

Jamaicans make gymnastics history

Jamaica made history at last week's Gymnastics World Championships in Glasgow, Scotland.

A women's team that included United States-based Toni-Ann Williams and England-based Danusia Francis competed in the women's artistic competition. Francis, who is an undergraduate at the University of California Los Angeles, finished 66th in the all-around competition, which included the vault, uneven bars, balance beam, and floor for a total of 51.998. Williams was 93rd with a total of 50.531 in the all-around competition. The Jamaican women have qualified for the Olympic Test event for next year's Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Francis, who gained Jamaican citizenship last year, said she was proud of her achievement. "It's been such a fun competition, and I was so proud to wear the colours of Jamaica in front of the world. To get a place for Jamaica at the test event is the icing on the cake, and I look forward to getting Jamaican gymnastics recognised. The achievements of Jamaican track and field stars is known around the world but I, along with my team-mates, want to make people appreciate Jamaican gymnastics and get more youngsters involved in the sport on the island itself." In the men's competition, United Kingdom-based Reiss Beckford, who won a silver medal at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi was the best-placed Jamaican, finishing 80th with a total score of 81.798; while Caleb Faulk was 165th with 74.364; and Nicholas Tai 182nd of 182 competitors, with 56.098.