

THE TARGET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

2025 Intercollegiate Rifle Club Championships

The 2025 Intercollegiate Rifle Club Championships were held in Ft. Wayne, Indiana over March 21st and March 22nd. These championships are for club athletes who don't have athletic scholarships and must rely on themselves for rifles, ammunition, range time, etc. Some colleges do supply some limited financial support, but for the most part, they must raise money and rely on community donations.

The NDSU and UND Rifle Clubs once again pooled their resources to travel to the American Smallbore Shooting Association Intercollegiate Rifle Club National Championships held at the X Count range in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Championships consist of a Smallbore Rifle Championship and an Air Rifle Championship, and the Overall Championship based on the aggregate individual scores for teams and individuals in the two events.

Casia Steinhaus of Devils Lake, ND was the single competitor representing UND. Jacob Vaagen of Devils Lake, ND, Garrett Langerud and Michelle Weigel of Bismarck, ND, and Clay Sell of South Dakota made up the NDSU team.

Without teammates, Casia could only compete for the individual awards, but she did that very well. Firing on the first relay of the smallbore rifle match, she was able to shoot a 187-7 in kneeling, 196-9 prone and an outstanding 189-3 standing for a total of 570-20. Her closest competitor beat her by 3 points in kneeling and 2 points in prone but fell back by a full 8 points against her standing score. You could say that Casia came from behind to win, but she really set the winning score up for everyone to attempt over the rest of the day.

Casia is the 2025 Individual Smallbore Rifle Intercollegiate Club National Champion, repeating, as she won in 2024 as well.

Jacob held his own and earned 20th place in smallbore rifle. The NDSU team earned 4th place of the eight teams competing.

On Saturday, Casia and the NDSU team fired in the second relay. The air rifle match consists of 60 consecutive shots fired from the standing position. Casia took off with a 97-5 in her first 10 shots and

finished with a 98-5 in her last 10 shots for a total of 584-34 to again set a very high bar for the rest of the relays to attempt.

The Air Rifle Championship was a very hard fought match for both the individuals and teams. As it turned out, Casia's 584-34 was a single point behind the Air Rifle Champion's 585-39. Casia is the Individual Air Rifle Intercollegiate Club Silver medalist. The teams are made up of the top 4 individual athletes representing each college club. The top team score was 2294-105 followed by the second place team's 2293-105. Obviously, every shot counted, and the final shot counted heavily in this match.

Garrett Langerud led the NDSU team taking 13th place individually followed by Michele in 18th and Jacob in 27th. NDSU again earned 4th place in the team competition.

By winning the Individual Smallbore Championship and placing 2nd in the Air Rifle National Championships, Casia repeats as the Overall Intercollegiate Club National Champion. She was named to the first All Star team again as well. It is certainly notable when anyone from North Dakota wins a national championship, but to win two in consecutive years is unheard of. This is an absolutely outstanding accomplishment for a 19-year-old competing as the single representative of UND and Devils Lake, ND.

The complete results are available: <https://www.americansmallbore.com/intercollegiate-2025.html> and: <https://www.orionresults.com/bishopdwenger>

Casia and Jacob have been members of our Lake Region Shooting Sports Association and Ramsey County 4H Shooting Sports throughout their shooting careers. Michelle and Garrett have been members of the Bismarck-Mandan Rifle and Pistol club throughout their shooting careers. I think that Clay Sell has enjoyed his shooting experience at NDSU adding to his skill development at home in South Dakota.

Rick Jorgenson

Editorially Speaking

Winning is not just about being a champion or gold medal winner. It is about dedication to excellence, learning to deal with pressure, developing confidence and applying yourself to incremental effort over time. Talent plays a very small role.

Often the greatest barrier is a person's own mental attitude that they don't want to fully commit themselves to the substantial effort involved; feeling somehow that they cannot accomplish their goal. Their lack of commitment is considered an excuse for not becoming a winner.

But are we still having fun??

Coach John Wooden once said:

"Success is peace of mind, which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming." We should strive for greatness and mastery in our pursuit of excellence, but our identity and worth don't have to be tied to the outcome.

I think that we need to truly dedicate ourselves to the work involved in striving for excellence while staying unattached to the outcome.

Our North Dakota clubs and their match directors are essential to the strong competitive shooting programs that we enjoy here in North Dakota. Support them any way that you are able. Support can be as simple as registering and competing at a match. So, get out your rifle or pistol and do that. Also, consider offering to help with the match setup and operation.

"Firearms stand next in importance to the constitution itself. They are the American people's liberty teeth and keystone under independence ... from the hour the Pilgrims landed to the present day, events, occurrences and tendencies prove that to ensure peace, security and happiness, the rifle and pistol are equally indispensable ... the very atmosphere of firearms anywhere restrains evil interference — they deserve a place of honor with all that's good."

George Washington
First President of the United States

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 4 and send it to **P O 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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What it takes to win

As we all know, the level of skill required to win in precision 3 position smallbore rifle and precision air rifle today is much higher than it was even 5 or 10 years ago. The equipment is somewhat better, but the shooting athlete has developed skill at an even more rapid pace.

This was very apparent at the 2025 NCAA Rifle Championships where Katie Zaun fired a 599 with 54 centers with her air rifle and earned 3rd place behind Audrey Gogniat who fired a 600 with 58 centers and Braden Peiser who fired a 599 with 54 centers and squeaked ahead of Katie in the tie breaker.

Many of us could sit at a bench and shoot for days without producing a score that would tie these. Trying to accomplish a 600 from the prone position would be even more difficult. Maybe you should try it sometime.

The team scores are equally challenging with West Virginia's 4-person team putting up a 2350 in smallbore and a 2388 in air rifle for an aggregate of 4738 with 355 centers to beat out Kentucky's 2354 in smallbore and 2383 in air rifle for a 4737 with 335 centers. West Virginia won by one point when Natalie Perrin fired her final shot as a 10 as the last shooter on the line in air rifle.

Rachel Charles of Alaska Fairbanks fired a 595 in Smallbore and a 596 in air rifle to put up an aggregate of 1191 only to win the individual aggregate by a single point over Braden Peiser of Kentucky who fired a 591 in smallbore and a 599 in air rifle for an aggregate of 1190.

Obviously, every shot counted for the individuals and teams. There were many individual ties and other teams separated by one point.

These are outstanding performances by some outstanding individuals. The skill required is remarkable and the product of many hours of perfect training over many years. Talent plays a very small role. Determination and training are most important. Check out the match scores: <http://ncaarifle.org/Home/Scorecard?MatchId=1937>

Clearly, in addition to talent, determination and training, winning requires a commitment to excellence and a strong personal self-image with

support from parents, coaches and community. You have to believe that you can win, and that belief is developed through a commitment to excellence not only in the sport, but in your endeavors outside the sport as well.

Rick Jorgenson

2025 Junior Olympic State Championships

Pistol: With 11 competing, this was the best turnout that we have enjoyed for this match in many years.

The high point of the match was the competition between the Yoder sisters. Emily Yoder and her sister Alexis each put up scores of 525/4 in their effort to earn the North Dakota Gold Medal in Sport Pistol. For the first time, Alexis earned a win over her sister to earn the Gold. Not bad for a girl who arrived at the match without an air pistol or sport pistol having left them at home.

Emily Yoder fired a 528-5 for the Gold Medal in North Dakota Women's Air Pistol to earn the State Qualifier spot. She was followed by Tabitha Mittleider, Fargo, ND, with a 521/7 to earn the Silver Medal and Alexis Yoder with her score of 521/5 for the Bronze. As you can see, we had some very close competition in these matches.

This year, Thomas Vetter earned Men's Gold in Air Pistol and an automatic invitation to the National Junior Olympics. Zachary Korgel earned the Silver Medal, and Landen Jansen earned the Bronze Medal.

The most interesting result of this match is that everyone who competed in the air pistol match received an invitation to the Junior Olympic National Championships. The U15 cut score for an invitation was set at 400 for men and women. The cut scores for U21 and U18 were similarly low.

The cut scores for Sport Pistol were set at 530 for both men and women.

Certainly, pistol offers an excellent opportunity to secure an invitation to the Junior Olympics.

(Continued on Page 5)

2025 Spring Schedule of Opportunities

Apr 5, 6	Light Rifle State Championship	Minot	Georgette Bradley	701-240-6227
Apr 12	22 Blackpowder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette, Outdoor	Bismarck	Tom Liebel	701-226-3620
Apr 12	1800 Bullseye Pistol (Indoor)	Bismarck	Rick Pfenning	701-426-7661
Apr 12	Red River Valley Championship	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-213-0238
Apr 19	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Roger Lawyer	701-426-6606
Apr 26	Approved Light Rifle Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-739-1988
Apr 26	Military Rifle Silhouette	Bismarck	Tom Liebel	701-226-3620
Apr 26, 27	Lever Action Silhouette (Rifle Caliber, 22 Rimfire, Pistol Caliber)	Bismarck	Tom Liebel	701-226-3620
Apr 27	Approved Smallbore Conventional Handgun Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-739-1988
May 2	Highpower Clinic – issue NDSSA Rifles	Bismarck	Tom Headrick	701-7415133
May 3	USPSA Match (Indoor)	Bismarck	Roger Lawyer	701-426-6606
May 3, 4	M1 Garand, Long Range (Sat), High Power, X-course (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-220-4601
May 14	Varmint Rifle Benchrest Match	Bismarck	Doug Kitzan	701-214-1417
May 17	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
May 17	Bullseye Pistol (Indoor - 25 yards)	Bismarck	Rick Pfenning	701-426-7661
May 17	IHMSA Pistol Silhouette	Bismarck	Ray Utter	701-595-1136
May 18	Black Powder Cartridge Silhouette Match	Bismarck	Ken Heier	701-255-0675
May 17, 18	Mid-Range Match (Saturday), M1 Garand and EIC "Leg" Match (Sunday)	Rolla	Coby Dalgliesh	701-370-0634
May 24	CMP Sanctioned Vintage Military Rifle and Vintage Sniper Rifle Matches	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-739-1988
May 24	Military/Lever Action Silhouette Match	Bismarck	Tom Liebel	701-226-3620
May 25	22 Blackpowder Cartridge Silhouette	Bismarck	Tom Liebel	701-226-3620
May 31, June 1	North Dakota Lever Action Silhouette State Champ (.22, Pistol Caliber, 30/30)	Bismarck	Tom Liebel	701-226-3620
May 31, June 1	ND Outdoor Smallbore State Champs, Position, 200yd, Prone	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-213-0238
	Check the NDSSA webpage for more shooting opportunities & any changes			

-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.

Please return this form. Print name and address as you wish it to appear in our records.

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 _____ Jr. Program
 _____ Hunting _____ Conservation
 Address: _____ E-Mail Address _____
 _____ Collecting _____ Bullseye Pistol
 _____ Air Rifle _____ Hi-Power Rifle
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 _____ Air Pistol _____ Smallbore
 _____ Police PPC _____ Other
 _____ Rifle Silhouette
 _____ Pistol Silhouette
 _____ Hunter Safety

Membership Dues Schedule-(Effective May 1, 2015)

Life.....\$500.00 One Year \$25.00 Clubs One Yr..... \$25.00

5 Year.... \$100.00 Junior - Under 21...\$10.00 Club 5 Yr..... \$100.00

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

(May 1, 2015)

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Rifle: In stark contrast to pistol, the Air Rifle cut scores are substantially more difficult to achieve. The second round invitations cut score was 569 for Women's Air Rifle in any age group, and as low as 545 for U15 in men's air rifle.

Casia Steinhaus earned automatic invitations by winning both Women's Air Rifle and Women's Smallbore. Jake McCann earned an automatic invitation in Smallbore as our State Champion and Isaac Vaagen earned an automatic invitation in Men's Air Rifle as our State Champion.

You can check out the list of invites to the Junior Olympics at: <https://usashooting.org/get-involved/events/>

"Then came the gadgeteer, otherwise known as the sporting-goods dealer. He has draped the American outdoorsman with an infinity of contraptions, all offered as aids to self-reliance, hardihood, woodcraft, or marksmanship, but too often functioning as substitutes for them. Gadgets fill the pockets; they dangle from neck and belt. The overflow fills the auto-trunk and also the trailer. Each item of outdoor equipment grows lighter and often better, but the aggregate poundage becomes tonnage. ~ Aldo Leopold

How to get started

I am sure that each of you who decided to get involved in the competitive shooting sports have a good memory of their first experience. It may have been a friend, a parent or some personal curiosity or goal.

The precision shooting sports don't get much press, and it is most often an individual or at most a small team sport. Most often, the arena is without more than a few relatives, parents and coaches as spectators. The TV and radio are not there to give a play by play. The difficulty and skills involved are not often recognized by anyone who is not directly involved.

Some of this is being addressed by Orion/Scopos and Megalink offering live target results, but even USA Shooting offers very few articles about anything but the results. We need more people who are willing to write articles that outline the competition involved. Did the winner really sweep the competition or was the competition extremely tight. Did the team win by one point or was it a landslide.

Facebook and photos are just glimpses and rarely contain a narrative.

Many of us who decided that we enjoy the competitive shooting sports don't need publicity, but almost everyone enjoys some recognition. Certainly, this is true of young beginning shooting athletes. The 4H shooting sports offer the largest opportunity for young people to become involved in the competitive shooting sports. Across the nation, 4H Shooting Sports brings young people to the shooting sports in droves. The 4H Shooting Sports National Championships is a huge event offering recognition for shooting athletes in an arena filled with like-minded young athletes.

Similarly, the Civilian Marksmanship Program offers a competitive atmosphere and recognition for young shooting athletes.

To develop young people in the shooting sports requires a place to shoot and coaches to organize and teach. If you have been involved in the competitive shooting sports, I hope that you will get involved in coaching or in supporting those who do coach. Being part of coaching young people in the safety and skill required to participate is extremely rewarding.

Help start or expand a local shooting sports program in your community. Maybe you could be the program publicist.

Rick Jorgenson

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The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks and starting on the first one.”

— [Mark Twain](#)

“The most dangerous myth is the demagoguery that business can be made to pay a larger share, thus relieving the individual. Politicians preaching this are either deliberately dishonest, or economically illiterate, and either one should scare us. Business doesn't pay taxes, and who better than business to make this message known? Only people pay taxes, and people pay as consumers every tax that is assessed against a business. Begin with the food and fiber raised in the farm, to the ore drilled in a mine, to the oil and gas from out of the ground, whatever it may be -- through the processing, through the manufacturing, on out to the retailer's license. If the tax cannot be included in the price of the product, no one along that line can stay in business.”

— **Ronald Reagan**

A good shot must necessarily be a good man since the essence of good marksmanship is self-control and self-control is the essential quality of a good man. Theodore Roosevelt

Success doesn't make me happy, being happy is what allows me to be successful.



NDSU's Jacob, Garrett, Clay, Michelle and UND's Casia - Smallbore standing



NDSU's Jacob, Garrett, Clay, Michelle and UND's Casia - Air Rifle



Casia – National Intercollegiate Club Rifle Overall Champion