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## Outdoors: Family competes in Africa

Jimmy Watson • jimwatson@gannett.com • May 21, 2008

And then there were six world champions.

In the Skip Trafford family that is.

It took a recent daunting trip to Nambia, Africa to do it, but Miriam Trafford, the only family member without a world title, captured one at the World Field Archery Championships by defeating European champion Daisy Clark of England 2,473 points to 2,423 in Bare Bow-Recurve.

Three additional members of the Trafford family won WFAC titles in Africa, including mother Charlene, who defeated the German champion Nicole Wiersch 1,666 to 1,460 in the adult female division.

Skip Trafford won the adult men's division with 2,183, while Heather won in junior females with 1,634 points and Rachel won in freestyle limited recurve with 1,906 points. The only Trafford not to get a world title was 8-year-old Hardy, who has a previous world title to his credit, who was defeated by 12-year-old Karlis Akots Gribulis of Latvia 2,109 to 1,950.

Other accomplishments of the Trafford family includes:

- Charlene Trafford was named to the NFAA U.S. National Team on Saturday. She is the defending world champion for barebow and is one of the few women ever named to the seven-person U.S. squad. She has won three consecutive world championships.
- This is the second time all the Traffords have traveled to Africa for the world championships in the past decade. Skip and Charlene both won in South Africa in 2000.
- Rachael won the Olympic (sight) division world championships, her fourth world championship in a row. She is ranked No. 2 in her class at Caddo Magnet, is on the varsity softball team, a class officer and a state-ranked violinist.
- Miriam's title not only came against the previously undefeated Clark, it came in record fashion. Miriam tied Heather's world record of 500 on the final day.
- All six Traffords have now won at least one world championship in field archery. Miriam previously had to shoot against her older sisters who now have moved into the 13-18 division (junior or young adult).
- Heather won her second world championships in the barebow girls 13-17 division, having won her first in Australia in 2006.
- Skip Trafford won his eighth world championship in the men's barebow division. He narrowly missed breaking his own world record in the animal round on Wednesday, missing it by one arrow.
- Skip and Charlene have duplicated their 2000 dual gold medal win for the Men's and Women's barebow division: the only husband and wife combination to win the world barebow title.
- At this world championships, the Traffords took five gold medals and one silver, the highest harvest of medals ever taken by a family in IFAA history.
- The IFAA world field archery championships are held every two years and rotate from continent to continent. Europe will host this tournament in 2010 and then it will move to Yankton, South Dakota in 2012. All three Trafford girls will be aiming for a gold medal in the 2012 Olympics during that time.
- Louisiana had more contestants at this world championships than any other U.S. state (this was also true in Australia in 2006). Scott Bradford from New Iberia took eighth in the men's compound bowhunter division.
- There were just under 300 contestants from 23 countries competing in the world championships.
- Rachael was invited by Olympic Coach Kisik Lee to attend the NAA's Junior "Dream Team" training camp on June 1 in San Diego.

**In your voice**



The Skip Trafford family recently captured five gold medals and one silver in the World Field Championships in Africa. Family members include Charlene, Rachael, Heather, Miram, Hardy and Skip. (Special to The Times)

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