

# ATHLETES AMONG US

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## Jessica Grant

- **Sport of choice:** Archery.
  - **Age:** 18.
  - **Family:** Parents, Fred and Kathy Grant.
  - **Student:** Freshman at Glendale Community College. Graduate of Greenway High School.
  - **Current status:** Ranked No. 1 nationally in her age group.
  - **Major athletic accomplishment:** "It would have to be making world teams and doing well in those under such pressure. I take a lot of pride in shooting well under pressure." She has won nine national tournaments and was a member of U.S. teams that won both indoor and outdoor world championships last year in Florence, Italy, and the Czech Republic.
  - **Home on the range:** She has been shooting for 14 years and showed an early knack for hitting the target. "My dad hunted with a bow, my mom had a bow, and they decided it would be a good family thing to do. They picked me up a cheap bow, my dad took the suction cups off the arrows and put on tips, and I shot with those. After a while, it got a lot more serious."
  - **Next challenge:** She'll be competing for a spot on the U.S. adult team when she competes in the Indoor World Trials in January.
  - **Looking ahead:** After two years at GCC, she wants to attend James Madison University, which has an archery team, and study sports psychology.
  - **It takes a steady hand . . .** "It's more than that. We work out and run to keep steady. It's not just the hand or the arm, it's the whole body, legs, stomach, everything has to be strong to hold the bow steady."
  - **On the money:** In events where she shoots 144 arrows, worth 1,440 points with all bull's eyes, she usually scores between 1360 and 1370.
  - **So do you ever miss the whole target?** "Not too much anymore. If I do, it would have to be equipment failure."
- Jim Gintonio



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