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Pearce siblings still hitting their targets

Special to DN

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Paige Pearce takes aim at the Ishi Archers Rock Festival. (Courtesy photo)

The Red Bluff brother-sister tandem of 14-year-old Paige Pearce and 10-year-old Kaden Pearce have been sweeping through this year's outdoor archery competition.

Kaden took first place during the first weekend in May at the National Field Archery Associations Marked 3-D Nationals and Straight Arrow Trial Shoot held in Redding.

Around 1,400 archers attended the three-day, \$50,000 tournament.

Ishi archery members Don Gipson placed fourth in the Male Master Senior division and Bill Peterson placed second in the Senior Male Recurve Division.

While Kaden was at the 3-D Nationals with his father Kevin, Paige and their mother Stacy, were at the National Archery Associations (NAA) Southern Illinois Cup and Junior World Team Trials in Carbondale, Ill.

Paige, who won a gold medal in October 2008 at the Youth World Championships in Turkey was very disappointed to miss the 3-D Nationals.

"I have competed in that tournament since I was two years-old," Paige said. "And unfortunately for me, the NFAA and the NAA don't always compare shoot schedules. My goal was to be on the United States Junior World Team again this year, so I had no other choice than to go to Illinois."

She came through with her goal in dramatic fashion.

Paige won her gold medal match and the Southern Illinois Cup after going to three tiebreakers, the last of which was decided by a measurement of closest arrow to the center.

Paige also secured the No. 1 position on the U.S. Junior World Compound Cadet Team the next day at the Junior World Team Trials setting a U.S. record in the process.

This year's world championships are a tad closer to home. Stacy will only have to travel to Ogden, Utah.

"Hopefully they will have a repeat of last year in Turkey and bring home another gold medal for the United States," Stacy said.

During the local 3-D tournaments Paige jumps out of the youth division and into the Adult Female Freestyle Division. Both Paige and Kaden went on to win the Orland Westvalley Bowhunters 3-D, the Redding Cabin Fever 3-D, The Ishi Archers Rock Festival, the Paradise Bowhunters 3-D, the Cotton Boll Classic Fita held in Tulare and both took first and won silver belt buckles at the Bend Bowman Super Shoot, an unmarked 3-D shoot held in LaPine, Ore.

They both also placed first at the Nevada County Sportmen's Shoot in Nevada City.

Both siblings also broke records at the State Archers of California 2009 California State Outdoor held in Long Beach. "Even though it has already been a busy summer, we still have much more ahead," Stay said. "We still have shoots in Pennsylvania, Ohio, the Youth World Championships in Ogden, Utah, not to mention the local shoots as well."

In addition, Paige has been keeping busy by doing archery presentations Those who are interested in having the world champion speak at their organization should call 527-3759.

The Pearce siblings are not the only Ishi Archery Members representing Red Bluff around the state.

Don Gipson took first place in his division at the Redding Cabin Fever 3-D and Paradise Archers 3-D.

Ishi Archers Summer Fun League is every Thursday between 5 and 6:30 p.m. through Aug. 6th. Archers shoot 16 3-D targets.

Archers keep their own score just for fun and practice. The cost is \$5 for Ishi members and \$10 for non-members.

Ishi year-long memberships are available for \$35 for a family, \$30 for an individual or \$15 for a student. Call 527-0749 or 527-4200 for further information.

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