



# Steenkamp gets closer to record

Improving Tuks athlete expected to set new SA record in 100m hurdles

RIKENETTE Steenkamp (**pictured**) is bound to set a new South African record in the 100 m hurdles — the question is just when she is going to do so.

During the University Sports South Africa Athletics Championships in Sasolburg at the weekend, the Tuks athlete won in a time of 13,04sec, which is just 0,05sec slower than her personal best time, which she set last year running 12,99sec.

Corien Botha set the 100 m hurdles South African record way back in 1998 when she ran 12,94sec.

Steenkamp has purposely chosen to have a more conservative start to her season this year. Saturday was only the third time she raced.

It is exciting to note that she has been able to run faster in each of her races. At the end of March, in her first race, she ran 13,24sec in Sasolburg, two weeks ago in Potchefstroom she clocked 13,13sec and now her time is 13,04sec. It means she has improved by 0,10sec with each race.

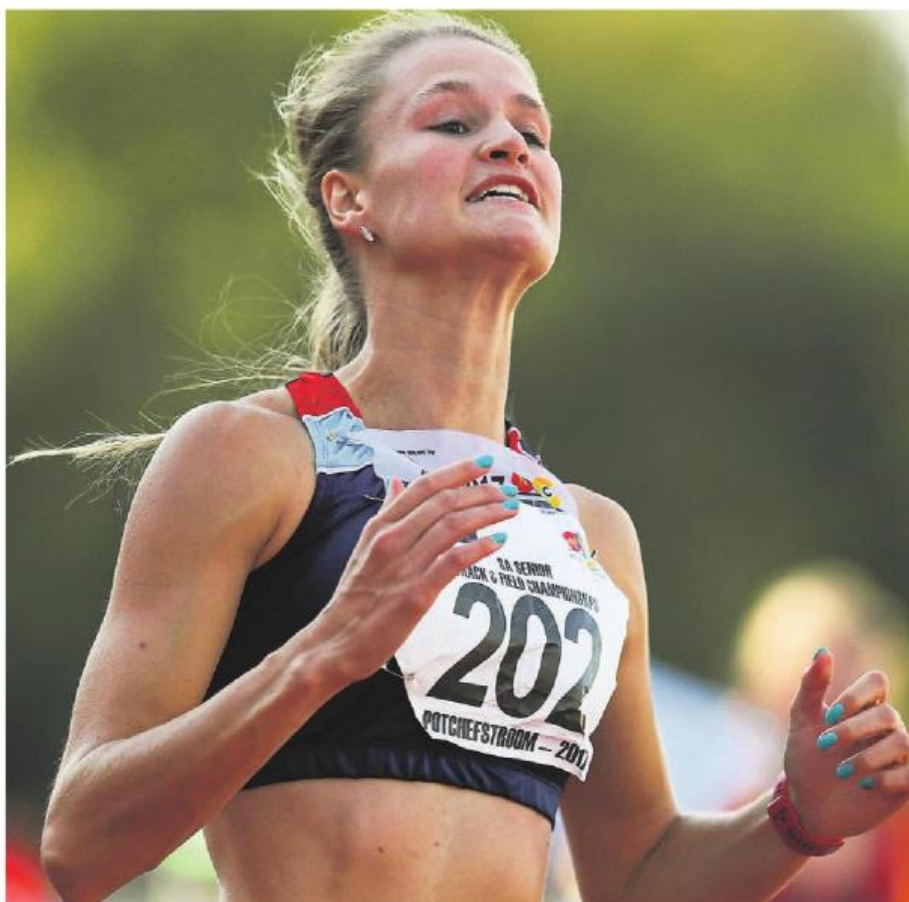
"I think I have made a wise decision to race less locally as it means that I will start my European campaign fresh. I've got a whole month to train before my next race which is June 4 in Prague."

Last year Steenkamp competed in five international races, winning four and finishing second once. She twice clocked times faster than 13sec. In Ostrava, her time was 12,99sec.

During a meeting in Switzerland, she ran 12,92sec, which was 0,02sec faster than Botha's national record. Unfortunately, the wind from behind was measured at 2,01m/s, which means it was too strong by 0,01m/s for Steenkamp's time to be official.

However, the Tuks athletics team had a dismal performance at the USSA Championships, finishing fourth overall.

Northwest Pukke won, with the Uni-



versity of Johannesburg second, Kovsies third.

What counted against Tuks was their lack of depth outside the sprint events.

Northwest Pukke won gold medals in 12 events with the University of Johannesburg's athletes being victorious in nine. Kovsies won seven while Tuks only won

five gold medals (all sprint or hurdling).

Thembo Monareng set a new personal best time, winning the 100 m in 10,18sec. — SuperSport.