

REPORTERS PROGRAM



YOUNG AND RESTLESS

Reporters with the International Olympic Committee Young Reporters Program pose with IOC president Thomas Bach (center) at the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing. The program is training 35 reporters from five continents at the Youth Games the fundamentals of sports journalism. PHOTO BY XINHUA

One athlete's advantage

By SUN XIAOCHEN

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Journalism training plus a solid sports background equal a bright career for Maria Caroline Cabella.

Keen to make a career out of sports journalism, Cabella has done the athletic part by playing field hockey for years, and now she is expecting to make up the other component by working through the Young Reporters Program during the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games.

"I like to combine journalism and sports together. This program for me is a great opportunity to learn about every aspect of journalism. I definitely want to make a career out of this," Cabella said before covering

track and field at the Nanjing Olympic Sports Center on Saturday.

Hailing from Buenos Aires, 23-year-old Cabella started to play hockey at 6 and is a solid midfielder for the B team of Ciudad De Buenos Aires Club in the Argentine league's first division.

An intern at Clarin, the biggest newspaper in Argentina, Cabella has added a spark to the newsroom.

"I think that (my athletic experience) is an advantage for me. I can understand their feelings better after going through the same hard work to be successful.

"I can relate to them about how they feel. Perhaps, I can approach them in a different and better way," said Cabella.



MARIA CAROLINE CABELLA

Still, the outgoing Argentine is seeking all-around training to improve her skills and knowledge as a reporter.

"Here I can learn about broadcasting, social media and photography. We have excellent mentors who have covered many Olympics. I want to learn as much as I can."

Despite being a rookie reporter, Cabella's interview list has already included some notable

figures such as her role model, Luciana Aymar, an Argentine field hockey midfielder considered among the best female hockey players of all time.

Aymar is the only player to be selected by the International Hockey Federation as Player of the Year eight times.

"Hockey has been very popular since 2000 when the national team won a silver medal at the Sydney Olympics, led by Aymar. I was inspired by Aymar to play hockey," Cabella said of the star's impact.

Cabella has also discovered a passion for some other sports at the Youth Olympics, such as beach volleyball.

"I think beach volleyball is very interesting to watch, especially for boys. There are some pretty girls running and jumping in bikinis," Cabella said jokingly.

Tackling every medium

By SUN XIAOCHEN

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The wave of multimedia development is surging around the world, reshaping the landscape of the media industry, even in small countries like the Solomon Islands.

Ernest Ta'asi, a young journalist from the Pacific islands country, has built his name as a prominent news writer since starting his career in 2010 but remains a little overwhelmed when having to cover events in various forms.

"I only worked as a print reporter. Broadcasting is a totally new thing for me," said Ta'asi, who works as a news writer at

the Island Sun Newspaper in Honiara, the capital city.

"Our newspaper has a website. We are encouraged to not only write stories (for the paper) but also to do audios and take photographs and videos (for the website). But due to a lack of experiences in multimedia, I haven't done too well."

However, the IOC Young Reporters Program has provided Ta'asi with the perfect platform to enhance those skills.

"Sports events are an ideal stage to learn multimedia practices because everything here (the results and comments) need to be shared as quickly as possible and in all available forms.

"The development of social



ERNEST TA'ASI

media requires we deliver everything first before you see it on TV or paper. You just need to throw yourself into an event like the Youth Olympics and then try to work it out," said the 23-year-old.

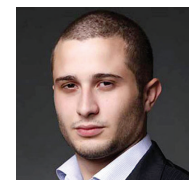
Starting his career as a sports writer, Ta'asi transferred to cover more serious genres like politics and environment issues in 2012, and

was awarded the "Young Journalist of the Year Award 2013" by the Media Association of Solomon Islands.

Following in his father's steps in becoming a journalist, Ta'asi is aware of the challenges working in the media industry but remains determined to make the most of it.

"The life (as a journalist) can be tough. My father used to be a journalist and he never came home early. You see some journalists get divorced. Journalists don't have stable relationships and they are not very well paid but people do things they love," he said.

"My dream is to become a prominent journalist in my country, to see my work recognized and appreciated by the public," said Ta'asi.



IVAN BOYANOV,

23, has worked as a reporter, producer, commentator and studio anchor in sports at TV7, Bulgaria's leading television channel since 2010.

"The Olympic Games has always inspired me as a journalist. It is the pinnacle in the career of any sports reporter and I am so lucky to be a part of this movement. Being a successful sports journalist has been my lifelong dream and the Youth Olympic Games is my golden ticket to achieve success on an international platform."



DIEGO MELENDERAS,

22, is a student from Guatemala and has a penchant for filmmaking.

"It took a while for the realization to sink in that I had been selected for the Young Reporters Program. It is an opportunity that I know will shape the course of my future. Living in Guatemala, a country with 23 languages, has made me accept diversity in all its sizes and colors."



YASMINE TORCHE,

24, is an enthusiastic sports journalist from Algeria.

"The Youth Olympic Games is not just about sports and competition but also about making long-lasting friendships and relationships with young people from across the globe. Hence, I am excited to be a part of such a diverse and talented batch of young reporters."



PALLAVI PRASAD,

20, is an English literature graduate from India and is a senior editor at online portal India Opines.

"This is an opportunity for me to contribute my bit, albeit small, to the world, by producing true, honest content about the Youth Olympic Games and giving people, especially the youth, access to these stories to inspire and learn from them, be it sports, journalism, or simply the hope that if my dreams can come true, so can theirs."