

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Quinn's Army of Sprinters Return

3 December 2020

### 2020-2021 Tasmanian Christmas Carnivals



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John Quinn is no stranger to Tasmania.

From 1991 – 1998 he was the head track & field coach at the Tasmanian Institute of Sport, where his love affair with the island began.

Since then, he has visited sporadically for competitions, seminars and the like. Then last summer he brought a new squad of athletes down that he'd been working with. They were good, very good.

Amongst them was a smorgasbord of sprinting talent from Africa. International representatives from Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Gambia.

While 400m star Bendere Oboya was the biggest name of the group, it was Gambian powerhouse Abdoulie Asim who struck a chord with the locals.

He fled his home country after the 2018 Commonwealth Games and was living under a bridge on the Parramatta River. A matter of months later, he pocketed \$9000 for winning the Burnie Gift. Now he's coming back to Tasmania stronger and hungry for more.

"Yes of course - I am looking forward to going back to Tasmania and running. It was a great event and a good experience. I want to go back-to-back in Burnie," Asim declared.

Australian 400m champion Bendere Oboya also debuted on Tasmanian soil last summer and said the experience in 2019/2020 was something she'd love to replicate.

“We train as a team so going to Tasmania for the Carnivals lets us travel and compete as a team as well. I had never done that until last year and I loved it.”

After a 2020 that no one saw coming, like many, Oboya had to re-shift focus to a postponed Tokyo Olympics, but now it was time to start racing again.

“Competing at the carnivals in Tasmania is really the start of my 2021 season - and the start of my build up towards hopefully competing at the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

The group will all race in Hobart on December 27, Penguin on December 29 and Burnie on New Years Eve.

“We are going to not just be racing but looking at what works best for me having to race hard several days in a row - things like preparation, travel, recovery, sleeping. It is like a rehearsal - but a lot of fun at the same time,” 20-year-old Oboya said.

According to Quinn, his man Ismail Kamara is training the best of the group. After running in the red in Burnie to get up for 3<sup>rd</sup> last season, the Sierra Leone born sprinter hinted he might do less sightseeing on this journey and more posing with winning cheques.

“We had a lot of fun in Tasmania last year. We didn’t just compete we looked around the state. I loved Cradle Mountain. I want to do all of that again - but I want to run to win too...” Kamara stated.

Quinn’s complete squad for the 2020 Tasmanian Christmas Carnival Series includes;

Aaron Jeffrey

Abdioulie Asim

Ismail Kamara

Jordan Sarmiento

Ashleyn Ndlovou

Damien Mizzi

Daniel Lloyd Jones

Taboka Tshuma

Giri Karthigeyan

Bendere Oboya

Britt Austin

Lenore Lambert

Pauline Nicot

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**The Sports Carnival Association of Tasmania will be supporting the following carnivals this summer;**

9 November - Richmond (Running)

5 December - DAC/MVCC (Running/Cycling)

13 December - PCCCT/CBCC (Running/Cycling)

19 December - Rosebery (Running/Cycling/Woodchopping)

27 December - Hobart (Running/Cycling)

28 December - Launceston (Cycling)

29 December - Penguin (Running)

30 December - Georgetown (Cycling)

31 December - Burnie (Running/Cycling/Woodchopping)

10 January - TAL (Penguin) (Running)

24 January - DAC/MVCC (Running/Cycling)

31 January - OVA (Hobart) (Running)

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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