Southeastern Illinois College’s national championship archery team will host its first high school 3D archery tournament on Friday, May 1, 12:00-4:00 p.m., according to SIC head archery coach Archie Blair.

“We think this will be the largest high school invitational archery tournament in Southern Illinois,” said Blair. The college is expecting as many as 19 high schools from the area to participate.

Blair is preparing for some 60 high school students to compete for trophies in top men’s archer and top women’s archer. The college’s 15-target course will include both small and large 3D game animals and will present a challenging afternoon for shooters.

“The men’s division will compete at a maximum distance of 40 yards, while the women will shoot within a maximum distance of 30 yards. All distances will be unknown to the shooters,” stated Darin DeNeal, one of two shooting coaches for SIC.

According to Roger Snodgrass, shooting coach and bow technician for the college, Friday’s event will give the three coaches a chance to preview the high school talent the area has to offer.

“In many ways, the results from this tournament will help us determine who we may want to recruit for our collegiate team this fall and in the future,” said Snodgrass.

SIC’s archery team has laid claim to eight national championships and 12 All-Americans in just three years, competing against varsity squads from major Division I colleges and universities.