



Anaso goes like the wind to leave Gatlin breathless

Jobodwana now plans to see his newborn in Oz

ATHLETICS

By MAHLATSE MPHAHLELE
In Johannesburg

SOUTH African sprinter Anaso Jobodwana is unlikely to see his newborn son, Zolani-Parker Dwaine Jobodwana, until after the Commonwealth Games in Australia next month.

Jobodwana was born on Wednesday in Phoenix, Arizona in the US as Jobodwana prepared to race against Justin Gatlin in the 150m race at the Athletix Grand Prix event at Tuks Stadium on Thursday night, where he won in time of 15.08 seconds.

Jobodwana claimed his first victory over Gatlin, who finished fourth in 15.23, following second-placed Roscoe Engel (15.17) and third-placed Luxolo Adams (15.18) in Pretoria.

"I am not too sure at the moment when I am going to see my son because there is just a lot happening right now," said Jobodwana.

"Even if I was to get a visa to travel to the US, there is the Commonwealth Games that I need to think about. It is most likely not going to be before the Commonwealth Games, but hopefully immediately after that I will be able to get into a plane and go to see them.

"The birth of my child is still to sink in because I am not there to hold him, but I was able to watch the whole process on FaceTime.

"I saw all the pushing and pain that my wife went through, but he is with her whole family and it was really special to see him being fed for the first time."

Jobodwana said beating Gatlin will give him confidence as he faces a career-defining season.

"I was joking with my wife on the morning of the race that this baby wanted to come early so that he can watch me beat Justin Gatlin. The win will give me a lot of confidence because beating someone like Justin is huge," he said.

The other star performer on the night was Caster Semenya, who smashed the South African 1 000m record that had stood for 35 years, in 2min 35.43sec.

"We can only go faster but the main focus is the South African championships next week and the Commonwealth Games next



JOB WELL DONE: Anaso Jobodwana beats Justin Gatlin in the men's 150m during the Athletix Grand Prix Series held at Tuks Stadium in Pretoria on Thursday. It was a special win for new dad

Picture: GALLO IMAGES

month," she said.

"The most important thing now is to stay healthy, and I will sit down with the management to listen to the advice they will give me."

Sprint star Akani Simbine, who

raced to victory in the 100m in a time of 10.05, said he was happy with his first outing of the season.

"It was just about finishing the race, and I am really happy with where I am at the moment," he

said.

"Every race is part of preparation for the South African championships next week and the Commonwealth Games next month." — DDC

