



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SIMBINE RACES TO 100M GOLD IN GWANGJU

Akani Simbine delivered in style on Thursday, scorching to a national record as he bagged South Africa's first medal on day seven of the World Student Games in Gwangju.

Having set a Universiade record of 10.00 seconds in the men's 100m semifinals, Simbine raced to victory in 9.97 in the final, securing the gold medal as he equalled Henricho Bruintjies' SA record.

He was well clear of the rest of the field, with Kemarley Brown of Jamaica grabbing the silver medal in 10.12. "I'm very happy with the run," said the 21-year-old Tuks athlete.

"I just kept focussed and told myself to get through all my phases, and when I get to the 60 (metres mark) I know I'm going to power through.

"I told myself to stay relaxed and get through the race. I didn't focus much on the time, I just told myself to go and win a medal. That was my goal."

Fellow sprinter Ncinci Titi also displayed fine form, clocking the fastest time (20.84) in the second round of the 200m as he progressed to Friday's semifinals, while Justine Palframan won her 400m semifinal in 52.23, also going through as the fastest qualifier for the final.

Elsewhere on the track, former 10 000m gold medallist Gladwin Mzazi took sixth place in the men's 25-lap final in 29:37.55.

Roelf Pienaar finished 10th in the men's triple jump final with a best leap of 15.86m, and Fredriech Pretorius ended 11th in the gruelling two-day decathlon with 7 174 points.

Meanwhile, on the football field, the SA men's team put up a brave fight against giants Brazil but eventually went down in a 2-1 defeat in their quarter-final clash.

Itumeleng Mogotsi scored in the 15th minute to put the South Africans in front, but Brazil struck on either side of the break to book their place in the semifinals.

The SA men will face Uruguay in the classification playoffs for fifth to eighth positions on Saturday.

In the pool, three swimmers made it safely through the morning heats but were unable to progress beyond the evening session.

Tara-Lynn Nicholas finished 14th overall in the women's 50m breaststroke semifinals in 31.98, with Doug Erasmus (14th in 22.67) and Luke Pendock (15th in 22.79) being eliminated in the penultimate round of the men's 50m freestyle.

Teaghan Gauche, in second place overnight, struggled in the second round of the men's golf tournament, shooting an eight-over-par 80 as he slipped to 23rd place.

Jason Smith was in a tie for 26th position and Andrew van der Knaap was lying 38th overall.

Ends

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