



# Gift Leotlela

**Birthday:** 12 May 1998

**Olympic event:** 200 metres

**Best time:** 20.47s.

**Coach:** Hennie Kriel.

**Best results at major events:** Silver medal at 2016 Junior World Championships; 2016 SA Junior 100m champion; gold medal at 2015 Youth Commonwealth Games.

**If not athletics:** Like most other African boys I would probably play football. The game is in our blood.

**How would you describe yourself:** Maybe I should describe myself as a little bit shy. I realize though that been a top athlete it puts me in the spotlight and I will have to accept that.

**To relax and to recharge your batteries:** I do like to watch Kevin Hart movies, especially some of his stand-up comedies. He is a very funny guy. He can make me laugh even when I'm feeling down.

**Biggest influence:** My mom. Sarah, who as a single mother had to raise three children she taught me the value of perseverance. I never want to disappoint her. It's something that drives me.

My uncle's City, who is my mother's brother, taught me to never judge people.

**Best advice:** Wayde van Niekerk (400 metres world champion) taught me to be humble and never allow success to go to your head, because you never know what will happen in your next race.