

Yun's win proves she is Athens' golden girl

Archery Olympic Test Event, Athens August 8-15, 2003

Wednesday, August 13: South Korea's Jun Mi Jin confirmed her status as her sport's brightest star by winning the women's individual title at the Archery Olympic Test Event in Athens.

Yun, 20, proved too strong in the 12-arrow final for China's Guo Dan, winning 107-105. Earlier, Yun had beaten her team-mate and main rival Park Sung Hyun 111-105 in the semi-final.

Park won the bronze medal, defeating South Africa's Kirstin Jean Lewis, the surprise performer of the tournament, 109-103 in the minor final.

Yun's victory at Panathinaiko Stadium, the site of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896 and archery's venue at next year's Olympics, proved she is ready to continue her assault on the record books.

Yun is the defending Olympic champion in both individual and team events and also won both crowns – individual and team – at last month's World Archery Championships in New York.

She is only the second archer in history, behind Sydney 2000 team-mate and Korean legend Kim Soo Nyung, to hold all four major titles at once.

Since archery returned to the Olympics in 1972, no woman has won two individual gold medals. This now becomes Yun's quest as the hero of Korea's awesome women's squad, which has won all nine gold medals contested at the Olympics since 1984. (American Darrell Pace is the only man to win two individual gold medals, in 1976 and 1984.)

The men's individual event, in which 2003 world champion Michele Frangilli of Italy faces strong opposition from an excellent Korean trio and Australia's teenage duo of David Barnes and Tim Cuddihy, concludes this evening.

The Test Event continues until Friday.

Results and schedules can be found at <u>www.archery.org</u>. For more information, contact FITA at (41) 21 614 3050.

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