

Tough challenge awaits Munyai at Paris event

David Isaacson

Clarence Munyai faces a tough 200m test at the Diamond League meeting in Paris on Saturday night, taking on world No 1 Noah Lyles and world champion Ramil Guliyev.

Seven of the field have been under 20 seconds in their careers and five of them have done it this season alone.

The 21-year-old Munyai, with a time of 20.04 in 2019, has yet to break the 20sec barrier since the 19.69 SA record he clocked at the Tuks track in Pretoria early in 2018.

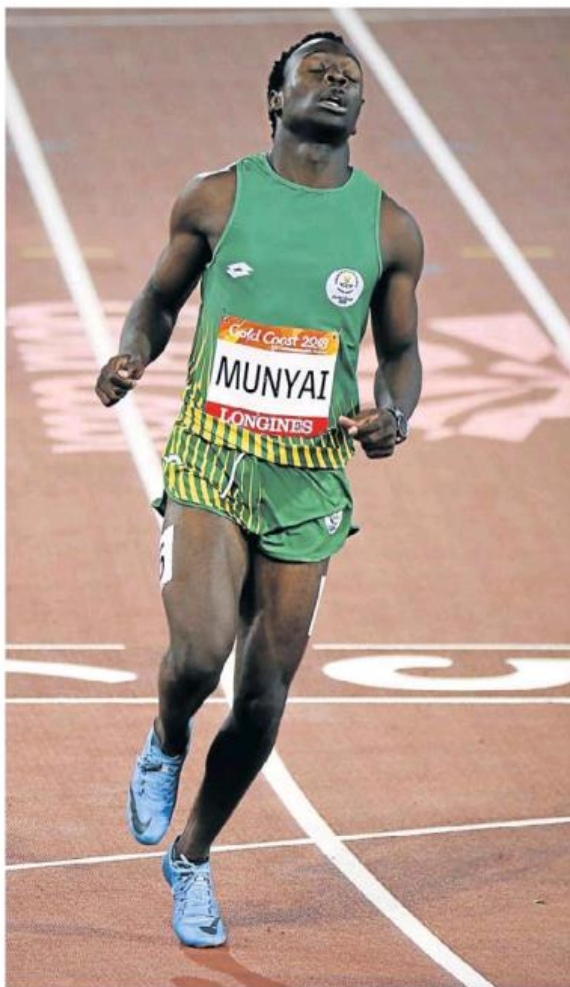
That time made Munyai the second-fastest 200m sprinter on the planet for 2018, but this season he is tied on 14th.

American Lyle went 19.65 in 2018 and lowered his best to 19.50 in early July to make himself the favourite for the Diamond League crown and at the world championships in Doha from September 27 to October 6.

Also in the lineup is Canadian Aaron Brown, who has won three top relay sprint medals, one at the Olympics and two at world championships.

He won silver at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games ahead of Munyai, who was struggling with injury.

Also part of the sub-20 club for 2019 are Brown, Nigerian Divine Oduduru, Alex Quinonez of Ecuador and Turkey's Guliyev. – *TimesLIVE*



SPEED MERCHANT: Clarence Munyai in action during day eight of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia Picture: WESSEL OOSTHUIZEN/GALLO IMAGES