

# THE TARGET

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

### 2019 Long Range World Championships (Morgan Shooting Palma in New Zealand)

2005 is a long time ago. In October of that year 14 years ago, I made my first trek to Phoenix, AZ to try to earn a spot on the 2007 US Palma Team. That trip was a great experience, and I was able to continue to shoot in the selection process for the final team. Being in my late 20's at the time, I made several mental and social mistakes. However, when I later washed out of the process, I knew that I could shoot with any of the teammates.

Fast forward 21 years- I earn a spot to shoot for the 2017 Roberts Smallbore Prone Team that competed shoulder to shoulder with the Brits on their home range at Bisley, England. Earning that spot reignited the fire in me for international competition, and it forced me to make the mental choice of whether I wanted to "all out" change myself, work on my position, and get mentally ready for the rigors of making the 2019 US Palma Team. The last two years of putting my smallbore rifle aside validated my thought process to focus on LR and work to better myself.

How do you make the US Palma Team? First you need to earn a spot on the US National Development Team - the selection is firing under a coach for 6, 20 shot strings at 1000 yards, all with a .308 and 155gr bullets. The shooter is responsible for elevation; draw a horizontal line across the target face at the top and another at the bottom of the x-ring to the edge of the target. Every shot fired is measured; if you are within the 10" X ring for elevation no shooter points are removed. Each high or low ten is a 1 point penalty, 3 points for a 9 and 5 points for an 8.

The coach is responsible for wind, so if 8's or 9's show up due to windage but are within the 10" vertical line, the shooter is not penalized. A shooter can lose 8 points per 20 shot string and still make the development team. The last several years there have been auditions shot at Harris in MN. Several local shooters have been added at that location. Marty Gunderson, Erik Rhode, Brian Mrnak and several others have all been added to the team because of these auditions at Harris. I earned my spot on the development team long ago, when the process was newly created at Lodi, WI. If you shoot a team match with other national team members yearly you can stay on the development team. I highly encourage anyone, who is interested, to shoot a trial. Keep in mind that shooters often do not meet the requirement the first time they try.

The final selection for the 2019 US Palma Team was competition at the Canadian National Championships in Ottawa last August. I was fortunate to be asked to attend, and I had spent much of last summer in preparation. I purchased an electronic target and trained more last summer at Moffit, than I had in at least 10 years combined of live fire practice. I knew I needed to shoot more quickly and remove any fliers from my groups. The trip to Ottawa

was great, as my mentor Tom Thompson made the trek along with me, and we saw some excellent shooting. My personal highlights of the trip were shooting a perfect score in one of the team matches, making the Governor General Final (top 50 shooters), and being a firing member for the USA in the America Match- where we won against the Brits and Canadians.

Shortly after our team success in Canada, the final 2019 USA Palma Team was announced, I was blessed to be among the team with other upper Midwest shooters, Brian Mrnak of WI and Erik Rhode of MN. I need to give much credit to these two individuals, as they pushed me harder to be better the last several years. Without those competitors, I would not have worked as hard and probably would not have earned a spot.

Let's move on to New Zealand. Trentham has a reputation for being the most difficult range on the planet. I know how difficult Moffit is. Trentham makes my home range look like a beginner's course in wind reading; no joke. The wind would come from behind you and switch both sides of zero-quickly. My shooting style usually is to chase the spotter-that tactic in NZ was a NO GO....The changes were fast, big, and directional. My individual performance was not terrible, but also not great. I learned a bunch during individuals, but I had to accept and move past some really poor scores. As I looked at the scoreboard, other much more accomplished shooters also had difficulty. The range is BEAUTIFUL- at the base of a mountain that sometimes would have a headwind that fishtailed the same way as it did from behind. The range is nestled between a prison and a golf course- coincidentally two places I really don't want to spend time. We shot the 5V target. In one match at 1K, I shot in order a 1,2,3,4,5....I know for certain I have never shot a 6,7,8,9,10 in order on US soil. I simply had to chuckle to myself after that performance.

The US had some GREAT performers. Luke Rettmer won the Under 21 world championship. Oliver Milanovic and Brandon Green both made the top 10 individual world champs, and several others were in the top 20, 30 and 50's. I ended worlds in 94<sup>th</sup>, which is not excellent but I was pretty happy with that placing out of over 400 competitors. I did earn a 5<sup>th</sup> place overall in one of the 900 yard matches, with one of only 7 cleans shot in that match.

The weather was beautiful. We had a couple days of extreme heat and a day where I wore my rain gear for warmth. Overall, the days were sunny and pleasant to be outside. I was happy to be there in January, when we had negative temperatures in ND. The team was gelling and getting ready for the reason that many of us had been in NZ for two weeks.

(Continued on Page 3)

## Editorially Speaking

Over the past 20 years, NDSSA has supported a strong junior competitive shooting sports program. Our Junior Shooters are growing up, and some are now adults. This is most notable this year as Megan Hardy Vandall is the first adult to win our Open State Air Rifle Championship in the last 20 years. Quite a testimony to the strength of our Junior shooting programs. Congratulations to Megan!

We enjoyed following Katie Zaun in the India World Cup. She enjoyed a great experience again even with the long delay at the airport while trying to return to the USA.

The winter weather has been brutal here in North Dakota with over 60 days consecutively below freezing for most of us and for the wild animals and birds. It will be a relief to see some improvement in the weather. I am ready to spend some enjoyable time outdoors.

I have enjoyed coaching young people in the competitive shooting sports throughout this winter. If you have not yet retired, volunteer to help out with coaching a shooting sports program. You do not have to be the head coach, and any help that you can provide will be greatly appreciated by everyone involved.

By the time that you read this, many of the last indoor matches of the winter season will be over or near. There is still some time for competitive shooting indoors though. Take a look at our schedule of matches on page 5 for further shooting opportunities.

Thanks to Morgen, Tami and Mitch for the articles in this edition of our newsletter. I hope that you enjoy them.

Again though, 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.

\*\*\*Melissa Carson, our Membership Chair, is running an NDSSA Facebook page and we encourage members and match directors to forward/post their bulletins and results to that page, she already has it up and running. 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." - Thomas 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 **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

### NDSSA Officers and Chairpersons

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

President: 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.

Vice Pres: Garth Weber, Valley City, ND Phone: 701) 330-3284

Exec Off: Eric Pueppke, 14926 25th St. SE, Amenia, ND 58004

Email: [epueppke@gmail.com](mailto:epueppke@gmail.com) Home & Bus 967-8450

Sec.: Tom Thompson, 2708 Stevens St, Bismarck, ND 58503-1051

Email: [tnt@bis.midco.net](mailto:tnt@bis.midco.net) Home 255-4601

Membership: Melissa Carson, 8107 Jeaner PL, Bismarck, ND 58504

Email: [melissa.langer@outlook.com](mailto:melissa.langer@outlook.com) Phone: 701-391-0696

Sec/Treas.: Walt Fairbanks, 4600 Boulder Ridge Rd., Bismarck, ND

58503; Email: [walt@midco.net](mailto:walt@midco.net) Home 701-751-0690

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

Director 1/20: James Ladwig, 17321 27<sup>th</sup> St SE, Argusville, ND 58005

Email: [james@curtslock.com](mailto:james@curtslock.com) Home 701-484-5236

Director 1/24: Tami Ware, P O Box 231, Kenmare, ND 58746

Email: < [tamimware@gmail.com](mailto:tamimware@gmail.com) >

Director 1/22: William (Bill) Langer, 201 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Perth, ND 58363

Email: [bslanger@utma.com](mailto:bslanger@utma.com) Home 701-656-3415 Cell: 701-340-1358.

Past Pres.: Rand McLeod, 700 Main Ave, Erie, ND 58029

Home 668-2214

Light Rifle: Gary Sivertson, 10476 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE, Souris, ND 58783.

Email: [cgs@utma.com](mailto:cgs@utma.com) Home: 243-6413, Cell: 263-5266

Web Mgr.: James Ladwig, 17321 27<sup>th</sup> St SE, Argusville, ND 58005

Email: [james@curtslock.com](mailto:james@curtslock.com). Home 701-484-5236

HG Silhouette: Ray Utter, 3061 Sand Hill Road, Bismarck, ND 58503-

6467 Email: [rayutter@netscape.net](mailto:rayutter@netscape.net) Home & Bus: 701-595-1136

Junior Programs:

Tom Thompson, 2708 Stevens St, Bismarck, ND 58503-1051

Email: [tnt@bis.midco.net](mailto:tnt@bis.midco.net) Home 255-4601, Bus 701-221-1220

Highpower Rifle & Property Custodian:

Dennis Coulter, 4576 Belmont Rd., Grand Forks, ND 58201

Email: <[denny.brenda@gra.midco.net](mailto:denny.brenda@gra.midco.net)> H 701-746-6959, Fax 772-7932.

Pistol: Garth Weber Valley City, ND Phone: 701) 330-3284

Email: <[rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net](mailto:rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net)>. Home 662-4760 Bus 662-5301

SB Rifle Programs: See Junior Program Chair. Tom Thompson above

Rifle Silhouette: Dave Tokach, 1602 Monte Dr., Mandan, ND 58554

Email: [dtokach@bis.midco.net](mailto:dtokach@bis.midco.net) Home: 663-8626

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.

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Rick Jorgenson  
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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## 2019 Long Range World Championships

(Continued from pg. 1)

A day of practice, then two Palma courses would follow, and the competition would be among the Australians, Brits, South Africans, New Zealanders, Canadians, Channel Islanders, and the USA. Nine firing members of the 16-firing member team had never shot on a Palma team- we had a new plan.

Day One of the Palma Match started with calm winds and good light. The US typically has issues at 800, losing points that we are then forced to make up later. This year we started off better than normal, getting off the line down only 6 points out of a possible 1200. We shot very quickly, and this worked to our advantage as the wind continued to build which meant that the other teams were forced to shoot in more difficult winds. The US won the 800 yard line, and we could all feel a sense of relief and excitement as we moved back to 900. I somehow managed to shoot my first sighter shot on a target that was not mine, however we converted the second sighter and I rattled off a 75-11. Not the best score on the team, but a solid score. Timing of that crossfire was fortunate, but not letting it affect me at all was great for the team. 900 had good conditions, but the wind velocity had grown and more switches were prevalent. We needed to "pick" our way through it; the coaches did well. We lost a combined 36, a respectable number. Australia now showed us their goal of winning the Gold. Australia lost only 18! Wow, they shot great. They had 5 shooters with clean scores for the line; the US only had two 75's. The final match of the day was at 1000 yards. The US was feeling good about our effort and the team was working together well. We had two shooters clean the last yard line of the day- Nate Guernsey and Amanda Elsenboss. We had four other shooters complete 74's.

My 69 was one of the lower scores of the squad; however during our firing usually one person of the four firing members was used as a lead shooter to assist keeping the other shooters in the middle. Instead of losing points on all firing points, we try to only sacrifice on a single point. I was not worried about my score; if it helped our collective team score I am happy to help. After the competition that day, the US was in second place with a collective 3506-330V. The Aussies opened up a large lead with a stellar 3528-378. The Brits were in third with a 3494-304. The South Africans owned fourth with a 3477-309.

It was a great first day. We had many more shots to fire to hold our spot, but collectively the team was in great spirits and proud of our Day One performance. Onto Day Two- again the 800 yard conditions were near perfect. The US shot an excellent yard line with only 2 shots not being 5's or V's. We fired a quality 1196-175. The problem was that the Aussies managed to clean the yard line with a 1200-181. The Brits also got their mojo going with an 1198-152. The US needed to tighten up. I backed up my Day One score with a duplicate 75-11.

900 saw higher wind speeds and more directional changes. We were continually stopping to find the condition that we felt best firing in. Overall, we did a good job, but again were bested by the Aussies and Brits on the yard line. The Aussies lost an excellent 14; the Brits lost 29; and we lost 33. The Brits had now closed the gap of our Day 1 lead and it all would come down to the final yard line for silver.

1000 was crazy - similar conditions to the match where I got annihilated earlier in the week at the long yard line. We drew the middle of the range, and we were confident as firing began. The winds were very fast, directional and both sides of zero. Looking back, we should have shot more quickly early on, we could have saved some more points. However, we didn't know the conditions would continually erode. The Aussies AGAIN showed their domination of the yard line losing only 86, just over 5 down per shooter average. This truly was a miraculous feat in the conditions. The Brits also showed their cohesion and vast experience together and got through the conditions well. The Brits lost 112, right at 7 points per shooter. The South Africans (-121) and New Zealand (-126) teams both had better scores on the final match - showing their ability to better navigate the switching conditions. The US lost 137, meaning over 8 points per shooter. Brandon Green along with Gary Rassmussen shot **STELLAR 75s** on the final yard line. That is by far the most impressive shooting feat I witnessed in NZ. Only 3 shooters of all teams had 73's and no shooters fired a 74.

The final tally gave Gold to Australia, Silver to Great Britain, and Bronze to the USA (19 points back of silver). I am proud of our accomplishment and am very happy to have been part of it. The next rotation is in South Africa; if the team continues our progress, there is no doubt in my mind that we can better our standing at the end of this 2019 World Championship. It was a great experience and I am very happy to have had the opportunity to attend. As my shooting ended, Amy and I were able to spend the remainder of the week on the south island of New Zealand. She and I have seen a fair amount of geography across the US and beyond- Glacier, Yellowstone, Medora, Stonehenge, and even the Grand Canyon. In my opinion, the Milford Sound Fjords are BY FAR the most beautiful geography I have ever witnessed. We loved New Zealand and HIGHLY recommend traveling there.

By: Morgen Dietrich

One bit of maintenance that is commonly required by every firearm here in North Dakota is to make sure that the firearm is removed from its case and allowed to warm up and dry out whenever it is brought in from the cold weather that we enjoy here every fall, winter and spring.

This is very important. Any cold firearm left in its case will suffer from moisture condensation on its surface, in the action and inside the barrel to a varying degree. In no case will the firearm work at its best for long, if neglected in this manner.

Lack of attention to this task is an insult to the firearm and to those who have worked hard to improve the shooting sports opportunities for competitors young and old. So, make sure that you are careful about this during transportation of any firearm that you own or borrow.

**I renew my request for more info on Airgun Maintenance. I have a stark lack of response, so far.**

Rick Jorgenson

## 2019 Spring/Summer Schedule of Opportunities

Mar 29, 30, 31	<b>Open 4P State and Sectional</b>	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Mar 31	Indoor Varmint	Bismarck	Mike Davis	701-220-2500
Apr 6, 7	<b>Light Rifle State Championship</b>	Bottineau	Gary Siverston	701-243-6413
Apr 6	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Apr 6	Varmint Rifle Benchrest Match	Bismarck	Gary Vennie	701-516-3427
Apr 13	Red River Valley Championship	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Apr 13	Blackpowder Cartridge Rifle - RIMFIRE Silhouette	Bismarck	John Horner	701-426-9305
Apr 20	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Del Ray Bergan	701-220-6986
Apr 27	Military/Lever Action Silhouette	Bismarck	Dallas Quamme	701-426-3846
Apr 27	Light Rifle Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008
Apr 28	Bullseye Pistol (22 caliber only)	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008
Apr 28	22 and Pistol Caliber Lever Action Silhouette Match	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-426-1773
May 3	Highpower Clinic – issue NDSSA Rifles	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
May 4, 5	Vintage Rifle and Garand (Sat), Long Range (Sat), High Power, X-course (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
May 11	Varmint Rifle Benchrest Match	Bismarck	Gary Vennie	701-515-3427
May 11	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Del Ray Bergan	701-220-6986
May 18	22 and Pistol Caliber Lever Action Silhouette Match	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-426-1773
May 18	Bullseye Pistol	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
May 19	Blackpowder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette	Bismarck	Ken Heier	701-255-0675
May 18, 19	Leg Match and Vintage Rifle Match (Sat), 3x20 at 600 yards - Conventional and F-Class (Sun)	Rolla	Coby Dalglish	701-370-0634
May 25	CMP Vintage Rifle, M1 Carbine and Vintage Sniper Matches	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008
May 25	Military/Lever Action Silhouette	Bismarck	Dallas Quamme	701-426-3846

**-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 \_\_\_\_\_

Rifle City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues Schedule-(Effective May 1, 2015)

Life.....\$500.00	One Year ....\$25.00	Clubs One Yr.....\$25.00	_____ Rifle
5 Year....\$100.00	Junior - Under 21...\$10.00	Club 5 Yr..... \$100.00	_____ Pistol Silhouette
			_____ Hunter Safety

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

(May 1, 2015)

## Correct North Dakota Shooting Sports Association Records through 2018

Event	Competitor	Score	Location	Date
<b>Indoor Rifle</b>				
<b><u>Junior 3-Position International Gallery Rifle (50 feet, Iron Sights, NRA/USA-50 Target)</u></b>				
20 Shots Kneeling	Amanda Hintz	195/200	Minot	2/11/2018
<b><u>Junior International Air Rifle</u></b>				
<b>60 Shots 3-Position Aggregate</b>	<b>Katie Zaun</b>	<b>596/600</b>	<b>Buffalo</b>	<b>4/2/2017</b>
<b><u>Junior International Air Pistol</u></b>				
40 Shots Aggregate Score	Hannah Walsh	360/400	Devils Lake	1/13/2018
<b><u>Open 4-Position Gallery Rifle (50 feet, Any Sights, A-17 Target)</u></b>				
400 Point Aggregate	Katie Zaun	<b>400-33x/400</b>	Grand Forks	3/18/2018
<b>(Katie's score of a 400/400 in this event is also a new National Record)</b>				
<b><u>Open Metric 3- Position Gallery Rifle (50 feet, Any Sights, NRA/USA-50 Target)</u></b>				
20 Shots Prone	Thomas Thompson	200/200	Grand Forks	2/18/2018
<b>20 Shots Standing</b>	<b>Katie Zaun</b>	<b>195/200</b>	Grand Forks	<b>2/18/2017</b>
<b>40 Shots Standing*</b>	<b>Katie Zaun</b>	<b>382/400</b>	Grand Forks	<b>2/17/2017</b>
<b>90 Shots, 900 Point Aggregate</b>	<b>Katie Zaun</b>	<b>872/900</b>	Grand Forks	<b>2/17/2017</b>
<b><u>Three Position 50 Yards (50 Yard, Any Sights, NRA A23-5 Target)</u></b>				
120 Shots, 1200 Point Aggregate	Katie Zaun	<b>1196/1200</b>	Bismarck	2/24/2018
<b>(Katie's score of a 1196/1200 in this event is also a new Women and Intermediate Junior National Record)</b>				
<b><u>Open Gallery Light Rifle</u></b>				
100 Shots, 1000 Point Aggregate	Melissa Carson	<b>990/1000</b>	Bottineau	4/11/2018
<b>(Melissa's score of a 990/1000 in this event is also a new National Record)</b>				
<b><u>Outdoor, High Power Rifle</u></b>				
<b><u>High Power Rifle</u></b>				
80 Shots, 800 Point Aggregate	Thomas Thompson	790-31x/800	Rolla	9/30/2018
Vintage Military Bolt Rifle**	Thomas Reiten	271-3x/300	Grand Forks	8/13/2016
M-1 Carbine (as-issued)**	Garth Weber	352-1x/400	Grand Forks	8/13/2016
120 Shots, 1200 Aggregate, Mid-Range	Neil Jenson	1179-54x/1200	Grand Forks	8/19/2018
60 Shots, 600 Aggregate, Mid-Range	Morgen Dietrich	600-30x/600	Rolla	9/29/2018
Palma Aggregate	Morgen Dietrich	442-25x	Bismarck	6/9/2018
<b><u>F-Class, Open (F/O), High Power Rifle</u></b>				
300/600 Yard, 60 Shot Aggregate, Mid-Range	Todd Zaun	599-40x/600	Grand Forks	8/18/2018
120 Shots, 1200 Aggregate, Mid-Range	Todd Zaun	1195-71x/1200	Grand Forks	8/19/2018
<b><u>F-Class, Target Rifle (F/TR), High Power Rifle</u></b>				
300 Yard, 20 Shots	Drew Rutherford	200-10x/200	Grand Forks	8/19/2018
600 Yard, 20 Shots*	Drew Rutherford	199-10x/200	Rolla	9/29/2018
Palma Aggregate	Roger Nelson	431-9x/450	Bismarck	6/9/2018
600 Yard, 60 Shot Aggregate	Drew Rutherford	594-26x/600	Rolla	9/29/2018
<b><u>Lever Action-Rifle Silhouette</u></b>				
Pistol Caliber, Lever Action**	Brock Tokach	35/40	Bismarck	6/4/2017
Smallbore Caliber, Lever Action**	Brock Tokach	36/40	Bismarck	6/4/2017
<b><u>Blackpowder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette</u></b>				
80 Shot Aggregate**	Joe Blotske	51/80	Bismarck	9/17/2017

\*Indicates State Record Co-Holder

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## The Official NRA State Association Newsletter



## Western Intercollegiate Rifle Conference Final Standings

The NDSU Marksmanship Club air rifle and smallbore rifle teams each earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes in the 16 school Western Intercollegiate Rifle Conference (WIRC) Championship matches held at Purdue University, February 24, 2019. The final WIRC standings are based on four monthly postal matches plus the final shoulder-to-shoulder Championship Match held at Purdue University's range.

The NDSU Air Rifle Team consists of:

Brandon Alexander, a freshman in Construction Management, from Devils Lake, ND;  
Sarah Biggers, a sophomore in Radiological Sciences, from Buffalo, ND;  
Amanda Hintz, a freshman in Agribusiness, from Bismarck, ND;  
Tyler Linneman, a freshman in Crop and Weed Sciences, from Emerado, ND;  
Rachel Voigt, a freshman in Animal Science from Halliday, ND.

The team finished with a score of 2273 points out of a possible 2400 points.

In individual scoring, Hintz finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place at Purdue with a score of 576 while Alexander finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with a score of 575. Alexander and Hintz were also named to the 2019 WIRC 1st All Conference Air Rifle Team with total season scores of 2868 and 2857 points, respectively. Linneman was named to the 2<sup>nd</sup> All Conference Air Rifle Team with a total season score of 2825. NDSU also was named as the 2019 Most Improved Team in air rifle competition.

The NDSU Smallbore Rifle Team (.22 caliber) consisting of Alexander, Hintz, Linneman and Voigt also finished the conference season at Purdue with a score of 2165. In individual scoring, Alexander finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 558 points and Hintz finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 553 points. Alexander and Hintz were named to the 2019 1st All Conference Smallbore Rifle Team.

The teams are coached by Mitchell Godbout of Casselton, ND. Godbout was named as the 2019 WIRC Outstanding Smallbore Rifle Coach of the Year. The teams train at the Red River Regional Marksmanship Center in West Fargo and are currently preparing to compete in the National NRA Collegiate Championship Rifle Matches at Ft. Benning, GA in late March.

**Go Bison!!**

## 2019 Annual Banquet and Meeting Notes

I want to let everyone know how thankful and humble I am after the annual banquet and meeting. My family and I have been surrounded by amazing people. People who all helped make this annual event possible and run smoothly. I was not the only one responsible; there are many who helped and brought valuable insight that made the event great. A huge thank you to all those that helped and didn't get recognition. You are appreciated.

We had 48 people in attendance for the banquet. Awards were given to some amazing shooters who continue to not only push themselves, but who also make sure that all shooters are continually challenged.

Katie Zaun gave a great presentation of the possibilities for the junior shooters. Thank you Katie, you were amazing, and by the way, we all loved how you included your dad.

Jim Budeau and Tim Frank gave great testimony to the amazing person who was this year's Hall of Fame inductee, Bob Paris.

I also need to thank the Minot Rifle and Pistol Club, the Bradley family, and those that helped put together and run the Light Rifle match for the weekend. You all did an amazing job!

Thank you to everyone who braved the weather for these events. Next year's annual banquet will be in Fargo and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

Tami Ware

**NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION IS ON FACEBOOK:**

Use the link below to connect with NDSSA, post match results, photos, etc.

Check it out. Melissa has done a great job in setting this up for us.

<https://www.facebook.com/North-Dakota-Shooting-Sports-Association-757181884660730>