

Santa Barbara's Sue Named World Master Female Athlete of the Year



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by **Diego Sandoval**, Noozhawk Sports Editor

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Santa Barbara local Sue McDonald turned in a record-breaking 2023 campaign and has been rewarded with the title of Female Athlete of the Year. (Rob Jerome / World Masters Athletics Photo)

Santa Barbara Masters track & field athlete Sue McDonald added yet another award to her illustrious athletic career on Friday as she was named the **World Masters Athletics Female Athlete of the Year**.

“The nomination for the WMA Athlete of the Year is the greatest honor I have ever achieved in athletics,” McDonald said. “I have so much respect for all masters athletes as I feel each masters athlete is a special person with the courage to line up on that start line.

“To be considered one of the top athletes in the world is very special to me as I know there are so many talented masters athletes which makes it challenging for the committee to choose.”

This is McDonald’s second Female Athlete of the Year nod of 2023, as she was also bestowed the honor by **USA Track & Field**.

McDonald, 60, made history throughout 2023 by setting eight different world records for the World Masters, six coming on the outdoor track and two coming on the indoor track.

For her indoor records, McDonald set the top mark for the 800-meter race (2:25.72) and the 1,500-meter race (5:08.88) for the women’s 60-64 age division.

When it comes to her outdoor accomplishments, McDonald captured a trio of gold medals in Greensboro, North Carolina for the 400-meter (62.34), the 800-meter (2:29.97) and the 300-meter hurdles (48.89).

At the USATF Masters Combined Event Championships, she also set the record for most points in the heptathlon with 6,269 points to go along with record-breaking performances in the 800-meter (2:22.52), the 1,500-meter (5:04.27) and the mile race (5:28.02).

“My goal has always been to work as hard as I can to reach my full potential as I age and to be recognized for that hard work makes me proud,” McDonald said. “I am very grateful to the committees who nominated me for the WMA Athlete of the Year award – Thank you!”

While McDonald earned the Female Athlete of the Year award, the Male Athlete of the Year award went to Paul Forbes of Great Britain.