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SPORT

DEXTER LEE DREAMS OF BERLIN AND BEYOND

BY KAYON RAYNOR Senior staff reporter raynork@jamaicaobserver.com
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WORLD Youth and Junior 100 metres champion Dexter Lee has sets his sights on making Jamaica's senior team to this summer's 12th IAAF World Championships in Berlin, Germany between August 15 and 23.

The 18-year-old student of Herbert Morrison Technical High School says he wants to qualify for Berlin as well as the Pan American Junior Champions in Trinidad and Tobago.



Jamaica's World Youth and Junior 100 metres champions Dexter Lee (left) goes through some stretching exercises along with two-time Olympic 200 metres gold medallist Veronica Campbell-Brown at Herbert Morrison Technical High School. (Photo: Getty Images)

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"(My goal) this season is to win at the Pan American Junior Games and to make the World Championships team," Lee told the Observer on Monday after training with two-time Olympic 200 metres gold medallist Veronica Campbell-Brown.

The Pan American Junior Championships is scheduled for Trinidad and Tobago from July 31 to August 2.

"I want to qualify for the relay or the 100 metres," added the young sprinter, who has a personal best of 10.31 seconds.

Campbell-Brown was in Jamaica as part of the IAAF 'Day in the Life' programme, which gave journalists from France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Spain and the Bahamas a rare glimpse into the athlete's background and upbringing.

The Claude Grant-coached Lee, who became the first Jamaican male to win a world 100m title at the 2007 World Youth Championships in Ostrava, Czech Republic, also dreams of reaching similar heights as a senior.

"In the future I would like to be a world championship or Olympic gold medallist... maybe in London," said the affable sprinter, who has factured into his future plans to study in the United States.

Prior to dominating the world stage, Lee who has a personal best of 21.09 seconds, is aiming to erase the national junior record of 10.11secs established by Yohan Blake in 2007.

"I hope to break it this year, but I don't know what God has in hand for me, but hopefully I'll get there," said Lee, who produced 10.40secs to win the World Junior crown in Bydgoszcz, Poland last summer.

Meanwhile, Grant who has been coaching Lee since the age of 13, believes the talented sprinter can achieve anything he puts his mind to.

"Once he sets himself a goal, he normally accomplishes it, but I usually just wait and see as it unfolds for him (because) he has the potential to do very well," Grant said.



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