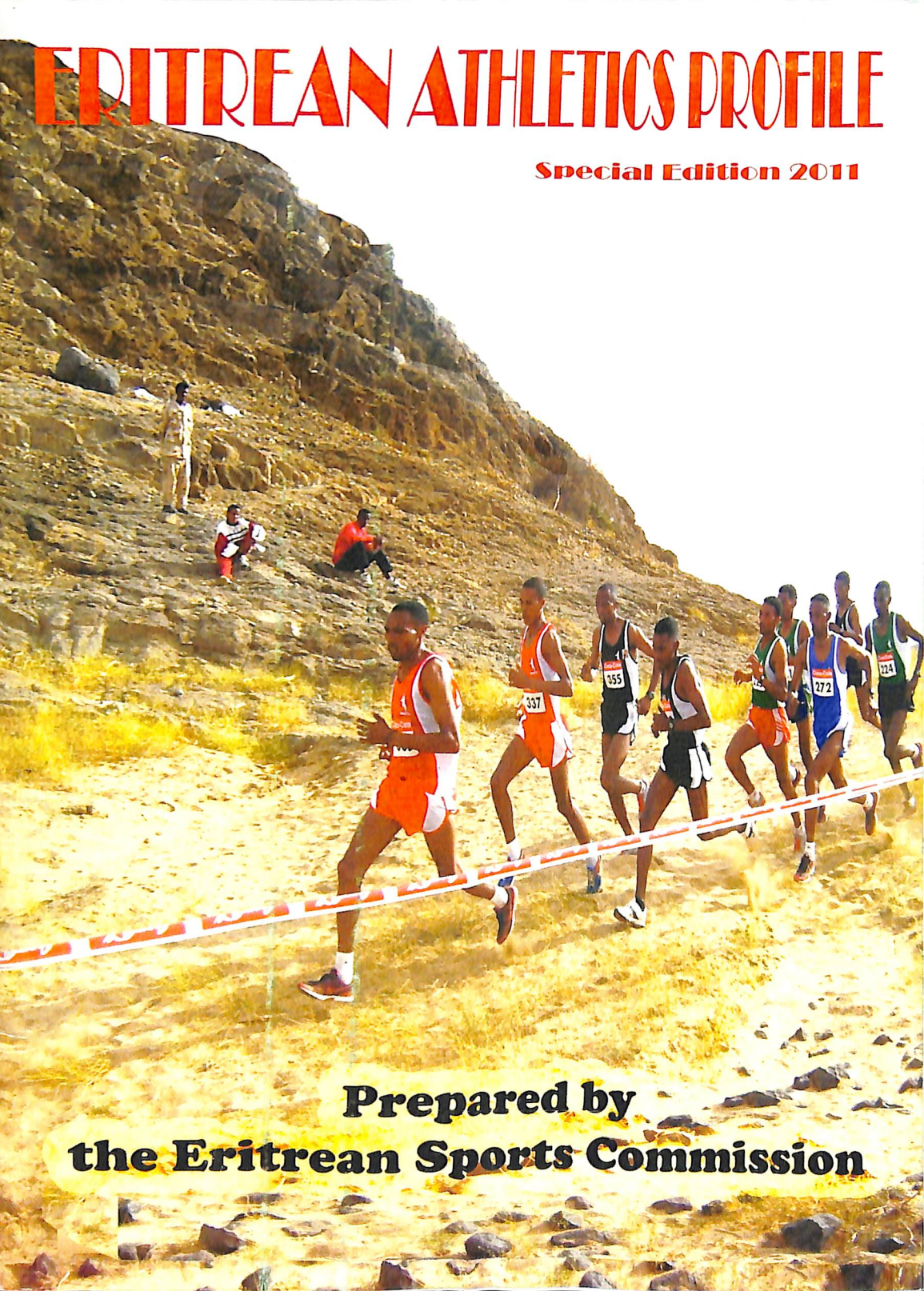


# ERITREAN ATHLETICS PROFILE

Special Edition 2011



**Prepared by  
the Eritrean Sports Commission**

# Eritrean Athletes after their victory at the 2008 Rio De Janeiro Half Marathon



## Eritrean Athletics Profile Special Edition 2011

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## Message from the Commissioner of Sport

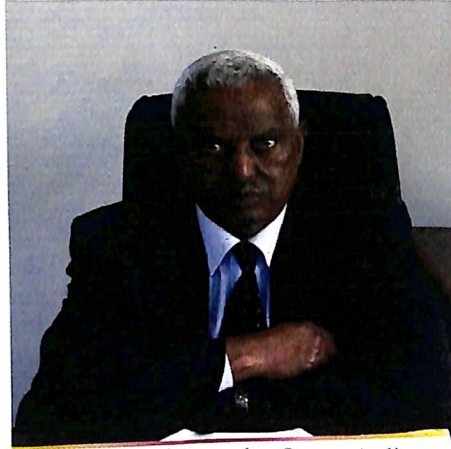
In the past 20 years of independence, we have registered remarkable achievements, at least in athletics if not in all other fields of sports. We have managed to emphasize our position in international podiums and went as far as winning world records.

Maintaining these victories will however prove even more difficult than the efforts to achieve them. Our athletes, and the people and government in general, should therefore shoulder the responsibility towards carrying out that task. To fulfill this objective, first we need to establish a national athletics training center so as to maximize our potentials, develop the capacity of our athletes and nurture new ones, thereby strive for better results.

Second, noting that we haven't fully exploited our potentials in the other fields of athletics like short distance running, high jump, shot put, javelin, etc..., we need to focus more on how to stir these activities up.

Last but not least, on top of cycling and football tournaments, Eritrea has received international attention in the field of athletics as well. It is therefore a timely issue to look beyond our successes and work on laying the necessary sport infrastructure.

Eritrea is hosting the East African Youth Athletics Track & Field Championship for the first time and as hosts we should seize this opportunity and acquire experiences. In the end I would like to call on all nationals to humbly welcome our guests and manifest the great culture of Eritrean hospitality.



Major General Romodan Osman Awliyay

Victory to the Masses!

## Origins of our Athletic Heroes

Nobody expects colonizers to play a positive role to develop athletics in Eritrea. Italian and British colonizers contributed nothing towards the improvement of Eritrean sports in general, and athletics in particular. Instead, Eritreans were recruited to the Italian military and the only practice they might have had is probably the routine military exercise.

The aristocratic and primitive regime of Haileselassie neither did anything good. In fact, he weakened further the existing athletics.

### The background

Today's fame and popularity of Eritrean athletes is a significant achievement which attracts one's attention to the background of athletics in Eritrea. If we look at it, especially in the 60's, there was strong competition among students.

Even though Eritreans faced many obstacles and hurdles in the past five decades, activities of Eritrean athletes in the 60's can be nothing but part and parcel of the background to today's success.

While it's logical that schools are sources of knowledge and technology, the Eritrean schools back then, were not only sources of academic knowledge but also sources of sports as well. Sport, especially athletics, was part of the regular classes and as a result many became interested in athletics and started to make a living from it.

The sport activities in elementary and junior schools were only limited to gymnastics. But in high schools, athletics included racing, jumping, discus throwing, wrestling among others. There were competitions among students at class room, school, city, province and national levels.

It is deeply remembered by the then winners of such competitions that Eritreans were able to beat teams from other parts of Ethiopia regardless of the suppression by the regime.

Due to the discriminatory policies of Haileselassie's regime, the attractiveness of the competition deteriorated from time to time. At the same time the focus of the youth began shifting to liberation struggle. By mid 1973, all school and regional competitions were discontinued.



## Athletics during the Dergue Regime

The Dergue period that followed was even harsher for sport and athletics in particular. The Dergue chose sport to be one of its tools to win the hearts and minds of the youth so as to deter them from joining the liberation struggle. It was however unsuccessful as there was a massive flow of youngsters and sportsmen to the liberation struggle. The Dergue's attempt to stop the mass flight of Eritreans was at its peak in 1978 when it announced it had eliminated the freedom fighters once and for all.



To meet all its needs, the Dergue regime established a department that took care of sport activities as part of its propaganda of developing sports in Eritrea. The real objective behind the establishment of the department was actually to put sports under its total control. And like all other fields of sport, athletics also became a victim.

Athletics activities during the Dergue regime were conducted at school and club levels. The regime tried with all its capacity to monopolize the sport activities in Eritrea by Ethiopians. This and other hidden agendas made the Dergue regime worse than that of Haileselassie. But all these obstacles didn't prevent male and female Eritrean athletes from becoming champions not only in their province (Eritrea) but also in the whole Ethiopia. The Dergue regime didn't allow most Eritrean champions to participate in regional and international competitions for being Eritreans only.

At the time of independence, athletics in Eritrea was almost non-existent.

## Athletics during the Liberation Struggle

Many athletes joined the liberation struggle at its early stage. Even though life in the liberation struggle was always harsh, the athletes joined the struggle at a difficult time.

In 1980, after the strategic withdrawal, the EPLF was permanently established and well-organized sport and cultural activities began taking place in all the frontlines and liberated areas. Yet, the situation was not favorable for athletics. But then, all the daily activities of the freedom fighters were some sort of athletics.



Freedom Fighters in Athletics

In 1981, however, major athletics activities were carried out in the Semienawi Mibrak Sahil and Nakfa fronts. In a place called Hiday, teams from different regiments started to conduct races of 100, 400, 800 and 1,500 meters. There were also competitions of high jumps. But it is to be remembered that there were a number of other sport activities as well.

What makes the athletics competitions in the liberation struggle special and unforgettable, in addition to them being held in war situations, was that females competed against their male counterparts. In the 1987 festival in Ararb, sport activities were made part of the ceremony, an occasion that remains to date a good memory to all who participated in the event.

Up to 1989, athletics was a very popular event during the liberation struggle.



Eritrean Athletes in the 1970's

## Athletics after Independence

Right after independence, the EPLF and the people of Eritrea were engaged in rehabilitating the totally damaged infrastructure in all sectors. In 1992, the Sports Affairs, which functioned under the umbrella of the Ministry of Education, was one of the government institutions that won praises for its efforts to revive sport in the country. The most appreciated action taken at that time was the financial and material donation by the public and the sport community towards the rehabilitation of sport in Eritrea. And these initiatives really played a great role in the rehabilitation of Eritrean sports.



The first major sports event after independence was the 1992 National Festival where the Sport Affairs invited Eritrean sportsmen residing in the Diaspora. The enthusiastic event included many sport activities one of which was athletics, which saw many athletes participating from Asmara, neighboring towns and villages, and the Diaspora.

The event was a great opportunity for the participants as they got the chance to evaluate their capacity. Right after that, the gateways of Asmara became busy with men and female youngsters running and jogging.

At that time, almost all the youngsters were running individually and in groups. Some interested institutions took the initiative to establish teams. Influenced by this noble deed, the then provinces started to establish teams too and the number of athletics fans skyrocketed. As a result, the awareness of the public on athletics increased. To see male and female youngsters running in the outskirts of Asmara became a common sight. It was then soon identified that Eritrea could produce champion athletes in the very near future.

Cycling is the most famous sport in Eritrea. In 1993-1994, running was being conducted during breaks at the cycling competitions, where thousands of sports fans were present. There were also annual occasions where all the teams established by provinces and private companies competed against each other at the Asmara Stadium. This played a significant role in the development of running.

The Sport Affairs had to be an independent commission. In line with efforts to lay the necessary groundwork for the establishment of the department, there were also efforts to establish contacts with foreign institutions and tournament organizers. The need to let athletes have exposure was evident. A committee was formed with the main task of creating conducive atmosphere for athletes to participate in regional and international competitions.



## First International Athletics Competitions

### Australia

After independence, the first international competition of Eritrean athletes was in Australia in 1995. The race was organized in remembrance of the great Australian friend of Eritrea, the late Dr. Fred Hollows.

Six athletes, namely Girmay Yohannes, Tesfit Berhe, Girmay Weldu, Aklilu Megos, Giorgis (Ghede) and Habte (Wedi Keren) were chosen to participate in the race. Major Abebe Zerihun and Tekeste Araya went with them as their coach and team leader respectively.



The race covered 500 kms. It was a relay race and the athletes were covering 135 kms in the morning and 30-50 Kms in the afternoon. The race started from Sydney and passed through five other cities. According to Major Abebe, the athletes first cover 1-5 kms and the race continues. Eritrea scored 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th position from the first day to fifth day respectively. Other countries that took part in the race were Zimbabwe, Kenya, China, Australia, New Zealand, Tanzania, Nepal and Vietnam.

The results indicated that the race was tough and challenging compared to the capacity and experience of our athletes back then. It was an opportunity where Eritrean athletes acquired great experience which could help them in later stages.

During the race, two of our athletes were forced to quit due to nerve problems. The race became tougher for the remaining four athletes as they were forced to cover the tasks of the other two. This Eritrean effort and determination won the admiration and support of Australians.



One Instance where Eritrean athletes brought victory home

## Participation in All African Games

Zimbabwe

The year 1995 marked for Eritrean athletes a time of evaluation of their capacity with respect to international athletes. The Eritrean athletes did not only win admiration from the news agencies but from their counterparts as well. It became the talk of the day that Eritrea would produce champion athletes in the near future.

Athletes who participated in the All African Games competitions were:

1. Teklay Belay (800 – 1,500 meters)
2. Tesfit Berhe (5,000 – 10,000 meters)
3. Girmay Yohannes (5,000 – 10,000 meters)
4. Tkue Gebrekiros (Marathon)
5. Girmay Weldu (Marathon)
6. Melake Kidane (Marathon)
7. Cicci Germiano (1,500 – 5,000 meters)



These athletes went to Zimbabwe accompanied by Coach Major Abebe Zerihun and team leader Girmay Hadgu.

### Ethiopia

Athletes Yonas Kifle, Tesfit Berhe and Nebyat Habtemariam went to Ethiopia in 1997 upon invitation by Ethiopia to participate in its internal preliminaries. These athletes gained good experience in the race where Kenya, Tanzania, Russia and Djibouti also took part.

### Djibouti

In 1997 three Eritrean athletes Yonas Kifle, Nebyat Habtemariam and Asmerom participated in the international half marathon race in Djibouti. The athletes, who went to the competition accompanied by Coach Major Abebe Zerihun and team leader Sara Gebremichael, played well and registered a memorable victory. Especially Yonas Kifle made headlines by running off from his fellow runners only to finish fourth. This was because some undisciplined sport fans threw him banana skins, making him stumble at only 2 kms to the finishing line. The event is registered as one of the unforgettable moments in the Eritrean history of athletics.

Similarly, athlete Girmay Yohannes participated in the same year in the Burkina Faso Marathon. As in the previous competitions, this was a great event where Eritrean athletes gained great experience.



## *Membership in International Associations of Athletics Federation*

On February 1997 Eritrea became a member of International Associations of Athletics Federation (IAAF) after the Eritrean National Athletics Federation (ENAF) requested membership on January 3, 1996. This became official on the 41st meeting of IAAF on July of the same year. In this meeting membership of countries increased to 209 as there were two other countries that joined the Federation.

Mr. Gebretinsae, the then President of Eritrean National Athletics Federation, had participated in the meeting. He also met and shared experiences a number of athletics federation presidents from other countries.



In line with the meetings, athletics competitions were also conducted. Athletes Nebyat Habtemariam and Girmay Yohannes went to Athens together with Mr. Gebretinsae. It was a special event as it was Eritrea's first experience to participate in such a big athletics competition.

### Reorganization of the Athletics Federation

In October 1998 seven permanent and three temporary members of the National Federation of Athletics were elected based on the policy ratified by the Ministry of Education in February 1997. This was done basically to empower the already existing committees and ensure the increase of participation of men and women youngsters in athletics.

The priority for the newly appointed members of the federation was to organize competitions and identify potential athletes in all the regions of the country. Therefore, a form



with different prerequisites was drafted and one of the members was sent to each of the regions for assessment. The findings revealed how efficient events organized at national level can be. At later stages, like during and after the Weyane offensives, coordinated activities in athletics resulted in a fruitful outcome – developing athletics.

A few were persistent with working towards the development of athletics in their regions despite the ongoing war. At the Forto School in Senafe for instance, there were flurry of athletics activities amid the continuing war. Similarly in Barentu, Gash Barka Region, interested nationals like Mr. Tewolde Tesfagaber and his friends, formed a club of 15 athletes and provided financial and material assistance on top of establishing a regional Athletes Training Center.



Amid all shortages, the federation set out to do the impossible. It raised funds from enterprises and interested individuals and arranged its programs based on the IAAF calendar. On December 30, 1998 the Eritrean National Athletics Federation distributed the 1999 official calendar for athletics activities in all regions of the country.

Some of the competitions where all regions and both genders participated for the first time are:

- National Cross Country Championship around the Asmara Comprehensive Secondary School
- Mountain Race on the Dirfo-Shegrini slope
- Independence Day Marathon from Dekemhare to Asmara
- Half Marathon Race from Segeneyti to Dekemhare

The athletes who scored outstanding results in these competitions were made to represent Eritrea in various international events in Japan, Tunisia, and South Africa; in the indoor games competitions of Poland and Spain; as well as the African Youth Games and 1999 All African Games.

The participation of our athletes in the above mentioned games, and the encouraging results they registered despite their lack of experience, proved the bright future for Eritrean athletics.

It's worth mentioning that during their stay in Germany, ENAF officers met and held talks with various interested parties and secured assistance towards the upgrading and maintenance of the ENAF office, facilities and sports equipment.

The ENAF also participated with 9 athletes for the first time in the world cross country championships in Portugal in the year 2000. Also in the same year, it had athletes participating in marathon, cross country, as well as road and mountain races in Sudan, Kenya, Germany and Italy. The results scored helped recognize our potential for the Sydney Olympic Games that year.

## Trainings: Capacity and Resources

In line with the victories that our athletes were registering at home and abroad, and their influence on the youth, the federation, in collaboration with the Eritrean Sports Commission, gave different trainings inside and outside the country. At present, most of the high-profile athletes have their own managers or sponsors. And this is one step ahead towards the desired level of professionalism. Courses on mediation and athletics management are also organized. In an attempt to train athletes abroad, the federation also signed agreements in 2009 with three foreigners, namely Julia Garcia (Spain), Rashid Ismouni (France) and Massimo Magnani (Italy).

Meanwhile, the ENAF has been organizing mass sport activities at school and national levels aiming encouraging promising youngsters to pursue in athletics.



## Role of People at Home and Abroad

It's no exaggeration when we say that nowadays athletics is a kind of sport that Eritrea takes pride in. And it is because of this pride that Eritreans at home and abroad have been showing great support in addition to their love, respect and all-sided assistance toward the athletes.

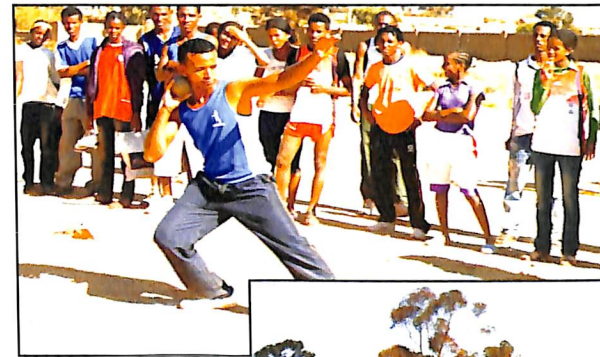
Especially among the Eritrean Diaspora, it has been a highly motivating factor towards the athletes' victories to see Eritreans from all over come to the competitions for support. The presence of cheering fans is always an added strength. And this is what the Eritrean Sports Commission strives for: sport for love, development and unity!



## The Other Side of Athletics

One of the components of athletics that has been showing an all rounded development is running. The rest like sprint running, high jumping, broad jumping, shot put, discus, javelin and relay, have not yet acquired international standards, although they have been locally practiced for years now. The Eritrean Sports Commission in general and ENAF in particular have therefore been campaigning towards the improvement of these games.

Reports from ENAF (2004-2008) disclose that competitions have been organized and continued trainings have been taking place. And no doubt that with the present momentum, these games will soon be making their way for the international arena.



## Star Athletes at a Glance

Amid the preparations to host the 2011 East Africa Athletics Region Youth Track & Field Championship in Asmara, it would only be fair to talk about those heroes who led us towards big victories at the international level. This edition will present brief stories of Olympic athletes Nebiat Habtemariam, Zeresenay Tadese & Yonas Kifle.

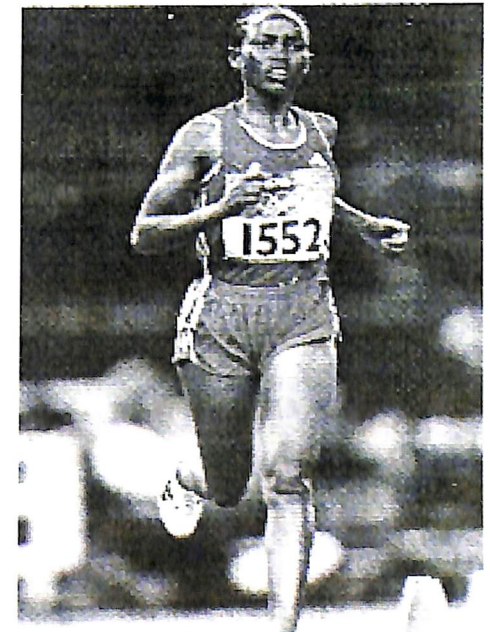


## Nebiat Habtemariam

Nebiat Habtemariam entered the world of athletics at a very young age during school racing competitions. She set out, against the will of her parents, to achieve a dream of her own. And with gradual progress over the years, Nebiat is today an influential Eritrean female athlete.

Following Eritrea's membership in the IAAF in 1997, Nebiat, owing to her victories at home, had her debut in international racing in Greece. Ever since then, Nebiat took part in the Sidney Olympics (2000), Athens Olympics (2004), Beijing Olympics (2008), over 8 World Cross Country Championships, the All African Games, as well as other numerous competitions across Africa, Europe and other continents. She is the proud owner of over 20 cups and other prestigious awards.

Almost 15 years later today, she is the mother of two but still devoted to the profession she adores. An exemplary athlete for her hard work and discipline, Nebiat is a role model for the new generation female athletes.



## YONAS KIFLE

Yonas Kifle is one of the professional and first Olympic athletes of our country.

His background in athletics dates back to the mid 1990s when he ran for the Setit Club, the athletics club formed by interested nationals in the Gash Barka Region.

After 1997, having scored impressive results in track and field, cross country, half marathon and marathon races at both national and international levels, Yonas became one of the few Eritrean athletes to have participated in three consecutive Olympic Games competitions in Sydney, Athens and Beijing. He stood 11th in the latter.

Among his high profile victories, he stood third in the IAAF World Half Marathon race in Edmonton, Canada (2005) and won a bronze medal. Eritrea also won third prize in that competition.

Now a professional athlete, Yonas Kifle has shifted from track and cross country to half marathon and marathon racing and is working hard to share his years – long experience with aspiring athletes in his club.



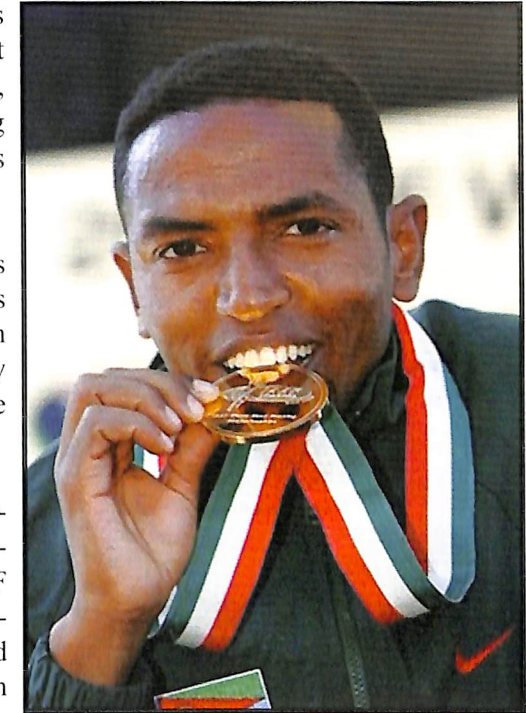
## ZERESENAY TADESE

Whenever we talk about athletics in Eritrea there is one name that immediately pops to our minds, one that every one, from young children to old people, knows and admires: Zeresenay Tadesse.

Although Zeresenay's victories since 2002 are countless, in this special edition attempt has been made to highlight only the very best of his achievements in the period of nine years.

With his first foray into the international athletics circuit in Dublin, Ireland in the 2002 IAAF World Cross Country Championships, Zeresenay established himself as an emerging force in athletics. He had the peak of his season at the 2004 Athens Olympics, where his bronze medal in the 10,000 meters made him the first ever Eritrean Olympic medalist.

Zeresenay emphasized his position as one of the world's most dominant half-marathon runners by winning four consecutive titles from 2006 to 2009 in the IAAF World Road Running Championships in Debrecen (Hungary), Udine (Italy), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and Birmingham (UK) respectively. He also won a world record at the Lisbon Half Marathon in 2010, where he beat by a minute the record previously held by a Kenyan athlete. Zeresenay has also excelled in long-distance races, winning his first gold medal in the 2007 World Cross Country Championships in Momabsa, Kenya, where he overcame all opponents despite the unfavorably hot weather conditions.



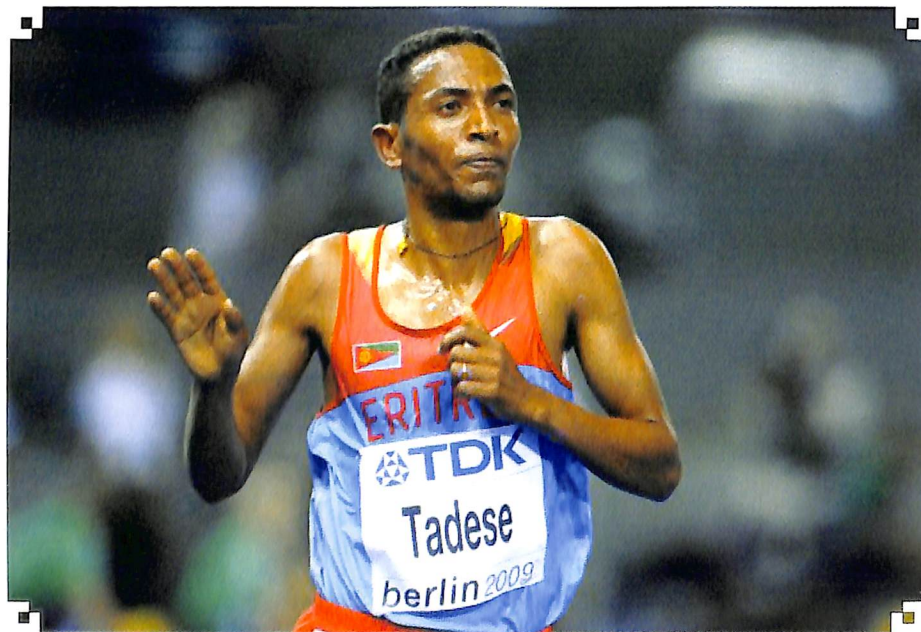
Zeresenay was nominated for the IAAF World Male Athlete of the Year Award in 2010 but narrowly lost to Kenyan David Rudisha. Yet he confirmed his position as a world-class long-distance runner. Last March he ran at the 2011 Lisbon Half Marathon where, despite his first position, he missed his world record mark but remained the second fastest of all-time. It is the wish and expectation of every fan to see an evermore victorious Zeresenay at the London Olympics next year.

### Zeresenay: Synonym for Courteousness

(By Samuel Mengsteab)

One of the rewards of being famous is the celebrated image that people build in their minds and the sense of respect and admiration that come with it. And I think it's safe to say that sport is one of the fields that swiftly put individuals in the spotlight.

Beyond the fame and glamour they receive when winning in different competitions, athletes also icons of their countries thus boosting the national pride.



Fame however, is very susceptible and unlike the hard work you put in to earn it, one move or a single word could easily send it down the drain. That is why it needs to be properly looked after.

Some athletes, who have managed to make big names just at home let alone in the international level, are seen to baste in their moments of glory and let themselves be carried away, in the end failing miserably.

On the contrary, only a few manage to lead a decent and courteous life in spite of their acclaimed reputation. And it is only fair to mention Zeresenay Tadesse as the perfect example.

Today the name Zeresenay has been branded into a trademark name not only in Eritrea or Africa, but the international arena as well. And the secret for his ever-growing reputation has been courteousness, both in words and action, a quality that all athletes need to uphold on top of all common prerequisites.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ERITREAN NATIONAL ATHLETICS FEDERATION

Athletics involves physical and psychological exercise of human beings. Hence it is a basic and essential element in all kinds of sports. Human beings can't live without doing exercise and if they did they would be paying a huge sacrifice. Therefore we should adopt it as a habit in our daily lives. The attention given to athletics by the popular Olympic games proves how important and attractive it is.

Although athletics in Eritrea began early at school levels, like many other sectors it was given less attention by colonizers, despite the role it plays in cultivating an all-rounded citizen. Thanks to the efforts exerted in the field following independence however, it is gratifying to note that athletics in Eritrea has made impressive progress. Hence we Eritreans are proud to see our flag hoisted high in different sports competitions, beating world records and winning medals at the individual and team levels. These successes became a reality as a result of hard work on the part of the government, athletes and the athletics family at large.

It is quite encouraging to witness that the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) has designated Eritrea as one of the competitive countries, especially in the distance racing competitions. But this doesn't mean we have achieved all our objectives. We are still left with so many things to do. Looking at our opportunities and shortcomings, however, we need to exert more efforts in the domains of sprinting and all types of field events. In order to make our capacities competitive, developing our hu-



**Mr. Luul Fisshaye**

man resources; putting in place modern infrastructure; nurturing promising athletes; striving for and balancing competitions between our regions; and enhancing mass participation in athletics will be among our top future priorities.

To accomplish the aforementioned tasks, on behalf of my colleagues, I would like to reaffirm that we will exert our utmost efforts to fulfill the responsibility the government of Eritrea and the public at large have entrusted to us. But this will not be possible without the contribution of our society.

This magazine is being published on the occasion of the East African Athletics Region Youth Track and Field Championship with a view to highlighting the achievements scored in Eritrean Athletics over the past 20 years, besides taking stock of the experiences acquired to date.

In conclusion, the Eritrean National Athletics Federation calls on all nationals to accord warm welcome and hospitality to the athletes of the countries participating in this championship.

Victory to the Masses!



## Number of Participant Athletes in National Competitions

Total number of Participants	1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	169	67	73	103	238	129	81	10	73	53	196	87	151	113
	236		276		367		91		126		283		264	

Total number of Participants	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	612	309	612	233	671	329	533	253	444	212	642	261	578	329
	921		845		1000		786		656		903		907	

## Victories Registered In Different International Competitions At National and Individual Levels

Year	Competition (Event)	Venue	Position	
			Country	Individual
1999	10,000 meters	All African Games	---	(3rd) Bronze Medal Simret Sultan
2000	Mountain Race	Bergen, Germany	2nd	(1st) Gold Medal Nebay Habteghiorghis
>>	10,000 Meters 5,000 Meters	Sidney Olympics	---	(14th) Yonas Kifle (15th) Nebyat Habtemariam
>>	800 Meters	Khartoum, Sudan	---	(3rd) Fortunato Yakob
2001	Mountain Race	Orta Terme, Italy	4th	
2002	Half Marathon	Brussels, Belgium		(4th) Yonas Kifle (21st) Zeresenay Tadese

2003	Cross Country	Dublin, Ireland	7th	(8th) Yonas Kifle, (30th) Zeresenay Tadese
2004	Cross Country	Brussels, Belgium	3rd	
>>	Mountain Race	Sauze d'Oulx, Italy	2nd	
>>	10,000 Meters	Athens Olympics		(3rd) Bronze Medal Zeresenay Tadese
>>	Half Marathon	New Delhi, India	4th	
2005	Cross Country	Saint Etienne	4th	(2nd) Silver Medal Zeresenay Tadese
>>	Half Marathon	Edmonton, Canada	2nd	
2006	Cross Country	Fukoka, Japan	2nd	
>>	Mountain Race	Turkey	1st	
>>	Half Marathon	Debrecen, Hungary	2nd	(1st) Gold Medal Zeresenay Tadese
2007	Cross Country	Mombasa, Kenya	4th	(1st) Gold Medal Zeresenay Tadese
>>	Mountain Race	Switzerland	2nd	
>>	Half Marathon	Italy	2nd	(1st) Gold Medal Zeresenay Tadese
2008	Cross Country	Edinburgh, UK	4th	(3rd) Bronze Medal Zeresenay Tadese
>>	Half Marathon	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	2nd	(1st) Gold Medal Zeresenay Tadese
2009	Cross Country	Amman, Jordan	2nd	(3rd) Bronze Medal Zeresenay Tadese
>>	Track 3,000 Meters	Bressanone, Italy	3rd	(3rd) Bronze Medal Goitom Kifle
>>	Track 10,000 Meters	Berlin, Germany		(2nd) Silver Medal Zeresenay Tadese
>>	Mountain Race	Campodolcino, Italy		(2nd) Silver Medal Azerya Teklay

>>	Half Marathon	Birmingham, UK	1st	(1st) Gold Medal Zere-senay Tadese
2010	Cross Country	Bydgoszcz, Poland	2nd	(2nd ) Silver Medal Tekl-emariam Medhin
>>	Track Underage	Khartoum, Sudan	2nd	(1st) Gold Medal for Rahma Mohammed in 400 meters and Samrawit Mengisteab in 3,000 meters; (2nd) Silver Medal for Lidya Ernesto in 400 meters and Ciciu Giorgio in 1,000 meters
>>	Track 1,500 Meters	Grand Prince Khartoum, Sudan		(2nd ) Silver Medal Dahlak Kibreab (3rd ) Bronze Medal Teklit Tewoldeberhan
>>	Half Marathon	Lisbon, Portugal		(1st) Gold Medal Zere-senay Tadese Best World Record
>>	Track 3,000 Meters	Singapore Youth Olympics		(1st) Gold Medal Abrar Osman (3rd ) Bronze Medal Sam-rawit Mengisteab
>>	Mountain Race	Kamnik, Slovenia	1st	For seniors (1st) Gold Medal Samsom Kifle-mariam and (2nd ) Silver Medal Azerya Teklay; for juniors (1st) Gold Medal Yosie Tekle
>>	Half Marathon	Nanning, China	2nd	(2nd ) Silver Medal Zere-senay Tadese



**Ensuring Female Participation**





Eritrean Athletics Heroes  
WITH THE President Isaias Afewerki

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