

TRACK AND FIELD TEAMS MEET DOWN UNDER

LOGAN GRAY GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO MATCH TALENTS AGAINST COMPETITORS FROM ACROSS GLOBE IN AUSTRALIA

BY CLARA MAULTSBY

Like many teenagers, Logan Gray (10) went to the beach this summer, but she went a little further than Myrtle Beach. She traveled 21 hours by air all the way to Australia. She was there to compete in the Down Under Sports International Track and Field Competition.

Logan left for Australia on July 7. The competition was held in Brisbane, Queensland, at Griffith University.

Gray is a track and field athlete who competes in shot put, discus, and hammer throw. Her success earned her the opportunity to compete in the event in Australia. She won a gold medal in shot put and silver in both the discus and hammer throw.

Gray was excited to have the chance to compete.

"Competing internationally was never something I thought I could do at this age," Gray said. "It felt absolutely amazing!"

There were multiple other parts that made the experience

so special. Gray visited a wildlife sanctuary, kangaroo fields, the Royal Botanical Gardens, and watched a professional rugby game. She also made friends with competitors from other teams. The trip shattered her expectations.

Traveling with her mother, godmother, and godmother's boyfriend, they stayed at the Surfer's Paradise Resort.

Gray got to spend a lot of time witnessing Australia's scenery.

"Truth be told, I never wanted to leave Australia. It was so beautiful," Gray said.

Gray returned home after ten days. She described her trip as a life-changing experience. She thanked coaches and others who helped make the experience possible, and she looks forward to continuing with the sport.

Gray has been competing in events since second grade, and it has come to mean a lot to her.

"I honestly love the way it makes me feel after a really good throw," Gray said. "Yes, there are days where I never want to pick up an implement



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again, but there are also days when I'm so on top of the world and never want to put it down."

Gray's coach, Jeremy Gordet, was proud of her performance and hard work.

"Logan is a very talented young athlete who continues to work very hard and her success in the state track meet and in Australia shows that her hard work pays off," Gordet said.

Gray hopes to compete

Sharply focused, Logan Gray prepares for her attempt at the hammer throw. She won the silver medal for the event at the meet.

in college at the Ohio State University and even has her sights set on competing in the Olympics one day. There may be more long-distance flights in Logan's future; she hopes to study aviation and one day and work as a pilot. □