

Simbine beats world stars in 100m sprint in London

Koos Venter

Pretoria's Olympic star, Akani Simbine, has finally shown over the weekend that he can be counted among the world's fastest men and that he might win his first medal at a world championship later this year.

The Tuks-based sprinter made history on Saturday when he won the 100m sprint at the London Diamond League Meeting.

This was only Simbine's second Diamond League victory. His first was in 2017, when he outprinted the likes of Asafa Powell, Justin Gatlin and Andre de Grasse.

All three of these men count among the five fastest athletes ever over 100m.

On Saturday, Simbine's winning time was 9.93s. Zarnel Hughes (Britain) was second in 9.95s and Yohan Blake (Jamaica) third in 9.97s.

Blake is a former world champion (2011) and is officially the second fastest man ever over 100m.

Simbine's performance in London proves that he has now established himself among the best runners in the world. After his 5th place in the 100m sprint at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 and the World Championships in London in 2017, he also won the 100m at the Commonwealth Games in Australia in 2018.

This victory also proves that Simbine's preparation for the World Championships (28 September to 6 October in Qatar) is on track, as from the beginning of the year the goal was for him to run a season's best in London.

He did. His previous best was 9.95s.



Akani Simbine beat some of the world's biggest sprinting stars over the weekend. Photo: Reg Caldecott