

2020 North Dakota State Smallbore Rifle Silhouette Championship results

On August 1st, Lake Region Shooting Sports Association Junior shooters Casia Steinhaus, Hannah Vaagen and Jacob Vaagen traveled to the Fried Family Marksmanship Complex southeast of Bismarck, ND to compete in the 2020 North Dakota State Smallbore Rifle Silhouette Championships.

This was their first effort at competition in this event. They have been training this summer for about a month in preparation for this event, and are looking forward to competition in the 4H Shooting Sports National Championships in 2021.

For a first effort at Rifle Silhouette competition, they performed very well. There are two North Dakota State Silhouette Rifle Championship Matches. These are 40 shot matches fired from the standing position at 10 smallbore chicken targets set at 40 meters, 10 pig targets at 60 meters, 10 turkey targets at 77 meters, and 10 ram targets at 100 meters. These metal targets must be struck by the bullet and knocked off their stand for each to be counted as a hit. The wind was a gusty cross wind buffeting the shooters and drifting the bullets on their way to the small targets.

In the first match of the day, Jacob and Casia tied for first place each with 20 hits overall. They also tied for the most chickens and pigs hit in the match. So, they had a sudden death shootoff firing at the turkey targets for the Championship. They each setup and fired one shot. Casia hit her turkey with her first shot and Jacob did not. So, for the first time in the history of this match, a junior shooter earned the State Championship Trophy. This is also the first time a lady has earned the North Dakota State Smallbore Silhouette Championship title. Pretty fun stuff.

Casia also won the shootoff for the most pigs while Jacob won the shootoff for chickens. Each with one shot in sudden death.

In the second match, they were further challenged by the wind. Casia earned second place with an 18 to the match winner, James Ladwig of Argusville, ND who fired a 20 to win. Jacob and Hannah each hit 15 in the second match.

They and their 4th team member Cassandra Christensen will continue to train in an effort to prepare to compete in the 4H National Smallbore Rifle Shooting Sports Championships which are planned to be held in late June of 2021 at Grand Island, Nebraska.