

THE 2005 NATIONAL FITASC CHAMPIONSHIP

A REPORT BY **STEVE FISCHER**

As I drove out of the Lindberg Airport in Minneapolis into the 'brain drain' of heavy traffic heading to the west and out of town to LeSeuer, Minnesota and the Caribou Gun Club, my thoughts strayed back to the magnificent first leg of the Triple Classic that I had shot a few days previously, over in England. The tournament was held on the stunningly beautiful grounds of Highclere Castle. That beautiful rolling hill countryside with a view into the next generation topped my thoughts.

When I finally reached my turn to the South on SR 169 and the traffic began to thin out to a tolerable volume, it dawned on me as I looked around that this area of Minnesota is similar to those beautiful rolling hills in England. Maybe not quite so big, but very similar and just the ticket for a top notch target setter like Neil Chadwick

to set some really excellent presentations.

The ride south on State Road 169 was a familiar one – and the landmarks leading to LeSeuer began to come and go. I recognized Grandma Krumby's restaurant in Belle Plaine, whizzed past the town of Jordan and began to look for my favorite landmark as I got closer to LeSeuer. Finally, as I climbed a gentle rise in the highway, the familiar image of the Jolly Green Giant, all 60 ft of him, stood guard just before the exit into the sleepy little town of LeSeuer (MN). This huge sign sported a new summer's green coat of paint and was there to tell all that Green Giant brands were at home in LeSeuer and that this area is where all those canned goods originate. There are 3,922 residents in LeSeuer – and I would bet many of them work in the food packing industry that



(L TO R) TOM WICKUS, WILL FENNELL, AND JEFF KOSHEREK WATCH CLOSELY AS DARBY BERRY CALLS FOR THE TARGET.



comprises a good portion of the employment in the region.

Main street wound through the center of LeSeuer and there was a feeling of a peaceful, slower-paced life, not found in my hustling home of Miami, Florida – and without the benefit of a single ‘Mickey D’s’ anywhere’s to be found! You know, if it wasn’t for the winters in Minnesota...

FIRST RESULTS

Check in was a breeze – Lois Lessing was in the driver’s seat and had me signed in, numbered and in possession of a goodly portion of my wallet before you could say “charge it!”

I couldn’t make it there in time for the Pre-lim, though I usually like to shoot such events just to get a feel for the terrain, lighting and type of targets that may be presented in the Main Event. Nevertheless, I could see by the scores that it was up a notch in

difficulty over the usual fare for a Pre-lim. Bob Haynes put ‘one’ all together and topped the event with a fine score of 87 with Wendell Cherry and Randy Travalia close behind and tied at 85 for first and second Master. Anthony Matarese Jr. (83) took home third place. As is usual, the Veterans was the largest concurrent, with Curtis Anderson HOA with 83. Runner-up and third place went to the tie of 82, split by Charley Peterson and Charles Davis. Another from the Anderson clan, brother Ron, topped the Super-Veterans with 80, followed by Ed Couture (78) and Joe McHenry third (77). There were no Sub-Juniors entered in this event, which takes us to the Juniors – headed by an 84 shot by Eric Jensen, with Anthony Matarese Jr. (83) second and Gregg Wolf third (77). The Ladies were all tied up at 67, and finished Frances Gallogly, Susan Wall and Anna Marie Collins.



PROMATIC 200

Since this was a National Championship, many of the nation’s top shooters were present and that would lead to two conclusions. One, that the top gun of the Promatic 200 Sporting would probably be someone well known to the shooting community, and two, that he’d better be spot on or someone else would be standing in his shoes at the awards presentations! Saturday began with a beautiful clear and cool morning and couldn’t have been better for the start of the sporting event. The targets for the most part were ‘user friendly’ with two or three stations that could bite a chunk out of your score if you mis-read. If you were

CARIBOU GUN CLUB’S ‘LOOSE MOOSE’ BANQUET HALL AND BAR, COMPLETE WITH A BEAUTIFUL PATIO FOR RELAXING OUTDOORS AFTER THE SHOOT.

on the early morning rotation, the angle of the morning sun affected the view on a couple of stations, making them a little tougher to see than for the afternoon shooters. Not a major problem mind you – but you had to look hard for the second target on these stands until the light shifted to a more overhead position.

One of the stations included a close rabbit – at no more than 10 or 12 yards – traveling at a moderate pace from right to left, set in the woods. The report target was an even closer standard target curling

across from left to right at about eight yards or so, with a decided hook downward just where you wanted to shoot it. Both targets were so close that even spreader loads or cylinder bore chokes were not going to give the shooter much help – and if the rabbit took a bounce, it would usually escape. You had to be spot on, or the bunny ran unscathed to its hiding place in the brush, the tree branches got the crosser and your score card got the '0s'. The laughter and the language on that stand made it very interesting!

Cory Kruse had the hot gun on Friday, putting up an excellent score of 97, with Minnesota's own Dusty Loberg right on his heels with 96. They were well ahead of the rest of the pack in at 91 and below – with the exception of Bob Haynes, winner of the Pre-lim, right in between with a fine 93.

On Saturday's final round we found early on that the targets were up a notch or two from Friday's fare and were proving to be well planned and interesting. Several of the stations offered targets that were wound up to a faster speed – and the distance increased.

Station 9 was particularly challenging. It sent a long and high midi crosser at least 40 yards for the first barrel, and added a shallow rising teal shot directly in front of the shooting stand, with the machine sitting out from the cage at about 35 yards. That seemed more like a trap shot, but with a lot of juice on it, so you were breaking (hopefully!) it at around 50 plus yards! Testing and tricky presentations, combined with true pairs that had you undecided about which target to take first all took their toll.

By the time the Saturday night banquet was about to get underway, Lois had all the sporting results ready, including the shoot-offs, and posted on the Internet



sites. Nothing like a professional to get the job done right! When it was all said and done it was consistency that led to the winner's circle – and Anthony Matarese Jr.'s pair of 91s for a 182 total proved to be the winning score. Right on his heels, just short by two targets at 180, Will Fennell took the Runner-up spot after a shoot-off with Gebben Miles who took third. Master first went to Dusty Loberg (178) with Cory Kruse (176) second and Andy Duffy (174) third. AA was topped by Terry Westemeier (158) also tied with Cletus Kuznia in second place, one ahead of Dave Musolf. Other class honors went to Larry Johnson (A-162), Nathan Niemann (B-164), Harold Zarn (C-154), Ms. Darby Berry (D-136) and Bill Jolitz (E-141). In the concurrents the winners were Randall Tinsley (V-168), Ed Couture (SV-170), Anthony Matarese Jr. (J-182) and Mary Wolfe (L-153).

NATIONAL FITASC!

It just wasn't possible to spot the winner after the first three

Parcours but you could start to deduce the particular layouts that were either very tough or possibly on the softer side.

Parcour 5 was the easier of the eight layouts, and over the course of the tournament produced eight 25 straights. It included a particular crossing target, the B bird, that was quite a shot from peg one. It was cranked up to run hot and fast and was, in my opinion, the key target on the layout. If you could hit it in the singles and in the pairs from peg one, you had a very good chance of putting a 25 on the board as the targets got a bit softer on pegs two and three. You still had to keep your head all the way in the game, however, as those so called 'easy ones' are the ones that seem to just slip away, leaving you wondering just how you could have missed it!

The toughest layout proved to be next door, Parcour 4 – with the rest of the layouts falling somewhere in-between. The



TOM WANNEBO'S YOUNG SON CATCHES A BIG KISS FROM JEANNIE BLAIR FOR DRAWING HER WINNING TICKET FOR A 391 BERETTA!

highest score on Parcour 4 over the entire tournament was 21. It featured some very tricky and technically difficult shots. One that seemed to just have its way with my entire squad was the 'E' bird. It was a quartering and going away, slightly downhill, midi from peg one. As we moved to pegs two and three, it became a more pronounced crossing target, getting more difficult at each peg. After the third or more miss on this one, the comments and under the breath language got quite colorful! There was also an

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CH	GREGG WOLF	180
RU	WENDELL CHERRY	175
3RD	ANTHONY MATARESE JR	173
M1	STEVE FISCHER	170
M2	NADIM NASIR JR MD	169
M3	CRAIG HILL	169
AA1	SEAN KOHOUT	155
AA2	JOHN MOHLER	149
AA3	HARRY W BRUNNHÖELZL	148
A1	LARRY R JOHNSON	157
A2	JOHN HAMANN	146
A3	JEFF WIEMANN	145
B1	BARRY WEYLAND	138
B2	NATHAN NIEMANN	136
B3	CHARLIE CATO	136
C1	DOMINIC ULIANO	135
C2	DAVID V SEYMORE	135
C3	DAN OAK	134
D1	DARBY BERRY	116
D2	ALLEN COVE	110
D3	KENNETH GOERS	107
E1	JEREMY KOTT	131
E2	BILL JOLITZ	111
E3	JIM SCHMITZ	87
L1	DEEANN MASSEY	155
L2	SUSAN WALL	133
L3	PAULA MOORE	132
J1	GREGG WOLF	180
J2	ANTHONY MATARESE JR	173
J3	CORY KRUSE	165
V1	STEVE FISCHER	170
V2	CURTIS A ANDERSON	168
V3	JOE B CANTEY III	161
SV1	EDWARD P COUTURE	163
SV2	W RAY NEWMAN	161
SV3	RONALD SHAFER	144

excellent tower shot. The 'B' target, also a midi, crossed from a tower on top of a hill, putting it somewhere about 120 ft in the air, crossing beautifully against the clear blue sky at about 45 yards. Just a slight mis-calculation of forward allowance on this one would leave you watching it sail into the trees, unscathed. It got farther away as we moved through the pegs. Quite a fun shot!

Parcour 2 was a unique layout in that it was on the side of a rolling hill – several of the shots were at targets beneath your feet, or going down hill. Of special interest was a monster rabbit! Its lair was at the bottom of the hill, a good 45 to 50 yards away, running for dear life from left to right, finally diving behind a barrier at the opposite side of the hill. A nice rising shot coming up the hill at the shooter, coupled with a great chandelle across open sky and an overhead going straight away from the pegs made this one of the most interesting layouts. In fact, every layout seemed to have at the very least, one target or more that was devilishly thought out to entertain, excite and possibly confound the competitors.

This year's National FITASC Champion was last year's World

Champion! Gregg Wolf left but 20 targets for a marvelous score of 180 to become the 2005 National Champion. His Beretta over and under with the bright orange tape on the butt pad did him proud once again. Runner-up for the Silver medal at 175 was Wendell Cherry who was the only shooter to shoot a perfect 25 on Parcour eight. Anthony Matarese Jr. took home the Bronze with 173.

Master class Gold went to yours truly, at 170, with Dr. Nadim Nasir Jr. for the Silver at 169, tied with Craig Hill for the Bronze and third place.

Caribou Gun Club, Randy Voss, Jim Ingvalson, Jim Noel, Neil Chadwick and all those behind the

scenes did a masterful job of putting on this event. The shoot moved along everyday without any major problems and the hospitality and friendliness made it all that much more fun for the shooters. I for one will certainly look forward to going back to this fine club for another great event – and invite you all to put Caribou Gun Club on your list of places to shoot in the future. See you there! ■



DEEANN MASSEY (CENTER) LADY CHAMPION, WITH SUSAN WALL (LEFT) TAKING THE SILVER AND PAULA MOORE THE BRONZE.



2005 VETERAN NATIONAL CHAMPION AND M1 HONORS WENT TO STEVE FISCHER.



RANDY VOSS, CARIBOU'S PROUD OWNER AWARDS THE 'DOUBLE-DIPPING' JUNIORS. L TO R: ANTHONY MATARESE JR., GREGG WOLF AND CORY KRUSE, WITH PROUD DAD DAVE WOLF AT RIGHT.