

Ontelaunee Jr Rifle Report

5/10/2017

Ontelaunee Junior Olympians, Calista, Madilyn, Emma, and Jenn, had a great time while competing in Colorado. Emma was our top shooter in 3-P smallbore, placing 4th within her age group. At 13 years old and controlling herself on and off the range the way she did, college coaches were noticing. One even said he wished his college athletes would act and respond the way Emma was. If she had an unlikable shot, she kept her composure and did as many dry-fires as needed to bring focus back to the center of the target. Madilyn and Calista also had great performances, finishing 13th & 14th within the intermediate age group. 66 juniors participated in the women's smallbore event. Calista, Emma, and Jenn were among the 180 juniors who participated in the international women's air rifle match. Calista was our top junior in air rifle, finishing 59th overall and 15th in her age group. Jenn was able to schedule an appointment with Olympic Champion, Matt Emmons, for some personal coaching instruction. This was a very neat experience for her to receive advice from someone who has such tremendous knowledge. He helped by making some adjustments in her equipment and position, and pointing out a proper plan for taking the shot. Matt was also our guest speaker for the Jr Olympic seminar. The girls made numerous notes from his question and answer format, which will help them to continue pursuing their goals in rifle.

The annual "Opperman" indoor prone match was held at North End during the last weekend of April. This was a first time for Chad and Griffin to participate in this 80 shot match which was open for adults and juniors. They both had fun and did quite well within their ranked group. Sarah Frantz also competed, and finished 1st in the Expert Class and above all other juniors.

In July, Calista will be taking another trip to Colorado. Her 2nd round postal match score was within the nations top 15, and the American Legion has sent her an invitation to compete at the Olympic Training Center. This is the final match which will determine the winner of a \$5000 college scholarship. The American Legion will take care of all hotel and travel expenses for her and myself to attend as her chaperone/coach.

On May 6th Calista, Emma, Madilyn, Jeanne, and Jake competed in an air rifle match at Palmyra which had a different twist. The "Bundesliga Air Rifle Match" consisted of several matches throughout the day, on electronic targets, all in the standing position. As the name sounds, it is German. It's intent is to introduce match pressure in hope of teaching the competitors how to handle and work through it. While the invited teams went head to head, each individual was directly up against an individual from the opposing team. So if competitor 1 on Team A shot better than Competitor 1 from Team B, then Team A gained one point. Each match throughout the day was worth 5 points, since there were 5 shooters to a team. To build excitement while the shooting took place, there was announcing of team scores, rankings, and even individual shots were called out as they were being fired. Our team was 4-0 during the qualification matches, and finished 2nd overall after a close match up in the final shoot off.

This Saturday there will be an outdoor match at North End to conclude the Lehigh Valley Prone League. An awards ceremony will follow to recognize those juniors who shot well during the indoor season.

Tom Fister,

Ontelaunee Jr Rifle