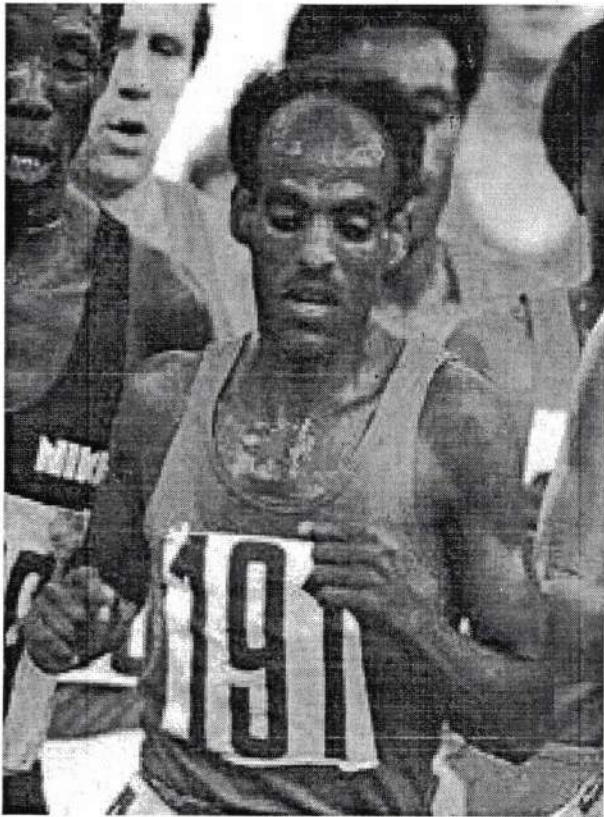


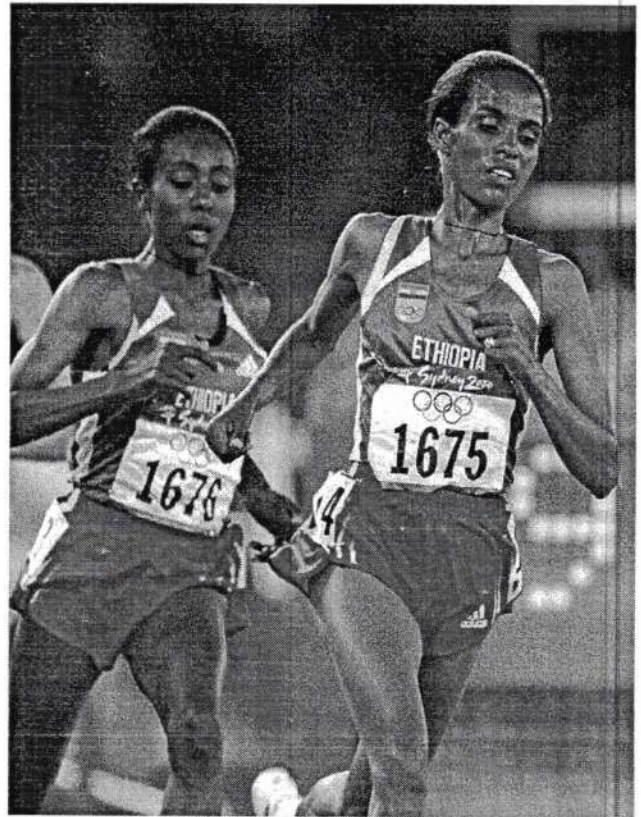
Ethiopian precious athletes

- ❖ Haile Gebre Selassie, World champion and Olympic Champion, has broken more than 22 world records. He currently holds the 20 kilometre world record.
- ❖ Kenenisa Bekele, World champion world cross country champion and Olympic champion, holds the 5,000 and 10,000 metre world records
- ❖ Derartu Tulu, was the first woman from Africa to win an Olympic gold medal in **10,000 metre** event at **Barcelona**.
- ❖ Abebe Bikila, won the Olympic marathon in **1960** and **1964**, setting world records both times. He is well known for winning **the 1960** marathon in Rome while running bare foot.
- ❖ Miruts Yifter, the first in a tradition of Ethiopia known for brilliant finishing speed, won **gold medals in 5,000** and **10,000** metres events at the Moscow Olympics in **1980**. He was the last man to achieve this feat.
- ❖ Fatuma Roba, was the first Ethiopian athlete ever to win Olympic marathon in **1996**.
- ❖ Tirunesh Dibaba, won the **5,000** metre race in Paris, France at 9th world champion ship at the age of 17

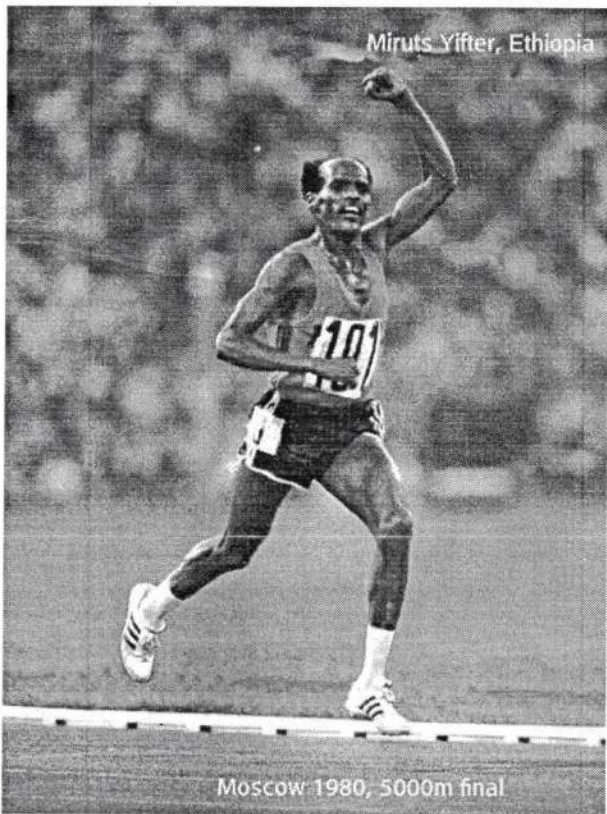
How many known athletes do you have?



miruts

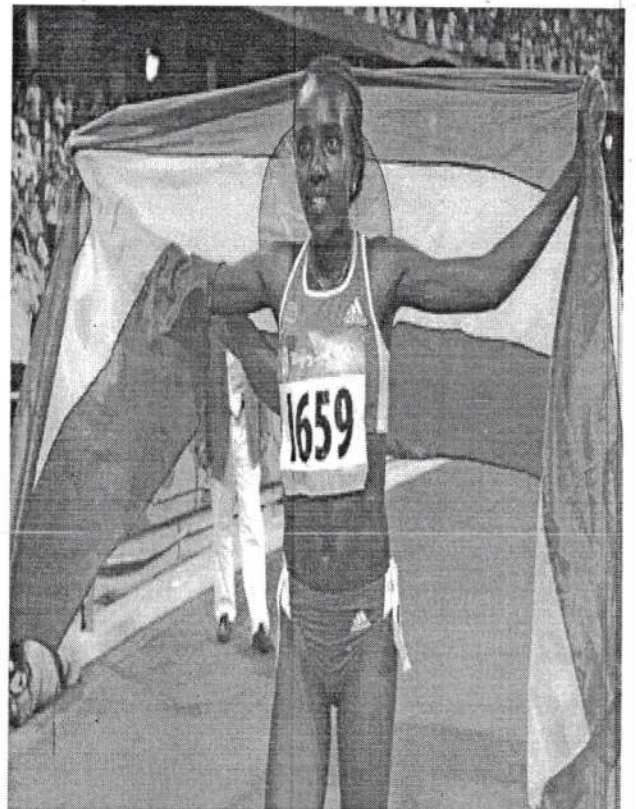


Derartu



Moscow 1980, 5000m final

Miruts



Turunesh



Encarta Encyclopedia, Christophe Paucel/Photo 8 To/Corbis

Haile

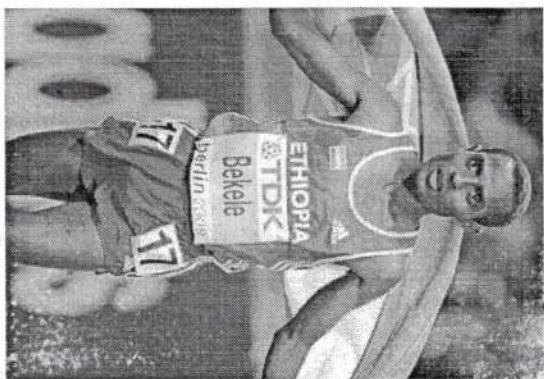


Encarta Encyclopedia, Hubert Deusch/Allsport

Abebe



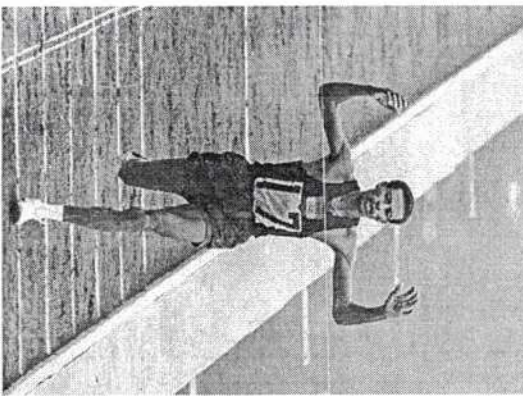
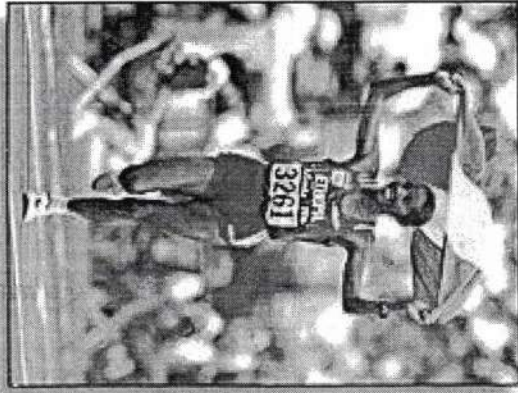
Tevneshi



Kenenisa



Fatuma



Abebe



Derewtsu

Abebe Bikila

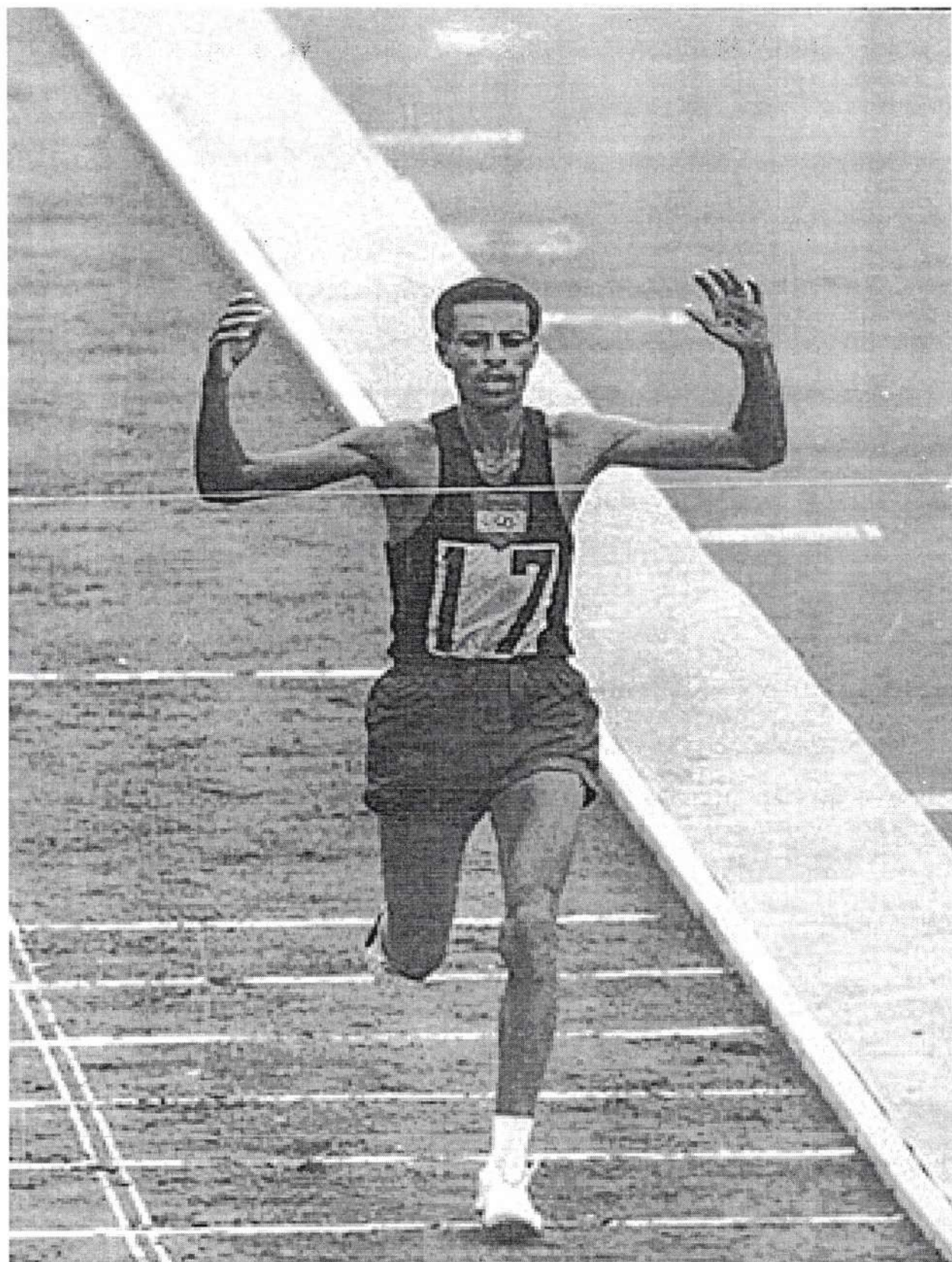
He was a famous Ethiopian who **was born in 1932**. After joining the **army at 19**, he started running in 1956. His coach major Onni Niskanen was Swede. Training at altitudes well above **2000** metres served Abebe well. Abebe proved to be the most famous Ethiopian runner of all time in Rome, in **1960**.

He won the Olympic marathon race barefoot, in 2 hours, 16 **minutes and 2** seconds. Four years later, he repeated his success at the Tokyo Olympics. This time the world record was his alone. His time of 2 hours, 15 minutes, and 16.2 seconds was more than four minutes ahead of second place Basil Heatly of Great Britain.

Usually, Abebe ran this race only six weeks after having an appendix operation. However, being a man of talent and purpose, Abebe had done a series of rigorous exercises to beat all the other runners. Abebe was also the first man to win two Olympic marathons, one after the other.

Abebe tried to achieve a third success at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. After only 10 miles a leg injury forced him out. The victory went to another fine Ethiopian competitor, Mamo Wolde.

The following year, Abebe Bikila's marathon career was over. He was crippled in a car crash and was confined to a wheel chair. However, by taking up archery, he completed his several games. Abebe died on the 25th of October in **1973**.



Tirunesh Dibaba

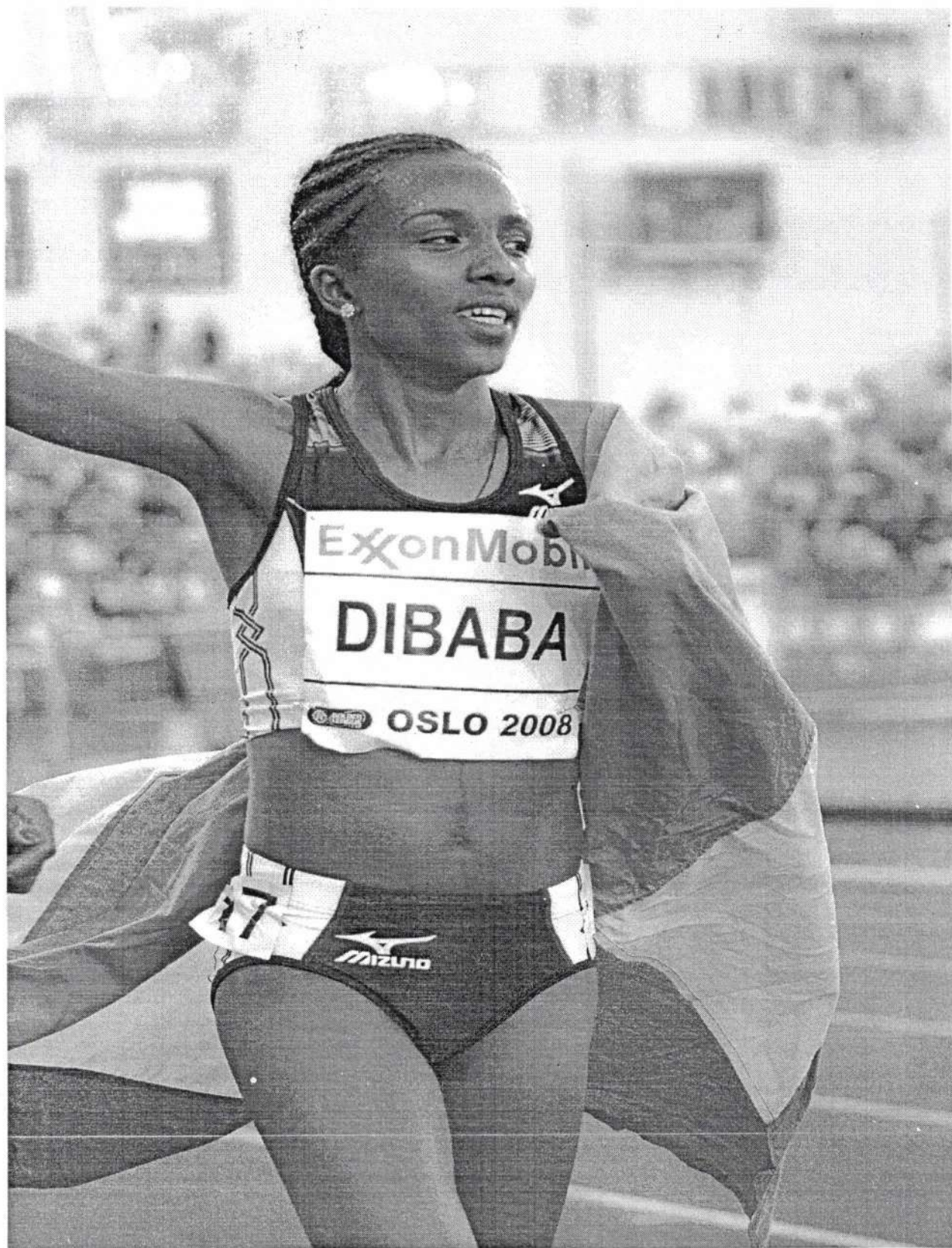
She is long-distance runner. She is known as the Flying Princess. **She was born in Arsi**, but she lives and trains in Addis Ababa. She often runs and trains with her sister, Ejegayehu. Her sister is also a long distance runner.

She became a famous Ethiopian by doing something that no other Ethiopian runner had ever done. **At the age of 17**, she won the **5,000** metre race in Paris, France at 9th World Championships. She became the youngest world champion at that time.

At the 10th World Championship in Helsinki, she again did what no other man or woman had done before. She won both the **5,000 metre race and the 10,000 metre race**. The Flying Princess, Tirunesh Dibaba, is a famous Ethiopian woman.

Do you have known long-distance female runners?

Eng for éth



Derartu Tulu

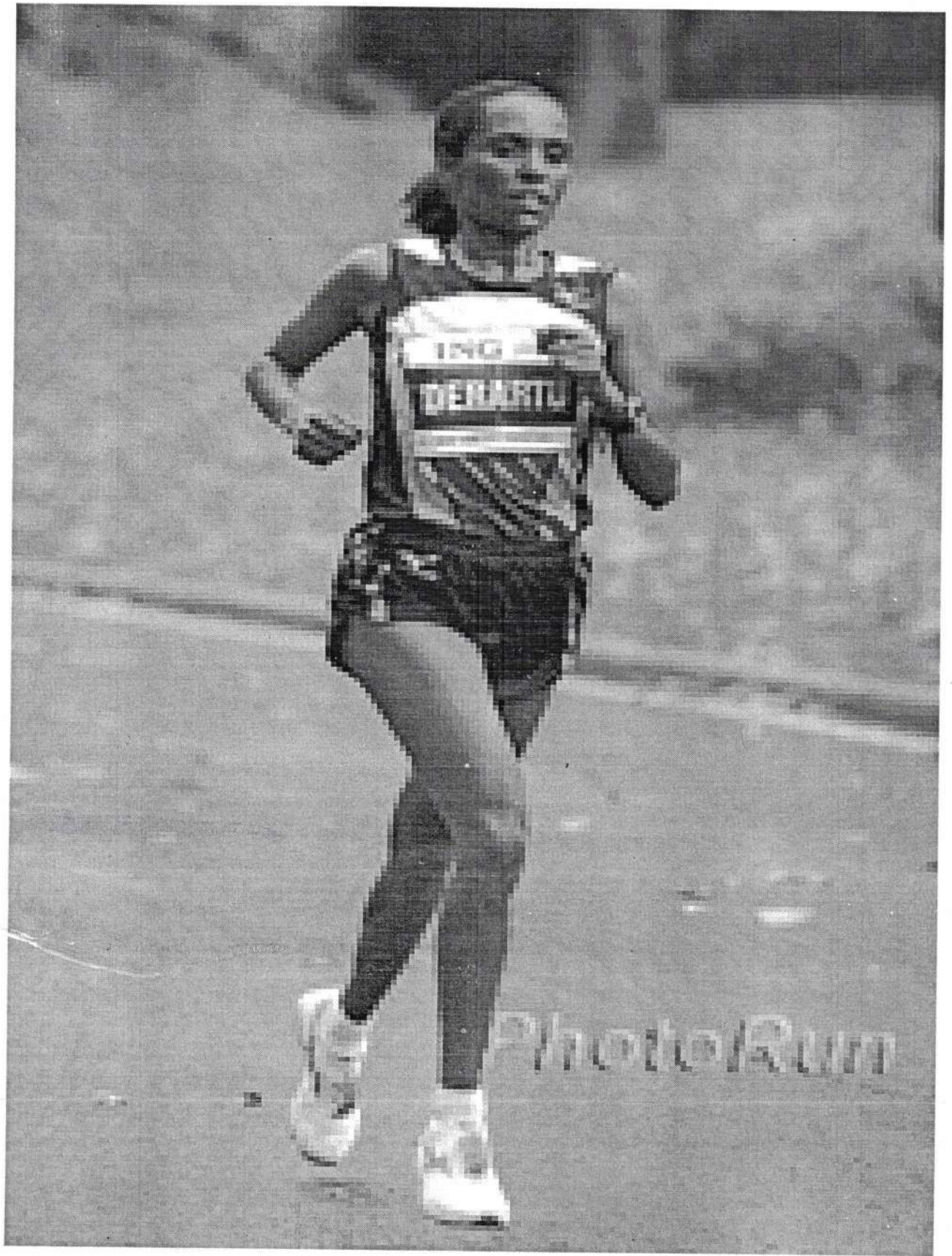
Derartu Tulu, a member of the Oromo ethnic group, was born in 1969 in the village of Arsi region of central Ethiopia as the seventh child in a family of 10 children. She grew up tending cattle in Arsi highlands. She did not realize that she was an extremely fast runner until the age of 16.

Derartu's first significant win came in a 400 metre race in her School where she out-ran the school's star male athlete. This along with a win in an 800 metre race in her district convincingly put her on a path to a successful career in athletics.

Derartu became the first black African woman to win an Olympic medal. She won her first gold medal in the 1992 Olympics in the 10,000 metre event in Barcelona, Spain, and her second in the 2000 Olympic games in Sydney, Australia, also in the 10,000 metre event. In 2004 she won a bronze medal in Athens, Greece Olympic games. In addition, she has won several marathons and cross country events.

She is our hero. Do you have such athlete in your country?

Who is your hero?



Marathon Winner

Fatuma Roba is a famous Ethiopian woman athlete. She is famous for working very hard to accomplish greatness. Fatuma Roba was born in Arsi. She had many brothers and Sisters. In her childhood, Fatuma Roba dreamed of being a famous runner. She came to Addis Ababa to train.

Fatuma Roba was the first Ethiopian athlete ever to win a **marathon**. In **1996** she became the first African woman ever to win an Olympic marathon. She won that marathon in **Atlanta, Georgia, USA**. Later, she became the first African woman to win the Boston Marathon in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

Do you have such female athlete in Uk?

Eng for eth

