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**Point of Contact: Steve Anschutz  
Phone: (308)381-2903**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **ERIKA ANSCHUTZ CLINCHES A PLACE ON THE 2002 JUNIOR U.S. ARCHERY TEAM**

Twelve-year-old Erika Anschutz of Grand Island, Nebraska clinched a place on the 2002 Junior U.S. Archery Team (USAT) by winning her division of competition in each of two, national championship archery tournaments this summer. She won both the 20<sup>th</sup> Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) Program National Outdoor Target Championship Tournament held in Carver, Massachusetts during July 13-15, and the National Archery Association's (NAA) 117<sup>th</sup> National Outdoor Target Championship Tournament held in Canton, Michigan during July 28 - August 3. Earlier this year, she won two other national archery titles while competing in both the JOAD and NAA National Indoor Target Championship Tournaments. As result of these victories, she is currently ranked by the NAA as being the top compound bow target archer in the U.S. among girls aged 15 and under. Consequently, Erika has satisfied all of the national ranking and other eligibility criteria for placement on the Junior USAT next year, and will be its youngest member.

The Junior USAT annually consists of the top five male and the top five female recurve bow archers and the top five male and top five female compound bow archers in the FITA (Federation Internationale De Tir À L'Arc) Competitive division of competition (ages 18 and under), as well as the top-ranked male and female compound and recurve bow archers from the Junior division (ages 15 and under). In addition to the national ranking criteria, placement on the Junior USAT is contingent upon an eligible archer being able to successfully complete a physical fitness test. Following a rigorous training program to enhance their archery technique, mental discipline, nutrition, and physical condition, previous Junior USAT members have improved on almost every national record in the books and have also established numerous world records. The NAA founded this elite youth team in 1985, and since then several former participants in this program have already surfaced as international contenders and champions in the sport of target archery.

While winning her fifteenth and sixteenth national archery titles at the JOAD and NAA National Outdoor Target Championship Tournaments this summer, Erika shot well enough to set 13 different national tournament record scores at target distances of 20, 30, 40, and 50 meters (1 meter is equal to 1.0936 yards). Six of these new record scores were also high enough to establish Star FITA outdoor national records. Consequently, she has now amassed a total of 56 national records in indoor and outdoor archery competition after being involved in the sport for more than 5 years.

Erika will attend Barr Middle School in Grand Island this coming school year as a seventh grade student. In addition to archery, she enjoys listening to music, watching movies, and participating in other sports including gymnastics, soccer, and volleyball. Erika is the daughter of Steve and Jurita Anschutz. Steve is employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Grand Island, and Jurita works for The Gallup Organization in Lincoln.