



Education to be prioritised by young runners, says Molotsane

By MATHEWS MPETE

TOP emerging road running athletes, majority of whom succeed through prizes from South African events, including track, have opened their eyes and are now racing towards academic success.

Over the years, like in football, middle and long distance runners retire poor and most of whom unable to survive post their athletics career, and others are forced out of the sport due to injuries.

But wiser coaches and managers are now encouraging their athletes to prioritise education as an alternative means to survive post their careers. Ivy Panda wrote in May 2019 that most athletes have numerous personal values and traits that have enabled them to exist athletically.

"These traits comprise discipline, resilience, commitment, work ethics, as well as the ability to handle pressure. However, most student athletes do not realise these traits can be transferred to academics, as well," Panda wrote in blog.

Most athletes are adopted by universities in their high performance centres, but some ignore the opportunity to register and plan for life after athletics. But not so for Kesa Molotsane, Glenrose Xaba, Tadu Nare and Tayla Kavanach.

Nare's super win of the Spar Grand Prix Women's 10km Challenge, after collecting 150 points from winning the series' six races back to back since August this year, has vowed to return to school next year to complete her grade 11 and push for her matric before pursuing a post matric qualification.

The Nedbank running club athlete claims to have dropped out of school due to Covid-19 and lockdown.

The 20-year-old Ethiopian runner, who this weekend completed her Spar Challenge at the Madibaz Stadium of the Nelson Mandela Bay University in 32 minutes 33 seconds, said she wanted to venture into investment, which is something closer to her heart.

But first, with the R340 000 that she's pocketed from the Spar Grand Prix, Nare, who hails from Hawassa, a city in the Great Rift Valley of central Ethiopia, said she'll use part of the money to build a house for her mother in Addis Ababa, the country's capital.

"I'll go to school to learn more about investment and rural development," she said in Gqeberha at the weekend.

She said she'd be happy to be based in South Africa, a country where she started running professionally.

"Running is part of my life, and I will not stop," she added, with the Berlin Marathon her next target, a 42,2km distance she hasn't tried in her career.

The 29-year-old Molotsane, who is second in the Grand Prix with 129 points and fourth place finisher on Saturday in 33:17, said her wish is to see majority of the ladies get educated like herself, who's completing her fifth certificate in Labour Law.

Molotsane completed her Bachelor of Arts in general management in 2015, in the same year she did a Basic Labour Law certificate, Advanced Labour Law certificate the following year, Alternative Dispute Resolution certificate, with the biggest being Anthropology, which she prides herself with and is pushing to a BA Honours.

She said she's worried about black female athletes:

"This is a subject very close to my heart, athletes need to go back to school. They need to have a back up plan, not saying their athletics careers will not succeed, but have something, just to combine the two.

"Don't just be an athlete, but you have to be supported by education. Sport is regarded to as something like a business entity, but we need to align it to education to support the career itself. I'm an advocate for black female athletes to go back to school."

Molotsane is living proof that education is important as she's no longer a full time athlete, but works as a sport administrator at the University of Free State, serves as vice-chair of the Athletes Commission South Africa, assessor at USSA where she's also in the executive committee. She is also serving in several boards at the Free State Athletics.

"All of these requires me to be educated enough to speak on behalf of athletes and address their law part," said Molotsane.

The 20-year-old Kavanach, runner up at the Gqeberha race at the weekend, recording her 10km personal best time of 32:51, is working at completing her entrepreneurship and business management course.

Xaba, who hails from Mpumalanga but currently based in Hatfield, Tshwane, is final Boston College student in electrical engineering.

"It's good to be educated as an athlete because this career is too short and cannot be seen as a long term thing," said the 26-year-old who will be the first to graduate in her family of four children.

So serious is Xaba about her studies that she got injured while doing PVC electrical work in February this year, and missed out on the Tokyo Olympics.



Disciplined, dedicated and resilient Kesa Molotsane, Tayla Kavanach, Glenrose Xaba and Tadu Nare are committed to their studies.

Photos by Reg Caldecott, Carl Fourie and Rogan Ward

Furious 'Gypsy King' knocks Wilder in 11th round

By MATHEWS MPETE

TYSON Fury dropped Deontay "The Bronze Bomber" Wilder to the canvas multiple times at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas in their WBC Heavyweight championship yesterday, to his retain his title.

But the punch that saw Wilder unable to stand up from the canvas was an 11th round knockout that saw referee rush to stop the fight, for "The Gypsy King" to complete trilogy against him.

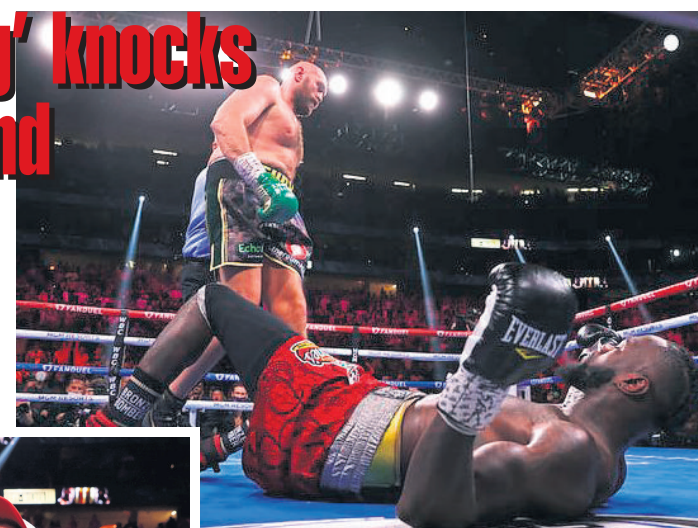
"I've beaten him three times. I'm the best in the world. I'll pray for him. I'm the great WBC champ," said the furious one while thanking Jesus for his victory, before worshipping with support from his followers joining him in the Arena.

In fact, the fight should have finished in the seventh round when Fury shocked Wilder in the last minute with a powerful punch, but he held on for dear life to the ropes to buy some more time.

But from there onwards, the bleeding Wilder was trying to avoid a TKO, but could not survive until the 12th round, bleeding through his ear and mouth.

However, it was not one way traffic as Wilder in the fourth round also watched Fury kneeling on the canvas from a thunderous punch.

The fight ended in the bitter Wilder refusing to shake



Tyson Fury retained his WBC Heavyweight title with an 11th round stoppage of Deontay Wilder at the T-Mobile Arena, Las Vegas yesterday morning.

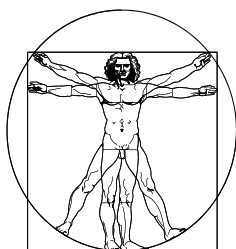
Photos by Getty Images

hands with Fury.

Fury told BT Sport Box Office: "I went to him to say 'well done' and he told me he doesn't want to show any sportsmanship or respect. I said no problem. I'm very surprised by that. he's an idiot. "To be the best fighter you have to show respect, but he couldn't do it tonight."

Reuters reports that Fury will likely now look to take on Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk, who holds the other three titles, for a chance to become the first undisputed heavyweight champion since Lennox Lewis 21 years ago.

That fight may have to wait, however, as Britain's Anthony Joshua earlier in the day triggered his clause for a rematch against Usyk, who defeated him last month to take the WBA, WBO, IBF and IBO belts.



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