

Nostalgia Corner

30 Years Ago ... by Paul Davison



Teenagers gone good!

In the previous Nostalgia Corner, we noted that in the mid-1970's, the NFAA Amateur Division was being tweaked continuously. Principally, both the Junior and Adult age groups and style breakdowns were changed about every year. For example, in 1973 (only), those kids aged 16 and 17 were required to compete as Amateur Adults. This rule was unfair to the average teenage shooter, but it meant little to the hotshot who could, with parental consent, compete as an Amateur Adult.

Three such teenagers were featured in the June and July 1974 issues of *Archery* magazine:

First, there was 14 year-old Michelle Sanderson of Minnesota. Michelle competed as a Freestyle Amateur Adult at the 1974 Outdoor Nationals near Golden, Colorado. In the dreaded, one-time, "T-System," she won Flight 1, second only to the Amateur Adult Freestyle Champion. She then went on to win the 1975 Amateur Adult Championship.

Second, there was Terry Ragsdale of Texas. He had already won the Freestyle Amateur Adult Championship in 1973 as a 16 year-old. Terry repeated as Amateur Adult Champion in 1974 at Golden. It may not have been at this tournament where "boy meets girl," but we do know that it was just a few years later when Terry and Michelle were married. After outstanding careers as NFAA Professionals, they are now quietly pursuing second careers in Wisconsin.

Third, there was the oldest of the three teenagers: Butch Johnson of Massachusetts. Butch gained notoriety in 1973 by shooting a couple of perfect 300's indoors with his fingers and a

recurve bow. Butch won the Amateur Adult Freestyle Limited Championship at the 1974 Outdoor Nationals, and never looked back. During the past 30 years, he's gone from recurve to compound to recurve, and from amateur to professional to Olympian ... still shooting with his fingers.

We should all agree that 1974 was a very good year.



Terry of Texas



Michelle of Minnesota



Butch of Massachusetts