

# Shot at the big time



BY THE UNION STAFF

Thirteen-year-old Paige Pearce might just make archery history next week.

Pearce, a member of the Local Nevada County Gold JOAD (Junior Olympic Archery Development) Team, coached by Charley Washburn of Nevada City, will be competing in Colorado Springs Aug. 5-10 for one of three spots on the 2009 Jr. World Archery Team.

And Pearce will vie for the one and only Cadet Female Compound position on the 2009 United States Archery Team.

Pearce could become one of the youngest or perhaps the youngest female archer to garner a position on the Jr. World Team, which generally is comprised of competitors ranging in age from 16 through 18 years old.

Pearce, who has been involved in archery for most of her young life, and after discussion with parents and Washburn set these goals early this year to compete at a level well above her normal age bracket in an attempt to advance her archery career.

Along the path this year, she has won every state championship in which she has competed, set every state record in the more advanced division and gained national attention by taking a first place in the National Field Archery Association 3-D Nationals held in Redding.

She also took first place in the NFAA Outdoor Nationals and a second place in the NFAA unmarked 3-D Nationals, both held in Yankton, S.D.

In the National Archery Association, Pearce has jumped from the Cub division (ages 13 and 14) into the Cadet division (ages 15 and 16). She placed first in the Junior Olympic Archery Development Indoor Nationals, second in the NAA Indoor Nationals, second in the two-day FITA (International Archery Federation) seeding round at the JOAD Nationals in Oklahoma City, and won the bronze medal in the Olympic Round at the JOAD Nationals.

She currently holds more than 55 state, national and Star FITA records.

The Nevada County Gold Team's home range is located at the Nevada County Sportsmen Club in Nevada City. The team has produced several elite archery athletes in the last four years, including Trelaina Borges of Penn Valley who made the 2008 Jr. USAT Team and was one of five women in the United States selected in 2007 as a full-time resident athlete to train at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista.

Borges, unfortunately suffered a shoulder injury in late 2007 and was not able to compete in the 2008 Olympic Trials.

Pearce will be joined by team members Anthony Segars and D'arce Hess at the competition in Colorado Springs. Team member Nelson Harris will not join the group in Colorado as he prepares to compete in Whales later this month as a member of the United States FITA Field Archery Team.

For more information about Pearce, Borges and the Nevada County Gold Team, visit the Web site [www.nevadacountygoldteam.org](http://www.nevadacountygoldteam.org) or contact Washburn at (530) 273-7031.

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