

## UM Rifle Team Captures National Championship

The University of Michigan's Club Sport Rifle Team out shot all other teams at the inaugural Intercollegiate Rifle Club Championships becoming the first ever National Champions for Club Rifle Teams. Athletes from 14 universities were invited to the championships based on scores fired in sectional matches held throughout the U.S. in February. The Wolverine squad qualified for both the smallbore championship and the air rifle championship.

Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> going into the smallbore match, the UM Rifle Team posted some nice consistent scores, lead by senior MaryBeth Brewer's top individual score of 559 that beat the heavily favored Princeton shooters Yingxue Li's 557 and Abigail Fong's 550. Firing for UofM were senior MaryBeth Brewer - 559, junior and team captain Cathy Fan - 540, freshman Shuhan Wang - 487 and junior Andrew Kuivenhoven - 493 for a total of 2079. Giving the Wolverines a 124 lead over second place Indiana University of Pennsylvania's 1959 score going into the air rifle match for the overall championship.

In the air rifle match, the UofM rifle team fired their best score of the season with a 2177 nudging out Illinois State University by a single point for second place but falling to Clemson's 2186. Shooting for UofM in the air rifle match were Brewer (569) Fan (549) Wang (536) and freshman Matt Ewald (529).

Still it was more than good enough as the University of Michigan won the overall championship with a combined score of 4256 well ahead of second place Clemson's 4139 and third place Indiana University of Pennsylvania's 3951.

Top individual honors were also dominated by the Wolverine squad, MaryBeth Brewer won both the smallbore and air rifle competitions and in the overall placement, MaryBeth Brewer was crowned the individual national champion with combined score of 1128. Clayton Peck from Michigan State University grabbed second place with an 1114 and UofM's Cathy Fan sealed the third place individual honors with a 1089.

"I knew we were going to do well, everyone worked hard preparing for this match, making it to practice despite papers, mid-terms and projects. Other team members provided encouragement and got everyone in a can do attitude" said Coach Mike O'Connor. "I don't think the team ever realized they could win this and I didn't want to tell them they could, I wanted them to be relaxed, stay focused on their performance and not worry about scores. The surprise on their faces when the results were posted was something I'll never forget. The team was focused on bring the 1<sup>st</sup> National Championship back to Ann Arbor and they did!"



Front Row L-R: Shuhan Wang, MaryBeth Brewer, Cathy Fan, Steve Kern (Assistant Coach) Back Row L-R: Ross Johnston, Matt Ewald, Andrew Kuivenhoven, Mike O'Connor (Coach), Gary Dennis (Equipment Manager)



UM Rifle Team – National Championship Squad - Front Row L-R: Shuhan Wang, MaryBeth Brewer, and Cathy Fan. Back Row L-R Andrew Kuivenhoven, Matt Ewald, Ross Johnston



UM Rifle Team shooting the standing phase of the smallbore championship.



Individual Champions – L-R: Cathy Fan – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (University of Michigan), Clayton Peck – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (Michigan State University), National Champion MaryBeth Brewer (University of Michigan), Edie Fleeman – Collegiate Committee Chair and award presenter.