

Gwinnett school bus driver wins gold in world track event

Tim Darnell, WXIA 3:40 PM. EST January 09, 2017



LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga -- A Gwinnett public school bus driver recently won two gold medals at the World Masters Track and Field Championship in Perth, Australia.

Emma McGowan, who drives a Special Education Bus and is the mother of twins, won gold in the 100 meter and 200 meter. She says training and her job go hand-in-hand.

"I love driving the bus because after I drop off the kids in the morning, I can train for several hours before I have to begin my afternoon route. But the best part of my job is that I get to take my daughter to school," McGowan said. "My daughter is autistic and I love being able to take her to school and pick her up. That way I know she and the other students are in great hands."



IMAGE: ROB JEROME

The World Masters Track and Field Championships are the biennial championships for masters athletics events held under the auspices of World Masters Athletics. Athletes who compete in the World Masters Athletic events must be at least 35 years old.

McGowan says she loves to compete.

“It is awesome! It takes a lot of hard work especially for me. I am 48 years old with two children so it is not easy, but I love it. I practice three times a week at an outdoor track and once or twice in a gym,” McGowan said.

McGowan is now a two-time gold medal winner in the 100 meters. In 2015 she won gold in the World Masters Athletics Championship in her native France while also taking home silver in the 200 meters and 400 meters.

“I am so thankful to have a great job and a great coach who helps me stay focused and prepared. It was also great winning the 200 meters, as I barely lost in 2015,” McGowan said.

(© 2017 WXIA)