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NEWS RELEASE

ANSCHUTZ WINS GOLD FOR THE USA IN WORLD ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIP

Thirteen-year-old Erika Anschutz of Grand Island, Nebraska won her first world title in archery competition at the VII Junior World Outdoor Target Archery Championship tournament held in Nymburk, Czech Republic during August 5-10, 2002. As a member of the U.S. Junior World Archery Team, Erika competed in the Cadet Compound Bow division against 11 other top young female archers (ages 16 and under) representing eight different countries. The U.S. Team was comprised of 32 young men and women from across the nation who competed in eight different divisions at the tournament based on their gender, age (ages 16 and under, and 17-18), and type of bow used (recurve or compound). The tournament, which is held once every two years, was attended by a total of 361 archers from 41 different countries.

During the first phase of competition at the Junior World Championship tournament, the archers shot qualifying rounds consisting of 36 arrows at each target distance of 70, 60, 50, and 30 meters. The multi-colored target faces used for the two longest distances measure 122 centimeters across, whereas 80-centimeter target faces were used for the two closest distances. The diameters of the 10-rings (or bulls-eyes) for the 122- and 80-centimeter target faces measure 12.2 and 8 centimeters (4.8 and 3.1 inches), respectively.

At the end of two days of competition in the qualifying rounds, Erika was ranked number one in her division with a score of 1,348 out of 1,440 possible points. In route to her number one ranking, Erika tied a world record by scoring 344 out of 360 possible points at the 60-meter target distance. The stage was now set for the next and most important phase of the tournament competition, the individual match rounds which determine the final placing for the medals, including the world championship. During the individual match rounds, the archers were paired against one another based on their qualification round ranking as they shot 18- and 12-arrow matches at 122 centimeter targets set 70 meters down range. Erika defeated girls from Australia and Belgium in the quarter- and semi-final matches on her way to winning the world title in the gold medal match against one of her U.S. Team members. Along with winning the gold, Erika established a new world record with a score of 117 out of 120 possible points in the 12-arrow finals match.

Earlier this summer, Erika won her twentieth national title at the National Archery Association's Junior Olympic Archery Development Program National Outdoor Target Championship tournament held in West Chester, Ohio during July 12-14. While competing in the Female Cadet Compound Bow Division, she set her first world record with a score of 338 out of 360 possible points at the 70-meter target distance. Erika has now amassed a total of 66 national record scores, three of which are world records, after being involved in the sport for only 6 years.

Erika is an eighth grade student at Barr Middle School in Grand Island. 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, and Jurita pursues various interests at home.