



Tri-State gold medalist returns to promote 2014 games

Harrison looking forward to 2016, too

UPDATED 7:10 PM EST Feb 07, 2013

FAIRFIELD -

America's first woman to win Olympic gold in judo was back in her home county on Thursday.

Kayla Harrison helped Liberty Mutual Insurance celebrate the one-year mark before the start of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

The company is one of the sponsors for the U.S. Olympic team, which relies almost entirely on sponsorships.

"I feel like they're excited, but I'm way more excited, just because I know our Olympic committee doesn't receive any government funding and my counterparts all over the world do," Harrison said. "The girl from Brazil makes \$16,000 a month from the government alone."

In addition to getting everyone geared up for the Winter Olympics, Harrison gave some insight into what the athletes are up against one year out.

"At this point, it's about fine tuning those last minute things. It's about staying the course and it's about starting to climb up to your peak," she said.

Harrison herself is keeping busy between now and the 2016 games in Rio de Janeiro, training, traveling and working on her foundation and book to help girls who have been sexually abused.

"It's also a huge honor and one that I don't take lightly, it's a responsibility to use this gold medal for some good and make a difference," she said.

Harrison says the next 4 years will be her best years as an athlete and that she'll always call Middletown home.

"Let's go Middies!" she said, noting "I'm supposed to say 'Let's go Team USA.' I'm part of a bigger team now."

Copyright 2013 by [WLWT.com](http://www.wlwt.com). All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.
