

**July 15, 2007**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **ERIKA ANSCHUTZ WINS BRONZE MEDAL AND SETS TWO NEW WORLD RECORDS IN GERMANY WITH U.S. WORLD ARCHERY TEAM**

Erika Anschutz of Hamilton, Ohio won a bronze medal and set two new world records as a member of the U.S. Archery Team that competed in the 44<sup>th</sup> World Outdoor Target Archery Championship which was held in Leipzig, Germany during July 7-15. The tournament, which is held once every two years, was attended by a record number of 558 archers, representing 84 nations around the world. The U.S. Team was comprised of twelve men and women archers from across the nation who were divided into four, three-person teams based on their gender and type of bow used (recurve or compound). Erika, who was one of the younger members of the U.S. Team, was joined on the women's compound bow team by Kendal Nicely of Gorham, Maine, and Jamie Van Natta from Toledo, Ohio.

During the individual competition event, Erika shot against 72 other archers representing 39 countries. She dominated her field of competition in the 144-arrow qualification round and won it by a 10-point margin with a new U.S. national record score of 1,408 points. This marked the first time in the nearly 100-year history of the world championship tournament that any archer (male or female) had ever broken the 1,400-point barrier in the 144-arrow round. Although Erika's score was three points shy of the 1,411-point world record, she is one of only six female compound bow archers in the world to shoot more than 1,400 points for that round in a sanctioned tournament, with her score being the second highest. The qualification round consists of 36 arrows being shot at each of four target distances (70, 60, 50, and 30 meters). Also, during the 144-arrow round, Erika established new U.S. national records at each the 60 and 50-meter distances with scores of 354 and 351 points, respectively. In addition, the combined qualification round scores for the U.S. women's compound bow team members resulted in the establishment of a new world record of 4,157 points for that event.

Based on the results of the qualification round, the archers were numerically ranked and assigned to tournament bracket pairings in preparation for the 12-arrow Olympic Round elimination matches which are shot at a distance of 70 meters. Erika, who was the top seed in her division of competition going into this event, was paired in the 1/32 elimination round against an archer from Lithuania whom she easily defeated (115-106). During the 1/16 round, she again shot well and won her match against a fine Canadian archer (116-113). In one of the biggest upsets of the tournament, Erika was defeated in the 1/8 round and eliminated from further competition in the individual event by a South Korean archer who shot her highest score of the day (111-116). Unfortunately, Erika was not alone in her defeat as none of the other U.S. women compound bow archers advanced beyond the third elimination round during the tournament. In the final outcome of the women's compound bow division of competition, archers from Italy, Russia, and France won the gold, silver, and bronze medals, respectively.

During their 24-arrow quarter-finals match, the number one seeded U.S. women's compound bow team shot exceedingly well and set a new world record team score of 232 points for the event in route to defeating the host country, Germany by a wide margin of 12 points (232-220). The favored U.S. team was subsequently upset by the fifth-ranked Italians in a close and hard fought semi-final match (220-222). The U.S. proceeded to defeat France (225-221) in the final match for the bronze medal. Belgium defeated Italy (223-219) for the gold medal. A total of 19 international teams competed in the women's compound bow team event during the tournament.

This was the seventh U.S. World Archery Team that Erika has competed on in the past five years, and her second experience as a member of a senior team. 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 (age 18 and under) 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. In March 2005, Erika traveled with the U.S. Team to Aalborg, Denmark for the VIII World Indoor Archery Championship where she won a silver medal while competing in the individual event for junior women. Later that same year in June, Erika was a member of the U.S. Senior World Archery Team that competed in the 43<sup>rd</sup> World Outdoor Target Archery Championship in Madrid, Spain during 2005 and won a silver medal in the senior women's compound bow team event. This past year in October, she was a member of the U.S. Junior Team that competed in the IX Junior World Outdoor Target Archery Championship in Merida, Mexico where she won a bronze medal in individual competition. As a result of her recent performance at the world championship in Germany, Erika has amassed a total of nine world archery titles since 2002, including three gold, three silver, and three bronze medals. During this same period, she has also shot a total of twenty world record scores in indoor and outdoor competition.

For detailed information about how Erika and her fellow U.S. Team members performed at the 44<sup>th</sup> World Outdoor Target Archery Championship, please visit the NAA'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.archery.org>.

Erika will be a sophomore student this coming fall semester at Miami University in Oxford where she is majoring in psychology. 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 who reside in Hamilton. Steve is a retired Federal employee, while Jurita works for The Procter & Gamble Corporation in Cincinnati.