

COMRADES CHAMP SETS SIGHTS ON SOWETO TITLE!

By **MPHO KHIBA**

COMRADES Marathon champion Charne Bosman has targeted the Old Mutual Soweto Marathon title.

The popular 42km township race will take place on 6 November, starting and finishing at the new venue for this year's race, FNB Stadium.

Bosman, who won the Soweto Marathon in 2003, will be turning 41 on the day of the race and will hope to celebrate her birthday in style by winning the R200 000 first prize.

Last year's winners were Ethiopian runner Sintayehu Legese Yinesu, who defended his men's title, and Kenyan athlete Harriet Chebore.

However, Bosman and her Nedbank Running Club training partner Claude Moshiywa will hope to end the dominance of east African runners in this race.

Speaking at the race launch at FNB Stadium yesterday, Bosman said: "I think we do have the confidence to bring the title to South Africa. It is important to dominate the Soweto Marathon

because the event is proudly South African."

Bosman said her life had changed for the better since she won her first Comrades title this year and encouraged more women to get involved in running.

The race, which was first run in 1991 when only 80 athletes participated, could attract more than 5 000 runners this year.

Moshiywa, the 2013 Comrades winner, is desperate to finish the season on a high note by winning the Soweto Marathon. He finished 10th in the 89km down run Comrades in Durban three months ago.

He said: "I think I did very well at the Comrades, considering I have trouble doing the down run. I am enjoying running right, which is why I will compete in the Soweto Marathon.

"I live around here, so it will be to my advantage, as I know the whole of Soweto."

■ Elsewhere, Central Gauteng Athletics president and Athletics South Africa board member James Moloi will conduct an athletics workshop in Braamfontein tomorrow.



Comrade Marathon champion Charne Bosman.

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