



Lewis turns to Beijing

Eliza Sewell

Newly crowned world indoor champion Tamsyn Lewis says she is glad she didn't quit the sport when times got tough.
 Lewis, 29, won 800m gold at the world indoor athletics championships in Spain this week, putting behind her a

staunch with hurdler Jana Rawlinson and a history of under-achieving.
 Lewis said this morning she almost quit the sport after the Athens Olympics, but winning gold had made all the hard times worth it.
 "That feeling of standing on the dais and hearing your anthem, gosh, I'd take 10 down years for that one moment,"

she said.
 And she has her sights set on Olympic glory.
 "I've never beaten a lot of those girls before and they're world championship medallists and Olympic medallists, so to be so competitive with them has given me a boost," she said.
 Sports marketing expert Professor David Shilbury from Dea-

kin University said Lewis's success might attract sponsorship, but it would not have a big impact on her public profile.
 "It's not worth a great deal just yet," he said.
 "She needs to repeat - while she did really well this was an indoor championships, which is not the same as an outdoor."



Australia's newest world champion Tamsyn Lewis arrives home at Melbourne airport this morning fresh from her breakthrough 800m win at the world indoor athletics titles in Spain. Almost as happy as the 400-800m national champ are parents Carolyn and Greg.