

Former FSU diver qualifies for Rio Olympics amid Zika scare

By Erika Fernandez | Posted: Fri 6:37 PM, Jul 01, 2016

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (WCTV) -- A former FSU diver is getting ready to live out her dream of competing in the Olympics. A dream Katrina Young intends to follow despite the threat of the Zika virus. Fears about the virus are prompting some athletes to back out.

After hundreds of hours training in and out of the pool, the 24-year-old qualified for the Olympics last weekend.

"To achieve this goal in my life that I've been working towards since I was a child is amazing and indescribable really," says diver, Katrina Young.

A goal many Olympic athletes and doctors say may come at a price because of the heightened risk of the Zika virus.

"I think that the Olympics should have been moved and or postponed because the risk is so great and so unknown, is the big problem," says Dr. Dan Van Durme of FSU College of Medicine.

It's the fear of the unknown that has some athletes pulling out of the games.

"Olympic dreams are great and they're wonderful, I'm a big fan of the Olympics, I always have been, but when you look at the life affecting consequences of having a child with profound neurological deficits from Zika infection, those two have to be balanced out," says Van Durme.

Young says when it comes to Zika and the Olympics, she's not worried. She says health experts are already preparing them for what to expect and how to protect themselves in and out of the water.

"Our medical team has been talking to us about a lot of preventative care and a lot of DEET and long sleeves and things like that, it'll be a little cooler. So I think we're prepared to deal with it."

Zika's effect on the Olympic Games won't truly be known until after they wrap up. For now, Young is not only focusing on her health, but also her quest for the gold.

By: WCTV Eyewitness News

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (WCTV) -- Former Florida State University diver Katrina Young has qualified for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

She placed 2nd in the Women's 10-Meter Platform during Olympic trials this weekend in Indianapolis.

Young will head to Rio in a few weeks along with her former FSU teammate, Pavel Sankovich, a 3-time Olympian who qualified in the Men's 100 Fly.
