



Clarence Munyai says he is not intimidated to race against top sprinters.

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YOUNG STAR CLARENCE A COOL CAT!

By KGOMOTSO
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HE MAY be the second youngest athlete at the upcoming IAAF World Championships, but Clarence Munyai is certainly no wide-eyed youngster.

As part of South Africa's sprint revolution Munyai carries a weight of expectations on his shoulders to deliver a medal at the upcoming event in London, England.

But the TuksSport High School matriculant says he won't be overawed by the big occasion teaming with world stars such as athletics icon Usain Bolt, world champion Wayde van Niekerk and renowned American speedster Justin Gatlin.

"Nothing in the results at the World Champs will indicate I'm still learning," said Munyai.

"I can honestly say I am not intimidated by top sprinters. I guess I am lucky to have had the opportunity to race against Akani Simbine, Wayde and Thando Roto in local races.

"I also competed in the Diamond League Meeting in Rabat (Morocco) and I am sure the experience I gained will stand me in good stead

in London," he added.

Abdul Hakim Sani Brown, a Japanese 200m sprinter, is the youngest athlete at the event. He is just two weeks younger than Munyai.

At 18 Munyai may still be in his teens, but he has already taken a bow at some of the world's major events, having competed at the Rio Olympics in 2016 as well.

The exciting prospect will line up against compatriot Van Niekerk and upcoming British speedster Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake in the 200m heats on Monday.

The Joburg-born athlete is the 10th fastest sprinter over 200m with a personal best of 20.10 seconds.

Van Niekerk is currently the second fastest with a time of 19.84, while Simbine is the third fastest with a time of 19.95.

Munyai has clocked an incredible time of 31.61 to break the 300m world junior record and moved to ninth fastest ever over that

distance at the Golden Spike meeting in Ostrava, Czech Republic, in June.

His goals in London are pretty simple: "I aim to qualify for the semifinals. I think that is achievable.

"A time of 20.30 in the heats ought to be good enough.

"The semifinals will be tough – in fact, it will be war. Everybody will be racing flat out, as only eight athletes go through to the final."

