

2012 NORTH DAKOTA JUNIOR OLYMPIC STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

January 23, 2012

We are getting used to the warm hospitality and the great facility provided by the Minot Rifle & Pistol Club for the juniors competing in the JOSCS matches. We again offered the disciplines of air rifle, air pistol, smallbore rifle and sport pistol. Eric Pueppke's assistance with the sport pistol match was essential to its success. Connie and I really appreciate all of you who helped to make this championship match successful again this year. The Minot Rifle & Pistol Club range facility was in excellent shape again, and we thank the Club's range committee for their assistance with this match. Doc and Wes are invaluable, and I thank them again for giving up their weekend to support this Junior Olympic Selection Match. Many people go a long way out of their way in order to make this match the best possible opportunity for our junior shooters to win an invitation to compete in the 2012 Junior Olympic National Championships. The competitors should offer a hearty thank you to their coaches and parents for their efforts throughout the year to give them opportunities to improve their skills.

We enjoyed a great turnout with 31 shooters for the JOSCS matches. The thirty-one shooters fired forty-eight individual scores, and the juniors put forth a great effort again this year. Many improved significantly over scores fired last year. Mastering a skill requires incremental dedicated effort over time. There really is no shortcut. Congratulations to each one of you who competed. Whether or not you fired a great score, we hope that each one of you had a great time and learned something that will help you to shoot better in the future.

In Women's Air Rifle, Dacotah Faught of Amenia, ND, fired a state qualifying Gold Medal score of 380/400. Mari Butler, Casselton, ND, followed with a 377/400 for the Silver. Megan Tichy, Tower City, ND, won the Bronze Medal with a fine score of 368/400.

Soren Butler of Casselton, ND, fired a 578/600 to win the Junior Men's Air Rifle State Championship event and to earn himself an invitation.

Joseph Martin of Emerado, ND, earned the Silver Medal in Junior Men's Air Rifle and Daniel Biggers of Buffalo, ND, won the Bronze.

Rebecca Martin, Emerado, ND, earned an invitation to the Junior Olympic National Championships as our North Dakota Women's Air Pistol Gold Medal winner. Grant Johnson of Bemidji, MN, earned an open qualifier/automatic invite to the 2012 Junior Olympic National Championships with his 549 as a J1 air pistol competitor. We were unable to field a North Dakota men's competitor in the air pistol event. We will do better next year.

Grant Johnson won the sport pistol event by firing an open qualifying score of 547/600. Steve Adams of Moorhead, Minnesota, followed with a 465. Our North Dakota Gold Medal winner is Shawn Marshall from Minot, ND. Sport pistol is a very popular pistol competition for junior men worldwide, and it is an Olympic event for women often called 25m Pistol. Thanks again to Eric for his efforts to make this event happen and run successfully.

Congratulations to Dacotah Faught for her Gold Medal performance in the Junior Women's 3-Position Smallbore Rifle match with her state qualifying score of 552. Lana Fairbanks of Bismarck, ND, followed with the Silver Medal and Rebecca Martin won the Bronze Medal.

Finally, the Junior Men's 3-P Smallbore Rifle Gold Medal winner and state qualifier is Soren Butler with a score of 568. Joseph Martin won the Silver Medal with his 563, and Bennett Christianson of Casselton, ND, took the Bronze with a score of 537.

We cannot congratulate the parents and coaches of these young people enough for their commitment in support of the efforts these young shooters must make in order to prepare for and succeed at this match.

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The parents and coach of our Minnesota shooters traveled all the way from Bemidji and Blackduck to offer their young shooters the chance to compete in the pistol events. They offer a great example of what it takes for a young shooter to succeed in this sport.

We hope that everyone had a great experience at the match, and we look forward to seeing you at a match soon. If you can find your way to the North Dakota Shooting Sports Association Annual Meeting and Banquet in Grand Forks on Saturday, February 4, 2012, we would be glad to see you there.

Rick & Connie Jorgenson
Lake Region Shooting Sports Association
Devils Lake, ND