

Youth serves it up as Korean rout continues

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

Thursday, August 14: Two tremendous teenagers shot down a pair of experienced world champions in the men's medal finals at the Archery Olympic Test Event in Athens.

South Korea's Im Dong Hyun, 17, defeated his team-mate and 1993 world champion Park Kyung Mo 111-109 in the 12-arrow gold medal final.

Earlier, Australia's David Barnes, also 17, beat 2003 world champion Michele Frangilli of Italy 112-110 to win the bronze medal.

Im and Barnes are making a habit of appearing on major international podiums together. Last month, the pair finished second and third respectively behind Frangilli at the World Championships in New York.

The pair's continuing success, along with that of other young aces like Australia's Tim Cuddihy and Italy's Marco Galiazzo, shows the next generation is on target to steal the show at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

It was South Korea's second gold medal from two events at the tournament. On Tuesday, reigning Olympic and world champion Yun Mi Jin won the women's event. Korean teams are favourites to win the team events which start today (Thursday).

As Athens enjoyed its one-year-to-go festivities on Wednesday, Barnes and Im were handling the heat at the historic Panathinaiko Stadium, archery's venue and the site of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896.

The site and organisation has been enthusiastically received by athletes and officials. The venue's ties with the 1896 Olympics means it is a centre of great interest for spectators and Games supporters.

Team events for men and women will be conducted today (Thursday) and Friday. This ensures the Test Event is consistent with the Olympic program for archery, which features four events: men's individual and team, and women's individual and team.

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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