

## Born to shoot

### JCHS?junior was named shooter of the year, looks to continue competitive career in college

Mary Freda, Reporter

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Before Asilyn Davis was even born, she started winning archery shoots.

While her mom, Nylisa Davis, was five months pregnant with Asilyn, she won her first state tournament in Kokomo, Indiana. Several years later, Asilyn would go on to also win her first state tournament in Kokomo.

Asilyn, now a 17-year-old junior at Jay County High School who will compete in a qualifying tournament today, picked up a bow as a 6-year-old girl and would tag along to shoot with her dad, Doug Davis.

"She was easily the first one to have her stuff gathered up and ready to go before any (of) the rest of us," he said.

Asilyn blossomed during freshman year of high school, her parents said.

As a freshman, she competed in three sports: basketball, softball and archery. That year, she had a strong archery season, but she wasn't able to shoot as much because of other practices and games.

Doug remembers Asilyn asking him: "Daddy, I'm supposed to be in two places at once? What do I do?"

The decision was left up to her. Doug told his daughter to consider which sport she enjoyed the most and the one she thought she was best at.

She decided to focus on archery.

She got new equipment, and by the time her sophomore year rolled around, colleges started to take notice.

"They (college recruiters) were mad I was a sophomore," said Asilyn, whose parents said they wanted to recruit her sooner rather than later.

Winning, however, isn't everything for Asilyn. She liked that she was getting noticed, but the archery community meant more to her. Growing up, Asilyn and her parents joked she was the "community baby" because everyone knew her, and she grew up going to archery events.

"You just focus on beating yourself and the rest of it will come," Asilyn said.

The sport, she said, is more mental than physical. In fact, she says you "need to get your head out of the game" to help concentrate.

"I sing," she said. "I'll be up there like having the same song and the same verse over and over in my head. When they play music when we shoot, I'm up there, like, singing to the person next to me. They hate it, but it works."

During the Scholastic 3-D Archery (S3DA) Indoor National Championship on March 15, Asilyn ranked No. 1 out of 62 girls in the open class. The following weekend, she ranked No. 12 in her class at the National Field Archery Association (NFFA) Indoor Nationals — she only missed one point during that



Asilyn Davis, a Jay County High School junior, was named Shooter of the Year last month by Indiana Field Archery Association. She was ranked No. 1 out of 62 competitors in the open class March 15 at the Scholastic 3-D Archery Indoor National Championship. (The Commercial Review/Mary Freda)



shoot.

In archery, the perfect round is worth 300 points. If someone shoots a perfect 300, then judges use the amount of Xs an archer hits to determine the winner. During NFFA nationals, she racked up 102 Xs.

She was also deemed Shooter of the Year by the Indiana Field Archery Association in March. In fact, she had so many awards to carry that weekend that her parents had to place them in a 26-inch by 18-inch, white laundry basket.

"She's not one to really brag on herself," Doug said as Asilyn murmured, "I'm bad at that."

"We're pretty blessed parents, she's a good kid ... we're proud of her.

When she's not shooting, Asilyn shows chickens as a 4-H'er. Her summer schedule, she said, revolves around archery and traveling to show her chickens.

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