

# THE TARGET

## THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

### Joe Martin on Collegiate Shooting

(Joe delivered this speech at the NDSSA Banquet)

Good evening, and thank you for coming out tonight to the North Dakota Shooting Sports association banquet. Tonight I was given the opportunity to share a portion of my personal collegiate experience of applying and becoming a student athlete. Growing up I always loved shooting, but it wasn't until the age of 14 when I first qualified for the Junior Olympics that I knew I wanted to pursue a collegiate shooting career. At that time, my knowledge of the recruiting process and what it took to become a student athlete was limited. It is my hope that the information that I am going to share with you over the next several minutes will help clarify and answer some of the questions that you may have. I would like to start by giving you a brief background of the recruiting process that I went through.

Personally, my recruitment did not start until the summer leading into my senior year. My first opportunity came that summer at the collegiate night that was hosted during the Camp Perry National matches. During this time, I was able to talk with a few coaches and ask questions about their schools and shooting teams. I left them with my shooting resume in the hopes that I would be one of the recruits that they were interested in. My resume contained some of the highlights from my shooting career such as my personal records, match scores, awards that I had won, cumulative high school GPA, and other activities I participated in throughout high school. Fast forward a couple months, and numerous emails and phone calls with the coaches, I was given the opportunity to go on official visits to three different colleges during the fall semester of my senior year of high school. The three official visits were to the United States Air Force Academy, The University of Tennessee at Martin, and Akron University. These official visits were an opportunity for me to tour the campuses and to meet and interact with the coaches and athletes that were on the team. The impressions and interactions I had while on the official visits gave me a good idea of where the best fit for me would be. The exceptional engineering program, rifle team, and small town atmosphere that UTM had to offer was the place I wanted to call home for the next four years of my life. They were also one of the two schools that offered me a scholarship. With that being said, during the early NCAA signing period, I decided to sign my official letter of intent to the University of Tennessee at Martin. Now that I have given the brief background of my recruitment, I would like to go into detail about what Bob Beard, the coach at UTM during that time, was looking for in his recruits, and what it was like becoming a student athlete.

During the recruiting process, I had the misconception that coaches only cared and wanted the shooters with the highest scores for their team. However, I soon found out that this most certainly was not the case. Now don't get me wrong, having good scores certainly helps, but they were

looking for a "well-rounded" individual that was going to mesh well with their team chemistry.

Coach Beard explained that the scholarships he was able to offer the incoming recruits depended on several factors. These often included the number of new recruits along with the scholarship dollars that would be coming available from the seniors that had since graduated. He went on to explain that when he evaluated a new recruit's scholarship, he not only took into account the history of that shooter's scores and cumulative high school GPA, but also looked at what other activities they had participated in during high school. Coach Beard stressed that academics were just as important, if not even more important than the shooter's scores. He also emphasized the importance for me to qualify for the in-state tuition waiver. Now let me explain why the tuition waiver would be beneficial for both of us.

Each rifle team only gets 3.4 scholarships to split up amongst all the athletes on the team each year, and UTM tried to maintain 6-8 shooters per team. With the exception of one shooter on the team, the rest were from out of state. The estimated in-state tuition cost per semester at UTM was \$4,851.00, while the out of state tuition cost was twice that of in-state tuition at \$9,702.00. The 3.4 scholarships that the team had were based off the projected in-state tuition costs for that calendar year. Being an out-of-state student, I had the option to qualify for the in-state tuition waiver, if I met the prerequisites and became a member of the UTM honors program.

The prerequisites included having a minimum combined score of a 25 on the ACT, and a minimum cumulative high school GPA of 3.5. I exceeded both of these, and was able to apply for the honors program and thus the tuition waiver. Once a member of the honors program, there were several conditions that I had to complete in order to remain in the organization and keep the tuition waiver.

Conditions included the following: maintaining a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, completing five honors classes, completing one special topics honors class, attending six academic seminars each year, and attending one special topics honors seminar. Let me briefly explain what each of these entailed. The honors classes were similar to the regular classes a student would take in the aspect that it covered most of the same material, except there were additional assignments that included projects and research papers. These honors classes proved to add substantial work and were very time consuming. Being an engineering student, I was at a disadvantage, because there was only one Honors class offered through the Engineering department. Fortunately there were three other classes I was able to work into my degree that counted as electives.

The six academic seminars that were required covered the research and findings that experts in their field of study had conducted. (Continued on Page 3)

## Editorially Speaking

This issue is a further celebration of some of the more notable results of our North Dakota competitive shooting sports program. See Tom's report on page 5.

By the time you receive this issue of The Target, spring will be here. I think that we are all a bit set back by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to maintain social distancing in our lives. This virus is not going away soon. It has affected our ability to hold matches indoors and may affect our outdoor matches as well. The National Junior Olympic matches in Colorado Springs, CO are postponed, and we currently have not received any information about what they have planned for a new date. I personally think that it will be very difficult to hold those matches, unless we see some breakthrough with the fight against COVID-19.

On a different note, I have included a transcript of Joe Martin's very informative speech that he delivered at our NDSSA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet in Valley City at the end of January, 2020. Many of you missed the Banquet, and the opportunity to hear Joe and Dacotah Faught speak about their experiences as student athletes in college. Some of you are parents of a potential student athlete, and others of you may aspire to be a student athlete in the shooting sports. Read Joe's comments carefully. I believe that they will give you some real insight into the process of becoming a student athlete in the shooting sports as well as an understanding of the scholarship process.

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.

\*\*\*Thanks to James Ladwig for his continued work on our NDSSA website and to Melissa Carson, our Membership Chair, for our NDSSA Facebook page. We encourage members and match directors to forward/post their bulletins and results to that page. Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/North-Dakota-Shooting-Sports-Association-757181884660730>

"A strong body makes the mind strong. As to the species of exercises, I advise the gun. While this gives moderate exercise to the body, it gives boldness, enterprise and independence to the mind. Games played with the ball, and others of that nature, are too violent for the body and stamp no character on the mind. Let your gun therefore be your constant companion of your walks." - Thomas Jefferson, letter to Peter Carr, August 19, 1785

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**.

"The Constitution shall never be construed to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms." Samuel Adams, Massachusetts Ratifying Convention, 1788

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**(Continuation of Joe's Speech from pg. 1)**

These seminars required a 2-page review paper to be completed at the conclusion of the seminar. The honors special topics seminar required each student to write a 5-page research paper on the seminar's topic prior to the presentation, while still completing all the requirements of the normal seminars.

Failing to meet any one of the conditions mentioned above meant that the honors program would place you on a probationary period for 2 semesters. During this time, you would have the opportunity to catch up on the requirements in order to get back in good standing with the program, otherwise you ran the risk of losing the in-state tuition waiver. If you ended up losing the tuition waiver, this meant that you would now have to find a way to come up with an extra \$4,851.00, which was the difference between the in-state and out-of-state tuition costs. This one reason alone really goes to show just how important the tuition waiver is for an out-of-state student.

Now even though the honors program expects a lot from its participants, it also saved me a great deal of money. I estimated that over the course of my four years of college that the tuition waiver saved me a total of nearly \$40,000.00. A very large sum of money that proved to be worth every penny in the end despite all the extra time and work that it required.

The tuition waiver not only saved me money by lowering my tuition costs, but it also freed up scholarship dollars. This was why Coach Beard really stressed the importance of the honors program.

Being a student athlete on scholarship, I often wondered how UTM determined the scholarship amounts for each athlete. Coach Beard explained that he used a series of equations and spreadsheets to systematically determine the scholarship amounts. The categories included cumulative GPA, shooting scores and averages for both smallbore and air rifle, and community service. All the team members were ranked from highest to lowest in the four categories listed above. Each category had a percentage associated with it which then got added together to give each team member an overall score. The smallbore and air rifle averages along with cumulative GPA each accounted for 30% of the total score, while community service accounted for 10%. He then used the overall score as a factor when calculating out the scholarship amounts for each athlete.

For me, the volunteer hours always seemed like the hardest to get due to my busy schedule. Fortunately, our team was given a volunteer opportunity every Tuesday night for 2 hours for coaching the local 4H shooting team. I found that helping these young shooters work on and perfect their techniques often helped me reflect and improve on my own techniques. This also conveniently fit in with the three mandatory practices that the rifle team had each week. The available practice times were from 3:00-5:30 and from 5:30-8:00 Monday through Thursday. Whenever I could, I would also try to fit in extra practices. The campus public safety office had a key to the range that could be checked out at any time by team members which was very convenient due to the flexibility and freedom it exclusively offered to the team members. Matches were always held on the weekends which was nice because I didn't have to miss any classes like most of the athletes in other sports did. However, UTM didn't have

electronic targets during the time I was competing there, which meant that we were not allowed to host NCAA matches. Needless to say, we were on the road quite a bit. Most road trips meant time to catch up on homework, or study for that dreadful Monday test that I always seemed to have.

The busy schedule I had forced me to learn the importance of planning ahead. Trying to balance my academics, athletics, and social life was far from easy. One resource that I found to be very useful was to keep a journal. This helped me out because it allowed me to plan my schedule out several days in advance. There were also many other resources given to the student athletes at UTM to help them succeed that the regular students on campus didn't have access to. One example was the free tutoring that was offered through the athletic department. The athletic department also provided athletes with free school supplies, and even paid for my fundamentals of engineering exam.

Even with all the early mornings, late nights, and long weekends spent studying and at the range, I was still able to hang out and meet some of my lifelong friends. The hard work and dedication that being a student athlete demands made me really appreciate the process I endured throughout my college years. There were many times that I thought I wasn't going to make it through everything college was continuously throwing at me, but it was easy to see that all my hard work finally had paid off on graduation day.

It is my hope that you found some useful information from the portion of my personal experience that I shared with you tonight, and are able to pass it along to anyone who desires becoming a student athlete. If anyone has questions on the recruiting process, or being on a collegiate team, I would love to go into greater detail and answer any questions that you may have.

Finishing on that note, I would like to thank the NDSSA board for giving me this opportunity tonight. I would also like to take this time to congratulate all of tonight's award winners, and would like to extend a special congratulations to Bill Langer on being inducted into the ND Marksmanship Hall of Fame, and thank him for everything he has done for the shooting sports community over the years.

Thank you. Joe Martin

**In case of panic, sometimes it's often best to just aim at the damn bullseye!**

The following addresses those who wish to interpret our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment as applying only to "the militia":

"Nowhere else in the Constitution does a 'right' attributed to 'the people' refer to anything other than an individual right. What is more, in all six other provisions of the Constitution that mention 'the people,' the term unambiguously refers to all members of the political community, not an unspecified subset...The Second Amendment extends, prima facie, to all instruments that constitute bearable arms...The very text of the Second Amendment implicitly recognizes the pre-existence of the right and declares only that it 'shall not be infringed.'"

*Antonin Scalia, U.S. Supreme Court Justice*

## 2020 Spring/Summer Schedule of Opportunities

2020	Event	Location	Contact	Phone
<b>Apr 4, 5</b>	<b>Light Rifle State Championship - POSTPONED TILL FALL 2020</b>	<b>Bottineau</b>	<b>Gary Sivertson</b>	<b>701-263-5266</b>
Apr 4	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Apr 11	Varmint Rifle Benchrest Match	Bismarck	Gary Vennie	701-516-3427
Apr 11	<b>Red River Valley Championship - POSTPONED TILL FALL 2020</b>	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Apr 18	Blackpowder Cartridge Rifle - RIMFIRE Silhouette	Bismarck	John Horner	701-426-9305
Apr 18	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Brian Stonecipher	218-779-7802
Apr 18	Light Rifle Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-739-1988
Apr 19	Bullseye Pistol (22 cal only)	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-739-1988
Apr 25	Military/Lever Action Silhouette	Bismarck	Dallas Quamme	701-426-3846
Apr 26	22 and Pistol Caliber Lever Action Silhouette Match	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-426-1773
May 1	Highpower Clinic – issue NDSSA Rifles	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
May 2, 3	Vintage Rifle and Garand (Sat), Long Range (Sat), High Power, X-course (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
May 9	Varmint Rifle Benchrest Match	Bismarck	Gary Vennie	701-515-3427
May 9	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Brian Stonecipher	218-779-7802
May 16	22 and Pistol Caliber Lever Action Silhouette Match	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-426-1773
May 16	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
May 16	<b>2020 North Dakota Indoor Bullseye Pistol State Championship</b>	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
May 17	Blackpowder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette	Bismarck	Ken Heier	701-255-0675
May 16, 17	Leg Match and Vintage Rifle Match (Sat), 2019 Bruce Alexander (makeup - Sunday)	Rolla	Coby Dalgliesh	701-370-0634
May 23	IHMSA Pistol Silhouette	Bismarck	Ray Utter	701-595-1136
May 23	CMP Vintage Rifle, M1 Carbine and Vintage Sniper Matches	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-739-1988
<b>Note:</b>	<b>All matches are tentative</b>	<b>Call ahead</b>		

### -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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Rifle \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests

\_\_\_\_ Legislation \_\_\_\_ Jr. Program

\_\_\_\_ Hunting \_\_\_\_ Conservation

\_\_\_\_ Collecting \_\_\_\_ Bullseye Pistol \_\_\_\_ Air

\_\_\_\_ Hi-Power Rifle

\_\_\_\_ Air Pistol \_\_\_\_ Smallbore

\_\_\_\_ Police PPC \_\_\_\_ Other

\_\_\_\_ Rifle

Membership Dues Schedule-(Effective May 1, 2015)

Silhouette

Life.....\$500.00      One Year ....\$25.00      Clubs One Yr.....\$25.00

5 Year....\$100.00      Junior - Under 21...\$10.00      Club 5 Yr..... \$100.00

\_\_\_\_ Pistol Silhouette

\_\_\_\_ Hunter Safety

Make check payable to: North Dakota Shooting Sports Association and mail to above address.

(May 1, 2015)

## Junior, Smallbore and Air Rifle Annual Report - 2019

In 2019, clubs from around the state hosted most all of the NRA Indoor Open and Junior Smallbore Rifle and Air Rifle Sectionals. Open and Junior, 3-and 4-Position Rifle State Championships were held in Bismarck and Grand Forks. Air events were held in Bismarck, Devils Lake and Buffalo. The Annual Junior Olympic Qualification events were held in Minot and Devils Lake. These are junior events – for men and women, rifle and pistol – where if the individual fires a qualifying score, they are invited to attend the National Junior Olympic Rifle and Pistol Championships at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

### Other 2019 Events -

- The Bismarck/Mandan Rifle and Pistol Association also hosted a 3-Position 50 Yard Indoor Regional Championship. This is the only INDOOR 50 Yard Regional event in the country – because I think we have the only 50-yard club-owned range in the country.
- The Forks Rifle Club also hosted the Junior and Open Outdoor Smallbore Rifle Championships this past June (2019).
- Attendance was strong for both smallbore and air rifle matches. Most smallbore events had 15 – 20 competitors. Air rifle events usually had a stronger attendance. There were 25 competitors at the Open Air Sectional match in Bismarck in January, 2019.
- We need new blood in the Open rifle events. A lot of guys are getting old. As always – it's a challenge to get new shooters into the sport. Range access is always a problem, as we don't have as many indoor ranges as active as we once did.

### Plans for 2020 –

The 2020 indoor season is underway. Most all NRA Sectionals, and the Indoor State Championship are on the schedule for 2020. Go to the NDSSA web site for match dates and contact information.

We've already fired the North Dakota Junior 3-Position State Championship and the 2020 Junior Olympic Qualification matches. Invitations to the 2020 National Junior Olympic Championship are pending. North Dakota will have some kids going to Colorado Springs to attend the National Junior Olympics again this year.

As stated, all Open and Junior NRA smallbore rifle sectionals are on the NDSSA web site. The outdoor smallbore championships will be held in Grand Forks the last weekend in May.

### Significant accomplishments

There were several significant accomplishments in 2019.

Katie Zaun was the gold medalist – National Junior Champion in the Women's Smallbore Rifle event at the Junior Olympics in Colorado Springs AND she was the bronze medalist in the Women's Air Rifle event.

Katie was also 3rd in the NRA Indoor Junior Metric Sectional. This is also a national championship.

In addition, Katie was the 2019 NRA Open (adults and juniors) NRA Indoor Metric Position Champion (the Open NRA Metric Sectional).

Finally, Katie was the national silver medalists in the 2019 NRA Open Precision Air Rifle Sectional Championship – this is another national championship event.

Joe Martin was the 2019 NRA Open Indoor 4-Position Smallbore Rifle National Champion (795/800). And Brandon Alexander was 1st Master in the NRA 4P sectional and 4th overall in the nation.

Georgette Bradley was the NRA Light Rifle Women's National Champion.

In addition, in Light Rifle, Dave Bruner was the Senior Champion, the Service Champion was Ryan Karrar and the Veteran Champion was Todd Koop from Minot.

Travis Jorgenson (now living in Minnesota) was the 2019 NRA Open Air Pistol Champion.

But wait – there's a few more folks in the game around these parts:

**So, of the 3 biggest NRA Open Indoor Sectional Championship – that's 4-Position, Metric and Precision Air – which are National Championships – North Dakota shooters won 2 of them and took a Silver in the other.**

**And More – what about Light Rifle -**

### A couple of High Power

Morgen Dietrich competed in the 2019 World Long Range Shooting Championship in New Zealand in January, 2019. Morgen fired on the United States team. The US team took home the Bronze medal at the Worlds.

Drew Rutherford is working to get on the US F-Class team. The final inter-team try out will be in February at the 2020 Berger/Southwest Nationals at the Ben Avery Range in Phoenix, Arizona. The next F-Class Worlds will be in South Africa in 2021.

Ryan Karrar was the Regular Service National Champion at the 2019 NRA National Matches held in Atterbury, Indiana.

And finally, if I can toot my own horn – Tom Thompson (me) won the Marine Corps Cup this past summer at the NRA National Championship in Indiana. The Marine Corps Cup is a 300-yard rapid fire event.

Submitted: January 25, 2020

Tom Thompson **(More good stuff on Page 7)**

One of the ordinary modes, by which tyrants accomplish their purposes without resistance, is, by disarming the people, and making it an offense to keep arms."-- **Constitutional scholar Joseph Story, 1840**

"It's a nasty truth, but those who seek to inflict harm are not fazed by gun controllers. I happen to know this from personal experience... You won't get gun control by disarming law-abiding citizens. There's only one way to get real gun control: Disarm the thugs and the criminals, lock them up, and if you don't actually throw away the key, at least lose it for a long time."

**Ronald Reagan**

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The Official NRA State  
Association Newsletter



**Drew Rutherford named to the 2021 F-Class World Championship F-TR Team**

**USA F-TR will carry a large group of 22 shooters, 6 coaches, 2 team captains, 1 head coach and an adjutant as well as other support personal to Bloemfontein, South Africa in March 2021. They will have complete teams to compete for both the Richardson Trophy and the Rutland Cup match World competitions.**

**This is quite an accomplishment for Drew, and we wish him well in his preparation for the matches and in the competitions as well.**

**I once again renew my request for more info on Airgun Maintenance. I have a stark lack of response, so far.**

Aside from the email from Steve Greer, which I greatly appreciate, I have heard nothing constructive. I think that there is much more to airgun maintenance, and I am certain that someone can add to what we have so far. Clearly, there is very little available on the subject. So, I am still looking for more information.

Send me what you know, and we can spread the knowledge. It shouldn't be rocket science and certainly not a secret formula known to only a few.

Rick Jorgenson

A friend sent this to me the other day. I had not seen it before, but it fits my philosophy perfectly.

***No possible rapidity of fire can atone for habitual carelessness of aim with the first shot. — Theodore Roosevelt, (26th President of the United States) - The Wilderness Hunter, 1893***

## ***More Outstanding Results***

So, as I was finishing this issue of The Target, the NRA 4-Position Sectional and the North Dakota Open 4-Position Gallery Championship matches were being held at the Forks Rifle Club in Grand Forks. Last year, as Tom reported on Page 5 of this issue, Joe Martin was the 2019 NRA Open Indoor 4-Position Smallbore Rifle National Champion with his 795/800.

This year, Joe won the North Dakota Sectional with a score of 797/800 with 57x. This is 2 points better than the score that he won the National Championship with in 2019.

He was followed by Katie Zaun who fired a 796/800 with 67x. As you can see, there is a real possibility that we will see Joe and Katie as the Gold and Silver medalists when the National Sectional results are tabulated. Outstanding scores in any event!

35 years ago (that is 1985 for those of you who are math-challenged), John Thorson fired the state record score of 797/800, and until now, it has stood alone. Joe is now the co-holder of our state record for this event.

So, the Sectional was held on Saturday, and the North Dakota State Open followed on Sunday with some more outstanding results. Katie fired an 1198/1200 breaking Joe's record score of 1197/1200 which he fired last year. Her 200 with 19x in kneeling ties Denny Coulter's North Dakota State record set over 30 years ago (in 1984 to be exact) and tied by Tyler Linneman a few years back.

Katie also fired a 200 with 20x, of which 13 were dead center tens, to take the win in prone over Tom Thompson who only had 9 dead center 10s in his score of 200 with 20x. A couple of very hard holders can do this, and they were followed by Joe Martin with his 200 with 19x and Jordyn Ewine with her 200 with 18x and Molly Haag with her 200 with 13x.

Katie also fired a 200 in Standing and then followed it with, I believe, another 19 tens to set a **new** intermediate junior National Record of 200 + 19 tens.

All in all, a very outstanding competitive event. The Buffalo Sharpshooters won the 4-person team event by only 5 points over the Forks Rifle Club with a score of 1560-81x over 1555-88x.

I was not at the match, so there may have been some other noteworthy results, but these are the highlights as I have them. I believe that many fired personal best scores, and everyone who competed should have a smile on their face in memory of something outstanding.

Congratulations to the match directors and the Forks Rifle Club for hosting the event.

Take care of yourselves and find a way to train during this pandemic.

Rick Jorgenson