

Team USA and Team Toyota's Oksana Masters captures her first Paralympic gold medal

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PYEONGCHANG, South Korea – Oksana Masters captured her sixth career Paralympic Medal when she finished first in the women’s sitting cross-country 1.1km sprint at the Paralympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 on Wednesday, March 14.

Masters crossed the finish line in dominating fashion with a two-second lead over second place to claim her third medal in PyeongChang. Earlier this week she won a silver medal in women’s 6km biathlon and a bronze medal in women’s 12km cross-country skiing.

“I can’t believe it,” Masters said. “I literally was starting to think this day would never happen. I did not want to give up. I fought for that gold medal. I’m so excited to bring home a medal for Team USA.”

In addition to her PyeongChang medals, Masters won both silver and bronze medals in the Paralympic Winter Games Sochi 2014 in 12km Nordic skiing and 5km Nordic, respectively. She also competed in the Paralympic Summer Games London 2012 where she won a bronze medal in rowing.

Masters was born in Ukraine with birth defects, including legs with no weight-bearing bones, as a direct cause of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl and ultimately had to have both legs amputated above the knee. She was adopted when she was seven years old and moved to the United States, where she began adaptive rowing.