

# WE WILL COMPETE



Competition is found in all different areas and in so much more than the sports we think of with a ball and a number on your back. For **Charlie Mitchell (12)**, competition is found in competitive archery. Mitchell has been shooting for seven years now. "I shoot in JOAD (Junior Olympic Archery Development) competitions which are everywhere. I also do national competitions as well," Mitchell said.

Often, there is a skewed idea about what archery means and few even know about the thought that goes into the competition; from the bare-bone recurve bow to the Junior Olympic Archery Development program. Mitchell is now on a collegiate level team and is looking to continue his archery through college.

"I just wish that people wouldn't be so afraid of [beginning archery], it has a reputation of being a weapon, so people are afraid of it but it's really just fun. Not even just from a physical point of view, but also from a mental standpoint, to be able to be prepared both mentally and physically," Mitchell said.



**IF THERE'S ONE PERSON YOU DON'T** want to face-off against in everyone's favorite yard game, it's senior, **Tae Harris (12)**. While no one is really sure yet whether Harris is just doing it for fun or to seriously practice for the graduation parties, at the end of the day, Tae Harris is one few people who can say that they play cornhole, competitively.

**"I DO IT BECAUSE I'M A COMPETITIVE** person. I like to be the best at everything," Harris said. Harris' competitions take place locally at places like The Elk's Club and Wild Game, and Harris has the opportunity to travel to play, while Harris is one of the youngest competitors out there, he enjoys the camaraderie of the game. Harris is on a competitive cornhole team and has been for almost a year. "I get to travel all around and meet new people. I'm definitely going to keep playing after high school if I can," Harris said.

**THE SPORT WAS INTRODUCED TO HARRIS** by his dad before he was even 10 years old. The competition aspect came recently, but needless to say, Harris has cornholing in the bag, the bean bag. "[Playing cornhole] has taught me a lot about mental toughness and being a good sport and also being positive."

**WAIT, YOU CAN SHOOT GUNS IN** competitions? Yes, people like **Emmelia Ashton (11)** spend time outside of traditional school athletics to try something different. It goes without saying that the sport is very dangerous and requires specific equipment and locations to maintain safety. However, with practices once a week, Ashton has the process down and is firing on all cylinders. "I carry my pants and jacket that are stiff because they're made out of canvas. I have a sling for prone and kneeling and I carry eye protection and ear protection," Ashton said.

**ASHTON WAS FIRST INTRODUCED TO** shooting by her dad who served as a firefighter and found importance in teaching his daughters. Soon after, the competition came along for Ashton. "We shoot at a competitive gun club in Boulder which helped us really grow throughout the year, so we learned gun safety, and there are so many different sports you can do with it. I do three position, you do prone, standing and kneeling," Ashton said.

**THIS HIGHLY UNIQUE CRAFT OFFERS** **ASHTON** opportunities that others don't have and probably don't even know about. "I think it is a really good hobby to have, and I don't know if I will pursue it in college, but that door is still open for me," Ashton said.

**MIA NOVICK (9) IS A STUDENT ATHLETE,** much like many other students. But Novick's sport doesn't have balls and jerseys, it has sabres and foils, epees, plastrons and masks. Haven't guessed it yet? Novick is a Junior Olympic fencer.

**"[WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT FENCING** is], there are swords obviously, but it's a lot of mental stuff. You have to think quickly," Novick said. This unusual hobby has been Novick's passion since 3rd grade when she first took classes at the rec center. Now, Novick practices 3 times a week, once in Denver and twice in Longmont.

**THE HARD WORK HAS CERTAINLY PAID** off for her with a recent opportunity to get much more serious with competing. "I'm working on getting ready for junior Olympics in February. There was a qualifier in December so that's how I got in.

**THIS INCREASE IN EXPERIENCE COULD** really bring more light to Novick's passion for her peers, something that has been missing in her early years of competing. "It isn't that theatrical, people see it in the movies and they're like 'wow that's cool'. I think people have a lot of expectations but it's really different from what they think it is," Novick said.

**THE LONGMONT YOUTH VOCAL** Competition, it's the American Idol of Longmont, and **Ryan Adler (12)** won the whole thing. Every year, the Longmont Chorale hosts this competition for all kids, high school and under to show their talents while growing as young musicians. "At the contest I prepared an Italian piece, so I sang that and there were 3 different judges and they gave me critiques and they helped me with different breath techniques," Adler said.

**ADLER SINGS IN THE CHAMBERS,** **ORPHEUS,** and Jazz choir at school, but this competition meant more than just a class or a concert. "After winning, I got invited to sing in the Longmont Chorale winter concert which was earlier in December," Adler said, "I got to sing a whole solo piece by myself so that was a lot of fun and I actually ended up joining the Chorale."

**THE COMPETITION GAVE ADLER MANY** opportunities that will carry through the rest of his high school career. "It was really cool to work 1 on 1 with some professional voice instructors. It just means a lot to me to know that I'm capable, vocally, of winning that competition, it's just really validating as a musician and it's just a really great feeling," Adler said.

WORK ORDER

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