

TITLE IX AUDITIONS SIDES

REPORTER THREE

Ms. Alexandrou has not been able to wrestle for over a year according to the National Federation of State High School Associations. The NFSHSA has stated this year's national competition will not allow females to use the Greco-Roman wrestling style, which she used in her last state match. Alexandrou seems to believe this is not the case and that her gender is in fact what is preventing her from competing. This is not the first time Alexandrou has found herself in hot water on the wrestling mat. Last year, while in competition, Alexandrou bit an opponent, disqualifying her from the match. Alexandrou would have been the first female ever to compete at this level in high school competition.

SENATOR LOPEZ: Senator Gabriella Lopez: Latinx, Female, New York accent. Early Thirties Also plays Reporter 3 and Referee. This room, Captiol Hill is a lot like a wrestling ring. Circular. Two opponents each facing off on the mat. Reading each other's energies and body language. Even before the match begins. Once you see your opponent enters the gymnasium, you can tell right then and there how they will fight. You may even be able to tell before they ever step foot into the gym. Maybe through your social media. Seeing how they interact on certain platforms. How they behave. Would you agree, Ms. Alexandrou?

SENATOR MORGAN: Senator Renee Morgan: Female, Southern accent. Mid-Fifties. Also plays Reporter 2 and Male Announcer Thank you for your testimony, Ms. Alexandrou. You are clearly not the typical jock. Ms. Alexandrou: I have here on record you have always wrestled clean. Until last March, when you bit your opponent. We need to be thorough. And we cannot be sure your mouth guard will not fall out again. Why did you choose from such a young age to compete in a male dominant sport?

ATHENA: Athena Aphrodite Alexandrou: Seventeen, Female, Queer, Boston accent. Greek American. When I was five, the only after school activity I had besides Greek school and helping my parents run their restaurant was ballet. Pretty cliché to stick a young girl into ballet class. I hated it. I have no moves on the dance floor. You can ask my family. At gatherings I am clutk. Stepping on all my cousin's

toes. And that's a lot of toes. One day in gym class, in kindergarden, our teacher said the boys could try wrestling as an after school activity. I asked my teacher why the girls could not. She said, it's a boys sport. When I got home from school later that day, I asked my parents the same question. They said: "it's a boys sport." I said back to them. "But our female ancestors wrestled and fought, why shouldn't I?" I did not think that was the line that would convince my traditional Greek Orthodox parents to allow me to do this, but it did.

CHAIRWOMAN LACEY: Chairwoman Jennifer Lacey: Female, Mid-Atlantic accent. Mid-Forties. Also plays Reporter 1 and Female Announcer.

One year is a very long time to not compete and yet you are still so passionate. You have a very strong name. Athena was the goddess of wisdom, handicraft, and warfare. And Aphrodite. The goddess of love and passion. It is very obvious how passionate you are about wrestling, your family and your community. You are very wise, Ms. Alexandrou and have certainly competed well today. Columbia will be lucky to have you.