

Nick Till Sweeps 2007 NRA National Service Rifle Championship

Submitted by Dave Goebel – MRPA Highpower Director
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Nick Till was able to best the top Military and Civilian Service Rifle competitors in the World and win the National Service Rifle Championship and coveted DuPont Trophy, a distinction that is usually claimed by top Military athletes. Nick fired a score 1764-73X out of 1800 possible points*. Nick also earned the Civilian Club Member's Trophy as the Civilian Service Rifle Champion.

*Note, this year's Championship was 60 shots lighter than normal due to the cancellation of three 20 shot matches because of poor weather during the week.



Nick also won the 2007 Army Cup Trophy, which is a 20 shot slow fire prone match fired at 600 yards during "NRA Week." Nick fired a score of 200-13X to defeat two match rifle competitors, Mitch Maxberry and David Tub, each by an "X." This is exceptional shooting with a Service Rifle, because this match is usually won by Match Rifle shooters.

Nick was able to keep his focus and win the Service Rifle aggregate by a margin of two points. When asked if he ever gets nervous in competition and how he mentally manages his shooting, Nick had some interesting comments:

“The first match that you shoot is the President’s Match (CMP week), and I always get the jitters since it is the first match of the Nationals. By the time the first weekend comes you start getting more relaxed because you have been shooting for five days.

The first day of the NRA Championship week I shot a 189 in one of the matches in perfect conditions. That caused me to become frustrated and upset with myself. But then later near the end of the week, the fact was that I wasn't really watching the scores all week, I was just focusing on my shooting. The first match of the last day of the Championship was my offhand and I was half way thru the offhand and I looked back and saw the Army coach watching me and at that point I knew that I was a threat for the overall. Meanwhile, throughout the day he was attempting to approach me and let me know of my standings but knowing this information may have caused me to get more nervous, so I avoided the situation. At the end of the 600 yard firing, the Army coach, Marine Corp Reserve coach, and other military shooters patted me on the back, shook my hand and informed me that I was just 2 points ahead of any other Service Rifle shooter, including Military and Civilian. At that point I was shocked. I was hoping to get High Civilian but was not anticipating becoming the overall winner. It was an awesome feeling knowing that after 19 years of shooting, your accomplishments become reality and you win the biggest match of your life.

I hope to continue on my successful journey of competitive shooting. As with any other competitive sport, it is very challenging and the other competitors are prompting me to be the best shooter that I can be.”

When asked about how he was introduced to this sport, Nick said, “My father, Donald Till, introduced me to High Power Rifle shooting in 1988, when I was 15 years old. I have been shooting the Service Rifle since then and will continue for many years to come. I have been fortunate enough to be a member of the Michigan High Power Rifle Team ever since I started shooting. I was a member of the MRPA Junior Service Rifle Team for the first six years and then moved on to the Adult MRPA Service Rifle Team.”



Howell, MI has been Nick's home town for nearly 20 years, after his parents and brother moved there from Northville. Nick has been married to Tracy for seven years and they reside at the home they built in 2000. The many accomplishments Nick has obtained can be seen in the photo below inside Nick's trophy room. Some of Nick's achievements include but are not limited to:

- The Distinguished Rifleman Badge
- NRA High Master Classification HP and Long Range HP
- NRA 495 Club and 792 Club
- President's 100 Rifle Tab (5 times)
- 1992 Minuteman Trophy (High Junior Team in the NTT)
- 1994 Leather Neck Trophy (High Civilian Team in the NTIT)
- 2003 & 2005 Pietroforte Trophy (Individual Aggregate in both the NTI and NTT)
- 2005 Pershing Trophy (Holds record of highest scoring civilian 495-X)
- 2007 Army Cup Match Winner (Score 200-13X)
- 2007 Civilian Club Member's Trophy (National Civilian Service Rifle Champion)
- 2007 DuPont Trophy (National Service Rifle Champion)
- 1995, 2003, 2005 and 2007 National Civilian Team Award (Elihu Root Medal)
- Many time Ohio and Michigan Service Rifle Champion
- Michigan Governor's Trophy Champion



The photo below is of Baird “Kim” Copenhaver (left) and Nick Till (right). Kim received the Townsend Whelan Trophy, which is the award for High Senior competitor during the NRA Match Rifle Championships. Kim fired a score of 1762-67x. Nick is pictured with the DuPont Trophy. In the overall combined aggregate (Match Rifle and Service Rifle), Nick placed seventh and Kim placed tenth. It is very exciting to have two national champions from the State of Michigan.



Lastly, we should also recognize the accomplishments of some of the other Michigan Highpower shooters who achieved major milestones at this year’s National Matches or during the year:

- John Cerny – Distinguished Rifleman’s Badge**
- Mike Craycraft – Distinguished Rifleman’s Badge**
- Dave Platt – Distinguished Rifleman’s Badge**
- Ryan Vander Poppen – President’s 100 Rifle Tab and
Distinguished Rifleman’s Badge**

