

Will Box for PASSPORT:

An Olympic Drive to Become a United States Citizen

[Johannes Hirn]

1. Tsarnaev works out at the Wai Kru Mixed Martial Arts Center.
2. Though he's lived in the U.S. for five years, Tsarnaev says, "I don't have a single American friend. I don't understand them."
3. Tsarnaev, who studies at Bunker Hill Community College in Boston and wants to become an engineer, took the semester off from school to train for the competition.
4. Tsarnaev's family fled Chechnya in the early 1990s because of the conflict there. He lived in Kazakhstan before coming to the United States as a refugee.
5. In the absence of an independent Chechnya, Tsarnaev says he would rather compete for the U.S. than for Russia.
6. Tsarnaev stops to answer a call while walking to his boxing practice.
7. "I'm dressed European style," Tsarnaev says.



Tamerlan Tsarnaev is a boxer from Chechnya who currently trains at the Wai Kru Mixed Martial Arts Center in Boston, Massachusetts. Tsarnaev enters national Golden Gloves competitions in hopes that he might be selected for the next U.S. Olympic team and become a naturalized American.





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8. Tsarnaev says he loves the movie *Borat*, even though some of the jokes are a bit much.
9. "When you start kicking, it gets dirty. That's what I think," says Tsarnaev. Of kickboxers, he says, "They don't know how to move."
10. Tsarnaev says he doesn't generally remove his shirt when among women at the gym.
11. Tsarnaev, a Muslim, doesn't drink or smoke. "God said no alcohol," he says.
12. Tsarnaev demonstrates a way of walking to strengthen the ankles. "In Russia, we used to train like this," he says. "Here nobody does it. I don't know why!"
13. Tsarnaev takes a break from his boxing practice.



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