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● On the pace . . . 15-year-old Cherie Horne ran the Olympic Dream 10km in 34min 46sec, 30 seconds faster than the junior record. Picture: GEORGE SALPIGIDIS

Cherie's Dream on record pace

JUST over six minutes after Steve Moneghetti won last Sunday's Olympic Dream 10km, Cherie Horne crossed the line.

The 10km took her 34min 46sec and she finished 10th in the women's race behind Australian record holder Carolyn Schuwalow.

But the 15-year-old Horne's time ranks as one of the best in the world for her age.

It is almost 30 seconds faster than Schuwalow's Australian junior record on the track and more than three minutes faster than Lindy-Jane Trezise's under-17 Victorian 10,000m record.

Cherie won't get credited with the records because Sunday's race was on the road, but she certainly appears to have the ability to rewrite the records when she steps on the track.

By NICK BIDEAU

"I was really surprised because it was exactly three minutes faster than I ran in the Susan 10k in April," she said.

At 160cm and only 40kg, Cherie looks tiny even against relatively small women distance runners but it's got nothing to do with the amount she eats.

"I eat three times as much as my dad, I think that what you eat is a very important part of your running and if you're going to be the best you have to eat very well," Horne explained.

Cherie's training consists mostly of easy running two nights each week where she meets her coach Keith McCrossan at the Knox Park track for speedwork.

She will drop back to

3000m for her next big race — the Australian schools championship at Olympic Park next month.

"I'd like to do really well but I don't have the power at the end of the races as some of the other girls, so if I don't get far enough in front so as they can't catch me, I find it hard to win."

Like Moneghetti, Cherie is not blessed with a great deal of natural speed, so her ambitions are with the marathon.

"I'll never be a sprinter, in fact the further I go the better I get so I'll probably finish up a marathon runner. But for now, I'd like to improve my speed at 1500m and 3000m," she said.

"I've got a long way to go but I'm prepared to wait for my chance, just as long as I get there one day."