

Des Moines, IA – The Easton JOAD National Championships was a resounding success for Arizona JOAD. Thirteen youth archers from three Arizona JOAD clubs participated in this year's championships. For eight of these youngsters this was their first time competing at this tournament. Special congratulations go out to Ardi, Yasmin, Brian, Emma, Erik, Andrew, Cinder, and Adam for their achievements in their first time competing at a national tournament (Yasmin's first tournament ever!)

The Arizona contingent started the tournament off with a get-together at a local Italian restaurant and made new friends inviting the McLaughlin family from Cincinnati, Ohio to join them in their festivities. Dinner of pizza and pasta was topped off by the spotting of retired Arizona Cardinal quarterback, Kurt Warner.

Day One of competition was uneventful. The weather was hot and humid, with wind gusts increasing as the morning progressed. Archers shot their first 36 arrows, took a short break and shot their second round of 36 arrows. These first 72 arrows set the groupings for the upcoming team rounds.

Day Two dawned to an early morning onslaught of thunderstorms. Some hotels lost power during the storm and archers had to dress by flashlight. The tournament was delayed for an hour as officials waited for weather to move past the tournament location and to be sure conditions were safe for the archers to compete. DOS Robert Pian had to contend with a small stream running under the DOS stand. The final 72 hours were shot with soggy and muddy ground conditions to contend with during the final qualification rounds. Those archers who were prepared with boots and rain gear were unaffected. At day's end several AZ archers placed in the top three. Cinder Sexton placed second in her division's ranking round and received a silver medal. Brian Bullis and Andrew Mateo placed solidly in third place in their respective divisions and received bronze medals.

Day Three saw more rain in the early morning hours, but the weather did not delay shooting for and the final event started on time.

The Team Rounds seemed to be the highlight event of the tournament with many of the Arizona youth shooting their way to the medal matches. Recurve team rounds were shot on Day One and Compound team rounds were shot on Day Two. There was good clean fun had by all, and friends and family cheered the archers on as they progressed through the event. A notable performance was put in by Emily (Emma) Dempsey, who shot well above her ranking round average arrow scores and brought her team up to the Gold Medal.

The culminating Olympic Rounds saw some intense matches using the new FITA Set System, and many of Arizona's youth archers really shined. For many of these youngsters, these Olympic Rounds were their first time competing in a head-to-head competition. Brian Bullis, Compound Bowmen Men, took the Gold Medal match to a one arrow shoot off, needing to hit closest to "X" for Gold. Brian shot a nine with 12 seconds remaining while his opponent shot a seven. Karissa Yamaguchi came back from a 0-4 deficit to win her first match, and then kept up her charge winning her remaining matches against the top two seeds to take the gold in the Recurve Cub Women category. Brother Nathan Yamaguchi advanced to the quarterfinal round

of the huge Recurve Cadet Men category, but lost to eventual winner Sean McLaughlin in a one-arrow shootoff.

In the Youth Olympic Games Trials, Kiley Larrick from Paseo Vista placed 5th in this inaugural event that chooses one boy and one girl to participate in the Youth Olympic Games being held in Singapore.

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Ranking Round</u> | <u>Team Round</u> | <u>Olympic Round</u> | <u>Overall</u> | <u>Club</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Ardeshar Aghili</u> | <u>34</u> | | <u>33</u> | <u>32</u> | <u>Paseo Vista Archery Club</u> |
| <u>Yasmin Aghili</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>Gold</u> | <u>9</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>Paseo Vista Archery Club</u> |
| <u>Brian Bullis</u> | <u>Bronze</u> | <u>Gold</u> | <u>Gold</u> | <u>Silver</u> | <u>Desert Sky Archers</u> |
| <u>Emma Dempsey</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>Gold</u> | <u>9</u> | <u>9</u> | <u>Paseo Vista Archery Club</u> |
| <u>Erik Dyster</u> | <u>8</u> | | <u>8</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>Paseo Vista Archery Club</u> |
| <u>Mackenzie Kieborz</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>Bronze</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>Desert Sky Archers</u> |
| <u>Kiley Larrick</u> | <u>7</u> | | <u>9</u> | <u>9</u> | <u>Paseo Vista Archery Club</u> |
| <u>Andrew Mateo</u> | <u>Bronze</u> | | <u>5</u> | <u>Bronze</u> | <u>Paseo Vista Archery Club</u> |
| <u>Cinder Sexton</u> | <u>Silver</u> | <u>Silver</u> | <u>Gold</u> | <u>Silver</u> | <u>Desert Sky Archers</u> |
| <u>Adam Stringham</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>Gold</u> | <u>99</u> | <u>30</u> | <u>Corner Archery JOADZ</u> |
| <u>Colt Van Patter</u> | <u>25</u> | <u>Bronze</u> | <u>17</u> | <u>24</u> | <u>Desert Sky Archers</u> |
| <u>Karissa Yamaguchi</u> | <u>4</u> | | <u>Gold</u> | <u>Bronze</u> | <u>Paseo Vista Archery Club</u> |
| <u>Nathan Yamaguchi</u> | <u>6</u> | | <u>5</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>Paseo Vista Archery Club</u> |