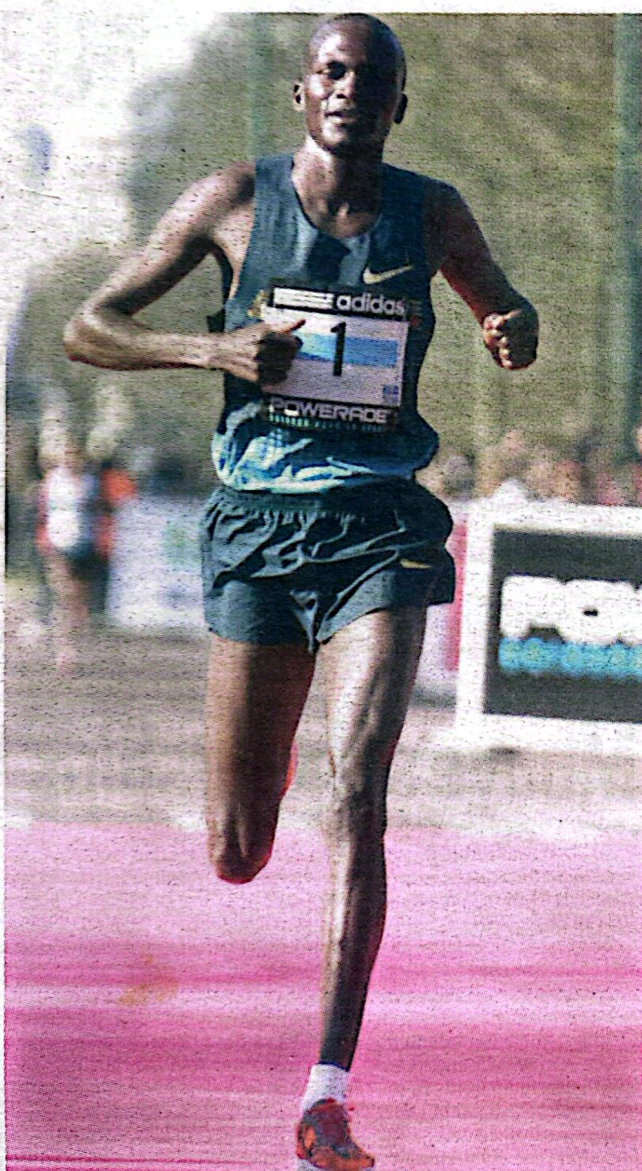


for three-point shots

Stephen Curry's 3-pointer from beyond 30 feet with 0.6 seconds left in overtime gave the Golden State Warriors a 121-118 win over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Saturday. He also broke his own NBA record for 3s in a season. **Page 38**

National boxing team pugilists, the Bombers, have been advised to avoid common mistakes like simulation during the Africa Olympics Qualifiers due March 9-20 in Yaonde, Cameroon. **Page 39**

Decent Tokyo display earns Kips Shs34m



Kiprotich gets in his stride in a previous international race. AGENCIES PHOTO

Marathon. Stephen Kiprotich finished fourth in the Tokyo Marathon yesterday and showed he has the potential to defend his Olympic title later this year.

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Stephen Kiprotich posted his third fastest time ever and pocketed \$10,000 (about Shs34m) while finishing a decent fourth in the Tokyo Marathon yesterday morning.

The Olympic champion clocked two hours, seven minutes and 46 seconds in the 42.195km race won by Ethiopian Feyisa Lilesa (2:06:56). Kenyans Bernard Kipyego (2:07:33) and Dickson Chumba (2:07:34) finished second and third respectively.

Kiprotich had made the podium in his last two appearances in this World Marathon Major (WMM) event. He was third in 2012 and second last year but yesterday's display should be equally satisfying for the former world champion as he prepares to defend his Olympic title in August.

"The most important thing was to run well ahead of the Olympics. God willing, I hope I can attain my goal this year of retaining my Olympic title," Kiprotich said after the race in which he finished ahead of more accomplished marathoners like Kenyans Abel Kirui (fifth in 2:08:06), and Emmanuel Mutai (seventh in 2:10:23). These could be among the opponents Kiprotich will face at the Olympics due August in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

While he couldn't better his national record/personal best of 2:06:33 set in last year's Tokyo Marathon edition, Kiprotich's Dutch manager, Jurrie van der Velden, was content with the performance. "Stephen had some challenges during the preparation phase but yeah, he ran well," Jurrie

said of Uganda's biggest Rio Olympics medal hope.

"This was a stable performance leading to the Olympics," Jurrie added. Amid some balmy weather, Kiprotich, clad in a navy blue kit, kept in the leading pack of 20 runners inside the opening 15 minutes.

By the 8km mark, the pack had reduced to seven runners. These included a quintet of Kenyans, eventual winner Lilesa, Kiprotich and three pace setters. They all approached the 21km half-way mark in about 1:02:37.

At the 30km mark, the pace setters dropped off and here, 2014 winner Chumba and Lilesa peeled away as the race shaped up.

Kiprotich briefly kept in third with Kirui and Bernard Kipyego as their fellow Kenyans Mutai and Eluid Kiptanui had fallen off the pace.

Eventually, Lilesa broke away with 2km to go, comfortably bagging the Shs271m winner's prize. Course record holder Chumba's legs got so heavy that a surging Kipyego beat him in the home stretch for second.

KIPROTICH'S FASTEST MARATHONS

Feb, 2015 in Tokyo:	2:06:33
April, 2011 in Enschede:	2:07:20

Feb, 2016 in Tokyo:	2:07:46
Feb, 2012 in Tokyo:	2:07:50

TOKYO MARATHON CASH PRIZES

Feb, 2016 in Tokyo:	2:07:46
1st:	\$80,000 (Sh271m)
2nd:	\$40,000 (Shs135m)
3rd:	\$20,000 (Shs68m)
4th:	\$10,000 (Sh34m)