

EMMONS REPEATS AS NCAA SMALLBORE CHAMPION; TANOUE UNSEATS EMMONS AS NCAA AIR RIFLE CHAMPION

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(March 15, 2002) — MURRAY, Ky. — Alaska Fairbanks shooter Matt Emmons was the person to beat in the individual championships competitions at the NCAA Rifle Championships, as he had won both the 2001 individual smallbore title and the 2001 individual air rifle crown in last year's competition in Columbus, Ohio.

This year, Emmons — a junior from Browns Mills, N.J. — repeated as the smallbore champion, setting an NCAA individual smallbore record with a score of 1190 out of a possible 1200. His score included 96 bulls (center shots) out of a possible 120. The former record was held by Kelly Mansfield of Alaska Fairbanks, who shot an 1185 in 1999.

However, Emmons was unseated as the individual air rifle champion by Nevada shooter Ryan Tanoue (pron.: TAN-oo-ay). Tanoue — a freshman from Honolulu, Hawai'i — tied Emmons' overall score of 392 out of a possible 400, but won the tie-breaker, hitting 29 centers to Emmons' 26.

Emmons is the first shooter in 14 years to win back-to-back smallbore titles, joining Kurt Fitz-Randolph of Tennessee Tech (1981, 1982) and Web Wright of West Virginia (1987, 1988) in accomplishing the feat.

The win by Tanoue halted a string of three individual air rifle championships won by Alaska Fairbanks shooters, as Kelly Mansfield of UAF had won the 1999 and 2000 titles.

Hannah Kerr of Xavier finished second in the individual smallbore competition with a score of 1179, while Bradley Wheeldon of Kentucky and Per Sandberg of Alaska Fairbanks scored equal marks of 1175, with each shooting 76 centers. Wheeldon was awarded third place in the next tie-breaker, as he scored 100 tens to Sandberg's 99.

James Nash of Kentucky and Sandberg scored equal marks of 391 in the individual smallbore competition, just one point behind the title, but Nash was awarded third place, having shot 21 centers to Sandberg's 20.

Tomorrow (Saturday), the team competition for the national title gets under way. The first relay for smallbore — including Alaska Fairbanks, Kentucky, West Virginia and Xavier — begins at 8 a.m. CT, while the first relay for air rifle — including host Murray State, Navy, Nevada and Tennessee Tech — begins at 9 a.m. CT. The second relay of smallbore competition — including Coast Guard, Murray State, Navy and Tennessee Tech — begins at 12:30 p.m. CT, while the second relay of air rifle competition — including Alaska Fairbanks, Army, Kentucky and Xavier — begins at 1 p.m. CT.

The awards ceremony will begin at about 5:30 p.m. CT.

NCAA INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

March 15, 2002 • Murray, Ky.

Smallbore (score out of a possible 1200)

<i>Shooter, School</i>	<i>Prn-Knl-Std*</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Centers</i>
1. Matt Emmons, Alaska Fairbanks	399-393-398	1190#	96
2. Hannah Kerr, Xavier	397-386-396	1179	77
+3. Bradley Wheeldon, Kentucky	397-388-390	1175	76
4. Per Sandberg, Alaska Fairbanks	398-379-398	1175	76
5. Aaron Shader, Kentucky	399-380-393	1172	77
6. Dan Crews, Tennessee Tech	394-384-388	1166	62
7. Thrine Kane, Xavier	397-380-386	1163	62
8. Morgan Hicks, Murray State	395-379-388	1162	55
9. Jason Nutter, Norwich	398-373-390	1161	64
10. Steve Powell, West Virginia	394-380-387	1161	50
11. Amber Darland, Alaska Fairbanks	397-373-386	1156	64
12. Vincent Jansen, Coast Guard	397-372-387	1156	63
13. Ivana Pokrajcic, Coast Guard	390-371-389	1150	54

* - three positions: prone, kneeling, standing

- NCAA Individual Smallbore Record

+ - won tie-breaker by having 100 tens to Sandberg's 99

Air Rifle (score out of a possible 400)

<i>Shooter, School</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Centers</i>
1. Ryan Tanoue, Nevada	392	29
2. Matt Emmons, Alaska Fairbanks	392	26
3. James Nash, Kentucky	391	21
4. Per Sandberg, Alaska Fairbanks	391	20
5. Hannah Kerr, Xavier	390	27
6. Thrine Kane, Xavier	389	21
7. Luke Shank, Navy	387	21
8. Robert Purdy, Murray State	386	21
9. Jared Lostetter, Army	385	20
10. Amber Darland, Alaska Fairbanks	385	19
11. Morgan Hicks, Murray State	384	20
12. Michael Miller, Navy	384	15
13. Todd Mansfield, Norwich	373	13