

sport

LORA'S STILL IN THE RUNNING

After missing out by a tenth of a second, Storey is working hard to cement a debut Olympic spot

Jake McCallum

BY DAY she supports Loreto Normanhurst students, by night she is an elite athlete training for her Olympic debut.

Lora Storey, 26, is hoping to make Australia's Rio Olympics team later this year in the 800m sprint. She is currently competing in events across the US.

"It takes a lot of dedication and hard work

but also a lot of patience and persistence," Storey said.

"Not everything goes right all the time and so you have to be patient and also prepared to do what ever it takes no matter how tedious or repetitive it seems. You can't get to the top without helping hands.

"Athletics can be a very lonely sport so having a good support team is essential."

Storey was just a tenth of a second off qualifying for

the team at her first international competition at Stanford University.

"Going to an Olympics is something I have dreamt about doing since I first started Little Athletics," Storey said.

"When I crossed the line first and saw the clock stop at 2:01.67, I was over the moon with such a big personal best, but then it hit me, 'You just missed it.'"

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Lora Storey was a tenth of a second off from making the Olympics

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Lora Storey in action.

Athlete knocks on door of Games

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"I was a little disappointed to be so close but not quite there," Storey said.

"I know I'm right there knocking on the door for the qualifier."

The 26-year-old student services administrator has done particularly well since she started out as a hurdler. She only got into sprinting as training for her hurdling.

"This year we decided to try to run some 800m races at the start of the domestic season to get a gauge of my fitness," Storey said.

"My 800m races just kept getting better and better and so we decided to keep racing the 800m on the side of the hurdles and see where it went.

"When I ran a 2:02.6 at a race in Perth my coach and I started having ideas that maybe this might be the path I take, I steered away from the hurdles towards the end of the season and focused a little more on the 800m and it has paid off."

She now has until July 12 to qualify.

Storey isn't the only member of the Loreto Normanhurst community who knows what it takes to trial for the Olympics. Year 12 student and swimmer Siobhan O'Malley will feature in next week's *Advocate*.