

Speed Of A Dream: The Journey of Kennedy, the Fastest Boy in the World

By Kennedy Nwalor



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KENNEDY NWALOR

Athlete, Champion and Dream Follower

Speed of A Dream: The Journey of Kennedy, The Fastest Boy in the World

Dedication:

I would like to dedicate this book to all of the young runners in the world to encourage them to chase their dreams.

Acknowledgements:

I would like to thank my mom who has always believed in me and encouraged me to never give up and my whole family for being my biggest supporters.

I would also like to thank Clare Ford for helping make this book a reality. Finally, I would like to thank my Swiss coach, Herr Bernetta, for taking his time to train me.

Written & illustrated by

Kennedy Nwalor

Aged 10

ABOUT

KENNEDY NWALOR

Athlete, Champion & Dream Follower

Born in Switzerland on 11th May 2014 to Nigerian parents Juliet and Chukwuma and two older siblings, Jason and Alex, Kennedy grew up multilingual and passionate about sports. From a young age, he started showing promising skills as a runner and is a winning athlete and footballer today. His hope is to inspire young athletes around the world to never give up on their dreams.

Chapter 1: Born to Run

Kennedy was born and brought up in Switzerland. From the moment he could walk, Kennedy started running, darting around shops, chasing after dogs, jumping around the house, and playing in the garden. He ran everywhere and all through the neighbourhood. It was as if running were in his blood.

Sometimes his mum would shout, “Stop running, walk!” but Kennedy never listened - he ran with excitement and moved around with speed and vigour. His love for running was clear from the start.

As Kennedy grew, his natural speed became evident. One day, when Kennedy was in kindergarten, the other children were gathered to run a race, and

Kennedy finished exceptionally faster than them, leaving them with a very huge gap behind.

On another occasion when Kennedy was six, he was playing tag with his older sister, Alex and his 13 year old brother, Jason in the garden and was so excited. Jason was chasing after him and closing in fast, when Kennedy maneuvered out of the way and Jason missed. Kennedy was even faster than a teenager!

There, it was clear that a talent was born!



Chapter 2:

A Family of Athletes

His talent was not so far-fetched due to the fact that his parents also had great athletic abilities: His mom was once a games captain and a talented sprinter in Nigeria. She recognised his potential early on and began teaching him techniques like leg raises while running, all to improve his speed.

His father, who loved playing football, would often play with him, challenging Kennedy to chase and catch him, helping him build strength and speed. His older brother, Jason, also played football with Kennedy, showing him tricks and encouraging him to be the best Kennedy could be. His sister, Alex, was a handballer and she taught throwing techniques, which Kennedy loved.

As a result, Kennedy soared stronger in athletics, always winning every race that he competed in at school and other athletic games. The trainer and the school soon recognised him as a very special talent.

One day, Grandpa came visiting. He saw the way his grandson was running and jumping around. When his mom shouted, “Kenny, stop running around! You will get injured! Walk!” Grandpa retorted,

“Leave him alone! He is just being a kid. You were like him when you were young, the only difference is that he is a boy. But there is something special about him. Watch out and take good care of him. One day this boy will make you proud! He shall become the greatest fastest runner in the whole world.”

His mum kept these words close to her heart and worked with them.



Chapter 3:

Competing in Switzerland

As Kennedy grew older, he became well-known as the fastest boy in his age group in Switzerland. Every year, Kennedy would be called upon to defend his title in the UBS Kids Cup, an annual competition where children from all over Switzerland competed in athletics. Kennedy always won this race, cementing his reputation as the fastest sprinter in the whole of Switzerland, and becoming known and recognised for his talent by athletics trainers. Kennedy trained twice a week, in long jump, throwing and sprinting.

However, there was a challenge Kennedy faced during these competitions. While he always excelled in the sprint, he struggled with the throwing events, which is one of the determinants for the overall champion.

The coach in Switzerland advised his mother to train him harder in throwing, so Kennedy could become the overall champion.



Chapter 4:

A Difficult Move

However, life wasn't always easy for his family. His mother faced challenges with her job in Switzerland. As a lawyer in Nigeria, she had enjoyed a successful career, but in Switzerland, she struggled to find a suitable position that would help support the family, which eventually led to her deciding to move to the United Kingdom, an English-speaking country, to improve her skills for a brighter future with Kennedy and his sister, leaving behind his dad and older brother, Jason.

She was determined to give her younger children the best opportunities, and moving to the UK seemed like a step in the right direction. Kennedy didn't like the thought of leaving his dad and brother behind and missing his friends, while starting a brand new school with people he didn't know.

Though the move was challenging, his mom was relentless in her efforts to support his dreams, always searching for ways to help him succeed.

Despite his fears, Kennedy soon discovered that change could bring new opportunities.

Chapter 5:

Succeeding in England

Upon relocating to England, Kennedy's mom enrolled him in a Catholic school, and though Kennedy struggled to adjust to a new culture and environment, the one thing that stayed constant was his love for running. Kennedy later readjusted and made new friends in school.

On his first day of PE class, the coach noticed his speed during a casual warm-up. Impressed, the coach invited him to join the school's athletics team, representing the school whenever there was an athletics event - not just sprinting but even in swimming, cricket and cross country running.

Kennedy continually dazzled spectators with his sheer speed and determination.

Kennedy also joined a football team called Coventry Phoenix. Initially, Kennedy wasn't a star player, but his speed quickly set him apart. One day, during a football match, Kennedy scored five goals, and his natural speed earned him the Man of the Match trophy; Kennedy then went on to win on multiple occasions.



Chapter 6: Racing for Hope

In the United Kingdom, training had become difficult. It was not easy to find an athletics club, let alone to start training. But all hope was not lost. His mom kept making inquiries to figure out where to enrol him. The athletics clubs had waiting lists, which made Kennedy sad, leaving him at home without any training.

During July 2024, all the Catholic schools in the area where Kennedy lived gathered to compete in their annual athletics event. Kennedy had not been training, so his mum was anxious and eager, yet incredibly nervous, to see how he would perform.

She couldn't help but notice how much bigger and stronger the other boys looked compared to her son. She quietly found a seat nearby and tried to calm her nerves. As she sat there, she overheard two women chatting enthusiastically.

One of them said, "Oh, this race is Samuel's. He's the fastest boy here - no-one can beat him."

The other nodded in agreement, saying, "Yes, everyone knows this is Samuel's race. He's unbeatable!"

His mom kept quiet but felt her anxiety grow. She didn't know Samuel or his reputation, but hearing their confidence in him made her even more unsure about how Kennedy would perform.

When the race started, however, Kennedy stunned everyone. Kennedy shot out like a lightning bolt and left the others, including Samuel, far behind. Nervously, Kennedy thought Samuel would overtake him at any moment. With his heart beating in his chest, Kennedy focused on the finish line, determined to win.

The crowd erupted in disbelief and cheers as Kennedy crossed the finish line first.

Even the two women looked on, astonished. "Who is that boy?" they asked in amazement.

That day, his mom's nerves turned to pride. She couldn't believe what she had witnessed. After the race, she even struck up a friendly conversation with Samuel's mom, who happened to mention that Samuel played football in the same team as Kennedy, and they later became good friends.

The first year of relocating to England was almost coming to an end, and Kennedy was invited to defend his title as the fastest boy again by the UBS Kids Cup in Switzerland, as Kennedy was the previous year's winner. Worried that Kennedy hadn't been training, his mom didn't know what to expect.

But lo and behold, Kennedy won the race again as the fastest boy - but was not able to win in the throwing category. It was one of the best moments of his life - it felt great to stand on the podium once again, holding the trophy close to his chest.

His dad and brother were really happy and his Swiss friends congratulated him. His Swiss trainer couldn't believe how well Kennedy performed without training for a long time and said that this is obviously his natural talent.

Kennedy Nwalor ist der schnellste Schweizer

Leichtathletik Auf die Plätze, fertig los. Auf Kennedy Nwalor, dem schnellsten Aargauer von Satus Rothrist, wartete zum Saisonabschluss ein ganz besonderes Erlebnis. Der Schweizer Final des Visana-Sprints wurde dieses Jahr vor dem Bundeshaus in Bern ausgetragen. Auf dem Bundesplatz wurde eine extra hergerichtete Laufbahn ausgelegt, worauf die zwölf jahrgangsschnellsten Sprinter gesucht wurden.

Beflügelt von der einzigartigen Kulisse zeigte Nwalor in der Kategorie M10, dass er zurzeit in seinem Jahrgang mit Abstand der Schnellste in der Schweiz ist. Den Vor- und Zwischenlauf gewann er jeweils mit deutlichem Vorsprung und den Final über 60 Meter gewann er mit der Zeit von 8.48 Sekunden und wurde somit von Mujinga Kambundji als schnellster U10-Schweizer-Sprint-Champion ausgezeichnet. (bha)



Kennedy Nwalor freut sich über den Sprint-Sieg. Bild: zvg

Chapter 7:

A Legacy of Speed

Back in the UK, Kennedy finally found an athletic coach but was not always able to go to training because the location was so far away, and the cost of travelling and paying for the coaching was too much.

His mother, determined to help him succeed, took matters into her own hands and began training him herself. She also encouraged his sister, Alex, to teach Kennedy how to throw.

Despite the challenges of training far from home and not always having a coach to guide him, Kennedy continued to excel. His mom took on the challenge of training him herself, using the knowledge she had from her own sprinting days. They trained together in a field near their home, pushing through the obstacles of distance and cost. His continued success in sprinting made him a local legend, and Kennedy was invited back to Switzerland every year to defend his title in the UBS Kids Cup, which Kennedy still holds to this day.

His reputation grew, and Kennedy was featured in Swiss newspapers and on Swiss television. People began to believe that one day, Kennedy could become the world's fastest sprinter.

Unfortunately, his grandfather, who had always supported him, passed away before seeing him reach the top which is devastatingly sad.

Whenever Kennedy competed in Switzerland, his family, including his parents, brothers, and sister, would travel to support him in the race, cheering him on. Sometimes, they even invited friends to support him too. Kennedy never disappointed - he always won, making his family proud and inspiring those around him.

And as Kennedy stood on the number one spot on the UBS Kids Cup podium, Kennedy knew that his family's belief and especially his mom's determination, had helped him to get there. By the grace of God, Kennedy is hopeful that his dreams will come true - that he will become the world number one, not just because of his natural talent but because of the dedication of his mother and the support of his family.

His journey from a young boy running across fields in Switzerland to one day becoming the world's number one sprinter is hopefully a story of inspiration, determination, family support, and never giving up on a dream.



We hope that you and your family and friends enjoyed this book.

This project was co-ordinated and facilitated by Clare Ford, Founder of Switched ON! the global online academy which is re-defining education beyond academic success.

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SWITCHED ON!

Meet Kennedy, a boy born to run. From his earliest steps in the picturesque neighbourhoods of Switzerland to breaking records on the international stage, Kennedy's journey is one of passion, perseverance, and pure speed. With a talent inherited from his athletic parents and nurtured by a family determined to see him succeed, Kennedy's story is nothing short of extraordinary.

But life wasn't always smooth running. A challenging move to the UK, struggles with training, and the loss of a beloved supporter tested Kennedy's resolve. Through it all, his unstoppable spirit and his mother's unwavering dedication pushed him to defy the odds.

"Speed of a Dream: The Journey of Kennedy, the Fastest Boy in the World" is an inspiring tale of determination, family, and the pursuit of greatness. Perfect for young readers who dream big, this story reminds us all that with hard work and support, anything is possible.

Will Kennedy become the fastest sprinter in the world? Join him on his remarkable journey to find out!