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Student hits the mark as top-ranked archer in nation

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Many athletes like to test their mettle against an opponent. Chris Glass prefers to compete against himself. Glass, a sophomore political science major from Ortonville, is a fifth-year member of the 2004 Junior United States Archery Team and the current top-ranked compound archer in the nation in the men's collegiate division. Next week, he will compete for one of three places on the U.S. World University Archery Championship (WUAC) team, which will travel in July to Madrid, Spain, to participate in the World University Games.

"I love archery because I'm in total control of what happens," said Glass, who began shooting at age 12. "If you make a mistake in a team sport, you can still depend on your teammates to pick you up, or you can take advantage of the other team's mistakes. But in archery, you're basically competing against yourself. The nature of the sport constantly pushes me to excel."

In March, Glass won the male senior compound category at the 2004 National Archery Association North Region Intercollegiate Indoor Championships. In indoor competition, each archer shoots 60 arrows from 20 meters at a bull's eye the size of a dime. At next week's Outdoor Championships, archers will shoot 144 arrows at distances of 90, 70, 50 and 30 meters. The targets will be three and one-and-a-half inches in diameter. The three archers with the top combined scores from both competitions will make the WUAC team.

Glass was a member of the 2001 U.S. World Indoor Championship Team, which took first place in the junior compound category during international competition in Florence, Italy. He finished first in the 2002 National Archery Association Outdoor Championships. He's also a three-time world record holder in outdoor competition, five-time national record holder in indoor and outdoor competitions combined, three-time national indoor and outdoor champion, eight-time indoor and outdoor state record holder, and a two-time Canadian National Indoor champion. A high score at the Outdoor Championships would place Glass on the World University team for the first time.

"It was one of my goals to win the Collegiate National Championships in my freshman year with three more years of eligibility," said Glass, a self-taught archer who is working without a coach. "I won the tournament by 22 points, which is a pretty large margin. There are no guarantees, of course, but I think it's pretty favorable that I'll win the outdoor tournament and have a great chance at making the world university games team.

"Some people shoot worse in tournaments because of the pressure. But I know what's at stake and stay in control mentally. You need to have good vision, patience and the will and desire to be the best to succeed in archery. It really is a mental sport. Any time you get down it also brings down your shooting ability."

Glass also applies the same dedication to his coursework. Even though he shoots two to three hours a day, six days per week, he has a 3.5 grade point average after 28 credit hours. He won't be taking any spring or summer classes because he'll be competing in various tournaments across the country and working in research and design for **Martin Archery**, one of his sponsors.

"The tournament season runs from January to August, and I usually compete two to three weekends each month," Glass said. "I've competed locally quite a bit and am now focusing on the national level. I've competed in 28 states from New York to Florida to California. In two weeks, I'll begin testing products at Martin and give them some input on the design of new products."

Glass is considering pursuing law school after completing his degree at Oakland. But no matter where his career takes him, his love for archery will not subside.

"My future plans are to continue in archery. Several archery companies have already offered me positions, but I definitely want to continue competing throughout my life," Glass said. "I also want to get more people involved in

archery. A lot of people are under the mistaken impression that archery is a barbaric sport. I think a lot of that has to do with bow hunting. But archery actually is a leisure activity that people can enjoy if they just give it a try. You just have to be willing to try something different.”

Archery was first admitted as an official Olympic sport in 1900 but was eliminated in 1920. The sport was readmitted to the games in 1972, though recurve bows are the only type allowed in competition. However, the Olympic Committee is considering adding compound archery for the 2008 games in Beijing, China.

The 2004 U.S. Intercollegiate Archery Championships is May 13-16 at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va. The World University Games are July 19-24. For more news and information on these and other upcoming competitions, visit the [USA Archery](#) Web site.

SUMMARY

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