

Mamatu sprints to personal milestone

Three reach steep IAAF standards

By David Isaacson

Tebogo Mamatu shattered her personal best as she clocked 11.04sec over the 100m in Switzerland yesterday to become the second-fastest SA sprinter of all time.

The SA champion from the University of Pretoria edged China's Yongli Wei on the line in the women's A final at La Chaux-de-Fonds to take the victory, though they were both credited with 11.04.

Carina Horn, who went 10.98 last year, had been the only other woman to have gone under Evette de Klerk's long-standing 11.06 SA record from 1990. Mamatu, whose previous best was 11.37 in Pretoria last year, is now only the second SA woman to secure a world championship qualifying standard for the Doha showpiece later this year.

Until yesterday afternoon, Caster Semenya had been the only woman to have achieved one of Athletics SA's qualifying standards. ASA's criteria are tougher than the qualifying standards set by the world governing body, the IAAF.

In the women's 100m, the IAAF mark is 11.24, compared to the ASA criterion of 11.10.

A further three track-and-field female athletes have made IAAF standards - Horn in the 100m (11.16), Dom Scott in the 10,000m and Zeney van der Walt in the 400m hurdles.

Three women have also made IAAF standards in the marathon, but none are in contention for the world champs in Doha - Nolene Conrad is injured while Gerda Steyn and Ann Ashworth disqualified themselves by running the Comrades Marathon. ASA said they wanted fresh legs.

Lindsey Hanekom was sixth in the men's 400m hurdles A final in 50.65, Thepelo Phora was fifth in the men's 400m A final in 46.13 and Thando Roto was sixth in the men's B 100m final in 10.31

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