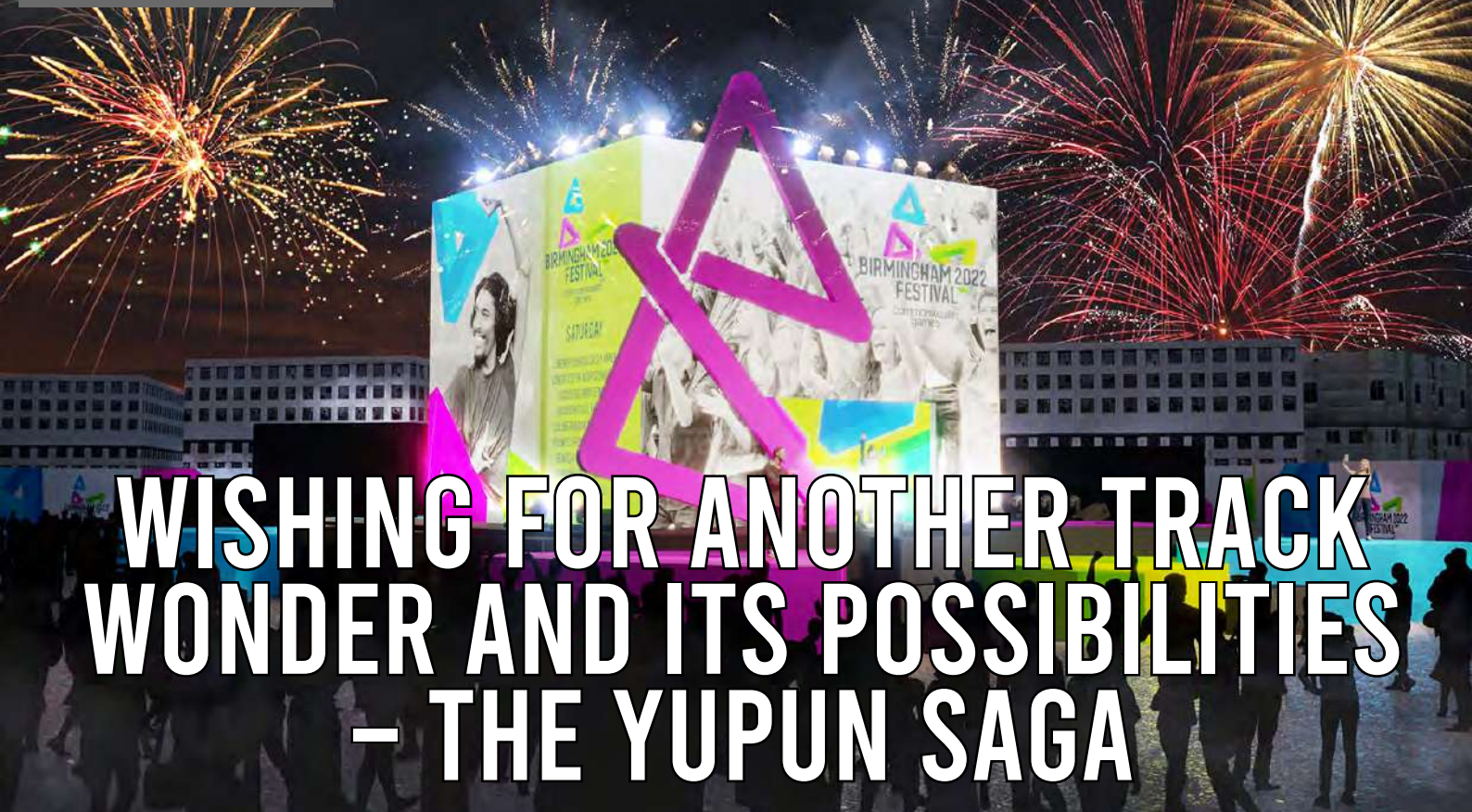




# GoodSport NEWS

S R I L A N K A O L Y M P I C W E E K L Y N E W S B U L L E T I N

SPORTS NEWS

*Commonwealth Games 2022*

## WISHING FOR ANOTHER TRACK WONDER AND ITS POSSIBILITIES – THE YUPUN SAGA

It's not genuinely common for us to discuss the emergence of a track medal hope at the Commonwealth Games; especially when it is being held in a country like the United Kingdom.

However, one of our own track stars has become the first from the South Asian region to do the unthinkable.

The South Asian record holder Yupun Abeykoon with his magical mark of 9.96 seconds, has broken the 10 second barrier at Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland 10 days ago is also hoping to get in to the finals of the Birmingham CWG 2022.

This is a great opportunity for a Sri Lankan to get qualified for the finals in 100m, after 20 years of the sprint queen Susanthika Jayasingha's effort in 2002.

Our hope and prayers may be with him, but, on real competition level let's take this journey through the facts and possibilities of Yupun achieving this feat. Let us go through the real yardstick and chances of him becoming another first in the list. What would be the challenges that he would encounter?

The 2022 Commonwealth Games is scheduled to be held in -

Birmingham, England from 28 July to 8 August 2022.

Except the marathon, Athletics will be starting from 2 August. The fastest man of the commonwealth countries, will be crowned on 3 August at Alexander stadium.

While the reigning Commonwealth games champion of 100m, Akani Simbine of South Africa is in a very good shape to defend his title while some young talent from Jamaica and Nigeria are also very nimble.

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The Tokyo Olympic 200m gold medalist and 100m bronze medalist Andre De Grasse also was in a good form by winning the Oslo diamond league but unfortunately after that De Grasse contracted Covid 19, anyway he says he is fit to run the sprint double (100m,200m) at Oregon 22 world championships starting from 15 July. Athletics Canada has confirmed the participation of a strong 4x100m relay team with De Grasse and Aaron Brown, but yet to confirm the 100m individual event participants.

2011 World champion and all time second fastest man in both 100 & 200 meters, Yohan Blake is once again in limelight as a favourite for a podium finish at Oregon 22.

JAAA the Jamaican Athletics Association has announced their teams to the world and the commonwealth games, according to JAAA both Jamaica's best two sprinters Yohan Blake (SB-9.85) and the 21-year-old Oblique Seville (SB-9.86) will not participate for the Birmingham commonwealth games and the Jamaican number 3, the 20-year-old rising star Ackeem Blake will lead the 3 sprinters to CWG with their number 4 & 5, Jelani Walker and Kemar Cole.

### The Comparison of 100m performances

It's not an easy task to compare 100m performances. There can be various conditions and external forces, which effects the performance of a 100m sprint. The speed and the direction of the wind, the altitude or the elevation of the ground, speed of the track, precipitation, temperature and the support of spikes can be named as main variables, which will effect -

for the performance of the 100m event. Unfortunately, It's a pretty hard task to compare conditions like speed of the track, precipitation, temperature and the support of the spikes because of the non-availability of the data and the widely accepted standards for comparison. The speed and direction of the wind and the altitude or the elevation of the ground can be compared because of some accepted standards of comparison and availability of the data.

To compare the performances, we must adjust those to a similar level of conditions, so in this comparison we adjusted the best calculated recent (18 June & after) performance of the leading CWG 100m participants, to a tailwind of +1.0 m/s and to the altitude of Birmingham, which is 140m from the sea level.

### The Comparison

This comparison has done by using the performances of 18 June to 3 July, which is 6 to 4 weeks prior to the CWG. However, 4 weeks is more than enough to change these level of performances, so we cannot completely rely on this comparison, but to get an analytical insight of the main contenders of the CWG 100m event, this will be very helpful for the fanatics of Athletics, administrators and analysts. This comparison can be updated according to the performances of this week's world -

championships and can get better idea of the Birmingham 2022, 100m finals.

Our Sri Lankan hero Yupun Abeykoon has a good chance of achieving his targets by putting another magical mark on the board. All Sri Lankans would be behind Yupun on achieving his target and will be wishing and praying for his success.

-Madhawa Senarath-

An analytical Comparison of the performances of 100mM participants at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games

Name, Country & Age of the Athlete	PB	SB	After 18th June	Adj. +1.0 m/s	Venue(Altitude) adj. 140m altit.	Adjstd. Performance
Ackeem Blake JAM 20	9.93 (+1.0)	9.93 (+1.0)	9.93 (+1.0)	0.00	Kingston (93m)+0.00	9.93
Akani Simbine RSA 28	9.84 (+1.2)	10.02 (-0.5)	10.02 (-0.5)	-0.08	Stockholm (28m)-0.01	9.93
Favour O T Ashe NGR 20	9.99 (+0.1)	9.99 (+0.1)	9.99 (+0.1)	-0.05	Benin city (88m)+0.00	9.94
Jelani Walker JAM 24	10.00 (+1.0)	10.00 (+1.0)	10.00 (+1.0)	0.00	Kingston (93m)+0.00	10.00
Andre De Grasse CAN 27	9.89 (+0.1)	10.05 (+0.5)	10.05 (+0.5)	-0.03	Oslo (23m)-0.01	10.01
Reece Prescod ENG 26	9.93 (-1.2)	9.93 (-1.2)	9.94 (+2.5)	0.08	Manchester (38m)-0.01	10.01
Alaba O Akintola NGR 20	10.04 (+1.9)	10.04 (+1.9)	10.06 (+0.1)	-0.05	Benin city (88m)+0.00	10.01
Kemar B Cole JAM 30	9.92 (-0.8)	10.04 (+0.6)	10.04 (+0.6)	-0.02	Kingston (93m)+0.00	10.02
Jerome Blake CAN 26	10.00 (+1.3)	10.00 (+1.3)	10.00 (+1.5)	0.03	Langley (15m)-0.01	10.02
Aaron Brown CAN 30	9.96 (+2.0)	10.07 (+0.7)	10.07 (+0.7)	-0.02	Langley (15m)-0.01	10.04
Eric Harrison Jr TTO 23	10.08 (+0.6)	10.08 (+0.6)	10.08 (+0.6)	-0.02	Port of Spain(66m)-0.01	10.05
Yupun Abeykoon SRI 27	9.96 (+1.6)	9.96 (+1.6)	9.96 (+1.6)	0.03	Chaux-de-Fonds (992m)0.08	10.07
Benjamin Azamati GHA 24	9.90 (+2.0)	9.90 (+2.0)	10.25 (-1.6)	-0.13	Paris (35m)-0.01	10.11
Ferdinand Omanyala KEN 26	9.77 (+1.2)	9.85 (+2.0)	10.03 (-0.3)	-0.07	Nairobi (1795m)+0.16	10.12
Joseph P Amoah GHA 25	9.94 (+0.8)	9.94 (+0.8)	-			
Nethaneel M Blake ENG 28	9.99 (+0.6)	10.10 (+0.1)	-			
Clarence Munyai RSA 24	10.04 (+1.7)	10.04 (+1.7)	10.09 (+2.2)	0.06	kuortane (73m)-0.01	10.14
Cejhae Greene ANT 26	10.00 (+0.5)	10.02 (+1.4)	10.18 (+0.1)	-0.05	Marietta (344m)0.02	10.15

# RUGBY SEVENS TEAMS ANNOUNCED FOR BIRMINGHAM 2022

Commonwealth Games Scotland has today announced the squad selected for the Team Scotland men's and women's Rugby Sevens, who will compete at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games which begin later this month.

Lee Jones is selected for his fourth Commonwealth Games having featured at Delhi 2010, Glasgow 2014 and the Gold Coast in 2018.

It's a historical moment for Rugby Sevens as a women's team will represent Team Scotland for the first time, having earned an invite to Birmingham after a strong performance at the 2021 Rugby Europe Sevens Championship Series, where they earned fourth place.

This will be a first Commonwealth Games experience for the 13-strong women's team although they will be able to take guidance in the multi-sport Games time environment from Lisa Thomson who represented Team GB at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo last year.

Fellow Olympians Alec Coombes, Robbie Fergusson and Ross McCann are joined by Jones and Jamie Farn-dale, who returns to Team Scotland from the 2018 Gold Coast Games to captain the side.

The men's selection is completed by Kaleem Barreto, Matt Davidson, Harvey Elms, Grant Hughes, Paddy Kelly, Jordan Edmunds, Jacob Henry and Femi Sofolarin. The women's side will be co-captained by Helen Nelson and Lisa Thomson.

Their team selection is made up of a mix of experienced sevens and VXs players as well as exciting young talent. Completing their squad is Rachel McLachlan, Emma Orr, Megan Gaffney, Eilidh Sinclair, Evie Gallagher, Caity Mattinson, Chloe Rollie, Meryl Smith, Shona Campbell, Liz Musgrove and Rhona Lloyd.

On selection to his fourth Commonwealth Games Lee Jones said, "To get selected for the Commonwealth Games is such an honour and it's hard to believe this will be my fourth. This is a really talented group and one which I hope to play a small part in the success of in Birmingham."

Lisa Thomson said, "I'm over the moon to be selected in the first Team Scotland women's Rugby Sevens side at the Commonwealth Games. "As a team, we want to inspire the next generation of rugby players and to have the chance to compete on the global stage gives us the perfect opportunity to showcase our sport.

"It's always a privilege to pull on a Scotland jersey but to be a part of Team Scotland, -

alongside 17 other sports while being so close to home, it's extra special."

Team Scotland Chef de Mission, Elinor Middlemiss said, "This is a fantastic achievement for our Rugby Sevens players.

"For the women in particular, this is a historic moment and one I know they all take great pride in – representing your country at any time is special but to be the first to represent your country in Rugby Sevens at a Commonwealth Games is extra special.

"There is real strength and depth in these squads and I look forward to watching them play at the Coventry Stadium at the end of July."

**Men's Team Selection:** Jamie Farn-dale (captain), Alec Coombes, Ross McCann, Grant Hughes, Paddy Kelly, Kaleem Barreto, Robbie Fergusson, Matt Davidson, Harvey Elms, Lee Jones, Jordan Edmunds, Femi Sofolarin, Jacob Henry, Head Coach – Ciaran Beattie

**Women's Team Selection:** Rachel McLachlan, Emma Orr, Megan Gaffney, Eilidh Sinclair, Evie Gallagher, Lisa Thomson (co-captain), Helen Nelson (co-captain), Caity Mattinson, Chloe Rollie, Meryl Smith, Shona Campbell, Liz Musgrove, Rhona Lloyd, Head Coach – Scott Forrest



# COMMUNITY OF BELIEVE IN SPORT AMBASSADORS KEEPS GROWING

**W**ith peer-to-peer communication having proven most effective, in April the Olympic Movement Unit on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions (OM Unit PMC) asked National Olympic Committees (NOCs) across the globe to appoint more ambassadors for the Believe in Sport campaign. The aim is to recruit active and retired athletes across all countries and sports to help raise awareness about the threat of competition manipulation among peers, entourages and officials.

## 30 new ambassadors

As a result, more than 30 new ambassadors were selected and have already participated in onboarding training, with a session organised by the OM Unit PMC in early June.

The freshly trained ambassadors will run awareness-raising activities in cooperation with their NOCs and International Federations (IFs).

As part of the revamped programme, the most active ambassadors will be selected to lead educational initiatives in the run-up to the next Olympic Games editions.

## Believe in Sport ambassadors' voices

Reshika Udugampola and Kaushalya Danthanarayana are newly appointed Believe in Sport ambassadors from Sri Lanka. Udugampola a former swimmer, said: "As a former athlete, I'm passionate about being a role model for the younger generation to look up to and reach out to when in need.

I'd like to spend my time giving back to the sporting community and to society by sharing my knowledge and educating athletes and entourage members on pressing issues such as the threat of competition manipulation. While some of us have been victims of such situations, I'd like to take this opportunity to educate myself and be a key player to build a safe, fair sports environment for all athletes."

Her new ambassador colleague Saulius Ritter, a former professional rower from Lithuania, added: "During my career as an athlete, I was always focused on the fundamentals of sport, to respect my opponents and achieve results only in a fair way, without any manipulation or cheating. Becoming a Believe in Sport ambassador will give me a great opportunity to share the true values and spirit of playing sport honestly and respectfully, no matter if you win or lose."

Learn more about the Believe in Sport ambassadors.

NOCs and IFs are always encouraged to nominate new ambassadors who can be trained by the OM Unit PMC. Please contact [OMUnitPMC@olympic.org](mailto:OMUnitPMC@olympic.org) for more information.



*Kaushalya Danthanarayana*



*Reshika Udugampola*