

University of Kentucky Wins First-Ever NCAA Rifle Championship

Courtesy NCAA.com

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA - Behind gritty performances from veterans Heather Greathouse and Ethan Settlemires, the Kentucky rifle team won the overall national title at the 2010-11 NCAA Championships hosted by Columbus State.

After UK won the smallbore NCAA title on Friday in the first day of competition, the Wildcats held off West Virginia's charge in air rifle on Saturday to secure the first national championship in program history, finishing with a 4,700 team total score.



University of Kentucky photo

Kentucky entered the final day of competition on Saturday owning a seven-point lead. UK claimed its first-ever NCAA championship in smallbore on Friday, totaling a 2,336 team score, led by Settlemires and Greathouse. Settlemires won the NCAA individual championship on Friday with a 590 in smallbore, becoming the first individual NCAA champion in smallbore in program history.

The NCAA championship is the first in the storied history of the UK rifle program. Since the 1994 season, the Wildcats have finished among the top 10 teams at the national championships a total of 16 times. UK owned four runner-up finishes and four third-place finishes since 1994 entering Saturday, including a fourth-place finish in 2010.

In claiming the 2011 national championship, the Wildcats have completed a historic season, including an unbeaten regular-season slate in the Great American Rifle Conference Championships.

After UK got off to a tremendous start on Friday behind Greathouse's 587 on the first relay, the Wildcats again sent Greathouse in the first relay on Saturday,



a change from the typical routine throughout the season. Greathouse responded under the pressure, putting up a 591 to set the tone for the Wildcats' final day of competition. Freshman Emily Holsopple contributed a 590, with Henri Junghanel charting a team-high 594.

With Settlemires on the final relay, West Virginia continued to push, using a 599 (out of 600 points possible) from world champion Nicco Campriani to narrow the UK lead. Settlemires fired a 590 in a pressure-laden situation on the final relay to push the Wildcats over the hump and claim the national title.

CMP Lends Targets and Technical Support to NCAA Rifle Championships

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA - The Civilian Marksmanship Program temporarily uprooted 12 of its 80 MegaLink electronic targets from the CMP marksmanship center at Camp Perry, Ohio and reinstalled them at the Frank G. Lumpkin Jr. Center on the Columbus State University campus in support of the 2011 NCAA Rifle Championships.

The smallbore portion of the competition was fired at the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Georgia on 11 March and CSU hosted the air rifle matches on Saturday, 12 March.

The CMP's 3P-Air program coordinators, Brad Donoho and Katie Harrington provided technical support and guidance throughout the air rifle portion of the championships.

The CMP also built and hosted a Web page which offered Internet users an opportunity to view live target images throughout the competition.

There were over 53,000 page views of the competition throughout the weekend.

The national championship provided many firsts for the NCAA and Columbus State. It was the first time that a NCAA Championship was held on the campus of Columbus State and the first time any portion of a NCAA sanctioned championship was held on a military base.