

SA champ banned for steroid use

David Isaacson

SOUTH African 110m hurdles champion Tiaan Smit has been banned for four years after testing positive for a banned anabolic agent, Clenbuterol.

The Tuks athlete was tested on April 22, the day he won the national crown in Potchefstroom, clocking a 13.42sec personal best when he upstaged the favourite, Olympian Antonio Alkana, by seven hundredths of a second.

Alkana had been technically poor on the day, hitting too many hurdles.

In a disciplinary hearing recently, Smit, 22, said he had wanted to lose weight at the time and asked a friend – also an athlete, a javelin thrower – what he could use.



TIAAN SMIT

The friend suggested Clenbuterol – listed as a steroid. He paid R500.

According to the hearing report, Smit said he had competed in two other events while on the anabolic agent.

It did not make any difference on the times he was running, he said.

But the Tilastopaja athletics data website lists his six fastest career times as being posted between March 11 and April 22 this year.

Smit, a former Paul Roos pupil, stopped taking the Clenbuterol about 10 days before the national championships, because of severe side effects.

He did not declare it on the anti-doping form at the competition, because it had asked only what he had used in the last seven days.

Smit said he was on anti-depressants to help with the trauma of the positive test and not competing.

Mitigating against him was the fact that he was an experienced athlete with contracts for Athletics Gauteng North and the High Performance Centre.

He had a professional coach in Henne Kriel, and a personal doctor, who he did not consult with to help him lose more weight. – TimesLIVE

