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TOURNAMENT CROWNS BEST HIGH SCHOOL RIFLE ATHLETES IN TENNESSEE

NASHVILLE, Tennessee, (April 16, 2012) -- More than one hundred competitive shooters from 18 high schools across the state participated in this past weekend's Tennessee State High School Position Air Rifle Championship in Nashville, with Montgomery Bell Academy's Precision 1 team taking top precision team honors and David Crockett High School Army JROTC Sporter 1 team taking sporter team accolades in the annual competition.

Franklin's Ryan Limpus, a home school senior at Aaron Academy, became the state's top individual precision shooter and Jesse Adams, David Crockett High School, the top individual sporter shooter.

"The competition was some of the best we've had in three position, with a number of athletes shooting in the 570s and 580s," said Ray Harvey, president of the Tennessee Shooting Sports Association (TNSSA), the sanctioning body that sponsors the competition. "We also had teams from all three divisions of the state, which is indicative of the number and level of quality competitive shooting programs we have in high schools and communities throughout Tennessee. A few of the best of these athletes will go on to compete at the collegiate level on any number of NCAA rifle teams across the nation."

The TNSSA is an educational non-profit organization affiliated with the National Rifle Association and Civilian Marksmanship Program that educates, trains and encourages future Olympic athletes and rifle/pistol owners in the art and skill of safe shooting sports.

The three position air rifle discipline consists of athletes shooting under timed conditions at targets approximately the size of a quarter from 33 feet in three different positions – prone, standing and kneeling. Scores are calculated based upon how close the marksmen come to the very center of the target, with a perfect score being 600.

MBA's P1 team of Joe Scherrer (584), Connor Yakushi (577), Hunter Tidwell (575) and Tim Bulso (572) won the precision team category with a composite score of 2308.

Ryan Limpus, an independent home school senior and athlete at Aaron Academy, led all precision shooters with a 584 with 35 center ten shots. He narrowly defeated MBA's Joe Scherrer by one center ten shot -- Scherrer's score was 584 with 34 center tens. Limpus' win came on the final shot of the final relay of the final day of competition.

David Crockett High School's Army JROTC S1 team traveled from Jonesborough, Tenn. to lead all sporter team competitors with a 2085, winning the title for the fifth straight year. Team member Jesse Adams was the best individual sporter shooter with a 543 and 17 center ten shots. Two weeks ago, Adams became the state's number one sporter Junior Olympic qualifier in a similar competition.

"Not only are these schools encouraging exciting shooting competitions, but teaching critical gun safety lessons, as well," Harvey said. "TNSSA is proud to play such a pivotal role in encouraging this great traditional American and Olympic sport."

The Friday-Saturday competition was the organization's 16th annual match in Tennessee and was conducted by MBA on the school's new rifle range.

For further information: www.tennessee shootingsportsassociation.org or tnssa@earthlink.net.

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