

# THE TIMES

## Athletics

# James Dasaolu joins Usain Bolt in 100m final at World Championships

**Josh White**

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James Dasaolu, the British sprinter, recovered from a disappointing performance in yesterday's heat to finish third in the 100 metres semi-final at the World Championships and qualify for this evening's final with the second fastest run of his career.

Despite leading after 70 metres, Dasaolu was outpaced by Nickel Ashmeade and Kemar Bailey-Cole, both of Jamaica, who ran in 9.90 and 9.93sec respectively, but the London-born athlete maintained a strong speed to run a time of 9.97sec. He joins the talented Christophe Lemaitre, beaten by Dasaolu into fourth place, amongst the qualifiers for the final.

"I am just relieved after the shocker I had yesterday and I have given myself a chance of qualifying," Dasaolu said. "I am hoping I have done enough to compete in the final."

In the third semi-final in Moscow, Usain Bolt held off the challenge of Mike Rodgers of the United States to win in 9.92sec and progress to the semi-final. Bolt made a characteristically slow start but opened the taps over the final 30 metres to defeat Rodgers whose attempts to eyeball the Olympic champion proved fruitless, placing just short of Bolt in 9.93sec. Trinidad's Keston Bledman was third in 10.08sec.

Justin Gatlin was the fastest in the day's first semi-final, beating Nesta Carter of Jamaica into second place and Jimmy Vicaut of France into third. Vicaut had been tipped for a place in the final but narrowly missed a place.

Dwain Chambers finished sixth behind Ashmeade and Harry Aikines-Aryeetey, another British hopeful, finished last in the first semi-final.

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**Dasaolu's semi-final run was the second fastest of his career**

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