

# THE TARGET

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

Volume 15, Number 4

ISSN: 1086-4172

October, November, December 2008

### INTEGRITY

One doesn't have to look far to find an article or TV spot on today's misguided youth. The crimes and drugs, as well as declining grades in school make many of us wonder just what the world will be like in the next generation. What about the shooting sports? Are we fostering good values in our youth involved in our junior shooting programs here in North Dakota?

I think we are. I'm going to tell you a true story, just the way it happened.

This past August, I took a team of Air Rifle shooters to Ft. Benning, GA for the Army Marksmanship Unit Air Rifle Championship. The team consisted of Kelsey Hansen, Soren Butler, Brandon Godbout, and Matt Pueppke. Last spring, our team competed in a postal match against over a thousand other shooters from the USA, Guam, and Japan. The top ten teams were invited to Ft. Benning in August for the Championship round. We went into this championship round in 1<sup>st</sup> place.

The Championship was fired over two days with two matches and two finals. The CMP folks were there doing the stats. It's fired on electronic targets only. The AMU folks run the match and they run it like a Swiss watch.

The day one match was underway and Matt was having trouble. The zipper fell apart on his recently purchased Kurt Thune shooting pants as he prepared to shoot. His leg wasn't supported as it should be, but nothing to do but shoot. Part way through the match, I noticed he had his hand up. Two of the AMU range officers stepped up and talked to him. One came back to me and said that Matt thought he touched off a shot while resting on his offhand stand. There was no errant shot on anyone else's target, no one saw it happen, and Matt wasn't really sure he actually did it, but figured that they better give him a miss. Sergeant Gray asked me what I thought. "Well, if he thinks he should take a miss, you'd better count it as a miss" I said.

I really didn't think this was a big deal. These things happen, just too bad that it had to happen at a National Championship. There's another Matt out there in the Olympic Rifle world that has had the same trouble. If this had happened to Kelsey, Brandon, or Soren, the story would be exactly the same with a different name.

Later on that day, during and after the match, I had several of the AMU Team members tell me how the whole thing with Matt was so unusual. They said that most shooters they've seen, young and old, would have simply loaded up another pellet and kept on shooting. I found that hard to believe, but that's what

they said. Matt ended up missing the finals cut and was quite a ways down the list at the end of the day one match.

The next day, a couple of coaches from an opposing team and I worked on Matt's pants. With the use of a sporter air rifle screw donated by Scott Pilkington's gunsmith we got the zipper fixed. Day two went better for Matt.

The reason they call these things team matches is because that's exactly what they are. Kelsey, Brandon, and Soren shot well on day one and held the team up. Day two all four put out respectable scores and when the "smoke cleared", our team had captured a National Championship. Remember the coaches that helped me fix Matt's pants? Their team took third. There's a lesson there as well.

So we donned our suits (Kelsey a formal dress) and we headed to the awards ceremony. This was an all out lulu of an affair, held in a large ballroom at a convention center. Everyone was dressed formally with the military in their "class A's". We sat at a head table towering over the rest of the room and the other 200 people there. Retiring AMU Rifle Team member LTC Rob Harbison was the keynote speaker. The Sergeant Major over the entire AMU, SGM Fuller, along with JB Hudson, a former administrative assistant to the Secretary of the Army both attended and spoke.

Sergeant Gray was the master of ceremonies. After the banquet, he started the evening's activities. "I'd like to welcome you all to the Army Marksmanship Air Rifle Championship Awards program" he said. "But before we hear from our speakers and present the awards, I'd like to talk to you about integrity"..... Well, you know who and what he talked about. Matt, as well as another young man in the sporter rifle match with a similar story. The AMU puts integrity before winning or losing.

Two nights after returning home from Georgia, I was sitting in my living room when the phone rang. It was the head rifle coach from West Point, a fellow named Wigger. He'd received a couple of phone calls about an honest kid. Wondered what his plans were.

I anguished a bit about writing this article. I thought about changing the names so we wouldn't be "tooting our horns". It wouldn't have the same meaning though. As I stated before, if this would have involved one of the other team members, nothing in the story would have changed other than the names. Had it been any of our other junior shooters from across North Dakota, I suspect the story would have been the same. (Continued on page 6)

## Editorially Speaking

First of all, thanks to Eric and Sam for their fine articles in this edition of our newsletter. I think that you will particularly enjoy Eric's president's message about integrity which you may have already read. It starts on page one and ends with the photo on the back page. Big game hunting and hunting ducks, geese, and upland game are an important part of many of our lives for the rest of 2008. That and work put competitive shooting second on many of our lists. Still, I hope that you will take time to plan your participation in the winter shooting available here in North Dakota by reviewing the event schedule on page 5. Again, the clubs that sponsor these events don't do it for the money. They and the match directors put their time and effort into running these matches to benefit the shooters. So, get your guns and ammo ready and head out to these matches. You will almost certainly enjoy yourself. Your participation and enjoyment are the most important payment that the clubs and match directors need in order to continue their efforts. Remember how fortunate we are to have the opportunity to take part in the shooting sports here in North Dakota. I am very pleased to say that there are a couple more indoor ranges that will be available in North Dakota this winter. The new range in Bismarck is the larger of the two and will offer a large venue of competitive shooting opportunities. The second new range is in the small community of Ayr and quite appropriately is a range dedicated to the air gun segment of our sport

Remember to exercise your privilege to participate in the shooting sports. Failure to exercise a privilege often results in its loss.

I also remind you again that if you have an article you would like to share with our membership, you should email it to me ASAP. I cannot always use everything that I receive, and that is the case with this edition. However, I appreciate everyone who makes an effort to send an article or bit of information that our members might enjoy. Your input does a lot to make this newsletter informative and worthwhile.

Ours 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.**

### NDSSA State Convention

Plan to attend our annual meeting and convention in Minot on January 31, 2008. I look forward to seeing you there to honor **Dan Geurts** as our newest member of the North Dakota Marksmanship Hall of Fame.

### For Sale

**Our Association still has a few used M-14 parts for sale on a first come first served basis:**

**M-14 Magazines --- \$35.00 and M-14 Barrels --- \$80.00**

Please contact High Power Rifle Chairman Denny Coulter to arrange purchase.

## NDSSA Officers and Chair people

Web site <http://www.ndssa.org>

President: Eric Pueppke, 14926 25th St. SE, Amenia, ND 58004  
<mailto:cpueppke@polarcomm.com> Home & Bus 967-8450  
 Vice Pres: James Ladwig, 17321 27<sup>th</sup> St SE, Argusville, ND 58005  
<mailto:james@curtslock.com>. Home 701-484-5236.  
 Exec Off: Rick Jorgenson, 4931-81<sup>st</sup> Ave NE, Devils Lake, ND 58301  
 Email: [rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net](mailto:rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net) Home 662-4760 Bus 662-5301  
 Sec/Treas: Steve Faught, 2581 149<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Amenia, ND 58004  
 Email: [rushridge2@anyconnect.com](mailto:rushridge2@anyconnect.com) Home & Bus: 347-5903.  
 Mbr Sec: John Hoflen, 2921 Winnipeg Dr, Bismarck, ND, 58503  
 Email: [jhs1h73@bis.midco.net](mailto:jhs1h73@bis.midco.net) Home 701-224-6841  
 Newsletter Editor: Rick Jorgenson, 4931 81<sup>st</sup> Ave NE, Devils Lake, ND 58301  
 Email: [rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net](mailto:rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net) Home: 662-4760 Bus 662-5301.  
 Director 1/10: Jimmy W. Barner, 1713 22<sup>nd</sup> St. NE, Emerald, ND 58228  
<mailto:barner@qfwireless.com> Home & Bus 967-8450  
 Director 1/12: Tom Thompson, 2708 Stevens St, Bismarck, ND 58503-1051  
<mailto:tnt@bis.midco.net> Home 255-4601, Bus 250-4242, Ext-3620  
 Director 1/08: Mitchell Godbout, 401 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. N, Casselton, ND 58012  
 Email: [mdgodbout@hotmail.com](mailto:mdgodbout@hotmail.com) Home & Bus 701-347-5593.  
 Past Pres: Walt Fairbanks, 5515 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Bismarck, ND 58504-9000  
 Email: [upnorth@bis.midco.net](mailto:upnorth@bis.midco.net) Home 673-3321 Bus 250-4242 ext 3605  
 Light Rifle: Terry Moe, RR 2, Box 70., Bottineau, ND 58318.  
 Home & Bus: 228-3882.  
 Web Mgr: James Ladwig, 17321 27<sup>th</sup> St SE, Argusville, ND 58005  
<mailto:james@curtslock.com>. Home 701-484-5236  
 HG Silhouette: Cathy Logosz, 9211 62 Ave NE., Dickinson, ND 58601-8534  
<mailto:dcllogosz@ctctel.com> Home & Bus: 225-9461  
 Junior Programs:  
 Tom Thompson, 2708 Stevens St, Bismarck, ND 58503-1051  
<mailto:tnt@bis.midco.net> Home 255-4601, Bus 701-221-1220  
 Highpower Rifle:  
 Dennis Coulter, 3306 Walnut St. Grand Forks, ND 58201-7667  
 Email: [dennyc@lunseth.com](mailto:dennyc@lunseth.com) H 746-6959, Bus. 772-6631, Fax 772-7932.  
 Pistol: Steve Faught, 2581-149<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Amenia, ND 58004  
 Email: [rushridge2@anyconnect.com](mailto:rushridge2@anyconnect.com). Home & Bus: 347-5903.  
 SB Rifle Programs: See Junior Program Chair. Tom Thompson above.  
 Rifle Silhouette: Tim Frank, 10 Div. St., Mandan, ND 58554-1925  
 Home: 663-3856  
 NRA Field Rep: Clay Pederson, P. O. Box 8, Morristown, SD 57645  
 Email: [cpederson@nrahq.org](mailto:cpederson@nrahq.org) Home & Bus: (701) 522-9622.

### The Target

ISSN: 1086-4172

**PUBLISHED** quarterly (four issues a year) by the North Dakota Shooting Sports Association, Inc., P. O. Box 228, Bismarck, ND 58502-0228., a non-profit organization affiliated with the National Rifle Association of America, for the purpose of promoting safety and education in the sport of shooting. The Target is provided to all members of the NDSSA. Individual subscriptions are \$10.00 a year and club subscriptions are \$20.00 a year. The editorials and articles appearing in the publication reflect the differing views present among sportsmen and gun owners, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The Target, P. O. Box 228, Bismarck, ND 58502-0228.

**DEADLINES:** Closing date for material for each issue is the first day of the month preceding the month of publication. Publication dates are: January, April, July, and October. All materials are to be provided to the following address:

Rick Jorgenson  
 Editor, The Target  
 4931 81<sup>st</sup> Ave. NE  
 Devils Lake, ND 58301  
 Email: [rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net](mailto:rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net)

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### The 1911 Corner

The topic for this edition is "What makes a match pistol, part 2". In the last edition, I attempted to give some background information concerning a match grade 1911. In this edition, I will explain what is actually done to the gun to make it match grade. As I explained in the last edition, I will to explain what is done but not necessarily how it is done. The how part would take forever and would bore many of you to tears, however, I feel that some explanation is necessary to help in understanding the process.

The first items on the check list, that I mentioned last time, involves cleaning, checking for defects and measuring the slide rail thickness to determine the suitability for a slide/frame tightening. If the slide passes this test with a slide rail thickness of at least .112", the slide rails are filed to create the same thickness front to back, and the measurement recorded. Then work begins with drilling the front ejector pin hole completely through the frame. This will allow the removal of the pin, should it break off in the hole. Next the grip screw bushings are staked in the frame as explained in a previous edition. Then the plunger tube is re-staked as necessary and the inside, top of the slide is polished to make it ready for barrel fitting some time later in the process.

Then the work of tightening the slide, as it is usually described, begins. Actually the slide and frame are both modified to create a tight slide/frame fit. The slide is squeezed in my rather large vice with shop made replacement jaws that just squeeze the rail portion of the slide as it is in the vice upside down. Long story short here, the slide is repeatedly squeezed, just a very little bit at a time, till it fits the frame with some resistance and then lapping compound is used to lap it to the frame, encouraged by a rather large plastic hammer. The sideways play of the slide and frame is now history. Next the steel ball-peen hammer is applied with polished face to the slide rails, one at a time, with a parallel bar used in the frame rail that corresponds to the slide measurement taken earlier. As these frame rails are pounded downward and on to the parallel bar of a certain thickness, they also expand out and that expansion has to be filed off. The top of the rail where the pounding occurred is then dressed with a file and sanding block and the slide is then again lapped to the frame with encouragement again by the plastic hammer till it fits. This process is repeated with the other frame rail. Now the up and down play of the slide and frame are history and the slide to frame fitting is complete. There is much more to each step here, but you would be in pain if I listed each little detail.

Next the ejection port is lowered and beveled in the milling machine with two setups. The port is then flared by hand with a Dremel tool, if that is the customers wish.

The barrel is then fit by following the instructions sent with each new Kart easy fit barrel. This involves fitting the hood to length and width and then filing off the pads on the barrel's rear locking groove till the slide will close with only a small resistance. These have to be filed based on contact made with the link lugs against the slide stop and the pads against the slide. The pads and the link lug is marked with lipstick, tried in the gun, the pads filed and the process repeated what seems like 100 times before the process is done. Sometime in this barrel fitting process the Outside Diameter (OD) of the bushing needs to be fit to the slide. If it is too small or the fit in the slide is too loose, bushing expanders are pressed into the bushing to expand it. If it is too large, I have a home built fixture into which the bushing is installed and set up in the lathe to be cut with a cutter or file to the correct size. Of course, the bushing that comes with the Kart barrel is already fit for the correct Inside Diameter (ID). Again there is much more to this barrel fitting than I am going to attempt to print here. Many other little jobs go along with it such as checking the headspace, checking the frame and barrel ramp and smoothing the junction of the barrel ramp and chamber. The list goes on. Anyhow, the barrel is now fit into the slide and frame in such a way that when in battery the rear of the barrel cannot move because the two pads on top are in equal contact or mate with the top of the slide and both link lugs are making equal contact or are mated with the slide stop pin. The front of the barrel is also held solidly because of the bushings OD fit to the slide and the bushings ID fit to the barrel. By completing this process, we have insured that the barrel will end up in the same exact place every time it goes into battery. Now, the accuracy now will depend on the interior quality of the barrel and the ammunition used in the pistol.

Next comes the fitting of the extended ejector. This involves filing the slot in the front leg or pin of the ejector so it will accept the ejector pin. Then the extractor is fit making sure that the case rim bears on the extractor groove and that the hook of the extractor does not make contact with the case. This always requires some filing of the hook area and bending of the extractor to achieve the correct tension. Wegand makes an extractor adjusting tool that makes this process simpler. The firing pin stop is checked for fit and if too loose it is replaced with a Wilson bullet proof model that is oversize and needs to be filed to fit. A proper fitting firing pin stop holds the extractor firmly and allows for consistent extractor adjustment.

Next on the list is a trigger job. Now here is where I could really get bogged down with detail, so I am going to make it a point to be brief. First the trigger is fit to the frame. Since it is usually oversize it has to be filed to fit but only so it will fit without slop up and down or sideways. Often times it is necessary to make it wider to take up the slop. **(Continued on pg. 4)**

**"What makes a match pistol, part 2" (continued)**

The next procedure is the preparation of the hammer, sear and disconnect. The hammer notches and sear nose angles are carefully adjusted using a couple of different stones in conjunction with the Power Custom series 1 stoning fixture. Permanent blue marker is then put on the sear nose and these parts are then installed in the frame and with an Ed Brown mainspring and a Wolff sear spring. The slide is installed without the barrel or slide stop and held in place by hand as the hammer is cocked and trigger pulled 3 times. It is then disassembled and the sear nose inspected to see if it is mating properly with both hammer notches. It very rarely does and must be placed back into the fixture to stone more off that side that does hit. This process is repeated till both hammer hooks mate with the sear. This, I believe, is one of the most necessary tasks that must be performed properly in order to achieve a really good trigger. The hammer notches and sear nose are cleaned up, lubed and installed again in the frame and the pull is checked and adjusted by bending the left most sear spring. Sometimes the center sear spring has to be bent slightly to achieve the correct pull and balance with the left spring. Then the trigger stop in the shoe is adjusted to allow the hammer to fall and also to ride over the half cock notch travel area of the hammer. Next the thumb safety is installed and adjusted for correct operation so that it will not allow the sear to move at all. Since the geometry of the sear/hammer relationship has changed after a trigger job, the thumb safety will generally require adjustment to be functional. Then the grip safety fit needs to be checked and will require adjustment about 50% of the time after a trigger job. The spring tension for it and the amount of travel is also checked and adjusted as needed.

Then the sights or scope mount is attached and the gun is lubed and assembled using a new Wolff recoil spring, 15 pound for a wad gun and 17 or 18 pound for a hard ball gun. The gun is then test fired using at least 3 different kinds of ammo for a total of at least 60 rounds. If there is even a hint of a malfunction, the gun goes back to the work bench for correction and the test fire procedure repeated until there are no malfunctions. Usually there are no malfunctions and the gun is just cleaned and inspected thoroughly, lubed and reassembled. The goal is to make the most accurate gun possible and at the same time to make it 100 % reliable.

There really are no secrets about what it takes to build a match gun. All the processes or steps are pretty clear. The challenge is to accomplish each task in proper order and with an ongoing effort to make everything exactly right. As I mentioned several times, there are quite a few more details to each the

steps I have described above, but this explanation is long enough. Hope all of you survived to the end.

Here is wishing you only 10' & X's and if I can be of any help with your 1911 please call me at 258-2360 or e-mail at [snmmay@bis.midco.net](mailto:snmmay@bis.midco.net)

**Dakota Marksmanship Foundation, Inc.**

P O Box 518  
Bismarck, ND 58502-0518

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**Provides support for North Dakota shooting programs through distribution of donated funds entirely within North Dakota.**

If you or someone you know would like to be a part of the Foundations effort to benefit shooting marksmanship and safety programs within North Dakota, please send us a note or contact:

Thomas Thompson – 701-255-4601  
Eric Pueppke – 701-967-8450

**N D Hall of Fame Nominations** have been presented to our Association's Board and I am proud to say that the Board has approved **Dan Geurts** for induction into the North Dakota Marksmanship Hall of Fame. All of us are well aware of the commitment Dan has made to the shooting sports over many years. Dan has not only volunteered countless hours of his time to promote junior shooting, he has successfully elevated the skills of his North Dakota's junior shooters to the point where they have competed successfully on the national level. Dan's development of a successful junior shooting program in the small town of Buffalo, ND over the last 15 years is not only a testimony of his perseverance. It is also a testimony to his skills of innovation in the development of a range facility and in the coaching methods he has used to rapidly develop and improve the skills of the juniors who have been fortunate to participate in his program.

To list all of Dan's accomplishments and efforts would require more room than we can properly provide here, and we plan to do a much more thorough job of listing them at his induction during our NDSSA Annual Meeting & Banquet - January 31, 2009 in Minot, ND. We look forward to seeing you there. You should refer to Eric Pueppke's president's message for some insight into the most recent accomplishments of some of Dan's junior shooters.

It is not too early to submit a ND Hall of Fame nomination for the Board's consideration in 2009.

**Raffle** -We have raffle tickets available. To buy or sell tickets, please contact an NDSSA officer or: Steve Fought, 2581-149<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Amenia, ND 58004  
Email: [rushridge2@anyconnect.com](mailto:rushridge2@anyconnect.com)  
Home & Bus: 347-5903.

## Winter and Spring Schedule of Opportunities

### 2008 & 2009 North Dakota Shooting Sports Association Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Phone
Dec 13	Open 4-Position Match	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Dec 14	Open Air Rifle Match	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Jan 3, 4	Light Rifle	Bismarck	Walt Fairbanks	701-751-0690
Jan 9, 10, 11	Open International Sectionals (Air, 3P)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jan 11***	International Air Pistol and Free Pistol	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jan 17, 18***	Von Bismarck Pistol Match	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Jan 17, 18	Gun Show	Mandan	Roger Krumm	701-336-7533
Jan 17	Bismarck/Mandan Friends of NRA	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
<b>Jan 24, 25</b>	<b>Junior Olympics (Air, 3p, Air Pistol)</b>	<b>Minot</b>	<b>Rick Jorgenson</b>	<b>701-662-4760</b>
<b>Jan 31</b>	<b>NDSSA State Convention</b>	<b>Minot</b>	<b>Rick Jorgenson</b>	<b>701-662-4760</b>
Feb 1	Light Rifle Match	Minot	Walt Fairbanks	701-751-0690
Feb 7	Forks Friends of NRA	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Feb 7	Junior 3P Air Sectional	Buffalo	Dan Geurts	701-633-5553
<b>Feb 14, 15</b>	<b>Open 3P State and Sectional</b>	<b>Grand Forks</b>	<b>Denny Coulter</b>	<b>701-746-6959</b>
<b>Feb 21, 22</b>	<b>Junior 3P State and Sectional</b>	<b>Minot</b>	<b>Wes Thomas</b>	<b>701-839-6075</b>
Feb ***	100 Shot Offhand Match	Halstad, MN	Dan Duklet	218-456-2312
Feb 29, Mar 1, 2	Light Rifle Match	Cooperstown	Larry Wathne	701-797-3327
<b>Feb 28, Mar 1</b>	<b>Junior Air Sectional (Standing)</b>	<b>Devils Lake</b>	<b>Rick Jorgenson</b>	<b>701-662-4760</b>
<b>Feb 28, Mar 1</b>	<b>Air Rifle State Championship</b>	<b>Devils Lake</b>	<b>Rick Jorgenson</b>	<b>701-662-4760</b>
<b>Mar 7, 8</b>	<b>Junior 4P State and Sectional</b>	<b>Bismarck</b>	<b>Tom Thompson</b>	<b>701-255-4601</b>

Note: \*\*\* Denotes a tentative date

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

Membership Dues Schedule-(Effective July 1, 2006)

Life.....\$200.00      One Year .....\$15.00      Clubs One Yr.....\$15.00  
5 Year.....\$60.00      Junior.....\$5.00      Club 5 Yr..... \$60.00

Interests  
 Legislation     Jr. Program  
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 Collecting  
 Bullseye Pistol  
 Air Rifle     Hi-Power Rifle  
 Air Pistol    Smallbore  
 Police PPC        Other  
 Rifle Silhouette  
 Pistol Silhouette  
 Hunter Safety

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

(July 2006)

**Integrity (continued from page 1)**

Would I have helped a kid from an opposing team whose zipper needed fixing? You bet! And so would every other coach I've ever seen around North Dakota.

As our junior shooters get older and go on in life, many may not continue with the sport. Life is just that way. But they will always carry some of the things they learned. I sincerely hope they continue in the sport for years to come, but if all they take away from it is a sense of fairness and integrity, then it's been worthwhile.

Good Shooting, Eric Pueppke, President



Brandon Godbout, Kelsey Hansen, Matt Pueppke, and Soren Butler

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