

Johnson flies home after father's death

June 2, 2008

BENITA Johnson was flying home to Australia yesterday after the death of her father.

Johnson won the Freihofer's Run for Women in Albany, New York, for the third time in a row, dedicating her win to her father, Tony Willis, who had been battling a degenerative disease. She got the news of his death when she tried to ring him after the race. He was 58.

"He's my hero," Johnson said before learning of her father's death.

"He was a real family man and well thought of in the community. When you have someone like that who's your father, you're always going to come out a pretty good person, so I'm very fortunate to have a Dad like that."

Johnson ran 15 minutes 46 seconds to win the five-kilometre event from Ethiopian Amane Gobena.

LEN JOHNSON

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