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U.S. Sweeps Compound Archery Team Events By Rick Freeman

NEW YORK — The United States swept the men's and women's team compound finals at the World Archery Championships in Central Park on Sunday.

The American women, led by Mary Zorn, beat France 248-239 in the gold medal match.

While American Aya La Brie played air guitar on her bow and bobbed her head to the music played between rounds, the French appeared rattled by a few errant shots early on, and never seemed to fully regroup.

Of course, having world-record holder Zorn shooting last in each of three rounds or "ends" helped put the American team at ease. "She's strong, she's fast and we know in a pinch, she'll pull through for us," La Brie said.

Zorn set a world record in the qualifying round earlier in the competition, scoring 1,399 points out of a possible 1,440, nearly becoming the first women's compound archer to break the 1,400 barrier.

Dee Wilde, 52, and son Reo Wilde helped the American men beat Italy 263-256.

Olympic champion Yun Mi-jin led the South Korean women to the recurve team title with an easy 252-233 win over Japan. South Korea's men beat Sweden for the gold.

For Dee Wilde, it was his sixth world title. Teammate Braden Gellenthien, 17, won his first.

"I'm obviously a bit older than some of these guys," the 52-year-old Wilde said. "It's really very special for me to be here with one of my sons."

The compound bow is equipped with pulleys and cables, while the recurve bow, also called a classic bow, is not. Compound bows also have more elaborate sights, which helps archers better aim at the 10-point circle in the middle of the target.

"We try not to miss the 10s," American Dave Cousins said. "They try to hit it."

The South Korean women had little trouble doing that. Egged on by a boisterous cheering section, they scored 87 of a possible 90 points in the first end of their gold medal match and Japan never could catch up. Yun began with three straight 10s, showing the concentration that helped her win the individual recurve title on Saturday.

Yun now holds both the Olympic and World titles, the second Korean to do so. Such a feat, however, is impossible for compound archers, who cannot compete in the Olympics.

"For us," La Brie said, "this is the Olympics."