

WVU Claims NCAA Rifle Championship

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

West Virginia University (WVU) claimed the title of NCAA Rifle Champions for the 15th time in the school's rifling history during the 2013 NCAA Championships, March 9 and 10 in Columbus, OH. The team finished the competition with a score of 4679, calculated from a combined air rifle score of 2363 and a smallbore score of 2316.

The Mountaineers' final point total was the second highest in NCAA Rifle Championship history. The University of Kentucky's team still holds the record for highest combined score with 4700, fired back in 2011.

Kentucky came in second place overall behind WVU this year with a score of 4670. This is the Wildcats' second consecutive year with a runner-up finish. Defending champs Texas Christian University came into the final day of the match leading by one point, but later fell to claim the 3rd place spot with an aggregate score of 4664.

Though 3rd overall, Texas Christian topped the smallbore team results with a combined score of 2317. Senior Sarah Scherer led the team, firing a 588 in her last appearance at the NCAA Championships.

WVU beat out Kentucky 2363 to 2355 for gold in the air rifle team competition, which included a near-perfect score from team scoring leader, Petra Zublasing.

Zublasing was only two points away from a perfect 600 score in the air rifle competition, firing a 598. She finished her performance at the Championships by earning gold in both the smallbore and air rifle individual events. Originally from Appiano, Italy, Zublasing shot for her home country in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London before dominating the 2013 NCAA Championships.

Coming in behind Zublasing (who fired an aggregate score of 688.3) in smallbore was Henri Junghanel from the University of Kentucky. Junghanel shot a score of 687.8 for the silver medal, followed by Sarah Scherer of Texas Christian University with 686.7 for bronze.

In the individual air rifle match, Zublasing fired a combined score of 701.7 for gold, while Scherer came up short with her score of 695.3 for silver. Cole Tucker of Jacksonville State University also fired a 695.3, but was beat in a shootout by Scherer to put him at 3rd place. Scherer topped Tucker with a 10.5 shot to his 9.8 for the lead.

The Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) Brad Donoho and Katie Harrington were present at

the Championship as technical advisors, bringing along with them part of the CMP's \$425,000 mobile range to use during the match.

CMP staff members Matt Carroll and Keegan Singleton help to set up the range on The Ohio State University's campus, which was well received by competitors and coaches.

"Ohio State's coach was amazed at how fast it went up, how fast we could put 26 targets together and have them all wired and ready to go," explained Donoho.

The 26 targets at the NCAA event took about three hours to be assembled. CMP's world-class target range only added to the prestige that the NCAA Championships have become for college competitive shooters over the years.

NCAA competitive rifle shooting has been an established college program since 1980. Tennessee Tech won the first three NCAA titles in the beginning stages of the program. Since then, many schools and individuals have placed their names in the history books with remarkable shooting accomplishments at the collegiate level.



CMP staff members served as Technical Advisors and helped set up part of the CMP's Mobile Range which included 26 electronic targets. Scores were available on-line throughout the NCAA Championship so family members, school-mates and fans could cheer on their favorite team throughout the weekend.