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## Semenya, Jobodwana tear up the track

PRETORIA — The second Athletix Grand Prix Series meeting held at Tuks Athletics Stadium on Thursday night saw Caster Semenya win the 1 000 m women's race in a new South African record, while Anaso Jobodwana brought down the house by taking the scalp of world 100 m champion, Justin Gatlin, in the 150 m men's race.

Jobodwana started celebrating 20 m before the finish line, knowing that he had claimed one of the biggest victories of his career in a time of 15,08sec ahead of Roscoe Engel (15,17sec) and Luxolo Adams, rounding out the top three (15,8sec).

Gatlin had to settle for fourth (15,23sec), but that did not stop the American from spending time with the crowd and posing for endless pictures. "It's all about the fans," said Gatlin.

"They are the reason why we race". Jobodwana had just become a father



South African Anaso Jobodwana wins Final Men Senior 150m against American sprinter Justin Gatlin during the 2018 Liquid Telecom Athletix Grand Prix Series in Pretoria.

**PHOTO: GALLO IMAGES**

the day before. "Before the race I was just thinking about the last two years (he had struggled with injuries), my wife in America and my son

being born yesterday (Wednesday). All that gave me the power to execute and run my race. I am very happy, as I am almost back to where I was."

Gatlin was gracious in defeat, praising Jobodwana. "He ran a great race and it is good to see him running so well again. Next time I hope to come through earlier, I did feel a bit jetlagged."

The 150m was the final race of an evening that saw spectacular performances coming in quick succession. Semenya broke the 35-year-old record of Ilze de Kock Wicksell in the 1 000m women's event, crossing the line in 2:35.43.

Wicksell's record was 2:37.00, run in 1983.

The third and final Athletix Grand Prix Series Meeting takes place in Paarl at the Dal Josaphat Stadium on Thursday, March 22.

— Sport24.

