

2016 NORTH DAKOTA AND MINNESOTA JUNIOR OLYMPIC STATE CHAMPIONSHIP - PISTOL

January 10, 2016

Many people go a long way out of their way in order to make this match the best possible opportunity for our junior shooters to earn an invitation to compete in the 2016 Junior Olympic National Championships. Each of you who competed in this match should offer a hearty thank you to your coaches, local shooting clubs and to your parents. The efforts of parents and coaches throughout the year create the foundation that allows each competitor the opportunity to improve skills and to be prepared for this qualification match. We were again able to offer competition in the disciplines of Air Pistol and Sport Pistol. Once again, Eric Pueppke provided equipment and management for the Sport Pistol match. He is a shining example of just how essential and effective individuals are to the success of this Junior Olympic Selection Match and to the shooting sports in North Dakota. Thanks to everyone who helped us during the match and with range cleanup.

This is the second year we have hosted the Minnesota JOSCA Air Pistol & Sport Pistol Championships as well as the North Dakota JOSCA Air Pistol & Sport Pistol Championships. This affords those competitors who travel to our match from Minnesota a chance to qualify for the Junior Olympic National Championships as a Minnesota State Champion in addition to their opportunity to secure an invitation as an open qualifier. By the way, this year, with 14 young men and young women firing the air pistol matches, we were able to do this in one common relay here in Devils Lake, ND in lieu of the 2 relays that would have been necessary in Minot. Also, firing the Pistol JO's here rather than in Minot made the Minnesota and North Dakota competitors' trip to and from the matches a lot shorter and much more economical.

Our Sport Pistol matches were fired in two relays by 9 junior men and women up from a single line of 5 last year. Cade Haiby, Blackduck, MN is the Minnesota Men's Sport Pistol Champion again this year with a fine score of 547 and Luke Simon, Fargo, ND, repeats as the North Dakota Men's Champion with a 513. Each of these young men earned the opportunity to compete in the 2016 Junior Olympic National Sport Pistol Championship.

Hannah Walsh earned the North Dakota Women's Sport Pistol Gold with a qualifying score of 508 earning a trip to Colorado Springs to compete in the 2016 Junior Olympic National Championships. Young Kaytlin Haiby earned the Gold in the Minnesota Women's Sport Pistol event with her 397/600. Although this score was not enough to qualify under the current criteria set by USA Shooting, it is a fine score for a J3 shooter.

Luke Simon with his 541/600 earned the North Dakota Men's Air Pistol Gold Medal. Hannah Walsh was able to fire a score of 329/400 to earn the North Dakota Women's Air Pistol Gold Medal. These are each State Qualifying scores.

Our Minnesota State Men's Air Pistol Gold Medalist is Brett Carlson, Bemidji, MN, with his 520/600. This was a very tough match between the 3 young men from Minnesota who finished with virtually the same score (one point and a tie breaker apart). Who can deny that every shot counts? This year, Megan Hanson, Bemidji, MN, with her 327/400 earned Women's Gold. These are both qualifying scores and earn them invitations to compete in the Junior Olympic National Air Pistol Championships.

Congratulations to each one of you who competed. Whether or not you fired a great score, we hope that each one of you had a great time and learned something that will help you to shoot better in the future. We hope that everyone had a great experience at the match, and we look forward to seeing you again soon. If you can find your way to the North Dakota Shooting Sports Association Annual Meeting and Banquet in Fargo, ND on Saturday, January 30, 2016, we will see you there. Connie and I are so busy running the matches that we do not have much time to visit with many of you, and we regret that. The Orion Scoring System has helped a lot, but there are a lot of details that keep us busy. We will do it again in Minot, ND for the Rifle JO's next weekend, January 16 & 17, 2016.

We hope that you will all find and seize opportunity for some perfect practice and fun over the next year to improve your skills in preparation for this match in 2017. We look forward to seeing you all then.

Rick & Connie Jorgenson

You will not get where you want to go with a frown or by beating up on yourself. Persistent positive effort combined with a good attitude and self-control will help you earn success. Smile! – Rick Jorgenson

Lake Region Shooting Sports Association
Devils Lake, ND