

LOCAL NEWS

Northmont sophomore selected for Jeopardy Teen Tournament

By Teri Davis
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CLAYTON — “This...is...Jeopardy” are the words that Northmont sophomore Tori Amos will soon be hearing when she travels to Los Angeles this Saturday to be a contestant on the annual Teen Tournament.

During the summer, Amos was encouraged by her Academic Challenge adviser, David Jones, to take the online test for the Jeopardy Teen Tournament. Fifteen thousand students took the online test, and Amos said that once she was done, she really didn't think much about it.

But in mid-August, she received an invitation to

audition in Chicago over Labor Day weekend. In Chicago, she competed against 220 other potential contestants by taking another test, playing mock Jeopardy matches and being interviewed by Jeopardy personnel. The only advice the contestants received was to speak up.

Amos said that the audition was more nerve-wracking than competing at Nationals in Academic Challenge because you're being judged individually and not as a team. “Also you just don't know if there is an Einstein in the room with you,” she said. She added that some of her competitors came up with some answers that were “really impressive.”

So thinking that the odds were slim that she would be selected, she returned to her day to day life and waited for the end of October (the time-frame that contestants were told they'd be notified).

As the end of October neared, Amos assumed she had not made the cut. However on Oct. 25 as she sat in her history class, she was at first annoyed by the sudden classroom disruption as an entire extra class of students entered the room, followed by David Jones, Amos' sister Kennedy, Amos' best friend Erin Brown and finally her parents and WDTN news reporter Megan O'Rourke. Amos says that it was as her parents entered the room that it started to

dawn on her what was happening.

“I didn't see it coming,” she says. She added that she was glad it was such a surprise because the interview was unrehearsed, and she was relieved that it didn't turn out poorly.

Her parents, Duane and Loretta Amos, had been notified on Monday that their daughter had been selected and had to keep it a secret from her for three days. Duane Amos said that it was funny that they had just had a conversation over the weekend saying that since they hadn't heard anything she must not have been picked.

Tori and Duane will travel to L.A. on Saturday, Nov. 17 and will stay through Nov.

21. Tori will compete in the quarter final rounds on Monday. If she wins there, she will move on to taping semi-finals and possibly finals on Tuesday. The tournament will air Jan. 30 through Feb. 13. The winner of the tournament will take home a \$75,000 prize. Amos says if she wins, she will use the money to buy a cat which she will either name Dorian Gray or Mr. Meow-gi. Whatever amount is left over from the cat will be put toward college.

In preparation for the tournament, Amos says she watches Jeopardy every night, having an at-home competition against her mother. She also visits a Jeopardy archive website that

lists every question that has ever been asked on 29 seasons of Jeopardy. She pays particular attention to the questions asked on teen tournaments.

She says she is studying for this in the same manner in which she studies for Academic Challenge competitions, and advisor Jones is helping her with some of her preparation. Her biggest concern is anagrams which give her trouble. She is hoping for categories in literature and composers.

Maybe the toughest challenge that she faces before departing, however, is finding just the right three outfits in her closet that, by the way, cannot be neon, white or busy prints.