

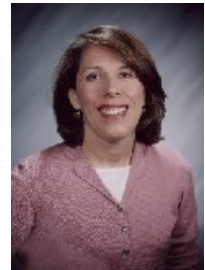
February 2010

Don't Rule Out the Olympian Underdogs

By Carol Bergeron

It's tough not to get captivated by the spirit, commitment, preparedness and sheer determination of the athletes at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. And while I get teary eyed every time I hear the "The Star-Spangled Banner" played as the stars and stripes get raised to the rafters, it's the underdog stories that capture my heart.

- Like Alexandre Bilodeau who won Canada's first 2010 Olympic gold medal for the men's moguls' event. This was quite a feat for Canada since it's the country's first gold medal ever won on home soil. It's also a personal victory for Bilodeau who finished 11th in Turin in 2006 but 1st in Vancouver.
- How about Hannah Kearney? She won the first 2010 US Olympic gold medal for the women's moguls' event after placing 22nd in Turin where she didn't qualify for the finals.
- And what about Bode Miller of the US? With 32 World Cup victories and 2 silver medals earned in Salt Lake in 2002, there were high hopes for him in Turin that were never realized. He just redeemed himself in Vancouver by earning the bronze medal for men's downhill skiing.
- And then there's Maelle Ricker of Canada who just won the gold for women's snowboard cross. Turin was another story where she was airlifted off the course with a concussion after she crashed in snowboard cross final.



"The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat", espoused incessantly by the late sports broadcaster Jim McKay, happens everywhere, everyday and even in your workplace.

As you look around your office, or in the mirror, has anyone experienced a career paralyzer due to a blunder of their own doing, the impact of a force outside the span of their control or a midstream change in how success is defined perhaps due to leadership changing of the guards? Resilient Olympians and souls use failure as their teacher. And since their failure they have busy been regrouping, retooling and preparing themselves for the next round. All they need now is the opportunity and that's where you come in.

As a leader, and within the spirit of the countless underdog stories to unfold at the 2010 Olympic Games, giving the underdogs an opportunity for redemption and offering a few words of encouragement could be all that it takes to get them back on the road to success. And that's a win for them, for you and for your organization.

While we are only six days into the games keep an eye on Evan Lysacek of the US. He is currently in second place for the men's figure skating which is a two part event consisting of a short and long program. In 2006 in Turin he placed 10th after the short program then elevated himself to fourth place after the long program just missing a medal. Thursday night Evan has his shot at redemption. We are all rooting for you Evan!

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 7:45 - 10:00am

Employee Development on a Shoestring Budget

Sponsor: MetroWest Human Resource Management Association

Register: <http://www.metrowesthrma.com/schedule.htm>

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Founded in 1998, Bergeron Associates™ helps people in small and mid-market companies realize their business objectives. Our approaches to talent management are practical, grounded in business goals and designed collaboratively to maximize organizational fit and commitment. Consulting, coaching, training and facilitation focus areas:

- Strategic Workforce Planning and Integration
- Manager & Supervisor Training and Coaching
- Solutions to Attract, Retain and Engage people for greater performance
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