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NEWS RELEASE

ERIKA ANSCHUTZ WINS SILVER MEDAL

AT WORLD INDOOR ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIP IN DENMARK

Sixteen-year-old Erika Anschutz of Grand Island, Nebraska won a silver medal in the individual archery competition at the VIII World Indoor Target Archery Championship tournament that was held in Aalborg, Denmark during March 23-27, 2005. Erika competed as a member of the U.S. World Indoor Archery Team in the Junior Women's Compound Bow division against 15 other top young female archers (ages 18 and under) representing nine different countries. The U.S. Archery Team was comprised of 24 Junior and Senior men and women archers from across the nation who competed in eight different divisions at the tournament based on their gender, age (18 and under, and 19 and older), and type of bow used (recurve or compound). Joining Erika on the U.S. Team in the Junior Women's Compound Bow division were Tiffany Reeves from Helena, Montana and April Witt of Waddell, Arizona. The world indoor championship tournament, which is held once every 2 years, was attended by a total of 319 archers from 37 different countries.

During the first day of the tournament, Erika completed the 60-arrow qualification round with the top-ranking score of 582 points to earn the number one seed spot on the tournament bracket for the elimination rounds in individual competition. The following day, she successfully battled tough competitors from each Latvia and Belgium in the one-eighth and quarter-final 12-arrow matches, respectively. On day three, Erika shot against fellow U.S. Team member April Witt in the semi-final round and narrowly won the match after an exciting, sudden death, three-arrow shoot-off to decide the outcome of a tied score. She then advanced to the final round of the individual competition and was matched against her other U.S. Team member, Tiffany Reeves, for the world championship. The outcome of the ensuring close match was kept in suspense until the very end with Tiffany edging Erika by a two-point margin for the gold medal.

During individual match competition, an archer shoots a total of 12 arrows in four ends of three arrows each. The archer is given only two minutes to shoot each end of three arrows through the quarter-final round, and then only 40 seconds are allowed per shot in the semi-final and championship rounds. A single arrow is shot from a distance of 18 meters at each of three target faces. The dime-sized 10-ring (or bulls-eye) on a target face measures a mere 2 centimeters in diameter.

During the team event on the last day of the tournament, Erika shot in the anchor position and helped the U.S. Junior Women's Compound Bow Team defeat their Swedish counterparts by a wide margin of nine points (257-248) in the 27-arrow championship match. Unfortunately, gold medals could not be awarded to the U.S. Team members as international rules require that a minimum of five teams be entered into an event for it to be considered official and medal eligible. In addition to the U.S. and Sweden, Italy was the only other country to bring a complete three-person Junior Women Compound Bow team to the tournament.

This was the fourth U.S. World Archery Team that Erika has competed on in as many years. During August 2002, she traveled with the U.S. Team to Nymburk, Czech Republic for the VII Junior World Outdoor Target Archery Championship and established a new world record score while winning the gold medal in the individual compound bow competition for cadet women (age 16 and under). Less than one year later, Erika was the youngest member of the U.S. Team that went to Nimes, France during March 2003 for the VII World Indoor Archery Championship. While in France, she competed in the junior division and won her second and third world titles with first and second place finishes in the team and individual competitions, respectively. During July 2004, Erika competed in the VIII Junior World Outdoor Target Archery Championship at Lilleshall, Great Britain. She won gold and bronze medals at that tournament in the junior division for the team and individual competitions, respectively. As a result of her recent performance at the world championship in Denmark, Erika has amassed a total of six world archery titles since 2002.

For detailed information about Erika's results and how her fellow U.S. Team members performed at the VIII World Indoor Target Archery Championship, please visit the National Archery Association's website at <http://www.usarchery.org/>. Additional information about the tournament, including pictures of the event, may also be accessed by visiting the following website: <http://www.archeryindoor2005.com/>.

Erika is a sophomore at Grand Island Senior High School. In addition to archery, she enjoys listening to music, watching movies, and spending time with her family and friends. Erika is the daughter of Steve and Jurita Anschutz. Steve is employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Grand Island, while Jurita owns and operates a home-based health and wellness business.