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NEWS RELEASE

Nine-year-old Erika Anschutz of Grand Island recently captured first place at the National Field Archery Association's (NFAA) Outdoor National Field Archery Championship tournament held at Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. Erika competed in the Female Cub Freestyle division for girls aged 11 and under. This national championship archery tournament was comprised of five grueling days of competition from July 27-31. During each day of the competition, archers were required to shoot a different 28-target round of field, hunter, or animal targets laid out over a course of varying distances on very difficult hilly terrain.

By the end of the tournament, Erika amassed a total of 2,759 points out of 2,800 total possible. Her score was the second highest ever recorded in outdoor national competition for Female Cub Freestylers. Erika is the youngest female archer in the 53-year history of the NFAA to shoot such a high score in outdoor national competition.

Earlier this year, Erika won first place for the second consecutive year in the NFAA's Indoor National archery tournament at Tulsa, Oklahoma. She also won first place titles at the seven-state NFAA Midwest Sectional Indoor and Outdoor archery tournaments, as well as several Nebraska State championships including the Winter and Summer Cornhusker State Games. Additionally, she was selected as the Outstanding Female Athlete for the 1997 Cornhusker State Games, and her picture appeared on entry form brochures and promotional posters for this year's Cornhusker State Summer Games. Erika was nominated again this year at the State Summer Games as a candidate for the Outstanding Female Athlete award.

Erika is the daughter of Jurita and Steve Anschutz, and will begin fourth grade at Seedling Mile Elementary School in Grand Island this fall. She is an avid reader and in addition to archery enjoys gymnastics and playing basketball, soccer, and volleyball.