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SPORT

CAMPBELL-BROWN TO TAKE ON FIELD AT ATHENS GRAND PRIX

BY PAUL BURROWES, Observer writer
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JAMAICA's second-most decorated athlete ever at major championships, 27-year-old Veronica Campbell-Brown, returns to one of her favourite stomping grounds when she runs the 100 metres at the Athens Grand Prix in Tsiklitiria, Greece, today.

Boasting five medals at the Olympic Games and another five at the IAAF World Championships, Campbell-Brown is hoping for her first legal sub-11 seconds clocking in the 100m this season.

She ran 10.81 seconds at a meet in Clermont, Florida on May 23 and posted 10.91 seconds at the Reebok Classic in New York on May 30, but both were wind-assisted with 3.5 m/s (7.83 mph) and 2.8 m/s (6.26 mph) respectively.

With compatriot Kerron Stewart establishing herself as one of the fastest women on the planet with 10.75 seconds, the fifth fastest time ever and threatening Merlene Ottey's almost 13-year-old national record of 10.74, Campbell-Brown will take the opportunity to better the 10.92 she clocked there last year.

She will be pushed by compatriot Simone Facey, two Bahamians, a Bulgarian, and four Americans led by Carmelita Jeter, who has the fourth-best time this season with 10.96 seconds.

A back-to-back Olympic 200m champion, Campbell-Brown should easily prove why she has run 19 legal times under 11 seconds in the 100m.

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Today



Organisers have described Campbell-Brown, who has 13 major championship medals for Jamaica, second only to Ottey's 27 major medals, as "one of the meet's biggest attractions".

Meanwhile World Championship bronze medallist Novlene Williams-Mills and Shereefa Lloyd will take part in the 400m.

Williams-Mills was second last year, after Sanya Richards, with Lloyd placing fourth. This time around, with Richards not taking part, they are hunting better finishes with the World Championship bronze medallist yet to dip under 50 seconds this season.

So far, Williams-Mills has only five races under 50 seconds, the last being achieved at the 2007 World Championships in Osaka, Japan.

Mardrea Hyman will take part in the 3,000m steeplechase.

On the men's side Ainsley Waugh will compete in the 100m and 200m, while Richard Phillips lines up in the 110m hurdles.

Isa Phillips and Danny McFarlane will continue their battles for honour in the 400m hurdles, with new national champion Phillips winning their last four head-to-heads this season.



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