

Well my friends, we've just about wrapped up the shooting season – culminating with the 2005 National Championship in San Antonio. This year's event was an overwhelming success – and I'm pleased to report for the most part that the targets presented were some of the best ever. If there has been a bone of contention over the past few championships it would

certainly be in regard to target presentations. The general opinion, for some time now, was that the target difficulty was not up to the standards that one would expect at a national championship. Well, in the 'be careful what you wish for' category, the soft and floppies of previous years were finally replaced with some testy and challenging targets! The

approval rating took a giant leap upwards – and most shooters, from all skill levels, agreed that this year's targets were just about right. But more about the targets a little later.

For those who couldn't make the yearly migration to San Antonio, this year's attendance was about in line with most years – just short of 1,200 competitors. There were the usual events of 300

STEVE FISCHER REPORTS FROM THE 2005 NSCA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

SIZZLING IN SAN ANTONIO



2005 NATIONAL SPORTING
CHAMPION, BOBBY FOWLER JR.

THE HEAT WAS RELENTLESS — AND ALTHOUGH I USUALLY DON'T LIKE TO SHOOT THE 8:00 AM ROTATION, IT WAS WELCOMED THIS YEAR AS THE EARLY MORNING TEMPERATURES WERE MORE PLEASANT THAN IN THE MID-AFTERNOON.

sporting in the Main, 100 targets each in FITASC, Compak and the sub-gauges, and the usual side events for pump guns and side by sides and two separate Make-A-Break stands. There were several games offered, plenty of practice and warm-up 5-stand and a good attendance of vendors offering just about anything related to shotgun shooting. Several vendors commented that sales were a bit slow this year, and if there was a reason, it was probably because of the heat — the number of casual

walkers strolling along vendors row with temperatures in the high 90s to over 100 degrees every day. The heat was relentless — and although I usually don't like to shoot the 8:00 am rotation, it was welcomed this year as the early morning temperatures were more pleasant than in the mid-afternoon.

FRESH LAYOUTS

Another welcome sight was the fresh layouts for FITASC, Compak, sub-gauge and the Orange

sporting course. It was evident that much thought had been given to make the events more exciting by putting them on ground that had not been previously used. On the established areas of the Red and Yellow courses, as well as part of the Green, with their paved and fixed shooting positions, the targets were very different, giving a fresh look to most presentations.

The four FITASC parcours and the four Compak layouts were located side by side about 300 yards to the north of the lower skeet field, out in the flats of the drop zone, starting with the first FITASC parcours along the berm of the rifle range and extending to the east and ending with the fourth layout on the Compak course. Both events featured all new target presentations. Competitors were not allowed to drive their clays cars to either event, to help keep the noise, congestion and dust down to a tolerable level. A shuttle cart was kept busy taking shooters to and from these events.

The sub-gauge events were held on what used to be the east



"CLEAR AS A BELL AND HOTTER THAN..." WELL YOU KNOW!



FITASC layout area. Ten stations presented 100 targets for the 20, 28 and .410 shooters with A and B squads. Although the targets were rated by several sub-gauge aficionados as quite good, much grumbling was heard over the delays and slow play on these events. With the A and B squad system, the volume of shooters put a strain on the courses by over-filling – and when a few delays and breakdowns get figured in – the event ran to the slow side.

The K-Kup event was on its usual grounds and its yearly claim to fame is that between all the events, including the Main, it is usually a favorite for all. A total of 1043 competitors shot the event – and like the other courses – the difficulty level was raised up a notch.

THE PLAYERS

If there was but one event to win each year, it has to be the Nationals. No matter the class of the competitor, the bragging rights and prestige as a 'National Champion' is the one everybody would like to win. This is what brings out the 'names' to brave San Antonio's oppressive heat each year. Names like Kruger, Carey, Duffy, Mack, Fennell, Cherry, Robertson, Fowler, Camuglia and Carlisle – along with the

challenging 'young guns' like Powell, Kruse, Matarese, McClelland, Bolton, Wolf and Miles whose talents and desire are equal to the task.

The competition is fierce at this level and we mere mortal spectators had the pleasure of watching the battle unfold over the four days of competition for the Main Event title. As in any top competition, the end result would be a mix of the expected, sad tales of what could have been and the downright surprises that often

happen in top competitions. So, let's 'Loose the Dogs of War', blow by blow – starting with everyone's favorite, the K-Kup.

THE K-KUP

This event took form a few years ago, developed from an un-named Pre-lim event. Hal duPont and his line of Krieghoff shotguns took over the sponsorship and built it into a favorite event. Since then, it has become standard fare to hear shooters say that the best targets

at the Nationals were found on the K-Kup course each year.

This year's targets were up to par with previous years, that is, if you didn't count station 4! This score-destroying, target-eating monster of a



CHRIS MCCLELLAND IN ACTION.



LAYOUT #4 ON THE PERAZZI COMPAK COURSE.

presentation was well beyond the catch phrase 'over the top'. To the shooters' left was a fast rising crosser going up and away over the tree tops, starting from about 35 yards and moving away from the shooter. It was presented as a simo with a chandelle rabbit coming from way behind the same stand of trees, staying around the 40 yard mark, as it fell like a meteor and closed off its face to the shooter (much like a battue) as it crashed to the ground. The shooter had to rush his first shot at the rising crosser to have a prayer of even getting to the chandelle rabbit target at its highest point. By anyone's standards, this would have been a most difficult presentation as a report pair, let alone a simo! There were many zeros, ones and twos out of eight targets, which I am sure took the wind out of many a shooter's sails, leaving their confidence level and score card severely damaged.

The brighter side of the picture was that most of the rest of the course was excellent! Several stands were challenging but very enjoyable. Numerous presentations made the shooter think about which target to take

first of a true pair, as several could be shot either way.

The K-Kup has grown much from its early days, progressing from a Pre-lim warm-up for the big event to becoming a big event in its own right – and probably the largest attended 100 bird event in the country! For those who yearn for the days when this event was a fun shoot warm-up, those days are rightfully gone. Like the rest of the events at the National

THE COMPETITION IS FIERCE AT THIS LEVEL AND WE MERE MORTAL SPECTATORS HAD THE PLEASURE OF WATCHING THE BATTLE UNFOLD OVER THE FOUR DAYS OF COMPETITION FOR THE MAIN EVENT TITLE...

Championship, the shooter should expect to be challenged and his or her skills tested. This course would not be won by a 97 or 98 this year!

By Sunday evening, Rick Camuglia's 92 would prove to be the top score for the event, followed by Runner-up Cory Kruse (91) and Jon Kruger (90) in for third place. The top three Masters were Chris McClelland (90) Albert Bogetti Jr and Ben Brunton at 89.



CASEY ATKINSON AT THE READY ON THE YELLOW COURSE STATION 9.



THE FITASC LAYOUTS WERE CHALLENGING BUT ENTERTAINING.

The concurrents was minus the Juniors and Sub-Juniors this year, as these had competed earlier at the Junior Nationals. In the Super-Veterans, Ed Couture was top gun and on a pretty good roll at this event, winning HOA with a fine score of 84. Curt Cowgill (77) took home Runner-up and third place went to Ron Shafer (75). Top gun in the Veterans went to Carter Stanton (87) followed by Bob Davis and Joe Cantey in second and third, tied on 84. The Ladies concurrent found some new names and faces in the top spots along with the regulars. Janet Tausch took HOA after a tie with Diane Nelson at 77. Ashleigh Hafley placed third, just one back at 76. (All class scores shown in the panel)

THE RESULTS

CHAMPIONSHIP MAIN

HOA	BOBBY FOWLER JR	282
RU	BRANDON POWELL	277
3RD	HERBERT KANZKI	277
M1	DAN CARLISLE	276
M2	ANTHONY MATARESE JR	275
M3	TRE' SIDES	275
AA1	R WAYNE DAVIS	264
AA2	LYNN TALLEY	254
AA3	JEREMY FRANKS	253
A1	ANDREW SPANN	251
A2	DUANE MILLER	249
A3	JOHN R THATCHER	249
B1	BRETT MOYES	244
B2	AL MATTINGLEY	244
B3	BRANDON BARTEL	240
C1	DENNIS J TAYLOR	241
C2	DANNY R CLEMONS	239
C3	JUSTIN E CRITES	234
D1	TAYLOR SET DUHON	220
D2	TEDDY D MC MURRY	219
D3	CAITLIN CONNOR	212
E1	JIM FAIRMAN	207
E2	RICK HACKWORTH	91
E3	TERRY STEUCK	185
LADIES		
HOA	ASHLEIGH HAFLEY	244
RU	DEEANN MASSEY	236
3RD	DR PAULA L BENBOW	235
M1	JANET TAUSCH	227
M2	DIANE S NELSON	225
M3	CASEY O ATKINSON	224
AA1	TINA WILLIAMS	228
AA2	CATHY WRIGHT	224
AA3	KASEY STAFFORD	224
A1	MISTY WILLIAMS	227
A2	TRICIA KOCUREK	220
A3	MELITA SWEENEY	203
B1	ANNETTE ENSOR	221
B2	SANDI NAIL	216
B3	DEBRA L TAYLOR	209
C1	CATHY SHO VAN	223
C2	DEBORAH FLEMING	220
C3	DEBBIE FREEMAN	207
D1	CAITLIN CONNOR	212
D2	DELENISE S SNEED	196
D3	KIM MARIE JONES	188
E1	KRISTA PETERSON	175
E2	KATHY J LIECHTY	174
E3	NORMA FRIEDMAN	168
VETERANS		
HOA	JIM WILLIAMS	265
RU	GARY GREENWAY	263
3RD	JEROME R HOLDEN	260
M1	JOE B CANTEY III	255
M2	RON HONEFENGER	255
M3	GREG LARSON	255

AA1	SAMMY CLIFTON	242
AA2	BRIAN E BREWTON	240
AA3	MICHAEL W SCRIVNER	237
A1	HUGH D BENNETT	234
A2	JOHN HACKETHORN	233
A3	JAIME MD FONTANE	230
B1	AL MATTINGLEY	244
B2	WAYNE WILLIAMS	222
B3	JACK BAKER	221
C1	WILLIAM H BECKER	218
C2	PAT CONNER	216
C3	JERRY HAMPTON	216
D1	DENNIS PATTON	211
D2	WILLIAM R HOGG	205
D3	RICHARD DONOFRIO	195
E1	WILLIAM S LAWSON	181
E2	MICHAEL C PACE	176
E3	HARRISON F LEAMON	175

SUPER VETERANS

HOA	EDWARD P COUTURE	249
RU	CARL SKIP ZAPFFE	243
3RD	W RAY NEWMAN	239
M1	RAY TIPTON	234
M2	CURT COWGILL	231
M3	GENE SEARS	230
AA1	DAVID J SKEWES	234
AA2	ROBERT A HALE	227
AA3	JOHN W FARRELL	223
A1	JERRY JONES	222
A2	MARVIN F MIRE	216
A3	EUGENE W OVIATT	213
B1	THOMAS G HUPP	212
B2	RONALD L BLOSSER	207
B3	SUE HARRIS	205
C1	DAVID BARCLAY	196
C2	JIM BRAKE	192
C3	JAMES W EVANS	190
D1	JIM HARRIS	203
D2	WAYNE LARSON	199
D3	TOMMY T MILAM	194
E1	JOHN DOTSON	171
E2	ROY HOEFLING	158
E3	NEIL R KRETZER	158

WHEELCHAIR CONC

CH	JIM PORTER	105
----	------------	-----

INTERNATIONAL CONC

HOA	SERGIO G MUNARI	266
RU	BEN BRUNTON	261
3RD	FEDERICO DEL TORO	258
M1	ARMANDO PEREZ	235
AA1	JOHN GILOPIDIS	233
A1	GERARDO PONCE	228
B1	ARMANDO FARIAS	234
C1	JUAN CARLO LOPEZ	211
D1	F. CARDENAS DAVILA	211
E1	C. GUERRA GARZA	197

COMPAK MAIN EVENT

HOA	WENDELL CHERRY	94
RU	BILL MC GUIRE	93
3RD	GEBBEN MILES	92
M1	STEVEN W NELSON	92
M2	FEDERICO DEL TORO	92
M3	SCOTT ROBERTSON	92
AA1	JEFF PATE	88
AA2	JAMES PLUMLEY	88
AA3	MICHAEL VERRET	88
A1	RONNIE F LACK	86
A2	CARY SKAGGS	84
A3	STEPHEN L YOUNG	84
B1	FRANK THOMPSON	81
B2	KYLE WANDELEAR	81
B3	CARL L KISABERTH	81
C1	W. WEATHERFORD II	81
C2	ALLEN J HILLMAN	78
C3	WILLIAM H BECKER	78
D1	F. CARDENAS DAVILA	80
D2	KENNETH GOERS	76
D3	ARTURO LOPEZ	73
E1	LORI DI PASQUALE	68
E2	LES MC DANIEL	67
E3	GUY WOMACK	67

LADIES

CH	ASHLEIGH HAFLEY	85
2ND	DIANE M SORANTINO	85
3RD	CHRISTA LITTLEFIELD	84

VETERANS

CH	GENE A SHERROD	89
2ND	RON HONEFENGER	89
3RD	JAMES A JAMISON	87

SUPER VETERANS

CH	CARL SKIP ZAPFFE	88
2ND	RONALD SHAFER	87
3RD	RAY TIPTON	83

FITASC MAIN EVENT

HOA	RICK CAMUGLIA	85
RU	BRAD BELCHER	81
3RD	RANDY TRAVALIA	81
M1	JOEY BOLTON	80
M2	CHRIS MC CLELLAND	80
M3	CURTIS G MAULDIN	79
AA1	WELDON NICHOLS	78
AA2	WILLIAM FALLS	74
AA3	ALVARO RAMOS	74
A1	BRAD MURRAY	87
A2	DUANE MILLER	87
A3	CARY SKAGGS	86
B1	IMANOL ACHURRA	89
B2	ANTHONY J JUAREZ	84
B3	DOUGLAS KREITLER	83
C1	ROY KENNET BERRY	79
C2	RANDY STEWART	79
C3	JIM LINDBERG	79
D1	TAYLOR SET DUHON	80
D2	ARTURO LOPEZ	75
D3	RICHARD DONOFRIO	73
E1	LYNDA LIPTOK	64
E2	RICK HACKWORTH	63
E3	JACK CARBAUGH	62

LADIES

CH	DIANE M SORANTINO	72
2ND	JENNIFER WALTON	69
3RD	PAULA MOORE	69

VETERANS

CH	MIKE BITTMANN	77
2ND	GARY HAND	76
3RD	BOB L DAVIS	75

SUPER VETERANS

CH	EDWARD P COUTURE	77
2ND	RONALD SHAFER	77
3RD	JOHN W FARRELL	74



MASTER FIRST IN THE COMPAK, STEVE NELSON WITH MASTER SECOND, FEDERICO DEL TORO.

K-KUP MAIN

HOA	RICK CAMUGLIA	92
RU	CORY KRUSE	91
3RD	JON KRUGER	90
M1	CHRIS MC CLELLAND	90
M2	ALBERT JR BOGETTI	89
M3	BEN BRUNTON	89
AA1	R WAYNE DAVIS	87
AA2	DARRELL FARR	84
AA3	MELVIN L MISEGADIS	82
A1	STEVE DICKINSON	78
A2	DANIEL HAUSERMAN	77
A3	ROGER W KOLAS	75
B1	TOM DAVIDSON	78
B2	BRANDON BARTEL	78
B3	ALAN WRIGHT	74
C1	JAMES M BRYAN	72
C2	RANDAL L FOOTE	71
C3	MIKE BRYAN	70
D1	DAVID HEARD	71
D2	F. CARDENAS DAVILA	70
D3	JESUS BALBOA	69
E1	WILLIAM TH RIBBS	64
E2	DEBRA K JONES	63
E3	C. GUERRA GARZA	59
LADIES		
CH	JANET TAUSCH	77

2ND	DIANE S NELSON	77
3RD	ASHLEIGH HAFLEY	76

VETERANS

CH	CARTER G STANTON	87
2ND	BOB L DAVIS	84
3RD	JOE B CANTEY III	84

SUPER VETERANS

CH	EDWARD P COUTURE	84
2ND	CURT COWGILL	77
3RD	RONALD SHAFER	75

20 GAUGE MAIN

HOA	BRIAN HUGHES	94
RU	MONTIE R SIMS	91
3RD	STEVE NAATJES	91
M1	DAVID W SCHMIDT	91
M2	KEN BRANHAM	90
M3	TOMMY L BROWNING	89
AA1	KENNY FOSTER	86
AA2	RANDY BREWER	86
AA3	DARRELL FARR	85
A1	LARRY J TAYLOR	85
A2	JOHN F DAVIS	83
A3	DUANE MILLER	83
B1	BEN JENSEN	84
B2	DOUGLAS KREITLER	79
B3	SIDNEY LYONS	77
C1	RUSSELL HANKS	79

C2	SANDRA MOORE	76
C3	JIM MILLER	76
D1	WESLEY GIROD	85
D2	ROBERT M DAVIS	78
D3	A G ENGLISH	78
E1	GLENN GIROD	71
E2	MICHAEL C PACE	67
E3	WILLIAM S LAWSON	65

28 GAUGE MAIN

HOA	ANDREW ROB BOUNDS	93
RU	BRIAN HUGHES	92
3RD	DOUG FULLER	92
M1	SCOTT ROBERTSON	89
M2	KIRK CLEERE	89
M3	BO POWELL	88
AA1	DARRELL FARR	85
AA2	WELDON NICHOLS	83
AA3	RONALD W JEITZ	83
A1	LOUIS M HALL	81
A2	ALEX T KALE	79
A3	LARRY J TAYLOR	78
B1	JOHN DURY	84
B2	DOUGLAS KREITLER	78
B3	SIDNEY LYONS	76
C1	RONNIE WEGNER	78
C2	JIM MILLER	74
C3	KELSEY ARCHER	71

D1	ROBERT M DAVIS	82
D2	DELENISE S SNEED	77
D3	MAXIM DOUCET	74
E1	GLENN GIROD	65
E2	WILLIAM S LAWSON	63
E3	LES MC DANIEL	62

410 BORE MAIN

HOA	BRIAN HUGHES	92
RU	TOMMY L BROWNING	91
3RD	DOUG FULLER	91
M1	BRYAN LAWS	90
M2	CARL SKIP ZAPFFE	89
M3	RICKY HILEMAN	89
AA1	DAVID J SKEWES	86
AA2	TED SLADE	84
AA3	WELDON NICHOLS	83
A1	DUANE MILLER	87
A2	JOHN D HARRIS	80
A3	LARRY J TAYLOR	80
B1	DOUGLAS KREITLER	83
B2	SIDNEY LYONS	81
B3	JIM HOOLEY	79
C1	RON BARAUSKAS	78
C2	RONNIE WEGNER	77
C3	RODOLFO ECHAVARRIA	77
D1	MARK PEARL	72
D2	RICKY GONZALEZ	70
D3	MARIO R BARRERA	68
E1	LES MC DANIEL	79
E2	ALEXANDRA N WAMPLER	63
E3	JOHN G TABOR	60

SIDE BY SIDE MAIN

HOA	KIRK CLEERE	93
CLASS 1		
CH	GENE A SHERROD	87
RU	MONTIE R SIMS	85
3RD	BUCK BLOODWORTH	85

PUMP GUN MAIN

HOA	STEVE NAATJES	91
CLASS 1		
CH	DOYLE WILSON	91
RU	MONTIE R SIMS	91
3RD	RICK MAIKE	90

**FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS,
THE TOWER ON THE RED
COURSE STANDS UNUSED IN A
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP!**



**CLAYSHOOTINGUSA
EXTENDS A HEARTY
CONGRATULATIONS TO
ALL THE WINNERS OF THIS
2005 NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP!**

ON TO THE COMPAK

This event, ruled under the auspices of FITASC, is a relatively new event to the Nationals. Groomed to be a replacement for 5-stand, this fledgling discipline is now in its second year, and still remains somewhat of a 'redheaded stepchild' to many of the sporting shooters. It has been slow in gaining recognition in the U.S. although it is quite popular in many European countries.

To enjoy the game you had better know the rules – and there are plenty of them! For example, the shooter in the next box from the current shooter has to call for his target within the seven seconds allotted time, or be penalized after the second warning with the loss of a target. Semi-auto shooters may drop a shell into the chamber, but cannot close the bolt until they are the shooter. Over/Under shooters may load their chambers, but cannot close the action until it is their turn to shoot. Once you get the hang of it, it's quite simple – with targets presented in almost limitless form as report, true or following, limited only by the setter's imagination and the confines of the layout boundaries.

The event was separated into Master-AA and A-E class, with four separate layouts for each, with presentations generally more challenging in the Master/AA class.

Well balanced in presentations, the four Master-AA layouts didn't result in much variance in scores at the top of the leaderboard. Layout one had two 25 straights, layout two had one, layout three had no straights and layout four had just three perfect scores. Out of the 340 competitors in the event, Wendell Cherry showed us all how it was done by posting a 25-24-23-22=94 to take HOA. 'Smilin' Bill McGuire (93) was one back for Runner-up spot and Gebben Miles

(92) was third. Concurrent honors went to Gene Sherrod (V-89), Carl Zapffe (SV-88) and Ashleigh Hafley (L-85). *(All class scores shown on the panel)*

FITASC EVENT

This event, and the game itself, is a personal favorite of mine and for those who like challenging targets and don't get all weepy eyed and whiny when a shot is missed! Competitors find their pulse quickening when they see a 40



COMPAK LADY CHAMP ASHLEIGH HAFLEY WITH RUNNER-UP DIANE SORANTINO.

FITASC TOP GUN AND K-KUP WINNER, RICK CAMUGLIA.

yard crosser, or a 50 yard battue going hell bent for leather! A big chandelle rolling across the sky is viewed as an opportunity and not a punishment – while targets in the 20 yard area are viewed as a gift! Just like a good single malt whisky, escargot or grits, FITASC is an acquired taste – and anything less is nothing more than warm beer.

Just like the Compak, the FITASC event was separated into two 100 target layouts – with Masters and AA shooters on one set of targets and A through E on another. The Masters-AA layouts were on the North end of the lower skeet fields and

THE LADIES MAIN EVENT WINNERS, CHAMPIONS ONE AND ALL! (L-R) DEEANN MASSEY, ASHLEIGH HAFLEY AND PAULA BENBOW.



beside the rifle range, extending north and east until they reached the K-Kup layout. This virgin ground left the playing field even for all comers – with open sky and no shade for the shooters. The target difficulty was probably the toughest ever presented in San Antonio, up to and including several World Championship and other National Championships hosted there.

Parcours one and four of the Masters-AA course, evidenced by the scores, were likely the toughest. Without doubt, if you didn't bring your game with you, you weren't going to find it here! Screaming fast 90s, long high teals and chandelles – as well as some difficulty in seeing several of the all black targets coming from the ground with tree backgrounds – made for some testy targets.

Anyone who could average around the 80 percent mark was in the hunt, as 23s and 24s were definitely in the minority. Those who could keep it close to the 20 average would find themselves in the winner's circle on Sunday. K-Kup winner Rick Camuglia continued his hot streak and took HOA honors with a 21-18-22-24=85. I was shooting the first layout of the Compak as he shot the fourth FITASC Parcour and was able to





(L TO R) ED COUTURE (WITH RU RON SHAFER) PUT IT ALL TOGETHER WINNING HOA SUPER-VETERAN IN THE FITASC, K-KUP AND MAIN EVENT! NICE JOB ED!

watch him single barrel target after target in the singles, and smoke the pairs with amazing regularity. His 24 on that layout was truly some of the finest shooting I have ever witnessed. Runner-up Brad Belcher shot 81, tied with Minnesota Horse and Hunt's Randy Travalia who took third place.

Super-Veteran Ed Couture was having a great weekend, and topped the Super-Veterans after a shoot-off tie with Ronald Shafer at 77. Mike Bittmann (77), also having a great season, topped the Veterans and Gary Hand took second place one target back. Diane Sorantino (92) of Team USA led the Ladies with second place going to Jennifer Walton, after a tie with Paula Moore at 69.

THE MAIN EVENT!

As in past years, four courses were used to present a total of 300 targets in the Main Event – with 75 targets on each of the Red, Orange, Green and Yellow courses, shot over four days. Early on, as the shooters finished the first day's rotations, it became clear that this year's targets were a bit more technical than in previous years.

By day two, a picture of how the courses ranked in difficulty became clearer – and ranking from

easiest to hardest would prove to be Red, Green, Yellow and Orange. Ranking by 'favorite course' went to Yellow, which featured some solid well thought out targets. The Red course was the one that gave the shooter a good chance for a high score, with some very user friendly presentations. The Orange and Green course put the fate of the shooter in his or her own hands. If you produced, you were rewarded, but lack of focus and attention could get costly as several stands had some fairly stout presentations. For sure there were a couple of stands that could have been thought out a little better – but overall, the balance between the courses was good and the difficulty level was just about right.

After four days of stiff competition, Sunday afternoon rolls around and as the scores are tallied and the shoot-offs called, there is time for retrospection. Shooters will talk amongst themselves about their highs and lows and give opinion as to the targets, food, awards, games and what they thought was right and what they thought was wrong with this year's Championship.

Overwhelmingly, general opinion was that this year's targets, for the most part, were the best ever. Likewise, general opinion

was also in agreement that the date of the shoot needs to be moved into October, as many are just plain sick and tired of the oppressive heat and humidity found in San Antonio in September. A few of the hunters didn't like the thought of the National's conflicting with part of the hunting season, but by far, the majority of those I spoke to would love to see the Nationals moved to mid-October.

HERBIE WHO?

Occasionally at major tournaments like this, something, or in this case, someone, pops up that requires a closer look – and this year is no exception. Bobby Fowler was well on his way to closing out the Main Event, with just two shooters left who had a chance of catching or passing his score. Everyone knew Brandon Powell, but on that last rotation was a relatively new face at this level of competition, which also had a chance to match or pass Bobby's score. I heard several shooters at the scoreboard comment, "Herbie Who?" They were referring to a Florida shooter by the name of Herbie Kanzki, who had brought his 'A' game to the Nationals and by day's end would find himself in the Coliseum shooting off for Runner-up against Brandon Powell!

Herbie, a back-to-back winner on the National's Make-A-Break game, along with Brandon, put on a great show of ability to hit some pretty awesome targets in the shoot-off stadium. All tied up from



HERBIE KANZKI HEADING INTO THE SHOOT-OFF STADIUM.

the first stand, Herbie and Brandon would go one more stand with Brandon Powell taking the first Runner-up and Herbie Kanzki taking the second Runner-up at the 2005 Nationals. You can bet that we haven't seen the last of these fine shooters in the winner's circle!

AND THE CHAMPION IS...

Bobby Fowler has done it once again – and is the 2005 National Sporting Clays Champion (74-69-70-69=282). Master first went to an icon in the sporting world, Dan Carlisle, with 73-70-68-65=276, followed by a pair of 275s from Anthony Matarese Jr. and Trè Sides for second and third Master. Fourth place winner was Cory Kruse (274) with fifth place claimed by Wendell Cherry (273).

Once again Ed Couture stepped onto the podium to receive another award, topping the Super-Veterans with 249, six targets ahead of Skip Zapffe (243). The Veteran champion was Jim Williams (265) with Gary Greenway (263) Runner-up. Ashleigh Hafley (244) is this year's Lady Champion with DeeAnn Massey (236) as Runner-up.

ClayShootingUSA extends a hearty congratulations to all the winners of this 2005 National Championship. It certainly seems from the comments of the shooters that this event was one of the best ever held on the NSCA grounds. The voice of the shooters has been heard and acted upon by the NSCA and the result was a lot more happy campers than in previous years. Improvement in the target presentations, along with many other improvements to the grounds and to the overall event is a positive move, benefiting all involved. There will be, I am sure, many shooters looking forward to next year's National Championship. To all those involved in making this event possible, you done good! ■