



Steenkamp cracks hurdles record

David Isaacson

EVEN making mistakes in her race, University of Pretoria student Rikenette Steenkamp finally broke the 20-year-old South African 100m hurdles record on Monday night.

She finished second in Prague to clock 12.90sec and slice 0.04sec off the 12.94 mark Corien Botha set in July 1998.

Former world junior champion Elvira Herman of Belarus won in a personal best 12.69.

"To at long last break Corien

Botha's record was amazing," Steenkamp said.

"I have dreamt of doing so for the past seven years.

"What excites me is that it was not the perfect race.

"My technique going over the first four hurdles was possibly the best I have ever done.

"But I was coming so fast onto the hurdles that it led to me losing a bit of rhythm.

"Then I hit the sixth hurdle – I can't remember when last that happened."

Steenkamp came close to the mark last season, twice dipping

under 13 seconds.

She went 12.99 in Ostrava and then hit 12.92, only to be denied the SA record by illegal wind assistance of 2.1m/sec.

The legal limit is 2m/sec.

Steenkamp was one of 10 South Africans in action at the Josef Odlozil Memorial meet.

Antonio Alkana was second in the men's 110m hurdles in 13.42; Zarck Visser was second in the men's long jump with an 8m leap; Cornel Fredericks was third in the men's 400m hurdles in 49.42 and Sokwakhana Zazini fourth in 49.56. – TimesLIVE

