

2020 NORTH DAKOTA JUNIOR OLYMPIC STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RIFLE & PISTOL

Lake Region Shooting Sports Association Devils Lake, ND

January 27, 2020

We have enjoyed the hospitality of the Minot Rifle and Pistol Club for 15 years now. Their excellent range facility allows us to offer every young rifle shooter a quality opportunity to earn an invitation to the Junior Olympic Nationals. We really appreciate their dedication to the Olympic Shooting Sports.

This year, we were again able to offer competition in the disciplines of Air Pistol and Sport Pistol here in Devils Lake on January 11th. Eric Pueppke provided management for the Sport Pistol match and Bill Langer constructed the light system that allowed us to run the match successfully. Eric and Bill continue to be outstanding examples of just how essential and effective individuals are to the success of these Junior Olympic Selection Matches and to the shooting sports in North Dakota. Thanks to everyone who helped us set up for these matches, and to those who worked during the matches as well as with range cleanup after the matches. We had great food and snacks both here in Devils Lake and from our great hosts in Minot. Some may have gained weight again.

13 young men and young women from North Dakota and Minnesota fired the air pistol matches. We were once again near our capacity to fire this match in one common relay here in Devils Lake, ND. We hope to soon require two relays of air pistol, and it will really become an all-day event.

Our Sport Pistol matches were fired in two relays by 8 junior men and women from Minnesota and North Dakota. Emily Yoder, Wolford, took the North Dakota Gold Medal in Sport Pistol with her 505-1 to earn an invitation. She was followed by Kaitlin Slaubaugh, Wolford, who took the Silver with a score of 473-1. Dylan Markwardt, earned the Gold in the Men's Sport Pistol competition.

Dylan Markwardt, is the North Dakota Men's Air Pistol Champion with a 509-7 and is our State Qualifier. He was followed by Keenan Kuntz, who fired a 498-5 for the Silver Medal. Kaitlin Slaubaugh's score of 535-6 earned her the North Dakota Women's Air Pistol Gold Medal. This is also a State Qualifying score.

Our young rifle shooters fired some great scores again this year. Congratulations to you all for your fine effort!

I like to reflect on what it took to earn an invitation to the USA Shooting Junior National Championships in years past and to see the progress our young people have made. I recommend that you consider the following for a little perspective. Six years ago, Katie Zaun, Buffalo, fired a 364 with her air rifle and Amanda Hintz, Bismarck, fired a 367 as J3s. Of course, these were 40 shot matches. This year, Katie won the Gold Medal with her 594 and Amanda won Silver with her 590 in what are now 60 shot matches. Katie is still just a J2 this year and Amanda a J1. Jordyn Ewine, Buffalo, wasn't even competing six years ago, and fired a 576 this year for the Bronze. For those of you who might not do the math yourselves, a 364 is equivalent to a 546, and a 367 is roughly a 551.

Also, back in 2014, Jacob Vaagen, Devils Lake, fired a 457 with his air rifle. This year, Jacob fired a 566 to earn the Gold in Men's Air Rifle.

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Jacob had not even picked up a smallbore rifle back in 2014. This year, Jacob earned Gold with his 548. Great performance improvements are not confined to these few young people I have used to illustrate here. Quite a few of you fired personal bests at this match and that is something for which you should be very proud.

Congratulations to Katie for her Gold Medal performances in Women's Air Rifle and Smallbore Rifle. Congratulations as well to Amanda and Jordyn for their Silver Medal and Bronze Medal performances in both matches. These ladies put up some great scores to earn their opportunity to compete in the Junior Olympic Nationals again this year.

Alex Flores earned the Silver in Smallbore and in Air Rifle as well. Garrett Langerud's performances in Air Rifle and Smallbore earned him the Bronze in each. It would have been nice to have the medal winners all together for the awards presentation, but that was not possible again this year.

Every year, I suggest that each of you who competed in this match set performance goals for next year that will help you achieve the outcome that you would like to attain. If you will take note of the areas of your performance that worked well, you can work to improve even more in those areas. Similarly, those areas of your performance that fell short should be discarded or adjusted to allow you to improve. Many of you do not recognize that the vast majority of your performance is exemplary and many of you seem to prefer to dwell on those few shots that kept you from your desired outcome. In almost every instance, it is a gross mistake to dwell too much on the unsuccessful. Spend the majority of your effort to repeat and to improve on the excellence.

Smile, when your performance produces a 10 or a high value 9.

Our air rifle and smallbore participation was again lower this year than it has been in the past. 25 young people fired the air rifle matches (down one from last year) and 15 fired the smallbore matches (up 1 from last year). Looking forward to next year, we hope to see more young people competing. Unless attendance really warrants, we will plan to continue to offer three air rifle and two smallbore relays in 2021, unless we fill them and absolutely need more. That will be two air rifle relays on Saturday morning followed by a single smallbore relay on Saturday afternoon. Then, we will run a single air rifle relay followed by a single smallbore relay on Sunday morning, as we did this year.

The weather kept a few of you from the match in Minot, and we were able to offer a make-up relay at the Ayr range on Friday evening. We really appreciate the opportunity that this provided and thank those who opened the Ayr range to us. Without the Ayr range, this would not have been possible.

Thank you all for traveling to compete at these matches, and thanks to your parents for their efforts to transport you and to support you along the way. Congratulations to each one of you who competed. Many of the scores fired in these matches are just a few points lower than the qualifying scores set by USA Shooting, and it is quite likely that USA Shooting will issue invitations in the first or second round which will include some of you who did not earn automatic invitations in this match.

Whether or not you fired a great score, we hope that each one of you enjoyed a worthwhile and good experience at the matches and that you learned something which will help you to shoot better in the future. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

We hope that you will each seize as many opportunities as possible to enjoy some perfect practice and have fun over the next year to improve your skills in preparation for this match in 2021. We look forward to seeing many of you again then.

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I have listed some matches and events below that you might want to put on your calendar. Call early to reserve a spot on the line.

Connie & Rick Jorgenson

Feb 2	Von Bismarck	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Feb 1, 2	Light Rifle Sectional Match	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Feb 8, 9	Collegiate Sectional, Rifle and Pistol	West Fargo	Eric Pueppke	701-967-8450
Feb 8	ND Air Pistol Sectional	Ayr	Scott Tichy	701-840-8561
Feb 9	Bison Open	Ayr	Todd Zaun	701-261-3893
Feb 15, 16	Open 3P State and Sectional	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Feb 22, 23	Open 50 Yard Regional SB Match, 3-Position (any sight) Saturday, 50 Yard Light Rifle Match (Sunday)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Feb 29, Mar 1	CMP/USA Junior Olympic 3P Air Rifle Qualifier Match	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Feb 29, Mar 1	Junior Air Sectional (Standing), Open Air Rifle State Championship (Standing)	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Mar 14, 15	Junior 4P State and Sectional	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Mar 21	Bismarck/Mandan Junior Club Championship	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Mar 29, 30, 31	Open 4P State and Sectional	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Apr 4, 6	Light Rifle State Championship	Bottineau	Gary Siverston	701-243-6413