT) 11-2, 11-4, 11-5 (3-0)
Amanda Haywood v Mihiliya Methsarani (SRI) 7-11, 11-8, 8-11, 5-11 (1-3)
Shawn Simpson v Neville Sorrentino 11-4, 11-5, 11-6 (3-0)

Plate Quarter-Final:

Meagan Best v Mary Fung-A-Fat (GUY) 11-3, 11-9, 11-8 (3-0)
Shawn Simpson v Kevin Doyle (SVG) 11-13, 9-11, 11-5, 11-8, 9-11 (2-3)

Consolation Plate Semi-Final:

Amanda Haywood v Samantha Hennings (CAY) 11-9, 9-11, 11-8, 11-9 (3-1)

Plate Semi-Final:

Meagan Best v Madina Zafar (PAK) 11-2, 11-5, 11-5 (3-0)

Consolation Plate Final:

Amanda Haywood v Eilidh Bridgeman 11-3, 11-8, 11-9 (3-0)

Plate Final:

Meagan Best v Mihiliya Methsarani 11-6, 11-13, 11-8, 12-10 (3-1)

The Doubles tournament started on April 10th Barbados fielded a mixed doubles team consisting of Shawn Simpson and Meagan Best and the results are as follows:

Group Stage:

Barbados v Fiji (Alison Mua and Stephen Henry) 11-2, 11-1 (2-0)
Barbados v England (Alison Waters and Daryl Selby) 3-11, 2-11 (0-2)

Round of 16:

Barbados v New Zealand (Joelle King and Paul Coll) 2-11, 7-11 (0-2)

After losing their round of 32 matches, Amanda and Meagan both won their respective Plate Competitions. This was an outstanding achievement for these two young ladies. Shawn and Meagan also did very well to reach the last 16 of the doubles tournament especially since doubles is not something that is played much in the Caribbean.

All in all this was a fantastic experience for these players and will have a huge positive outcome in their continued development in squash.