

**NORTH DAKOTA AIR RIFLE**  
**JUNIOR SECTIONAL & OPEN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
March 4 & 5, 2017

Again, it was a pleasure having such a fine group of people here in Devils Lake, and we hope that you had fun.

**State Results:** This year, 37 of you fired the State Championship match, down three from last year. Last year we had 6 Master Class scores fired by our young competitors in this match. This year we had 5 young people do that, and a 568 and a 569 closely trailing. That is outstanding! Megan Hardy, our newly minted adult, fired the best score by an adult coming in 9<sup>th</sup> with Rand McLeod following in 12<sup>th</sup> place overall. It is really tough to be an adult air rifle competitor in this state.

Katie Zaun is our 2016 North Dakota State Champion with her very fine 589. Our second place finisher is Mari Butler with her 583 for first in Master Class. Brandon Alexander followed with a 577 for third place overall and first in Expert Class.

Megan Hardy earned first in Sharpshooter Class. We have some excellent scores in Marksman Class lead by Molly Anderson in first place and followed by Hannah Vaagen who earned second place.

I know that many of you improved your scores greatly over last year in these matches. Congratulations to each of you for your personal development and the efforts that you have made to improve your skill and discipline. You are a very competitive group of air rifle shooters in every class, and we look forward to another great match next year.

**Sectional Results:** Katie Zaun is our Gold Medal winner with a fine score of 393 in the Jr. Sectional. Our next 3 competitors finished in a three way tie at 383. Our Silver Medal finisher is Brandon Alexander with a best final ten shot total of 95. Mari Butler clawed her way to the Bronze, breaking her tie with Brett Christianson that goes all the way back to their second target where she fired a 96. This is another outstanding example that every shot fired in a match is important. Most importantly, even when you find yourself having trouble guiding that pellet into the 10, you must keep a positive attitude to perform at your best with every shot that you fire.

Last year, Maria Rosa-Nieves and Emily Haag fired scores that were exactly even in each of their 10 shot strings to finish in the closest tie we have ever had in our Junior Sectional matches' history. As you may recall, their tie was broken with Emily having fired two more center shots than Maria.

Last year, Mari won the Gold outright as Katie did this year, but the next 3 girls were all tied at 384. This year, Mari shared the tie with Brandon and Brett to show that this sport is a sport where gender equity is obvious.

Congratulations to the Buffalo Sharpshooters Blue team of Katie Zaun, Mari Butler, Brett Christianson, and Jordyn Ewine, who fired a Gold Medal score of 1532 as a Junior team to place first in our team matches (this is another great 4-person team score). We were pleased to have six teams of 4 this year. The Buffalo Sharpshooters Blue team should be quite competitive in the 2017 Sectional National results. So, keep an eye out for the final results.

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We were a little understaffed this weekend, and we really appreciate each of you who helped us during the match. Your efforts make hosting the match much more fun for us. Special thanks to Jacob Vaagen for his help on the firing line on Saturday and to Heath Alexander for his help all day Saturday & Sunday. Thanks to Annie Alexander for help taking registration and posting scores and of course with snacks. Leatha Vaagen's treats were well received and greatly appreciated as well. If any of you went away hungry, it was likely because you simply elected to do so. There were certainly enough snacks for everyone.

We renew our challenge that each of you bring a positive (can do) attitude to every match that you attend and to every task that you undertake. Believe in yourself. I hope that each of you learned something during these matches that you can use to improve yourselves. We look forward to seeing most of you next year. As you know, I am convinced that a positive attitude helps you improve your performance. It is legal to have fun shooting air rifle in Devils Lake, and we are working to make it mandatory. You will certainly have more fun by mixing a few smiles into your match efforts.

We congratulate these following who have received first or second round invitations to compete in the 2017 Junior Olympic National Championships in Colorado Springs:

Women's Air Rifle: Katie Zaun, Maria Rosa-Nieves, Mari Butler, Amanda Hintz, Molly Anderson, Emily Haag, Jordyn Ewine and Hannah Vaagen

Women's Smallbore: Katie Zaun

Men's Air Rifle: Brady Fried, Brett Christianson, Brandon Alexander, Sam Radermacher and Jacob Vaagen

Men's Smallbore: Brett Christianson and Brandon Alexander

Women's Air Pistol: Hannah Walsh, Hannah Morstad and Kaitlin Slaubaugh

Women's Sport Pistol: Hannah Walsh

Men's Air Pistol: Luke Simon, Nicholas Dorscher and Max Schuh

Men's Sport Pistol: Luke Simon and Dylan Markwardt

We wish all 20 the best of luck and a great experience at the 2017 Junior Olympic National Championships. I believe this is the most invitations ever issued to North Dakota's junior shooters.

For more than 20 years now, quite a few organizations and individuals have provided support funding to those who have earned invitations to the Junior Olympic National Championships. The most consistent of those is the North Dakota Shooting Sports Association. This year, the North Dakota Shooting Sports Association has again committed to provide support to those North Dakota Junior competitors who are members of the North Dakota Shooting Sports and who will shoot in the Junior Olympic National Championships. The criteria for that support is quite simple, and those of you who are members of the NDSSA have all been given a summary in the past issues of the Association's newsletter, The Target. The following is a summary:

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**NDSSA Junior Match Support Policy**

One of the major objectives of the North Dakota Shooting Sports Association is to promote and foster junior shooting programs and junior shooters across the state. Many of our junior shooters excel and reach the next level to compete nationally in their discipline. Some of you may not be aware, but for many years now, our North Dakota Shooting Sports Association has provided monetary support to North Dakota junior competitive shooters attending major matches outside of our state. In an effort to make this support as uniform as possible, we have established the criteria that we will use to provide such support in the future. In a nutshell, the three important points follow:

- Juniors, their parents, or coaches must inform the NDSSA Board of Directors should they receive an invitation to, or intend to attend, one of the qualifying National Championships.
- Upon approval, the NDSSA treasurer will send payment to the parent of the qualifying junior in a timely manner before the travel date to the match.
- Recipients of funding will agree to refund NDSSA in full in the event that match attendance was cancelled.
- These funds are to be used for match entry fees and travel expenses.

The full text of this policy is available for your review at our website <http://www.ndssa.org>. Please check it out. We have a raffle in progress to raise support money. If you wish to support our efforts in this regard, tickets will be available from our board members soon and hopefully available at one of the following matches. If you would like to purchase one or help sell them, contact one of our officers. Thanks.

It's never too late to join a great organization, and the NDSSA would be glad to have you join today. Membership applications are available for juniors and adults at the Association website.

Note the match schedule that follows:

**NDSSA Winter Shooting Sports Schedule for 2016**

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT	PHONE
Mar 11, 12	Junior 4P State and Sectional	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
March 18	Bismarck/Mandan Junior Club Championship	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Mar 19	Approved Air Rifle & Pistol Match	West Fargo	Theresa Simon	701-200-0725
Mar 24, 25, 26	Open 4P North Dakota State and Sectional	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
April 1	Air Pistol State Championship Match	Ayr	Rand McLeod	701-668-2214
April 2	CMP/USA Jr Olympic 3P Air Rifle Qualifier Match	Buffalo	Dan Geurts	701-633-5553
Apr 1 & 2	Light Rifle State Championship	Bottineau	Gary Siverston	701-243-6413
April 7-27	National Junior Olympic Shooting Championship	Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs, CO		

Earlier, I detailed the winners of the matches and celebrated their accomplishments.

I have said this before, but I think if it is worth saying once, it is worth repeating, so here it is again.

You are all winners. Most of you can compare your scores to those that you fired a year ago at these matches, and you will find substantial improvement. Even if your score did not improve, by committing your efforts to improve your skill, you win. So, get out there and win.

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Quite a few of you would benefit greatly from a commitment to regular scheduled training. I am confident that we are all quite capable of substantial improvement in our performance through a commitment to regular good training. So, those of you who would really like to perform better than you did at this match simply need to commit to a schedule of regular good training. Shoot some 10s weekly and develop a durable shot plan that will allow you to excel not only in practice but in matches.

Give yourselves some time to progress though. Do not expect to improve overnight. This is a sport that requires disciplined effort over more than just a few sporadic training sessions spread across months or even years. At some point, you will need to embrace a consistent training effort more than once a week for quite a few months in order to develop your skill beyond its present level. The best part of all of this is that training to perform well with your airgun is fun. Further, many of you can do a great deal of your training in your own home.

We look forward to seeing you at our matches next year, and we challenge you to enjoy some perfect practice over the next few months.

Smile,

Connie & Rick Jorgenson