

2018 NORTH DAKOTA JUNIOR OLYMPIC STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

RIFLE & PISTOL

January 22, 2018

The generosity of the many people who make these matches possible cannot be overstated. Since 2005, we have enjoyed the hospitality of the Minot Rifle and Pistol Club. Their excellent range facility allows us to offer every young rifle shooter a quality opportunity to earn an invitation to the Junior Olympic Nationals. Their support of this match goes back many years before that when we used their old range facility to run this match. We really appreciate their dedication to the Olympic Shooting Sports.

This year, we were again able to offer competition in the disciplines of Air Pistol and Sport Pistol here in Devils Lake on January 13th. Eric Pueppke provided equipment and management for the Sport Pistol match. Eric is an outstanding example of just how essential and effective one individual is to the success of this Junior Olympic Selection Match and to the shooting sports in North Dakota. Thanks to everyone who helped us set up for these matches, and to those who worked during the matches and with range cleanup after the matches. We really appreciate the excellent work by Doc and Jeremy in the Minot range for the rifle matches. We had great food and snacks both here in Devils Lake and from our great hosts in Minot. Some may have gained weight.

16 young men and young women from North Dakota and Minnesota fired the air pistol matches. We were once again at our capacity to fire this match in one common relay here in Devils Lake, ND. If we continue to grow this sport, we will soon require two relays of air pistol, and it will really become an all-day event.

Our Sport Pistol matches were fired in two relays by 10 junior men and women from Minnesota and North Dakota.

In her first attempt, young Kaitlin Slaubaugh from Wolford took the North Dakota Gold Medal in Sport Pistol with her 518-10 to earn an invitation.

Luke Simon, Fargo, ND, repeated as the North Dakota Men's Sport Pistol Champion with a 555-7 and is our state qualifier.

Luke Simon with his 551-12 earned the North Dakota Men's Air Pistol Gold Medal. Hannah Walsh was able to fire a score of 360-1 to earn the North Dakota Women's Air Pistol Gold Medal. These are each State Qualifying scores.

During our air pistol match, Emily Yoder of Wolford suffered a malfunction and lost critical points before we were able to put her pistol back into service. She stayed composed and finished with an excellent effort to earn the Silver medal.

During our rifle matches, we had only one air rifle that failed to perform properly during sighters, and we were able to get it back into service without any loss of points.

Our young people fired some great scores this year. I often look back to reflect on what it took to earn an invitation to the USA Shooting Junior National Championships in years past and to see the progress our young people have made. For those of you who have not done that, I recommend that you do so. For a little perspective, consider that four years ago, Katie Zaun fired a 364 with her air rifle and Amanda Hintz fired a 367 as J3s. This year, Katie won the Gold medal with her 386 and Amanda won Silver with her 384. Katie is just a J2 this year and Amanda a J1. Jordyn Ewine wasn't even competing four years ago, and fired a 379 this year for the Bronze and a J3 qualifying score.

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Also, back in 2014, Brady Fried fired a 475 and Brandon Alexander fired a 494 while Brett Christianson fired a 557. This year, Brady won the Gold medal with a 579, Brandon fired a 576 for the Silver and Brett fired a 572 for the Bronze in Men's Air Rifle.

Only two years ago, Brett fired a 534 and Brady a 525 with their smallbore rifles at this match. Brandon had not even picked up a smallbore rifle at this time, 2 years ago. This year, Brett earned Gold with his 563, Brady earned Silver with his 557, and Brandon took the Bronze with his 555. Great performance improvements by all of you.

I hope that each of you who competed in this match will set performance goals for next year that will help you achieve the outcome that you would like to attain next year. If you will take note of the areas of your performance that worked well, you can work to improve even more in those areas. Similarly, those areas of your performance that fell short should be discarded or adjusted to allow you to improve. Many of you do not recognize that the vast majority of your performance is exemplary and dwell on those few shots that kept you from your desired outcome. In almost every instance, it is a gross mistake to dwell too much on the bad. Spend the majority of your effort to improve on the excellence. **Smile** when your performance produces a 10 or a high value 9.

Our air rifle and smallbore participation was lower this year than it has been in the past. 25 young people fired the air rifle matches and 16 fired the smallbore matches. Looking forward to next year, we may not be able to justify running as many air rifle relays as we did this year. With 12 firing points, we can accommodate 36 in 3 relays; 11 more than we had fire in 4 relays this year. So, look forward to a change to three air rifle and two smallbore relays next year, unless we fill them and absolutely need more.

Thank you all for coming to Devils Lake and Minot to compete at these matches. Congratulations to each one of you who competed. Many of the scores fired in these matches are just a few points lower than the qualifying scores posted by USA Shooting, and it is quite possible that USA Shooting will issue invitations in the first or second round which will include some of you who did not earn automatic invitations in this match. Whether or not you fired a great score, we hope that each one of you enjoyed a great experience at the match and learned something which will help you to shoot better in the future. 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 Grand Forks, ND on Saturday, January 27, 2018, we will see you there.

We hope that you will each seize as many opportunities as possible to enjoy some perfect practice and fun over the next year to improve your skills in preparation for this match in 2019. We look forward to seeing many of you then.

Connie & Rick Jorgenson

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