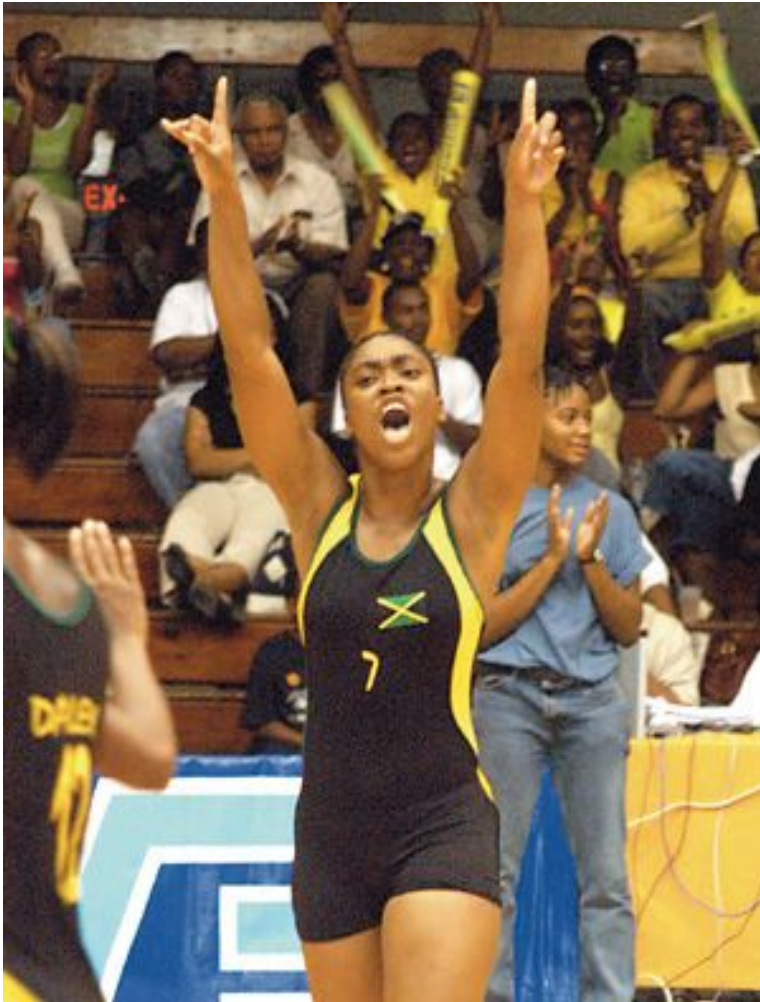




Jamaica is one step closer to Japan



KINGSTON, Jamaica, April 17, 2005.- Jamaica advanced to the second round of the 2006 FIVB Women's World Championship in the Norceca region with a convincing victory in straight sets over the Netherlands Antilles before a huge crowd at the National Arena of Kingston.

The one-sided match lasted 60 minutes and the final score was 25-19, 25-18, 25-11. The next round will be in Santo Domingo in August 24-28.

The athletic Jamaicans crushed their rivals in outstanding fashion with a flurry of spikes led by Captain and MVP Tracyann Pryce and Daley Cheryl who scored 14 and 10 points respectively. Paula Porter-Jones and Cherine Richards each cooperated with 8 points. Geraldine Gregorius had 12 points for the Netherlands Antilles.

"I am real happy about the outcome but I expected to play at least four sets," said Pryce. "We put everything together and came to the match with one and only purpose: To move to the next round and hopefully go to Japan next year."

Coach Ornel Findlay of Jamaica said: "The level of the competition will be way much higher in Santo Domingo and we are going there with the goal of reaching the World Championship. Tonight we did what was needed with excellent execution from all my players."

In the match for third place, Jacqueline Weekes carried British Virgin Islands to a four-set victory over Cayman Islands. The score was 25-15, 25-18, 24-26, 25-21.

The high-jumping Weekes scored 31 points and was positive in 30 of her 53 killing attempts. Sabinah Mason joined her in double figures with 16. For the Cayman Islands Nicola Williams had 12 points.

"Winning a match at this level makes me very proud of my team," said Kwele Williams, the BVI coach. Talking about her performance, Weekes admitted to be personally satisfied but credited the whole team for the triumph.

ÊThe awarded players of the tournament were: Tracyann Pryce (JAM), Most Valuable Player; Jacqueline Weekes (BVI) Best Defense and Serve Reception; Sabinah Mason (BVI), Best Server; Kamille Dwyer (JAM), Best Setter; Naemi Monte (AHO), Best Libero; Ptamony Fletcher (JAM), Best Spiker; Geraldine Gregorius (AHO), Best Blocker.

