



Image: Please supply caption.

Thanks to community minded sport lovers, Obssa Youssouf is achieving high performance on and off the running track.

As beneficiary of the Sydney Uni Sport Elite Athlete Program Scholarship, Obssa's passion and determination for both sport and study has been fostered by the generosity of donors like you. Now propelled by success, he is setting his sights on representing Australia in the green and gold.

Obssa makes the most of all opportunities. A middle distance runner, and 2023 Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Advanced Studies graduate, he journeyed from Djibouti to Australia with his family at just five years old.

"My parents are both from Ethiopia, and they grew up in villages in the eastern highlands of the country," he shares, reflecting on his rich cultural heritage and the values instilled in him from a young age.

Obssa has always been passionate about learning. Encouraged by his mother, who always emphasised the importance of education, Obssa excelled in school. His determination led him to the University of Sydney's Open Day,

where he fell in love with the vibrant campus and the myriad of opportunities it offered.

Obssa was thrilled when he learned his application for the Sydney Uni Sport Elite Athlete Program Scholarship was successful. "I first told my Mum. She was overjoyed and incredibly proud."

The scholarship had a profound impact on Obssa's university experience. "With the scholarship, I was able to financially support myself with coaching, running gear, competitions, and interstate travel," he explains. The program also provided access to high-performance facilities and helped him balance the demands of study and sport.

Belonging to the Sydney Uni Sport community played a crucial role in Obssa's journey. "I made it a priority to make the most of every opportunity – whether academic, social, or sporting – because I truly believe that the energy and dedication you put in are what you'll ultimately get back."

Your support creates a ripple effect, extending beyond individual athletes to benefit the entire community. "I believe that philanthropy especially in

education is not only a way of enriching and supporting students from different backgrounds, but it also fosters a community of like-minded persons whom have varied individual pursuits but ultimately encourage and celebrate one another through triumphs and tribulations."

Without the generosity of donors like you, Obssa's university experience would have been challenging. "It would have meant working more part-time hours, and less time for studying and sport," he notes. The scholarship eased these pressures, allowing him to focus on his academic and athletic pursuits.

Obssa has many dreams for the future. For now, he plans to "keep growing and learning in my current position as a technology consultant, as well as to compete overseas and represent Australia in the 800m." With his dedication and passion, we know Obssa will continue to achieve great things and inspire those who follow. 🏃