



America's Tori Bowie (C) crosses the finish line ahead of Ivory Coast's Murielle Ahoure (L) and Jamaica's Elaine Thompson to win the women's 100m sprint final at the 2017 IAAF World Championships in London on Sunday night.

From foster child to fame

AFP, London

Tori Bowie's dream of one day seeing a sign in her home community saying 'welcome to Sand Hill home to Tori Bowie' looks almost certain to be realised after her 100m win at the world athletics championships.

For the sport of athletics the 26-year-old American's victory -- courtesy of her habitual hurling herself at the line which denied diminutive Ivorian Marie Josee Ta Lou the gold -- will be a welcome antidote to the largely hostile reception of her compatriot and two-time dope cheat Justin Gatlin's win in the men's race the night before.

For Bowie -- who finally tasted gold in an individual event after lesser medals in the Olympic 100 and 200m as well as the 2015 100 world final -- it will also be a moment of glory shared with her paternal grandmother and her role model, Bobbie Smith.

But for Smith, Bowie says she and her sister Tamara -- younger by just under a year -- would have been taken on by foster parents.

"My mother dropped us off at a foster care centre when I was just two," Bowie told NBC last year.

"But my grandmother ended up fighting for us and winning custody of us."

"We didn't have much but she gave us character," added Bowie, who has shortened her name from the unusual Fentorish.

'DON'T THINK OF BOYS' Smith for her part had no hesitation in assuming her responsibilities to her discarded grand daughters even though she had five children of her own to bring up in the tiny enclave in Mississippi which is so small Bowie says there are no 'stop lights'.

She said her own grandmother had taken in six grandchildren, including herself, despite the hardship.

"So I knew if she could take in six, I could take in two. That helped motivate me and let me know I could do it," the 70-year-old told the Clarion-Ledger.

Bowie, who has done some modelling and is keen to get into acting with her goal to attract the attention of gospel film legend Tyler Perry, says she

and Tamara are eternally cognisant of their grandmother's sacrifices.

"To me, it's like she really hasn't had a life herself because she has given her entire life to us," Bowie told MSNnews.com last year.

Smith, who is still referred to as 'Mama' by both the sisters, instilled in the two girls from an early age what their priorities should be so they could experience a different life to the impoverished one their parents and she had done.

"I encouraged them to go to school and don't think of boys at young age and they took my advice," she said.

Bowie, who says she was a tomboy in her youth going out and playing basketball with her male relations as well as going shooting with them, has shown that on the track and Tamara, whilst a talented athlete in her own right, is studying law.

Smith for her part is especially proud of how the two girls have turned out.

"It makes me think about no matter how bad things can get or start in your life or be in your life, it's still good things that can come out of it," she told WBTV.

Betty Cuthbert passes away

REUTERS, Sydney

Australian sprinter Betty Cuthbert, the only athlete to have won the Olympic 100, 200 and 400 metres titles, has died aged 79, Athletics New South Wales said on Monday.

Cuthbert won the 100m and 200m double as a teenager at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and returned after a brief retirement to claim the 400 in Tokyo eight years later.

She also anchored Australia to the 4x100m relay gold at the Melbourne Games and remains the joint second most decorated Australian Olympian behind swimmer Ian Thorpe.

Cuthbert was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1969 and had spent much of the latter part of her life confined to a wheelchair.

"It is a sad day for athletics with Australian great Betty Cuthbert passing away at the age of 79," Athletics New South Wales said on its Twitter feed.

Mourinho eyes first Super Cup win in Real reunion

REUTERS, London

Manchester United's Jose Mourinho can collect the one European trophy he lacks when his side face Real Madrid in the UEFA Super Cup on Tuesday in his first competitive meeting with the Spanish giants since an acrimonious split in 2013.

Mourinho, whose team won the Europa League last season to salvage an otherwise disappointing first campaign under the Portuguese, led Real to the Liga title with a record 100 points and won a King's Cup in an eventual stay between 2010 and 2013.

His achievements at the Santiago Bernabeu were overshadowed, however, by his falling out with key dressing room figures such as Sergio Ramos and Iker Casillas as well as confrontations with referees and opponents plus a failure to win the Champions League, as Real lost in the semi-finals each year.

Mourinho's legacy has been upstaged by the Spanish club's three Champions League

triumphs in the four years since his departure, although in a recent interview the Portuguese claimed he had "to beg" Real's board to let him leave for Chelsea.

Zinedine Zidane's side beat Sevilla 3-2 in extra-time last year to win the showcase match and the French coach is targeting a fourth European trophy in less than two years in charge of Real, which would match Mourinho's tally of continental titles.

United, meanwhile, will be missing central defenders Eric Bailly and Phil Jones due to suspension, opening up a place in the starting lineup for new recruit Victor Lindelof.

The Swede is one of three signings made so far by United along with Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku and midfield anchorman Nemanja Matic arriving at a combined cost of 146 million pounds (\$190.34 million).

United beat Real on penalties after a 1-1 draw in a friendly in California last month and won five of their other pre-season games, losing only to Barcelona.



Wedson to join Saif SC

SPORTS REPORTER

Newcomers Saif Sporting Club roped in former Sheikh Jamal DC striker Wedson Anselme yesterday for the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League's second-leg, which is expected to begin in October. After arriving in the capital from Haiti on the same day, Wedson was presented to the media by his new club.

Last season, the 31-year-old marksman played for East Bengal in the I-League, where he struck eight goals in 14 matches.

The Haitian striker is now all set start his second Bangladesh stint as he previously played for Sheikh Jamal for four consecutive seasons.

"I think Bangladesh is my second home because for the last five years I stayed in

Bangladesh, which is more than I spent my country. I know everything in Bangladesh. I played here in a big time in my career that's why I came back here again," said Wedson, adding that Saif SC's Managing Director Nasiruddin Chowdhury convinced him to join the outfit.

Wedson, who scored 26 goals for champions Sheikh Jamal during the 2013-14 seasons, will officially sign the contract within the mid-term transfer window, which is scheduled to open on September 21.

"I have come here early because I want to keep my fitness levels high and learn about the teammates by practicing with them. I don't know how many matches I can play but our target is to make Saif SC champions," concluded Wedson, who is expected to receive Tk55 lakh for a six month contract.



QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

AB must return to Tests: Pollock

Former South Africa captain Shaun Pollock says the Proteas must coax AB de Villiers back into the Test arena if they are to turn around their batting form in upcoming series against India and Australia.



Shakib's wife slams facebook posts

Shakib Al Hasan finds himself at the centre of yet another controversy. The cricketer attended a wedding with his wife, child and housemaid.



Guardiola leads chase of Chelsea

Empowered by a close-season transfer splurge of some £200 million (\$264.8 million, 233.5 million euros), Manchester City are the early favourites to topple Premier League champions Chelsea.



Sara Errani fails doping test

AFP, Rome

Former French Open finalist Sara Errani has failed a doping test for a hormone that can hide the presence of the male hormone testosterone, two Italian newspapers reported Monday.

Traces of anastrozole, used in the treatment of breast cancer but also a masking agent, were found in the urine of the 30-year-old former world number five during a doping control carried out by the International Tennis Federation.

The tests were carried out in February at her home, reports said.

'Neymar not bigger than Barcelona'

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu insisted no player is bigger than the Catalan giants on Monday in the wake of Neymar's world record 222 million euro (\$264 million) move to Paris Saint-Germain.

Bartomeu and his board are under pressure to wisely reinvest the huge sum, which more than doubled the previous record for a transfer fee, before the transfer window closes on August 31.

"No player is above Barca," Bartomeu told the world congress of Barca supporters groups.

"You know that Neymar formed part of the success of our club, but Neymar is now history. He wanted to go. It was his decision although we did everything in our hands for

him to stay."

Barca were powerless to stop Neymar leaving after PSG met the buyout clause in the Brazilian's contract, which he had signed just last year.

However, Bartomeu defended himself from criticism that the club should have insisted on inserting a much higher buyout clause in that deal to fend off PSG's millions.

Neymar's clause rose from 200 to 222 million from July 1 and would have jumped to 250 million had he entered the third year of the five-year deal.

"We foresaw that he could leave in the future, that is why we raised his buyout clause in the new contract," added Bartomeu.

"Receiving this money allows us to face the future with guarantees to strengthen the team."

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