ISSN: 1086-4172

THE TARGET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

My First Air Rifle Match

As many of you know, ever since I became interested in firearm's marksmanship, I have focused the majority of my attention on marksmanship with the pistol. I have fired quite a few rifle matches in the past 10 years or so, but in the 1980s and 1990s, I shot mostly pistol silhouette. The first air rifle match that I fired was in Bismarck in 1994. The Junior Olympics were being held on Saturday in Bismarck that year, and my son, Travis was competing with his air pistol. As it turned out, Travis was the sole competitor in the Junior Olympic Air Pistol match, and he won it with his score of 356 (it was a 40 shot match at that time).

Tom Thompson directed the Junior Olympic Air Rifle and Air Pistol matches and had scheduled the Air Rifle Open State Championship for the following morning. Tom persuaded Travis and me to compete. Travis and I had never fired an air rifle match, but we were planning to stay overnight in Bismarck following the JO matches, so we agreed to compete.

When we arrived at the range on Sunday morning, we found that there would only be six competing. Tom Thompson was the only one of the six who owned a precision air rifle, so he decided that we would all compete on the same footing with single pump pneumatic sporter air rifles (Daisy 853s). Tom had access to enough 853s for all of us, so we were each issued an air rifle and some pellets. No gloves, shooting clothes or other common precision air rifle equipment other than a scope; a LEG match, if you will. Back in 1994, I was in quite good physical condition and had a lot of confidence in my skill with a pistol. I really had no preconceived idea how well I might perform with an air rifle, but I don't recall feeling any thoughts of failure. I was used to success, and I felt that I had a good grasp on the proper procedure to fire a quality shot with any firearm.

As we began the match, it became obvious to me that I was going to have difficulty shooting 10s, but I recall being certain that I would be able to do so more frequently as I became used to the rifle and the aperture sights as the match progressed. That never really happened, but I don't recall that I became discouraged. I just kept doing my best to follow through and shoot quality shots. I recall having to adjust the sights frequently, most likely because I would change my NPA after almost every shot, as I pumped the rifle for each shot. I recall changing my stance with the rifle frequently during the match in an effort to achieve more stability in my hold. Even with the adjustments in my stance and changing the sights throughout the match, I remained confident that I would figure out how to shoot more 10s. The match progressed smoothly from my perspective, as I continued to fire as many quality shots as I was able.

At the end of the 60 shot course, I had achieved the aggregate score of 478 fully 39 points ahead of Tom Thompson. When I agreed to fire the match, I had absolutely no plans to win. I absolutely enjoy competitive shooting though, and I planned to have fun. The match was fun not because I won. Firing an air rifle was a new

experience for me, and it represented another opportunity to compete in the shooting sports.

Today, a score of 478 in our North Dakota State Open Air Rifle match would likely take last place, but I must say that our match winning scores would be far lower, if everyone fired Daisy 853s. Some of you should give it a try some time, but that is not the point of this article.

Rather, I think that my success in this match illustrates that exercising the fundamental steps involved in the firing of a single quality shot is the most important step in achieving a quality result. Each shot should be considered a match completely separate from the final result. You must remain fundamentally certain that you will fire a shot into the 10 ring, so long as you actually exercise the fundamental steps in your shot plan correctly. You must recognize that your shots that arrive in the 10 ring are not an accident. They are an intentional result of your success in exercising the fundamental steps in your shot plan.

You must expect success rather than failure or mediocracy. As I have said frequently, you must be a little bit arrogant while you are firing a match. Again, you must expect success and no part of that is the outcome. Rather, it is the certainty that you will perform one quality shot at a time. The key word here is performance. And throughout it all, you must enjoy the process involved in achieving one quality shot at a time. Smile.

For those of you who might get a kick out of reading Tom's match report and the results of our matches back in 1994, I have attached them to the final two pages of this issue. As you can see, we have come a long way in our efforts to produce quality competitive shooting here in the State of North Dakota. Get your gun out and compete to the best of your ability, and enjoy yourself. Rick Jorgenson

Plan ahead and plan for success.

Take a look at the shooting schedule and make a plan to attend a match or all of them that you are able.

Many of you have received invitations to participate in the LRSSA Postal matches this winter, and have heard from a few of you. We hope that many of you have plans to join us in the postal matches, and encourage you to register soon, so that we can get your targets labeled and sent to you ASAP. If you need more information or have lost your registration paperwork, give me a call.

Those of us who direct matches have a lot to consider in order to put on the matches to which we have all been accustomed, and it is obvious that they will be different than they have been in the past. Social distancing and the other aspects of the continued COVID19 pandemic will make it hard to accommodate as many competitors as we have in the past. Our match directors will have to be creative and dedicated in order to provide as many of the opportunities as we would like. Support them as much as possible. Rick Jorgenson

Editorially Speaking

This issue is substantially late, and I apologize. We have had a lot going on as you all have in your lives.

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By the time you receive this issue of The Target, winter will be upon us. I think that we have all been continually set back by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to maintain social distancing in our lives. As I wrote in our last issue, this virus is not going away soon. It has affected our ability to hold matches indoors as well as our outdoor matches. The National Championship matches have nearly all been cancelled, and we still have not received any information about what they have planned going forward. I continue to think that it will be very difficult to hold those matches in 2021, unless we see some breakthrough with the fight against COVID-19.

On a different note, we have much to be thankful about. Most of us have been able to remain healthy and even compete. The CMP Home Range Matches were a great idea, and seem to have been well received. It looks to me like something like that will be a fixture in the years ahead. On the other hand, the NRA seems to have dropped the ball with regard to the shooting sports. They have not even published the Sectional results for 2020. I hope that is not something that we can expect from them in the future.

I am looking forward to running as many matches as possible this winter, and hope to see many of you at one or more of them. The atmosphere will certainly be different than in the past, but I look forward to better times.

Again, if any of you have what you think is an important thought about the shooting sports in North Dakota, write it down and email it to me.

***Thanks to James Ladwig for his continued work on our NDSSA website and to Melissa Carson, our Membership Chair, for our NDSSA Facebook page. We encourage members and match directors to forward/post their bulletins and results to that page. Here is the link: https://www.facebook.com/North-Dakota-Shooting-Sports-Association-757181884660730

"A strong body makes the mind strong. As to the species of exercises, I advise the gun. While this gives moderate exercise to the body, it gives boldness, enterprise and independence to the mind. Games played with the ball, and others of that nature, are too violent for the body and stamp no character on the mind. Let your gun therefore be your constant companion of your walks." Jefferson, letter to Peter Carr, August 19, 1785

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 5 and send it in to PO 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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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 nonprofit 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 via electronic media, email, etc. 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 proceeding the month of publication. Publication dates are: January, April, July, and October. All materials are to be provided to the Editor of The Target at the following address:

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The publication of material will be subject to the discretion of the editor. Due to limitations, the NDSSA cannot verify, nor be responsible for accuracy of statements made in articles or advertisements submitted

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Why do we compete?

Almost all of you who read The Target are competitive shooters of some type. You either compete with rifle or pistol or maybe even shotgun, and at some point in your life you likely devoted quite a bit of time and effort to shoot well or even very well. You spent money on equipment and components. You made a sincere effort to learn the fundamentals of producing a quality shot on the target. You likely continued to learn and train over many years.

ISSN: 1086-4172

At the same time, many of you were not consistent winners in matches, if you won a match at all. Now, of course, some of you did develop your skill to the point where you won matches regularly. Those of you who have earned the designation of High Master are not the majority by any measure. It takes many years of consistent incremental effort to attain even the designation of Expert or Master in any of the shooting disciplines.

And the rewards are really intangible for most of us. Only a very few have a sponsor to help defray the cost of training. Most are their own sponsors footing the bill for their firearms and the consumables and equipment that success of any sort demands.

My son, Travis, and I have enjoyed competition in the shooting sports for over 30 years (maybe 15 years longer for me). So, what drives us to continue to compete and train? I am really no longer strongly competitive as I once was 20 years or more in the past. Still, I likely compete in more matches each year than most of you. Travis is really at his most competitive today. So, we each compete for different reasons. Travis is still getting better; shooting personal bests in matches against the strongest competition in the nation and my skill is clearly on the decline.

Yet, we both enjoy the competitive shooting sports immensely. So, why is that the case? We are certainly not getting rich. We each have earned trophies, pins, prizes, etc. However, there is no way that we are earning enough from our winnings to equal the expense of competition. We spend many hours and dollars traveling to and from matches. We load ammunition, cast bullets, train for the next completion, and make the effort to continue to improve.

The CMP's publication, On the Mark, has an article entitled "How Do You Leave Shooting?" It is worth reading and explores this subject from the perspective of a relatively young shooting athlete. It offers examples of shooting athletes who have transitioned to other competitive endeavors or to coaching or even photography. But, in reading the article, you will see that none of these young shooting athletes who are transitioning out of competition in the shooting sports have really spent any significant amount of time in the sport. For the most part, they have shot competitively for less than 20 years. They have certainly not competed for 30 years of more.

It seems that many set an outcome goal that is really very high and for the vast majority of us unattainable. Many compete so long as they are supported by their parents or their college or even USA Shooting or the Army Marksmanship Unit as a resident athlete. Without that support, once they find that they are not able to achieve the lofty goal that they have set for themselves, they have no strong drive to continue to compete.

That is really kind of sad.

On the other hand, Travis and I and many of you reading this are still enjoying the competitive shooting sports as active competitors. So, again, why is that the case? Have we set our goals differently? Or, are we just too stubborn to quit?

Quite simply, I enjoy marksmanship. My goals were never the Olympics. At the same time, I have spent and enjoyed many hours competing in the Olympic shooting sports. I have always made the effort to learn what steps are required to produce a quality shot on whatever target I might be shooting toward. The process of delivering an accurate shot to the target has a lot to do with the shooters level of confidence and trust in their ability to do just that.

In order to be successful in the competitive shooting sports, the shooter must have a strong self-image. I believe that the simple effort to develop the skills necessary to become a competitive shooter acts to develop that shooter's strong self-image. In other words the incremental effort that the shooter puts into skill development over time is its own reward.

It is not any outcome goal that drives me to continue to compete at 70 years old. I have learned many of the skills that allowed me to successfully run my own business for 40 years from the incremental effort that I put into learning what it takes to produce a quality shot on target.

I have been rewarded by all of the diverse efforts that I have put forth in order to attain skill at shooting, reloading quality ammunition, casting quality bullets, etc. Again, obviously, those rewards are not monetary. Rather, the performance goals that I set and reset along the way were achievable, and rewarding in the incremental effort necessary to achieve them. These goals were not and are not outcome goals. I think that is the whole point.

Of course, there is far more to the shooting sports than firing one quality shot after another.

Coaching; directing matches; working with other productive people in order to make the sport better; working to facilitate the growth of this great sport; these are all enjoyable and essential activities that are rewarding as well.

What a great and diverse hobby! I have been fortunate enough to enjoy the competitive shooting sports for the past 45 years, and I look forward to doing so for as long as it is possible.

Rick Jorgenson

In case of panic, sometimes it's often best to just aim at the damn bullseye!

The following answers those who wish to interpret our 2nd Amendment as applying only to "the militia":

"Nowhere else in the Constitution does a 'right' attributed to 'the people' refer to anything other than an individual right. What is more, in all six other provisions of the Constitution that mention 'the people,' the term unambiguously refers to all members of the political community, not an unspecified subset...The Second Amendment extends, prima facie, to all instruments that constitute bearable arms...The very text of the Second Amendment implicitly recognizes the preexistence of the right and declares only that it 'shall not be infringed."

Antonin Scalia, U.S. Supreme Court Justice

2020/2021 Winter Schedule of Opportunities

2020	Event	Location	Contact	Phone
Nov 21	Air Rifle and Air Pistol Match	Ayr	Scott Tichy	701-840-8561
Dec 12, 2020	Open 4-Position Match	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Dec 12, 2020	Open Air Pistol Match	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Dec 13, 2020	Open Air Rifle Match	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Jan 2	Blackpowder Cartridge "Rimfire" Indoor	Bismarck	John Horner	701-426-9305
Jan 2	Indoor Varmint	Bismarck	Mike Davis	701-220-2500
Jan 9, 10	Light Rifle Match - 2020 State Champ (Makeup match)	Bismarck	Walt Fairbanks	701-400-8421
Jan 9, 10	Bullseye Pistol Match - 2020 State Champ (Makeup event)	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Jan 16, 17	North Dakota Junior 3P State Champ and Jr Sectional	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jan 16, 17	Open Inter Air Rifle Sec, 3P Metric Approved Match	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jan 23, 24	Open Air Rifle State Championship	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Jan 23, 24	ND CMP Junior 3P Air Rifle State	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Jan 23	Indoor Cowboy Action Shooting	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Jan 30	NDSSA State Convention	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-220-4601
Jan 30	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Brian Stonecipher	218-779-7802
Jan 31	Light Rifle Match	Bismarck	Walt Fairbanks	701-400-8421
Feb xxx	Collegiate Sectional, Rifle and Pistol	West Fargo	Eric Pueppke	701-967-8450
Feb 6, 7	Light Rifle Sectional Championship	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Feb 6, 7	Indoor Cowboy Action Shooting	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Feb 7	57th Annual Von Bismarck Pistol Match	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Feb 13, 14	Open 3P State and Sectional	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008
Feb 21	Blackpowder Cartridge "Rimfire" Indoor	Bismarck	John Horner	701-426-9305
Feb 27, 28	NRA 50 Yard Regional Smallbore	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Feb 28	50 Yard Smallbore and Light Rifle	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Note:	All matches are tentative	Call ahead		

-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 prot		r arms; I would like to join the NDSSA and sup y dues for a membership as noted are enclosed.		SSA.
Please return this for		you wish it to appear in our records.		
		-	Interests	
Name:		Phone:	LegislationJr. Program	
			HuntingConservation	
Address:		E-Mail Address	CollectingBullsey	ye Pistol
			_	Air
Rifle			Hi-Power Rifle	
City:		State:ZIP:	Air PistolSmallbore	
			Police PPCOther	
Membership Dues S	chedule-(Effective May 1, 201	5)	_	Rifle
Silhouette				
Life\$500.00	One Year\$25.00	Clubs One Yr\$25.00	Pistol Silhouette	
5 Year\$100.00	Junior - Under 21\$10.00	Club 5 Yr \$100.00	Hunter Safety	
Make check payable	to: North Dakota Shooting Sr	ports Association and mail to above address	(May 1, 2015)	

Highlights of 2020 (Some Really Good Stuff, so read carefully)

ISSN: 1086-4172

Some of you are aware of these accomplishments, but I expect that most of you are not. In any event, I think that we should highlight some of the more significant accomplishments of the 2020 competitive shooting season.

Most recently, USA Shooting hosted a 10.9 remote "Virtual" shooting event, and you can access the results here: https://www.usashooting.org/news/2020/10/12/1320-usa-shooting-announces-109-day-virtual-match-results

You will recognize Katie Zaun is the rifle match winner, as an open competitor. Who says that this is not a gender equity sport? The CMP hosted their Home Range series of matches over the summer/fall, and their match results are available here: https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index.php?do=match&task=edit&tab=results&match=20217

You can look through each of the match results and may find names of our North Dakota (or at least shooters native to North Dakota) shooters at or near the top.

Travis Jorgenson won the 45 pistol match and placed 3rd in the 2700 aggregate.

You will also see Jacob Vaagen was the T-class Rimfire Sporter Junior division winner. Jacob was second overall followed by Cassandra Christensen and his sister Hannah in 3rd and 4th place and by Casia Steinhaus in 9th place. Cassandra was the T-class High Woman as well.

You will find that these young people also placed well in some of the other events, so spend a few minutes looking through the results and maybe you will want to take part in these matches, if the CMP chooses to offer them again in 2021.

A few of you follow the Silhouette Rifle matches, and the Bis/Man Rifle and Pistol Club hosted the 2020 Silhouette matches at their outdoor range west of Moffit, ND. For the first time that I am aware, a junior girl won the North Dakota Outdoor Silhouette Rifle State Championship. Casia Steinhaus is only 14 years old and had been shooting Silhouette rifle for less than 3 months prior to that match.

The CMP also recognizes the top 100 scores of each year in the disciplines of Rifle, Pistol, Air Rifle, etc., and you can access these results here: https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index.php?do=reportTop100

As you look through the list, you will note that in the 30 shot Pistol LEG matches, Travis has 5 of the top 100 scores for 2020. In fact, he holds the top spot with the highest score of 2020. This is a truly remarkable accomplishment and one that I do not believe has been done before let alone by a native of North Dakota. A 294 with the 45 ACP is nothing to be sneezed at. Travis held the top score in 2016 as well.

You will see that Rob Sailer is on this list of the top 100 as well.

Travis also accomplished something this year that I do not believe anyone else native to North Dakota has ever accomplished. In an indoor 2700 pistol match at the RRRMC in West Fargo in August, Travis fired a 2650. About a month later, at the Ambridge Range near Superior, Wisconsin, he fired a 2650 in an outdoor match. Only a very select few in our nation have fired a 2650.

For the most part, the outdoor competitive shooting season in North Dakota is near an end. 2019 was a great year, and 2020 followed with great results as well. We look for more in 2021.

If I have forgotten something of note, please let me know. I am sure that there are other accomplishments that I have overlooked.

Rick Jorgenson

**** Changes in the North Dakota Shooting Match Schedule for 2021****

As I write this, we have just received word from USA Shooting that they do plan to run Winter Airgun Matches in December 2020. We have also received a more relaxed schedule for the ND State Junior Olympic Qualification Matches.

Every match fired under the current pandemic conditions will be a challenge for our match directors, and they will likely involve reduced capacity. Any effort at social distancing will likely cut the capacity of any relay in half. That is a big deal, and will likely result in some limit on the number of shooters who will be able to compete. So, be sure to <u>register early, if you plan to compete</u>.

One of the ordinary modes, by which tyrants accomplish their purposes without resistance, is, by disarming the people, and making it an offense to keep arms."-- *Constitutional scholar Joseph Story, 1840*

"It's a nasty truth, but those who seek to inflict harm are not fazed by gun controllers. I happen to know this from personal experience...You won't get gun control by disarming law-abiding citizens. There's only one way to get real gun control: Disarm the thugs and the criminals, lock them up, and if you don't actually throw away the key, at least lose it for a long time."

Ronald Reagan

ISSN: 1086-4172

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The Official NRA State



Association Newsletter



As I have stated previously, it is going to be challenging for our match directors to run matches this winter. Many of our ranges, if not all of them, will have reduced capacity on each relay. They will also have to limit gatherings of shooters in any waiting area.

Social distancing and masks as well as increased sanitary efforts will make for a very different atmosphere than we are all used to experiencing.

With limited capacity, it is very important that each competitor arrive on time and leave the range promptly after firing their match. Also, if you have registered for a match and find that you cannot attend, make sure that you contact the match director promptly, so that your place on the line can be filled by another.

It looks like my repeated requests for more info on Airgun Maintenance have fallen on deaf ears. I have a stark lack of response, so far.

I have heard nothing constructive over the past 8 months. I think that there is much more to airgun maintenance than I know, and I am certain that someone could add to what we have so far. Clearly, there is very little available on the subject. So, while I am still looking for more information, I will not continue to make this request in our newsletter.

Send me what you know, and we can spread the knowledge. It shouldn't be rocket science, and certainly it should not be a secret formula or process known to only a few.

Rick Jorgenson

I included this in our last edition. I had not seen it before, but it fits my philosophy perfectly.

No possible rapidity of fire can atone for habitual carelessness of aim with the first shot. — Theodore Roosevelt, (26th President of the United States) - The Wilderness Hunter, 1893

ISSN: 1086-4172

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

SPONSORED BY:
BISMARCK PARK AND RECREATION DEPT.
BISMARCK/MANDAN RIFLE AND PISTOL ASSOCIATION
and the
NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

January 8 & 9, 1994

LIST OF COMPETITORS:

Steve Galipeau Paul Glessing Dan Jabs Richard Jorgensen Travis Jorgensen William O'Connell Tina Ouellette Tom Reiten Brent Thompson Thomas Thompson	1511 East Bowen Box 444 1204 Dakota Trail RR1, Box 403 RR1, Box 403 530 Princeton St. 2708 Stevens St. 1207 Lincoln Drive 1122 North 28th Street P. O. Box 3041	Bismarck Mohall Mandan Devils Lake Devils Lake Grand Forks Bismarck Grand Forks Bismarck	ND ND ND ND ND ND ND ND	58504 58761 58554 58301 58301 58203 58501 58201 58501
	P. O. Box 3041	Bismarck	ND	58502

Dear Shooters,

First of all I would like to thank everyone who participated in this years air rifle and pistol matches. The turnout was a little low, but I hope we can improve on that in the future. I plan to change my program that I'm running with the Park and Recreation Deptartment in Bismarck and hopefully this will bring out a few more Junior Olympians next year. Thanks again to the staff that helped to make things run smooth - including Tina Ouellette and Steve Galipeau. Be sure to give them a word of thanks if you happen to see them at matches in the future.

Congratulations to the Champions including Willie O'Connell in air rifle, Travis Jorgensen in air pistol, and Richard Jorgensen in the open air rifle good shooting everyone!

The next big event will be the smallbore season which is just getting started, (that's for us rifle folks anyhow). Don't forget to mark you calendars for these upcoming matches.

February 5, 6	Bismarck, ND	ND Open 3-Position Sectional, State and Team
February 12	Minot, ND	Junior Olympic Rifle Championships
March 5, 6	Bismarck, ND	ND Junior 4-Position Sectional, State and Team
March 19, 20	Bottineau, ND	ND Open 4-Position Sectional, State and Team

If you have any other questions please give me a call at 250-4748 (days) or 255-4601 (evenings). I hope to see everyone at the matches and good shooting!

Tom Thompson

b:\air94.res 01/11/94

MATCH BULLETIN:

NORTH DAKOTA JUNIOR OLYMPIC AIR RIFLE AND AIR PISTOL MATCHES AND NORTH DAKOTA JUNIOR AIR RIFLE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AND NORTH DAKOTA OPEN AIR RIFLE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

JUNIOR OLYMPIC AIR RIFLE RESULTS:

NAME	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	JOSC SCORE	ND JUNIOR STATE CHAMP SCORE
Paul Glessing	129	165	167	204	
Dan Jabs	24		10/	294	461
W(111	24	39	31	63	94
Willie O'Connell	152	161	158	313	471
Brent Thompson	60	57	39	117	156

JUNIOR OLYMPIC AIR PISTOL RESULTS

NAME	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	JOSC SCORE
Travis Jorgensen	173	183	356

NORTH DAKOTA OPEN AIR RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS:

				OPEN STATE CHAMP
NAME	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	SCORE
Steve Galipeau	122	134	127	383
Richard Jorgensen	157	163	158	478
Travis Jorgensen	135	131	125	391
Tina Ouellette	121	128	137	386
Tom Reiten	134	145	155	434
Tom Thompson	151	147	141	439