

JO-ANN BARNAS: Ruggiero lands a spot on 'The Apprentice'

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Angela Ruggiero of Harper Woods has played in some pretty tough arenas. She scored the winning goal last year at Linkoping, Sweden, leading the U. S. women's hockey team to its first world championship. She has brought home Olympic medals from Torino, Salt Lake City and Nagano.



But in the coming months, Ruggiero will try to succeed in a different field. She will compete for the title of "The Apprentice" during season six of the reality TV show, NBC announced Tuesday.

Viewers selected Ruggiero from a group of 12 Olympians through online voting during the network's 17-day broadcast from the Torino Winter Olympics. Other contestants included bobsledder Todd Hays, long track speedskater Chad Hedrick and women's short track speedskater Allison Bayer. Final vote totals weren't disclosed.

In the show, candidates compete for a yearlong \$250,000 apprenticeship and a chance to work in one of Donald Trump's organizations. Each week, teams are given a task, with the losing team facing Trump in the boardroom where someone gets fired.

Ruggiero said she hopes to last until the final boardroom and hear the ultimate words: "You're hired."

To prepare for the show, Ruggiero told the Free Press that she has been watching all the episodes from this season -- which ends next week -- and reading "Mr. Trump's books," she said.

"I'm paying close attention to detail," said Ruggiero, 26, who graduated cum laude from Harvard in 2004.

The show featuring Ruggiero and 17 other candidates will be shot this summer in southern California and will air beginning in January.

Ruggiero will return to Michigan later this summer, she said, to run her girls hockey camp, which will be held Aug. 20-24 at Yost Arena in Ann Arbor. Call 734-647-7764 for more information.

As for her hockey career, Ruggiero said she would definitely put it on hold for a year if she wins "The Apprentice." She said she has the support of her teammates.

"They know this is an excellent opportunity for me," she said.

TEREK UPDATE: Paul Terek of Livonia, a 2004 Olympian, pulled out of a decathlon meet in Gotzis, Austria, after apparently re-aggravating a hamstring injury during the event, his father said.

Terek, a Michigan State grad, was in 13th place after the first five events and didn't compete after the 110-meter hurdles.

Brian Clay, the 2005 world champion and silver medalist at the Athens Games, won the Gotzis decathlon with 8,677 points.

Terek was runner-up to Clay at the 2005 USA Outdoor Championships. This year's nationals are next month in Indianapolis.

GOING LONG: The New York Road Runners will announce Thursday that former Rockford resident **Dathan Ritzenhein**, a 2004 Olympian in the men's 10,000 meters, will make his marathon debut this fall at the New York City Marathon.

SKATING APPOINTMENT: Jeannine (Cullen) Weinschrod, who recently resigned from the Detroit Skating Club, starts today as director of Phoenix, the new synchronized skating program at the Onyx Suburban Academy in Rochester Hills. Weinschrod was at the Detroit SC for 15 years, directing Team Elan to more than a dozen national titles.

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