

/First Year Rookie Becomes Really High Shooter/

Fingertips grazing their familiar spots on the string, she lifts her bow and aims it at her unique aim point. She takes a deep breath and draws the bow, the movement almost instinct at this point, and the resistance it gives no longer affects her. Her breath stops in her throat as she releases. She feels the distinct gust of wind brush past her cheek, and she blinks. Her arrow is stuck solidly in the middle of the target, exactly where she wanted it.

Archery is a sport focused mainly on muscle memory, so typically, it takes a person at least a year, maybe two, before they become really comfortable with a bow and arrow. **Kristen Davis** (9), however, is an exception to this rule. Despite it only being her very first year at TCPS and in archery, she still managed to become one of the highest shooters on the team. "I got advice from the coaches and worked as hard as I could to do the best

I could," Davis said when asked how she was able to improve so significantly. "I just try to stay calm and maintain focus,



Books Mayhew (11)

and it usually turns out pretty well." Her highest score was a 274, which she earned in two consecutive matches.

Not only did she shoot well for herself, but her shooting helped her team as well. For instance, at the state match, Davis was an important person who played a key role in helping the team place eleventh at State, as she was the fifth highest scorer on the team out of a total of twenty-three scorers.

As well as being a high scoring shooter, she also has an overwhelming amount of team spirit. She is always around to lend a hand or to give advice.

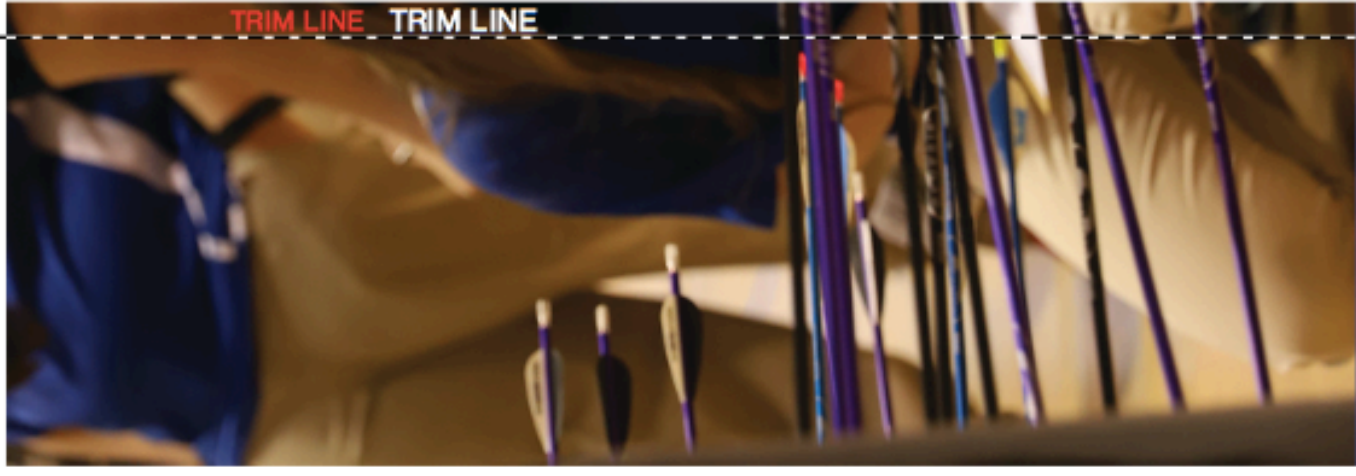
Due to her overwhelming improvement and quick success, she received the "Rookie of the Year" award at the archery banquet at the end of the year.

Although she was not necessarily the top shooter on the team, as she did not win the "Highest Average" award, she showed how much potential that she has, and she plans to continue improving her shot for the archery team.

| by Abrielle Carnathan

1. Regan Steen (10) stares at her arrows, grateful that they are all in the yellow, and she prepares to score them. // *Zach Kallish photo 2.* Lining up the tip of the arrow with her aim point, Lucie Reed (8) steadies herself to release the arrow and to hit the target where she wants. // *Zach Kallish photo 3.* After coming back from scoring, Kristen Davis (9) calms herself before the next round and returns her arrows to the quiver. // *Zach Kallish photo 4.* Discussing with her shooting partner, Lucie Reed (8) tries to convince him that it is a nine and not an eight. // *Zach Kallish photo*

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- Kristen Davis (9)



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