



Taking aim, Mackenzie Wilson ('19) practices her archery skills at a local sports outfitter with a free archery range on Sept. 23.

Girl On Fire

Mackenzie Wilson

Enjoys Ancient Sport

Self-Taught Archer Builds Skills

Kris McClellan

Gladiator fights. Chariot races. Most ancient sports live on only in movies — except for one: archery.

Once used for warfare, today it is still used for hunting — and for competition. Like a real life Katniss Everdeen, Mackenzie Wilson ('19) aims her bow almost daily.

Wilson has been practicing archery for four years. She usually spends her free time in her backyard with her lightweight wooden recurve bow hitting each target.

The local sports outfitter, Cabela's, is more than her restock store — it's another place to work on her skills. She can take shot after shot without breaking a sweat.

"You know I'd stay here all day if I could," she said while aiming another arrow.

Thud. It only takes seconds for the arrow to hit a target.

The first step is positioning the arrow. When the arrow is in place she takes aim, grip steady and

eyes focused. Seconds later the arrow flies through the air. With excellent precision it hits within the scoring rings on targets posted in front of the wall fifteen feet away.

While most archers rely on coaches and classes, Wilson is self-taught.

"My parents got me a bow as a present.

I taught myself how to use it."

"My parents got me a bow as a present," she said. "I taught myself how to use it."

Her teachings have served her well. Wilson has participated in two competitions, both at Anne Springs Close Greenway.

Archery dress code is simple. "If we're inside for a competition, they suggest long sleeves and pants. If we're outside... well, it's hot," Wilson explains.

Another fashion most archers wear is an armguard to protect the arm from the bow and string. "I don't wear one anymore because I've gotten used to it," Wilson said.

Even without friends to practice with her, Wilson remains passionate about her choice of sports.

Archery is a sport that will never die out.