

Quentin Butler
Fast Running in the Texas Heat

Quentin Butler thought he was the fastest runner in his Texas high school, so an 11.6 100m in his first race shocked him into realizing that some work was required if his results were to match his personal opinion.

Fortunately his high school coach saw his potential and by year-end he was down to a 10.9 that started a progression leading to a track scholarship at the University of Texas at Arlington. There he ran faster than even he may have expected.

“ Through those four years I really discovered my passion for the sport and sacrificed a lot of things so that I could excel at the level I knew I could. My confidence really started to come along at west regionals my senior year when I ran two 10.0's both PRs at the time. But the biggest surprise was at USA's where I really shocked myself and ran my current PR of 9.96. All I could remember was the excitement and realization that I really had a chance at running internationally, and that was always a dream of mine.”

Butler will line up against a strong 100m field at the Aileen Meagher International Track Classic on June 22nd, 6:30 pm, at Huskies Stadium, Saint Mary's University in Halifax, in his next stop on the road to Rio.

He is quick to give credit to others for helping him reach the elite international level.

“I was always encouraged by friends, family and coaches that I had the talent to be great. I just really never believed in myself to that extent. I didn't realize I had the potential to be where I am now until my senior year running and all the hard work I had put in finally started to pay off. My family, friends, and coaches all get credit for what I have achieved so far because they saw something in me that I didn't even see in myself.”

Butler competed in Canada last year, so is not concerned that running in the Halifax climate is going to be that much different than in his native Texas. He hopes to compete “up north” several times this year on the Canadian track circuit.

Tickets to see Quentin Butler sprint the 100m are available online at ticketatlantic.com, at participating Atlantic Superstores, and at the gate of Huskies Stadium on the evening of the 22nd.