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NEWS RELEASE

ANSCHUTZ WINS GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS FOR THE USA IN WORLD INDOOR ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIP

Fourteen-year-old Erika Anschutz of Grand Island, Nebraska won gold and silver medals in team and individual archery competitions at the VII World Indoor Archery Championship tournament that was held in Nimes, France during March 4-9, 2003. As the youngest member of the U.S. World Archery Team, Erika competed in the Junior Women's Compound Bow division against ten other top young female archers (ages 18 and under) representing six different countries. The U.S. 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). A total of 313 archers from 48 different countries participated in the tournament that is held once every two years.

During the team event, Erika shot in the anchor position and helped the U.S. Junior Women's Compound Bow Team defeat their French counterparts by a slim, one-point margin in the 27-arrow championship match for the gold medal. Joining Erika on the world champion U.S. Team were Cassandra Raffaelli from Houston, Texas and April Witt of Waddell, Arizona.

During the individual competition, Erika successfully battled a tough competitor from each Denmark and Sweden in the quarter- and semi-final 12-arrow matches, respectively. In the championship match, a member of the French Team narrowly defeated Erika by two points to take the gold medal in front of a noisy crowd of about 1,000 spectators. All three of Erika's finals matches were intensely competitive and not decided until their conclusion as the score in each one was tied at the onset of the last end of three arrows remaining to be shot in the match.

During individual match competition, an archer shoots a total of 12 arrows in four ends of three arrows each. The archer is allotted only two minutes to shoot each end of three arrows. 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.

In addition to winning the silver medal in the individual competition, Erika set a pending new world indoor record score of 343 points out of 360 total possible points for the aggregate of all three finals matches. If confirmed, the world record score will be her fifth in less than a year for women, ages 16 and under, shooting a compound bow during sanctioned indoor and outdoor target archery events.

This was the second U.S. World Archery Team that Erika has successfully competed on in less than one year. She was also a member of the U.S. Team that traveled to the Czech Republic to compete in the VII Junior World Outdoor Target Archery Championships held during August 5-10, 2002. As a result of that international competition, Erika won the gold medal in the Cadet Compound Bow division (for women aged 16 and under) and set a new world record with a score of 117 out of 120 possible points in the finals match at the 70-meter target distance. She also tied another world record during the qualifying rounds of that tournament by scoring 344 out of 360 points at the 60-meter target distance.

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.