

2014 NORTH DAKOTA JUNIOR OLYMPIC STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

January 21, 2014

We again enjoyed the warm hospitality and the great facility provided by the Minot Rifle & Pistol Club for this event. Connie and I certainly appreciate all of you who helped to make this championship match successful again this year. The Minot Rifle & Pistol Club range committee has provided continuous support and assistance with this match for many years now. Doc, Al and Jeremy were invaluable, and I thank them for giving up their weekend to support this Junior Olympic Selection Match. All of you who helped with any aspect of the match operation are greatly appreciated.

It took us a little longer to produce this match report and to complete the final results, as we had to recalibrate and rescore the women's air rifle event. All of the other event scoring made the trip home, but our original scores for that women's air rifle event somehow failed to survive the trip home in our Orion system. We resolved that problem and the recalibration produced no difference in the top scores. There were a few changes in the other women's air rifle scores, but we scored each of those targets ourselves afterwards to find that the Orion results after recalibration were indeed correct, and thus the overall results are correct now as well. We have uploaded the raw results for each of the matches to the Orion Results page for your review – web address <http://www.orionresults.com/lrssand> .

There are many people whose presence is essential in order to make this match the best possible opportunity for our junior shooters to win an invitation to compete in the 2014 Junior Olympic National Championships. The competitor's coaches and parents make every effort throughout the year to provide opportunities for these juniors to improve their skills. We were again able to offer competition in the disciplines of air rifle, air pistol, smallbore rifle and sport pistol. Eric Pueppke's assistance providing equipment and management for the sport pistol match was essential to its success.

We enjoyed a great turnout. We count 49 shooters for the JOSM matches (48 last year). These forty-nine shooters fired eighty individual scores (up from 71 last year). No wonder everyone was tired at the end of the match.

Whether or not you fired a great score, we hope that each one of you had a great time and learned something that will help you to shoot even better in the future.

In Women's Air Rifle, Dacotah Faught of Amenia, ND, fired a state qualifying Gold Medal score of 385/400 with 20 inner 10s. Mari Butler, Casselton, ND, followed with a 385/400 with 18 inner 10s for the Silver and an automatic invite to the Nationals. Congratulations to Lana Fairbanks, Bismarck, ND for winning the Bronze Medal with a fine score of 380/400.

Kohl Klein of Bismarck, ND, fired a 572/600 to win the Junior Men's Air Rifle State Championship event and to earn himself an invitation to the Nationals.

Joseph Martin of Emerado, ND, earned the Silver Medal in Junior Men's Air Rifle and Bennett Christianson of Casselton, ND, won the Bronze.

Macy Nelson, Arthur, ND, is our North Dakota Women's Air Pistol Gold Medal winner with a state qualifying score, and Luke Simon, of Fargo, ND also fired a state qualifying score to earn the North Dakota Men's Air Pistol Gold Medal. This is the first year in a long time that we have qualified two North Dakota shooters for the Nationals in Air Pistol.

In Men's Air Pistol, Steve Adams of Moorhead, MN posted the top score of 544 followed closely by Clayton Hinton at 538 and Cade Haiby at 524. Congratulations to Caitlin Klejeski who fired a very fine 356 followed by Katrinia Martinez with a 353 for the top two scores in Women's Air Pistol.

2014 NORTH DAKOTA JUNIOR OLYMPIC STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Cade Haiby won an automatic invite to the Nationals with a 526 as a J2 in Sport Pistol. Our North Dakota Gold Medal Women's champion is Macy Nelson. Thanks again to Eric for all of his efforts to make this Sport Pistol event happen and run successfully.

Congratulations to Dacotah Faught for her Gold Medal performance in the Junior Women's 3-Position Smallbore Rifle match with her state qualifying score of 573. Mari Butler followed with the Silver Medal and Lana Fairbanks earned the Bronze Medal.

Finally, the Junior Men's 3-P Smallbore Rifle Gold Medal winner and state qualifier is Joseph Martin with a score of 564. Bennett Christianson won the Silver Medal with his 561, and Tyler Linneman took the Bronze with a score of 550.

The substantial commitment by their parents and coaches to prepare these young people for success at this match deserves everyone's recognition. Mastering a skill requires incremental dedicated effort over time. There really is no shortcut. The parents and coach of our Minnesota shooters again traveled all the way from Bemidji and Blackduck to offer their young shooters the chance to compete in the pistol events. They offer a great example of what it takes for a young shooter to succeed in this sport.

We hope that everyone had a great experience at the match, and we look forward to seeing you at a match soon. If you can find your way to the North Dakota Shooting Sports Association Annual Meeting and Banquet in Grand Forks on Saturday, February 1, 2014, we would be glad to see you there. Connie and I were so busy at this match that we did not get much time to visit with most of you, and we regret that.

Rick & Connie Jorgenson
Lake Region Shooting Sports Association
Devils Lake, ND