

THE TARGET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

First Electronic Edition of Our NDSSA Newsletter

Because nearly all of our members are connected to the internet and have email addresses, at our 2017 annual meeting our NDSSA membership has voted to stop paper mailing of our Newsletter. This is the inaugural edition of our electronic newsletter, and we hope that you find it enjoyable and useful.

We have a selection of interviews for you to enjoy in this edition, and they are available by the efforts of our President Rand McLeod and, of course, those who were kind enough to participate. I found them very enjoyable and informative. If you are a junior or senior in high school contemplating college and wish to continue shooting either on a college team or as a member of a college shooting club, you will find some insight about what it takes to get an education and enjoy shooting competition on the collegiate level at the same time.

Our North Dakota junior competitors have enjoyed a great deal of success this year, and that success will be the topic of our next edition which will follow this one shortly. I would appreciate any of you, who have information about the success that our junior shooters have enjoyed, providing me with details about their accomplishments so that we can celebrate those accomplishments in our next edition. We have young people who have set new national records and who have won individual and team national championships. I think that we would all enjoy reading about their accomplishments. So, please send me the information that you have so that I can format it to appear in our next newsletter. Send me whatever you have ASAP, as I plan to publish the next issue before Christmas, if at all possible.

That edition will contain information about our 2018 NDSSA Annual Meeting which will take place at the Ramada Inn Motel, Grand Forks, ND on January 27, 2018. We hope that you will all plan to attend. We will induct Mr. James Shulind to our North Dakota Marksmanship Hall of Fame. Our speaker at the Annual Meeting Banquet will be Roy McLain of the Georgia Youth Shooting Sports Foundation. This foundation is one of the most successful youth shooting support foundations in the United States. Roy is a Level 3 rifle coach and active in the Ole Mill Shooting Range. We expect that he will offer some very useful insight into the operation of a successful shooting sports program.

Our outdoor competitive shooting season here in North Dakota is now only active for those few dedicated individuals who are hardy enough to compete in the weather available to us in the late fall and winter, which is rarely warm by anyone's definition. I know that Tom Reiten plans a reenactment of the World War II Battle of Hurtgen Forest at the Forks Rifle Club on December 2, 2017, so the outdoor season is not completely over. Get your cold weather gear and period rifle and ammo together and join Tom. After all, we live in North Dakota, and December 2nd shouldn't be too cold for some fun shooting outdoors.

To start off this issue, we have examples of how much fun outdoor rifle competition can be in North Dakota:

2017 Perry on the Prairie

We started the match on Friday, June 16, at 11:00 AM with 8 shooters and ran two relays in beautiful weather. The wind flags were hanging on the poles. Standing at 200 was won by Expert Tom Headrick of Bismarck showing the rest of us how it's done with a 191-1x. Sitting was a battle between Russ Theurer and Coby, both with 200-11x. Russ winning the tie by a 6x clean 200 standing. The 300 yard line was ruled by Duane Holien of Cando shooting a 600-34x over three days for a new prone conventional match record!! The 600 yard line, on Day 1, was owned by Ryan Holien shooting an incredible 200-15x to secure his Day 1 win with an aggregate of 780-34x! (Continued on Page 3)

Editorially Speaking

As I write this, I have finally found time and the inclination to get this issue of the Target completed. Thank you all for your patience. I have again enjoyed a very busy summer. Man, how time flies, when you are having fun in the sun. I know that some of you enjoyed some substantial success in the shooting sports this year, and I would like to publish some details about that success in our next issue.

As I said on page one, many of you have information about National records set, National championships won, etc. You all know who you are. I challenge you to put that information into an email and send it to me ASAP.

Our 2017 late fall/winter schedule of events will start off with the match in Ayr on November 18, 2017. Get your airgun out and plan to attend.

It sounds like the National matches next year will find the NRA and CMP working together to put on a more useful National match schedule. We do not know if they are done adjusting their schedules, but they say that they plan to co-ordinate rather than butt heads. Keep an eye on the match schedule available on our NDSSA website for up-to-date information on matches in North Dakota.

With this electronic format, we can offer you far more content. While we will not always offer more content, we will sure try to do so. This issue contains an interesting mix of topics. Again, I hope that you enjoy them. Thanks to Rand McLeod, Tom Reiten and Coby Dagleish for the articles in this issue.

Again, if any of you have what you think is an important thought about the shooting sports in North Dakota, write it down and email it to me.

During the next year, volunteer to help our match directors and coaches who make the matches possible. Almost all of our match directors would welcome your help, and you will learn more about what it takes to put on a good match. I think you will enjoy yourselves while you help.

Of all tyrannies, a tyranny exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end, for they do so with the approval of their own conscience. - C. S. LEWIS

NDSSA is a small organization that gets a lot of good things done. We are always searching for people to **join us** as members or officers. If any of you have a prospective member, share your copy of our newsletter or help them fill out the membership application that is on page 5 and send it in to **P O Box 228, BISMARCK ND 58502-0228**.

"If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month."
— [Theodore Roosevelt](#)

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Perry on the Prairie (Continued from Page 1)

Gaining two shooters, Day 2 started like Day 1 sunny, nice and flags pointing at the ground. Russ overcame a lug breaking off his bolt on Day 1 (during 300 RF) to win standing on Day 2 with a 197-7x.

Aaron Guliuzza of Aberdeen, SD joined us on Day 2 to win sitting rapid-fire at 200 with a 198-8x. 300 was Duane's again with 200-13x. Duane also was MW at 600 on Day 2 with a 199-11x, but his aggregate score of 782-37x was short. Russ won the match with his standing score and held his own the rest of the way to win Day 2 with an outstanding 788-34x.

Day 3 continued with fair weather and calm winds during the beginning of the match. Duane took the 200 yard line with a 189-1x standing and 200-5x sitting rimfire. Then at 300, Duane again fired a clean score of 200-10x. The 600 yard line on Day 3 included our only inclement weather of the weekend with a steady light mist falling, but being Highpower shooters, we toughed it out. Tom Thompson prevailed with 200-7x for MW at 600. I (Coby) shot a 198-7x for 1st High Master and Duane held his own with a 197-10x dropping only 3 points after standing for the Day 3 aggregate win with an outstanding 786-26x. The Grand Aggregate was clearly won by Duane Holien with a 2343-92x. Tom Thompson was 2nd with 2320-87x, and Russ Theurer was 3rd with 2311-85x in spite of his train wreck at 300 on Day 1. Way to hang in there and overcome adversity!

The Perry on the Prairie Trophy Match was developed in order to give shooters who might not be able to experience Camp Perry an opportunity to experience a similar course of fire here in North Dakota and practice up the weekend before the North Dakota State Championship match. This year's match did not disappoint. We had one shooter, Dave Hintz, who went from Marksman to Expert skipping Sharpshooter. One shooter, Tom Hedrick, went from EX to Master and one Master shooter, Ryan Holien, is now a High Master. The conditions in Rolla commonly allow shooters the opportunity to shoot excellent scores under weather conditions not always available elsewhere in North Dakota. If you want to shoot personal bests, come to Rolla.

Some of this year's highlights reported to me are Ryan Holien 200-15x at 600 and 780-34x aggregate score. Duane's 600-34x 300 RF Aggregate, my 400-21x RF Aggregate was the first ever for me. John Lenarz shot a 728-7x for a personal best. I strongly encourage anyone who wants to hone their marksmanship skills to make plans to take in all three days next year and watch their scores go up and up. I would love to see this match grow and grow. Thanks to all who attended and hope to see you all on the range!

Submitted by Coby Dalgleish

THE EXTRA MILE by Tom Reiten

One hundred years ago this April, the United States of America declared war on Germany and the other Central Powers. It was America's entry into World War I, "The Great War". Millions of lives had already been lost by the combatants, in what would be termed the debut of modern warfare. World War I saw the introduction, on large scale, of machine guns, tanks, combat aircraft, aerial bombing and the use of poison gas to the battlefield. Trucks and automobiles also played an important role in logistics and communications, though horses and wagons continued to play a major role. The United States military was present for a mere eighteen months prior to the armistice, but played a key role in bringing the slaughter in Europe to an end. The other combatants had been fighting since 1914 and neither had the resources to bring the battle to a conclusion. Like punch drunken boxers in a bare knuckle fight they were hanging on to one another throwing ineffectual punches. Each punch thrown resulted in the death or wounding of tens of thousands of men. The American military was enough to swing the balance over to the side of the Allies, primarily, Britain and France. However, the issues behind the conflict were not resolved and continued to fester. Twenty years later we were once again facing a war in Europe, World War II.

When the Forks Rifle Club started holding as-issued military rifle matches, it provided shooters with the opportunity to compete with the firearms that were used in these world conflicts. Having been fascinated with all manner of firearms from an early age, for me, it was a natural progression. In the 1970s I had gotten involved in competing with muzzleloading rifles and pistols from the 1840s through the Civil War. I was a member of the Coon 'n Crocket Muzzleloaders, and competed in the rendezvous, but I never was a buckskinner.

Next came the cowboy era and cowboy action shooting. Growing up watching westerns in the fifties and sixties, what red-blooded American boy could resist the call of cowboy action shooting? However, clothing was no longer optional. Not that you could shoot in the buff, but you had to have some minimum western attire; hat, Levis and boots would suffice. Then you had to choose an alias, which led to a persona, which in turn lead to a particular time from the Civil War to 1900, "the cowboy era". In my case, it was "Ole Gophertail", an early settler in the Petersburg area who, during the 1880s and 90s, made his cash money shooting, snaring or trapping gophers (Richardson ground squirrels) for the bounty the county paid. As your character developed, so did the firearms and gear used to match the period. One

might argue that it was the other way around, but in either case you researched the time period for clothing, gear and firearms. In the process, you learned a lot about the “Cowboy Era”, that wasn’t necessarily what you saw as a youth on the TV or silver screen. Yes, I am still playing cowboy.

Having been shooting high power rifle for “more” than forty years and collecting firearms for even longer, wild horses couldn’t hold be back. (Sorry, it is a cowboy thing). As soon as the Civilian Marksmanship Program introduced the as-issued military rifle match format in the John C. Garand Match, I was on it and at the very next club board meeting, I was pitching it to the somewhat skeptical high power shooters. I was not alone in my interest and soon we held our first vintage match. That first match was just about rained out. The rain finally stopped, but the wind just increased. We shot the vintage military rifle match and then went right into our first vintage sniper rifle team match. There were only a few of us. Regular infantry rifles were available, but as-issued sniper rifles were far and few between, but it was interesting. The old Weaver 330 on my Springfield 03A4 had nowhere near the windage adjustment even if I wanted to subject the 70-year-old scope to that kind of abuse. Instead, I just held on the far side of the number board on the next target.

Soon, we had added M1 Carbine matches to the mix and now even have state championship matches for the M1 Garand, M1 Carbine, vintage military rifles and vintage sniper rifle. As more individuals got sniper rifles, they wanted another match after all the rest of the outdoor shooting was over. Not to be denied, we set up a Battle of the Bulge vintage sniper rifle match. The match was set up loosely around the Battle of the Bulge fought in December of 1944 and January of 1945. It was our first match commemorating a battle. It was held on January 11, 2014. Since the target pits were full of snow on the high power range, the targets consisted of cardboard silhouettes in stands on the berm in front of the target pit, which were shot from 300 and 600 yards.

The next December, it was a Marine battle, the Battle for Fox Hill, in Korea that was commemorated. Again, this was a vintage sniper match. For this match, we moved the targets over to the silhouette range and shot them at 200, 300, 385 and 500 meters. It was shot the first Saturday in December 2014. The actual battle was fought right after Thanksgiving 1950. With each successive year, more emphasis is placed upon the fact surrounding the battle that is being commemorated.

In December 2015, it was the World War II Battle of Attu which was fought on the frozen tundra of Attu Island in the Allusion Chain southwest of Alaska. This battle was actually fought in May of 1943, but the wind swept frozen ground and no cover conditions on the

battle field are not too far from the Forks Rifle Range in December.

In December of 2016, it was the World War II Battle of Monte de Difensa in the Italian Campaign. In this battle, the 1st Special Services Forces, a joint US and Canadian commando unit that trained outside Helena, Montana for action in the liberation of Norway, were tasked with taking a fortified mountain top which both British and American forces had fail to take. The chosen route of attack was up a vertical face of the mountain that the Germans felt was impossible for a unit to scale. The attack achieved surprise and pushed the Germans off the mountain and the Force subsequently pushed the enemy off the surrounding peaks as well. The match was held on December 3rd, the very day that the actual battle kicked off in 1943.

At the suggestion of Kevin Fire, this year we have added another as-issued vintage rifle match to the schedule. It is the Battle of Belleau Woods, which is primarily a Marine battle, which was the first major battle by an America unit demonstrating its mettle. The battle kicked off in June 1918, with the Marines crossing open wheat fields under machinegun fire from the woods. The match is loosely patterned after the infantry team match (rattle-battle) at Camp Perry. In this case, it is a forty-round individual match with individuals shooting prone from 600 yards then advancing to 300 yard shooting prone and then advancing to 200 yards and shooting both prone and off hand. This match will be fired with as-issued WWI vintage military rifles.

This summer for the vintage military rifle matches we are going to take a page from the cowboy action shooters and encourage them to wear a uniform appropriate to the rifle that they are shooting. Half of the fun of the vintage military rifle sport is assembling your firearm and locating the appropriate gear to go with the firearm. In honor of the individuals who carried the firearms into battle in defense of their country, wearing the appropriate uniform is going the extra mile. We are going to try to capture some of the atmosphere of those times. There is no requirement or even pressure to put together an appropriate uniform, but I think it will make the match just that much more interesting.

We will offer a reenactment of the World War II Battle of Hurtgen Forest at the Forks Rifle Club on December 2, 2017. Anyone interested can contact me at info@forksrifleclub.org or 701-739-1988. The match notice is also posted on the Forks Rifle Club website, <forksrifleclub.org>.

To take from one because it is thought that his own industry and that of his father’s has acquired too much, in order to spare to others, who, or whose fathers, have not exercised equal industry and skill, is to violate arbitrarily the first principle of association—the guarantee to every one of a free exercise of his industry and the fruits acquired by it. **Thomas Jefferson**

Winter Schedule of Opportunities

Nov 12	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Nov 18	USPSA Match (indoor)	Bismarck	Delmer Dyk	701-222-4194
Nov 18	Air Rifle and Air Pistol Match	Ayr	Rand McLeod	701-219-3657
Nov 19	Military/Lever Rifle Silhouette Match	Bismarck	Jim Vollmer	701-226-4156
Dec 2	Winter Vintage Sniper Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008
Dec 3	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Dec 9	Open 4-Position Match	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Dec 10	Open Air Rifle/Pistol Match	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Dec 10	Military/Lever Rifle Silhouette Match (weather permitting)	Bismarck	Jim Vollmer	701-226-4156
Dec 16	USPSA Match (indoor)	Bismarck	Delmer Dyk	701-222-4194
Jan 2, 3	Light Rifle Match	Bismarck	Walt Fairbanks	701-751-0690
Jan 2, 3	Bullseye Pistol Match	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Jan 13	Junior Olympics – Air Pistol and Sport Pistol	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Jan 20, 21	Junior Olympics – Air Rifle and Smallbore 3P	Minot	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Jan 27, 2018	NDSSA Annual Meeting and Banquet	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Jan 27, 28	Light Rifle Sectional Championship	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
	Some of these match dates are still tentative.			
	Always check and reserve shooting times with the match director before traveling to the match.			
	Up to date information is available at the NDSSA Website. http://www.ndssa.org			

-Application-

North Dakota Shooting Sports Association

P O Box 228, BISMARCK ND 58502-0228

Also join via the web: <http://www.ndssa.org>

Yes, to protect my right to keep and bear arms; I would like to join the NDSSA and support the legislative efforts of the NDSSA. My dues for a membership as noted are enclosed.

Please return this form. Print name and address as you wish it to appear in our records.

Name: _____	Phone: _____	Interests
		<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Jr. Program <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> Collecting <input type="checkbox"/> Bullseye Pistol <input type="checkbox"/> Air Rifle <input type="checkbox"/> Hi-
Address: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Air Pistol <input type="checkbox"/> Smallbore <input type="checkbox"/> Police PPC <input type="checkbox"/> Other Membership Dues
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Rifle Silhouette <input type="checkbox"/> Pistol Silhouette <input type="checkbox"/> Hunter Safety
Schedule-(Effective May 1, 2015)		
Life.....\$500.00	One Year\$25.00	Clubs One Yr.....\$25.00
5 Year....\$100.00	Junior.....\$10.00	Club 5 Yr..... \$100.00
Make check payable to: North Dakota Shooting Sports Association and mail to above address.		(May 1, 2015)

The following are some interviews of a few of our collegiate shooters who began their competitive shooting in our ranges here in North Dakota:

Soren Butler

What was the biggest adjustment that you had to make going from a Junior Program to college level shooting?

1. The biggest adjustment between college and junior shooting is the time commitment and time management. At UAF we practiced anywhere from 16-20 hours a week and shot record days (full course practice matches) on Saturdays. We had roughly 12-15 matches a year including postseason and this is stretched from September to March, so the season is quite long and sometimes grueling. Also, once you're at school, you are in charge of your own schedule for the most part (depending on what school you attend) so time management is incredibly important. It is easy to say "I'll just practice later" and pretty soon the whole day is shot. Being organized and developing training schedules is crucial for success.

Tell us what a typical day involves with classes, work, shooting, fun.

2. Usually a day will consist of practice, classes, workouts, homework, eating, and trying to find any extra time for some R&R. Obviously we're there to go to school, but we are also there to shoot, so those things will consume a lot of your time. Homework falls in line with classes and being on a team means more than just practice and matches. There are various athletic department committees one may be on, and teams have PR events fairly regularly to interact with fans and the public. However, day-in and day-out, one can expect to be at the range practicing, in class, working out or doing homework.

Any advice you might give to a junior that has aspirations about applying to a college shooting program?

3. My advice to junior shooters applying to college would be, just keep trying and keep contacting coaches. Obviously one's skill level in shooting will be a big factor, but coaches also look at grades and ask around about what kind of a person the shooter is. Many shooters get discouraged if a coach doesn't answer right away. This is common, so just keep emailing the coaches, and don't be afraid to call and leave a message every now and again. There are so many NCAA rules about recruiting, it's hard to know when a coach can and can't contact recruits, so don't get upset. Also, have a plan or "shooting resume" built, so coaches can see your scores, accolades, averages, etc.

For anyone that may not be aware, list some of the highlights of your college shooting career and what goals you have set for yourself in shooting and your future plans after college.

4. I was fortunate to be a part of a pretty strong team my five years at UAF. As a team, we took runner-up twice in the national championship and won the collegiate smallbore team sectional my junior year. Personally I was a 2x All-American and was awarded team MVP for 2016-2017. Off the range, I was awarded the Joe Tremarello Sportsmanship Award two years in a row. This award probably means more to me than any shooting accolade, because I pride myself on having sportsmanship in all that I do. I plan on taking a break from competing for a bit and will be getting into the coaching side of things these next two years with the West Virginia University team as their Graduate Assistant.

You have spent the majority of your life learning and developing your shooting skills. It takes a great deal of commitment, sacrifice and hard work. Are you glad that your parents and Jr coaches lead you down this path? Do you feel you will need a break from shooting after your college shooting is done? Do you see yourself still involved in shooting sports 10 years from now? Would you encourage your children (or nieces, nephews) to become involved in the sport?

5. Like I said above, I will be continuing in the shooting sports through coaching and will probably shoot again very soon. I have fun with it, and I think it's a great lifetime sport for anybody. I'd encourage anyone with any interest to get involved. It's a great sport for all genders, and there are tons of opportunities for those who want them.

What you see as Pros and Cons to the shooting sports?

6. Pros of the sport are that anyone can participate, and there are opportunities to help pay for school. Organizations like CMP, NRA and USA Shooting give a lot of assistance for clubs and individuals by putting on camps and matches as well as giving grants for clubs to buy equipment. Cons of the sport are that it's kind of expensive, especially when one gets serious about it and starts traveling to the national matches. However, these big matches are crucial for shooters to get noticed by college coaches. While there are opportunities for college, these spots are limited and are competitive.

If you don't mind, tell us your major and what you hope to do when finishing college.

7. I just finished at UAF where I received a Bachelor's in Business Administration and a Master's in Business as well. At WVU I'll be going for a Master's in Sports Management.

Joseph Martin

1. What was the biggest adjustment that you had to make going from a Junior Program to college level shooting?

The biggest adjustment was the time factor. Trying to balance shooting, school and your social life is not easy. You just do not have time for all of it, so you are almost forced to pick two of the three. In high school, I got homework, but it wasn't comparable to the magnitude of the work I started to get in college. My major is Mechanical Engineering, which takes up the majority of people's time that are not even in a sport. Practice is from 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM three times a week, with optional extra practices anytime you want to go to the range. I usually practice three to four days during the week, and once or twice on the weekends. It all depends on what I can work in with my class schedule, and when I have tests or labs. I have spent many late nights at the Engineering building doing homework after a long afternoon at the range.

2. Tell us what a typical day involves with classes, work, shooting, fun.

When the shooting season is going on, which starts in early September and ends in early March, there isn't a lot of time to do much of anything. A typical day includes me waking up anywhere between 4:30 and 8:00 depending on if I have a test or an assignment due that day. I am then in class for most of the mid-morning. Between classes is when I usually try to find time to grab a quick lunch. Then I am usually in class or lab until early afternoon. Practice time is usually between 3:30 and 6:00. After shooting, I eat my supper and then usually try to go for a run. After my cardio work out, I take a little break before going back to EPS (Engineering Building) and study for the night. I usually do not have much time to relax during the week. The weekends are usually my time to catch up on homework, and to get an extra practice or two in. It is also when I get a little down time and get to relax or catch up on my sleep for the next week.

3. Any advice you might give to a junior that has aspirations about applying to a college shooting program.

I think the most important thing when looking for a college to shoot at is to make sure it is academically a good fit for you, too. The University of Tennessee at Martin was a very good fit academically for me. I love the campus and all the professors down there. I have made a lot of friends over the past few years. In the shooting aspect, it probably isn't the most sought after school. They were the only school that did not have electronic targets that were ranked in the top 20. However, I moved past that, and love the Engineering program at the school. It is also important to go to as many matches leading up to the end of your high school career, so the coaches know that you are capable. They are more likely to recruit someone who they have seen shoot numerous times rather than someone they have never met in person, even if that person's scores are not as good. It is very important to get your name floating around out there in front of all the coaches.

4. For anyone that may not be aware, list some of the highlights of your college shooting career and what goals you have set for yourself in shooting and your future plans after college.

My freshman year I made the All-Conference Newcomer Team. Sophomore year I was All Conference Second Team Air Rifle. This year, my junior year, I made All Conference First Team Smallbore, and was an NRA All-American Honorable mention in smallbore. Along with shooting, I was a CRCA Academic All-American all three years (which is associated with the shooting awards). Next year I would like to be a First Team All-American, and qualify for the NCAA. After or during college I want to qualify to be on the development team, and then possibly see where that will lead me.

5. You have spent the majority of our life learning and developing your shooting skills. It takes a great deal of commitment, sacrifice and hard work. Are you glad that your parents and Jr coaches lead you down this path? Do you feel you will need a break from shooting after your college shooting is done? Do you see yourself still involved in shooting sports 10 years from now? Would you encourage your children (or nieces, nephews) to become involved in the sport?

I am very grateful for all the time my parents, coaches, and colleagues have put in to me becoming the shooter that I am. I have learned a great deal from shooting sports that I will use every day in my future. The commitment and dedication alone have taught me that I can do anything, if I set goals, and stick to a program. I am not sure if I am going to take a break after college or not. I want to see where I am at with my shooting after I finish my last collegiate season. I know for a fact that shooting will always be a big part of my life. Eventually I

know I have to move on and start my career, but I want to always be involved with the shooting sports in one way or another. I would encourage anyone I know to at least try shooting. I know for a fact that it is not for everyone, but some people like me really enjoy it. Our sport is not very widely known to the public, so I think it is extremely important to spread the word and get the community interested in shooting sports.

6. What do you see as Pros and Cons to the shooting sports?

There are many pros, when it comes to the shooting sports. They teach concentration, dedication, commitment, and many other excellent character traits. It is also a great way to meet many great people, and to expand your resources. I have met numerous lifelong friends throughout my shooting career. I can only think of a couple of cons to shooting sports. First off, it is not a cheap sport to be in, if you are traveling all over to the National Matches and Junior Olympics. The only other thing though, just like any other sport, is the time that you need to put into it in order to become an elite shooter.

7. If you don't mind, tell us your major and what you hope to do when finishing college.

My major is Engineering with a Mechanical concentration. I am not sure what kind of job I exactly want yet after I graduate. I am doing an internship right now with Martin Mechanical Design out of Fargo, and am enjoying what I do there. I am interested in heating systems, and other things like that, but only time will tell what I end up doing.

Dacotah Faught

What was the biggest adjustment that you had to make going from a Junior Program to college level shooting?

I have had to improve my time management skills the most.

Tell us what a typical day involves with classes, work, shooting, fun.

Typically, I will work out a few times a week with the team, go to classes throughout the day, practice either in the morning or afternoon, and sprinkled in the day I will have 30 minutes to two hour long breaks. Sometimes, usually on weekends, when we are not in season, the team will have dinner or go to a movie together.

Any advice you might give to a junior that has aspirations about applying to a college shooting program?

I would say start researching as early as you can and make a decision based on the information you have at the time. You can "what if" many scenarios and that doesn't always help.

For anyone that may not be aware, list some of the highlights of your college shooting career and what goals you have set for yourself in shooting and your future plans after college?

I have been able to go to NCAAs three times so far, I have been inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, and I won Nationals in 2014 which qualified me to go to the World Championships in Granada, Spain.

I would like to get at least Second Team if not First Team All-American honors in both rifles this coming season.

I have not solidified my plans for after college. As of now, I am considering going to the Olympic Training Center next summer.

You have spent the majority of your life learning and developing your shooting skills. It takes a great deal of commitment, sacrifice and hard work. Are you glad that your parents and Jr coaches lead you down this path?

Competitive shooting has taught me a lot and it has presented me with amazing opportunities. I probably would not have gone to college outside of ND, if it wasn't for shooting which has helped me grow, learn, and make some good friends. Sometimes I wonder if I would have been good at other sports like swimming, track, or gymnastics. However, I can't do everything and it's a little late for gymnastics.

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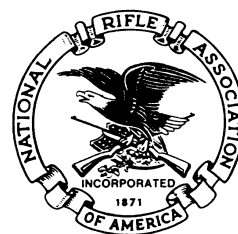
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Dacotah Faught (continued from page 8)

Do you feel you will need a break from shooting after your college shooting is done?

I don't think I will need a break after college. Maybe that is because I sat out of collegiate competition for one year to concentration on air rifle for Olympic trials. I also take short periodic breaks throughout the year. Though I do believe someday I would like to take some time to try new things and travel outside of rifle competitions.

Do you see yourself still involved in shooting sports 10 years from now?

I can see myself involved with shooting in some form throughout my whole life.

Would you encourage your children (or nieces, nephews) to become involved in the sport?

I would encourage any child or person of any age to try competitive shooting. You never know if you will really like it until you try it.

What do you see as Pros and Cons to the shooting sports?

There are many Pros: Though being moderately fit and healthy help, you don't have to be a specific height, weight, or age to excel at shooting sports. For me, rifle shooting helps me calm my mind and is a form of meditation or mindfulness.

A Con would be that it can get expensive to travel to matches and get certain equipment; however, there are ways around that issue. Many people make connections and split travel expenses, and just because there is high dollar equipment doesn't mean it's needed to excel.

If you don't mind tell us your major and what you hope to do when finishing college?

I am majoring in Chemistry and, outside of shooting; I plan to work in a state crime lab within the forensics department.