

# THE TARGET

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

### **Katie Zaun – 2024 NCAA Rifle Athlete Soren Butler – 2024 – NCAA Rifle Coach**

The NCAA air rifle and smallbore rifle championships are complete. Katie Zaun and her Texas Christian University team are the 2024 NCAA National Champions. They are also the only all-female team in history to win the championship.

Ranked No. 2 going into the tournament, TCU fired a 2385 in air rifle along with a 2347 in smallbore to achieve a team total 4732 for the weekend, beating West Virginia University by three shots to take the trophy.

The Horned Frogs, under head coach Karen Monez, also won national championships in 2010, 2012 and 2019. In addition to being the overall team National Champion, TCU also claimed the air rifle championship for the 5th time in school history (2010, 2012, 2021, 2022 and 2024).

Katie Zaun of Buffalo, ND was named Rifle Athlete of the Year by the Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association. Katie is a sophomore at TCU.

In addition, for the first time in her career, Katie was named a unanimous CRCA First-Team All-American. With her accomplishments this season, Katie is now a six-time All-American. Her full bio is available on the TCU website [Katie Zaun - Women's Rifle - TCU Athletics \(gofrogs.com\)](https://www.gofrogs.com) and it contains many more outstanding accomplishments earned during her shooting career that began in Buffalo, ND at the age of 9 years.

Katie had an outstanding sophomore campaign. She qualified for both finals at the NCAA Championships, finishing in second place in smallbore and fourth in air rifle. For the season, she ranked second nationally in air rifle average (597.39), third nationally in smallbore average

(590.77) and earned an aggregate average (1,188.15). These are amazing averages.

Soren Butler is the head rifle coach at Georgia Southern University. Georgia Southern is another all-women's rifle team. He was assisted by Abby Buesseler who, while in high school, competed as a member of the Minnesota Centershots rifle team. Abby was awarded Assistant Coach of the year.

Soren is a native of Casselton, N.D. He and Katie were coached by Dan Geurts of Buffalo, ND in his Buffalo Sharpshooters Club during their junior shooting careers. After graduation from high school, he continued his education at Alaska Fairbanks University where he competed on their rifle team from 2012-17 and earned All-American honors twice.

Soren then went on to work at West Virginia University from 2017-19 as a Graduate Assistant. He continued at West Virginia from 2019-22 as Assistant Coach. Virginia Thrasher, who won the 2016 Olympic Gold Medal in Air Rifle, was one of three West Virginia Mountaineers to capture four NCAA national titles during his stint as Assistant Coach.

In 2022 he was hired at Georgia Southern as Head Coach. As you can see, he has enjoyed continued success.

Soren was named 2024 Head Rifle Coach of the Year by the Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association.

These are truly outstanding accomplishments for these North Dakota rifle athletes.

I have attached a few photos of Katie and Soren at the end of this newsletter for those of you who may not have seen them for a while.

Rick Jorgenson

## Editorially Speaking

The third Olympic qualification matches are complete. I invite you all to celebrate the accomplishments of Katie Zaun. She has competed in the three trials and finished 4<sup>th</sup> in air rifle and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Smallbore 3-position. So far as I know, Katie is the only North Dakota rifle athlete ever to place this high in the Olympic Trials. Even at her current skill level, she experiences both victory and defeat often separated by only an hour or so. Her continued dedicated effort to excellence is a joy to watch. We have more celebration for our North Dakota shooting athletes elsewhere in this issue.

These Olympic trial match results can be found at: - [2024-Rifle-Pistol-Olympic-Selections-Results-tracker-3-9-2024-1.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

As most of you know, we have been running our LRSSA Airgun Postal over the past few years, and we are near the finish for this year. Look at the results for air rifle and air pistol as they are completed on the Orion Results page: <http://www.orionresults.com/lrssand> . We developed and introduced this postal competition over 25 years ago, and we initially had more pistol competitors than rifle. That is not the case today, but we feel that it is a great format for training and competition with air pistol and air rifle for both beginners and accomplished. We added sporter air rifle this year to include the 4H athletes. Registration for next season will be in late September 2024. Mark your calendar.

Remember that our North Dakota clubs and their match directors are essential to the strong competitive shooting programs that we enjoy here in North Dakota. Support them any way that you are able. Support by registering and competing at a match. So, get out your rifle or pistol and do that. Also, consider offering to help with the match setup and operation.

I hope to see you at an outdoor match soon.

"Firearms stand next in importance to the constitution itself. They are the American people's liberty teeth and keystone under independence ... from the hour the Pilgrims landed to the present day, events, occurrences and tendencies prove that to ensure peace, security and happiness, the rifle and pistol are equally indispensable ... the very atmosphere of firearms anywhere restrains evil interference — they deserve a place of honor with all that's good."

George Washington  
First President of the United States

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 4 and send it 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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## 2024 ASSA Intercollegiate Club Rifle National Championships

These championships were held over March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

The NDSU and UND Rifle Clubs pooled their resources to travel to the American Smallbore Shooting Association Intercollegiate Rifle Club National Championships held at the X Count range in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Championships consist of a Smallbore Rifle Championship and an Air Rifle Championship, and the Overall Championship based on the individual scores for teams and individuals in the two events.

Casia Steinhaus of Devils Lake, ND was the single competitor representing UND. Jacob Vaagen of Devils Lake, ND, Garrett Langerud and Michelle Weigel of Bismarck, ND, Sara Bauman of Fargo, ND, and Clay Sell of South Dakota made up the NDSU team.

Without teammates, Casia could only compete for the individual awards, but she did that very well. Firing on the first relay of the smallbore rifle match, she was able to shoot a 186-2 in kneeling, 196-9 prone and an outstanding 192-7 standing for a total of 574-18. Her closest competitor beat her by 6 points in kneeling and 1 point in prone but fell back by a full 10 points against her standing score. You could say that Casia came from behind to win, but she really set the winning score up for everyone to attempt over the rest of the day.

Casia is the Individual Smallbore Rifle Intercollegiate Club National Champion.

Jacob held his own and earned 9<sup>th</sup> place in smallbore rifle. The NDSU team earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place of the eight teams competing.

On Sunday, Casia and the NDSU team again fired in the first relay. The air rifle match consists of 60 consecutive shots fired from the standing position. Casia took off with a 99-6 in her first 10 shots and finished with a 99-8 in her last 10 shots for a total of 586-36 to again set a very high bar for the rest of the relays to attempt.

As it turned out, Casia's 586-36 was a full 5 points higher than any others posted throughout

the day. Casia is the Individual Air Rifle Intercollegiate Club National Champion.

Sara Bauman led the NDSU team taking 5<sup>th</sup> place individually followed by Jacob in 16<sup>th</sup>. The NDSU team again earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the teams. By winning both individual national championships, Casia is the Overall Intercollegiate Club National Champion. She was named to the first All Star team as well. This is an outstanding accomplishment for the youngest person competing in these matches. They had a tough ride home in the storm carrying all their hardware. The complete results are available:

<https://www.orionresults.com/bishopdwenger>

I think that you will enjoy reading the ASSA match report which is available:

[https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/5D0D867D-F5A4-298A-380CA7C7130CCB65/2024\\_intercollegiate\\_rifle\\_club\\_championships\\_match\\_bulletin.pdf](https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/5D0D867D-F5A4-298A-380CA7C7130CCB65/2024_intercollegiate_rifle_club_championships_match_bulletin.pdf)

Casia and Jacob have been members of the Lake Region Shooting Sports Association and Ramsey County Shooting Sports throughout their shooting careers.

I have attached a few photos at the end of this newsletter.

Rick Jorgenson

“The most dangerous myth is the demagoguery that business can be made to pay a larger share, thus relieving the individual. Politicians preaching this are either deliberately dishonest, or economically illiterate, and either one should scare us. Business doesn't pay taxes, and who better than business to make this message known? Only people pay taxes, and people pay as consumers every tax that is assessed against a business. Begin with the food and fiber raised in the farm, to the ore drilled in a mine, to the oil and gas from out of the ground, whatever it may be -- through the processing, through the manufacturing, on out to the retailer's license. If the tax cannot be included in the price of the product, no one along that line can stay in business.”

– Ronald Reagan

## 2024 Spring and Summer Schedule of Opportunities

May 3	Highpower Clinic – issue NDSSA Rifles	Bismarck	Tom Headrick	701-7415133
May 4, 5	M1 Garand, Long Range (Sat), High Power, X-course (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-220-4601
May 18	Bullseye Pistol (Indoor - 25 yards)	Bismarck	Rick Pfenning	701-426-7661
May 18, 19	2-Day Black powder Cartridge and 22BPCR Silhouette Matches	Bismarck	John Horner	701-426-9305
May 18, 19	2023 Mid-Range State Championship and Bruce Alexander Memorial (make up events)	Rolla	Coby Dalgliesh	701-370-0634
May 25	CMP Sanctioned Vintage Military Rifle and Vintage Sniper Rifle Matches	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-739-1988
May 26	IHMSA Pistol Silhouette	Bismarck	Ray Utter	701-595-1136
Jun 1, 2	ND Outdoor Smallbore State Champs, Position, 200yd, Prone	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-213-0238
June 1, 2	North Dakota Lever Action Silhouette State Champ (.22, Pistol Caliber, 30/30)	Bismarck	Tom Liebel	701-226-3620
Jun 8, 9	ND Long Range State Champ (Sat), Palma (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-220-4601
Jun 15	F-Class Speed Racer Match	Grand Forks	Fred Martinez	701-212-3383
Jun 15, 16	41st Annual Pistol Regional (Sun), EIC and Revolver Matches (Sat)	Bismarck	Rick Pfenning	701-426-7661
Jun 23, 24	Smallbore and Bigbore Silhouette Matches (conventional)	Bismarck	Walt Fairbanks	701-400-8421
Jun 29, 30	High Power Regional, 600yd Team, Garand, Leg	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-213-0238
Jun 30	IHMSA Pistol Silhouette	Bismarck	Ray Utter	701-595-1136
Jul 6	Vietnam Memorial Vintage Rifle Match and Vietnam Sniper Rifle Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-739-1988
Jul 6, 7	Long Range (Sat), Leg Match and M1 Vintage Match (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-220-4601
Jul 12, 13, 14	Perry on the Prairie High Power, 3 times X-course and Garand Match	Rolla	Coby Dalgliesh	701-370-0634
Jul 14	Annual Gordy Linnell Memorial Shoot	Grand Forks	Justin Uhler	218-779-5891
Jul 20	Varmint Rifle Benchrest Match	Bismarck	Doug Kitzan	701-214-1417
Jul 20, 21	Approved F-Class Mid-Range Prone Match	Grand Forks	Fred Martinez	701-212-3383

**-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 \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

- Interests
- \_\_\_ Legislation \_\_\_ Jr. Program
  - \_\_\_ Hunting \_\_\_ Conservation
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  - \_\_\_ Air Pistol \_\_\_ Smallbore
  - \_\_\_ Police PPC \_\_\_ Other
  - \_\_\_ Rifle Silhouette
  - \_\_\_ Pistol Silhouette
  - \_\_\_ Hunter Safety

Membership Dues Schedule-(Effective May 1, 2015)

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

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

(May 1, 2015)

A good shot must necessarily be a good man since the essence of good marksmanship is self-control and self-control is the essential quality of a good man. Theodore Roosevelt

"Then came the gadgeteer, otherwise known as the sporting-goods dealer. He has draped the American outdoorsman with an infinity of contraptions, all offered as aids to self-reliance, hardihood, woodcraft, or marksmanship, but too often functioning as substitutes for them. Gadgets fill the pockets, they dangle from neck and belt. The overflow fills the auto-trunk and also the trailer. Each item of outdoor equipment grows lighter and often better, but the aggregate poundage becomes tonnage." ~ Aldo Leopold

## Gun Cleaning again

Before some of you were born, Don Nygord was one of the premier pistol shooters in the USA and the world. Here is a link to an outline of his background: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don\\_Nygord](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don_Nygord)

And here are some of his thoughts and procedures on cleaning written back in the late 1990s, so the \$s are a bit off:

People, people, people! What am I going to do with you? You buy these great guns, often for more than two month's beer money comes to and then when they stop working after only 4-5,000 rounds of \$100/case ammo, you get all whiny! Sometimes you send them into me, and I would have to get the crud out of them - which most of the time is all they really wanted - just a little TLC. I decided, while trying to get the black stuff out of the creases of my hands this weekend, having just removed 15 paper towels and 20 patches worth of stuff from one of these poor pistols, that it was time for another note. So, first let us dispel one of the more persistent misconceptions floating around: A dirty gun is NOT a more accurate or a more reliable gun! It is NOT the best idea to "shoot 'em until they jam!" Just as you brush your teeth (hopefully for all around you) and bathe and change the oil in your Miata, you need to clean your gun!

When I was shooting with the All Army Reserve Gold Team, occasionally Col. Jack would ask us to shoot a 2700 along with the 5 international events. We were all shooting in the 880s with the .45 and most used the .45 in both CF and the .45 matches. I always broke my .45 down and cleaned it between the CF and .45 matches! No malfunctions, thank you, and superb accuracy from this match fitted gun. Too much? I didn't and still don't think so. Just depends on how serious you are about the sport. I always started a match with a clean gun or one with no more than 10 rounds of "sight ins" through it. Well, hoping this convinces you to follow the righteous path, let's go through what is recommended.

## Airguns:

If there is any gun that can be semi-neglected it is the air pistol. (Top air rifle shooters are as anal as anything described above, but pistol shooters can take it a bit easier.) I have seen air pistols with several thousand rounds through them without cleaning pull out an almost white patch the first pass. On the other hand, one of the top lady US Champions of a few years ago had a Walther CP2 that had to be cleaned every 200 rounds if it was to group at all. But her air gun was the exception. Their low velocity, excellent finish on the barrels and the lack of powder residues makes air pistols almost carefree. For these, I recommend a nylon pull-through loop (doubled and crimped .040" trimmer cord) and a .22 cloth patch (1 1/4" diameter) and a spritz of TSI-301 about every couple of cans of pellets. Feed the loop down the bore from the muzzle, fold the patch in half, put into the loop, spritz, and pull through. A couple will probably be enough. Then, take a Q-tip and wipe all around the pellet loading area (small bits of lead are common). Use a toothbrush to brush away lint, dust, etc. from all crevices, sights, and crannies. Lightly oil any moving parts like the pellet plunger and cocking lever pivots, wipe down the barrel and other steel external surfaces with "Breakfree" or equivalent (rust spots on an airgun barrel from acids in perspiration make me want to get out the horsewhip!) and you are done. Some think you need to put silicone grease on the seals, and it isn't a bad idea to put it on the cylinder/gun fitting seal (and filling adaptor seal) during your regular maintenance sessions, but the other seals need it very infrequently (and sparingly!)

## 22 Pistols

Most .22 pistols are very forgiving, but they are still much happier clean than not. .22 firing residue is quite abrasive and there is absolutely no good reason to leave it in the gun rubbing on the reciprocating parts. The bore, on the other hand, needs very little cleaning in modern .22 pistols. I believe the often iterated saying from the small bore rifle shooters that "more .22 bores are ruined by brushing them than by shooting them." You should never have to use a brass brush on a .22 rimfire bore - patches should be all you ever use. Now, you CAN brush the chamber, particularly if you get a firing residue "ring". In the shop and with my own guns, I use the same pull through loop I use for the airguns and the same TSI-301 cleaner. Works just fine. Strangely, it seems many .22 shooters worry about the bore but let the rest of the gun accumulate crud until it stops. I had a gun in the shop a couple of months ago that "just suddenly quit working". I could barely retract the bolt on this Pardini .22. The reason: A semi-solid mass of firing residue and gummed oil was filling the frame to the extent the bolt could literally not plow its way through it anymore! I would recommend that at least every 1000 rounds that the gun be stripped down and the frame be cleaned thoroughly inside and out. No need to remove the trigger components but get in among them and Q-tip and pipe-cleaner and toothbrush them clean of firing residue. I DON'T think much of the "dip, slosh, and blow" type of cleaning.

The solvent dissolves the oil, and the suspended dirt drops into hard-to-get-at places where it stays until jarred or carried by fresh oil onto surfaces that don't need to be abraded. I prefer to wipe the dirt away and toss it into the wastebasket. Once clean, relubricate with almost any light, non-gumming gun oil. I've been using "Marvel Mystery Oil" for 40 years and it works great. Again, wipe down the outer surfaces with something like "Breakfree".

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## The Official NRA State Association Newsletter



The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks and starting on the first one."

— [Mark Twain](#)

### More Gun Cleaning CF/.45s

OK, here we need to really get out the ol' elbow grease! It has been several years now since I have built up 1911 platform match guns and when I was shooting 2700s, I was fortunate to be able to use mostly Federal Factory Match ammo. So, I got a little out of touch with the .45 reloading scene until we got in the excellent Pardini GT45s and got a hundred or so of them out on the market. I became astonished all over again at how much crud could and was allowed to collect in these guns - frames, slides, bores, chambers - all bound up with lead or firing residues and the owner's wondering why they had problems with extraction, feeding, etc. We even had a GT45 come back from a very well-known publication where it had been sent for review with the complaint it wouldn't feed wadcutter ammo. As the gun was tested for function before we sent it in (we're not totally dumb!), this was a puzzlement. Looking at the gun, we saw the chamber and the barrel were heavily leaded. Once the gun was cleaned of the lead - surprise! - it functioned perfectly. The tester later acknowledged the gun had been fired with some unknown source reloads prior to the "formal" testing, but no one apparently noticed it was clogged up from lead. The internet bulletin boards catering to bullseye shooting seem to be almost obsessed with stories about how "until I began to use 'magic lube X', I couldn't shoot 30-40 shots without my barrel being hopelessly leaded up." And we have seen some truly atrocious reloads sent in with guns so we could "see what the trouble might be." Lead composition and type of lubricant is very, very critical in reloading for the .45. And a lead filled barrel will NOT shoot well at all! I know full metal jacketed bullets are at least twice as expensive but using them will eliminate about 95% of all problems. If you are going to reload with lead, for heaven's sake buy good hard alloy bullets with quality lubrication and then test them before using them in matches. Good bullets with good lube should NOT lead your barrel. But you HAVE a leaded barrel, so let's get it clean. Here you MUST use a tight fitting (50 caliber for the .45 ACP barrel) brass brush and a good cleaning solution. I still use good old Hoppe's #9 (being old fashioned, I guess). You are going to have to "scrub" but do it correctly: soak the brass brush in solution and push it all the way through the barrel in one direction (start from the chamber and use a clean aluminum rod or a coated steel one.) DO NOT stop mid-bore and try to reverse the brush! Now let the wet bore sit for about an hour (if possible) and then wet the brush again and make several all the way through one way and draw back all the way through the other way type passes. Put through a dry patch and hold the barrel up to the light and use a glass if you have one and look for lead in the grooves and chamber. If there is any, repeat the soaking and brushing until it is gone, gone, gone! You must not leave ANY lead - it will just result in an even quicker buildup of leading and certainly you will not regain the accuracy from the barrel. Also, keep your brushes clean! And please don't use these lazy man's products out now such as the "Bore Snake". How can you justify pulling a tapered rope with brass bristles through a bore more than the first time unless thoroughly cleaned before the next pass? And never pull one through a .22 - those brass bristles aren't recommended - see above!

(Continued from Pg. 6

Anyway, once the barrel is squeaky clean, go to work on the slide and frame with the Q-tips, pipe cleaners, toothbrushes, etc. Pay particular attention to the extractor. This is the next biggest source of problems. In the 1911 pistol, you need to remove it from the slide and thoroughly clean the channel it rides in. In guns like the Pardini, dig out all the residue behind it and the slide. Once again, when clean, lubricate with good gun oil, wipe down the outside, etc. Some shooters using iron sights put on various "sight blackening" materials. These usually are hydroscopic (pick up moisture) and if left on the sights will result in rusting of the metal beneath the black residue. So, brush off completely after use.

In summary, a clean gun will always perform better than a dirty gun and will last a lot longer, have better resale value due to pristine condition, and will often mean the difference from a pitiful story and a proud smile at the end of the match. Just do it!

*Don*

Some Photos of Katie and Soren and the NDSU team and Casia:





Success doesn't make me happy, being happy is what allows me to be successful.



Soren and Abby



