

# **2017 NORTH DAKOTA AND MINNESOTA JUNIOR OLYMPIC STATE CHAMPIONSHIP - PISTOL**

January 15, 2017

The generosity of many people again made this match the best possible opportunity for our junior shooters to earn an invitation to compete in the 2017 Junior Olympic National Championships. Each of you who competed in this match owe a hearty thank you to your coaches, local shooting clubs and to your parents. We were again able to offer competition in the disciplines of Air Pistol and Sport Pistol. 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 the match, and to those who worked during the match and with range cleanup. We were out of the range by 3:00 PM, and that would not have been possible without the help that you provided.

This is the third year we have hosted the Minnesota JOS Air Pistol & Sport Pistol Championships as well as the North Dakota JOS Air Pistol & Sport Pistol Championships. This affords every competitor a true match atmosphere. This year, with 16 young men and young women firing the air pistol matches, we were at our capacity to fire this match in one common relay here in Devils Lake, ND in lieu of the 2 relays that would have been necessary in Minot. If we continue to grow this sport, we will soon require 2 relays of air pistol, and it will really be an all-day event.

Our Sport Pistol matches were fired in two relays by 10 junior men and women up from 9 last year. Brett Carlson, Bemidji, MN is the Minnesota Men's Sport Pistol Champion this year with a very fine score of 557 and Luke Simon, Fargo, ND, repeated as the North Dakota Men's Champion with a 533. Both of these young men are state qualifiers and have earned the opportunity to compete in the 2017 Junior Olympic National Sport Pistol Championship.

Hannah Walsh earned the North Dakota Women's Sport Pistol Gold Medal with her qualifying score of 524 to earn a trip to Colorado Springs to compete in the 2017 Junior Olympic National Championships. Young Kaytlin Haiby earned the Gold in the Minnesota Women's Sport Pistol event with her 429/600. Although this score was not enough to qualify under the current criteria set by USA Shooting, it is a fine score for a J3 shooter. These winning scores in sport pistol are significantly higher than those fired at our match last year, and represent great progress in the skills of those who have earned a trip to Colorado this year.

We were very happy to have Krista Dvorak, South Dakota resident and student at NDSU, compete with us as an at large competitor. She fired the top score in our Women's Air Pistol matches with her 348/400. We wish her luck in the selection process, and believe that she has a good chance to secure an invitation to the 2017 Junior Olympic Nationals.

Luke Simon with his 555/600 earned the North Dakota Men's Air Pistol Gold Medal. Hannah Walsh was able to fire a score of 342/400 to earn the North Dakota Women's Air Pistol Gold Medal. These are each State Qualifying scores, and again, they demonstrate a significant improvement over their scores of one year ago.

Our Minnesota State Men's Air Pistol Gold Medalist is Cade Haiby, Blackduck, MN, with his 534/600. This year, Kaytlin Haiby, Blackduck, MN, with her 352/400, earned Women's Gold. These are both qualifying scores and are again significantly higher than those fired last year to earn invitations to compete in the Junior Olympic National Air Pistol Championships.

Congratulations to each one of you who competed. Whether or not you fired a great score, we hope that each one of you had a great experience at the match and learned something that 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 Bismarck, ND on Saturday, January 28, 2017, we will see you there. Connie and I are so busy running the matches that we do not have much time to visit with many of you, and we regret that. The Orion Scoring System has helped a lot, but there are a lot of details that keep us busy. Thank you all for coming to Devils Lake to compete at these matches. We will do it again in Minot, ND for the Rifle JO's next weekend, January 21 & 22, 2017.

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 2018. We look forward to seeing you all then.

Connie & Rick Jorgenson

You will not get where you want to go with a frown or by beating up on yourself. Persistent positive effort combined with a good attitude and self-control will help you earn success. Smile! – Rick Jorgenson

Lake Region Shooting Sports Association  
Devils Lake, ND