

ESPN Great Outdoor Games Digest 7-2-03

A Very Traditional Archer

The 16-person field for the Great Outdoor Games is now nearly complete. Because of conflicting schedules, alternates will be invited to fill two of the 16 slots. Barrs expects to fill the spots this week. Joining Gautreaux, White and Herring at Reno are seven archers from earlier qualifying tournaments in Las Vegas and Oak Ridge, as well as last year's top three finishers at Lake Placid: gold medalist Randy Hendrix of North Carolina, silver medalist Randy Ulmer of Arizona, and bronze medalist Darren Collins of Kansas.

The four qualifiers from the Las Vegas Eliminator tournament in February are Keith Brown, Greensboro, N.C.; Mike Slinkard, Johnday, Ore.; Jackie Caudle, Gadsden, Ala.; and [Aya LaBrie](#), Aurora, Colo. The three qualifiers from the Oak Ridge Eliminator tournament are Don Bishop, Arden, N.C.; Gillingham; and Ginger Hopwood, Marietta, Ga.

It took 9,000 years to get first-time Great Outdoor Games competitor [Aya La Brie](#) of Aurora, Calif. That's because La Brie got her start in the very ancient art of Kyudo, or traditional Japanese archery, which has been developing since about 7,000 B.C. Although [La Brie](#) has been practicing archery for a significantly shorter period of time, it's not too much of a stretch to say that her grounding in Kyudo — and her three Japanese national records, in the 400-meter, 60-meter and FITA competitions — made her one of the top women to qualify for the 2003 Games.

As if her track record weren't impressive enough, [La Brie](#) can also claim a world championship title in Japanese swordsmanship, "Iai-Batto-Jutsu." In fact, [La Brie](#) just moved back stateside from Japan two years ago to compete for a place on the U.S. World Archery Team. How committed is she to her training? Aya says her "bow is her beau."

Archery Final Standings

1. Darren Collins, Galena, Kansas
2. Randy Ulmer, Cave Creek, Ariz.
3. Randy Hendrix, Clemmons, N.C.
4. Jackie Caudle, Gadsden, Ala.
5. Rod White, Sparta, Wis.
6. Ginger Hopwood, Marietta, Ga.
6. Gerald Decker, Dalton, Pa.
6. Tim Gillingham, Lehi, Utah
9. Donald Bishop, Arden, N.C.
10. Mike Slinkard, Johnday, Ore.
11. Keith Brown, Greensboro, N.C.
11. Darin Mack, Avondale, Pa.
13. [Aya LaBrie](#), Aurora, Colo.
13. Wade Gautreaux, Waynesville, Ohio
15. Mark Herring, Ravenna, Ohio
16. Valerie Chapman, Hendersonville, N.C.