



## INTRODUCING STEPHANIE MAGIROS: From Gymnast to National Snowboarder in Three Years

Coming into her fourth year of snowboarding, 20 year-old Stephanie Magiros is aiming to compete in select world tour events after qualifying for the Ski and Snowboard Australia (SSA) Women's Half Pipe team last season. At the age of 17, having represented New South Wales at national level gymnastics, Stephanie concluded her 15 year long career and took up snowboarding in pursuit of the Olympic dream.

With her goals laid out before her, it was just up to Stephanie to utilize her knowledge and training that she obtained during her time being coached by Bill Parsons at the New South Wales Academy of Gymnastics.

"Learning good work ethics at such a young age became an assets that Stephanie was able to take away from her training," comments Bill Parsons, Director and Head Coach of NSW Academy of Gymnastics. "From those good work ethics Stephanie learned concentration and focus. She was then able to apply all her knowledge of balance, landings and takeoffs, rotation and aerial sense to her snowboarding."

Stephanie bought her first season pass in 2008 and joined the Winter Sports Club at Perisher. Since the beginning of her first season, Stephanie's accomplishments and achievements have started to pile up. At the end of 2008 Stephanie was selected by the New South Wales Institute of Sport (NSWIS) to join a group of seven athletes as part of the sub-development halfpipe team, which involved

traveling to Colorado for training. An injury caused Stephanie to miss out on the northern hemisphere 2009/2010 season, but during her recovery she got the chance to see Torah Bright compete live and win her gold medal at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

"Seeing Torah increased my drive and desire to get to the Olympics, and to experience what she got to experience," comments Stephanie.

Stephanie then took that drive into the 2010 season and was straight back into training with the NSWIS Sub-Development Team. During this time she trained on-snow with Aaron Savage and Ben Alexander in Perisher, and off-snow with Anthony Khoury.

"The main focus for Steph was getting good amounts of air and learning new tricks," comments Anthony Khoury, Acrobatic Coach for the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia. "With the attitude that she has, her progression has been quicker than your average rider. She is very gung-ho, witty and has a good amount of confidence; something that I believe is going to take her snowboarding career to the 2014 Winter Olympics."

During the USA Winter 2010/2011 season Stephanie decided to travel to Colorado, but this time as part of the International Snowboard Training Co-operative (ISTC)

with head coach Ben Boyd. She then took part in her first American series of competitions; the USA SA Rocky Mountain Series Halfpipe Competition (a series of three qualifiers for the national championships). Stephanie won gold in all three events, but was also announced the Rocky Mountain Open Woman's Champion in Half Pipe and qualified for her spot in the USA Nationals. Stephanie then finished third in the Revolution Tour at Mount Snow in Vermont, solidifying her place in the Junior World championships that were held in Valmalenco Italy. Finishing 16th out of 35 riders - and missing the finals by only three places - Steph was happy with the result, and was proud that she got the chance to represent Australia at a junior world event.

Currently sponsored by Oakley, having a diverse range of tricks up her sleeve (including the more challenging Michalchuk and Crippler 7), and continuing to spend invaluable time training with experienced coaches, Stephanie is focused on the 2014 Winter Olympic Games.

"To me the Olympics is about representing my country and myself in a sport that I love. Since I was a kid, I've had my eyes on the Olympic rings. I have my heart set on snowboarding, and there's a path that I'm following to work my way up, so I can progress to that level and hopefully achieve my dream."

