**Sports**

From Kenya to South Carolina

Trevor Oyugi’s running ancestry aids cross country team

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enya has always been a country known for its excellent long-distance runners. With their long legs and slim bodies, they have a natural ability to win. At the last Olympics in Rio, Eliud Kipchoge from Kenya won gold in the marathon, continuing the Kenyan dominance of the race.

On April 20, 2001, sophomore Trevor Oyugi was born in Nairobi. His parents both were living in Africa at the time. Oyugi stayed in Africa for about a year with his parents and older sister. His parents then moved to the USA in 2002, where they lived in Charleston, SC.

Nairobi, Kenya, is found in the southern part of Kenya near the Tanzania border. There are 3.138 million inhabitants in the capital city, which is known for its extreme traffic, and poverty all over the city.

Oyugi lived most his childhood in Charleston. Growing up in the US was completely different from Nairobi. The rates of poverty are much higher in Africa, and the quality of living there is much worse. America had more opportunities for the Oyugi family.

Oyugi’s mother had lived in Africa till she was 20.

“The atmosphere is different. You see different things and learn new things. The amount of opportunities for my family were tremendous in Charleston compared to my home in Africa,” Oyugi said.

Oyugi moved to Spartanburg during 6th grade, and started going to District Seven schools. In the 7th grade Oyugi had the opportunity to join the cross country team. That was it! Running just came naturally to Oyugi, and he loved it.

Running over 500 miles and earning a varsity letter, were just some of his achievements his first year. From then on Oyugi has lettered every year and run varsity most races. Oyugi’s personal best time is 17:11, which was run at the Low Country Invitational in 2014. Currently his best time of the season is a 17:23 which he ran at the Lake Murray Invitational in September.

Oyugi enjoys running, the team, and competing against others.

“It is just a way, to exercise and have fun, but I’m also really good at it,” Oyugi said.

Being from Kenya is said to be a gift, because of the success Kenyan runners have had in competitions. Kenya is home to some of the highest ranked runners in the world.

Oyugi’s determination and hard work would get him far even without his Kenyan ancestry.
“All my teammates always mess with me about it being in my blood, but really it all comes from hard work. I’m Kenyan, yes, but that doesn’t just mean I can go out and run and not stop. I still have to train to do my best,” Oyugi said.