

Minnesota Juniors Compete at US Junior Olympic Matches

Colorado Springs, Colorado: USA Shooting held their annual Junior Olympic National Championship rifle matches April 7 - 19 at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. Several current and former members of the Minnesota Centershots Junior Rifle club received invites to participate in this high-level competition. In order to be invited each junior had to shoot well enough in a qualifier match to receive an official invitation. A total of five current and two former members of the Minnesota Centershots earned invites to this event. For the past two years the event was held at Hillsdale College in Michigan due to Covid restrictions placed on the OTC facility. It was great to have the event back at the OTC where it belongs even though there were some advantages to having the match in Michigan.

Current Centershots members Tanner Barth and Megan Jaros qualified for both Smallbore and Air Rifle disciplines. Tanner will be shooting with the University of Memphis NCAA rifle team starting next fall. Current members Nathan Engman, Elly Russ and Elsa Eugster all qualified for the Air Rifle event. Former Centershots members Gavin Barnick, currently a member of the University of Alaska rifle team, and Allison Buesseler, currently a member of the University of Kentucky rifle team, also earned invitations to participate in both Smallbore and Air Rifle. Most rifle shooting events of this type do not differentiate between men and women and they compete against each other in the same category, however this event has separate categories for men and women. In addition to separate categories for men and women the shooters are separated into age groups as well. The oldest group is called U21 and is made up of 18, 19 and 20 year old shooters(as of the day the match starts), many of whom are athletes on college NCAA rifle teams. The next group is U18 which is made up of 15, 16 and 17-year-old shooters, many of these are looking to get an offer to join a college NCAA or club team. The last group is the U15 which is everyone 14 and under. For Elly (U18) and Elsa (U15) this was their first time participating in this event. Elly shot a score of 1159.6 - 32X and Elsa finished with 1147.0 – 26X. Both Elly and Elsa gained important national match experience and shot personal best scores, something which is difficult to do at such high level of competition. Please see below for detailed match results:

<i>Air Rifle</i>				
Name	Aggregate Score	Overall Placement	Age Group	Age Group Placement
Tanner Barth	1209.4 - 61X	34/116	U21 Men	21/43
Megan Jaros	1228.6 - 82X	59/224	U18 Women	21/118
Nathan Engman	1172.5 - 43X	89/116	U21 Men	38/43
Elly Russ	1159.6 - 32X	215/224	U18 Women	117/118
Elsa Eugster	1147.0 - 26X	220/224	U15 Women	20/23
Allison Buesseler	1232.1 -79X	45/224	U21 Women	32/79
Gavin Barnick	1245.4 - 97X	5/116	U21 Men	4/43
<i>Smallbore</i>				
Name	Aggregate Score	Overall Placement	Age Group	Age Group Placement
Tanner Barth	1134 -37X	20/96	U21 Men	13/34
Megan Jaros	1147 - 43X	34/118	U18 Women	19/207
Nathan Engman				
Elly Russ				
Elsa Eugster				
Allison Buesseler	1145 - 59X	36/118	U21 Women	27/49
Gavin Barnick	1170 - 59X	3/96	U21 Men	3/34

Former Minnesota Centershots member Gavin Barnick shot well enough in smallbore to make the “final” in which the top 8 in each discipline compete in a head to head, start from zero, elimination style shoot-off until only one is left and this time it was Gavin Barnick. Winning the Junior Olympic men's Smallbore Champion title also qualified him for a spot on the men’s smallbore team for the 2023 International Shooting Sports Federation Junior World Championships in Changwon, Korea this July. Gavin also made the final for men’s Air Rifle in which he finished 4th which was still good enough to earn him a spot on the men’s Air Rifle team at the ISSF Junior World Championships in Korea, also in July.

For more information about Junior competitive rifle shooting in Minnesota please check out Minnesotacentershots.com and Minnesota Rifle and Revolver Association at MRRRA.org



MN Shooters at Junior Olympics Air Rifle
Olympic Shooting center, Colorado Springs, Colorado



Megan Jaros at Olympic Shooting Center



Nathan Engman (left) Megan Jaros (right)



Mega Jaros (left) Unknown (right)