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Son of Miami Operations Supervisor Wins 2012 Olympic Medal

(September 18, 2012) Top this for a summer vacation.

Hydromet Supervisor and Globe native **Alfred Ellison** spent two weeks in July attending the 2012 London Olympics, where he watched his 23-year-old son win the first medal awarded to the U.S.

Brady Ellison is the top-ranked member of the U.S. Men's Archery Team, which won a silver medal in London. It was the first medal the U.S. has won in any archery event since 1996.

"The feeling of watching him win an Olympic medal is something I still can't explain," Alfred Ellison said. "I was bawling in the stands, and it's hard not to now, just thinking about it. Even if he hadn't won a medal, my son was an Olympian, the best of the best."

Born and raised in Globe, Brady Ellison literally grew up with a bow and arrow in his hands. His grandfather hunted with a bow and arrow, and his father excelled at hunting and 3D archery tournaments, where contestants walk trails and shoot at foam targets.

"I started Brady with a little plastic bow and suction-cup arrows when he was itty bitty, in diapers still," Ellison said. "He went around shooting grasshoppers and lizards, and he's just excelled at it his whole life. It's his passion – it's just what he does."

Brady, who was winning world junior titles by the age of 13, attracted the attention of Olympic coaches at 16, and had become the top-ranked archer in the U.S. by age 17.

He competed in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing and finished 22nd in the individual competition. By last year, Brady had become the favorite to win the individual event in London. He made it through 15 rounds but narrowly lost his 16th match.

"He had high hopes for gold, but it's single elimination, and there were 56 shooters," Ellison said. "He only had one more round to get through to medal. He was upset about it for a little while, but then he just moved on."

The sky is the limit for Brady, Ellison said.

"He wants to become the world's greatest archer, and he's well on his way," he said. "But he also wants to be an ambassador for archery. He's famous for taking care of the kid fans, signing autographs, talking to people, and I'm probably as proud of that as I am of anything." ■



Hydromet Supervisor Alfred Ellison (right), poses with his son, Olympian Brady Ellison who is holding the silver medal he had just been awarded as a member of the U.S. Men's Archery Team.