



Olympic Long Shot Stays on Target

By Bob Reinert

GIOVANNI LAUDICINA

Joy Fahrenkrog '98 was so determined to compete in the Olympics that when it appeared her original sport—lightweight rowing—might be dropped from the Games, she took up archery. In less than two years time, she has already become a contender.

Her website address says it all: aim4athens.com. And if Joy Fahrenkrog '98 needs a further reminder of what she's working toward, she can glance at the special clock she keeps in her car. It counts down the number of days, hours, minutes and seconds to the 2004 Summer Olympic Games.

How determined is the 24-year-old Fahrenkrog to make the U.S. Olympic Team? Enough to have taken up a new sport with less than two years to go when hers was facing elimination from the Games. That's how the lightweight rower was reborn a little more than a year ago as a potential Olympic archer.

Fahrenkrog's Olympic quest dates back to 1997, when the Castle Rock, CO, native chose Exeter over Andover for her final year of high school. "I had this dream that I was being pulled by people in red sweatshirts and people in blue sweatshirts," Fahrenkrog recalls with a laugh, adding that coming to Exeter was "one of the best decisions I've ever made."

There was only one small problem. "They told me I needed to do a sport, and I had only done ballet," Fahrenkrog says. "I had no real athletic background."

Like so many others before and after her,

Fahrenkrog became acquainted with her athletic side at Exeter, quickly falling in love with crew. "I still row," says Fahrenkrog, who has competed in four Head of the Charles Regattas. She even won a gold medal as a member of the University of London women's elite coxless four at the 2001 Henley Regatta during her junior year in college, which she spent at the London School of Economics.

Fahrenkrog's archery career began when it appeared that the International Olympic Committee might eliminate lightweight rowing from the Games. Though that never happened, she had already decided to pursue another sport to fulfill her Olympic aspirations. "I just have it on my mind all the time," she says.

Why the single-minded push toward the Olympics? "I have always wanted to do something extraordinary with my life," Fahrenkrog says. "The Olympics is just a starting point. In the grand scheme of life, I know I want to help other people make their dreams come true, but I don't believe you can truly help someone get somewhere better if you haven't had a personal encounter with accomplishment."

Fahrenkrog also considered cycling and fencing before settling on archery as the most likely

avenue to the Olympics and sinking \$5,000 into state-of-the-art equipment. Not everyone understood her decision to take up a new sport. "I've gotten criticized for doing that," she says. "I've definitely had the occasional comment. But I have come to love the sport."

Why not? She immediately showed a talent for it, placing 44th out of 86 archers at the U.S. indoor championships in March 2003, just three months after picking up a bow for the first time. At the outdoor nationals last summer, she improved to 25th. Is she a long shot to make the U.S. Olympic Team? Probably, but heed a warning from her coach, Anthony Bellettini. "She's not one that I would want to bet against," Bellettini says. "I've got all the faith in the world in her." A U.S. national coach for many years, Bellettini knew he had something special the first time he saw Fahrenkrog shoot an arrow. "I was absolutely shocked," he says. "Her form was just as natural as could be. I was very impressed with her."

According to Bellettini, a lack of depth in the U.S. women's field may leave an opening for Fahrenkrog. "They all know each other," he says of the top women archers. "They're somewhat predictable. But none of them knows where Joy is."

After graduating from Skidmore College, Fahrenkrog went to work for Bear Stearns. More recently, she had been an assistant sales trader at Schwab Capital Markets in Boston. She left that job early this year and relocated to Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and started training full time for nationals.

Fahrenkrog hopes that she's on target for a third-place finish at the U.S. Olympic Archery Trials, which will be held June 14 to 20 in Mason, OH. If so, quitting her job and raising the \$20,000 or so to fund the attempt will have all been worthwhile. And this is only the opening volley.

"I just started the sport," Fahrenkrog says. "I feel like there is so much more that I have to learn and so much farther that I can go. I don't feel like a long shot. I have been working really hard."

If she needs more guidance than Bellettini can provide, Fahrenkrog can always consult her boyfriend—Olympic archery silver and bronze medalist Vic Wunderle. With those two experts in her corner, she just might spring a surprise at the trials despite her late start in archery. "No one knows I'm coming," Fahrenkrog says. "I don't think anybody is really expecting me to do anything but me." ●

JIM DENHAM

It's Harry Norton '04 by a Mile

It only took 4 minutes, 18.51 seconds for the Exeter indoor mile record to fall last winter. Well, 4:18.51 and 38 years, to be more accurate.

That's how long Keith Colburn '66 had occupied the top spot on Exeter's all-time list, with a time of 4:19.8 in the indoor mile. Then Harry Norton '04 came along and finally outdid him. "I just can't imagine that I was the one to break it," Norton says.

Norton, who will run for Dartmouth College next year, made Exeter track and field history January 10 in front of his future coach and teammates at the prestigious Dartmouth Relays. After leading for a time, he placed

third in a competitive high school mile won by Eric Giddings in 4:18.03.

"I just decided that I wanted to run fast," says Norton, whose previous best was 4:20.01. "A lot of races just become too tactical. I tried to push the pace."

Norton kept pushing. He broke the school record twice more before the season ended. His best time of 4:13.89 ranked 16th in the nation in mid-March.

It's been an exceptional year for Norton, who had led the Exeter boys' cross-country team to the



Miler Harry Norton '04 broke a 38-year-old Academy record this winter.

New England Division I championship by placing second overall. Then a late December performance at Boston University had him temporarily ranked second in the nation at 3,000 meters.

More good things may be ahead in the outdoor track season for Norton. "He should have personal bests in everything," says Exeter coach Hilary Coder.

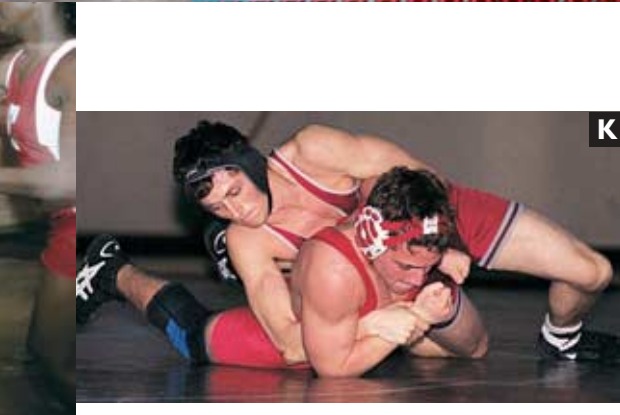
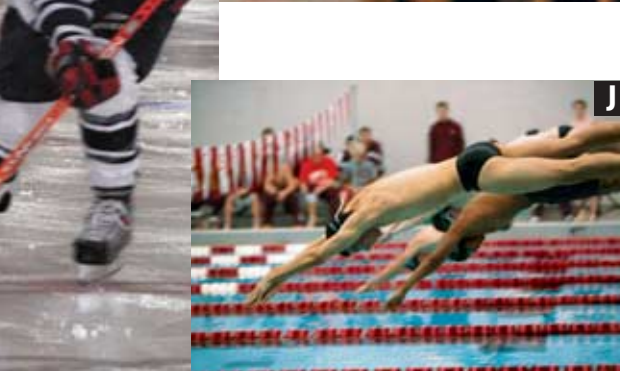
"I just want to see how fast I can get," Norton says.

—B.R.

Winter Sports



BRIAN CROWLEY; B, G, H, J; JIM DENHAM; C, D, E, F; EMILY REIFY; A, K.



(A) Boys Varsity Basketball

Record: 11-9-0
New England Quarterfinalist
 MVP: Ryan O'Keefe '04
 Coach: Malcolm Wesselink
 Captains: Florian Rexhepi '04,
 Sloan Smith '04
Boys JV Basketball
Record: 11-3-0

(B) Girls Varsity Basketball

Record: 7-11-0
 MVP: Shannon Guy '04
 Coach: Rick Mahoney
 Captains: Margaret Suydam '04,
 Amelia Wesselink '04
Girls JV Basketball
Record: 8-6-0

(C) Boys Varsity Hockey

Record: 13-16-0
 MVP: Andrew Gale '04
 Coach: Dana Barbin
 Captain: Andrew Gale '04
Boys JV Hockey
Record: 9-6-0

(D) Girls Varsity Hockey

Record: 5-18-0
 MVP: Emma Harper '04
 Coach: Mandy Krause
 Captains: Emma Harper '04,
 Kirsten McKnight '04, Hillary
 Braun '05
Girls JV Hockey
Record: 5-6-1

(E) Boys Varsity Squash

Record: 9-8-0
 MVP: Anthony Maruca '04
 Coach: Kirk Randall
 Captains: Anthony Maruca '04,
 Nelson Schubart '04
Boys JV Squash
Record: 7-4-0

(F) Girls Varsity Squash

Record: 6-8-0
 MVPs: Breckenridge Haynes '05,
 Chloe Frank '05
 Coach: Kirk Randall
 Captain: Breckenridge Haynes '05
Girls JV Squash
Record: 12-1-0

(G) Boys Indoor Track and Field

Record: 4-1-0
 MVP: Harry Norton '04
 Coach: Hilary Coder
 Captains: Ryan Grace '04, Brian
 Malley '04, Joshua Reinhold '04
Boys JV Track and Field
Record: 0-2-0

(H) Girls Indoor Track and Field

Record: 2-3-0
 MVP: Jan Ng '05
 Coach: Hilary Coder
 Captains: Jennifer Gorman '04,
 Emma Hiza '05, Jan Ng '05
Girls JV Track and Field
Record: 0-1-0

(I) Girls Swimming and Diving

Record: 5-0-0
New England Championships,
4th place
 MVP: Noemie Brand '04
 Coach: Jean Farnum
 Captains: Julia Nizinski '04, Kira
 Tokarz '04
Girls JV Swimming and Diving
Record: 7-1-0

(J) Boys Swimming and Diving

Record: 5-1-0
New England Champions!
 MVP: Joseph Metcalf V '04
 Coach: Roger Nekton
 Captains: Eric Horan '04, Joseph
 Metcalf V '04
Boys JV Swimming and Diving
Record: 7-0-0

(K) Wrestling

Record: 14-5-0
New England Championships,
4th place
 MVP: Patrick Sheehan '04
 Coach: Dave Hudson
 Captains: Jacob Levine '04, Patrick
 Sheehan '04, Victor Mocco '06
JV Wrestling
Record: 2-0-0