



Horn breaks 100m record

David Isaacson

CARINA Horn finally broke Evette de Klerk's 28-year-old 100m South African record at the national championships in Pretoria yesterday.

Horn, 29, clocked 11.03sec – improving on the 11.06 mark she had shared with De Klerk since mid-2015 – as she won her semifinal to set herself up as favourite for the women's final tonight.

"I targeted this race," an elated Horn said. "My coach said the semifinal is our run because the final is a bit late and we never know what the weather is doing.

"The weather was good [today], so we decided to go for it."

However, the favourite in the men's sprint, Akani Simbine, pulled out before his semifinal to protect a hamstring niggle.

In his absence, the four fastest semifinalists were separated by five-hundredths of a second, with two old-timers delivering the fastest times.

Roscoe Engel, 29, knocked 0.13sec off his 10.19sec personal best from 2011 as he clocked 10.06 to take pole position ahead of former six-time champion Simon Magakwe, 32, the second-fastest overall in 10.09.

Magakwe, the first South African to break 10 seconds in the 100m in 2014,

was banned for two years in early 2015 after refusing to take a dope test.

Last year he made only the semifinals at the national championships, but yesterday he unleashed the fourth-best time of his career.

Magakwe, who ran his 9.98 at the same Tuks stadium before it was revamped with the Mondo surface, won his semifinal ahead of 200m star Anaso Jobodwana, second in 10.21.

Henricho Bruinjies won the third semifinal in 10.10.

Young Thando Dlodlo was second behind Engel in 10.11, breaking the 10.12 SA junior record held by Gift Leotlela.

He was also part of the relay team that later broke the national under-20 record.

Simbine's injury robbed fans of seeing the Commonwealth Games 4x100m relay team in action, and his three teammates scratched from the final.

Instead, spectators got to witness some spectacular blunders by officials.

There were three false starts in all in the relay, the second clearly being caused either by one official who stepped onto the track as the gun went off, or the starter firing too early.

And when the race got under way on the fourth attempt, the runner from North West North stepped well outside his lane, but the nearest officials were not even looking in his direction.

