



Pta relay quartet makes SA proud with silver

'We managed to train together a few times during the Games, which certainly helped.'

For the second Commonwealth Games in a row, the South African 4x100m relay team set a new national record.

However, the big difference this time around is that they also won silver in the competition.

The South African team consisted of four local athletes from Pretoria, all of which belong to the Tuks Athletics club.

Henricho Bruintjies started the race, Emile Erasmus ran the second leg and gave the baton to Anaso Jobodwana, while South Africa's sprinting superstar, Akani Simbine, ran the last 100m.

It was a real team effort by the South Africans, but the way Simbine ran the last 100m does deserve a special mention. It was brute poetry in motion.

Simbine was about the third athlete to receive the baton on the last changeover. For a moment it looked like the South Africans were going to miss out.

But once the SA recordholder in the 100m got into full flight, there was no stopping him. He moved from fourth to third to second in a few metres.

Unfortunately, there were not enough metres left to catch England's Harry Aikines-Aryeetey.

England won the race in 38.13s, with the South African team coming second in 38.24s.

This was a massive improvement on their previous record of 38.35s, set during the 2014 Glasgow Games.

Jamaica was third in 38.35s.

Afterwards, an elated Simbine said it was an honour for him and his teammates to win



South Africa's 4x100m relay team, who won silver at the Commonwealth Games, celebrate after the race. From left are Akani Simbine, Anaso Jobodwana, Henricho Bruintjies and Emile Erasmus.

the medal for South Africa.

Simbine, the Commonwealth Games 100m champion, admits to being surprised by his burst of speed.

"I knew I could finish strong, but I did not realise that I would be so fast. It is just the beginning of the season, and with my top end speed being this fast already, I cannot help to be excited about what I still possibly will be able to achieve."

He said his main motivation the moment he received the baton was to win a medal for South Africa.

"What helped was that I was becoming aware that Yohan Blake was starting to accelerate and coming up next to me.

I thought to myself, 'there is no way that I am going to allow him to catch up with me'," said the Tuks sprinter, who has now

managed to outsprint the Jamaican on two occasions during the games.

The silver medallist in the 100m, Henricho Bruintjies, believes they are capable of running even faster times.

"We managed to train together a few times during the games, which certainly helped, but we if we can do so more often there is no telling what we will be capable of. As they say, practice make perfect," said Bruintjies.

Anaso Jobodwana, who were disqualified during the 200m heats after a technical error, said he was relieved to win a silver medal, which somewhat made up for his disappointment about what had happened in the 200m.

Emile Erasmus, who came in as a replacement, was full of praise for how his teammates raced.

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