

THE MERCURY

Mothibi's stunning win over Mthembu

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WHILE Gerda Steyn made history, Edward Mothibi pulled off a stunning feat of his own, spoiling defending champion Bongmusa Mthembu's attempt at a fourth consecutive title.

The Mahikeng-born Mothibi signalled his potential on debut finishing fourth last year with an impressive 5:36.

In hindsight, Mthembu may feel he timed his breakthrough from Mothibi too early at the bottom of Polly Shortts.

Mthembu could not open daylight ahead of a chasing Mothibi who ultimately overtook him and crested the iconic hill.

Running the race of his life, Mothibi opened up a gap with every step towards the finish at the Scottsville Racecourse to win the 87km up run in a time of 5:31:33.

Mothibi carried the mayoral baton across the line with Mthembu following in second place for his eight Comrades gold in a time of 5:31:58.

World 100km record holder, Nao Kazami of Japan, was the third man to cross the finish line in a time of 5:39:16.

Speaking to SABC Sport, Mothibi said he thought he lost the race as he



EDWARD MOTHIBI produced a stunning upset to win the men's race | ANA

Mthembu said he was happy for him. "It is so nice to see South Africans like Edward doing well. You could see that he had a plan and it worked for him."

For Steyn, it was a dominant performance as she broke clear of the rest of the field before the halfway mark and opened more daylight between her and the chasing pack.

Russian Alexandra Morozova finished nearly 20 minutes behind her in a time of 6:17:40, with Irish athlete

