



Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

Who do you want to be?

"The difference between who you are and who you want to be is what you do."

Used as motivation for physical fitness training, this quip applies on many levels.

Career aspect

Do you remember what you, as a youngster, fantasized about being when you grew up? A doctor? A lawyer? An Angus breeder? I wanted to be a figure skater. Oh, to be as graceful on the ice as Dorothy Hamill at the 1976 winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria.

It didn't happen. How could it have happened? I never bought a pair of skates. I never rented ice time. I never even tried to ice skate until Todd and I moved to Saint Joseph.

I still enjoy watching the sport, and I'll forever respect the grace and agility its athletes embody, but I obviously never did what you need to do to become an Olympic figure skater.

On the flip side, I did do what I needed to

do — and I'd like to think with an Olympic effort — to become an ag communicator.

Shorter-term vision

While setting career goals is important, what about your goals for the summer? Juniors, do you want to be the showmanship winner at your county fair? Do you want to win a class at the state fair or maybe the National Junior Angus Show?

Now is the time to do the things you need to do to make those goals a reality. There are so many opportunities within the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). You can't be a mentor if you don't sign up. You'll never know if you could do well in quiz bowl if you don't decide to participate and then study potential questions.

As an Angus breeder, what do you want to be recognized for?

Do you want to sell bulls known to raise calves that qualify for the *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) brand? What do you need to do to accomplish that? Are you helping enroll customer calves in AngusSource® or finding ways to help them get carcass information back from the packer?

Do you aspire to win a performance bull test? Have you entered one?

Do you want to be recognized as a producer of mama cows? Have you enrolled in MaternalPlus®?

A 30-minute think-tank session to identify a goal and the steps it will take to reach it can turn a fantasy into a realistic expectation.

Focus on the 'who'

"The difference between who you are and who you want to be is what you do."

To get the most punch from that mantra, one has to realize it is not what career or what goal one sets that matters. It is not the career or the accomplishment that defines us. It is what we did or didn't do to get there that does.

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