

On the Road with the Junior Team

At the 21st Meeting of the Shooting Hopes in Plzen, Czech Republic, the USA Shooting Team sent a talented team of junior athletes. The competition began with Junior Women's 10m Air Pistol shooting. Athletes Alana Townsend (Kalispell, Mont.), Kylie Gagnon (Bozeman, Mont.), Taylor Gallegos (Prosper, Texas), Shelby Cammack (Sturgis, S.D.) and Starlin Shi (Potomac, Md.) represented the red, white and blue in fine form.

Townsend was the highest placing American with 373 match points—she missed the final by just three points to finish in eleventh place. Gagnon shot 368 match points to finish in twenty-fourth place. Gallegos shot 364 match points and Cammack fired 361 match points. Shi shot 329 match points. In the team competition, the trio of Townsend, Gagnon and Cammack finished sixth overall with 1102 combined points.

In Junior Women's 10m Air Rifle, Abigail Stanec (Wadsworth, Ohio) shot 389 match points to finish in thirtieth place. Stanec was the only USA Shooting Team athlete to participate in the women's air event.

Daniel Hermsmeier (Chesterfield, Mo.) shot 592 match points in Junior Men's 50m Rifle Prone. Of the six rounds he shot, Hermsmeier shot a perfect 100 points in three rounds to finish in twelfth place. Teammate Ryan Anderson (Great Falls, Va.) shot 589 match points to finish in twentieth place. Samuel Muegge (Boling, Texas) finished in thirtieth place with 587 match points. Michael Liuzza (New Orleans, La.) shot 581 match points. The team of Hermsmeier, Anderson and Liuzza finished in fifth place overall with a combined score of 1762 points.

In Junior Men's 50m Free Pistol, Matt Pueppke (Amenia, N.D.), shot 519 points to finish in twenty-ninth place overall. Alexander Chichkov (Temple Terrace, Fla.) shot 523 match points in Junior Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol to place twenty-sixth overall. Chichkov also shot in Junior Men's 10m Air Pistol where he also finished twenty-sixth with a score of 563 points. Pueppke shot 551 match points to finish fifty-fourth overall.

In the Junior Women's 25m Sport Pistol event, Shi was the first American to break into final competition. Shi shot 567 match points to qualify for one of eight spots in the final. Shi finished in sixth place with a final of 194.3 points for 761.3 total points. Cammack finished in forty-fourth place with 528 match points and Gallegos was not far behind with 524 match points. The American team of Shi, Cammack and Gallegos finished

In Junior Women's 50m Rifle Prone, Stanec finished in seventeenth place with 588 points. In the Junior Women's 50m Rifle Three Position event, Stanec fired 569 match points to finish thirty-fourth overall.

In Junior Men's 10m Air Rifle, Muegge the National Junior Olympic Men's 10m Air Rifle Champion won the first American individual medal with 692.6 total points. Muegge fired 591 out of 600 match points



Photo Dawn Faught, Rushridge Photography

Members of the National Junior Pistol and Rifle Teams traveled to Plzen, Czech Republic to compete in the Shooting Hopes Match. (L to R): Starlin Shi, Ryan Anderson, Taylor Gallegos, Matthew Pueppke, Kylie Gagnon, Alexander Chichkov, Abigail Stanec, Daniel Hermsmeier, Alanna Townsend, Sam Muegge, Michael Liuzza & Shelby Cammack.

ninth overall with a combined score of 1619 points.

In Junior Men's 50m Rifle Three Position, Hermsmeier finished tenth with a score of 1154 points. Teammate Anderson shot 1148 match points and Liuzza was only two points behind at 1146 match points. Muegge finished twenty-ninth with a score of 1139 points. The trio of Hermsmeier, Liuzza and Muegge earned the bronze medal with a combined team score of 3439 points.

and 101.6 points in the final for the bronze medal. Teammate Hermsmeier finished in eleventh place with 588 match points. Liuzza shot 582 points for thirty-sixth place overall and Anderson shot 566 match points. The men's team of Muegge, Hermsmeier and Liuzza technically tied the Russian team for the bronze medal, but the Russians score higher center tens with 118 compared to the USA's 105 center hits.