

ARCHERY

BY CLARA MAULTSBY

Team looks to continue success, now open to whole student body

All sports require aim and precision, but for Liz Sims (12) and Alyssa Villanueva (9), aim and precision are everything. They are on the archery team, one of several JROTC teams. This year, it is no longer limited to JROTC members – it was open to the whole student body.

Shooting arrows at a target may seem simple, but it is much harder than it looks. Archers are required to know different whistle commands that indicate whether to get their bow, get arrows, or to shoot. At competitions, the team goes up against other schools in the area like Riverside High School and Chesnee High School, and they usually shoot from 10 to 15 meters away from the target.

Sims explained some of the components that make archery such a challenging sport.

“If it has been a difficult week or day, it can be hard to concentrate and get the arrow where it needs to go,” Sims said. “Other times, it’s just aiming in general.”

Sims started archery as a freshman and is the captain of the archery team this year. She is responsible for helping her teammates when they need it. Besides giving her “something to do after school,” she says that archery is a good stress reliever and it has helped her develop teamwork skills.

“I love watching my team grow,” Sims said. They have helped me grow as well, and I couldn’t be any prouder of them!”

Last year, Sims was two points away from going to state, so her next goal is to beat her score. She hopes to continue archery in the future and earn a college

scholarship for it.

Major Charles Davis, the Senior Army JROTC Instructor, said that Sims is a stand-out who has the potential to reach the State Championships.

“(She) has been a very dependable and consistent high scoring archer over the years,” Davis said. “I’m excited about her chances of being only the second Spartanburg High School archer to reach the State Championships in the team’s history next month!”

Villanueva started archery in the sixth grade and this is her first year on the team. JROTC is also her favorite class and she has enjoyed the archery team’s welcoming environment. She has learned from her teammates and made many friends through the experience.

“Archery is fun and [my teammates] encourage me to do my best,” Villanueva said.

Villanueva also gets encouragement from Major Davis, who is pleased to have her on the team this year and is appreciative of her effort.

“[Alyssa] has been a great addition to the Spartanburg High School Archery Team!” Major Davis said. “She is only a freshman, but she is right on the heels of the team’s high archer.”

Even though they have been successful so far this year, Sims and Villanueva face obstacles and have struggles, just like any other athlete.

“It’s a struggle when you set a certain goal for yourself and you don’t reach it,” Sims said. “It’s frustrating and it takes a lot of practice to overcome obstacles like this.” □



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Using their hours of practice, Sims and Takeria Miller (11) compete for the Archery team at the Carolina Warriors Tournament in Spartanburg.