



Simbine wants titles

'Fastest man in Africa' eyes Games glory

THE fastest man in Africa, Akani Simbine will start his 2018 season on Thursday, March 8 at the second of three Athletix Grand Prix Meetings at the Bestmed Tuks Stadium in Tshwane.

Simbine firmly secured the title of "fastest man in Africa" in 2016 when he clocked 9,89 sec in the 100 m in Hungary. Fast times however are no longer his only driving force. Simbine wants titles, global titles and 2018 is the year in which the 24-year-old is looking to start his collection. His first target will be the gold medal in the 100 m at Commonwealth Games in Australia in April this year.

The journey to chasing those titles in 2018 starts in South Africa at the Athletix Grand Prix Series at the second Meeting of the Series in Tshwane. He has run three of his fastest 100 m times and his best 200 m time at the Tuks Track at the University of Pretoria.

"2017 was a disappointing year for me. I had much bigger expectations than the 5th place finish at the World Championships. I wanted a medal, but was hampered by an ongoing hip injury," says Simbine. "I intend to change all that in 2018 and what better place than to start at the Athletix Grand Prix Meet on my home track at Tukkies?"

Tukkies has certainly seen some of the best runs by the 24-year-old. It was here that he became the first South African to do the sub 10sec, sub 20sec double in the 100 m and 200 m respectively, when he clocked 9,93 sec for the 100 m and two hours later flew to a lifetime best of 19,95 sec in the 200 m on March 4, 2017. It was here that he ran 9,92 sec, 9,95 sec and 9,98 sec in the 100 m — his second, third and tenth fastest times, respectively.

"I train here. I like this track. It is fast and you are always guaranteed fast times," says Simbine.



Akani Simbine of South Africa will be tearing up the track at the Athletix Grand Prix Meetings in Tshwane next month. **PHOTO: GALLO IMAGES**

With the Commonwealth Games taking place in April and the 100 m final being run on Monday, April 9, the Athletix Grand Prix Meet in Tshwane

on March 8 is the perfect race for Simbine to make a statement to his opposition who will be lining up against him in Australia. — SuperSport.

