

Jenna Burkert, 2014 US Senior World Team Member

Long Island wrestler Jenna Burkert, from Rocky Point, NY earned a spot on the 2014 US Senior Women's World Team in Fargo, ND on July 19th defeating Briana Delgado two matches to none in the final wrestle off at the Fargo Dome. Burkert, who now competes for the NYAC and resides at the Olympic training center in Colorado Springs, will join the US Women's team who will be competing in Tashkent, Uzbekistan September 8th to 14th at 60kg (132lbs). 60kg will be contested on September 10th. Jenna was a 2014 US Open runner up and 2013 University World team member. She finished third in the 2012 and 2013 Senior World team trials and finally made it onto the team last month in Fargo. In 2010 Jenna was selected as the Asics High School wrestler of the year.

Originally from Rocky Point, Jenna moved to Marquette, Mi after 9th grade to train with the US National team at the University of Northern Michigan. She enrolled in Marquette HS and graduated in 2010. She now trains full time at the OTC in Colorado in pursuit of her goal to make the US Olympic team in 2016.

Rocky Point HS coach, Darren Goldstein, and Jenna's coach since she started wrestling at 5yrs old, said Jenna was the best women's wrestler he has ever seen and that the hours of training and hard work have finally paid off for her. It has always been her dream to make the US World team and become a World champion. Darren said that Jenna was right there with all the boys on the HS team training and competing and if she didn't move to Michigan would have likely been in the starting line up. Rocky Point's team has been one of the best HS teams in NY for many years.

Since 1960 only a select number of Long Island wrestlers have earned a spot onto the senior World or Olympic team. In 1960 Lou Giani represented the US on the men's freestyle Olympic team, in 1970 John Morley made the World team, in 1974 Vinny Paolano was able to climb the ladder and make the team and in 2003 Kerry McCoy became the only Long Island wrestler to earn a World medal finishing second at the Worlds that were held in Madison Square Garden.

We all look forward to watching her compete in Uzbekistan next month in her quest to become a world champion. Good luck to Jenna and all her teammates!