

WAYC Notebook

Iraqi Archer Leads The Way

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As she grew up, Fatimah Al Mashhadani knew archery was important to her family. It just took time for her passion for the sport to blossom.

And now, the 17-year-old archer from Iraq is not only continuing her family's legacy, she has made her own mark in international competition.

Al Mashhadani, with a handful of top-5 finishes at various prestigious tournaments, leads the Compound Cadet Women's division at the World Archery Youth Championships (WAYC), which began Tuesday in Yankton with qualification rounds.

"I have my duty and my dreams," the Iraqi archer said through translation from a coach.

Al Mashhadani's sister, Rand, represented their home country in the 2012 London Olympics, and her father is the head of the Iraqi Archery Federation.

She has spent the last month training in Antalya, Turkey, because their home in Iraq doesn't have the kinds of facilities – only a small family garden – that would prepare her for big-time tournaments.

Those kinds of disadvantages haven't slowed down Al Mashhadani, however.

She finished fifth in her division at the 2013 WAYC in China, and last year finished second in two prestigious events: Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Turkey and a European Grand Prix in Bulgaria.

That run of success continued Tuesday, as Al Mashhadani leads her compound division by four shots (680-676) over Dahlia Crook of the United States and Evelien Groeneveld of the Netherlands.

"It was very nice for me because the wind was an extra challenge," Al Mashhadani said.

While there could have been another significant challenge in traveling to Yankton, that wasn't her big-



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

ABOVE: Fatimah Al-Mashhadani, a 17-year-old archer from Iraq, looks back to her coach during Tuesday's qualification round of the World Archery Youth Championships in Yankton. Al-Mashhandi leads the Compound Cadet Women's division after one day.

BELOW: A coach from Turkey provides some words of encouragement for two of his archers before they shoot in Tuesday's qualification round at the World Archery Youth Championships in Yankton.

TOP RIGHT: These archers line up their shots during Tuesday's qualification round of the World Archery Youth Championships in Yankton.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Members of the Team USA Compound Cadet women's team hold the American flag after Tuesday's qualification round at the World Archery Youth Championships in Yankton.



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NCAA Track Championships Embark On 'Grand Experiment'

Men's Events Today, Friday; Women's On Thursday, Saturday

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — Arkansas women's coach Lance Harter called dividing the NCAA track and field championship schedule by gender a "grand experiment."

With the exception of the decathlon and heptathlon, the four-day meet will have the men competing on Wednesday and Friday, the women on Thursday and Saturday.

It's a compacted schedule, too. The preliminary rounds were held at the regional level, so this week's competition begins with the semifinals in most races, and goes right to the finals in other events.

The powerful teams are the same, though.

Host Oregon is expected to contend for the men's and women's titles. Florida, Arkansas and Texas A&M also will field formidable men's and women's entries.

Oregon men's and women's coach Robert Johnson said he's in a "wait and see" mode for the new format.

The slimmed-down schedule was developed to accommodate ESPN, which is why one of the sports longest-serving coaches, Texas A&M's Pat Henry, supports it.

"Right now, if you're not on TV, you don't exist," Henry said at a pre-meet news conference on Tuesday. "You're not a sport if you're not on TV. We've got to be on TV and we've got to do whatever it takes to get there."

Not everyone likes the change. The schedule will be a challenge to the handful of athletes who compete in multiple events.

"I didn't really like the idea," said Baylor's Trayvon Bromell, who won the 100 meters as a freshman a year ago. "I liked the way it was last year. I've got to run three events all in one day. I think they didn't think about athletes and our body. For our body to recover in this short amount of time, I feel they didn't think about that."

Oregon's Jenna Prandini, expected to contend in the 100, 200 and long jump as well as the 400-meter relay, said there will be no time to relax mentally.

"Especially the first day," she said. "I'll just have to go event by event and stay focused, run smart and listen to my coaches with the goal of qualifying."

Henry said he has some concern about separating the men from the women on teams where they've always competed together and rooted for each other. The men's champion will be crowned on Friday, the women's on Saturday.

That's going to be quite a change, Prandini said.

"The girls and guys are completely separate, which is kind of weird," she said, "especially for a team like us because we usually do everything together."

The Oregon women are ranked first nationally after last week's dominant regional performance. Arkansas is second, Kentucky third and Florida fourth. Florida is first in the men's rankings, followed by Oregon, Texas A&M and LSU.

Oregon qualified 45 athletes for the championships — 23 men and 22 women — more than any other team. The Duck men are defending champions but the women haven't won the NCAA outdoor title since 1985.

They will be competing in front of a big, friendly, enthusiastic crowd at Hayward Field, the unchallenged hotbed of track and field in the

United States, so much so that it's the long-term home of the U.S. championships, Olympic Trials and the NCAAs.

"It's a pretty cool experience," Prandini said. "I think if you ask anyone who runs here, the crowd goes nuts for almost anyone. Being able to step on the track wearing an Oregon uniform, being able to do it here is another huge benefit for us."

The NCAA championships are in the second year of an eight-year contract at Oregon, and that's a long time to give the Ducks a home-track advantage, opposing coaches say.

Eugene is a great place for the meet, Florida men's and women's coach Mike Holloway said, "but it's not the place we have to have it every year."

"There are other places that can put on a great meet," he said. "Are my kids excited about traveling 12 or 13 hours across the country every year? Absolutely not."

The coaches acknowledge that probably no one can match Oregon for the track-savvy crowd, but an eight-year commitment was a bit much.

"I was a proponent of it being here," Henry said. "I was never a proponent of it being here until I died."

Giants Rookie

No-Hits Mets

NEW YORK (AP) — Chris Heston pitched the first no-hitter in the majors this season in his 13th career start, leading the San Francisco Giants over the New York Mets 5-0 Tuesday night.

The rookie allowed three baserunners — all on hit batters. He also had a two-run single for his first big league RBIs and finished with two more hits than the Mets.

"Lot of emotions going through my mind right now," Heston said moments after the final out. "Hasn't sunk in yet. Looking forward to catching my breath and celebrating a little bit."

The pitching-rich Giants have thrown a no-hitter in four straight seasons, with Heston following Matt Cain's perfect game against Houston in 2012 and hitless gems by Tim Lincecum in 2013 and '14.

The only other team to accomplish that feat was the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1962-65, according to STATS. Hall of Famer Sandy Koufax pitched all four of those.

Heston (6-4) struck out 11 — six looking — for the defending World Series champions and allowed just two balls into the outfield.

After plunking Anthony Recker with a pitch to start the ninth, the right-hander threw called third strikes past pinch-hitter Danny Muno, Curtis Granderson and Ruben Tejada. Heston walked calmly off the mound toward home plate and was hugged by catcher Buster Posey.

"It's fun to see good things happen to good people," Posey said.

The last pitch was a 91 mph sinker that froze Tejada. As the Citi Field crowd of 23,155 gave Heston a standing ovation, Giants teammates came out of the dugout and bullpen to mob him. He received another ovation as he walked off the field.

Heston said he was a little extra nervous going into the ninth, but he didn't want to change his approach at all.

"Attack the zone. Don't let the nerves get to me. Just throw quality strikes, and that didn't change in the ninth," he



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton Reds shortstop Cayden Peterson, left, fires the ball to first during a VFW Teener baseball doubleheader with Mitchell on Tuesday at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

TABOR — Tabor took two from the Yankton Junior squad in American Legion baseball action on Tuesday.

In the opener, a 6-4 decision, Nathan Hein and Carter Peterson each had two hits to lead Yankton. Caid Koletzky, Justin Leader and Michael Heine each had a hit for Post 12.

Leader took the loss. In the nightcap, Tabor scored the game-winner in the bottom of the fifth of a 7-6 five-inning win.

Jack Schoenfelder, Jakob Larson, Kellen Franzen, Ben Wold, Leader and Peterson each had a hit for Yankton. Franzen took the loss in relief of Isiah Woods.

The Yankton Juniors travel to Vermillion on Thursday. Start time for the twinbill is 5 p.m.

Vermillion 14-6, Elk Point-Jeff. 1-1

VERMILLION — Vermillion scored in all but one inning of a doubleheader sweep of Elk Point-Jefferson in American Legion baseball action on Tuesday at Prentiss Park.

In the opener, Vermillion Post 1 had four different players pound out two or more hits in a 14-1 rout of Elk Point-Jefferson.

Jake Odens went 3-4 with a triple and three RBI, and Brandon Mockler and Travis Weber each had two hits and two RBI to lead Vermillion. Cole Anderson also had a pair of hits. Carter Kratz tripled and Nate Robertson drove in three runs in the victory.

Lorin Gregg doubled and singled for two of EPJ's three hits.

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